

Visitor's Information



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.

Cormorant Island 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 service depart certain days from all points on Vancouver Island to Port McNeill waiving Flags Taxi/Bus 250 956-2355 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	-	January-June , Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM, closed for lunch 1:00 PM-2:00 PM unless otherwise posted
(250) 974-5024	-	Closed stat holidays
Fax: (250) 974-5026	-	July-August, Daily 9:00 AM-5:00 PM
info@alertbay.ca	-	Closed for lunch 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM unless otherwise posted
http://www.alertbay.ca	-	September-December , 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

U'mista Cultural Centre
Box 253
Alert Bay, BC
V0N 1A0
(250) 974-5403
Fax: (250) 974-5499
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.

Summer 3rd week May to August Hours: Daily 9 AM-5 PM

Winter September to 3rd week May Hours: Monday to Friday 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Alert Bay Library-Museum
Box 440
Alert Bay, BC
V0N 1A0
(250) 974-5721
Fax: (250) 974-5026
abplb@shaw.ca
<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 1880's. Public internet access available.

Hours: **Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday
1:00 PM-4:00 PM**

Tsasa Cultural Group
Traditional Dance Performance
Andrea Cranmer
Phone: (250) 974-8097
AndreaCranmer@hotmail.com
<https://www.tsasalaculturalgroup.ca/>

Performance is approximately 1 Hour. Cost: \$30.00 per adult and \$15 per child under 12 years. Saturdays, 1:00 PM, July 5, 12, 19, 26, 2025 and August 2, 9, 16, 23, 2025. 'Namgis Big House

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 'Namgis 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'l, Whale- Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw, Old Man- Lawitsis, Wolf-Dzawada'enux, Thunderbird-'Namgis, 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 'Namgis 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 sawmill. There are several stained-glass windows revealing a unique blend of Native and European cultures.

Stores and Giftshops

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, stationery, 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
<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 closed Lunch 1:00 PM-2:00 PM unless otherwise posted
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

Alert Bay Library-Museum

116 Fir Street
Joyce Wilby & Wendy White
(250) 974-5721
abplb@shaw.ca
<http://alertbay.bc.libraries.coop/>

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, 1 PM-4 PM

Culture Shock

010 A Front Street
Donna Cranmer and
Andrea Cranmer
(250) 974-2484
info@cultureshocklife.ca
<https://www.cultureshocklife.com/>

Tuesday to Saturday
12:00 PM-4:30 PM

First Nation gift shop, Shock style java, smoothies, etc

Shop Rite Stores and Rona

99 Fir Street
(250) 974-2777

Shop Rite: Mon 9 am-5 pm, Tues-Sat 9 AM-7 PM, Sun 10 AM-5 PM
Grocery, deli,
Rona: Monday-Saturday, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM, Sunday CLOSED

U'mista Cultural Centre

1 Front Street
(250) 974-5403
Fax: (250) 974-5499
info@umista.ca

Winter Hours September to 3rd week May: Monday to Friday 9 AM to 5 PM
Summer Hours 3rd week May to August: Daily 9 AM to 5 PM
First Nation Art Gallery: masks, jewelry, clothes, jewelry boxes, first nation books, drums, small carvings, etc

Restaurants

Hours may change without notice. Please contact them directly

Bayside Grill & Pizza
(250) 974-8332

Monday to Saturday 11 AM to 8 PM
Sunday 4 PM to 8 PM
Breakfast Monday-Tuesday and Thursday-Saturday 8:30 AM-10:30 AM

Candid Chefs at
Royal Canadian Legion
1 (905) 708-8994

CLOSED until September

Take out. Menu will change weekly

Shop Rite Deli
(250) 974-2777

Monday 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM
Tuesday to Friday 9 AM to 4 PM

Orca Inn
(250) 228-4959

Wednesday to Saturday 5 PM to 9 PM

Nimkish Hotel & Restaurant
(250) 974-3534

Monday to Tuesday 4 PM to 7 PM
Wednesday to Sunday 11:30 AM to 8 PM

Duchess' Bannock & Desserts
(250) 974-8216

Call to see what is on menu today

Culture Shock
(250) 974 2484

Tuesday to Sunday 10 AM to 4:30 PM
Shock Style Java & Smoothies (drinks only)

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

Alert Bay Accommodations
Box 483
Alert Bay, BC
V0N 1A0
Phone: (250) 974-2226
kindheartmt@gmail.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

Alert Bay Campground
101 Alder
Bag Service 2800
Alert Bay, BC
V0N 1A0
Village Office
(250) 974-5213
officeclerk@alertbay.ca

14 fully serviced sites, 6 other sites services include water, sewer and electricity rates include access to shower house. rates are \$35.00 per night (GST included) for campers and RV's (includes all services). \$20.00 per night for tents
Village Office Hours: Monday to Friday 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

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

Phone for Availability. 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>

Alert Bay Sweet Home
61 Sycamore
Alert Bay, BC
V0N 1A0
Phone: 250-688-0220
rv2120@gmail.com

on [booking.com](http://www.booking.com)

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

Bayside Inn
81 Fir Street
Box 270
Alert Bay, BC
V0N 1A0
(250) 974-8332

all rooms have cable TV
all rooms have showers

24 H ATM exterior of building

Gordie's
4 Maple Road
Box 376
Alert Bay, BC
V0N 1A0
(250) 974-2670

Sleeps up to 4 people, both have private bathrooms

<https://www.gordiesrestaurant.com/>

Nimpkish Hotel & Restaurant
318 Fir Street
Alert Bay, BC
V0N 1A0
Phone: 1-888-503-8610
info@thenimpkishhotel.com

<http://www.thenimpkishhotel.com>

Ocean's Edge
88 Fir Street
Alert Bay, BC
V0N 1A0
Phone: 604 836 9735
ritchie_matt@hotmail.com

is on www.airbnb.ca

Orca Inn
291 Fir Street
Box 69
Alert Bay, BC
V0N 1A0
(250) 974-4760
killerwhaleinn@gmail.com

includes continental breakfast (coffee/tea toast, cereal, eggs some fruit)

self-contained (furnished) suite. 3 bedrooms, full
kitchen (does not include breakfast)

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

Stay in the Bay
71B Orca Way
Alert Bay, BC
(250) 974-8456

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.

The Cabins at Alert Bay
390 Poplar Road
Box 470
Alert Bay, BC
V0N 1A0
(250) 974-7900
Fax: (250) 974-2275
1-877-97 4-5457
alertbaycabins@gmail.com
<http://www.thecabinsatalertbay.ca>

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!

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

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

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
Connie Larson-Deputy CAO
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: autoplan-dl@alertbay.ca](mailto:autoplan-dl@alertbay.ca)

Village of Alert Bay
Dale Hamilton-Public Works Foreman
foreman@alertbay.ca
(250) 974-7091

Public Works and after hour emergencies

VanCity
30 Maple Road
(250) 974-3165

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 10:00 AM-3:00 PM

24 H ATM

Cormorant Island Community
Health Centre (Hospital)
(250) 974-5585

4 beds, Laboratory and X-ray Services, 10 bed multi-level care unit.

Dr. Troy Mcleod
48 School Road
(250) 974-5520

Monday to Thursday 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Closed for Lunch 12 PM to 1 PM

Dr. Dan Cutfeet
48 School Road
(250) 974-5520

Monday to Thursday 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Closed for Lunch 12 PM to 1 PM

Dr. Frank Clark
48 School Road
(250) 974-5520

Monday to Thursday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, Closed for Lunch 12 PM to 1 PM

'Namgis Dental Clinic
(250) 974-5205

Available periodically. Appointments a must.

Alert Bay Drugstore
(250) 974-5712

Pharmacy, Medicines, Medical Equipment, Giftware, Greeting cards, Phone cards,
Tobacco, Lottery, Stationery and Jewelry. Monday-Friday, 9:30 AM-6:00 PM,
Saturday, 9:30 AM-2:30 PM. **24 H ATM exterior of building**

I’Kila Therapy’s Christina Cook 22 Front Street (250) 974-81282 hamumu52@gmail.com	Offering Traditional Chinese Medicine based modalities of bodywork. Shiatsu or Reiki, Hot Stone or Swedish. Also, Auriculotherapy and Iridology. I’Kila (Healing to make one feel good)
Cormorant Island Hospital Auxiliary Thrift Shop Located in the 5 Birch Road	Saturday 12 PM-3 PM, Tuesday 10 AM-12 PM 2000 Square ft of items. Large selection of clothes, books, electronics, tapes, cds, sporting goods & much more. Blueline Building at the corner of Fir Street & Birch Road.
‘Namgis Gas Station 33 School Road (250) 974-5556 ext 3113	Open Daily 10:15 AM-2:45 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) 974-8332	Cold Beer & Wine and Liquor Store Daily, 11:00 AM-11:00 PM. 24 H ATM exterior of building
Municipal Dock Stephen Bruce Sr-Manager (250) 974-5727 boatharbour@alertbay.ca	Mainly used for loading and unloading http://www.alertbay.ca
Boat Harbour Stephen Bruce Sr-Manager (250) 974-5727 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	Monday-Saturday, 6:30 AM-1:00 AM Sunday, 6:30 AM-12:00 AM Charters available
Anglican Christ Church (250) 974-5844	Sunday Service 10:00 AM
Our Lady of Assumption Catholic Church (250) 974-5426 or (250) 974-5371	Mass held the 2 nd and 4 th Saturday of the month at 10:00 AM
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 Church (250) 619-1572	Reverend Jose Kim Sunday Service 1:00 PM

Charters

Whale watching season is mid June-mid October

Sea Smoke Whale Watching
60 Fir Street
Alert Bay, BC
V0N 1A0
Phone: (250) 974-5225
1-800-668-6722
seasmokewhalewatching@gmail.com
<http://www.seasmokewhalewatching.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

Things to do

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

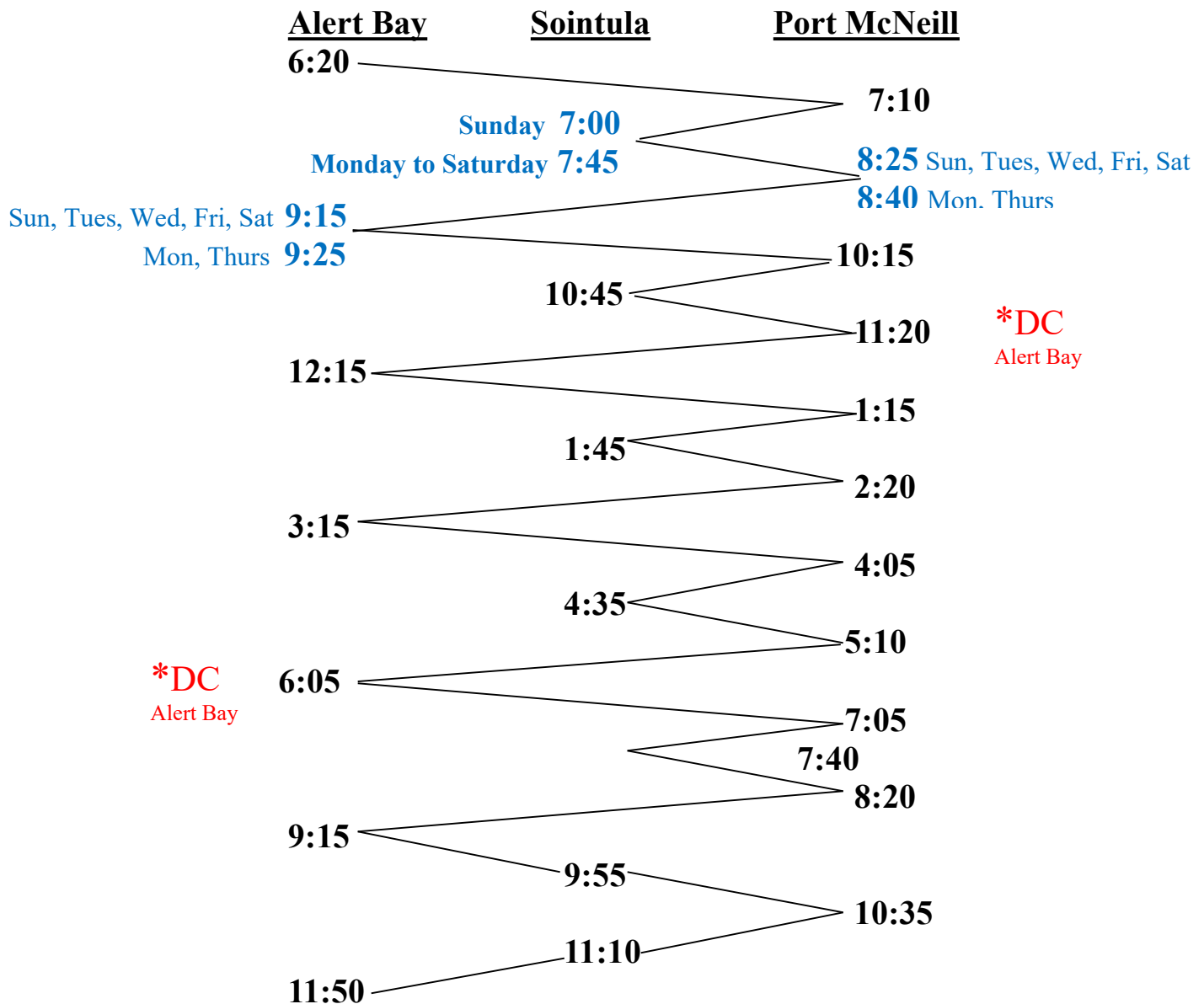
-Treatment Centre Monday 1:00 PM-3:00 PM -Drop in Bowling
Alley Rental: Regular Bowling \$40.00 per hour, Cosmic Bowling \$50.00 per hour

Edgar Colcol:250-974-4466

Friday 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

- 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.
- Skateboard 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.
- 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, sea glass 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 for a small fee at Rona. 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
Aurora Capacity 47 Vehicles 142 Passengers & Crew



Note: **Sunday's** only, Aurora will depart Alert Bay at 6:20 AM and go to Sointula and depart at 7:00 AM
 For more Information call: 1-877-222-1949

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

2026: Jan 6, 20	2026: Aug 4, 18	2027 Mar 2, 16, 30
Feb 3, 17	Sep 1, 15, 29	Apr 13, 27
Mar 3, 17, 31	Oct 13, 27	May 11, 25
Apr 14, 28	Nov 10, 24	Jun 8, 22
May 12, 26	Dec 8, 22	Jul 6, 20
Jun 9, 23	2027: Jan 5, 19	Aug 3, 17, 31
Jul 7, 21	Feb 2, 16	Sep 14, 28

Alert Bay 2026

Events Calendar

Summer Market

Art, crafts, baked goods, produce, collectables, jewelry, and more
Government Dock
Vendor queries contact via email djselkie@telus.net
Cheryl

May 16-September 5,
2026
Saturdays,
Cruise Ship Days,
some Sundays

66th Annual June Sports

First Nation Soccer Tournament, Salmon Prince & Princess, Pageant,
Parade, Crowning of Salmon Prince & Princess, Kids races etc.
'Namgis First Nation Phone: 250 974 5556
<http://www.facebook.com/June-sports.com>

June 18-21, 2026
Thursday-Sunday

Aboriginal Day

Schedule posted closer to date

June 21, 2026

T'sasala Cultural Group

Traditional Native Dance Performance in our Big House. Admission:
\$30 per adult, \$15 per child under 12 years. Special performances for
group's 25 or more Andrea Cranmer (250) 974-8097
AndreaCranmer@hotmail.com
<http://tsasalaculturalgroup.ca>

July 4, 11, 18, 25 to
August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29,
2026
Saturdays ONLY
1:00 PM

U'mista Cultural Centre Summer Programs

Programs change weekly. Check
posted on their Facebook site
<https://www.facebook.com/Umista.Cultural.Society/>

June 23-August 28, 2026

Tuesdays to Fridays
10 AM-12 PM & Schedule is
1 PM- 3 PM

