

Alaska Seminar at Sea --- September 2025

Coordinated by: Marc Kelemen, ASQ Fellow

Assisted by: John Breckline, Cruise Coach

Date: Sun, Sep 14 – Sun, Sep 21, 2025 *Norwegian Cruise Line* Departing: Port of Seattle WA

Itinerary:

Sat 13-Sep travel to Seattle – book you own overnight stay
Sun 14-Sep be in Seattle – embark ship 12 pm – 3 pm ** depart 4 pm **
Three Days... days at sea – various times... Education Sessions
Port Times... various part/whole days – Juneau, Skagway, Ketchikan, Glacier Bay, Victoria
on your own – excursions – shopping
Sun 21-Sept return to Seattle – disembark typically by 10 am – travel home



Background:

In 2003, Ft Worth TX Section started doing quality education and professional development on cruises. They had started with a 4-day cruise out of Galveston; subsequently they moved to a 7-day cruise that included one in Alaska in 2010. Participation capped out at filling 46 cabins with 96 members and guests. They concluded a 3-year “post COVID” run of cruises out of Galveston in 2024.

The Program:

We do not pay the costs of the cruise for speakers, but once signed on, we ask their interest, qualifications, and potential topics. We always have a good response to this method and have great feedback on their presentations. We seek topic content that will appeal to a wide audience, like leadership and general personal growth, with a spattering of more specialty topics. This approach permits the scheduling of 60-90 min morning and afternoon presentations (6 hours total). Of course, participation is mandatory only if wanting to earn CE/RU credits. Some members skip this and join their guests for shipboard activities.

At noon, we take a long break and join our guests for lunch. At 5 pm we formally break and hold no evening activities... perhaps there may be social time with guests or informal gatherings of the group participants.

In ports, we do no group presentations. All are encouraged to take shore excursions (provided by ship at added costs), go off on your own, or just relax on a nearly-empty ship. Often our participants group-up and do excursions together. It's your choice, with no structured group activities.

This overall model has served us well, with high rating of the cruise and repeat attendance. Unfortunately we CANNOT tell you in advance of the program topics detail... just give you a sample of topics from past cruises. If you attempt to get some payment made by your company, this is you only "sales tool" to convince them of value. Many companies over the years have paid the conference fees and/or some (or most) of the cruise / travel costs. Utilize your Personal Development Plan as the basis for approval and funding, and maybe even on company time as you would get for other conferences. ASK!



Shipboard Life:

Food, food, and more food... all at your discretion. We do nothing to coordinate breakfast or lunch meals... spend time with your guests, or just meet other participants in the dining areas. For dinner, we do have a reserved block of tables where we dine together. Other personal dining options are available.

There are many options to consume your time on board. The ship typically offers various free classes. You can work off the food in the gym. There is a library, board games, spas, multiple pools, and various action/fun events. Evening options include stage shows, and a variety of music venues in lounges. There is always something, even if it's just relaxing on the decks.

I must advise... drinks, casino, excursions are all at an extra cost... set a budget and try to avoid blowing it!

Seasickness... always a potential issue, but most people do not have a problem. You can get Dramamine or other meds before boarding or wait until you have some symptoms and get it on board. If you have a major concern, tell the booking agent, and seek a lower deck, center ship cabin that has less pitch & roll. Ships have stabilizers to minimize both.

For COVID Protocols, there are no restrictive ones, other than if sick before boarding (consider insurance). We are sorry if they may deter your participation. Since the initial outbreak of COVID, shups have implemented many health practices to prevent COVID and other transmittable illnesses.

The Costs:

Conference Fees: \$175 Conference participant – payable directly to Seminar Reg system
\$ 50 all non-seminar guests
\$ 25 youth / senior guests (3rd and 4th persons in cabins)

Personal costs include the cost of the cabin you choose for you and your guests. All cabins are booked on a per person (pp) cost and require cabin double occupancy or a "solo" supplement. You must also cover your transportation before and after the cruise and we suggest you arrive a day early and book a hotel the night before to assure you're in Seattle on Sailing Date... you do not want to 'miss the boat'. You will be offered travel insurance that can cover various issues of travel delay or other situations... your risk / your choice.

Cabin prices are established at the time of the group booking. If we must eventually give up some of the block of cabins, you can still join the group, but the price may change, as the cruise line charges at “market rate” once our block prices have expired. We’ll keep communicating deadlines in general promotional materials. The group will also get special amenities like shipboard credits as part of the pricing, that effectively reduces the real cost below the price you book the cabins at.

Effective March 14, we lose the original cabin pricing noted below (reference only):

\$2235 **Balcony** per person (pp) for the 1st and 2nd person in a cabin

Two-person total would be \$4468

\$1312 **Interior** pp

Ocean View cabins are not part of the initial group block but can be arranged

Out Travel Advisor (Agent) will provide “market pricing” upon booking inquiry.

Tax Deductible: per your tax advisor Children/Parents? – OK at 3rd or 4th passenger half rates above?

Comparative Pricing: (estimates of an ASQ conference)

<u>Cost Item</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Cruise</u>	<u>... Cruise Notes ...</u>
Conf Fee (2.5 day)	1450	175	receive shipboard credits ~\$50
Hotel (4 nights)	1200	2235	7 nights (Balcony cabin) – est. requires double occupancy
Meals (3.5 days)	350	0	7 days – included in total cost
Total	\$3000	\$2410	plus the family & Alaska <u>Excursions</u> factor

Reservation Process:

We cannot hold 3 and 4-person cabins. Early booking is the best options to secure one for your party.

The cost per person (pp) for these added passengers is about half the above prices.

Additionally, there are Suite cabins available for those who want to upgrade their experience.

We provide a planning worksheet that helps you determine your needs and the information the booking agent requires. Passports are required. For non-US citizens, you can be advised by the booking agent about Canada’s port rules (to secure visas, etc. as necessary).

Our Group Block for past advertised pricing and specific cabins expired 3/14/25. However, we would still accept participants in the Group. Seminar prices continue, but the cabin pricing become based on availability per the cruise line and reservations will be a “market price” at the day of booking.

And I did not state above, the Seminar at Sea Cruise is open to anyone who wants to join us. We’ve had friends of the members join us as well as families (8 to 80... grandkids and member’s parents), cousins, etc. If you find out about us, you can join. Conference participation is not required, and guests are charged a much lower fee than the conference participants. As desired, spouses (plus 1 guests) may join as conference attendees too, for their professional/personal development and education.

We post updates on the most current cabin pricing and program committed on our website. Check here periodically: [Alaska Seminar at Sea](#)

Itinerary:

Sun	14-Sep	travel to Galveston - embark ship 12 pm – 3 pm ** depart 4 pm **
Mon	15-Sep	day at sea – education sessions morning and afternoon
Tue	16-Sep	mixed day – morning education sessions – afternoon Juneau into evening
Wed	17-Sep	day in port – Skagway – on your own – excursions – shopping
Thu	18-Sep	mixed day – sailing to Glacier Bay – schedule open for sessions & observation
Fri	19-Sep	mixed day – morning in Ketchikan – afternoon education sessions
Sat	20-Sep	day at sea – education sessions morning and afternoon – Victoria in evening
Sun	21-Sep	return to Seattle – disembark typically by 9 am – travel home



Master Schedule:

Payment Plan NOW – Conference Registration – \$175 per Seminar participant – \$50 per guest
Mar 14 – Cruise Reservation – \$125 pp payment at reservation time
May 03 – 90 days – final full payment – consider insurance
Aug 14 – 30 days – final self-arrangements for hotel / special transportation
Sep 14 – departure – Bon Voyage

Reservations Require: full name of passengers per passport travel identification
 mailing address, contact information, credit card
 Cabins require double occupancy or surcharge for single travelers
 If possible, we'll attempt to match up 'singles' where appropriate

Travel Identification: **Passports are required** for all participants & guests

Registration: Web Page: [Alaska Seminar at Sea](#) (\$175/\$50/\$25)
 and send confirmation to kelemenmarc3@gmail.com, then you'll be
 contacted by the Travel Advisor (Lillian) for making cabin Reservations

Cruise Coordinator: Marc Kelemen Cleveland Area
 440-567-6276 kelemenmarc3@gmail.com

Cruise Coach: John Breckline DFW Area
 817-401-0412 jbreckline@att.net