

Utqiagvik (Barrow), Alaska, USA

The northernmost community in the United States, Utqiagvik sits where the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas meet — a place of polar light, Iñupiat tradition, and rare Arctic wildlife that few cruise passengers ever reach.

Tender port (no pier)

Typical call: 5–7 hrs

USD

English / Iñupiaq

Expedition ships only

MY DAY IN PORT

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

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender only — ships anchor offshore; no deep-water pier

Best For: Arctic culture, wildlife, bucket-list geography

Walk to center: ~10 min from tender landing to Whale Bone Arch / downtown

Don't Miss: Iñupiat Heritage Center and the Whale Bone Arch

🚗 Getting around: 🚗 **Taxi** ✅ \$8 flat rate (within town); +\$2/person extra · 🚗 **Rideshare** ❌ not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Iñupiat Heritage Center Tour** — The Iñupiat Heritage Center is the cultural heart of Utqiagvik, with exhibits on language, traditional crafts, whaling history, and Arctic life.
- Whale Bone Arch & Arctic Ocean** — Walk to the iconic arch made from bowhead whale jawbones overlooking the Arctic Ocean — a symbol of Iñupiat whaling tradition.
- Point Barrow — Northernmost USA** — A full excursion to Point Barrow, the northernmost tip of the United States, passing tundra landscape and the ancient Nuvuk village site.
- Arctic Wildlife & Tundra** — Guided tundra excursions look for polar bears, ringed seals, walrus, caribou, and over 100 species of migratory birds.
- Will Rogers & Wiley Post Memorial + Historic Sites** — Visit the monument commemorating pilot Wiley Post and entertainer Will Rogers, who died in a 1935 crash near Barrow.

BEST WALKS

- Downtown to Whale Bone Arch & Arctic Ocean** 1 km · Easy · 15–20 min — From the tender landing, walk along the seafront road to the Whale Bone Arch and the Arctic Ocean shore.
- Heritage Center & Town Walk** 1.5 km · Easy · 30 min — Walk from the town center past the Will Rogers and Wiley Post Monument to the Iñupiat Heritage Center on C Street.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		13°	4°	2d
Jun		43°	33°	7d
Aug		43°	37°	8d
Sep		38°	33°	9d
Oct		29°	22°	9d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 6:09AM–10:47PM · Sep 7:39AM–9:02PM · Oct 9:50AM–6:33PM

USD

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Dress for Arctic conditions. Even in July–August, temperatures average 34–50°F (1–10°C) with wind chill. Waterproof layers and warm gloves are essential.
- Transport is very limited. There are few taxis and no car rentals. Book all excursions through your ship or a local operator (Northern Alaska Tour Company, Tundra Tours) before arrival.
- Tender operations can be cancelled. Ice, fog, or weather can prevent tenders at short notice. Accept the uncertainty — it's part of expedition cruising.
- Midnight sun in summer. From late May to early August, the sun never sets. Bring an eye mask if you need sleep, and enjoy 24-hour exploring light.
- Polar bear country. Bears may be present on the outskirts of town, especially autumn. Stay with guides outside the town center and follow all wildlife safety advice.
- Cash and cards. Utqiagvik has limited retail. Bring small bills if you want to support local artisans. ATMs exist but are not always reliable.

Utqiagvik (Barrow), Alaska, USA — Port Map

cruiseports.org

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



- 1

Iñupiat Heritage Center Museum and cultural center preserving Iñupiat history and traditions.
- 2

Utqiagvik Whale Bone Arch Iconic arch made from two massive bowhead whale jawbones.
- P

Cruise port / terminal