

## **PACKING FOR AN ALASKA CRUISE OR CRUISE TOUR WITH HOLLAND AMERICA LINE**

The experts at Holland America Line, the largest and most experienced Alaska travel company, have some tips on packing when you're headed north on a cruise or CruiseTour.

### **SOUTHEAST ALASKA**

On an Inside Passage cruise you will be traveling along the protected waterways of Southeast Alaska, also known as "the Panhandle." The weather here is temperate, with summertime highs usually between 50 and 60 degrees Fahrenheit, climbing occasionally into the 70s and 80s.

### **NORTH ALASKA AND THE ARCTIC**

If you venture farther North you will find the climate to be drier. Summer temperatures in Fairbanks and other parts of the Interior often reach 70 and 80 degrees Fahrenheit. In the Arctic, for those traveling to Prudhoe Bay or Nome and Kotzebue, temperatures are cooler, in the 40s and 50s.

### **GENERAL PACKING**

Alaska is casual, but be prepared to dress for dinners (see dinner dress below). The best approach is to bring clothes that can be layered; more layers for cooler, windier weather, fewer layers for warm, dry days. Be sure to also bring:

- A lightweight, waterproof coat or jacket, as well as a sweater or warm vest for strolling the decks of the ship and for glacier viewing
- A warm hat and gloves
- Women may want to bring two or three pairs of washable slacks or jeans (combined with polo shirts, blouses or light sweaters and accessorized with a belt, scarf or jewelry this basic outfit can be worn just about anywhere. Depending on weather and occasion, add a blazer, cardigan or windbreaker jacket)
- Men may want to add an extra pair of slacks, but they'll find that the same basic dress theme works for them, too (there is no place in Alaska a man cannot go in a sport coat and slacks. Also, a dark suit is appropriate for dinner on board ship)
- Sturdy walking shoes for every day use (two pairs are suggested) both leather, to stand up to rain if necessary, and a pair with a good arch support
- One or two pairs of dress shoes to accompany your dinner outfit

### **DINNER DRESS**

Evening dress falls into two distinct categories; Formal or Smart Casual. Smart Casual can be defined as slacks and sports shirt or sweater for men and skirt or trousers and sweater or blouse for women. T-shirts, swimsuits, tank tops and shorts are not allowed in the restaurants or public areas during the evening hours. On festive Formal evenings, ladies usually wear a cocktail dress or gown and gentlemen usually wear a suit and tie or tuxedo. There are approximately two formal nights per week.

## **EXERCISE CLOTHES**

If you're a fitness fan or just like to stroll around the decks be sure to pack your exercise clothes. There are aerobics classes on the ships, treadmills, exercise bikes and other equipment in the fitness center on board each ship. The free Passport to Fitness program has the added fun of a reward at the end of the cruise for participating in onboard activities. Be sure to bring your running or aerobics shoes, swimsuit and a cover-up (for lounging, if not for warming up.)

## **ITEMS YOU PROBABLY WON'T NEED**

- Bulky or winter-weight sweaters or jackets
- Rain boots and long underwear (outfitters throughout Alaska provide special gear needed for their activities, such as warm "moon boots" for walking on glaciers, waterproof rainwear, boots and life vests for river rafting or sea kayaking)

## **DON'T FORGET TO TAKE**

- Be sure to take toiletries and prescriptions for both medication and eye glasses to aid in replacement in the unlikely event they become misplaced
- A travel alarm clock (although wake-up calls are offered on all Holland America Line cruises and at most hotels and inns)
- Binoculars if you enjoy bird watching or would like a closer look at wildlife and glaciers
- Your camera film is available just about everywhere you will visit

## **LAUNDRY SERVICE**

Holland America Line's ships have laundry service, dry cleaning and pressing service on all ships.

- There are self-serve laundry rooms complete with ironing boards and irons (laundry soap is available for purchase) on all ships but the Vista Class *ms Oosterdam*, *ms Westerdam*, *ms Noordam* and *ms Zuiderdam*
- Self-service laundry facilities also are available at many of the hotels at which CruiseTour passengers stay