
appreciative early cruise season comments

From Megan Behnke

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To Borough Assembly <BoroughAssembly@juneau.gov>; Alexandra Pierce <alexandra.pierce@juneau.gov>

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Greetings, Juneau Assembly and Visitor Industry Director Pierce:

I wanted to write with appreciation for the way that the 2026 Cruise Ship Season has kicked off in Juneau this year. Having no ships arrive until the end of April was a wonderful change from the past few years, and especially given the long winter and cold spring we have had allowed our neighborhoods to focus on things like gutter and building repairs from the intense winter and final snow removal before needing to host cruise ship visitors as well. Having ships begin coming no earlier than May seems like a wonderful trajectory for the city moving forward, especially given ongoing shifts in our local weather patterns, and allowed locals a chance to enjoy our own trails without the air and noise pollution from the cruise industry.

So far the combination of attentive and professional crossing guards and the lowered daily passenger limits (and, perhaps, the bad weather) has also made driving through downtown Juneau a much more bearable experience than it has been the past few years. My parents live out in Thane, while I live in Douglas, and I have very much appreciated being able to reach them without getting stuck in 20+ minute traffic jams downtown. Please know that these passenger limits, crossing guards, and nice street edge chains downtown are helping with balancing local and visitor needs--thank you for continuing to work to preserve that balance.

I am grateful there is a new Visitor Industry Task Force--it's a big job to think through the visitor industry in our community. I am curious--why are there [no public comments yet posted on their website](#)? We live in such an engaged town that I am sure there have already been public comments. Also, would you be willing to share the affiliations of the members on the website, so that community members can learn more about the Task Force?

Thank you very much for the work you do to balance the needs of the town--the later start date to the cruise ship season and the passenger limits are having a positive effect on our community.

Best,
Megan

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Megan Behnke

(she/her)

I live and work in Lingít Aaní.