

Cruiseportinsider Guide to Whittier 2024: Your Comprehensive Guide to Alaska's Hidden Gem

Nestled amidst the breathtaking landscapes of Alaska's Prince William Sound, the charming port city of Whittier stands as a gateway to unforgettable Alaskan adventures. As you prepare to embark on your cruise in 2024, let our comprehensive guide, written by renowned travel expert Christine Amorose Merrill, be your trusted companion. Delve into the heart of Whittier, unearthing its hidden gems, insider tips, and practical insights that will transform your cruise experience into an extraordinary journey.

Step ashore into a world of unique beauty and rich history. Whittier, once a bustling military town, has evolved into a vibrant port city that embraces its heritage. Stroll along the waterfront promenade, where you can witness the towering hulk of the Begich Towers, a former military barracks that now houses a hotel and shops.

Venture beyond the waterfront to discover Whittier's hidden corners. Admire the intricate murals that adorn the buildings, depicting scenes from the city's past and present. Visit the Whittier Museum to delve into the town's fascinating history and learn about the pivotal role it played in World War II.



CruisePortInsider Guide to Whittier--2024

by Christine Amorose Merrill

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

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Whittier serves as a gateway to an array of unforgettable excursions that will leave lasting memories. Embark on a scenic train ride along the historic Alaska Railroad, traversing breathtaking landscapes and towering mountains. The journey offers panoramic views of pristine lakes, cascading waterfalls, and abundant wildlife, including moose, bears, and bald eagles.

Explore the awe-inspiring beauty of Prince William Sound on a guided boat tour. Marvel at the majestic glaciers that calve into the icy waters, creating a symphony of thunderous crashes and ethereal blue icebergs. Keep an eye out for playful sea otters, breaching humpback whales, and soaring seabirds.

For those seeking adventure, Whittier offers an array of hiking trails that lead to panoramic viewpoints, alpine lakes, and hidden waterfalls. Embark on a guided glacier hike to witness the power and beauty of these natural wonders up close.

Indulge in the culinary delights that Whittier has to offer. From casual waterfront eateries to cozy cafes, you'll find a range of dining options to satisfy every palate. Savor fresh seafood dishes at the Sea Bean Cafe, overlooking the Prince William Sound. For a taste of Alaskan cuisine, try

the Alaskan Halibut Company, renowned for its mouthwatering halibut and crab dishes.

For a cozy and authentic dining experience, head to the Port Whittier Cafe. Nestled amidst the historic Begich Towers, this charming cafe serves up hearty breakfasts, delectable sandwiches, and homemade pastries.

Discover unique souvenirs and local treasures in Whittier's charming shops. Browse the Alaska Crafted Gallery for handmade crafts and artwork created by local artisans. Stop by the Whittier Gift Shop for a wide selection of souvenirs, including Alaskan-themed apparel, wildlife figurines, and postcards.

For a taste of the local culture, visit the Whittier Mercantile, a general store that has been serving the community for decades. Find everything from groceries to souvenirs, and don't forget to try their homemade smoked salmon and craft beer.

To ensure a smooth and enjoyable cruise experience, here are some practical tips:

- **Currency:** The U.S. dollar is the official currency in Whittier.
- **Language:** English is the primary language spoken in Whittier.
- **Transportation:** Whittier is accessible by the Alaska Railroad or the Anton Anderson Memorial Tunnel, which connects it to the nearby town of Portage.

- **Accommodation:** Whittier offers a range of accommodation options, from budget-friendly motels to upscale hotels.
- **Weather:** Whittier experiences a temperate maritime climate with mild summers and wet winters. Pack for all types of weather.

As you set sail from the port of Whittier in 2024, we hope this guide has provided you with the knowledge and inspiration to make your Alaskan cruise an unforgettable adventure. Immerse yourself in the unique charm of this historic port city, explore its hidden gems, and create memories that will last a lifetime. Let Whittier be your gateway to the wonders of Alaska, where nature's beauty and human resilience intertwine to create an extraordinary experience.



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