

NORTH TO ALASKA, (AGAIN!)

After driving the motor home to Alaska in 2010, I felt the call to go again! So sister Marti and I booked an Alaska cruise on the Sapphire Princess from Whittier to Vancouver.

Our departure was delayed by a day due to a storm crossing the Gulf of Alaska, but the rest of the cruise was on schedule and had good weather. We only missed Glacier Bay.

Our first port of call was Skagway. The town was historically a huge logging and sawmill operation. It is in or adjacent to the Tongass National Forest. The logging operators were clear cutting on Federal land. When the Feds made a law forbidding clear cutting, all the logging operators bailed, leaving the town to its own devices. Eventually the town thrived again on a huge cruise ship tourist trade.

One of the tours I had never taken was the White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad. The rail trip was most fascinating, traveling thru tunnels and crossing bridges in beautiful mountainous country. I am glad that I went on it.



The next stop was Juneau, the capital of Alaska. It is only accessible by boat or airplane! The attraction here is the Mendenhall Glacier. There is a visitor center that has a wonderful supply of information and an interesting movie presentation. It was interesting to find out that the glacier has receded about a half a mile since we first saw it, years ago!

The next port was Ketchikan, which is a huge tourist attraction, built up over the years. There were four cruise ships in port that day, unleashing maybe ten or twelve thousand people ashore! We then flew home from Vancouver, BC.

Dave & Marti

9/28/2012