

# North Pacific Passage



## Day 1 — Tokyo, Japan

Embark today and settle in for a fascinating journey that bridges the cultures of Asia and North America. Settle in to your veranda stateroom and explore your ship, perhaps browsing our onboard art collection. Later, head for dinner in our elegant main dining room, The Restaurant.

## Day 2 — Tokyo, Japan

Formerly known as Edo, today's Tokyo is the cultural and economic heart of Japan, residence of its emperor and a fascinating study in contrasts. Explore Tokyo on your own today. Perhaps you will explore Shinjuku Gyoen, a picturesque garden influenced by French, English and Japanese styles. Or ride the city's famous subway to the Ginza district, Tokyo's glittering shopping district of neon lights, luxurious shops and bustling coffeehouses, anchored by the Wako store and its famous Hattori Clock Tower.

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## Day 3 — Scenic Cruising: Tsugaru Strait

Cross the Tsugaru Strait today in northern Japan, linking the Sea of Japan and the Pacific Ocean. More than a geographic boundary between Japan's two largest islands, it was also declared a zoological border when English naturalist Thomas Blakiston observed animals related to northern Asian species on Hokkaidō and others related to southern Asian species on Honshū. As you sail, enjoy Japanese-inspired cuisine at the World Café and perhaps sip some sake, a Japanese rice wine, this evening.

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## Day 4 — Sapporo (Otaru), Japan

Arrive in Sapporo for an overnight stay, allowing you ample time to immerse yourself in the fascinating culture of Japan's northern island. The city is renowned for its ability to transform the natural world into the highest art. Central to Sapporo's cuisine is miso ramen; the noodle dish was invented here and restaurants line the Ganso Sapporo Ramen Yokocho (Original Sapporo Ramen Street) to celebrate its many forms. The city's golden Sapporo beer is produced here in a 19th-century brick brewery. If you wish, you may attend a special dinner with a geisha performance this evening.

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## Day 5 — Sapporo (Otaru), Japan

A city tour takes you to the Hokkaidō Shrine, nestled in a deep forest, and to the Ishiya Shiroi Koibito Park. Visit a chocolate factory where Sapporo's famous white-chocolate cookies, Shiroi Koibito, are made, and the bustling market, where you will get a true taste of local life. Alternately, you may set out on a Hanami outing, a "flower viewing" excursion to seek out the city's most beautiful blooms.

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## Day 6 — Korsakov, Russia

Cruise into Aniva Bay to berth at the southern end of Russia's Sakhalin Island. As you explore by coach and foot, you will learn about the city's original inhabitants, the Ainu people from Japan and Russia. Visit Lenin Square and enjoy a folkloric performance at the cultural center. If you wish, see more of the area during an island tour that reveals the mixed Russian and Japanese heritage.

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## Day 7 — Cruise the Sea of Okhotsk

Cruise the waters of the Sea of Okhotsk today, named for the first Russian settlement in the Far East. This former whale-hunting ground once attracted whalers from as far as the United States and France. As you sail, perhaps you'll enjoy a soothing spa treatment or learn about your next destination during a lecture. Tonight, enjoy a fine meal with wine pairings at The Chef's Table.

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## Day 8 — Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, Russia

Call on the main cultural center of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, perched on the high scenic hills of the Kamchatka Peninsula. This fascinating, remote Russian town is surrounded by volcanoes and inaccessible except by sea and air. Soon after its founding, it grew into one of Russia's most important eastern settlements. Our overnight stay here lets you explore up close. On board, enjoy a Destination Performance that embodies the rich traditions of this city.

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## Day 9 — Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, Russia

Explore Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky today, set amid picturesque hills. Take in views of Avacha Bay from a scenic overlook, and learn about the area's natural history and heritage at the cultural museum. Enjoy a panoramic drive, stopping to visit the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity and concluding at Lenin Square, where you will have free time to explore. You might also venture into the rugged countryside to view the peninsula's soaring chain of volcanoes or visit a Koryak village to witness how native people have lived for centuries.

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## Day 10 — Cruise the Bering Sea

Begin your crossing of the legendary Bering Sea today. By some accounts, the water level was once so low here that humans and animals migrated by foot across a land bridge, marking the first major migration into the Americas. You will journey by a far more comfortable means, perhaps relaxing with a book in The Library or sharing coffee or a drink with new friends in The Living Room.

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## Day 11 — Cross the International Date Line

As you cross the International Date Line today, you will “cruise into yesterday,” gaining a day. Crossing this meridian is a time-honored travel milestone long marked by ceremony. You can raise a glass to the event, whether you’re celebrating in the Explorers’ Lounge or on the Aquavit Terrace.

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## Day 12 — Cruise the Bering Sea

Continue your Bering Sea crossing. This northern body is named for Danish explorer Vitus Bering, who under Russian service chartered these waters in 1728. Join an onboard lecture to learn about your upcoming Alaska ports today. This evening, listen to the strains of jazz over your favorite cocktail at Torshavn.

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## Day 13 — Dutch Harbor, United States

Call in Dutch Harbor today, a charming town on the Unalaska Island of the Aleutians known to locals simply as “Dutch.” This was home to the Aleut people for millennia. The Russian fur trade reached its shores in the mid-18th century, and the United States set up military bases here during World War II. There’ll be time for you to go ashore and explore on your own, absorbing a rich island heritage in a picturesque island setting surrounded by snowcapped mountains.

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## Day 14 — Scenic Cruising: Gulf of Alaska

Sail into the Gulf of Alaska today. You might enjoy a workout or yoga session in the Fitness Center or browse our onboard Viking Heritage exhibit as you cruise. Enjoy authentic Norwegian fare at Mamsen’s gourmet deli for lunch and freshly prepared Italian dishes at Manfredi’s Italian Restaurant for dinner.

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## Day 15 — Kodiak, United States

Take in the magnificent setting of Kodiak, the major city on its namesake island. Inhabited by Alutiiq natives for seven millennia, it became the capital of Russian Alaska in the 18th century. A walking tour leads you past the Holy Resurrection Church, a Russian Orthodox church built in 1945, and the Alutiiq Museum and Archaeological Repository, where artifacts chronicle the past of the native people. During a stroll along the harbor, learn about the city's booming fishing industry. Alternately, you might join an exciting bear safari by floatplane, perhaps spotting humpback whales during your flight to the Katmai coast.

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## Day 16 — Seward, United States

Discover Seward today, a modest seaport named after Abraham Lincoln's secretary of state, who defied public opinion to pursue the purchase of Alaska from Russia. The small city is also renowned as the starting point of the world-famous Iditarod dogsled race. Explore the Alaska SeaLife Center, where you will learn about the marine world that thrives right off the coast. If you wish, venture farther afield to Katmai National Park to visit Exit Glacier or capture breathtaking aerial views from an optional helicopter excursion.

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## Day 17 — Valdez, United States

Call in Valdez today, named after a Spanish secretary of the navy. Explorers and gold seekers flocked to Valdez before it became Alaska's northernmost ice-free port. Today, it is the southern terminus of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline that carries oil south from Prudhoe Bay on the Arctic coast. Learn about the town's history during a walking tour. Or opt for an excursion to the magnificent Columbia Tidal Glacier in Prince William Sound, and perhaps try your luck catching some of Alaska's famous salmon.

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## Day 18 — Scenic Cruising: Yakutat Bay

Today you will witness some of Alaska's most breathtaking and pristine scenery. Cruise into majestic Yakutat Bay to the point where it narrows to become Disenchantment Bay, so named by its Spanish discoverer who was hoping to find the fabled Northwest Passage and instead faced the imposing icy wall of Hubbard Glacier. Today, the spectacular glacier steadily advances into the water, blocking tributary fjords and slowly pushing ice and debris down from the St. Elias Mountains.

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## Day 19 — Icy Strait Point, United States

Discover the old canning station at Icy Strait Point today. Fully restored by the Native American Tlingit community from nearby Hoonah, it is an exquisite time capsule revealing how locals once earned a living from the rich fishing grounds. Celebrate the Tlingit culture during a cultural presentation by locals in traditional ceremonial dress. You might also join a whale-watching excursion to spot some of the many creatures that flock to these food-rich waters. Or hop a floatplane to soar over the breathtaking expanse of Glacier Bay National Park, just across the strait.

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## Day 20 — Sitka, United States

Glimpse the Russian influence in Sitka, once the capital of Russian Alaska. Enjoy an enlightening walking tour to learn more about the fur trade that brought the Russians here. See the Russian Orthodox Cathedral and the Russian Bishop's House, built by the Tlingit with guidance from Finnish carpenters in the 1840s. As you explore, you will see many art galleries displaying the work of artists who have been inspired by the region's natural beauty for decades. If you'd like, board a plane or boat for inspiring views of Mt. Edgecumbe, an extinct volcano on a nearby island.

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## Day 21 — Ketchikan, United States

Discover Alaska's "first city," as it is known to travelers coming by ship from the south. Ketchikan was home to the Tlingit long before the arrival of white settlers, as you'll see in the many old and new totem poles that grace the town. During a tour, walk in the footsteps of lumberjacks, fishermen, con artists and ladies of the night in this once lawless frontier town, and embark an amphibious vehicle for a unique "Duck Boat" tour. If you'd like to venture beyond the town, visit Tongass National Forest and Misty Fjords National Monument, where seaplanes and 4x4 vehicles take you beyond the beaten path.

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## Day 22 — Scenic Cruising: The Inside Passage

Take in the natural splendor of one of Alaska's most scenic waterways, the famed Inside Passage. You will navigate the Strait of Georgia, the Seymour Narrows and the Grenville Channel, reveling in an endless canvas of beauty. Sail past rainforests spilling down steep cliffs to the shore. Keep a watchful eye for orcas, dolphins and whales. Overhead, a wide array of birds take wing, from bald eagles and cormorants to several species of gulls, all feeding on the plentiful bounty of fish in the waters below.

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## Day 23 — Vancouver, Canada

Arrive in Vancouver today, British Columbia's cultural capital, in a scenic setting between mountains and sea. You will disembark and transfer to the airport for your flight home, or extend your stay in Vancouver to explore this vibrant city.

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*\* One shore excursion included per port as indicated (included); all others available at an extra charge. Depending on your stateroom category, shore excursions may be reserved beginning 90 days before your cruise sails. Not all excursions will be available for all sailings. Full details of the excursions available on your specific departure date can be viewed at My Viking Journey once your cruise booking has been made.*