

Sleek Cruiseliners to Ply Alaska Waters

The melancholia of everything completed! —NIETZSCHE

To the Chinese, the new year will be the Year of the Chicken. To Alaskans—at least those not of Chinese descent—the '69 summer tourist season will be the Year of the Cruise Ship. No less than eight elegant cruiseliners will sail north from California, Seattle, and Vancouver ports to Alaska this summer.

In addition the State of Alaska's year-round ferryliner service will offer weekly Seattle-Alaska sailings.

Only a little more than a decade ago, salmon trollers and outboard runabouts had the waters of the Inside Passage practically to themselves. Regular scheduled steamship service had discontinued in the mid-fifties. Summer cruises were few and becoming fewer.

Getting a reservation meant writing months, perhaps a year or more, in advance.

Things have changed. This year there are so many cruise ships scheduled into the Alaska trade, oldtimers claim it will raise the water level of the North Pacific Ocean.

Here's a rundown of Alaska cruise opportunities this summer:

Alaska Cruise Lines (subsidiary of Westours, Seattle) will schedule three vessels into the trade again this summer—the D.M.S. Polar Star, newest ship in the Westours' fleet, the S.S. Yukon Star, and the S.S. Glacier Queen. Departures May 2 through October 5 are from Vancouver with stops en route at Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway, and Haines.

American President Lines S.S. President Roosevelt—making a single 13-day excursion called "Alaskan Midnight Sun Cruise"—will leave Los Angeles June 9 and San Francisco June 12 en route for Seattle, Vancouver, Victoria, Ketchikan, Juneau, and Haines.

Canadian National's S.S. Prince George, a tradition in Alaska for years, will make 21 sailings in 1969 starting in late April and ending in early October. The George, with 265 berths, offers an itinerary which includes Vancouver, Ketchikan, Wrangell, Juneau, and Skagway.



ALASKAN ARMADA—No less than eight cruise ships and four ferryliners will carry visitors to and through the waters of the Alaskan Inside Passage this summer. They include, as shown left to right in this composite photo: back row, state ferryliner M.V. Matanuska, and S.S. Princess Italia; second row from back, ferryliner M.V.

Taku and S.S. President Roosevelt; third row from back, D.E.S. Polar Star, ferryliner M.V. Malaspina, and S.S. Mariposa; fourth row from rear, ferryliner M.V. Wickersham, S.S. Glacier Queen, and S.S. Prince George; front, left, T.E.V. Princess Patricia; front, right S.S. Yukon Star.

Canadian Pacific has scheduled the Princess Patricia to duplicate her 1968 schedule with 13 regular round trips and three charters. Service begins May 31, ends with a Vancouver departure September 4. Ports of call include Vancouver, Prince Rupert, Kitimat, Ketchikan, Wrangell, Juneau, and Skagway.

Matson Lines forecast three 14-day Alaska cruises by the S.S. Mariposa this summer. The 336-bed liner, making her initial entry into northern waters, will call at San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle, Victoria, Juneau, Skagway, and Sitka.

Departures are July 26, Au-

gust 9, and August 24 from San Francisco, a day later from Los Angeles.

Princess Cruises, Inc. will sail the Princess Italia on eight voyages, 14 days each, starting June 3. Stops include San Francisco, Vancouver, Prince Rupert, Ketchikan, Juneau, and Skagway. The vessel contains 420 beds.

The Alaska State Marine Highway System presently operates two ships per week from Seattle or Vancouver to southeast Alaska. Each Wednesday the Taku (or one of her sister ships, the Malaspina or Matanuska) carries 100 passengers Seattle-Ketchikan and continues north to the ports

of Wrangell, Petersburg, Sitka, Juneau, Haines, and Skagway.

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Cruiseliners . . .

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The M/V Wickersham, the state's luxurious new Norwegian-built ferryliner, departs Seattle and Vancouver on Saturdays and calls at Prince Rupert, Ketchikan, Wrangell, Petersburg, Juneau, Haines, and Skagway.

Come mid-May, the Wickersham will begin a summertime schedule from Prince Rupert north while a Malaspina-class vessel continues to sail from Seattle each Friday.

Total cruiseship and ferryliner sailings this summer—a whopping

Total cruiseship and ferryliner sailings this summer—a whopping 125 departures from California, Seattle, or Vancouver, with accommodations for 22,893 passengers.

It will be, Alaskans note, the biggest seaborne rush to the North since 1897 when Robert Henderson picked up a heavy bright rock in the Klondike, examined it closely, and yelled "Gold!"