



JULY 2010

Sunshine

ALASKA 2011

Alaska is a great destination that is popular with Sun Tours travelers. Our Alaska cruises and tours have all taken place for this year and we are looking ahead to 2011.

We have three great Alaska options planned for next year. Our Alaska cruise on Oceania's *Regatta* departs August 26 and is described on page 65. It is a fantastic 14-day itinerary that sails round trip from San Francisco on a small, deluxe ship with ports of call at Victoria, Sitka, Hubbard Glacier (cruising), Icy Strait Point (Hoonah), Skagway, Tracy Arm Fjord (cruising), Juneau, Ketchikan, Vancouver, and Astoria.

The other two Alaska options, both with Princess Cruises, will be in our October catalog. One sails from Seattle on May 29 on the *Sapphire Princess* for a 7-day cruise with ports of call at Juneau, Skagway, Glacier Bay (cruising), Ketchikan, and Victoria.

The other is a 12-day land / cruise combination that begins on June 4 with two nights in Fairbanks, one night in Denali, and one night in Anchorage. Then we board the *Island Princess* and cruise to Hubbard Glacier (cruising), Glacier Bay (cruising), Skagway, Juneau, and Ketchikan.



Seen on our 2010 Black Hills tour. Downloaded from the Photo Gallery on the Sun Tours website, www.suntoursus.com.

KARL'S KORNER

When I went to bed on Monday night, April 19, I didn't know if our Sun Tours group flying out the next morning for Amsterdam (to begin a Holland Tulip Time Cruise) would be able to depart or not.

Airports in much of Europe had been closed since Thursday, April 15, because of the volcanic ash cloud. We called our travelers then and said that the airports would certainly be open by the next Tuesday.

Then it was Monday and the European airports were still closed. There was talk of them reopening for our Tuesday flight but we couldn't be sure. We again called our travelers and said to come to the airport in the morning and hope for the best.

Our travelers were told to meet at the airport at 6:30am for our 8:30am Delta flight. I got up early so I could be at the airport before 6:00am. While eating breakfast I noticed that my cell phone (which I had left in the kitchen) had a message that had come in at 2:00am. It was from Delta Airlines telling me that our 8:30am flight from Albuquerque had been cancelled. The only way for our travelers to make their connection in Atlanta was for them to get to the airport by 4:00am for a 6:00am flight to Atlanta. The good news was that Delta implied that there would be a flight to Amsterdam. The bad news was that we would not be at the airport in time to catch the 6:00am flight to Atlanta.

I called Linda, Director of our Cruise Department, who was on her way to the airport, to tell her the news. Then I hurried to the airport. En route I got a call from Linda who was at the airport. Delta had delayed the 6:00am flight until 8:00am so our travelers could make the flight. We were saved! Our travelers made it to the ship (most of the other passengers didn't) and had a wonderful cruise.

The lucky irony is that if I had left my cell phone on my bedroom dresser as I usually do, I would have gotten the Delta call at 2:00am. I would have rushed to the office to get the travelers' phone numbers and called them, waking them up at 3:00am to hurry to the airport. Then they would have had a very long wait at the airport.

This was a reminder to me to be thankful for the good things that happen in life.

Happy Trails,

Karl