

# Visitor's Information



VILLAGE OF  
**ALERT BAY**  
HOME OF THE KILLER WHALE

# Alert Bay

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## **E m e r g e n c y N u m b e r s**

Fire	911
Police (non emergency 974-5544)	911
Ambulance	911
Poison Control	(250) 974-5585

Alert Bay like a small jewel lies cradled in the arms of Cormorant Island. This crescent shaped island is situated just off the Northeast coast of Vancouver Island and is approximately 180 miles by water from the City of Vancouver. Both Alert Bay and Cormorant Island were named after two British war ships H.M.S. Alert and H.M.S. Cormorant while they were engaged in surveying the coastal waters of British Columbia between the years of 1846 and 1861. The Captains of those two ships were Captain Malcolm (Malcolm Island) and Captain Pearse (Pearse Islands).

In 1870, a small saltery was established in Alert Bay to preserve salmon and with the introduction of a new Church Mission, the ̄Namgis were persuaded to move to Alert Bay to provide the necessary work force for the saltery and later the cannery, thus, establishing the basis of the present-day community.

Alert Bay has a population of approximately 1,500 and is comprised of the Village of Alert Bay, ̄Namgis First Nation, Whe-la-la-u Area Council and Regional District of Mount Waddington. Cormorant Island is 3 miles long and a half mile wide. The average rainfall is 60 inches per year and the temperature averages 75 degrees Fahrenheit in the summer and 35 in winter.

From humble beginnings, Alert Bay has since become an important centre of commerce and services while still retaining its quaint fishing village atmosphere and unique lifestyle. This rare combination of embracing the past while planning for the future has enabled Alert Bay to make major contributions to the development of the British Columbia coast. Visitors from around the world come to enjoy the Historic First Nation culture, friendly community, quite magnificent scenery and the superb fishing. Within easy reach of Alert Bay are hundreds of lakes and miles of tranquil inlets awaiting the vacationers whether arriving by airplane or by boat.

### How to get to Alert Bay, BC

Drive North on Hwy 1 from Victoria turns into Hwy 19 at Nanaimo passing Parksville, Courtenay, Campbell River and Sayward to Port McNeill - a scenic drive on a modern highway that takes about 4 hours from Nanaimo to Port McNeill. From Port McNeill, there is BC Ferries running to Alert Bay and Sointula continuously from 8:40 AM-9:30 PM daily.

By bus                      Scheduled bus services depart daily from all points on Vancouver Island to Port McNeill where connection is made by ferry to Alert Bay.

By air                        Scheduled air flights depart daily from Vancouver to Port Hardy and a limousine service is available to Port McNeill where connection is made by ferry to Alert Bay.

### Visitor Attractions

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| Alert Bay Visitor Centre                                    | - | offers a large selection of brochures, maps, etc   |
| 118 Fir Street  | - | public washroom  |
| Bag Service 2800  | - | Art Gallery features the original collection of water colours by Chris Nancarrow, depicting a year in the daily life on Fir and Front Streets. |
| Alert Bay, BC   | - | <b>January-June</b> , Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM, closed for lunch   |
| (250) 974-5024  | - | 1:00 PM-2:00 PM unless otherwise posted  |
| Fax: (250) 974-5026   | - | Closed stat holidays   |
| <a href="mailto:info@alertbay.ca">info@alertbay.ca</a>      | - | <b>July-August, Daily 9:00 AM-5:00 PM</b>  |
| <a href="http://www.alertbay.ca">http://www.alertbay.ca</a> | - | <b>September-December</b> , Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM closed for lunch 1:00 PM-2:00 PM unless otherwise posted.                           |
|   | - | Closed stat holidays   |

## Visitor Attractions

Umista Cultural Centre  
Box 253  
Alert Bay, BC  
V0N 1A0  
(250) 974-5403  
Fax: (250) 974-5499  
[info@umista.ca](mailto:info@umista.ca)  
<http://www.umista.org>

The ceremonial regalia, including coppers, masks, rattles and whistles, were confiscated in 1922 and distributed amongst museums and private collections throughout North America. Returned in 1980, much of the repatriated collection is now on display at the Cultural Centre. Also featured are travelling exhibits, and a collection of videos dealing with Potlatch prohibition and cultural survival. The gift shop boasts a wide variety of outstanding works by Kwakwaka'wakw artists, many of whom are world renowned. Cultural Tours can be pre-arranged for guided tours of the Potlatch Collection, Island Walking Tours Special Dance Performances, Seafood Feasts and specially designed tours. Please call for details of these special tours and participate minimums apply.

**Winter Hours September to June Tuesday to Saturday 9:00 AM-5:00 PM**

**Summer Hours: July-August, Daily 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM**

Alert Bay Library-Museum  
Box 440  
Alert Bay, BC  
V0N 1A0  
(250) 974-5721  
Fax: (250) 974-5026  
[abplb@island.net](mailto:abplb@island.net)  
<http://alertbay.bc.libraries.coop/>

Featured at this Museum are Kwakwaka'wakw and other artifacts and an archival collection of over 9,000 photographs of Alert Bay, surrounding area and people dating back as far as the 1880s. Public internet access available.

Hours: Monday, Friday and Saturday,  
1:00 PM-4:00 PM  
Wednesday ONLY  
1:00 PM -5:00 PM

Tsasala Cultural Group  
Traditional Dance Performance  
Andrea Cranmer  
Phone: (250) 974-5475  
[AndreaCranmer@hotmail.com](mailto:AndreaCranmer@hotmail.com)  
<http://www.tsasalaculturalgroup.com/>

Performance is approximately 1 Hour. Cost: \$20.00 per adult and \$10.00 per child under 12 years. Thursdays-Saturdays, 1:15 PM, (July-August 3<sup>rd</sup> week) in our Big House. This is the only time you will ever get to see the inside of our Big House as it is closed to public viewing. There have been special performances for groups of 25 or more - call to make arrangements.

Traditional Big House

Completed in May 1966, the Big House is modeled on the traditional residences of the Kwakwaka'wakw. This building is primarily used for Potlatches. The house was enlarged and repainted in 1987, at which time -Nan̓gis artist Doug Cranmer designed the extended house front. The original building burnt down August 1997. The Big House re-opened May 28, 1999

World's Tallest Totem Pole

173 ft. carved by six Kwakwaka'wakw. This pole represents a carved history of some of the Kwakwaka'wakw. The figures are acquired through marriage. The figures represented are the Sun man-Gusgimukw, Kulus (Thunderbirds cousin) Kwagu'€Whale- Gwa'sala-'Nak'waxda'xw, Old Man-/ awi'tsis, Wolf-Dzawada'enux , Thunderbird--Nan̓gis, Dzunu'kwa, Sisiyutl- Mamalilikala, Bear holding a Salmon, Raven, and a Dzunu'kwa holding a copper. During a Nimpkish Wind November 2007 the top of the Totem Pole fell to the ground. No charge to see. Stop by Alert Bay Visitor Centre for Totem Poles Brochure

Original -Nan̓gis Burial Grounds

This cemetery is the site of numerous memorial and other totem poles created by some of the best carvers in the area. Visit the Alert Bay Visitor Centre and ask for the Totem Poles brochure. **No Trespassing in the Cemetery**

## Visitor Attractions

### Alert Bay Ecological Park

The Park is a small flooded forest that serves as a home to ravens, eagles and migratory birds, located near the picnic area and campground. It is about a 25-minute walk through three trails and a boardwalk. Stop at the Alert Bay Visitor Centre for brochure on the Ecological Park.

### Anglican Church

Was built in 1892, of BC cedar that was milled here in our small saw mill. There are several stained-glass windows revealing a unique blend of Native and European cultures.

## Stores and Giftshops

### Alert Bay Artloft Gallery

60 Fir Street

Beth Dunlop

(250) 974-2787

[alertbayartists@gmail.com](mailto:alertbayartists@gmail.com)

<http://www.alertbayartists.com>

Showcasing Alert Bay Artists. Alert Bay Artists Society hosts the Annual Alert Bay Artfest during Bay Days weekend. Holds numerous community driven workshops and shows which change monthly. Cards, prints, jewelry, small carvings and other goodies for sale.

February to June: Saturdays and Sundays 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM. July-August: Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday 11:00 PM-3:00 PM. September to December: Friday, Saturday & Sunday 12:00 PM-3:00 PM. **January Closed**

### Alert Bay Drugs

90 Fir Street

Paul Fletcher

(250) 974-5712

Monday-Friday, 9:30 AM-6:00 PM, Saturday, 9:30 AM-2:30 PM

Lotto, post cards, jewelry, stationary, gift items, toys, etc

**24 Hour ATM exterior of building.**

### Alert Bay Visitor Centre

118 Fir Street

Norine Smith

(250) 974-5024

Fax: (250) 974-5026

[info@alertbay.ca](mailto:info@alertbay.ca)

<http://www.alertbay.ca>

**January-June, Mondays to Fridays, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM Closed**

lunch from 1:00 PM-2:00 PM, unless otherwise posted and closed stat holidays

**July-August, Daily, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM**

**September-December Mondays to Fridays 9:00 AM-5:00 PM Closed**

lunch from 1:00 PM -2:00 PM unless otherwise posted and closed stat holidays

Prints, posters, note cards, pins, BC Road map, etc.

### Alert Bay Library-Museum

116 Fir Street

Joyce Wilby, Steven Wong

(250) 974-5721

[abplb@island.net](mailto:abplb@island.net)

<http://alertbay.bc.libraries.coop/>

Monday, Friday and Saturday, 1:00 PM-4:00 PM

Wednesday ONLY 1:00 PM-5:00 PM

Post cards, small carvings, books, etc.

### Culture Shock Interactive Gallery

010 A Front Street

Barb Cranmer, Donna Cranmer and

Andrea Cranmer

(250) 974-2484

Summer: July 1 to Labour Day

in September Daily 9:30 AM-6:00 PM

Winter: September to June

Tuesday to Saturday

12:00 AM-5:00 PM

[info@cultureshockgallery.ca](mailto:info@cultureshockgallery.ca)

<http://www.cultureshockgallery.ca>

Experience -Namgis Roots. An interactive Gallery, share, create, connect, soul. Two-minute walk from the ferry.

Package times: 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM

#1 Cedar Weaving: Hands on experience making your own Cedar Bracelet with Donna Cranmer. \$75.00 per person minimum of 6 people

#2 Traditional Salmon Barbeque: Put your own individual piece of wild Sockeye salmon on cedar barbeque sticks \$75.00 per person, minimum of 6 people.

#3 Nusa õStory Tellingõ: Hear the stories as she heard it from her Grandmother. Ada-Vera Newman will share history, legends which have been passed down through many generations. \$60.00 per person, minimum of 6 people

## Stores and Giftshops

Shop Rite Stores and Rona  
99 Fir Street  
(250) 974-2777

Shop Rite: Monday-Saturday, 9:00 AM-7:00 PM, Sunday, 10:00 AM-5:00 PM  
Rona: Monday-Saturday, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM, Sunday CLOSED  
Grocery, deli, Rona, Fishing Licenses can be purchased for a small fee at (upstairs in Shop Rite Stores). Rona also sells fishing tackle.

Umista Cultural Centre  
Sarah Holland  
(250) 974-5403  
Fax: (250) 974-5499  
[info@umista.ca](mailto:info@umista.ca)

Summer: July 1 to Labour Day (September) Daily 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM  
Winter: September to June Tuesdays to Saturdays 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

First Nation Art Gallery: masks, jewelry, clothes, jewelry boxes, first nation books, drums, small carvings, etc

## Restaurants

Bayside Grill  
(250) 974-3101

Daily  
8:00 AM-8:00 PM

Shop Rite Deli  
(250) 974-2777

Monday to Saturday 9:00 AM-7:00 PM  
Sunday 10:00 AM-5:00 PM

Passn Thyme Inn  
(250) 974-2670

Tuesday to Saturday-11:00 AM-8:00 PM

Cook Shack  
(250) 974-0004

Wednesday to Saturday 11:30 AM to 8:00 PM  
Sunday and Tuesday 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Senor Miso  
(250) 974-4760

Friday to Monday 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM

## Accommodations

Alert Bay Accommodations  
Box 483  
Alert Bay, BC  
V0N 1A0  
Phone: (250) 974-2226  
[kindheartmt@gmail.com](mailto:kindheartmt@gmail.com)  
<http://www.alertbayaccommodations.com>

On the Beach 66 Fir Street, a unique suite over the ocean' setting featuring a large deck and garden area. An open plan suite with two queen beds + hide-a-bed Rates: \$140.00 - \$190.00

Alert Bay Cabins  
390 Poplar Road  
Box 470  
Alert Bay, BC  
V0N 1A0  
(250) 974-5457  
Fax: (250) 974-2275  
1-877-974-5457  
[alertbaycabins@gmail.com](mailto:alertbaycabins@gmail.com)

Rate: \$135.00 to deluxe \$175.00 per night  
All Single cabins and Double bedroom cabins have kitchens.  
Standard cabins are pet friendly additional \$20.00 per night.  
Ask about the upgrades and the muffins!

<http://www.alertbaycabins.net>

## A c c o m m o d a t i o n s

Alert Bay Campground  
101 Alder  
Bag Service 2800  
Alert Bay, BC  
V0N 1A0

June-September Cell: (250) 974-7028  
Village Office (off season)  
October-May (250) 974-5213  
[campground@alertbay.ca](mailto:campground@alertbay.ca)

Alert Bay Lodge  
549 Fir Street  
Alert Bay, BC  
(250) 974-2410 or  
1-800-255-5057  
[tours@midnightsuntravel.com](mailto:tours@midnightsuntravel.com)

Bayside Inn  
81 Fir Street  
Box 270  
Alert Bay, BC  
V0N 1A0  
(250) 974-5858

Janet Boon's Guest House  
667 Fir Street  
Box 229  
Alert Bay, BC  
V0N 1A0  
(250) 974-5947  
[janetboon25@gmail.com](mailto:janetboon25@gmail.com)

Nimpkish Hotel  
318 Fir Street  
Alert Bay, BC  
V0N 1A0  
Phone: 1-888-503-8610  
[info@thenimpkishhotel.com](mailto:info@thenimpkishhotel.com)

Orca Inn  
291 Fir Street  
Box 69  
Alert Bay, BC  
V0N 1A0  
(250) 667-6260  
[killerwhaleinn@gmail.com](mailto:killerwhaleinn@gmail.com)

Passn Thyme Inn  
4 Maple Road  
Box 376  
Alert Bay, BC  
V0N 1A0  
(250) 974-2670  
[passnthyme@gmail.com](mailto:passnthyme@gmail.com)

14 fully serviced sites, 6 other sites services include water, sewer and electricity rates include access to shower house. rates are \$25.00 per night (GST included) for campers and RV's (includes all services). rates are \$15.00 per (GST included) night for tenters, coin shower available. Serviced sites monthly rate \$450.00 pay in advance requires an application process, inquire at the Village of Alert Bay Office Monday to Friday 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM Phone: (250) 974-5213. Campground is near Ecological Park, picnic area and nature trails. Shower takes Loonies: one last 3 minutes. **Seasonal: April to September**  
<http://www.alertbay.ca>

Phone for Availability. Rate: \$130.00-\$140.00 per night. Includes Breakfast Situated on one wooded acre and a ten minute walk from the Village, you'll find our inn is more than a place to stay. Relax in our comfortable common room and take in panoramic views of Johnstone Strait and the Vancouver Island Mountain Range. Trade stories with fellow travellers, enjoy our genuine hospitality Destination BC approved. At Alert Bay Lodge, the coffee's always on! <http://www.alertbaylodge.com>

Rate: \$55.00-\$125.00 per night  
all rooms have cable TV  
all rooms have showers  
Pub open daily  
**24 H ATM exterior of building**

Whole house Rate:  
\$200.00 per night  
\$1,100.00 per week  
rates include tax

<http://www.alertbayvacationrental.com/>

Rate: \$90-\$185 per night.

<http://www.thenimpkishhotel.com>

\$85.00 per night (based on single \$8.00 per extra person) includes continental breakfast (coffee/tea toast, cereal, eggs some fruit)

\$135.00 per night self-contained (furnished) suite. 3 bedrooms, full kitchen (does not include breakfast)

<https://www.facebook.com/TheOrcaInn/>

\$125.00-\$145.00 per night, double occupancy, \$15.00 per extra person per night includes breakfast. Sleeps up to 4 people, both have private bathrooms

<http://www.passnthyme.com/>

## A c c o m m o d a t i o n s

Sea Glass Cabin  
26 Birch Road  
Box 35  
Alert Bay, BC  
V0N 1A0  
Phone: (250) 949-0327  
[info@seaglasscabin.com](mailto:info@seaglasscabin.com)

Ocean View. Hot Tub. Private

<http://seaglasscabin.com>

Sea Glass Suite  
26 Birch Road  
Box 35  
Alert Bay, BC  
V0N 1A0  
Phone: (250) 949-0327  
[info@seaglasssuite.com](mailto:info@seaglasssuite.com)

Ocean View. Hot Tub. Private.

<http://seaglasssuite.com>

Stay in the Bay  
71B Orca Way  
Alert Bay, BC  
(250) 974-8456  
[stayinthebay@gmail.com](mailto:stayinthebay@gmail.com)

Spacious one bedroom apartment; fully furnished Two bedroom apartment with office. Bright southern exposure with water view. Well equipped kitchen, near ecological park and trails, cable TV, wireless Internet, Laundry Facilities available. Daily, weekly, monthly rates

<http://www.stayinalertbay.com/>

The Artist Cottage  
661 Fir Street  
Box 229  
Alert Bay  
V0N 1A0  
(250) 974 5947  
[janetboon25@gmail.com](mailto:janetboon25@gmail.com)

Whole House \$120.00-\$175.00

<http://www.alertbayvacationrental.com>

The Old Customs House  
119 Fir Street  
Box 8  
Alert Bay, BC  
V0N 1A0  
(250) 974-5869

\$125.00, \$750.00, \$2,250.00 Daily, weekly and monthly rate, based on Double occupancy, \$25.00 per extra person per night. Pets welcome at \$25.00 fee. Enjoy your stay in this quaint, fully equipped two bed room suite overlooking beautiful Johnstone Straits.

<http://www.staycustomshouse.com/>

The Seine Boat Inn  
60 Fir Street  
Box 252  
Alert Bay, BC  
V0N 1A0  
1- 877-334-9465  
[seineboatinn@gmail.com](mailto:seineboatinn@gmail.com)

\$125.00-\$210.00 per night, Queen size beds, satellite TV, free WIFI, Water front, Outside Deck, Kitchen Units, middle of Downtown, close to BC Ferry Rustic Seaside Charm and Comfort

<http://www.seineboatinn.com>

## S e r v i c e s

Village of Alert Bay  
Lyle McNish-CAO  
[cao@alertbay.ca](mailto:cao@alertbay.ca)  
Connie Larson-Deputy CAO  
[deputy@alertbay.ca](mailto:deputy@alertbay.ca)  
(250) 974-5213  
Fax: (250) 974-5470  
<http://www.alertbay.ca>

Municipal Hall, Property taxes and utilities, Photocopying and fax services  
Village Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM-4:30 PM  
Closed Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays

ICBC: Autoplan, Driver Licensing, BCID, BC Service Card  
ICBC Hours: 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM Open Monday to Friday  
Patricia Lawson-ICBC Lead  
Email: [autoplandl@alertbay.ca](mailto:autoplandl@alertbay.ca)



## S e r v i c e s

Village of Alert Bay Dave Leslie-Public Works Foreman <a href="mailto:foreman@alertbay.ca">foreman@alertbay.ca</a> (250) 974-7091	Public Works and after hour emergencies
Vancity 30 Maple Road (250) 974-3165	Tuesday to Wednesday 10:00 AM-3:30 PM Friday 10:00 AM-4:00 PM Saturday 10:00 AM-2:00 PM <b>24 H ATM</b>
Cormorant Island Community Health Centre (Hospital) (250) 974-5585	4 beds, Laboratory and X-ray Services, 10 bed multi-level care unit.
Dr. Dan Cutfeet 48 School Road (250) 974-5520	Monday to Friday 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Closed for Lunch 12 PM to 1 PM
Dr. Franklin Clarke 48 School Road (250) 974-5520	Monday to Friday 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Closed for Lunch 12 PM to 1PM
Dr. John Fitzgerald 74 Fir Street (250) 974-3106	Monday to Friday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Closed for Lunch 12 PM to 1 PM
-Namgis Dental Clinic (250) 974-5205	Monday to Thursday 8:30 AM to 5:15 PM, Closed for Lunch 12 PM to 1PM
Alert Bay Drugstore (250) 974-5712	Pharmacy, Medicines, Medical Equipment, Gift-ware, Greeting cards, Phone cards, Tobacco, Lottery, Stationary and Jewelry. Monday-Friday, 9:30 AM-6:00 PM, Saturday, 9:30 AM-2:30 PM. <b>24 H ATM exterior of building</b>
Iøkila Therapyø Christina Cook 22 Front Street (250) 974-81282 <a href="mailto:hamumu52@gmail.com">hamumu52@gmail.com</a>	Offering Traditional Chinese Medicine based modalities of bodywork. Shiatsu or Reiki \$50.00 per hour. Hot Stone or Swedish \$60.00 per hour. Also, Ariculotherapy and Iridology. Iøkila (Healing to make one feel good)
Cormorant Island Hospital Auxiliary Thrift Shop 5 Birch Road	Tuesday 10 AM-12 PM, Saturday 1PM-3 PM 2000 Square ft of items. Large selection of clothes, books, electronics, tapes, cds, sporting goods & much more. Located in the Blueline Building at corner of Fir Street & Birch Road.
-Namgis Gas Station 33 School Road (250) 974-5556 ext 3113	Open Daily 11:00 AM-2:00 PM Cash, Debit, MasterCard and Visa accepted
Liquor Store-Government 21 Maple Road (250) 974-5450	Tuesday-Saturday, 10:30 AM-6:00 PM Closed for lunch 1:00 PM-2:00 PM Closed Statutory Holidays
Bayside Inn (250) 974-5858	Cold Beer & Wine and Liquor Store Daily, 11:00 AM-11:00 PM. <b>24 H ATM</b> exterior of building
Municipal Dock Stephen Bruce Sr-Manager (250) 974-5727 <a href="mailto:boatharbour@alertbay.ca">boatharbour@alertbay.ca</a>	Mainly used for loading and unloading  <a href="http://www.alertbay.ca">http://www.alertbay.ca</a>

## S e r v i c e s

Boat Harbour  
Stephen Bruce Sr-Manager  
(250) 974-5727  
[boatharbour@alertbay.ca](mailto:boatharbour@alertbay.ca)

Moorage facilities available  
Sheltered dock  
VHF 66A  
<http://www.alertbay.ca>

Free Boat Launch

Fir Street next to Municipal Dock and across from Harmony Repair

Aircraft landing strip

2,900 ft. paved runway

40 K Taxi and Charters  
(250) 974-5525 or 974-5526

Monday-Saturday, 6:30 AM-1:00 AM  
Sunday, 6:30 AM-12:00 AM Charters available

Hair by Natasha Pittman  
(250) 974-8530

Tuesday to Saturday 12:00 PM-8:00 PM  
located as in òBillø Placeö 001 Front Street

Anglican Christ Church  
(250) 974-5844

Sunday Service 10:00 AM

Our Lady of Assumption Catholic Church Mass held the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month at 10:00 AM  
(250) 974-5426 or (250) 974-5371

House of Prayer  
(250) 974-2677

Andrew Speck  
Sunday Services 10:30 AM and 7:30 PM, Wednesday Service 7:30 PM,  
Friday Service 7:30 PM

Glad Tidings Pentecostal Church  
(250) 974-8585

Rick & Poula Ivens  
Sunday Service 1:00 PM

## C h a r t e r s

### **Whale watching season is mid June-mid October**

Sea Smoke Whale Watching  
Box 483  
Alert Bay, BC  
V0N 1A0  
Phone: (250) 974-5225  
1-800-668-6722  
[seaorca@cablerocket.com](mailto:seaorca@cablerocket.com)  
<http://www.seaorca.com>

A true Eco-tour viewing killer (orcas), humpback and minke whales and numerous other marine mammals including dolphins, porpoises, seals and sea lions; all while touring through the protected waters of Johnstone Strait & the Broughton Archipelago near Alert Bay and Alder Bay. Licensed skipper and deckhand and Transport Canada approved Passenger Vessel with weatherproof clothing provided for comfort Daily departures are from the Government Dock in Alert Bay and from the Alder Bay Resort on Vancouver Island. Our 4-5 hr 'Sail with the Whales' tour offers exceptional service & value and includes the serving of beverages along with fresh baked organic muffins & our traditional Devonshire Tea. If you are looking for a unique and Eco-friendly experience, join us, our carbon footprint is very small. There is no other whale watching tour like it on the BC coast! Call for Rates

## T h i n g s t o d o

**Lloyd's Lanes: Bowling alley (6 lanes) to book bowling alley**

**Edgar Colcol:250-974-5448**

-Treatment Centre Monday 1:00 PM-3:00 PM -Drop in Bowling Friday 7:00 PM-9:00 PM  
Alley Rental: Regular Bowling \$30.00 per hour, Cosmic Bowling \$40.00 per hour

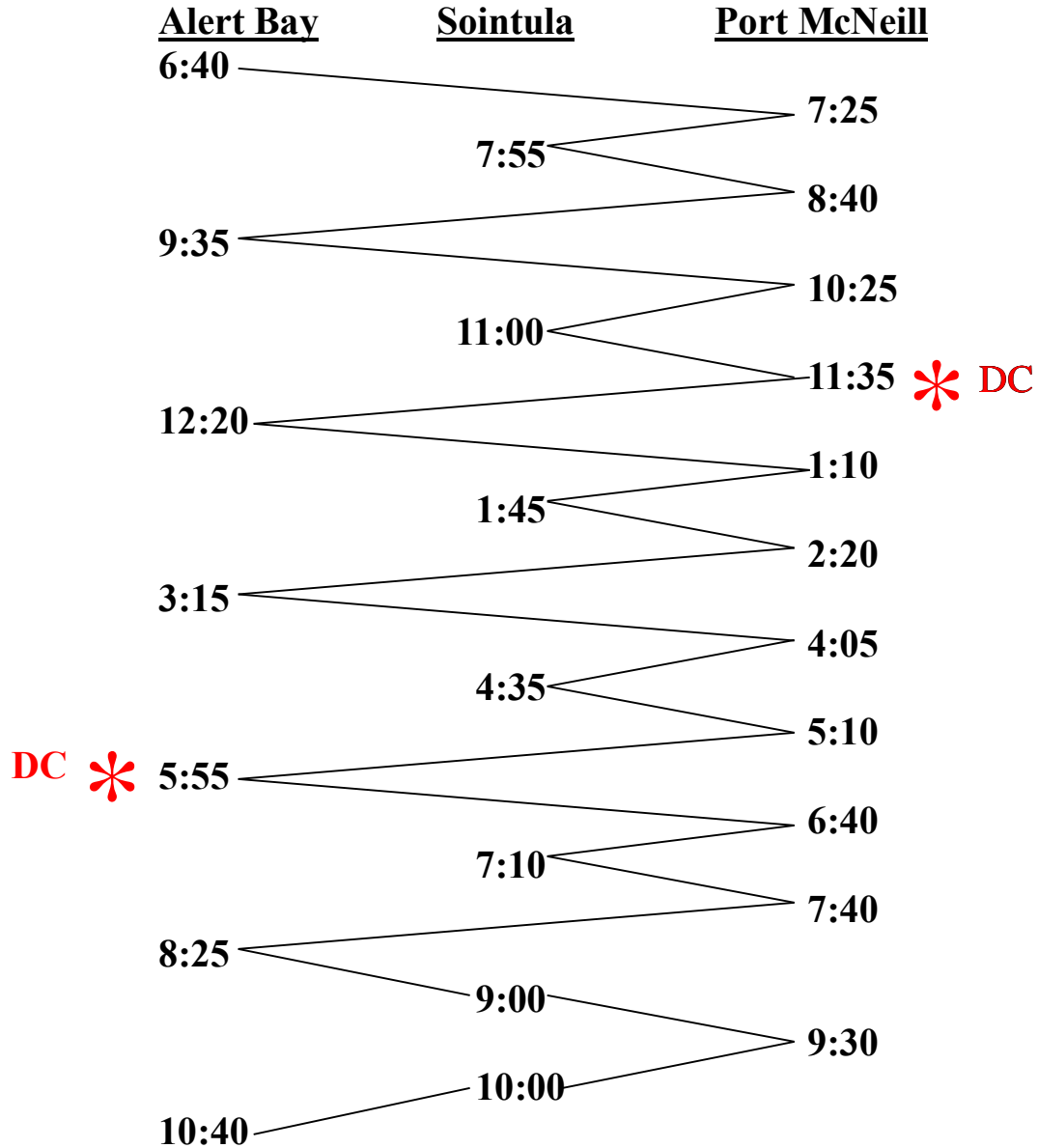
**Bicycling** Ride your bike from one end of the town to the other, stopping along the way for a picnic. For more of a challenge, ride your bike up and down some of our hills, or try out our new biking trails all over the island. Stop by the Alert Bay Visitor Centre to pick up a Trail Guide.

**Skate Board Park** Designed by Spectrum Skate parks opened March 2013. The park houses a half pipe, stairs, quarter pipe rails, good for beginners & advanced, concrete, fenced in with an amazing view of Johnstone Strait. Located 185 Cedar Street, next to the Alert Bay Community Hall.

## Things to do

- Walk** Walk around the island. It is only 8 miles around along the beach. Please be aware that the tide comes right up to the tree line, so be aware of the tide. Try our new hiking trails throughout the whole island. Stop by the Alert Bay Visitor Centre to pick up a Trail Guide.
- Beachcomb** Take a walk on our beaches and look for lost treasures washed ashore by Pacific currents. Look for eagle feathers, periwinkles and driftwood polished smooth by gentle ocean waves.
- Tennis** Spend a few hours playing tennis at the tennis courts adjacent to the Community Hall.
- Breakwater** For an interesting experience, take a walk down to the rock breakwater (boat harbour) View and watch the fishermen at work. Learn the difference between a seiner, gillnetter, troller and watch them mend their nets.
- Picnic** Plan a picnic or outdoor barbecue in our picnic area located near the Alert Bay Campground and Ecological Park. Watch for soaring eagles, noisy ravens and dragonflies. There are other Picnic areas located along Fir and Front Streets.
- Fishing** Off the Fishing Pier (near the Nimpkish Hotel) or the Municipal Dock or other docks with a rod and reel. Fishing Licenses can be purchased at Rona (upstairs in Shop Rite Stores). Rona also sells fishing tackle.
- Ferry Ride** Take a 70-minute scenic ferry ride to Sointula on Malcolm Island via Port McNeill and visit Sointula, originally established by Finnish settlers in hopes of creating a utopian community. Bring your bike and camera.

**BC Ferry Schedule**  
**Alert Bay-Sointula-Port McNeill**  
**Capacity 28 Vehicles 141 Passengers**



Note: Sunday's only, Quadra Queen II  
will depart Alert Bay at 6:40 AM and go to Sointula and depart at 7:10 AM  
For more Information call: 1-877-222-1949

**\*DC-Dangerous Cargo days no passengers are permitted on that sailing**  
**DC Runs that effect Alert Bay every other Tuesday:**

<b>2019: Aug 13, 27</b>	<b>2020: Feb 11, 25</b>	<b>2020: Aug 11, 25</b>	
<b>Sep 10, 24</b>	<b>Mar 10, 24</b>	<b>Sept 8, 22</b>	
<b>Oct 8, 22</b>	<b>Apr 7, 21</b>	<b>Oct 6, 20</b>	
<b>Nov 5, 19</b>	<b>May 5, 19</b>	<b>Nov 3, 17</b>	
<b>Dec 3, 17, 31</b>	<b>Jun 2, 16, 30</b>	<b>Dec 1, 15, 29</b>	
<b>2020: Jan 14, 28</b>	<b>Jul 14, 28</b>	<b>2021: Jan 12, 26</b>	<b>....12</b>

# Alert Bay 2020 Events Calendar

## **62<sup>nd</sup> Annual June Sports**

First Nation Soccer Tournament, Salmon Prince & Princess, Pageant, Parade, Crowning of Salmon Prince & Princess, Kids races etc.

-Namgis First Nation (250) 974-5556 <https://www.facebook.com/namgisation/>

**June 18-21, 2020**  
**Thursday-Sunday**

## **Tsasala Cultural Group**

Traditional Native Dance Performance in our Big House. Admission: \$20 per Adult, \$10 per child under 12 years. Special performances for groups of 25 or more Andrea Cranmer (250) 974-5475

[AndreaCranmer@hotmail.com](mailto:AndreaCranmer@hotmail.com)

<http://www.tsasalaculturalgroup.com/>

**July 2-August 22, 2020**  
**Thursdays-Saturdays**  
1:15 PM-2:15 PM

## **Cultural Experiences**

Culture Shock Interactive Gallery. Come experience -Namgis Roots: Cedar Bark weaving with Donna Cranmer, Tłubukw Traditional BBQ Sockeye Salmon

Nusa-Story Telling with Ada Vera Newman. Two times per day.

For pricing or to book call 250-974-2484

**July 2-August 22, 2020**  
**Thursdays-Saturdays**  
10:00 AM & 3:00 PM

## **U'mista Cultural Centre Summer Programs**

Programs change weekly. Check <https://www.facebook.com/Umista.Cultural.Society/> the end of June 2020 for dates and programs offered.

Phone: 250-974-5403 email: [info@umista.ca](mailto:info@umista.ca)

**July-August 2020**  
**Tuesdays to Fridays**  
10 AM-12 PM & 1 PM-3 PM

## **13<sup>th</sup> Annual Alert Bay Artfest**

Showcasing Alert Bay Artists. Net loft, Government Dock

Beth Dunlop (250) 974-8147

[alertbayartists@gmail.com](mailto:alertbayartists@gmail.com)

<http://www.alertbayartists.org>

**July 25, 26, 2020**  
**Saturday 10 AM-6 PM**  
**Sunday 10 AM-3:00 PM**

## **Bay Days**

More information to come soon.

Natalie Hunt (250) 527-0135

**July 25, 26, 2020**

## **Salmon Run**

Sue Bell (250) 974-8456

[info@salmonrun.ca](mailto:info@salmonrun.ca)

<http://www.salmonrun.ca/>

**July 25, 2020**  
**Saturday**  
10:00 AM

## **12<sup>th</sup> Annual Alert Bay 360 Eco Paddle**

Kayak Race around Cormorant Island. Registration 8:00 AM

Luke Lessard (250) 527-0244

<http://www.alertbay360.com/>

**August 2, 2020**  
**Sunday,**  
11:00 AM

## Historic Background of Alert Bay

It was in the late 1700's, when Captain George Vancouver anchored his vessel, the H.M.S. Discover, at Xwalkw (mouth of the 'Namgis River). While Captain Vancouver visited the 'Namgis, the Island now known as Cormorant Island, lay just a short distance away. The 'Namgis First Nation used Cormorant Island as a place to bring their people who had passed on. They also lived on the Island on a seasonal basis.

In 1846, the Island was named for the coastal cruiser, the H.M.S. Cormorant and later, about 1858, the Bay was named after the H.M.S. Alert which was then stationed on the Northwest coast.

The period of 1865-1870, saw the beginning of active settlement on Cormorant Island and the nucleus of the formation of the Village of Alert Bay. Two explorers and entrepreneurs named Wesley Spencer and Aulden Huson examined the possibilities of resource development at Suquash and Gwa'ni (the 'Namgis River) before establishing on Cormorant Island. In 1870, they built a small saltery, where local salmon was salted and mildcured before being sent to Victoria. At that time Spencer and Huson leased Cormorant Island from the Government.

As their business grew, Spencer and Huson became aware of the need to establish a permanent work force on the Island. To this end the partners approached the Reverend James Hall, a missionary of the Church Missionary Society, who had just established a mission at Fort Rupert in 1877. They persuaded the Reverend to relocate to Alert Bay and in 1878, a mission house was built to school the first nation boys and girls.

By 1887, the settlement was beginning to show significant signs of progress. In 1881, a store and cannery were built. Reverend Hall supervises the construction of the "Christ Church," which was to achieve several goals such as: the learning of new trades to the first nations and the provision of construction material. A saw mill was established between 1886-1887. The saw mill eventually produced lumber to be used in the construction of homes and a new school for boys.

Government recognition of the growing community came during the 1890's, with the relocation of the Indian Agency from Fort Rupert to Alert Bay. That same year saw the arrival of law and order when the first Provincial Police Constable- Philip Woolacott was stationed in the community.

Education was of prime concern in those early days and in 1894, W.A. Corker was established as Principal of the newly constructed Residential School for boys. The school was situated on approximately 4-5 acres of land and was primarily established to teach the skills of carpentry, furniture making, boat building, animal husbandry, as well as regular academic school work, to first nation boys.

Water transportation has always been an important ingredient of Alert Bay's history. In 1896, the Union Steamship "Comox", made its first regular call while en-route to Rivers Inlet lying to the North. Many other ships representing a variety of purposes ranging from the transportation of goods, to the delivery of visitors who have come to our Island over the years. In more recent years, when the community was at its peak as the centre of the region, regular access was provided by ferry from Kelsey Bay via Beaver Cove. Regular ferry service is now provided from Port McNeill with direct runs to Alert Bay interspersed by trips to neighbouring Malcolm Island. 1902, saw British Columbia Packers Association purchase the cannery from its founders.

A giant step was taken during 1911-1912, when the Dominion Government established the first communications system to link Alert Bay and other now-established communities in the region, also to the Southern centres of Vancouver and Victoria. The system comprised a very crude telegraph service but proved a useful tool to the local industry. In 1912, the Dominion Government built a wireless station in Alert Bay. The station operated principally as an aid to navigation, although was used in other capacities from time to time

## Historic background of Alert Bay

In 1909, the first St. George's Hospital was opened. Despite this trend Alert Bay continued to develop and in 1925, a new St. George's Hospital was opened to replace the original building which suffered fire damage during 1923. That same year a beautiful chapel was built next to the hospital as a memorial to Mrs. Paterson Hall, who, upon her retirement as president of the Women's Auxiliary of the Church of England in Canada, was given an honorarium, which she in turn gave to the Columbia Coast Mission for the erection of the Memorial Chapel. The furnishings were the gift of Mrs. Georgina M. Pennell, also of the Montreal Diocesan Women's Auxiliary. The Toronto Women's Auxiliary, Babies Branch, donated the baptismal font. The chapel is now located next to the century old Anglican Church. On June 10, 2004 St. George's Hospital was lost to fire.

During 1929, the St. Michael's Residential School, now the Nāmgis House, was constructed to serve, educate and house native children from outlying areas in the region. The school was solidly built of brick and designed to accommodate 200 children aged from seven to fifteen years old. Our Residential School was one of the last ones to close in the early 1970's. The building was given to the Nāmgis First Nation April 1973. February 15, 2015 was the beginning of the demolition of this building.

Years passed and the community continued to diversify its activities to include dairy farming, raising of poultry, growing of vegetables, etc. The Nimpkish Hotel became an established part of the community providing accommodation for the traveler and entertainment for the local people.

In 1946, the Village of Alert Bay became incorporated. At the same time the region was commencing a new era of prosperity which would see profitable growth in the fishing and logging industries. Alert Bay flourished as the supply centre for necessary life-sustaining goods and provided the desired recreation and entertainment to the many people employed in fishing and logging. A community hall was built, electricity came to the community, a taxi service was established, a bus service operated on a limited scale and the volunteer firemen of Alert Bay received a shipment of their new fire engine.

Air transportation now began to serve an important role in the development of the community. By 1948, the first elements of an air transportation service had been established to serve the development of the area's natural resources. Until recently only float planes could operate from the Island but during 1972, a landing strip of wheeled aircraft was constructed. The runway which was paved during 1979 is approximately 2,900 feet long.

The present countenance of the Alert Bay community reflects much of its past history. Visitors to the area will be fascinated by the mixing and contrasting of the cultures. The native art forms are represented by their carving, paintings weaving and metal crafting. Artifacts and events of the past can be viewed in the community's U'mista Cultural Centre and the Library-Museum. Above all a casual stroll from one end of the community to the other instills one with an appreciation for the efforts of the early pioneers who carved themselves a place to live, work and created the roots of the village which now exists on Cormorant Island.

