



Andrew Airways Bear Viewing
photo by:
VCTRAVEL GUIDE

The original village site on the Aliulik Peninsula supports abundant brown bears, Sitka blacktail deer, five species of salmon and many other saltwater fish, which form the base of the subsistence lifestyle practiced by the majority of Akhiok residents.

Karluk

88 air miles from Kodiak City. Population: 27.

On Kodiak's southwest coast, the village of Karluk sits astride the Karluk River, along which are more than thirty registered petroglyph archaeological sites. The landscape is characterized by low-lying mountains cut by rivers and streams. While fishing remains very strong in the Karluk region, the US Fish and Wildlife Service's agreement with Koniag Native Corp stipulates a maximum number of fishermen allowed on the stream for the king salmon fishing season for guided usage. Non-guided users must draw a permit to fish the river during this time; Fish and Game may also implement seasonal closure of the king salmon fishery.

Refer to our Kodiak Island Travel Directory for more information on Wilderness Adventures as True North offers guided services and great itineraries.

Larsen Bay

60 air miles from Kodiak City. Population: 97.

Situated on the southwestern coast of Kodiak in the scenic valley of a narrow fjord, Larsen Bay was named by a Russian skipper who sailed Kodiak Island waters. A cannery was first established in 1912. The village drew nationwide attention in 1991 when the Smithsonian Institution returned the remains of 756 Koniag natives. Interred in a mass grave, the burial marked the largest repatriation of native remains ever conducted by the Smithsonian.

During the summer months, the village of Larsen Bay more than doubles in population as commercial fishing gets underway. Summer and fall are also characterized by an influx of visitors seeking the excitement of sport fishing, bear and other wildlife

viewing and hunting for waterfowl or deer. Area lodges lure anglers from around the world for some of the best fishing in the archipelago. Refer to our Kodiak Island Travel Directory Wilderness Adventures for Kodiak Treks and Lodges Map Directory for more information on Uyak Bay Lodge, an all-inclusive lodge that offers a fine wilderness experience.

Old Harbor

70 air miles from Kodiak City. Population: 200.

Old Harbor (*Nuniaq* in the indigenous Alutiiq language) is nestled along the sheltered waters of Sitkalidak Strait on the southeast coast of Kodiak Island. Tall peaks serve as a dramatic backdrop for the village, which lies near the only glacier on Kodiak Island. Old Harbor faces Sitkalidak Island, host to the largest population of puffins on the Kodiak Archipelago.

Many historic sites are found in or near the village. Located south of Old Harbor, Three Saints Bay is the site of the first Russian settlement. The historic Russian Orthodox Church is a hub of community activity and the picturesque centerpiece of the village. Refuge Rock, site of a confrontation between the Alutiiq and the Russians was recently rediscovered.

The world's largest salt water King salmon was caught out of Old Harbor. Local charter boat operators offer custom sightseeing, fishing and hunting excursions. Many native artists reside in the community.

Ouzinkie (Spruce Island)

10 air miles from Kodiak City. Population: 190.

Located on the southwest shore of Spruce Island, Ouzinkie is characterized by swampy areas, volcanic and sedimentary rock and an abundance of tall spruce trees. Sport fishing for king salmon, halibut, lingcod and black bass are very good surrounding Spruce Island, which lies on the Marmot Bay and Whale Pass migration route for various species of whales.

Ouzinkie was founded in the early 1800s by

the Russian American Company as a retirement community for Russian workers who wished to remain in the Kodiak area. The Church of the Nativity, built in 1898, is tucked in a cove of spruce trees. Ouzinkie was home to St. Herman, the first canonized Russian Orthodox saint in North America. St. Herman's chapel is located at Monks Lagoon and can be explored with the local Russian Orthodox Church reader who explains the history of the holy sites and old gravestones.

Refer to our Lodges Map Directory for more information on Blue Dory Lodge and Charters, an all-inclusive lodge and fishing boat charter offering an exceptional wilderness retreat.

Port Lions

Serviced by the Alaska Marine Highway ferry system; 19 air miles from Kodiak City. Population: 220.

Port Lions is located near the mouth of Kizhuyak Bay at the north end of Kodiak Island. Sitka spruce, birch, alder and willow trees cover the mountainous terrain around the village.

Established after the tsunami of 1964 damaged Afognak Village on Afognak Island, Port Lions was named in honor of the Lions Club, the service group that helped relocate and build the new village. Many residents return to visit the old Russian Orthodox church, the schoolhouse and other old buildings. Petroglyphs mark rock faces surrounding the old village and stand as silent witness to a once thriving pre-historic community. A causeway provides foot and bike access across Settler's Cove for further exploration of the area.

The area around Port Lions provides top notch hunting opportunities, while surrounding waters support steelhead, freshwater trout, five species of salmon and very large trophy-size halibut. Marine mammals such as sea otter, sea lions, Dall and harbor porpoise and several species of whales routinely cruise Marmot Bay.

The Port Lions community offers the hospitality of bed and breakfast inns, several all inclusive lodges, eateries and general store, plus charter services for hunting and fishing. Consult our Port Lions Travel Directory for more information on Kodiak Sports and Tour and the Fox Den Bed and Breakfast.

SOUTHWEST ALASKA MAINLAND

Bethel

Population: 6400. Visitor Information: Bethel Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 329, Bethel, AK 99559; Phone: (907) 543-2911; Email: bethelchamber1@alaska.com; Website: www.bethelchamber.org.

Located in southwest Alaska on the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge along the banks of the Kuskokwim River, Bethel's lifestyle revolves around the water, with several nearby world-class trout and salmon streams. There are no roads connecting Bethel with any other cities, but daily jet service is available to Anchorage with a one-hour flight time; air taxi services provide scheduled and charter flights into over 50 communities in the surrounding area. Bethel hosts the world's premier middle-distance sled dog race, the Kuskokwim 300.

Dillingham

Population: 2400. Visitor Information: Dillingham Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 348,