

Metlakatla, Alaska, USA

Alaska's only federal Indian Reserve, Metlakatla offers something rare on any cruise: a living Indigenous community with no jewelry shops, no chain stores — just authentic Tsimshian culture, master carvers, and powerful longhouse performances.

Tender (most ships anchor)

Typical call: 4–6 hrs

USD

English / Sm'algayx

Indigenous culture

MY DAY IN PORT

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

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender for most ships; small/expedition vessels may dock at city pier

Best For: Indigenous culture, Tsimshian dance performances, totem poles

Walk to center: ~0.3–0.5 mi (5–10 min) from tender drop at small boat harbor

Don't Miss: Longhouse cultural show & the carving shed — both are world-class

Getting around: Taxi \$5–\$15

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Tsimshian Longhouse Cultural Performance** — The signature Metlakatla experience.
- William Duncan Cottage Museum** — The restored 1891 home of William Duncan, the Anglican missionary who led 823 Tsimshian people from British Columbia to found Metlakatla in 1887.
- Carving Shed Visit & Tsimshian Artists** — Watch master Tsimshian carvers at work on totem poles, canoes, and ceremonial masks — and ask questions.
- Yellow Hill Boardwalk Trail** — A scenic boardwalk trail climbing through old-growth rainforest to the open summit of Yellow Hill, with panoramic views over Annette Island, the...

BEST WALKS

- Town Cultural Walk** 0.6 mi · 20–30 min · Flat & easy — From the harbor, stroll along the waterfront past the totem poles to the Longhouse, then loop through town past the William Duncan Memorial Church, the school's carved...

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		48°	40°	19d
Jun		59°	50°	16d
Aug		63°	55°	17d
Sep		59°	51°	18d
Oct		51°	45°	20d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 5:41AM–7:51PM · Jun 4:06AM–9:27PM · Aug 5:21AM–8:18PM · Sep 6:19AM–7:01PM · Oct 7:17AM–5:45PM

USD

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Dry community — no exceptions. Metlakatla prohibits all alcohol on the reserve. Do not bring any ashore; violations are taken seriously.
- Bring small USD cash. Local vendors, the museum, and the carving shed often don't take cards. The island ATM can run out on busy cruise days.
- Ask before you photograph people. This is a living community. Always request permission before photographing residents, elders, or children — the totem poles and church are fair game.
- Dress for rain. Metlakatla averages 120+ inches of rain per year. Waterproof layers and sturdy shoes are essential, not optional.
- Book the longhouse show in advance. Capacity is limited and it sells out. If your cruise line offers it as a shore excursion, book early — this is the must-do of Metlakatla.
- Find the fry bread. Local vendors set up near the longhouse on cruise days serving Tsimshian fry bread — plain, with jam, or as Indian tacos. Don't leave without one.

Metlakatla, Alaska, USA — Port Map

cruiseports.org

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



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| 1 Father Duncan Cottage Museum | 1891 house built by Tsimshian followers of missionary William Duncan, now Metlakatla's oldest building and a National Register site. | 2 William Duncan Memorial Church | Historic church at 4th and Church honoring the Anglican missionary who founded New Metlakatla. |
| 3 Metlakatla Longhouse | Traditional Tsimshian longhouse hosting dance and song performances and cultural artifact displays. | 4 Metlakatla Totem Walk | Collection of hand-carved totem poles throughout the community depicting Tsimshian clan stories. |
| P Cruise port / terminal | | | |