

Northwest Passage, Canadian Arctic

One of Earth's last true frontiers — a frozen maze of islands and ice where Franklin's ships vanished and expedition cruisers now thread through under the midnight sun.

 Zodiac & tender landings only

 Typical transit: 14–21 days

 Canadian Dollar (CAD) / USD accepted

 English & Inuktitut

 Expedition cruises: Aug–Sep only

MY DAY IN PORT

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

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: No piers — 100% Zodiac and tender landings

Best For: Polar wildlife, Arctic history, Inuit culture

Best Season: Late August to mid-September (ice permitting)

Don't Miss: Beechey Island Franklin graves, Inuit throat singing, midnight sun

 Getting around:  Taxi  CAD \$6–25 per ride ·  Rideshare  not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Beechey Island — Franklin Expedition Graves** — Land on the windswept island where three of Franklin's men were buried in 1846.
- **Pond Inlet — Inuit Cultural Performance** — In this Baffin Island community, local performers share traditional drum dancing, Inuit games, and hauntingly beautiful throat singing at the...
- **Zodiac Wildlife Cruise** — Cruise among icebergs and along rocky shores searching for polar bears, narwhals, beluga whales, walrus, muskoxen, and Arctic seabirds.
- **Gjoa Haven — Amundsen Overwintering Site** — Walk the community where Roald Amundsen spent two winters (1903–05) learning Arctic survival from the Netsilik Inuit — the knowledge that made his...
- **Polar Plunge** — Jump into the Arctic Ocean from a Zodiac platform or gravel shore, tethered to a safety line.

BEST WALKS

- **Cambridge Bay Town Walk** Easy · 1–2 km · 30–60 min — Walk from the community dock past the Canadian High Arctic Research Station (CHARS) and the local Northern Store (check the fly-in food prices).
- **Pond Inlet & Eclipse Sound Views** Easy · 1 km · 30 min — From the dock, walk to the Nattinnak Visitor Centre for wildlife and cultural exhibits, then stroll toward the Sound for views of Bylot Island.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

 **CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)**

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		-15°	-23°	2d
Jun		8°	1°	7d
Aug		12°	5°	7d
Sep		5°	0°	9d
Oct		-6°	-11°	6d

 **DAYLIGHT & MONEY**

Apr 5:00AM–9:02PM · Aug 4:10AM–9:54PM · Sep 6:16AM–7:31PM · Oct 8:11AM–5:18PM

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KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Layer obsessively. Temps range 0–10°C but Zodiac wind chill bites hard. Wool base layer, fleece mid-layer, waterproof shell — plus waterproof pants and knee-high rubber boots.
- Protect your gear. Saltwater Zodiac spray destroys cameras and phones. Use a waterproof dry bag until you're safely ashore.
- Bring a bug net. In August the tundra can swarm with blackflies and mosquitoes. A head net and strong repellent are essential for wilderness landings.
- Buy Inuit art directly. Soapstone carvings, qiviut (muskox wool) knitwear, and prints support local artists directly. Ask if it's handmade before buying.
- Ask before photographing people. Always get permission before taking photos of community members, especially children. It matters.
- Midnight sun is real. Expect 20+ hours of daylight in August. Blackout curtains in your cabin help — and late-night Zodiac wildlife cruises are surreal.

Northwest Passage, Canadian Arctic — 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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Cambridge Bay Heritage Centre

Community museum in Cambridge Bay documenting Inuinnait culture, Arctic history, and the region's exploration heritage.
- P

Cruise port / terminal