

Cordova, Alaska, USA

Alaska the way it actually is — a working fishing port with no road to the outside world, world-class salmon, calving glaciers, and expedition ships instead of mega-liners.

Pier (small ships) / Tender (larger vessels)

Typical call: 6–8 hrs

USD

English

Copper River Salmon Country

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: Arrive: All aboard:

Excursion: Notes:

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Small ships dock at City Dock; larger vessels anchor in Orca Inlet and tender ashore

Best For: Authentic Alaska, glacier touring, Copper River salmon, wildlife, zero tourist crowds

Walk to center: 10–15 min (0.5–0.7 mi) along the working harbor to First Street

Don't Miss: Ilanka Cultural Center's killer whale skeleton and a Copper River salmon lunch

Getting around: Taxi ~\$5–\$10 · Rideshare not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Sheridan Glacier Kayaking & Hiking** — A van ride (~18 miles) delivers you to Sheridan Glacier Recreation Area, where you can kayak among icebergs on the glacial lake and hike on the ice...
- Jet Boat to Childs Glacier & Million Dollar Bridge** — The Copper River Highway washes out at Mile 36, so the only way to reach the thunderously calving Childs Glacier and the 1910 railroad engineering...
- Ilanka Cultural Center & Cordova Museum** — The Native Village of Eyak's cultural center houses one of only a handful of fully reassembled killer whale skeletons in the world (41 ft).
- Sea Otter & Shorebird Watching** — Cordova claims the title of sea otter capital of the world — look into the harbor as soon as you step ashore.
- Flightseeing the Copper River Delta** — The Copper River Delta is the largest contiguous wetland on North America's Pacific coast.

BEST WALKS

- Harbor to Downtown First Street** 0.6 mi · 15 min · Easy · Flat — Walk from the City Dock along the harbor past fishing vessels, net lofts, and the small-boat basin to First Street.
- Eyak Lake Loop** 1.5 mi · 30 min · Easy · Paved path — Head up Railroad Avenue from downtown to reach the serene shores of Lake Eyak, flanked by steep mountains.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		41°	31°	15d
Jun		57°	48°	16d
Aug		60°	52°	19d
Sep		54°	46°	19d
Oct		46°	37°	19d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 6:23AM–9:04PM · Jun 4:13AM–11:14PM · Aug 5:56AM–9:36PM · Sep 7:12AM–8:02PM · Oct 8:25AM–6:30PM

Representative sunrise/sunset — 2025, 15th of each month; local civil time including DST (America/Anchorage). Source: Astral; not a forecast or climate average.

USD

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Pack full waterproofs. Cordova sits in a temperate rainforest and averages over 160 inches of rain a year. Waterproof jacket, pants, and footwear are not optional — they're essential.
- No rideshare exists. Uber and Lyft don't operate here. Taxis are limited. If you want to reach Sheridan Glacier or any out-of-town site, book your excursion before the ship arrives.
- Eat the salmon. Copper River Salmon season peaks June–August. Fresh fillets, smoked salmon, and halibut tacos from Baja Taco (the red school bus near the harbor) are the definitive Cordova meal.
- Sundays are quiet. Many local shops and some restaurants close on Sundays. Major tour operators and the museums typically open for cruise ship days — but don't count on everything being open.
- Look in the harbor immediately. Sea otters float in the small-boat harbor year-round. You may spot them before you've walked 100 yards from the dock — no tour required.
- Shop local — it's all local. There are no chain souvenir stores. Look for hand-dyed yarn, copper jewelry, and jarred smoked salmon from the shops on First Street. Your dollars go directly to Cordova families.

Cordova, 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 Ilanka Cultural Center** A Native-run museum on Eyak, Alutiiq, Ahtna, and Tlingit heritage, featuring one of only five fully articulated orca skeletons in the world.

P Cruise port / terminal

- 2 Cordova Historical Museum** A downtown museum covering Cordova's history as a copper-shipping port and its recovery from the 1964 earthquake.