

Friday Harbor, San Juan Island, Washington, USA

A car-free, chain-free harbor town on San Juan Island where orcas cruise the kelp-lined shore and the biggest controversy in local history involved a pig. Small ships only — and all the better for it.

Small ships — docked at marina Typical call: 6–8 hrs USD English World-class whale watching

👉 MY DAY IN PORT

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

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Direct berth at Port of Friday Harbor Marina; small/expedition ships only

Best For: Whale watching, Pacific Northwest seafood, island cycling & kayaking

Walk to center: 0 min — marina steps from Spring Street shops and restaurants

Don't Miss: The Whale Museum & a whale-watching boat trip to Lime Kiln Point

Getting around: **Taxi** \$20–\$25 in-town · **Hop-on hop-off** Hop-on hop-off · from 8

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Whale Watching Boat Tour** — The San Juan Islands sit astride the feeding grounds of the Southern Resident orcas.
- **Lime Kiln Point State Park** — Known as Whale Watch Park, this west-coast clifftop is one of the best land-based whale watching sites in the world.
- **San Juan Island National Historical Park — The Pig War** — In 1859 an American farmer shot a British pig, triggering a 12-year joint military occupation of the island.
- **Sea Kayaking the Harbor & Kelp Forests** — Guided sea kayak tours depart from the marina and paddle into the kelp beds and rocky coves of Griffin Bay.
- **The Whale Museum** — The first U.S.

BEST WALKS

- **Harbor Waterfront to Spring Street** 0.3 mi · Easy · 10–15 min — From the marina dock, stroll the waterfront boardwalk past moored vessels, then turn up Spring Street for shops, galleries, the Whale Museum, and the main dining strip.
- **Sunken Park & Ferry View** 0.5 mi · Easy · 20 min — Walk uphill from the dock to Sunken Park, a shady sunken garden above the ferry terminal, where you can watch Washington State Ferries arrive and eat a scoop from Friday...

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

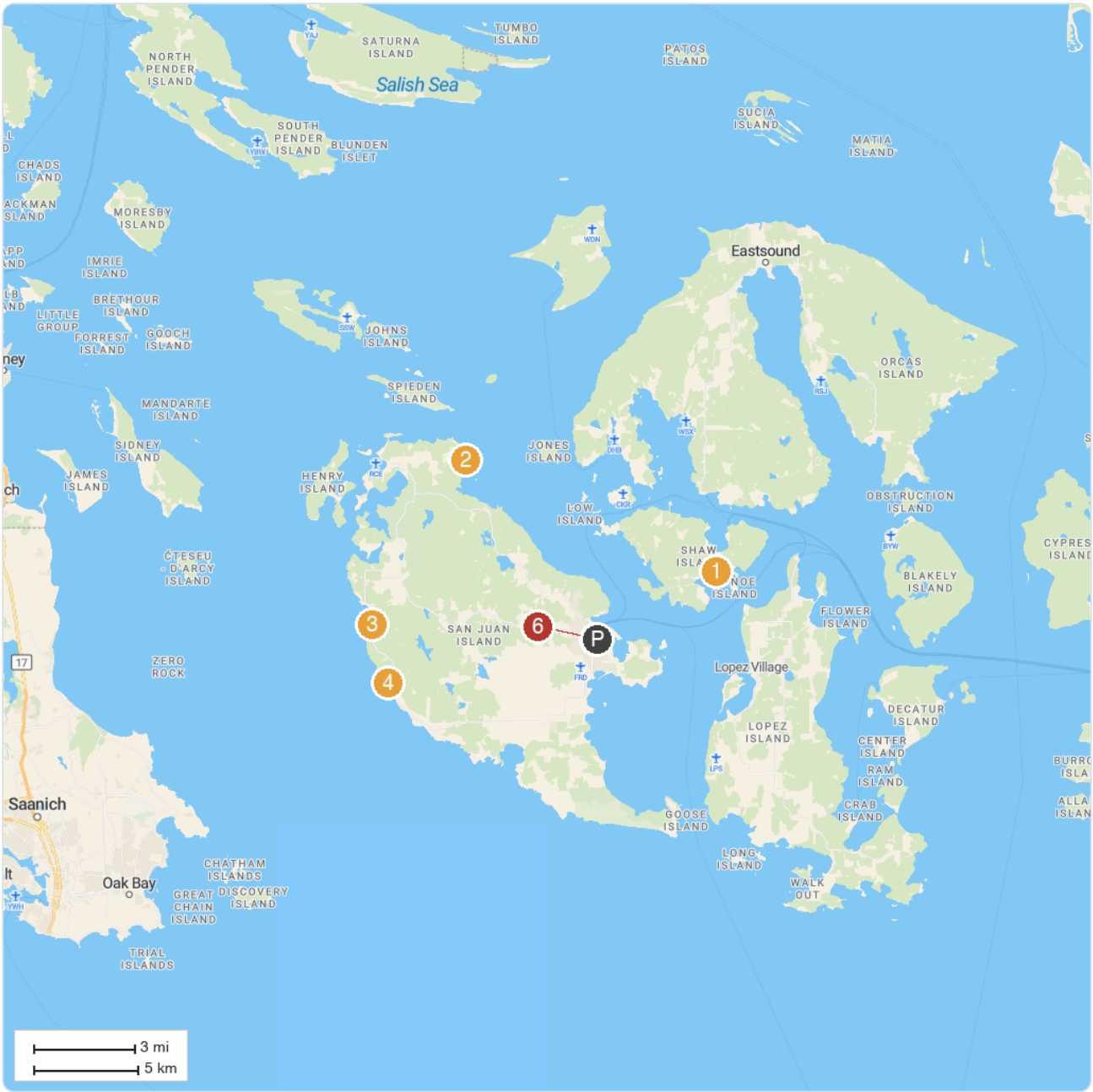
CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)				DAYLIGHT & MONEY	
Mon	High	Low	Rain	Apr 6:21AM–8:03PM · Jun 5:09AM–9:15PM · Aug 6:06AM–8:25PM · Sep 6:49AM–7:23PM · Oct 7:32AM–6:21PM	
Apr	52°	44°	12d	USD	
Jun	63°	53°	6d		
Aug	68°	58°	4d		
Sep	63°	54°	10d		
Oct	55°	48°	14d		

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Book whale watching early. Tour boats fill fast in summer (June–September), when Southern Resident orcas are most reliably present. Operators are steps from the marina — no need to pre-book through the ship.
- Layer up, even in summer. The San Juans are sunnier than Seattle (rain shadow effect) but offshore temps on a Zodiac can feel 20°F colder than on land. A wind layer is essential on any boat excursion.
- No rideshares — plan transport. Uber and Lyft don't operate on the island. Use the San Juan Transit bus for Lime Kiln and American Camp, or rent a moped/Scoot Coupe from Susie's, steps from the dock.
- Eat local — there are no chains. Zoning prohibits fast food and corporate retail. Downriggers (on the waterfront) and Friday's Crabhouse (casual, by the ferry landing) are perennial favorites for Dungeness crab and chowder.
- Cash optional, but carry some. Card accepted everywhere in town, but some farmers market vendors and smaller food stalls prefer cash. ATM at the bank on Spring Street.
- American Camp for big views. If orcas don't show, the prairie bluffs of American Camp overlook the Strait of Juan de Fuca toward the Olympic Mountains — one of the best panoramas in the Pacific Northwest, and free.

Friday Harbor, San Juan Island, Washington, USA — Port Mapcruiseports.org

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



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| 1 Shaw County Park | Waterfront park with camping, beach access, and boat launch. | 2 Reuben Tarte County Park | Small waterfront park with beach access and scenic views. |
| 3 San Juan County Park | Waterfront park for camping, picnicking, and shore-based whale watching. | 4 Lime Kiln Point State Park | Historic lighthouse park, excellent for shore-based whale watching. |
| 5 Western Prince Whale Watching Adventures | Boat tour operator offering guided whale watching excursions. | 6 The Whale Museum | Museum dedicated to whales and marine mammal conservation. |
| P Cruise port / terminal | | | |