



Fiber Garden
— LLC —

2017 Alaska Hand Spinners Cruise

August 6-13, 2017

Emerald Princess

Cruise Planning Guide





Fiber Garden
LLC

2017 Alaska Hand Spinners Cruise

Welcome aboard!

I am looking forward to personally welcoming you on board the elegant *Emerald Princess*. You can look forward to many adventures both on-board and in our beautiful ports-of-call.

This guide has been developed to assist you in preparing for your cruise. *You are responsible for reading and understanding all of the information in this guide.* If at any time you have questions, please ask. I am here to help make this a great vacation for you. Don't risk problems once you arrive at port because you were unprepared or uninformed! The information contained in these pages is *not all inclusive*, but it will provide you with the most important information you will need to prepare for and enjoy your cruise.

You will find an abundance of information in the ["Preparing for Your Cruise"](#) section of the Princess website which can be accessed from the home page under the "booked guests" tab at the top of the page.

Have a safe trip to Seattle and I'll see you at the Clarion Hotel on August 5 for our "pre-cruise adventure"!

With appreciation!

Deb

Deb Jones, Owner
Fiber Garden LLC
Travel Consultant

Deb's contact information if you need to reach me after I have left home for the cruise:

- Phone: 715.284.4590
- Email: deb@fibergarden.com
- Text: 715.220.9279 or 715.299.0264

I will be leaving Black River Falls on the afternoon of August 4 to head to the Twin Cities for an early morning flight to Seattle on August 5.



Fiber Garden LLC

2017 Alaska Hand Spinners Cruise

**Emerald Princess
August 6-13, 2017**

Group Cruise Itinerary

Date	Day	Evening
Sunday, August 6	<p>11:00 a.m. Transfer from hotel to cruise port. (Deb will arrange upon arrival in Seattle. Charges will be split among group members.) Drop off luggage at port and enjoy time to roam downtown Seattle before embarkation begins.</p> <p>Embarkation at Port of Seattle, Smith Cove Cruise Terminal at Pier 91.</p> <p>1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Progressive Check-In</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1:30 – Robinette & Wesley • 2:00 – Booth • 2:30 - Jones <p>3:00 p.m. All Aboard!!</p> <p>3:15 p.m. Guest assembly/muster drill. Attendance at this drill is required. Listen to announcements for instructions.</p> <p>4:00 p.m. Emerald Princess sails away from the Port of Seattle on our 7-night journey!</p> <p>4:30 p.m. Hand spinners group introductory gathering. Spinner's family and friends welcome. Meet your cruise mates and fellow spinners; brief orientation to the cruise. (Crooners Lounge, Deck 7)</p>	<p>6:00 p.m. Group dinner Dining room TBA</p> <p>Evening entertainment. Check your Princess Patter or Princess@Sea</p> <p>8:00 p.m. Spin-In/Wheelhouse Bar, Deck 7 or Skywalkers, Deck 18 Each day's spin-in time and location will be determined at dinner.</p>

<p>Monday, August 7</p>	<p>At Sea</p> <p>9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Hand spinners Sampler Session 1. Hearts & Minds Chapel, Deck 16, forward</p> <p>Your cruise fee includes three days of spinning workshops, including the fibers and other materials used in class, instruction, and use of equipment and supplies (excluding spinning wheels). Please bring several bobbins for your spinning wheel, a niddy-noddy, oil, and hand cards (if you have them) to all workshops. If you are renting a wheel, these items will be provided</p> <p><u><i>Animal Fibers...Moving Beyond Wool.</i></u> Those first visions we have of learning to spin have us picturing the sheep grazing out in the pasture, growing the wool that will pass through our hands to become yarn and eventually being made into a warm, cozy creation. Most of us learn to spin using wool because of the way the fibers grip each other to make a secure yarn. Once we venture beyond wool, we discover a wide variety of other animal fibers that also have their own uniqueness. Be it angora, camel, yak, alpaca, silk or something else...each will lend wonderful qualities to a yarn. And if you get lucky you might even find a bit of qiviut in your fiber sample bag! We are, after all, traveling to Alaska!</p> <p>3:00 p.m. Group photo – Family of spinners welcome. Hearts & Minds Chapel</p>	<p>6:00 Dinner - Formal night</p> <p>8:00 p.m. Magic to Do. Princess Theatre</p> <p>For other evening entertainment, check your Princess Patter or Princess@Sea</p> <p>9:30 p.m. Spin-In/Location TBA</p>
<p>Tuesday, August 8</p>	<p>6:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. in port. Ketchikan, Alaska</p> <p>Explore Ketchikan on your own; register for a shore excursion; or relax on board the ship</p> <p>4:30 p.m. Hand spinners group private wine & cheese reception. Friends and family of spinners welcome (Adagio Bar, Deck 16 Aft)</p>	<p>6:00 Dinner Main Dining Room</p> <p>8:30 p.m. I Got the Music. Princess Theatre</p> <p>For other evening entertainment, check your Princess Patter or Princess@Sea</p> <p>10:00 p.m. Spin-In/Location TBA</p>

<p>Wednesday, Aug 9</p>	<p>7:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. scenic cruising by Tracy Arm Fjord 2:30 – 11:15 p.m. in port. Juneau, Alaska</p> <p>Explore Juneau on your own; register for a shore excursion; or relax on board the ship</p>	<p>6:00 Dinner Main Dining Room</p> <p>8:00 p.m. Iditarod Champion Libby Riddles: Sled Dogs & Adventures. Princess Theatre</p> <p>For other evening entertainment, check your Princess Patter or Princess@Sea</p> <p>9:00 p.m. Spin-In/The Piazza, Deck 5</p>
<p>Thursday, Aug 10</p>	<p>6:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. in port. Skagway, Alaska</p> <p>Explore Skagway on your own; register for a shore excursion; or relax on board the ship</p>	<p>6:00 Dinner Main Dining Room</p> <p>8:00 p.m. Disco: Blame It On the Boogie. Princess Theatre</p> <p>For other evening entertainment, check your Princess Patter or Princess@Sea</p> <p>9:30 p.m. Spin-In/Location TBA</p>
<p>Friday, August 11</p>	<p>At Sea</p> <p>9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Hand Spinner’s Sampler Session 2. Hearts & Minds Chapel, Deck 16, forward</p> <p><u>Plant Fibers.</u> Once you move beyond working only with animal fibers, you discover a whole other world when you start exploring plant-based fibers including bamboo, tencel, cotton, ramie, flax, soy. Plant fibers have characteristics that are very different from wool and other animal fibers, so their addition to a fiber blend can really expand the range of yarns you can spin. If you are primarily a spinner of wool or other animal fibers, your spinning skills and confidence will take big leaps once you start working with plant fibers.</p>	<p>6:00 Dinner – Formal Night Main Dining Room</p> <p>8:00 p.m. Comedy Showtime with Steve Caouette. Princess Theatre</p> <p>For other evening entertainment, check your Princess Patter or Princess@Sea</p> <p>9:30 p.m. Spin-In/Explorers Lounge, Deck 7</p>

	2:30 p.m. Special "high tea". Spinner's guests welcome. While our spinning session continues, enjoy an array of "tea and tarts"!	
Saturday, Aug 12	<p>At Sea During the Day 7:00 p.m. – 11:59 p.m. in port Victoria, British Columbia</p> <p>9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Hand Spinner's Sampler Session 3. Hearts & Minds Chapel, Deck 16, forward</p> <p><u>Putting it all together.</u> After we've explored the many varied characteristics of each fiber, we will have a great repertoire to choose from that will expand our capacity to design yarns. Today you will design your own yarns, first determining the qualities you want in your finished yarn, selecting the fibers to blend to achieve the desired qualities, blending the fibers, and spinning the blends.</p>	<p>5:30 p.m. Special group dinner at the Crown Grill. Spinner's and family included.</p> <p>Evening entertainment. Check your Princess Patter or Princess@Sea</p> <p>8:00 p.m. Spin-In/Location TBA</p> <p>Or, enjoy the evening in port exploring Victoria on your own or taking a shore excursion</p>
Sunday, August 13	7:00 a.m. – Arrival in Seattle Disembarkation	

Itinerary is subject to change. This schedule was created to allow spinners the opportunity to participate in all of the spinning activities and "main event" evening theatre shows. All activities are optional. In addition to the entertainment listed, there are many other entertainment options in a variety of ship venues.

Prepare for Your Cruise

What to pack

- Weather. Average temperatures for the dates and region we will be traveling can be expected to be in the low 60's during the days and upper 40's overnight. Your daily Princess Patter will have the weather forecast for each day of our trip.
- Days. Casual is the name of the game! Jeans, t-shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies, whether on board or in port. Be comfortable and dress in light layers so you can be comfortable in any weather. I will be bringing only two or three pairs of jeans to wear during the day with long sleeve shirts, a sweatshirt, and my double layered jacket that has a fleece layer that can be worn alone and an outer layer for added warmth. Bring clothes that you can mix and match...you don't need a new outfit every day! (You will see me in duplicate outfits on several days!)
- Evening dinners are smart casual except for our two formal nights. On smart casual dinners, nice pants (khakis or dress pants) are fine with a sport shirt for men and blouse or sweater for women. Formal nights suggest a suit and tie (or tuxedo) for men, and a cocktail dress for women. (The tuxedo is NOT necessary and women do not need to be in "full formal" attire. A nice skirt or dress will do just fine.) For what it's worth, I will be bringing a couple of pairs of pants for dinners and one simple dress that you will see me in on both formal nights. Plan to "recycle" your clothes so you don't over pack. Everyone in our group will be very understanding. After all, we need to have plenty of room for all those fibers that you will be collecting during our classes!
- If you would like a robe in your stateroom, you can request one through the Cruise Personalizer so you don't need to pack one. Robes are not provided in staterooms unless requested. There is no charge to have a robe in your room.
- If you plan to visit the fitness center, bring appropriate shoes and clothing.
- Comfortable shoes are a MUST! It's a large ship and you'll do a lot of walking each day as well as in the ports-of-call.
- There is an indoor pool (I think!). If you'd like to enjoy it, or one of the hot tubs, bring a swim suit.
- On the day you board, you will want to pack a carry-on bag with any essentials you might need during the day until after dinner. Luggage will be delivered to your stateroom by cruise line staff. You want to have everything you might need, including medications, in your possession in case your luggage has not yet arrived at your stateroom.
- For additional information, visit the ["what to pack"](#) page on the princess website.
- Your insurance coverage. For those of you who purchased travel insurance through Travel Guard, follow the link in the policy confirmation I sent you which will take you to your policy page. There you will be able to print a copy of your coverages. This print-out will also include a page with emergency contact information wallet cards as well as identifying information to place into your luggage tags in case your luggage is lost.

- If you are participating in one or more shore excursions offered through Shore Trips, *be sure and print your tour vouchers and bring them with you!* The confirmation I sent you for each of the tours you are confirmed for has a link to your reservation and instructions for printing your vouchers. If you cannot locate the confirmation emails, contact me and I will resend them.
- For those participating in the spinning workshops:
 - Spinning wheel, bobbins, oil bottle, niddy-noddy. (If you are renting a wheel, these items will all be provided.)
 - Any fibers you'd like to spin during our evening spin-ins. (You can also spin fibers from the day spinning workshops.)

What NOT to pack

- Extension cords, knives, and scissors with a blade length over 4" are not permitted. (I will be bringing scissors for our spinning workshops.)
- [Please review the complete list](#) of items that are banned from the ship.
- Hairdryers. They are provided in your stateroom.
- Too much stuff!! Pack light and save room for the treasures you'll want to collect during your trip!

Set-up An On-line Account with Princess. [Visit this page](#) and click on "sign-in/register" in the upper right corner. Follow the directions for creating an account for yourself. You will need your reservation number. If you do not know your number, you will find it on any of the invoices I sent. If you cannot find it, email me and I will provide it for you. This will make accessing on-line check-in, the cruise personalizer, viewing the cruise itinerary, etc. more accessible.

On-line check-in. Anytime between now and three days prior to your cruise you should access the on-line guest check-in link through your Princess account and clicking on the guest check-in tab. You can also find the link from the [Princess home page](#) under the "booked guests" tab. This check-in and printing of your boarding pass MUST be completed three days prior to your trip departure!! Failure to do so will cause significant delays on boarding day. DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO DO YOUR ON-LINE CHECK-IN! In the event you have a problem with the technology, have a question, etc., you will not want to be rushed to get the problem resolved. Complete all the required parts of the guest check-in and the optional ones that pertain to you. (Please be sure and record your air flight information if you are arriving on August 6 or departing on August 13.)

Cruise Luggage Tags. As a part of the check-in process you will be able to print your paper luggage tags that will *need to be attached to each of your pieces of luggage* so the cruise line gets your suitcase to the correct stateroom! These paper tags are a real hassle to try and secure so they do not rip off during luggage handling. To alleviate this problem, the Fiber Garden is providing each

of you a plastic holder designed specifically to hold these cruise luggage tags. Your luggage will have two tags. The "regular" tag that you will have with your name, address, etc., and the cruise line tag that will be placed in the holder from the Fiber Garden to direct the cruise staff in delivering your luggage. If I did not mail your luggage tag to you, I will deliver it to you at the hotel on August 5.

Cruise planner. Now it's time for some fun! There are LOTS of opportunities for fun on board! There is plenty to do without spending a penny and there are many options for a fee. Visit the Cruise Personalizer page (there is a link under the "booked guests" tab on the home page) and check out some of the opportunities or access the Personalizer through the tab on your account page. Here are the things you can reserve through the Cruise Personalizer. Please note that all of these have a fee attached to them:

- Sign up for cruise-line sponsored shore excursions. On our days in port that you do not currently have anything planned, you might find an excursion through the cruise line that you will enjoy.
- Make reservations for specialty dining restaurants. Our group will enjoy dinner together every evening at 6:00 p.m. in the main dining room. However, you might choose to forego our group dinner one or more evenings and treat yourself to dining in one of the specialty restaurants. As a group, we will be dining in the Crown Grill on Saturday evening. This will NOT be an extra charge and has been included in your cruise fee.
- Sign up for a beverage package. (Unless you plan to drink a lot, these are expensive and you'll probably come out ahead by purchasing your beverages individually.)
- Sign up for internet packages if you want to stay connected at sea. Internet service can be spotty at times, so don't count on it to be as fast and reliable as your home internet. Plus, it's not cheap. You will probably be able to get Wi-Fi access on our days in port at some of the places you might choose to visit.
- Make an appointment for a spa treatment.
- Sign-up for some special on-line activities.

Please note that you do NOT need to reserve any of these things in advance. If you decide to experience one of these offerings, reservations can be made after you are on board the ship. Waiting to make reservations might mean some limited availability, but you should still be able to participate. For myself, I plan to enjoy all of the activities and meals included in the cruise fare that I already paid...so it's not necessary to pay for these extra activities to still have an awesome cruise!

Information for those arriving on August 5.

We will be staying at the [Clarion Hotel, in Renton WA](#). The address is 3700 East Valley Road in Renton. Phone number is 425.251.9591. Reservations are confirmed and all rooms are under the Handspinners Pre-Cruise group. You were sent your reservation confirmation that includes your confirmation number. Hotel check-in is at 3:00 and check-out is at noon.

The hotel has a free airport shuttle service. The shuttle runs from the SeaTac Airport between the hours of 4:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m. Once you arrive and pick up your baggage, ask an airport host to point you to the location to meet the shuttle. You may need to call the hotel to request shuttle service.

The hotel has free wi-fi and a complimentary breakfast buffet.

I will be arranging our transfer from the hotel to the cruise port for the following morning when I arrive at the hotel on Saturday. I will book one transfer for all of us and we will split the cost (expected to be \$10-20 per person).

For dinner on August 5, we will meet in the hotel lobby at a pre-designated time based upon everyone's flight arrival schedules. The hotel provides free shuttle service within the area which we will use to go to a local restaurant for dinner and to meet each other (dinner cost is on your own and attendance is optional). It will be an opportunity to meet your cruise companions and talk about our upcoming adventure.

Arrival at Port of Seattle/Embarkation. Following are some tips to help make the boarding process go more smoothly. It can be a bit of a "cattle call" and you'll want to prepare yourself! 😊

- Boarding times will be stated on your cruise documentation which you will be able to access sometime after you complete your on-line check in. Check-in is done depending on the deck your stateroom is on. Because we will all be arriving at the port together, some of us will need to wait a short while to get into the boarding lines.
- Once you arrive at the cruise port, your large luggage will be taken by the porters and you will be left with anything you want to carry on board including spinning wheels and your carry-on bag. You'll see luggage stacked like never before! Sometime in the afternoon or early evening your suitcase will magically appear in your stateroom.
- Be patient! Getting through the embarkation process can take anywhere from thirty minutes up to two hours depending on the lines. In general, you can expect the time to get through the process to be closer to the 30-45 minute mark. Take a deep breath and don't let the occasional hassle of boarding start your vacation off on the wrong note. Soon you will step foot on board a beautiful ship and your cares will be wiped away! (At least that's how it's supposed to be!)
- Have your cruise documents ready so you are not fumbling for them when you arrive at the front of the line at a check-in station! This documentation includes:
 - Proof of citizenship (passport, or driver's license AND an original copy of your birth certificate.)
 - The credit card you registered during on-line check-in that will be used for your on-board account.
 - Your boarding pass.

- Upon boarding the ship there will be plenty of friendly Princess staff that will point you in the right direction to get you to your stateroom. It is possible that your room will not yet be ready when you board the ship. If this is the case, there will be plenty of places for you to relax until the announcement is made that you may go to your stateroom.
- After you are on the ship most people have the same thought..."let's go eat"! The Horizon Court is located on Deck 15, the Lido Deck and is the buffet which is open most of the time. It is a beautiful venue with windows surrounding for a great ocean view. Because eating locations are more limited on boarding day, sometimes the Horizon Court can be congested, but it has seating for crowds of people, so waits should be manageable. You might also check out some other eating options by wandering about. The Pizza and Ice Cream Bar or the Trident Grill on Deck 15, and Vines on Deck 5 might also be possibilities. There may be some other places open. One of the main dining rooms may be open for lunch on embarkation day. They will be open for breakfast and lunch on the remaining days of the trip.
- Sometime prior to 4:30 p.m., head to Deck 7 to the Crooner's lounge for our meet and greet and to kick-off our cruise! Our gathering will be followed by dinner in one of the main dining rooms.

Post Cruise/Disembarking. Prior to the end of the cruise, you will be given instructions for disembarking the ship. The last night at sea you will need to place your suitcase outside your stateroom by a specified time for the staff to pick up and take to the terminal. On the morning of disembarking, you will be asked to be out of your stateroom by a stated time and gather in a specified location (typically a dining room, lounge, etc.) Announcements regarding when and where to disembark will be made. All you need to do is follow the instructions!

If you have purchased a transfer from the cruise port to the SeaTac airport, there will be buses waiting at the port and you will be instructed where to go to board them.

Let's Make This A Great Trip!