

San Juan Islands, Washington, USA

A mosaic of forested islands adrift in the Salish Sea, the San Juans deliver orca sightings, farm-to-table food, and car-free cycling — all within striking distance of the continent's most dramatic marine scenery.

 Docked or Tendered (varies by line)  Typical call: 6-9 hrs  USD  English  Orca country

👉 MY DAY IN PORT

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

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Most ships dock or anchor off Friday Harbor, San Juan Island; tenders used by smaller vessels

Walk to center: Dock is right in Friday Harbor village — shops and restaurants within 2 min

Best For: Whale watching, sea kayaking, cycling, local seafood

Don't Miss: Lime Kiln Point State Park for shoreside orca spotting

 Getting around:  Taxi  \$20–25 ·  Rideshare  not available ·  Hop-on hop-off  Hop-on hop-off

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Whale-Watching Cruise** — Board a dedicated whale-watch vessel out of Friday Harbor for 3-4 hours in prime orca territory.
- **Sea Kayaking the Coastline** — Paddle rocky coves and kelp forests with a guided kayak tour departing from Friday Harbor.
- **Lime Kiln Point State Park & Whale Watch Park** — Cycle or cab 10 miles to the west shore of San Juan Island, where Lime Kiln Point State Park is one of the best land-based orca-watching spots on the...
- **American Camp & English Camp (San Juan Island National Historical Park)** — The Pig War of 1859 — a bloodless US-British boundary dispute triggered by a farmer shooting a pig — left two historic military camps on San Juan...
- **Friday Harbor Village & The Whale Museum** — The Whale Museum on First Street, opened in 1979, was the first US museum dedicated to a species living in the wild — exhibits on orca biology...

BEST WALKS

- **Friday Harbor Waterfront & Village Loop** 1.5 miles · Flat · 30-45 min — From the cruise dock on Front Street, head up Spring Street past local shops to The Whale Museum on First Street.
- **Westside Road to Lime Kiln Point (cycling)** ~10 miles one-way · Moderate · 45-60 min by bike — Rent a bike at the dock and follow Roche Harbor Road west, then turn south on West Side Road to Lime Kiln Point State Park.

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

- Summer is peak orca season. June–September offers the highest probability of Southern Resident killer whale sightings. Book whale-watch tours in advance — they sell out on port days.
- Rent a bike at the dock. Several outfitters on Front Street rent bikes, e-bikes, and scooters. Flat roads around Friday Harbor suit any fitness level; Lime Kiln Point is doable on an e-bike.
- Inter-island ferries are tempting but risky. Washington State Ferries connect San Juan Island to Orcas and Lopez, but delays are common. Build in at least 2 hours of buffer before your ship departs.
- Eat the Dungeness crab. Local crab chowder, crab cakes, and whole cracked crab are the standout food experiences in Friday Harbor. Several waterfront spots serve it fresh.
- Layer up year-round. The San Juans sit in a rain shadow from the Olympic Mountains, but mornings are cool and breezy on the water even in summer. A windproof layer is essential for whale-watch boats.
- All USD, all cards accepted. Friday Harbor is a fully equipped small town — ATMs, card payments, and cell service are reliable. No need to carry much cash.

cruiseports.org

This map of the San Juan Islands highlights six specific locations marked with numbered circles. Point 1 is located on Shaw Island, Point 2 on Jones Island, Point 3 on San Juan Island, Point 4 on San Juan Island, Point 5 on San Juan Island, and Point 6 on San Juan Island. The map also shows Lopez Island, San Juan Island, and other islands in the Salish Sea. A scale bar indicates 3 miles and 5 kilometers.

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