

Alert Bay, British Columbia, Canada

A small island steeped in living Indigenous culture — where towering totem poles line the waterfront, orcas patrol the strait, and every corner tells a Kwakwaka'wakw story.

Tender port

Typical call: 5–7 hrs

Canadian Dollar (CAD)

English / Kwak'wala

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____ Arrive: _____ All aboard: _____

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender port — ships anchor offshore; tenders ferry passengers to the village dock

Best For: Indigenous culture, whale watching, totem poles

Walk to centre: Village is immediate from the tender dock; all main sights within 1.5 km

Don't Miss: U'mista Cultural Centre and the 173-ft world's tallest totem pole

Getting around: Taxi Call for rates · Rideshare not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- U'mista Cultural Centre** — The centrepiece of any Alert Bay visit.
 - World's Tallest Totem Pole & 'Namgis Big House** — A 20-minute walk from the dock brings you to the 173-foot 'Namgis totem pole — the world's tallest — adjacent to the traditional Big House (Gukwdzi).
 - Orca & Whale Watching in Johnstone Strait** — Johnstone Strait is one of the world's premier locations to see orcas, especially from late
- June through September.

 - Gator Gardens Ecological Park** — A peaceful boardwalk trail winds through ancient cedar and Sitka spruce rainforest, coastal wetlands, and wildflower bogs.
 - Waterfront Path & 'Namgis Burial Grounds** — A 1.8 km waterfront walking path runs nearly the full length of Alert Bay, past heritage houses, 'awakwes' shelters with ancestor carvings, private...

BEST WALKS

- Village Waterfront & Cultural Loop** 2.5 km return | 1–1.5 hrs | Easy | Free — Start at the tender dock, walk to the U'mista Cultural Centre, then continue along the waterfront path past the 'awakwes' ancestor shelters and private totem poles...
- Gator Gardens Ecological Park** 1 km loop | 45 min | Easy | Free — A signed boardwalk trail through old-growth coastal rainforest, wetlands, and bog.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		53°	41°	19d
Jun		63°	51°	14d
Aug		68°	56°	10d
Sep		64°	53°	15d
Oct		57°	47°	20d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 6:33AM–8:23PM · Jun 5:15AM–9:41PM · Aug 6:16AM–8:46PM · Sep 7:04AM–7:40PM · Oct 7:51AM–6:34PM

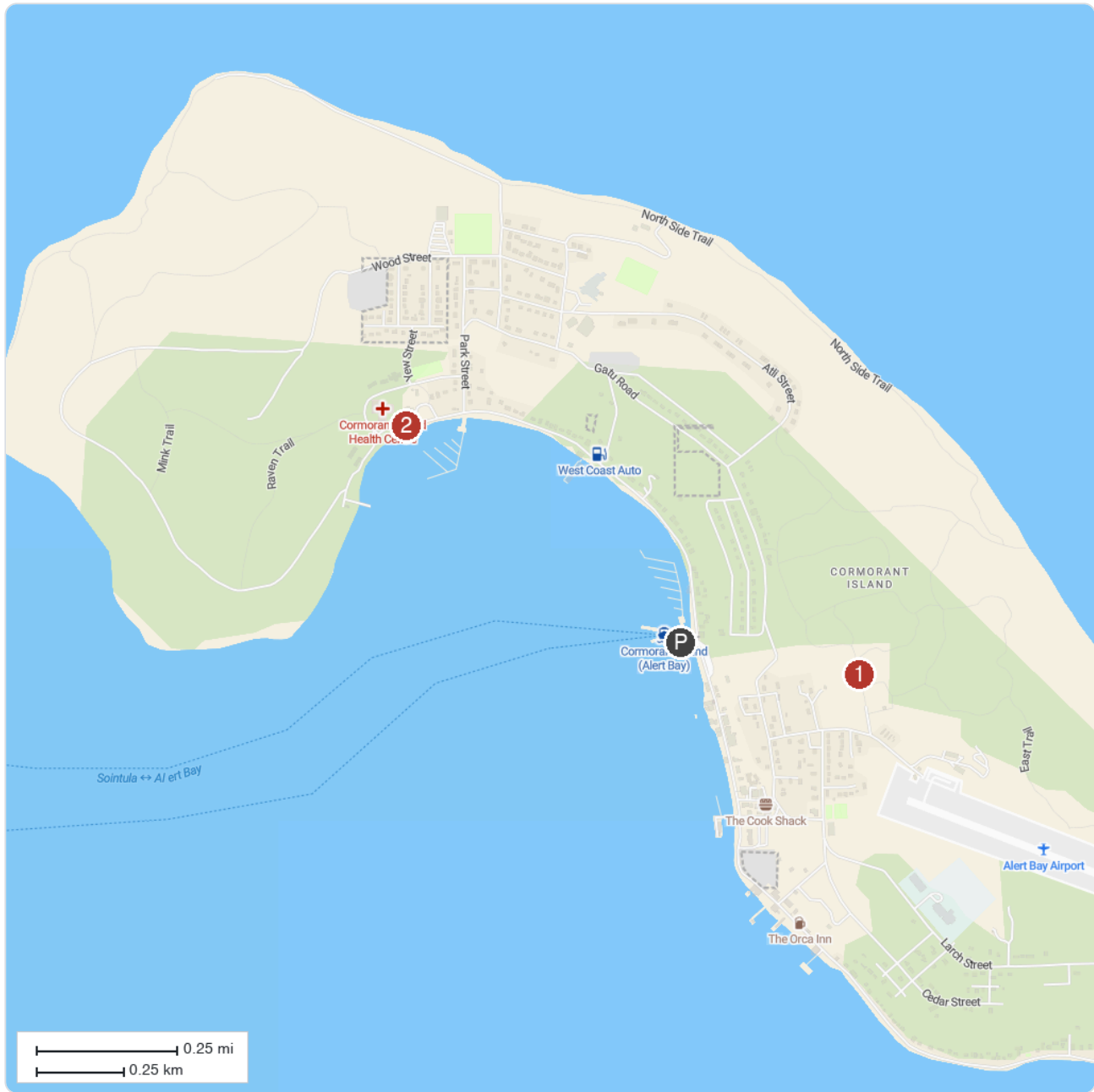
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Photography at U'mista: Photography is not permitted in the main Potlatch collection hall — respect this rule; it is taken seriously by staff.
- Layer up: Alert Bay is in the Pacific Northwest rainforest belt. Even in summer, expect cool temperatures, wind, and rain. A waterproof jacket is essential.
- Cash handy: Most places accept cards, but small vendors and the public pier fish stall are cash-preferred. CAD only — USD rarely accepted.
- Book whale watching early: Zodiac spots fill fast on ship days. Book through local operators (Seasmoke is well-regarded) or via your ship's shore excursions desk.
- U'mista entry fee: There is a small admission charge to the Cultural Centre. Check current rates on-site; proceeds directly support the Kwakwaka'wakw community.
- Tender conditions: Johnstone Strait can have significant swells. If the ship suspends tendering due to weather, it's for good reason — monitor ship announcements.

Alert Bay, British Columbia, Canada — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



1 Alert Bay Ecological Park

2 U'mista Cultural Centre

P Cruise port / terminal