

Nain, Nunatsiavut, Canada

The administrative capital of Nunatsiavut, Nain is a living Inuit community where the Inuttitut language echoes off gravel streets and the Torngat Mountains rise beyond the bay. Expedition ships tender ashore to one of Canada's most remote and culturally intact Arctic towns.

Tender port (no pier)

Typical call: 6–8 hrs

Canadian Dollar (CAD)

English & Inuttitut

Bear-country protocols apply

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date:

Arrive:

All aboard:

Excursion:

Notes:

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender / Zodiac — ships anchor in Unity Bay; passengers land at the Nain Town Wharf

Best For: Indigenous culture, expedition landscapes, Labradorite shopping, Torngat excursions

Walk to centre: 5–10 min from the wharf; town is compact and walkable on gravel roads

Don't Miss: Illusuak Cultural Centre and buying Labradorite jewellery directly from local artisans

Getting around:

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Illusuak Cultural Centre Visit** — This award-winning building — designed to evoke a traditional sod house — houses world-class exhibits on Inuit history, language (Inuttitut), and the...
 - Torngat Mountains National Park Flight** — If your cruise line offers a helicopter or Zodiac excursion into the Torngat fjords, take it without hesitation.
 - Moravian Mission Station & Church** — Nain was founded in 1771 by Moravian missionaries from Germany, and the original mission buildings survive.
- Zodiac Wildlife Exploration** — Expedition ships often run Zodiac cruises along the shores near Nain, offering close views of seabirds, harbour seals, and — if conditions allow...
 - Indigenous Arts & Crafts Market** — Local artisans sell soapstone carvings, sealskin crafts, beadwork, and Labradorite jewellery — the iridescent gemstone first identified in this region.

BEST WALKS

- Wharf to Illusuak & Moravian Church Loop** 1.5 km | Easy | ~30–40 min — From the town wharf, walk into town along the main road to the Illusuak Cultural Centre (about 400 m).

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		32°	17°	14d
Jun		51°	37°	10d
Aug		61°	47°	13d
Sep		54°	41°	16d
Oct		43°	34°	18d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 6:09AM–8:05PM · Jun 4:24AM–9:50PM · Aug 5:44AM–8:38PM · Sep 6:48AM–7:15PM · Oct 7:51AM–5:53PM

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Bring Canadian cash. The Northern Store and Illusuak accept cards, but local artisans selling crafts on the street typically accept cash only. Small bills preferred.
- Dress for Arctic sub-zero wind. Even in July and August, temperatures can drop to 5°C with windchill. Layer up — waterproof outer layer, hat, and gloves are essential, not optional.
- Stay within town limits. Polar bears and black bears range near Nain. Never hike trails (including the Nain Overlook Trail or up Mount Sophie) without an armed local bear monitor. Your ship will provide guidance.
- Don't pet the sled dogs. Working huskies chained near homes are not pets. They can be aggressive with strangers — admire from a distance.
- Ask before you photograph. Nain is a real community, not a tourist attraction. Always ask permission before photographing residents, children, or ceremonies.
- Eat on the ship. Dining options in Nain are extremely limited — there's no restaurant strip. A small local café may operate irregularly. Plan to have a full meal on board before tendering ashore.

Nain, Nunatsiavut, Canada — Port Map

cruiseports.org

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



- 1

Illusuaq Cultural Centre

Nunatsiavut's flagship cultural centre in Nain, showcasing Labrador Inuit history, art, and language.
- 2

Nain Overlook Trail

A rugged hillside trail above town giving sweeping views over Nain's harbour and the surrounding Labrador coast.
- 3

Our Lady of the Snow Catholic Church

Small mission church in Nain reflecting the Moravian and Catholic missionary history of Nunatsiavut's north coast.
- P

Cruise port / terminal