

# Cruise West "Voyage to the Bering Sea"

By Grace Schaad, client

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How can I condense 12 days aboard The Spirit of Oceanus on Cruise West's "Voyage to the Bering Sea?" I will resort to "snap shots" phrases of the adventure:

- clamorous nesting sites of murre, gulls, terns and kittewakes
- hundreds of tufted and horned puffins so full of fish they could barely become airborne
- huge, barking Stellar sea lions "hailed out" on rocks high above the waterline
- the "Alaskan Emerald Isle" called Kodiak
- finding a yarn shop and Kodiak Brewing Company in the same building
- watching Kodiak bears from a zodiac at Katmai National Park
- Humpback and Fin whales
- the beautifully restored (1825) Church of the Holy Ascension on Unalaska
- bald eagles everywhere
- the northern fur seal rookery on St George Island in the Pribilof Archipelago
- eating seal meat
- sockeye salmon drying in the sun at Nash Harbor on Nunivak Island
- napping on the tundra with the sweet smell of pine and heather and the buzzing of bees
- local artists selling carved walrus ivory at Savoonga on St Lawrence Island
- the bleakness of Provideniya, Russia
- traveling by ural trucks to the village of New Chaplino, Russia
- dancing in the school gymnasiums
- drinking water from the Chukchi Sea north of the Arctic Circle
- panning for gold on the beach at Nome
- wonderful meals, competent and friendly staff, knowledgeable exploration leaders
- smooth seas with no rain!

This is the fourth time that I have traveled with Cruise West. Every journey has been memorable. What a way to experience nature and culture! And thanks to the staff, especially Barb, at Willamette International Travel for doing the detail work for me!