

Day Seven - Skagway, Alaska



Skagway is the smallest town we have been to so far. It has a year round population of only 900 people but this triples/quadruples in summer with the seasonal workers.

To give you an idea of how popular cruising in Alaska is, these tiny towns can handle up to 6 cruise ships at a time. At any given stage there are 3-6 cruise ships in each port EVERY DAY from May through September. Tourist OVERLOAD!

With each ship having a minimum 2000 passengers with an average cruise of 7 days, that means - at any given stage no less than 21-30 cruise ships each week Alaska bringing over 1,000,000 people to the region each year!

Our day began with a three hour coach ride up into the mountains and across the Canadian border to the famous Canadian Gold Rush territory called Yukon (extremely beautiful). Yes, it is a territory like the US territories of Guam or Puerto Rico. The Yukon is NOT a province which means the land is owned by the Canadian government. Actually, most of the Yukon is inhabited by native peoples and they get a nice hefty stipend from the government each month (actually, 2 checks a month according to our native guide Bo). Kinda like the USA's American Indian's, 'ey??





We stopped off at a dog sled training camp for lunch. Kinda touristy but fun. They had Husky puppies - and they WILL be trained for the Iditarod.

Lunch believe it or not was the strangest combination of BBQ chicken and home made donuts (?????). A Yukon thing?



Future Iditarod winner kennels.

It was extremely interesting to chat with the breeder/musher about the qualities of a WINNER! That is a whole 'nuther tavelogue!

Then began the highlight of the day, a two hour train ride through White Pass back to Skagway. Pictures speak for themselves





The railroad was built in the late 1800s under amazing circumstances - how they built it in these adverse weather conditions over the top of a mountain is beyond me.

This place gets THIRTY feet of snow and TWELVE feet of rain **each year!**



<<< Not your typical Caribbean cruise, huh??!!

It was a long day with not nearly enough stops for the perfect photos. But what can you expect when you are travelling like a cattle train? It was cheap. We're having fun.

WE ARE RELAXING!



We did however have a chance to sample the local brew. I like their slogan!!!

Cheers,
B & W

PS - can anyone ID the critter below?? Locals said something about a mermit? mowat? We don't have enough minutes to Google search. LOL Looks cute as hell, but I'm sure Fat Syl would have a fit if we brought it home.



PPS: The reason you see so many people with Alaska shirts, hoodies, coats, jackets, sweaters, sweats, etc. walking around the streets in the lower 48...it's NOT because they wanted the souvenir.

It's because they realized it's waaaaay colder than they ever thought it would be in the summer and seriously under packed.

