

Day Ten - Anchorage, Alaska

Day Nine was spent at sea. We were supposed to stop along the way and see Hubbard Glacier, but when we woke up the fog was so thick you could not even see the ocean below us from our balcony. The captain wisely decided not to take a 1000 foot cruise ship up a narrow Fjord in the fog. So we lost out and headed back out to sea. We basically stayed in our cabin the whole day watching movies and ordering room service. :)



You see for many people on a cruise ship the destination is only half the fun, they enjoy the shipboard life just as much. The food, the entertainment & shows, the gambling and other facilities.

However, for Wendy and I the cruise ship is just a means to an end, the destination is all that counts, so we don't really partake in the ship board life other than meals.

That's why we book a balcony, we prefer the privacy of our cabin and the beautiful views outside. If there's nothing to see then we watch movies by plugging the laptop into the ships flat screen and drink beer! We don't like crowds of people much at all and avoid the shows and pool area.



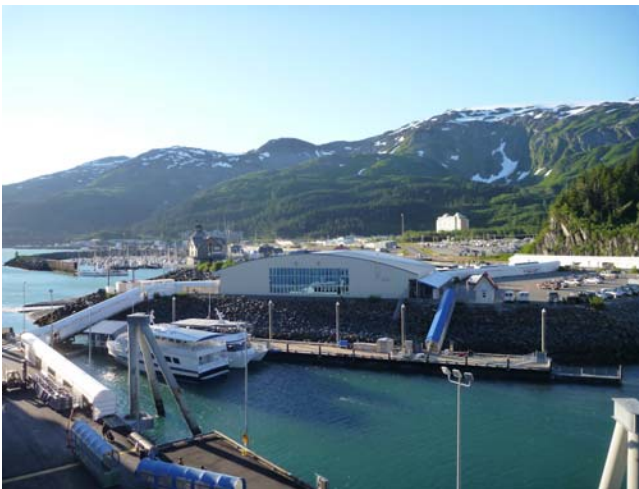
We were treated to a several pods of humpback whales swimming by during the day and right before sunset the full moon rose beautifully over the ocean. As we travel further North the days are getting longer.



I took this picture shortly before 1 am. Bear in mind that the sun set at 10.30 PM, so this was over 2 hours later.

You see, the sun might "set" that is drop below the horizon, but not very far because sunrise is at 4 AM, so the sky remains lit the whole night long by the sun. It's like a never ending sunset!

Pretty damn cool. On the Summer Solstice (June 21), Anchorage gets 22 hours of daylight.



7 AM this morning we arrived in Whittier, our final destination on the cruise ship. From here we have a 64 mile journey to Anchorage as the cruise ships do not dock in Anchorage.

We had booked a transfer with a full day tour thrown in along the way, but they had problems so it landed up being just a half day tour.

Look closely at the pilings on the floating docks in the above pictures. See how tall they are? Most of Alaska has between 18-25 foot tide swing!



We had several stops along the way to take in the beauty of the area, but the best stop was at a wildlife refuge camp where they take in injured animals, rehabilitate them and then if they're able to look after themselves

they release them back into the wild. If not then they get a permanent home at the camp.



The question here is: "Does a bear
shit in the woods?"

Got that nasty 'ole itch that only a
moose antler can satisfy...

Apparently the answer is yes!

We got to our hotel at about 1PM, 4 hours earlier due to the botched reservation. This disorganization has happened a lot in Alaska so far. I think it is because they have a very short tourist season and most their staff are imported from the rest of the world working a summer job.

But we spent it frantically booking our tours for the next two days in Anchorage. We don't sit around when we're on vacation unless we have to. We are out of the hotel tomorrow morning at 6.30am on our first tour. Stay tuned - it's gonna be AWESOME!!!

Cheers,

B & W