

# Sitka, Alaska, USA

Alaska's most historic port sits on the outer coast of Baranof Island — Russian cathedrals, Tlingit totem poles, and bald eagles wheeling overhead, all within a short walk of the dock.

Docks at Sitka Sound Cruise Terminal / some ships tender downtown

Typical call: 7–9 hrs

US Dollar (USD)

Rain gear essential

## 👉 MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Arrive: \_\_\_\_\_ All aboard: \_\_\_\_\_

Excursion: \_\_\_\_\_ Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

## GETTING ASHORE

**Docking:** Dock or tender (ship-dependent)

**To center:** ~10–15 min shuttle (or tender to downtown)

**Best For:** History · Wildlife · Totems

**Don't Miss:** Sitka National Historical Park

🚗 Getting around: 🚗 **Taxi** ✅ \$40–50 · 🚗 **Rideshare** ✅ Uber, Lyft · 🚌 **Hop-on hop-off** ✅ Sitka Rides (The Cool Bus!)

## TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Sitka National Historical Park** — The oldest national park in Alaska.
- **Alaska Raptor Center** — A working rehabilitation center for injured bald eagles, owls, and hawks — some permanently resident because they can't be released.
- **Fortress of the Bear** — A nonprofit bear sanctuary housing orphaned brown bears rescued from the wild.
- **St. Michael's Cathedral & Russian Heritage** — The onion-domed cathedral at the center of downtown is the oldest Russian Orthodox church in North America (rebuilt after a 1966 fire, with original...
- **Sea Otter & Wildlife Quest** — Sitka Sound is one of the best places in Alaska to see sea otters, Steller sea lions, humpback whales, and seabirds from a small boat.

## BEST WALKS

- **Downtown Heritage Loop** ~2 km · 1–1.5 hrs · easy — From the small boat harbor, walk Lincoln Street past St.
- **Indian River Trail to Sitka National Historical Park** ~3.5 km one-way · 1.5–2 hrs · easy-moderate — Walk or cab to the park entrance, then follow the totem-lined forest trail along the Indian River to the 1804 battle site.

## WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

**CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)**

|     | Mon | High | Low | Rain |
|-----|-----|------|-----|------|
| Apr |     | 45°  | 36° | 19d  |
| Jun |     | 58°  | 49° | 19d  |
| Aug |     | 62°  | 55° | 20d  |
| Sep |     | 58°  | 50° | 20d  |
| Oct |     | 50°  | 42° | 22d  |

**DAYLIGHT & 🌳 MONEY**

Apr 5:52AM–8:11PM · Jun 4:06AM–9:57PM · Aug 5:29AM–8:40PM · Sep 6:33AM–7:17PM · Oct 7:36AM–5:56PM

🇺🇸 US Dollar (USD)

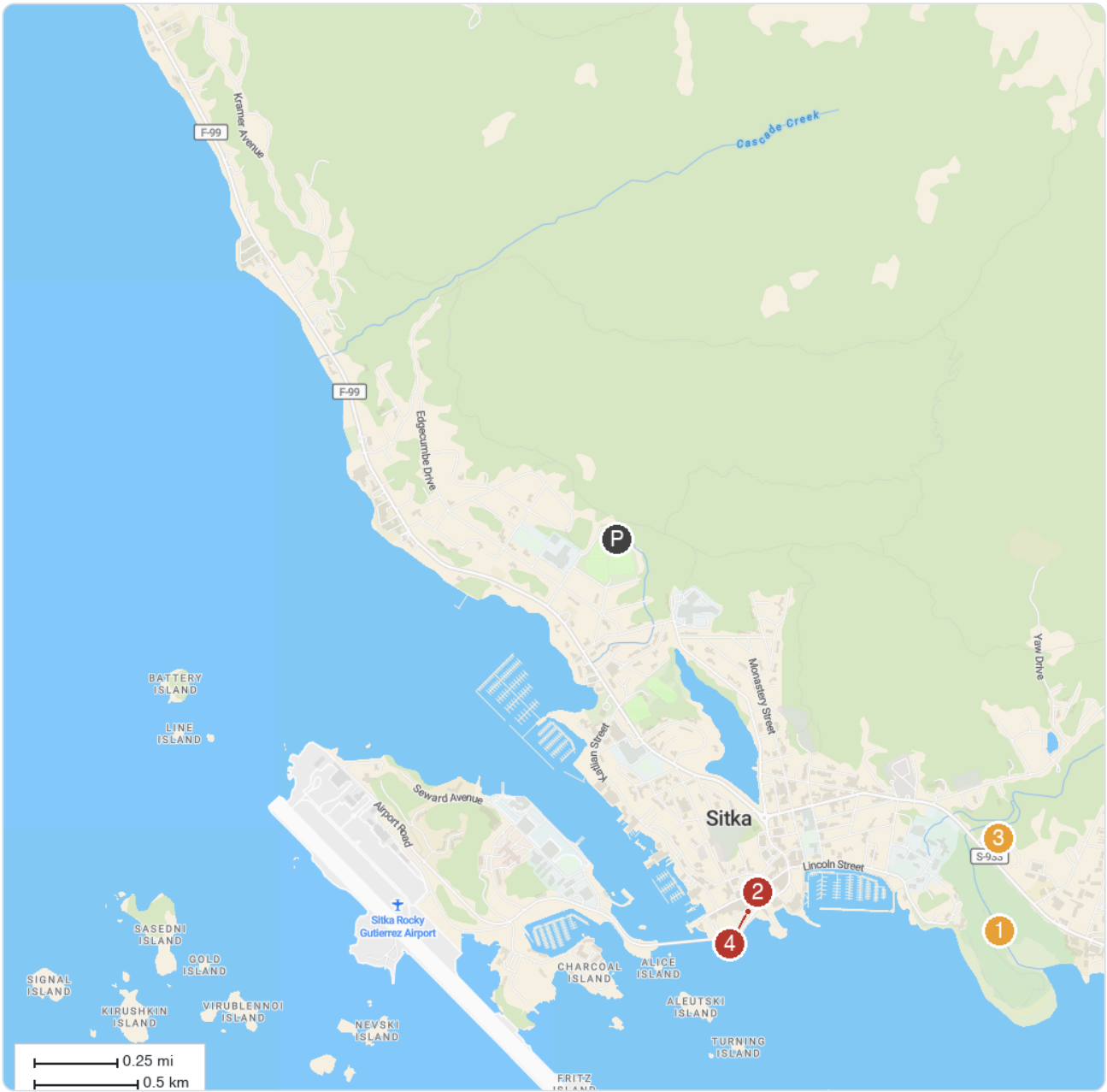
## KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Sitka is wetter than Juneau — pack waterproof layers even if the ship says partly cloudy. Rain can arrive fast on the outer coast.
- The Raptor Center is worth the admission. It's a working rehab facility, not a zoo — the close-up bald eagle encounters are genuinely rare.
- Sitka National Historical Park is free and just 1 mile from downtown. The totem trail through the old-growth forest is one of the finest short walks in all of Alaska.
- Fortress of the Bear is about 5–6 miles out on Sawmill Creek Road — too far to walk. Book a tour that includes it, or share a cab with fellow passengers.
- It's the USA — USD, English, no currency hassle. Sitka is a small town; ATMs are limited, so bring some cash for smaller vendors and cab tips.
- Check your tender or shuttle schedule carefully. The last tender back can be earlier than you expect — missing it on a tendered call means hiring a water taxi at your own expense.

# Sitka, Alaska, USA — Port Map

[cruiseports.org](https://cruiseports.org)

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



- 1

**Sitka National Historical Park**

A coastal rainforest park with a totem pole trail and the 1804 battle site between Tlingit warriors and Russian forces.
- 2

**St. Michael's Cathedral**

A Russian Orthodox cathedral in the town center, rebuilt after an 1966 fire using original icons saved by residents.
- 3

**Alaska Raptor Center**

A rehabilitation center for injured bald eagles and other raptors, with a flight-training center visitors can view.
- 4

**Castle Hill**

A hilltop park where Alaska formally transferred from Russia to the United States in 1867, with harbor views.
- P

**Cruise port / terminal**