

Ketchikan, Alaska, United States Port Review



To get the most from your shore excursion or your self-guided day on shore, ShoreFox provides you with useful information in this port review & port guide.



World Region

Alaska / Pacific Northwest

Time Zone

GMT -09:00

International Calling Code

+1

Language

- English (official language)

Currency

- US Dollar (official currency)

Police / Emergency Phone Number

911

Overview

Ketchikan is named after Ketchikan Creek, which flows through the town. Ketchikan comes from the Tlingit name for the creek, Kitschk-hin, the meaning of which is unclear. Some sources define it to mean “the river belonging to Kitschk” while other accounts claim it means “thundering wings of an eagle.”

Known as Alaska’s first city and the “salmon capital of the world”, Ketchikan’s historic downtown is wedged between water and forested mountains. The downtown shopping area is delightfully built into steep hills and partly propped on wooden pilings with boardwalks and totem poles throughout.

Cruise Ship Pier Location

Ships typically dock in the **center of town**. On crowded days, some ships may be required to anchor and tender passengers into Ketchikan. Small ships sometimes dock a mile south of town, and the cruise lines will typically provide shuttles to the downtown area in this case.

Self-guided Shore Excursions & Cruise Excursions

- **Tongass Historical Museum:** Featuring collections pertaining to the history, art, and culture of Ketchikan and Southeast Alaska., the Museum features permanent and temporary exhibits based on its own collections and community participation, as well as hosting traveling exhibitions from other institutions; 629 Dock Street, Tel.: +1 (907) 225 -5600
- **Totem Heritage Center:** Established in 1976 to preserve endangered 19th century totem poles retrieved from uninhabited Tlingit and Haida village sites near Ketchikan, this charming museum also preserves and promotes the traditional arts and crafts of the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian cultures; 601 Deermount Street, Tel.: +1 (907) 225-5901

Taxi Transportation

Downtown Ketchikan is easily walkable. For those who want to take a taxi outside of town, they are typically available in the streets.

Bus Transportation

There is a pretty comprehensive bus system in Ketchikan. The blue line will take you all the way from downtown to Totem Bight state park, for an approximate fare of \$1 per person, and the routes are well scheduled. The red line will take you down to the Saxman and Totem parks. Always check the schedule or with the driver so that you know when to get picked up for the return trip.

General Store Opening Hours

Stores in Ketchikan are open from approximately 9 am to 6 pm, Monday to Sunday. Some stores may stay open later when cruise ships are in town.

Service Locations

Free wifi

- **Ketchikan Coffee Company**, 211 Stedman Street, Ketchikan
- **Refiners Roast Coffee Shop**, 2050 Sea Level Drive, Ketchikan
- **Starbucks**, 2147 Tongass Avenue, Ketchikan
- **The Point**, 25 Jefferson Way, Ketchikan
- **Tribal House**, 300 Front Street, Ketchikan

ATM:

- **First Bank**, 331 Dock Street, Ketchikan
 - **Wells Fargo**, 306 Main Street, Ketchikan
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Tipping / Bargaining Habits

- A 10 to 15% tip on the restaurant/taxi bill is greatly appreciated.
 - Sometimes a tip is automatically added to your bill; check your credit card slip before adding additional tip.
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Special Dress Code

Known as the Misty City, Ketchikan residents are proud of the “liquid gold” that frequently falls from the sky. You should be prepared for showers at a moment’s notice, even when its sunny out, as the weather can easily change.

Safety Advice

Ketchikan is considered a safe and peaceful town. As always, be aware of your surroundings and lock up your valuables.

Nice To Know

- Ketchikan's secondary post office box ZIP code 99950 is the highest ZIP code ever assigned in the United States.
 - Ketchikan also has the world's largest collection of standing totem poles, located at three major locations: Saxman Village, Totem Bight, and the Totem Heritage Center.
 - Ketchikan used to have a red light district, which was formally shuttered in 1953. You can still see remnants of the colorful history in the downtown historic neighborhoods.
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Pharmacy / Hospital Contact Data

- **Downtown Drugstore:** 300 Front Street, Ketchikan, Tel.: +1 (907) 225-3144
 - **PeaceHealth Ketchikan Medical Center:** 3100 Tongass Avenue, Ketchikan, Tel.: +1 (907) 225-5171
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Embassy / Consulate Contact Data

British Consulate General San Francisco, 1 Sansome Street, Suite 850, San Francisco CA 94104, USA, Tel.: +1 (415) 6171300, Fax: +1 (415) 434-2018

Consulat General of the Federal Republic of Germany, 1960 Jackson Street, San Francisco, CA 94109, Tel.: +1 (415) 775-1061, Fax: +1 (415)-775-0187

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