

CRUISE NEWS



Princess Cruises has seven ships sailing in Alaska this summer.

Holland America receives top Coast Guard award

Holland America received the U.S. Coast Guard's highest award in recognition of the line's environmental leadership and for successfully achieving several environmental objectives that exceed regulations.

U.S. Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Robert Papp presented the 2012 gold Rear Admiral William M. Benkert Environmental Protection [MORE >](#)

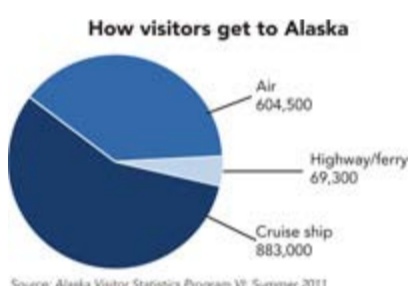


U.S. Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Robert Papp presented the gold 2012 Rear Admiral William M. Benkert Environmental Protection Award to Michael Inman, director, system management and program development, Safety and Environmental Management Systems for Holland America Line.

Visitors up but still below historic highs

Summer visitors increased 2 percent in 2011 but remained well below the historical peak of 1.71 million in 2007.

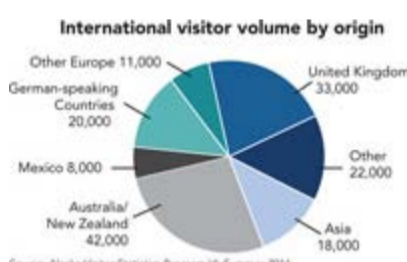
Some 1,556,800 tourists visited Alaska between May and September 2011, according to a newly released study by the McDowell Group. Of these, 57 percent came by cruise ship, 39 percent by air and 4 percent by highway or ferry. [MORE >](#)



Most international visitors come on cruise ships

Seven out of 10 international visitors travel to Alaska by cruise ship, stay longer and spend more, according to a new report issued by the McDowell Group.

An estimated 154,000 international visitors came to Alaska during the summer of 2011, or about 10 percent of the overall out-of-state [MORE >](#)



Yukon honors Leonard for service



From left: Steve Le Jay Whitfield, General Manger, Westmark Beaver Creek; Linda Gould, General Manager, Westmark Inn Dawson City; Heather McIntyre, General Manager, Westmark Whitehorse Hotel; Frank Curlew, General Manager, Westmark Klondike Inn; and Steve Leonard, seated.

Holland America's Steve Leonard received the Yukon Territory's highest tourism award this spring for 30 years of service to the visitor industry.

The Tourism Industry Association of Yukon presented Leonard with the prestigious Yukon Tourism Ambassador Award on April 28. This title is only awarded under exceptional circumstances to recipients [MORE >](#)

Princess environmental principles reach halfway around the planet



Nicky Widdis cleans up trash in the Netherlands during Princess Cruises' annual Super Sweepers event.

Neither distance nor a 10-hour time difference kept 5-year-old Nicky Widdis from doing her civic duty last month.

Nicky is a kindergartener at Aquarian Charter School in Anchorage. She was on holiday with her family in the Netherlands when her parents received a notification about Super Sweepers, an annual trash clean up event sponsored by Princess [MORE >](#)

\$16 million in state funds for marketing

The FY2013 operating budget signed by Gov. Sean Parnell includes \$16 million for the Alaska Tourism Marketing Program. In tandem with \$2.7 million in contributions from the industry, a combined \$18.7 million represents a 25 percent increase in comparison to FY2012. [MORE >](#)

Murkowski names tourism aide

Sen. Lisa Murkowski named Miles Baker – former Alaska legislative aide and a current member of her Washington, D.C., staff – her new legislative assistant for tourism. Raised in Alaska, Baker assists Murkowski on tourism-related matters, in addition to his current responsibilities on economic policy. [MORE >](#)

SPOTLIGHT



Buzzy Chiu, general manager of the Bridgewater Hotel, with its "resident" moose.

"I'm not an office person"

Buzzy Chiu, general manager of the Bridgewater Hotel in Fairbanks, is a true "people person." A member of the Fairbanks Convention and Visitors Bureau Board of Directors and the Downtown Association board, her favorite part of the job is getting to know her guests. Buzzy sat down with ACA to talk about her work with the cruise industry in Alaska's Interior.

Briefly describe business:

The hotel is a seasonal property, part of the Fountainhead Hotel [MORE >](#)