

Holland America plans West Coast stops, including one in Seattle

(Courtesy [Megan Campbell](#) – Reporter, Puget Sound Business Journal)

Holland America Cruise Line announced more of its 2021-2022 season Monday with an additional departure from Seattle and more along the West Coast.

The cruise line will make one stop in Seattle, a departure in October for a 21-day Panama Canal voyage. Three other ships will depart from Seattle for Alaska this summer.

It's a good sign, considering it was unknown whether cruise lines would return this year after the pandemic stopped them throughout 2020. But with the passage of the Alaska Tourism Restoration Act last month, cruise lines with vaccinated passengers and crews will [begin in July](#), the Business Journal [reported in May](#).

These lines are part of a business valued at \$900 million prepandemic, bringing sales to retail, restaurants and hospitality industries. While Holland America's announcement Monday only has one stop in Seattle, it still represents new business to a tourism industry that was devastated by the pandemic restrictions.

"It's certainly a start," said [Erik Elvejord](#), director of public relations for Holland America. "When we think of tourism what people forget is it's the coffee vendor, the small business or the person who takes people around on their bike. ... People forget it hits on many different levels when cruising isn't in town."

Cruise ships, when they come to port, also help fuel the local economy by filling up with gas and hiring someone to tune up to 11 pianos on the ship.

"There's a piano tuner in town that's getting a steady amount of business," Elvejord said.

It will still take a couple of years before activity returns to prepandemic levels, said [John Boesche](#), vice president of tourism at Visit Seattle.

"Regardless, that's a cruise ship departing in Seattle," he said, noting people usually arrive a day or two before departing. "The cruise market has just become so significant to the Seattle economy. What a tremendous thing to have in 2021 when we thought we wouldn't have any at all."