

Dillingham, AK 99576; Phone: (907) 842-5115; Email: dlghmbr@nushtel.com; Website: www.dillinghamak.com; located at 348 D Street inside the Public Library building, next door to the Sam Fox Museum.

Founded in 1818 as a Russian trade center, Dillingham is now an established fishing community which has evolved into the economic, transportation and public service center for western Bristol Bay. Commercial, subsistence and world-class sport fishing, fish processing, cold storage and support of the fishing industry are primary activities. Bristol Bay's rivers support the world's largest red salmon run. A variety of guided hunting and fishing adventures are available. Visitors will find comfortable accommodations at B&Bs, hotels and lodges.

There are five national wildlife refuges, wilderness areas and parks in the region, as well as a number of state parks and wildlife protection areas. Dillingham is considered the gateway to Wood-Tikchik State Park, the largest in the nation at 1.6 million acres. Primary access to fabulous fishing on the vast Togiak Wildlife Refuge river systems is by chartered aircraft, largely centered in Dillingham.

While Native Yup'ik Eskimo, Aleut, Aluiq and Athabascan peoples maintain their traditional ways and invite visitors to experience their dances and stories, arts and crafts, food and history, other cultures have influenced local customs to varying degrees: Russian Orthodox and Moravian missionaries, Scandinavian, German and Japanese influences have all contributed to the richness of the Southwest Alaskan way of life.

2008 marks the 50th anniversary of the annual Beaver Round-Up, five fun-filled days of races and games, food, fairs and fireworks, held March 12 through 16.

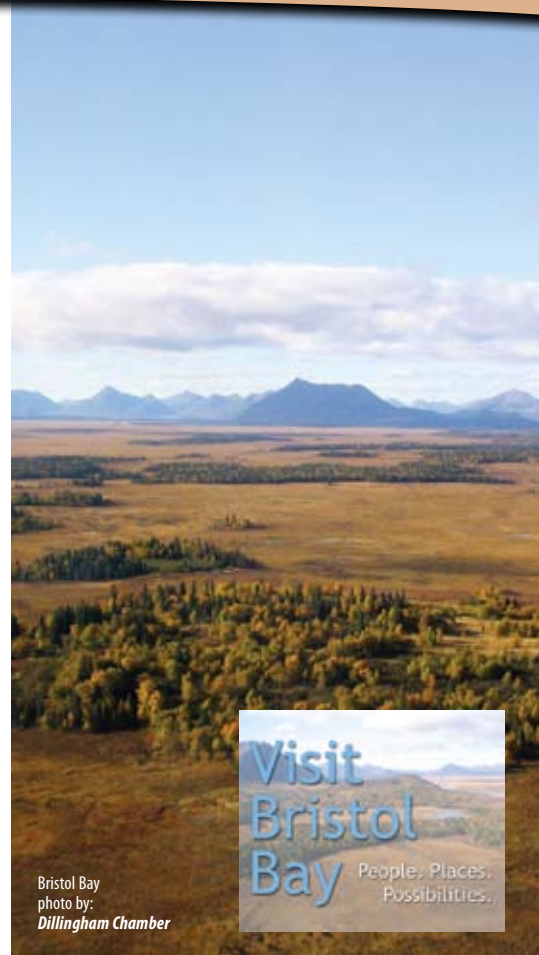
Aleutian Islands

The Aleutian Islands are a series of 300 islands, stretching 1,400 miles from southwestern Alaska to Russia. The Alaska Marine Highways' M/V Tustumena makes the trip on a monthly basis April through October, from Homer and Kodiak along the Alaska Peninsula to the eastern end of the Aleutian Islands. After leaving Kodiak, passengers sail past the perfect cones of several volcanoes, the treeless but lush green mountains of the Aleutians and distinctive rock formations and cliffs. Whales, sea lions, otters and porpoises are commonly sighted and birds abound. The ship docks at the smaller villages of Chignik, Sand Point, King Cove, Cold Bay and False Pass for one to two hours. At the end of the line in Unalaska/Dutch Harbor, the ship stays in port five to seven hours, long enough for a van tour designed specifically to accommodate ferryboat passengers.

Unalaska/Dutch Harbor

Located on one of the furthest points on the Aleutian Island Chain, 800 air miles from Anchorage. Peninsula Airways and Alaska Airlines service Unalaska with daily flights, weather permitting; due to unpredictable weather in the Aleutians, it isn't unusual for flights to be delayed a day or two in summer and longer in winter, so allow plenty of time for the visit and consider purchasing travel insurance. Visitors can travel on the Alaska Marine Highway ferryboat M/V Tustumena and return by air to Anchorage if they wish. The City of Unalaska is on Unalaska Island, which stretches 70 miles by 15 miles wide and Dutch Harbor is across the

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Nature's Front Porch
Wilderness & Wild Salmon
Dillingham, Alaska

For tour and travel information, visit the Dillingham Chamber of Commerce web site at www.dillinghamak.com

Photo by Susan Flensburg