

SOUTHWEST ALASKA

Kodiak Island is the nation's second largest and was discovered in the 1700s by Russian Fur Traders – it is now a top tourist destination. Home of the Kodiak Brown Bear, this is where you come to view this amazing species on the ground in their habitat, from the air on a flight seeing tour or even hunt the bears with a professional outfitter. Sport fishing is another popular activity. Private fishing boat charters offer excellent saltwater fishing from April through October while commercial fishing vessels work the waters all year long. At the end of the Aleutian Island chain is remote Unalaska/Dutch Harbor, the only place to be bombed by the Japanese in WWII other than Pearl Harbor and departure point for the fall and winter crab fishing fleet of "Deadliest Catch" fame.

City of Kodiak

Location: On the northeast coast of Kodiak Island; 250 air miles south of Anchorage, one-hour flight with scheduled airlines. Visitors can fly into Kodiak or take the Alaska Marine Highway System ferry from Homer or Whittier into Kodiak or Port Lions. Island Population: 14,000. Elevation: Sea level to 4,000 feet. Visitor Information: Kodiak Island Convention and Visitors Bureau, 100 Marine Way Suite 200, Kodiak, AK 99615; Phone (907) 486-4782; Email: visit@kodiak.org; Website: www.kodiak.org. Kodiak Island Area Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 1485, 100 Marine Way Suite 300, Kodiak, AK 99615; Phone (907) 486-5557. Alaska Marine Highway Kodiak Terminal, Pier One in Kodiak; Phone: (907) 486-3800; inquiries/reservations through Ketchikan office; Toll Free: (800) 642-0066; Email: ask_amhs@dot.state.ak.us; Website: www.ferryalaska.com.

Covering nearly 5,000 square miles, the Kodiak Archipelago consists of 16 major islands in the central Gulf of Alaska at the head of the Aleutian Island chain. Ancient glaciers and millennia of stormy weather sculpted the islands' granite core into rugged mountains and intricate shoreline. This dynamic land is home to an abundance of wildlife. Whales and sea otters feed in bays. Enormous bears roam meadows of waist deep grass and salmon return to nearly every stream.

Kodiak's lush green mountainous landscape has been compared to Ireland's, hence the nickname Emerald Isle. The oldest community in Alaska was established on Kodiak by Aleksandr Baranov in 1792 when Russian rule dominated the northern region of the Pacific Northwest; the oldest Russian Orthodox Church outside of Russia was built here in 1794; Alaska's oldest standing building is the Russian American Magazin, built in 1808 as a fur warehouse. The City of Kodiak is the largest seaport in Alaska with the second largest fishing fleet in the US, while the Island's waters have been judged to offer the best sport fishing.

When "driving" to Kodiak Island, allow plenty of time to enjoy the Sterling Highway on the Kenai Peninsula into Whittier or Homer; the snow capped mountain ranges, pristine rivers, spring wildflowers and autumn colors will remain a memorable experience. Board the M/V Tustumena in Homer or the M/V Kennicott in Homer or Whittier and continue your "drive" on the Alaska Marine Highway – a 12 or 16 hour ferry boat ride across the Gulf of Alaska. Another option is to leave the vehicle on the mainland



Kodiak Sunrise
photo by:
VC TRAVEL GUIDE

KODIAK, ALASKA

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Maps courtesy of Kodiak Island Convention and Visitors Bureau



Kodiak Fishing Boat
photo by:
VC TRAVEL GUIDE

and rent one on Kodiak Island; come aboard as a walk-on passenger and reserve a cabin for a good night's rest. Kodiak Island has wonderful bed and breakfasts, motels and lodges to accommodate your retreat into the wilderness.

The islands' original residents, today known as Alutiiq or Sugpiaq, arrived on Kodiak over 7,500 years ago, probably from the Alaska Peninsula. Plentiful evidence of Alutiiq petroglyphs date from this time and archaeological studies indicate that these early people lived off the sea, pursuing the sea mammals, fish and birds that still influence the island's economy.

Kodiak Museums

*Alutiiq Museum and
Archaeological Repository*

215 Mission Road Suite 101 Kodiak, AK 99615. (907) 486-7004. Admission \$3.00 adults.

Visitors to Kodiak can learn about its 7500-year-old Native heritage at the Alutiiq Museum and Archaeological Repository, a cultural center governed by the Alutiiq people. Exhibits of artifacts, photographs and contemporary art explore Alutiiq culture and illustrate how traditions continue in the twenty-first century. The museum oversees archaeological digs and the repatriation of Alutiiq remains and artifacts, which were removed by the thousands in the 1930s. The repository currently holds 100,000 objects.

During the summer of 2008, the Alutiiq Museum will feature "Giinaquq: Like A Face"—an exhibition of rare ceremonial masks collected from Kodiak Alutiiq communities in 1872, in collaboration with

the Châteaux Musée of Boulogne-sur-Mer, France. *Baranov Museum and Kodiak Historical Society*
101 Marine Way, Kodiak, AK 99615. (907) 486-5920. Admission \$3.00 adults. The Museum has an exceptional gift store.

Originally known as the Russian American Magazin and later as the Erskine House, Alaska's oldest building now houses the Baranov Museum and is on the National Register of Historic Places. After an earthquake and tidal wave nearly washed the settlement into the sea, Baranov moved the entire community into the harbor of St. Paul. Today, the museum showcases the art, craft and legacy of Kodiak Island history and its residents. The Museum celebrates their 200th year in 2008 with special events taking place all summer.

Holy Resurrection Russian Orthodox Cathedral & Diocesan Museum of History of Orthodox Church in Alaska

414 Mission Road Kodiak. (907) 486-5532.

The church serves as the oldest Russian Orthodox parish in the New World. Established in 1794, the present day church built in 1945 is marked by its beautiful blue onion domes and is the third church to occupy this site. A gift store is located next to the church and is open 11-5 PM Monday through Saturday.

Ft. Abercrombie State Historical Park

Miller Point

In June 1941, 780 acres were reserved for a fort designed to be part of a linked group of permanent coastal defense installations in the area. Other forts were maintained at Long Island and Cape Chiniak. There were searchlight installations at Kizhuyak Point and Mt. Herman on Spruce Island. Battalion Headquarters was at Buskin Hill, with support barracks at the present day US Coast Guard housing in Nemetz Park. Remnants of fortification and bunkers still exist on Long and Spruce Islands.

In early June of 1942, six months after the attack at Pearl Harbor, Japan bombed the naval base at Dutch Harbor/Unalaska, located in the western Aleutian Islands and captured the islands of Attu and Kiska at the extreme western end of the chain; after the attacks the forts were manned continuously. Ultimately there were 700-750 men and about 25 Quonset huts at Ft. Abercrombie. All the local installations together reached a top strength of more than 18,000 men; by December 1944 they were placed in caretaker status.

Ft. Abercrombie was designated an Alaska State Historical Park in 1969 and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1970.

Kodiak Military History Museum

Located inside Fort Abercrombie State Historical Park at Miller Point. The entrance is found at Mile 3.7 on East Rezanof Drive, in a restored ammunition bunker. (907) 486-7015. Admission \$3.00 adults.

The museum created and maintains a central repository/archive for the preservation and exhibition of military related records, photographs, documents, technology, equipment and displays. Museum goals include the promotion and encouragement of education, tourism and historical preservation within the community.

Open May-September usually on the weekends. Special tours of 3 or more people outside this time period can be arranged by calling the museum business office; please allow at least two weeks, as staff members are volunteers who take time off work to guide visitors.

*Kodiak Fisheries Research Center
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KFRC is committed to the preservation, enhancement and management of the North Pacific marine ecosystem and its resources. Spaces are leased to three primary fisheries research agencies, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the National Park Service. The 25,000 square foot complex provides continuous seawater for wet lab research involving Alaska crab and other species.

The Interpretive Center provides educational and interactive overviews on wildlife, marine life, commercial fishing and fisheries research programs found throughout the Kodiak Archipelago. Examine graphic information panels, photographs of local wildlife and marvel at the 19' Cuvier's beaked whale skeleton which floats suspended over the main lobby.

A 10-foot diameter, 3500 gallon cylindrical aquarium and open "touch tank" comprise the lower level, offering visitors a popular hands-on interactive experience with some of Kodiak's most fascinating tide pool creatures. The aquarium and touch tank are open to the public Monday through Friday 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM; extended hours are planned for the tourist season and admission is free.

Kodiak Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center

402 Center Street and Mission Road. (907) 487-2600. Website: www.kodiakwildliferefuge.org. Free admission, open year round. Information may also be obtained by writing the Refuge Manager, KNWR Administrative Offices, 1390 Buskin River Road, Kodiak, Alaska 99615.

Although Kodiak refuge is remote, the brand new Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center is conveniently located in downtown Kodiak. It features interactive exhibits, trip planning resources and the Alaska Geographic bookstore and gift shop. The refuge orientation film and other selections are shown daily and upon request. In addition, the refuge staff offers interpretive programs for visitors and assistance to schools and other groups interested in outdoor classroom experiences.

US Coast Guard Base and Kodiak Launch Complex

Ranked as the largest US Coast Guard Base in the world and central to North Pacific operations, the 'Coasties' base occupies the old WWII Kodiak Naval Operating Base. The Coast Guard manages over 22,000 acres of land, of which 700 acres are set aside for the Base. All government, military and retired personnel and their dependents can utilize the MWR program established on the Base for lodging, restaurants, boat rental, camping, fishing equipment plus RV parking. For lodging and RV Reservations, call the 24-hour hotline at (907) 487-5446 Ext. 1 or see their website at www.kodiakmwr.com.

In 1998, the Kodiak Launch Complex completed construction on 3,100 acres of state-owned land at Narrow Cape. The \$40 million facility is the only commercial rocket launch facility for sub-orbital and orbital space launch vehicles owned and operated by the Alaska Aerospace Development Corporation. KLC is the only spaceport in the United States that does not share a site with the military or NASA.

Maritime Legacy

Kodiak Maritime Museum is currently a "museum without walls." The KMM began its voyage in 1996 when its founders launched a nonprofit corporation to recognize Alaska's rich maritime heritage by preserving first hand accounts and artifacts of this illustrious and dramatic part of the state's history.

While strolling through downtown Kodiak, visit the Shelikof Avenue boardwalk overlooking bustling St. Paul's Harbor. KMM's unique Waterfront Enhancement Project consists of 14 full color interpretive panels that tell the centuries' old story of



Kodiak Bear
photo by:
Fabrice Simon

"Kodiak's Bond with the Sea." Created to pay tribute to the island's mariners and the community's working waterfront, the stories illustrate Kodiak's natural history, depict a Coast Guard rescue and the raw, unnerving power of a winter storm as experienced aboard an ice-laden Bering Sea crab vessel.

The "Kodiak Waterfront Guide - A Bond with the Sea" is a handy, take-away booklet focusing on Kodiak's maritime heritage and seafood and fishing industries. The KMM owns the original watercolors commissioned for the waterfront signs and has incorporated them into the 32-page full color guide.

The museum also conducts special tours of the harbor. Called "Bow to Stern: An Inside View of Kodiak's Working Harbor," the guided tour encompasses the set of interpretive signs. Tour reservations must be made ahead of time by calling the museum office at (907) 486-0384.

The museum also has three satellite exhibits; two are located at the Kodiak College and another at Key Bank on the downtown mall. These exhibits focus on two eras in Kodiak's maritime history - the use of salmon fish traps and crab fishing. The fish trap exhibit includes several historic photos of fish traps,

salmon can labels from that era and a model of a fish trap. The crab fishing exhibit includes preserved king crab, gear used for crab fishing and rare photos of crab fishermen on the deck of a Bering Sea crab boat. The exhibit at Key Bank provides a broad overview of the industry.

A strong oral history project called "Fish Tales, Petroglyphs and Kodiak Pioneers" allows old-timers a forum to talk about their lives and how Kodiak grew from a small fishing village to one of the top fishing ports in the country. Videos can be purchased at all the museums in town. Visit www.kodiakmaritimemuseum.org for more information.

Natural Disasters

In 1912 Mt. Novarupta, located on the Katmai Coast of the Alaska Peninsula erupted, blotting out the sun for two days and blanketing Kodiak with 13 to 18 inches of ash. Kodiak's 400 residents briefly escaped to sea on a ship that was in port fueling, but soon returned to find ash drifts several feet high and spawning salmon dieing in ash-filled streams. Even after nearly 100 years, the ash remains as topsoil and in crooks of tree branches where it settled and is now covered with moss.

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King Salmon
photo courtesy of:
Craig Baker

On March 27, 1964 a massive earthquake rocked south central Alaska. The earthquake did little damage to the islands, but triggered a series of tsunamis. The fourth and largest wave crested at 35 feet above mean low tide as residents evacuated up Pillar Mountain. Kodiak's waterfront and central business district were all but destroyed and villages also suffered extensive damage. Once again, Kodiak went about the business of rebuilding.

Seafood Industry on Kodiak Island

Since the early 1800s, Kodiak's economy has been based primarily on the fishing industry. The advent of Russian occupation and the introduction of salt paved the way for commercial salmon harvesting. The first salmon cannery was built on the Karluk spit

in 1882 to take advantage of the huge sockeye runs. By 1889, five canneries were operating at the mouth of the Karluk River. Intense competition led to the expansion of commercial fishing into other species of salmon. The fishery slowed when shore plants and the fishing fleet were badly damaged by the 1964 earthquake and tidal wave. As part of the effort to rebuild the industry, one of the immense emergency cargo carriers from World War II known as Liberty Ships arrived in Kodiak in 1965. Renamed "Star of Kodiak" the ship has been used as a cannery and for frozen seafood processing and has become a Kodiak landmark.

Today a thriving, year-round commercial fishing industry is the economic engine that drives Kodiak. It is the largest port for the State of Alaska and consistently ranks as one of the top five fishing ports in the US for volume and value (381 million pounds and \$106 million respectively). Alaska Department of Fish and Game 2007 estimates show fishing crews harvested about 28 million salmon. Kodiak Island is home port to more than 3,000 vessels and some of Alaska's largest trawl, longline and crab vessels, up to 150 feet long. There are 19 seafood processing plants and canneries. Area residents hold more than 1000 commercial fishing permits and approximately 2000 are employed harvesting or processing seafood.

The 2006 crab season yielded over 60 million pounds of crab (Red and Golden King, Snow/Opilio and Tanner/Bairdi) worth \$115 million dollars. Now in its 4th year, Discovery Channel's popular TV series "Deadliest Catch" captures the dangerous working conditions for the crews during crab season on the

Bering Sea. One vessel, the Cornelia Marie, lists Kodiak's St. Herman Harbor as its home port and was one of the primary ships showcased in the 2006-2007 season. Owner Cornelia Marie Devlin has worked in the fishing industry since 1979 and will work on the boat during the summer out of Bristol Bay, where it serves as tender for the yearly salmon run. Owner and Captain Phil Harris has been working in the fishing industry for 30 years and Captain of the Cornelia Marie for 15 years; his two sons are part of the five-man crew.

The annual Crab Festival in May provides an unforgettable venue for an astonishing variety of activities, some unique to Kodiak. The blessing of the fishing fleet is also held at this time.

Salt Water and Fresh Water Sport Fishing

The waters surrounding Kodiak Island are known for world-class fishing and yield a variety in abundance. Unlike the mainland of Alaska where fishing boat charters may need to make long runs out for miles to catch their limits or fishermen sometimes resort to combat fishing off the shoreline, captains in Kodiak find the fish on their GPS systems in close proximity to town and fish in shallow waters. Fishing can be a family sport and Kodiak captains know how to work with first time fishermen to help them achieve their lifelong dream of catching a trophy size fish.

Referred to as 'combo fishing', charter operators will put in a full day making every effort to help clients hook their limits for halibut, salmon, rockfish, lingcod, black bass, herring and an occasional octopus or shark. King salmon weigh in at 30 to 60 pounds while halibut are a staggering 40 to 400 pounds. Halibut and king salmon start in February, sockeye and chum in May, coho and pink in June and lingcod around the first of July. Unlike other prime fishing areas, Kodiak Island has no size restriction and the highest bag limits.

See our Kodiak Island Travel Directory for experienced Fishing Boat Charters. Blue Dory Lodge and Charters, Fish 'n Chips Charters, Island Angler Charters, Kodiak Island Adventures, Runnamuck Charters and True North offer half day, full day or all-inclusive weeklong charters at reasonable rates that include equipment, bait and lunch. All charters provide a heated cabin and restroom.

Fresh water fly fishing on Kodiak offers sportsmen a fighting chance at steelhead and rainbow trout, Dolly Varden and all species of salmon, and is commonly considered "the best fishing in the world." Nearly 350 streams in the Kodiak Archipelago have been identified by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game as annual salmon spawning waterways.

Dolly Varden are good all year long, rainbow and steelhead trout year round except for a few soft months in April, May and June. King Salmon begin entering the river systems in mid-April, followed by sockeye and chum, then pink; coho finish their run in mid-October. Check with the operator to see what is provided as part of the package or for a nominal fee. There are several sport outfitter stores in Kodiak ready to supply the basics. Packages can include weeklong lodging, saltwater and freshwater fishing as well as ATV excursions to remote areas; see our Kodiak Travel Directory for Salty Fly Safaris for experienced ATV fly fishing excursions.

A sport fishing license is required and must be in the possession of all persons 16 years of age or older while sport or personal use fishing. Licenses and king salmon tags may be purchased from vendors, by mail or online at www.admin.adfg.state.ak.us/license. The daily license fee for non-resident is \$20 plus \$10 for a king salmon tag.

Fish should be properly vacuum-packed and flash-frozen; captains and lodge hosts work directly with

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If flying back to a foreign country, seafood has to be certified as being caught in Alaskan waters with an embossed State of Alaska seal on the Certificate of Origin. The staff with the Department of Fish and Game and Division of Environmental Health work weekdays only, so plan ahead by working with the fishing boat captain. For more information contact DFG Donn Tracy donn_tracy@fishgame.state.ak.us or DEH Mike Gardner at mike.gardner@alaska.gov.

Sightseeing Boat Charters

Whale watching, sightseeing tour and fishing boat operators offer half and full day charters and remain busy through the summer months following the migration of several species to the northern waters. From the largest marine mammals in Kodiak waters – baleen whales – to fin, humpback, gray, sei, orca and minke whales, the bays and straits surrounding Kodiak Island provide a natural habitat to view these majestic creatures. Steller sea lions and harbor seals have their pups in June and make nearby rock formations or harbor docks their platform to bark and stand their ground. For dinner cruises, whale and bird watching or customized day and overnight trips, consult our Kodiak Island Travel Directory Boat Charters for Galley Gourmet; under Fishing Boat Charters see Blue Dory Lodge and Charters Fish 'n Chips Charters, Island Angler Charters, Kodiak Island Adventures, Runnamuck Charters and True North; these captains will also conduct whale watching and marine wildlife tours in between their fishing charters.

“Whale Fest Kodiak: A Migration Celebration” takes place every spring, with hiking jaunts to whale watch, evening lecture series, child and adult programs offered. For more information visit www.whalefestkodiak.org.

Hunting

Kodiak Island is world famous for fabulous hunting experiences. The Island is home to the Kodiak brown bear, the largest land carnivore in the world, weighing up to 1500 pounds. A hunter is permitted one bear every four years. Sitka blacktail deer are considered the finest tasting venison and the season bag limit is three deer. Kodiak offers a variety of sea ducks including king and Pacific eider, harlequin, scoter, oldsquaw, barrows goldeneye and mallard; the limit is 20 ducks per season. While native Alaskans are permitted to hunt for their own subsistence, specific season dates are set for sportsmen. Professionally guided fair-chase hunts, hunting camps and charters are available during the big game seasons. For more information consult Alaska Hunting at www.wildlife.alaska.gov.

Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge

Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge covers almost two million acres (about 3000 square miles) within the Kodiak Island Archipelago, including two-thirds of Kodiak Island, portions of Afognak Island and all of Uganik and Ban Islands. While the City of Kodiak is accessible by frequent daily flights from Anchorage and is also served by the Alaska State ferry system, the refuge itself is only accessible by bush plane and by boat. The Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center in downtown Kodiak offers trip planning resources and orientation film.

Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1941 to provide and protect habitat for brown bears, salmon and other wildlife. The refuge has more than 800 miles of shoreline as well as lakes, marshes, meadows and a spine of rugged mountains rising 4,000 feet from the ocean. In addition to over 3,000



Hiking on Kodiak Island
photo by:
Marion Owen

bears, the refuge is home to blacktail deer, mountain goat, red fox and land otter. The bays and estuaries offer excellent opportunities for viewing whales, porpoises, seals, sea otters and sea lions that frequent the area. More than 200 species of birds—including at least 500 nesting pairs of bald eagles—are also found within the refuge. The area is important to sea ducks and other water birds whose combined populations number well over a million birds. Summer brings bank swallows from South America and horned and tufted puffins from deep North Pacific waters.

Recreation activities within the KNWR include wildlife viewing and photography, hunting, fishing, backpacking and camping; fishing in one of the many salmon streams and bear viewing are among the most popular. In addition to Dolly Varden, Arctic char and rainbow trout, all five salmon species are native to the waterways of the refuge. A selection of remote cabins is available to visitors on a lottery/reservation basis.

Exploring the Water

Sea kayaking is fabulous around the island, offering intimate views of wildlife and stunning marine ecosystems. Half and full day excursions or extended tours are available. Shuyak Island State Park is a highly ranked kayaking destination.

Scuba diving is another popular way to enjoy Kodiak waters; diving charters and services are

available. If board or wind surfing is an established passion, Kodiak beaches at Fort Abercrombie State Historical Park just north of town and Pasagshak Bay, a 45-minute drive south of Kodiak offer year round surf with 10-foot waves. Local diehard enthusiasts report surfing with killer whales and in the company of bears, surrounded by a dramatic landscape that becomes utterly surreal draped in winter ice; just be sure to bring your wetsuit and helmet.

River float trips provide for leisurely exploration of the backcountry. Local guides offer customized float trip packages or experienced rafters can rent inflatable boats from the air taxi services.

Hiking Trails

There are over a dozen trails, some maintained while others are not always well marked. Pillar Mountain (1200 feet), Barometer Mountain (2452 feet), Termination Point, North Sister Mountain (2100 feet), Pyramid Mountain (2401 feet), Near Island and several state parks all provide scenic beauty amid native spruce trees, wildflowers and stunning vistas. At the end of the 16-mile Pasagshak Bay Road, pre-historic fossils can be found at low tide at Fossil Beach.

The Fort Abercrombie Self-Guided Historical Walking Tour highlights the remnants of World War II when the Fort stood by with 8-inch guns to defend

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Kodiak Harbor
photo by:
Marion Owen

the United States. The Army closed the fort in 1945; it became a State Park in 1969 and was designated a National Historical Landmark in 1985. Many visitors enjoy exploring the bunkers, garrison, mess hall and Military History Museum.

The Kodiak Audubon Society offers programs from May through September; current listings may be found at www.kodiak.org. The detailed Hiking and Birding Guide/Map is available for purchase at several locations.

Accommodations on Kodiak Island

Kodiak accommodations include motels, bed and breakfast inns, vacation rentals, cabins and campsites, retreats and lodges. Due to arrival time, an overnight stay before heading out by floatplane or boat to a campsite or lodge may be required. Located downtown, the Best Western Kodiak Inn offers

comfortable accommodations, restaurant, meeting rooms, lounge and transportation for ferry and airplane departures. Bed and Breakfast Inns offer personal touches and family style hospitality within the private homes of local residents. Amenities vary and some offer continental or full breakfast, or even the ability to fix your own. Check out our Kodiak Island Travel Directory for Bed and Breakfast Innkeepers Kodiak Bed and Breakfast, Kodiak Island Bed and Breakfast Association, Kodiak Russian River Lodge B&B and Red Shutter Guest House for more information.

Wilderness Lodges offer a variety of tailor made all-inclusive packages to their guests, providing access to fishing boats, fly fishing equipment and floats for salt and fresh water fishing. Experience bear viewing, either near the lodge or by floatplane to the Katmai Coast or Frazer Lake, hiking through a magnificent landscape of wild flowers and spruce trees, exploring archeological digs and petroglyphs recording ancient times, kayaking and rafting trips, or birding and viewing marine wildlife. Catering to small groups with homemade meals and family style hospitality, lodges can also assist in transportation from the mainland into Kodiak or on into the lodge. Allow one or two days traveling time for making the connections due to weather and flight delays. Consult our Kodiak Island MAP and Travel Directory under Lodge Listings for Alderwood Wilderness Retreat, Blue Dory Lodge and Charters, Quartz Creek Lodge, Saltery Lake Lodge and Uyak Bay Lodge.

Camping and RV parking is permitted only in Kodiak's State Parks. There are RV and camping sites at Fort Abercrombie State Historical Park, Buskin River State Recreation Site and Pasagshak River State Recreation Site. Amenities include fresh water, toilets, picnic sites, hiking trails, beach and swimming access, but there are NO electrical hookups and the dumping station is located in town at the St. Paul Harbor. For a recreation guide or reservations, contact Alaska State Parks Kodiak, Alaska; Phone: (907) 486-6339; Email: kodiakstateparks@dnr.state.ak.us; Website: www.alaskastateparks.org. The US Coast

Guard Base also offers RV parking; for USCG lodging and RV reservations visit www.kodiakmwr.com or the 24-hour Hotline (907) 486-5446. Kodiak Russian River Lodge B&B, located 11 miles south of Kodiak on Chiniak Hwy, has two electrical hookups for RVs. Look for their listing in our Kodiak Island Travel Directory under Bed and Breakfast Innkeepers.

Planning your trip:

To make all your reservations and charter bookings with the ease of a single call, contact Kodiak Adventures Unlimited, for sport fishing, bear viewing, dinner cruises, whale watching or lodging. Now in their fifth year of service, KAU has up-to-the-minute schedules for all tour operators and if there is an empty seat, they'll know all about it. See our Kodiak Island Travel Directory under Booking Agent.

At the end of your trip...

Kodiak Fish Tales captures the moment "IT" happens for everyone who visits the Island – whether it is a trophy-sized fish, being-as-one with the Kodiak brown bears or other highlights of the trip. Take your favorite photos to their store and have them customize your selection from the personal or corporate specialty gift lines of coffee mugs, t-shirts, paperweights and more, and make your shopping for a loved one complete. See our Kodiak Travel Directory for more information.

SPECIAL EVENTS

- Whale Fest Kodiak - A Migration Celebration:
April 18-30, 2008
- Alutiiq Museum: The Pinart Collection
Alutiiq Masks in France Exhibit:
May-September
- 50th Anniversary Kodiak Crab Festival:
May 22-26, 2008
- July 4th Independence Day parade and
fireworks
- Pilgrimage to Monk's Lagoon:
August 8-10, 2008
- Kodiak State Fair and Rodeo:
September 1-3, 2008

Villages and Communities on Kodiak Island

It can be said about all the villages of Kodiak Island that they are remote, accessible only by boat or air and have very few amenities. For the most part, visitors should not expect to find a restaurant or convenience store, sporting good supplies or emergency gear. Some bed and breakfast proprietors only offer breakfast; the all-inclusive wilderness lodges provide for all their clients' needs.

Island Air Service provides daily mail service to the villages and makes it affordable to ride along for the adventure. Island Air Service, Andrew Airways and Harvey Flying Services offer charter services to the villages for business, leisurely sightseeing, fishing and hunting charters.

Akhiok

98 air miles from Kodiak City. Population: 41.

Kodiak's southernmost village is located on Alitak Bay, where the shoreline has narrow rocky beaches, surrounded by tundra-like flatlands, valleys and low rolling hills common to the south end of the island. The tsunami of 1964 destroyed the village of Kaguyak, just to the east of Akhiok and the villagers were relocated to Akhiok. More than forty-six registered archaeological sites hold evidence of the area's original inhabitants. Today's residents are of Aleut, Caucasian and Filipino heritage with a strong Orthodox faith-based community.

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by Harry Dodge, Master Guide-Outfitter and author of *Kodiak Island and its Bears: A History of Bear/Human Interaction on Alaska's Kodiak Archipelago*

Coastal brown bears most likely forded the Shelikof Strait to Kodiak Island approximately 11,000 to 14,000 years ago, before rising sea levels isolated them from mainland populations. The earliest humans to the Kodiak Archipelago arrived perhaps more than 7,500 years ago and have co-existed with bears ever since. Archeological evidence suggests that men have hunted the Kodiak bear from the earliest times of co-habitation. Early man venerated the bear and relied upon it for subsistence purposes. The incursion of Russian colonialism on Kodiak disrupted long-held traditions governing interactions between men and bears. Matters of subsistence and respect were overshadowed by considerations of commerce, and bear and man often came into direct conflict over limited resources.

The Kodiak bear received little worldwide attention until taxonomist C.H. Merriam classified it in 1896 as *Ursus middendorffi*, declaring it the world's largest bear. A few big game hunters ventured to Kodiak in the early 1900s, seeking the island's fabled bear. The hunters hired Native guides and typically hunted along the coast from baidarkas (kayaks).

Not until after World War I, when advances in transportation reduced travel time to such remote locales as Alaska, did sportsmen begin venturing to Kodiak with any degree of consistency. The Boone and Crockett Club, established in 1887, did much to popularize the sport of big game hunting while formulating an ethical code of hunting and promoting legislation to protect wildlife from over-exploitation. Passage of the Alaska Game Act of 1925 led to the licensing of hunting guides, and by the 1930s there were competing guiding services on Kodiak.

Franklin D. Roosevelt established the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge in 1941. Comprising roughly two-thirds of Kodiak Island, KNWR was created for the protection of the Kodiak brown bear. The refuge mission includes a hunting program, which is managed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. From October 25 through November 30 and April 1 through May 15, hunters from around the world visit Kodiak to partake in this trophy hunt. License and tag fees from this activity account for a substantial portion of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game general fund, which supports research and conservation efforts across the state. Studies indicate that the Kodiak bear population is at an historic high. Indeed, hunters and guides have long been the Kodiak bear's greatest advocate, going to bat against ranchers, fishermen, politicians, and even state biologists who aimed to significantly reduce Kodiak bear country and bear populations.

Today Kodiak maintains a well-managed hunting system and in recent decades an evolving bear viewing industry. Visitors can fly to a remote wilderness lodge to enjoy bear viewing, hiking, kayaking and/or sport fishing on multi-day trips. Several local air taxi services offer 4 to 6 hour trips to Fraser Falls (Kodiak) or the Katmai coast. Except for at the Fraser Falls fish weir, Kodiak bears are not habituated to human presence and maintain their natural fear of humans. A trip into Kodiak bear country is therefore a unique look into the bear's world and respect for the bears' needs should be central to visitors' interests. Reservations in advance will insure your dates of travel.

Biologist/Master Guide/author Harry Dodge has lived on Kodiak for 32 years. From May to September he and his wife, Brigid, take eco-tourists to hike and see bears based out of their lodge in Kodiak's Uyak Bay. Low impact, land-based bear viewing trips are their specialty and Harry is recognized locally as a leader in this field, representing the bear viewing interest for Kodiak Island to the ADF&G subcommittee for bears. For more information, consult our Kodiak Island Travel Directory for Kodiak Treks' land-based bear viewing trips.

Harry's book *Kodiak Island and Its Bears: A History of Bear/Human Interaction on Alaska's Kodiak Archipelago* is available through the Kodiak Treks web site (www.kodiaktreks.com).

KODIAK ISLAND and Its Bears

Bear Viewing on Kodiak Island With the Publisher of Travel Guide

Vacation Country Travel Guide publisher Scott Graber took advantage of a half-day bear viewing tour option offered by Andrew Airways, an operator conveniently located at Kodiak State Airport in Kodiak.

The floatplane flight from their new office at Trident Bay to a quiet bay on the Island provided continuous bird's eye views of Kodiak's world famous scenery. After touching down at the shore, the pilot and three passengers walked a short distance to the mouth of a salmon stream, where a group of about 15 brown bears were busily feeding and interacting with each other.

With over 20 years experience on Kodiak Island and the Alaska Peninsula, owner and pilot Dean Andrews has the knowledge and expertise to comfortably transport you to all the places you've always wanted to see, with packages designed to fit every itinerary and budget. Andrew Airways may be contacted by phone at (907) 487-2566, by email at info@andrewairway.com, in writing at PO Box 1037 in Kodiak Alaska 99615 or view their website at www.andrewairways.com.



Kodiak Bearviewing with Andrew Air
photo by:
VC TRAVEL GUIDE

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Andrew Airways Bear Viewing
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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,

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, Alutiq 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.

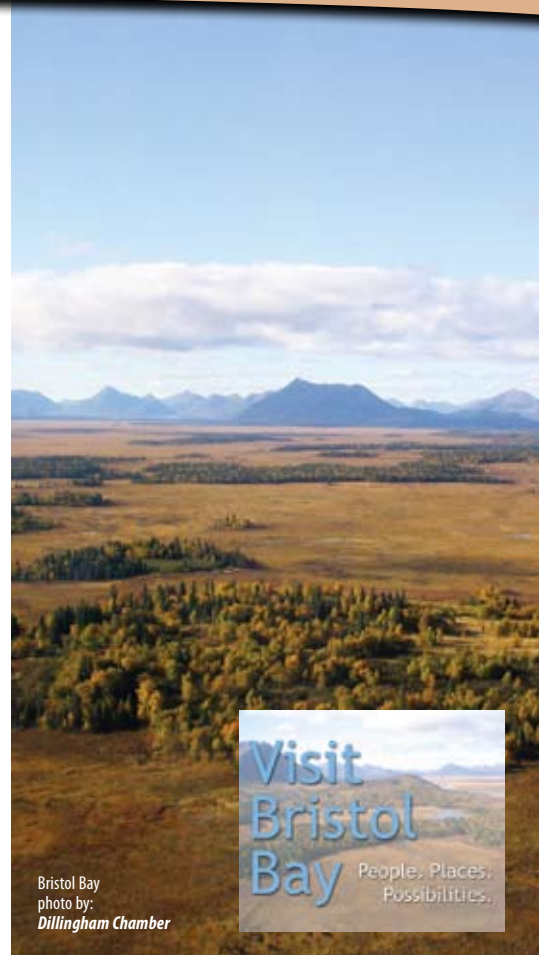
Aleutian Islands

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

Continued on page 310



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



DEADLIEST CATCH

THE HIGH-STAKES PURSUIT OF KING AND OPILIO CRAB

Southwest Alaska's "Deadliest Catch"

Discovery Channel's captivating Emmy-nominated television series *Deadliest Catch* documents the brave captains and crew members of several Alaskan crab fishing vessels throughout the October King Crab and January Opilio Crab seasons, as they struggle against treacherous weather conditions on the Alaskan high seas, performing one of the most dangerous – and lucrative – jobs in the world. Located on Amaknak Island, the Aleutian Islands port of Dutch Harbor is the base of operations for the intrepid fleet, which plies the unpredictable waters of the Bering Sea. The show is so-named because the crews run a high risk of injury or death – commercial fishing has the highest fatality rate of any occupation, almost 30 times the average. Alaskan crab fishing is considered even more dangerous due to the conditions of the Bering Sea, which include frigid gales, immense rogue waves the size of



four-story buildings, and potentially fatal ice build-up on the boats and equipment from the 2000 gallons of water that crash onto the deck each minute, freezing as it hits. Injuries are the norm and the death rate during the main part of the season averages nearly one fisherman per week; over 80% of those deaths are caused by drowning or hypothermia.

During filming of the first season of *Deadliest Catch*, the F/V Big Valley sank on January 15, 2005 at the start of the Opilio Crab season. Five of the six crew members perished; three were never found. Discovery Channel film crews captured the first footage of the debris field, confirming that the boat had capsized and gone down. Coast Guard investigation later determined that the boat was severely overloaded, causing it to tip over during a storm. Within 24 hours, the F/V Sultan also lost one of its crew to drowning. In October of 2006, F/V Ocean Challenger's four-man crew abandoned ship as their boat capsized and took on water; one member survived, two bodies were found and one was lost. Efforts by the US Coast Guard to rescue those crews were featured in two episodes of season three. In March, 2008 the F/V Alaska Ranger sank, with five crew members declared dead or missing and forty-two rescued.

The Discovery Channel camera crew members are also endangered by the situations they film aboard the boats; during one episode a crab pot line slipped out of the hydraulic block hauling it back to the surface and the sudden drop of the pot caused its buoys to fly into the air, nearly entangling the cameraman. In another instance, the captain had to yell at a filming cameraman moments before an enormously heavy

crab pot swinging from a crane would have collided with him.

Each episode focuses on a story or situation that occurs on one or more boats, with side stories on the backgrounds and activities of one or two crewmembers, particularly the "greenhorns." The fleet's captains are featured prominently throughout the series, which highlights their camaraderie and friendly rivalry with fellow captains and relationship with their crew, as well as the competitive nature of the crab hunt, the familial ties throughout the fleet, the stresses of life on the Bering Sea and the high burnout rate. Since crabs don't show up on radar or hold to the same 100-mile migration pattern each year, captains must rely on experience and intuition to locate the best fishing grounds, making for additional uncertainty and challenges.

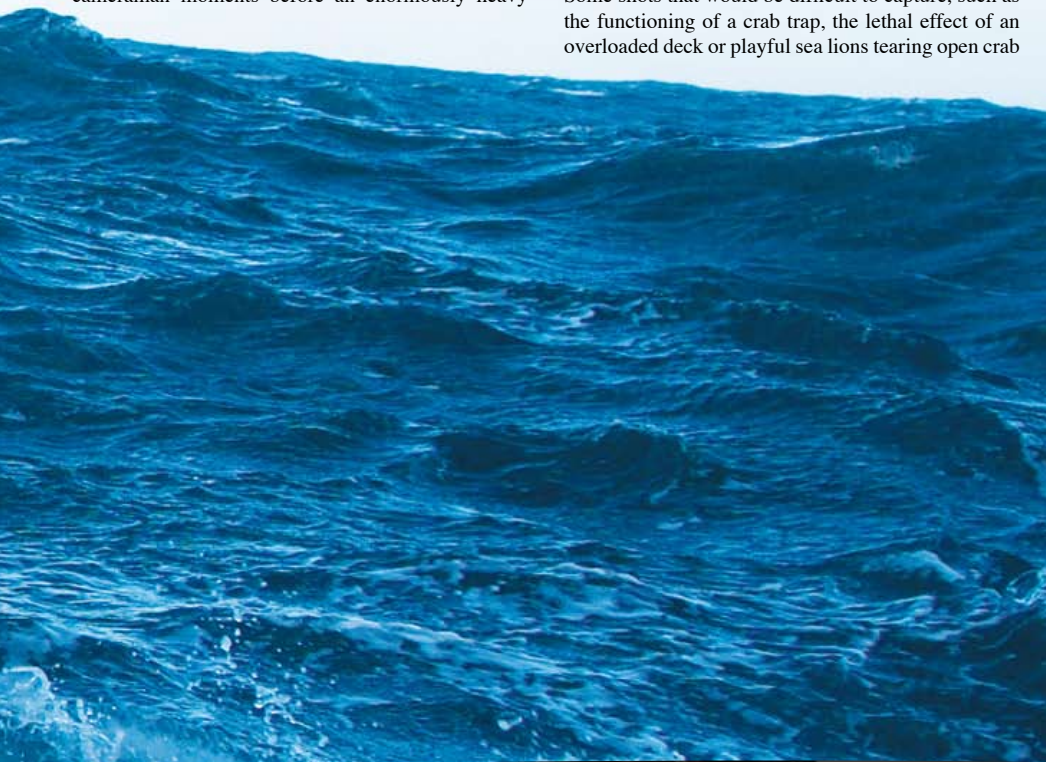
In the upcoming fourth season, viewers will experience life above and below the Alaskan waters. Submersible cameras capture unprecedented underwater images of crabs migrating on the bottom of the ocean and entering crab pots. In addition, footage shot from a "chase boat" shows just how insignificantly tiny the boats are in the vastness of the Bering Sea; for the first time viewers will see the fishing vessels tossed around by high winds and rough seas. The unique angle will offer a new perspective of the men working the rails, setting and hauling massive 800-pound crab pots up through 400 feet of water as their boats fight the crashing waves. Viewers will also get a more in-depth look at the men who put their lives on the line in search of Alaskan crab. Some shots that would be difficult to capture, such as the functioning of a crab trap, the lethal effect of an overloaded deck or playful sea lions tearing open crab

pot buoys, are computer generated.

The series' first season was shot during the final year of the old derby-style king crab fishery, which supported a large number of crews competing with each other to catch crab during a restrictive time window. Under the new Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) system, established boat owners have been given quotas, which they can fill at a more relaxed pace. In theory, it is intended to be safer, which was the main rationale for the change in the fishing rules. However, the new system put many crews out of work, as smaller boats were unable to meet operating expenses with their assigned quotas. During the first season run under the IFQ system, the fleet shrank from over 250 boats to around 80 mostly larger boats with high quotas – the fishery profiled on the current series is a very small remnant of what it once was.

Living 30 years or longer, Alaskan red king crabs attain an average weight of 6 to 10 pounds, the record being 24 pounds with a 5-foot leg span. At the current \$4.50 per pound payout, fishermen can make between \$27 and \$45 for every adult male crab caught; all females and juveniles must be thrown back. The crabs are held alive in the boats' tanks and if a single crab dies, the toxins emitted can poison the entire catch, so the crew has to insure optimal water salinity, temperature and circulation.

Check your local station for this year's *Deadliest Catch* on the Discovery Channel.





Heading for the Bering Sea
photo by:
Ken Wilson

bridge on much smaller Amaknak Island. The M/V Tustumena docks at Dutch Harbor and the Tom Madsen Airport is also located on Amaknak Island, a short taxicab ride from the City of Unalaska. Population 4,300. Visitor Information: Unalaska/Port of Dutch Harbor Convention and Visitors Bureau, PO Box 545, Unalaska, Alaska 99685; Phone (907) 581-2612 or Toll Free (877) 581-2612; Email: updhcvb@arctic.net; Website: www.unalaska.info.

History and Culture

Unalaska's history is a mix of Unangan native culture and Russian fur trade. More than 3,000 Unangas (known since the Russian era as "Aleuts") lived in 24 settlements on Unalaska in 1759. Unalaska became a Russian trading port for the sea otter fur industry in 1768. In 1787, many hunters and their families were enslaved and relocated by the Russian American Company to the Pribilof Islands to work in the fur seal

harvest. By the 1830s and 40s, only 200 to 400 Aleuts remained on Unalaska. Japan attacked Unalaska on June 3 and 4, 1942; as a result, all of the Aleuts on the island were evacuated and interned in Southeast Alaska for the duration of the War.

The Russian Orthodox church is the oldest cruciform-style church in the country. A National Historic Landmark, it houses one of Alaska's largest and richest collections of Russian religious icons, artifacts and artwork. The first chapel was built in 1808. The building standing today was completed in 1896 and is the fourth structure.

Unalaska's economy is based on commercial fishing, fish processing and fleet services. The community enjoys a strategic position at the center of one of the richest fisheries in the world and consistently ranks as the number one port in the nation for seafood volume and value, processing an estimated 800 million pounds annually.

Museum of the Aleutians

Built in 1999, the 9400 square foot museum is the only archeological research and storage facility for the Aleutian region. Located on the remains of a World War II warehouse, the site was once part of Fort Mears. Permanent displays focus on native Aleut/Unangan culture from prehistoric times to the present, the Russian-American era and the role played by the islands in WWII. Rotating exhibits showcase local artists as well as traveling exhibits from Russia. Call (907) 581-5150 or visit www.aleutians.org.

Aleutian WWII National Historic Area Visitor Center

Opened in 2002, the Visitor Center preserves the history and remnants along the Aleutian chain of the fortifications that US troops maintained against Japanese military occupation during World War II. The Historic Area is a 134-acre tract of land on Amaknak Island near the airport. The hilltop walk bears witness to the bunkers, gun mounts and magazines standing sentinel against foreign invasion. The area houses the military ruins of Fort Schwatka, the highest coastal battery ever constructed in the US; looming nearly 1,000 feet above the storm-tossed waters of the Bering Sea, a concrete bunker serves as an impressive monument to the war effort.

Today, the Alaskan Peninsula and the Aleutians form a major portion of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge.

Outdoor Activities

Sport fishing is one of the main reasons to visit Unalaska, where trophy size halibut, salmon and Pacific cod are plentiful. Sport fishing boat charters are available for full day excursions from June to September; tackle and bait is provided, but there is an extra fee for packaging and shipping fish.

The staff at the Unalaska/Port of Dutch Harbor Convention and Visitors Bureau have an up-to-the-

minute list of fishing boat charters available and it is recommended that you check with them at (907) 581-2612 or toll free (877) 581-2612; email: updhcvb@arctic.net. See our Unalaska Travel Directory for more information regarding F/V Lucille and Captain Dave Magone's fishing and whale watching charters.

Kayaking secluded bays and inlets offer ample opportunities to explore and photograph the serene beauty of the area, observe seals, sea lions and otters, and perhaps mingle with fin or humpback whales as they surface. Kayak rentals and guided trips are offered by a local tour operator.

What may appear to be public-access land is most likely privately owned by the Ounalashka Corporation and a permit to enter the land is required, so check with the OC before heading out. Their office is at 400 Salmon Way or phone (907) 581-1276. They offer an excellent hiking trail map to use as a guide; some of the trails are ancient 8,000-year-old Aleut paths. With the volcanic rock and stormy weather, the terrain on the North Pacific Ocean and the Bering Sea sides of the island are largely treeless, so hiking is relatively easy. The trails range from 1 hour each way to Mt. Pyramid and Split Top Mountain or 2 hours each way for Beaver Inlet, to a full 8-hour day one way to Portage Bay.

More than 120 varieties of wildflowers start blooming in June, including about a dozen species of wild orchids. Birding is a popular pastime for residents and visitors. Eagles, rough-legged hawks, Lapland longspur, savanna sparrows, rock ptarmigan, shearwaters, whiskered auklet and emperor geese top the list.

Archeological Digs

Cultural artifacts unearthed at the Margaret Bay site, a large village occupation on Iluliuk Bay, date to between 1000 and 3000 years ago and include more than 100,000 objects such as large blades, stone lamps and bowls, labrets, ochre grinders, pendants and miniature carved masks. Margaret Bay was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1985.

Sightseeing Tours

The City of Unalaska is fortunate to have great tour operators, such as Extra Mile Tours and A.L.E.U.T. Tours, who utilize their own Aleut heritage or long-term commitment to provide personable hospitality and quality education to those who want to discover this very last stop on the western frontier of America.

The island tours are comprehensive, with a drive through town and harbor, covering Aleut history and culture, Russian Orthodox influence and military presence during World War II. Depending on the tour and time frame, the operator may point out untouched tundra and beaches.

Optional side trips can include the Holy Ascension Russian Orthodox Cathedral, the two Museums and vista points providing lots of photo opportunities of the ocean, mountain ranges and harbor below.

The commercial fisheries play an important role in Unalaska and Discovery Channel's exciting TV series "Deadliest Catch" has everyone asking where the fishing boats tie up and if they can be seen on the tour. The season for king crab starts in September and finishes in May. The boats arrive during these months to unload their catch to the seafood processing plants, then return to their home ports. The tour will take the guests along cannery row.

Consult our Unalaska Travel Directory for Tour Charters and Services such as A.L.E.U.T. Tours and The Extra Mile Tours with expertise, personal and customized services.

Lodging

Unalaska offers a limited variety of sleeping accommodations from camping outside of town on Ounalashka Corporation land to all-inclusive lodge and small motel. The Grand Aleutian Hotel and UniSea Inn are the only two hotels in Unalaska.

Unalaska

The Heart of the Aleutian Islands



FISHING BOAT CHARTERS

FISHING VESSEL LUCILLE

32 ft. USCG licensed operator, restroom. Fishing for halibut, salmon, Pacific cod. Whale watching and harbor tours available. Cell # (907) 581-5949 or (907) 359-9134 www.unalaskahalibutfishing.com

TOUR CHARTERS & SERVICES

A.L.E.U.T. TOURS

City tour with local Aleut native who shares a life time of native heritage, cultural and historic expertise. 2 to 4 hour tour in comfort of van. (907) 581-1747 Email: akaleut@arctic.net

THE EXTRA MILE TOURS

Experience the natural beauty & relive the rich history in a tailor-made island tour. Bobbie Lekanoff, tour guide extraordinaire, will go the **EXTRA MILE** for you! (907) 581-6171 www.unalaskadutchharbortour.com