

🦅 Icy Strait Point Cruise Port Guide

Your Complete Guide to Alaska's Premier Wildlife & Adventure Destination



Icy Strait Point is unlike any other cruise port in Alaska. Located near the small Native Tlingit community of **Hoonah**, this privately developed destination is **owned and operated by the Huna Totem Corporation**, representing Alaska Native shareholders. Rather than building a typical tourist attraction, the community created a destination that celebrates the region's culture, history, wildlife, and breathtaking natural beauty.

For many visitors, Icy Strait Point becomes the highlight of their Alaska cruise because it offers something truly authentic. It has one of the highest success rates for whale sightings in Alaska, incredible opportunities to see brown bears, and one of the world's longest zip lines—all while supporting the local community.

Whether you're seeking adventure or simply want to experience Alaska at a slower pace, Icy Strait Point offers something for everyone.

📍 Where Do Cruise Ships Dock?



Today, Icy Strait Point features multiple cruise berths, allowing several ships to dock directly at the destination.

Depending on your ship, you may arrive at:

- Wilderness Landing
- Adventure Landing

The two areas are connected by:

- Complimentary transportation
- Scenic walking paths
- The **Transporter Gondola**

Everything is well organized and easy to navigate.

Explore Icy Strait Point



Originally a salmon cannery, much of the historic site has been beautifully preserved.

You'll find:

- Historic Cannery Museum
- Local shops
- Native cultural exhibits
- Restaurants
- Scenic waterfront boardwalk
- Adventure center

It's one of the most authentic cruise destinations in Alaska.

★ Top Things to Do

🐳 Whale Watching



If you're only booking one whale watching excursion in Alaska, many experienced travelers recommend doing it here.

You may see:

- Humpback whales
- Orcas
- Sea lions
- Harbor seals
- Bald eagles

Sighting success rates are among the highest in Southeast Alaska.

🐻 Bear Viewing



Nearby **Chichagof Island** is home to one of the world's highest concentrations of brown bears.

Guided excursions may provide opportunities to observe these magnificent animals safely in their natural habitat.

Transporter Gondola



The complimentary gondola connects the two main cruise areas.

Enjoy:

- Beautiful harbor views
- Forest scenery
- Easy transportation
- Great photo opportunities

It's a ride you'll likely take at least once during your visit.

SkyGlider Gondola (*Additional Charge*)



Ride to the top of Hoonah Mountain for breathtaking panoramic views.

At the summit you'll find:

- Scenic overlooks
- Walking trails

- Wildlife viewing opportunities
 - ZipRider launch platform
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⚡ ZipRider



One of the most famous attractions at Icy Strait Point.

Highlights:

- One of the world's longest zip lines
- Speeds exceeding **60 mph**
- Incredible mountain and ocean views
- A once-in-a-lifetime adventure

Advance reservations are highly recommended.



Explore Hoonah



Take time to visit the nearby town of Hoonah.

You'll discover:

- Friendly locals
- Native culture
- Local shops
- Small cafés
- Beautiful harbor views

It's a wonderful opportunity to experience everyday life in Southeast Alaska.



Shopping

Popular purchases include:

- Native artwork
- Handmade carvings
- Jewelry
- Ulu knives
- Local crafts
- Smoked salmon
- Alaska apparel

Many items are handcrafted by local Alaska Native artists.



What to Eat

Don't miss:

- Fresh halibut
- Wild Alaska salmon
- King crab (when available)
- Fish tacos
- Reindeer sausage
- Fry bread
- Wild berry desserts

The restored cannery area offers several excellent dining options.



Hidden Gems

Many guests focus only on the major excursions.

Don't overlook:

- The Cannery Museum
- Scenic boardwalk
- Waterfront wildlife viewing
- Native cultural exhibits
- Quiet walking trails

You don't have to book an excursion to enjoy a memorable day.

Weather

Summer temperatures typically range from:

50–65°F (10–18°C)

Expect:

- Cool mornings
- Occasional rain
- Comfortable afternoons

Dress in layers and bring a waterproof jacket.



Getting Around

Transportation options include:

- Walking
- Complimentary Transporter Gondola
- Shuttle service
- Excursion transportation

The port is compact and easy to explore.



What to Pack

Bring:

- ✓ Waterproof rain jacket
- ✓ Comfortable walking shoes
- ✓ Binoculars
- ✓ Camera
- ✓ Sunglasses

- ✓ Small backpack
 - ✓ Layered clothing
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Premium Travel Group Tip

If wildlife is at the top of your Alaska bucket list, Icy Strait Point should be one of your favorite ports. Between whale watching, bear viewing, and bald eagle sightings, it's one of the best places in Alaska to experience wildlife in its natural environment.

If you don't book an excursion, spend time exploring the restored cannery, ride the complimentary gondola, and enjoy the slower pace that makes Icy Strait Point so unique.

Continue Exploring Alaska

Continue planning your Alaska adventure with our other guides:

- Alaska Vacation Planning Guide
 - Alaska Packing Guide
 - Alaska Wildlife Guide
 - Best Time to Visit Alaska
 - Glacier Bay National Park Guide
 - Hubbard Glacier Guide
 - Endicott Arm & Dawes Glacier Guide
 - Juneau Cruise Port Guide
 - Ketchikan Cruise Port Guide
 - Skagway Cruise Port Guide
 - Sitka Cruise Port Guide
 - Haines Guide
 - Denali National Park Guide
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Why Visit Icy Strait Point?

Icy Strait Point combines everything that makes Alaska unforgettable—abundant wildlife, rich Native culture, spectacular scenery, and exciting outdoor adventures. Whether you're watching humpback whales breach in the distance, soaring down the ZipRider, learning about the region's fishing history, or simply taking in the peaceful waterfront views, this remarkable destination offers an authentic Alaska experience that's difficult to find anywhere else.



Joe's Logbook

Icy Strait Point has become one of my favorite Alaska ports because it feels different from the others. It hasn't lost its connection to the people who live here, and you can feel that as you walk through the restored cannery and meet local residents.

If I could recommend one excursion, it would be whale watching. This area consistently offers some of the best opportunities in Alaska to see humpback whales, and it's one of those experiences that stays with you long after your cruise is over.

One last piece of advice: don't rush. Even if you aren't booking one of the big adventures, take time to ride the gondola, explore the waterfront, and simply enjoy the slower pace. Sometimes the best Alaska memories come from the quiet moments, not just the biggest attractions.