



Located southwest of Anchorage, Bristol Bay and the Alaska Peninsula offer an unprecedented array of recreation opportunities, both summer and winter. You can hike where NASA sent the astronauts for moon environment training. You can raft for days in wild solitude. You can follow the endless routes fur trappers used two hundred years ago or explore where no human has gone before.

The Bristol Bay region and the Alaska Peninsula offer some of the greatest varieties of plant life and wildlife viewing anywhere on earth, all within reach of even the most modest of adventurers.

King Salmon and Iliamna are the transportation hubs for this region and are served by several regularly scheduled airlines. Upon your arrival, experienced and capable bush pilots are here to take you

## Welcome to Bristol Bay & the Alaska Peninsula

to tour bush villages and fishing towns of Southwestern Alaska or to quickly shuttle you to wilderness so vast it is measured in square miles.

Walking and driving tours of the area villages will show you what life is like for the people who call this area home today and for the last several hundred years. You can see the resourcefulness of the people who have developed and maintained their own power, telephone, cable television and cellular phone systems, equal to those anywhere in the country. You will visit a people who live with fox, caribou and grizzly bears in their back-



yards. It is an area where as many as 150 species of birds can be observed, where whales swim near the shoreline, and where, during peak summer runs, it seems there are enough fish that you could cross the river on their backs.

Welcome to our home. We are proud to share with you the wonder and uniqueness that is Bristol Bay and the Alaska Peninsula. It is truly a one of a kind experience for those with the spirit to explore a piece of history that lives on every day in this remote area of Alaska.

—Dave Lax

## Land Mammals

Think of your favorite photo of an Alaska Brown (grizzly) Bear and most likely it was taken at Katmai National Park or McNeil River State Game Sanctuary. This region is world famous for unsurpassed bear viewing and photographic opportunities. Even the novice photographer can take home snapshots that will astound friends and neighbors. Approximately 10,000 bears populate the region, making them more numerous than people. These famous bruins may be encountered anywhere in the Bristol Bay area. Many outfitters offer excursions to areas where you can see bears in a true wilderness setting. McNeil River limits the number of visitors per day. Katmai does not limit visitation, but lodging, camp sites and transportation may be difficult to obtain during periods of peak bear viewing. Because of the popularity of Brooks Camp in Katmai National Park and the



Mark Emory

McNeil River area, be sure to plan ahead.

While bears may be the most famous residents of the area, they are not the only mammals that are found passing through Bristol Bay

## Watchable Wildlife



Steve Mark



Mark Emory

and the Alaska Peninsula. Both the Mulchatna and Peninsula Caribou herds can be found passing through the region. The Mulchatna herd is estimated at nearly 200,000 animals. Seeing these animals in large congregations during calving season is an experience that you won't forget. The majestic moose may be found in many tundra ponds and wetlands. Red fox, beaver, porcupine, river otters, arctic hares and wolves are also common in the region. Keep your camera at the ready.

## Birds

Birding in Bristol Bay offers the adventurer five different ecosystems: marine, river, tundra, boreal forest, and lake. Spring and fall migrations include numerous shore birds such as plovers, sandpipers, godwits, and redknobs, just to name a few. The spring swan migration is truly spectacular as thousands of these majestic waterfowl move through the area. While walking through the boreal forest you might hear the chatter of the Boreal Chickadee, the chime of the Varied Thrush or the song of the Lincoln Sparrow.

Interested birders could spend several days seeking out any of the 157 species of birds that nest here or pass through to nest farther north.

—Bob Blush

## Marine Mammals

Mention marine mammals in Bristol Bay and the first one that comes to mind is the beluga whale. Belugas are a relatively small, beautiful white whale. An adult beluga is ten to fifteen feet



Richard Russell





## Common Sense in Bear Country

In most cases, bears are not a threat, but they do deserve your respect and attention. When traveling in bear country, keep alert and enjoy the opportunity to see these magnificent animals in their natural habitat.

- Avoid surprising bears; look for signs of bears and make plenty of noise.
- Avoid crowding bears; respect their personal space.
- Avoid attracting bears through improper handling of food or garbage.
- Plan ahead, stay calm, identify yourself, don't run.

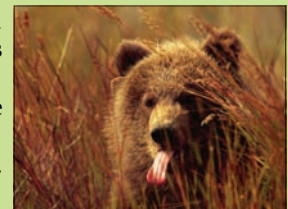
pounds. As many as 3,000 beluga live in the waters of Bristol Bay. The best time to view these magnificent creatures is late April through the month of May. Belugas may also be found in the rivers in the late summer and fall when the silver salmon are running (August and September). They normally swim into the rivers on the incoming tides and leave the rivers on the tide ebbs.

Other marine mammals such as sea otters, sea lions, harbor seals, orcas (killer whales) and migrating gray whales may also be seen inhabiting the shoreline and offshore waters. Iliamna Lake supports one of only two colonies of freshwater seals in the world.

—Tim Cook

## Responsible Wildlife Viewing Guidelines

- Observe animals from a distance, watching for changes in their behavior that indicate distress.
- Avoid sudden movements or surprise encounters at close range.
- Use binoculars for closer observation and long-range telephoto lenses for close-up photographs.
- Never chase or disturb animals to “create an action shot” for your camera.
- Respect nests, dens, rookeries and haul outs. Alarm cries and displays are an animal's warning for you to keep your distance.
- Avoid coming between or disturbing female animals and their young.
- Don't handle or adopt “orphan” animals, parents are usually nearby.
- Don't feed wild animals. Feeding wild animals is against Alaska State law.
- Carry out all trash. Wildlife can be endangered by discarded plastic or other garbage.
- Pets can make it difficult to view wildlife. It's best not to bring them.
- Be considerate of other viewers.
- Use existing roads and trails. Minimize your impact on wildlife habitat.
- Report wildlife or environmental abuse.

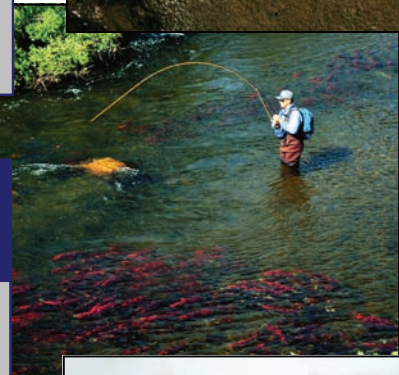


# Wildlife Viewing

Mammals	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Beluga Whales			◆	■	■	■	◆	◆	●	●	●	●
Grey Whales				◆	■	◆						●
Harbor Seals					■	■	■	■	●	●	●	●
Walrus (Round Island)				●	◆	■	■	■	◆			
Brown Bear				●	◆	■	■	■	■	◆	●	
Caribou	◆	◆	◆	◆	●	●	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Moose	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	●	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
River Otter			●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Beaver			◆	■	■	■	■	■	■	◆	●	
Wolf	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Wolverine	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Lynx	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★

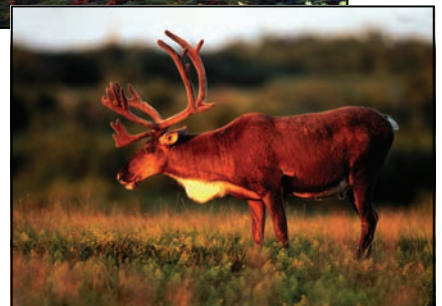


Mark Emery



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Sport Fish Fresh Water Run Timing	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
King Salmon				●	●	■	■	■				
Sockeye Salmon					●	■	■	●				
Coho Salmon							●	■	■	●	●	
Pink Salmon							●	◆	●			
Chum Salmon						●	◆	●				
Dolly Varden	●	●	●	●	●	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	●	●
Steelhead Trout	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆			●	◆	◆	●	●
Rainbow Trout	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	◆	◆	●	●	
Lake Trout	●	●	●	●	◆	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Northern Pike	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Burbot	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Grayling	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	◆	◆	●	●
Whitefish	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	◆	◆	●
Smelt	●	●										●



Mark Emery

- Most Likely Sightings
- ◆ Likely Sightings
- Occasional Sightings
- ★ Rare Sightings



## January, February & March

Winter is the time of the hardy. Willow Ptarmigan, Common Redpolls, Pine Grosbeaks, Boreal Chickadees, Old Squaws and Hawk Owls can be seen during the winter months in Bristol Bay.

## April

Tundra Swans, Greater White-fronted Geese and Eurasian Widgeons show up on open water along with many other species.

## May

Warmer weather brings more species including Golden Plover, Hudsonian Godwit, Marbled Godwit, Parasitic Jaeger and Black-Poll Warbler in beautiful

spring plumage.

## June & July

Nesting and rearing of young takes place. Commonly observed nesting behavior is evident in Aleutian Tern, Lapland Longspur, Long-tailed Jaeger and Glaucous-winged Gulls.

# Bird Watching

## August

Shorebirds become



## October

Waterfowl in fall migration. Watch for Tundra Swans on the river and geese flying over.

## November & December

Offshore migrants and fall storms make interesting, but opportunistic bird watching along the beaches.

About 150 bird species are seen around the region. The diversity: tundra, forests, rivers, bays, creeks, lakes, ponds, beaches, and the influx of Asian species make it a great place to bird watch through the year.

— Rod Cyr

abundant on the beaches; Whimbrel, Western



Sandpiper, Dunlin, Ruddy Turnstone, Marbled Godwit and Short-billed Dowitcher follow the tides out.



Steve Mark



Mark Emery

## One Fisherman's Tale

It was a perfect evening for fishing on the Naknek River. I heard an eagle call. A few alder leaves floated by catching in the back eddy behind a rock; they bobbed in the foam for a few seconds before swiftly spinning down the river. In the distance the faint click of caribou hooves on stone muffled through the evening air; and a flock of teal banked, peeling around the corner, wings slicing toward the south. I saw my line suddenly stop, and slowly I raised the rod tip.

The quiet moment was shattered as the water exploded in ringlets bent around a bright silver and red body. Eight pounds of rainbow trout, air-



Mark Emery

# ... Angler's Paradise

borne for an instant, deep crimson in the autumn light, turned and dove into the swift current for the dark rocks in the rapids. My reel spun out of control spraying drops of water across my face, the line rapidly disappearing into the green glacial current.



Jim Young

We struggled in the darkening canyon. The moon, rising across the river hinted at the oncoming night. Finally, after a long battle of give and take, I was seventy yards down river holding the writhing trout in a deep back eddy and watching it recover to swim strongly into the current. It hovered like a hawk for a few seconds before gliding silently away to its refuge among the moss and gravel. Such are autumn evenings on the Naknek River.

--Trevor Townsend

## Charter Fishing

If you are interested in large and abundant fish, this region is the place you want to be. The Naknek, Kvichak, and the

Alagnak are all world famous river destinations. Sport fishers travel from all over the world to seek trophy rainbow, salmon, dolly varden, grayling and other species. They're all here, those famous rivers, and many more. Have you ever heard of American Creek or the King Salmon River? They may not have the reputation the bigger rivers do, but they hold big fish and they are as close as a short boat or floatplane ride from King Salmon or Iliamna.

Here's the secret to catching your trophy. Hire a guide. The fish are here by the millions and you can catch them until your arm hurts. A guide is the best way to know how, where, and when to fish for whatever species your might be interested in. Can you fish without a guide? You sure can, but try to tap the local knowledge before heading out.



Mark Emery





Mark Emery

## Gear

Many people come to the Bristol Bay region ready to fish for something about half the size of what actually lives here. You'll want a good stiff rod and at least a 30 pound line for rainbows and salmon. Fly-fishers need to plan on using a 7 weight rod and a fast sinking line. If you want to fish for Kings, go at least one step heavier. Don't underestimate the size and power of a fish in a strong current. Every year guides tell stories of fishermen who watched their trophy fish tear off line, heading downstream, never to be seen again.

## Flies

Flies need to be large, heavy, and dark. Woolly Buggers in green, purple and black are favorites around here. Supplement those with egg patterns and you'll be pretty well-covered.

## Lures

Lures are successful if they are large and run deep. We have seen active lures similar to flatfish bring in some monster salmon. Spoons in multiple colors, bright and dark, also bring in a lot of big fish.

## Catch and Release

By following a few simple rules you can be certain that released fish will live to be caught again.

- Time is of the essence. Play and release fish as rapidly as possible. A fish played gently for too long may be too exhausted to recover.
- Keep the fish in the water. A fish out of water is suffocating. In addition, even a few inches of water under a thrashing fish acts as a protective cushion.
- Gentleness in handling is essential. Keep your fingers out of the gills. Do not squeeze small fish – they can be lifted and held easily by holding the lower lip. Always try to use wet hands when handling fish.
- Unhooking: Remove the hook as rapidly as possible using long-nosed pliers **UNLESS THE FISH IS DEEPLY HOOKED**. If deeply hooked, cut the leader and leave the hook in. Do not tear out hooks roughly. Be gentle and quick.
- Reviving: Some fish, especially after a long struggle, may lose consciousness and float belly-up. Hold the fish in the water upright. Move the fish forward and backwards so that water runs through the gills. This is artificial respiration and may take a few minutes. When it revives, begins to struggle and can swim normally, release it to survive and challenge another fisherman. You have done your job well.

## Angling Information

Alaska's fishery resources are closely managed by both state and federal agencies. Sport fishing regulations vary according to area, species and season. For complete information and regulations on sport fishing in the Bristol Bay area contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game at (907) 246-3340 or online at [www.adfg.state.ak.us](http://www.adfg.state.ak.us).

## Licenses & Fees

A sport fishing license is required for all persons 16 years of age or older and must be in possession while sport fishing. Licenses are available from most stores and lodges in the area and can also be purchased online at [www.adfg.state.ak.us](http://www.adfg.state.ak.us).

## Non-resident sport fishing license fee:

1 day	.....\$ 10
3 day	.....\$ 20
7 day	.....\$ 30
14 day	.....\$ 50
Annual	.....\$100

## Non-resident King Salmon Stamp

1 day	.....\$ 10
3 day	.....\$ 20
7 day	.....\$ 30
14 day	.....\$ 50
Annual	.....\$100



Mark Emery

## Hiking

To the adventurer, mystery is a large empty place on a map. The Alaska Peninsula is so vast and sparsely populated that river drainages and mountain peaks are often unnamed. To some this is an invitation to come. But traveler beware; maps can be deceiving. Foot travel in Alaska is fraught with hidden hazards; few trails exist for getting around. At a distance the tundra looks easily traveled, but crossing the spongy surface can be an ankle breaker. Drainages are often choked with impenetrable alders. Still those empty places sing their siren song. To those that can't resist the call, careful planning can make your trip a great experience.

For the inexperienced tundra trekker, consider hiring an air taxi to take you to any of the thousands of small lakes in the region and establish a base camp for day hikes. It is difficult to capture in words the ex-



National Park Service

# Outdoor Adventure



Mark Emery



Mark Emery

hilaration of touching down on the surface of a nameless lake, unloading your gear, and then watching the float plane disappear into the distance. You realize that you are alone in a wilderness untouched by the ages. You can take the time to learn the tundra, follow game trails, and experience the variations of weather without needing to click off miles that looked easily achievable on a map.

## Flightseeing

The only way to get a sense of the incredible size of the Great Land is to see it by air. Flight seeing can take you across tundra, through mountain passes, and over volcanoes to remote spots with scenery that leaves you breathless. You can hike

for days and never see a moose or a caribou but one flight seeing trip can show you wildlife in numbers that are difficult to count. Flight seeing can be expensive, just the cost of aviation

fuel can be a hefty chunk of change. Still, there is nothing closer to the mythical magic carpet in Alaska than a small aircraft on a flight seeing trip. Visit a steaming volcano, a wild river choked with salmon, the Bering Sea coast, mountain peaks so closely packed they are defined as a frenzy...go flight seeing.

## Rafting & Kayaking

The pace of nature in Alaska is



thing tries to take advantage of the long days. On the other hand, nature works its magic at times so slowly we hardly notice. There is a way you can appreciate the speed and the slowness all on the same trip. Just get in a raft or kayak and travel at river speed. In the slow spots you can fish, take pictures, and just watch the scenery go by. When the current picks up, get ready for whitewater adventure! Among the numerous lakes and rivers that are great for rafting or kayaking, the region boasts five nationally designated Wild & Scenic Rivers:

## Alagnak Wild River

Visitors to the Alagnak Wild River experience a wilderness of captivating landscapes, abundant wildlife, and cultural heritage. Meandering down the braided river, you may discover a proud bald eagle perched atop a spruce tree in the boreal forest, gaze at a moose browsing above the river bank in the wet sedge tundra, or perhaps encounter a brown bear feasting on spawning salmon—a critical link to the Alagnak River ecosystem.



Ty Mase

## Aniakchak River

Lying entirely within the Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve, you can float the river from inside the caldera of a volcano to the ocean past spectacular wildlife and geology. The river moves swiftly through a narrow gorge, and large

rocks demand precise maneuvering. Only the most experienced rafters contemplate this float trip that takes three



Amanda Austin

to four days to complete.

## Chilikadrotna River

The “Chili” River originates at scenic Twin Lakes and flows through Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. The river features long stretches of swift water, outstanding fishing, and magnificent mountain vistas.

## Mulchatna River

The Mulchatna River, originating in Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, flows through astonishingly scenic tundra. Its headwaters are Turquoise Lake, and it is flanked by the glacier-clad Chigmit Mountains to the east. The Mulchatna Caribou Herd frequents the area.

## Tlikakila River

Originating at the foot of glaciers in a mountain pass, the Tlikakila is a braided glacial river located entirely within the Lake Clark National Park. It flows through 10,000-foot high rock and scow-capped mountains and perpendicular cliffs to empty into Lake Clark.

## Skiing

Skiing is one of those off-season

activities that are little known outside of the area. The region offers some of the best wilderness cross country skiing to be found anywhere. Winter is the time of year to see our wildlife in its winter coat. Fox, Lynx, and Ptarmigan can be seen on a winter trek. Wolves and wolverine await to be spied by the most fortunate adventurers. Take a trip into the wild silence!

## Beach combing

What could be more pleasant than walking the breezy beaches of Bristol Bay, searching for special treasures that are waiting along the shores of the Bering Sea? Treasures such as a sunny beach flower, a bottle from a foreign ship, or ancient evidence of the



Richard Russell

passage of the mighty mammoth can all be found here.

A more common treasure is a Japanese glass float. These buoyant gems escape from fishing nets, travel the world's oceans and frequently end up on the beaches of Bristol Bay. Beach combing can be done any time, but many prefer periods of low tides when it is possible to land small aircraft on the sandy beaches. A shuttle from an air taxi allows you to explore beaches away from beach walkers near villages. Check with the listed air taxi operators for recommendations on places to explore and timing your trip with the tides.

## Lake Clark National Park & Preserve

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve is a composite of ecosystems representative of many regions of Alaska. The spectacular scenery stretches from the shores of Cook Inlet, across the Chigmit Mountains, to the tundra covered hills of the western interior. The Chigmits, where the Alaska and Aleutian Ranges meet, are an awesome, jagged array of mountains and glaciers which include two active volca-



National Park Service

noes, Mt. Redoubt and Mt. Iliamna. Lake Clark, 40 miles long, and many other lakes and rivers within the park are critical salmon habitat to the Bristol Bay salmon fishery, one of the largest sockeye salmon fishing grounds in the world. Numerous lake and river systems in the park and preserve offer excellent fishing and wildlife viewing.

Wilderness travel, backpacking, cross-country hiking, rafting/kayaking, wildlife viewing, hunting and fishing are the primary activities in Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. Webster defines wilderness as "an empty or pathless area or region." Most of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve qualifies under that definition of wilderness. There are no "improvements" for hiking or camp-

## Public Lands

ing. All camping is primitive, no facilities or designated campsites exist. Use Leave No Trace guidelines to minimize your impacts. Backcountry permits for camping and hiking are not required, however there are rules and regulations governing one's behavior in all national park areas. Become familiar with them. Resist the urge to take, shape or alter the wilderness around you. For more information on Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, visit its web site at [www.nps.gov/lacp](http://www.nps.gov/lacp).

## Katmai National Park & Preserve

Katmai National Park and Preserve is famous for volcanoes, brown bears, fish, and rugged wilderness. It is also the site of the Brooks River National Historic Landmark with



Mark Emery

North America's highest concentration of prehistoric human dwellings.

Katmai National Monument was created to preserve the famed Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes, a spectacu-

lar forty square mile, 100 to 700 foot deep, pyroclastic ash flow deposited by the 1912 eruption of the Novarupta Volcano. There are at least fourteen volcanoes in the park considered active, none of which are cur-



Mark Emery

rently erupting.

Brown bear and salmon are two of Katmai's best known attractions. The number of brown bears has grown to more than 2,000. During the peak of the world's largest sockeye salmon run each July, and during return of the "spawned out" salmon in September, forty to sixty bears congregate in Brooks Camp along the Brooks River and the Naknek Lake and Brooks Lake shorelines. Brown bears along the 480 mile Katmai Coast also enjoy clams, crabs, and an occasional whale carcass. A rich variety of other wildlife is found in the Park as well.

For more information on Katmai National Park and Preserve, visit its web site at [www.nps.gov/katm](http://www.nps.gov/katm).





## Becharof National Wildlife Refuge

Becharof National Wildlife Refuge lies between Katmai National Park and Preserve and Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge. The Refuge's approximately 1,157,000 acres are made up of rolling tundra, towering mountain peaks and wave-battered coastline. The refuge is dominated by Becharof Lake, the second largest lake in Alaska. The lake covers one-fourth of the refuge and is surrounded by low



rolling hills, tundra wetlands, and volcanic peaks.

Becharof provides important habitat for many fish and wildlife species. The population includes brown bear, moose, caribou, wolf, wolverine, fox,

river otter, and beaver; five species of Pacific salmon, Arctic grayling, dolly varden/char, rainbow and lake trout, northern pike, and burbot. Birds commonly seen include bald eagles, owls, falcons, ravens, ducks, geese, swans, seabirds, shorebirds, and passerines. Sea lions, harbor seals, sea otters, and migratory whales use shores and off-shore waters.

The refuge offers a variety of recreational opportunities including sport fishing and hunting, flightseeing, observing and photographing wildlife, hiking, backpacking, boating and camping. Refuge lands are remote and accessible only by small aircraft, boat or rugged cross country hiking. There are no roads or maintained trails. For more information on Becharof National Wildlife Refuge, visit its web site at <http://becharof.fws.gov>.

## Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge

The Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge is a land of spectacular beauty with rolling tundra, towering mountain peaks and wave-battered coastline. It's boundaries encompass approximately 2,648,100 acres of impressive land stretching for almost 340 miles along the Alaska Peninsula climbing from sea level to the summit of Mt. Veniaminof at 8,225 feet. The refuge is managed to conserve the fish and wildlife population and their habitats with special emphasis on brown bears, caribou, marine mammals, migratory birds, raptors and salmon.

The Alaska Peninsula Refuge contains many unique geologic and scenic

features. Indeed, the Alaska Peninsula Refuge is the most scenically diverse of the Bristol Bay Refuges: the interplay of volcanic activity with shoreline erosion and glacial scour has created outstanding scenery. The Joint Fed-



Richard Russell

eral-State Land Use Planning Commission listed Chiginagak and Veniaminof volcanoes, Castle Cape, and the Pacific Coast as one of the outstanding scenic complexes of Alaska. The Ugashik and Chignik Units of the Alaska Peninsula Refuge also provide pristine habitat to many significant fish and wildlife resources, and offer many subsistence and recreational opportunities. For more information on Becharof National Wildlife Refuge, visit its web site at <http://alaskapeninsula.fws.gov>.



US Fish &amp; Wildlife Service



## McNeil River State Game Sanctuary

Visiting the McNeil River State Game Sanctuary is a unique wildlife experience. Nowhere else in the world can you see up to 100 wild brown bears come and go throughout the day and have the possibility of photographing a group of 40 or more bears at one time! Brown bears congregate at McNeil River during summer because the river and nearby creeks have an abundant supply of spawning salmon. The sanctuary protects about 200 square miles of wildlife habitat and is located approximately 250 air miles southwest of Anchorage, 90 miles northeast of King Salmon and 50 miles southeast of Iliamna. In addition to brown bears and salmon, red fox, arctic ground squirrels, harbor seals and bald eagles are commonly observed. Other wildlife that may be observed in the sanctuary includes moose, caribou, wolves, wolverine, various furbearers, waterfowl, sea ducks and sea birds. McNeil River and nearby Mikfik Creek drain into Kamishak Bay in the shadow of Augustine Island, an active volcano. This is a roadless area with no modern amenities and it is virtually undisturbed by human development.

A permit program administered by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game manages visitor numbers and activities in the sanctuary. The permit program was developed after many

years of excessive and uncontrolled public use of the area that often put people and bears in danger. The goal of the permit program is to provide the public with an opportunity to view and photograph bears while minimizing their impacts to bears and wildlife habitats. The program limits the number of people who may be present at McNeil River Falls (or the other viewing locations) to no more than 10 between June 7 and August 25. For more information on McNeil River State Game Sanctuary, visit its website at [www.wildlife.alaska.gov](http://www.wildlife.alaska.gov).

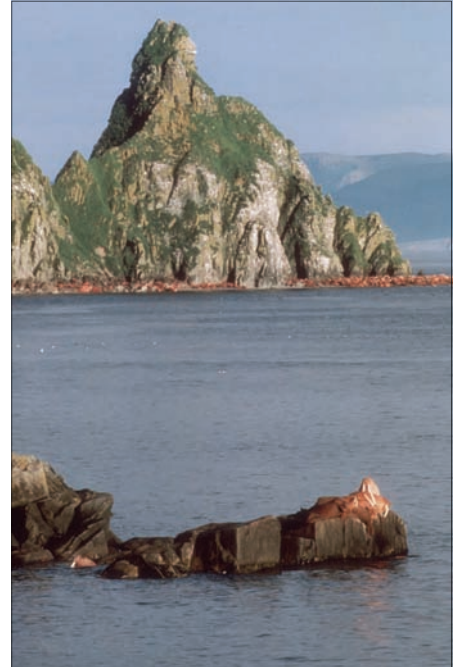
## Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary

Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary is world famous for its unique concentrations of walrus. Best known among the Walrus Islands is Round Island, where each summer large numbers of male walruses haul out on exposed, rocky beaches. Round Island is one of four major terrestrial haulouts in Alaska; Walrus return to these haulouts every spring as the ice pack recedes northward, remaining hauled out on the beach for several days between each feeding foray. Up to 14,000 walrus have been counted on Round Island in a single day. However, the number of walrus using the island fluctuates significantly from year to year.



Boat access to Round Robert Angell

Island and state waters within 3 miles of Round Island is allowed only by permit and when Sanctuary staff are present, usually between May 1 and August 15. Flying low over the island can cause walrus and seabird disturbance and is prohibited under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Each



John Hyde

summer visitors log hundreds of visitor days on Round Island, and twelve camping and five day-use permits can be issued at a time. Because driving rain, winds, and rough seas are common, visits are extremely weather dependent and visitors should come prepared with adequate raingear, footwear, food, and equipment. Access to other islands in the Sanctuary does not require a permit. A visit to Black Rock to view harbor seals and cormorants is a high point for many visitors. For more information about Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary, visit its web site at [www.wildlife.alaska.gov](http://www.wildlife.alaska.gov).



Residents of the region gather many plants both to eat and for medicinal purposes. Berry picking is a family and social activity. Often times families will spend hours a day together out picking berries at the best local patches. During the summer months, residents must be aware of wandering bears who may be hungry a sweet treat themselves. Despite the modern goods available in the villages, berry picking remains one of the preferred methods for residents to subsist. Listed below are some of the plants and berries most commonly gathered.

## Beach Pea

Beach peas (*Lathyrus* is its scientific name), grow where there is plenty of sand and gravel beaches. They usually have a pinkish-red to purple "pea" blossom with wings and a smooth pod. These are often labeled as poisonous, but if eaten in moderation like any other food they are safe and healthy. Called **jinkuthudak** by the Yupik, they are often eaten stir-fried, boiled and seasoned, or raw. The beach pea also has medicinal uses.

## Cloudberry / Salmonberry

The cloudberry is also called salmonberry in certain parts of Alaska, or **atchslupiat** in Yupik. It is a small woody shrub, which bears a fruit that looks like a cloud of salmon eggs. They are usually harvested when they have turned to a dark orange color and are soft. These berries

# Native Plants

are usually used in agutak or turned into jams and syrups. There are not many medicinal uses for this berry, but seedless cloudberry juice can be drank to cure a case of hives.

## Highbush Cranberry

In Yupik highbush cranberries are called **gitethbuq**. These plants look similar to Alder trees with small red berries on them. Many people collect them in late fall before the first few frosts. These berries can be used for many purposes. Jams, jellies, sauce, and catsups are a few of the uses for highbush cranberries. Highbush cranberries also have a few medicinal uses - the bark decoctions are used to help heal wounds and prevent infections, and can be boiled and then sipped to help suppress menstrual cramps.

## Lowbush Cranberry

Cranberries are a local favorite for making breads, fish agutak, and syrups. They grow everywhere in the region. The berries are usually ripen near the end of summer and early fall. Since they grow so abundantly they are easy to pick and even easier to clean. Cranberries are used for sore throats and to aid digestion. Cranberries can also be used as dyes for clothes, grass for basket weaving, and

to moisturize your skin. Back before make-up was available women in the village would use cranberries as a blush for their cheeks.

## Fireweed

Fireweed grows all over the village. The spring shoots of a fireweed are high in vitamins A and C. Shoots may be boiled or steamed just as one would with vegetables. The pinkish-purple petals can be used to make jelly or fireweed honey. The plant also has several medicinal uses. When feeling ill the leaves may settle an upset stomach or to stimulate the bowels to relieve constipation.

## Labrador Tea

**Aute** is Yupik for Labrador tea, which is characterized by its unique smell and the great tasting tea it steepes. Labrador tea is usually harvested in the summer when the leaves are green, but can also be picked and used in the winter. Tea is extracted from the plant by pouring boiling water over the plants leaves. Spices may be added to the tea in an effort to achieve different flavors, or add a modicum of sugar may be added to sweeten the brew. There are many medicinal uses for Labrador Tea; some include soothing an upset stomach, relieving food poisoning symptoms, and easing arthritis.

—*Igiugig Village Council*



Beach Pea



Salmonberry



Highbush Cranberry



Lowbush Cranberry



Fireweed



Labrador Tea

# Commercial

## Fishing

specializes in commercial fishing information. The best time to see this very exciting

An excerpt from a commercial fisherman's diary:

— 8:00 am July 12, 1984 — We made our opening set the same place as last time, just outside the lower end of the cutbank. It was more crowded than the last time but Mike made a good set. The net just smoked. We did manage to mess up our last 25 fathoms. When we pulled it, it was in a big ball and sunk. We ended up cutting the fish out and then stripped that 25 fathoms. We caught, cleared and delivered 9,818 pounds in 5 hours. One set. We went upriver from Graveyard and threw the anchor for a couple hours. Now we are drifting down off salmon flats. Not much happening anywhere so we're going to let soak for a while. I'm going to stretch out and close my eyes for a bit. —

"We pulla da net to makea da mon to buy a bread to getta strength to pulla da net——"

Fish and Ships

One of the more exciting summer activities in all of Bristol Bay, and possibly the whole state of Alaska, is commercial fishing for sockeye salmon. Bristol Bay is known as 'the sockeye salmon capital of the world'. The six rivers (Naknek, Kvichak, Nushagak, Togiak, Ugashik and Egegik) that make up the commercial fisheries here in southwest Alaska produce more sockeye salmon, known as 'red' salmon, than any other place in the world. It is a multifaceted industry with each aspect being totally awesome in itself.

The aspect of highest priority is that of 'escapement', which is a predetermined number of salmon that management allows to 'escape' the commercial fisheries. These are

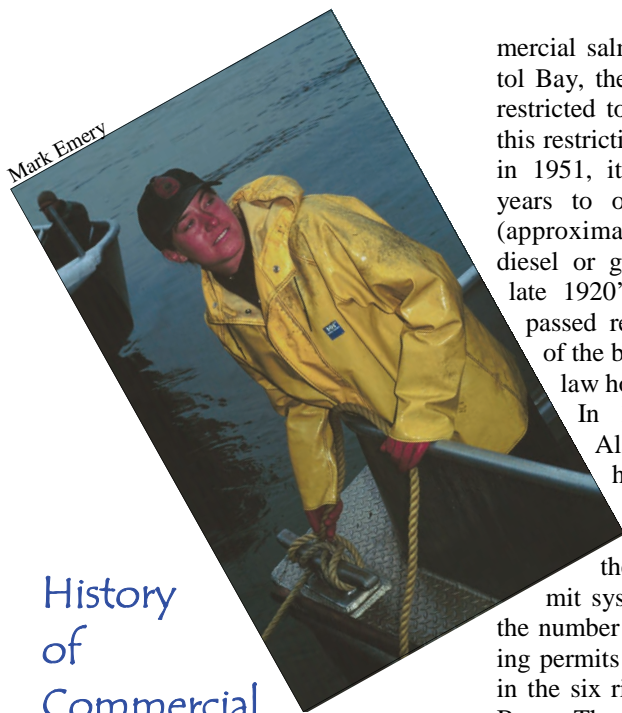
the salmon that reproduce to insure the future of our great resource. In 1998 over 6,000,000 sockeye salmon escaped up the six rivers that flow into Bristol Bay to reproduce. There are over 1,800 boats and over 1,000 set nets that take part in this truly spectacular industry. The salmon are processed, for the most part, by on-shore based factories called canneries, where they can, as well as freeze, the salmon.

There are 14 major processors here in the area with 8 of them located in the entrance of the Naknek River. There are several reputable air taxi companies, both fixed wing and helicopter, offering tours over the commercial fishing grounds. There is also a land (bus) tour that offers a tour that





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## History of Commercial Salmon Fishing in Bristol Bay, Alaska

The act of commercially canning salmon on the west coast got its start in the small town of Washington, California in 1864. That first year the firm Hapgood, Hume & Co. canned 2,000 cases of sockeye salmon. As time went by, the tentacles of commercial salmon fishing stretched with alarming speed ever northward. By the late 1890's there were companies that had ventured as far north as Prince William Sound and the Kodiak Island area of Alaska.

Just prior to the turn of the century, news of "red gold" reached the commercial fishing community. It was said that the six rivers (the Naknek, Kvichak, Nushagak, Egegik, Togiak and Ugashik) in Bristol Bay had more sockeye (red) salmon than any other river system in the world.

During the first 50 years of com-

mercial salmon fishing in Bristol Bay, the fishing boats were restricted to sail power. When this restriction was finally lifted in 1951, it took only 7 short years to outfit all the boats (approximately 1,500) with diesel or gas engines. In the late 1920's another law was passed restricting the length of the boats to 32 feet. This law holds true even today.

In 1974, the state of Alaska enacted perhaps the most significant restriction to date; that being, the limited entry permit system, which restricts the number of commercial fishing permits allowed to harvest salmon in the six river system here in Bristol Bay. There have been years in the recent past where the total run of sockeye salmon in Bristol Bay has exceeded 60 million fish. A very effective management allows over a quarter of the total run to escape up the rivers to ensure a very colorful and lucrative future. All this action happens in



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about 4 weeks (usually the 3rd week in June through the 3rd week in July) creating the 'fastest paced commercial salmon season' in the world. Commercial fishing is definitely the mainstay of our economy and a big reason why we boast of being the "sockeye salmon capital of the world".

-- Tim Cook



Mark Emery

## Plan Ahead

To make the most of your visit to Southwest Alaska, keep two things in mind; plan ahead and stay flexible. Make advance reservations for transportation, lodging, and tours whenever possible. However, be prepared to make changes depending on weather, tides, and flying and boating conditions. You'll soon find that a trip to Bristol Bay means adjusting to the rhythms of nature.

## Tips for Travelers

those experienced boat operators, rental boats are available.

*By road* — The Alaska Peninsula Highway, a 14-mile paved road connects the villages of King Salmon and Naknek. A maintained gravel road connects King Salmon with Naknek

to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The King Salmon Visitor Center is an inter-agency project with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Bristol Bay

Borough and Lake & Peninsula Borough. The Visitor Center serves as a distribution center for information about the Bristol Bay area and is a good source for specific information when you are planning a trip to Southwest Alaska.

## Getting to Bristol Bay

The only way to reach the region is by air. Numerous commercial air carriers service Iliamna and King Salmon from Anchorage, a 1 to 1½ hour flight. Schedules vary by season, ranging from 2 to 8 flights daily. See the airline listing for reservation numbers.

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## Getting Around

*By air* — Small aircraft have replaced the automobile as the major mode of transportation to many bush communities. Scheduled flights from King Salmon travel to Dillingham, Egegik, Pilot Point, Levelock and other villages. Air taxis whisk visitors to remote locations for backcountry adventures or scenic flight seeing excursions.

*By boat* — Tour boats routinely carry visitors across Naknek Lake, one of the largest freshwater lakes in Alaska, to the Brooks Camp area of Katmai National Park. Charter boats are also available for sight-seeing, fishing or hunting excursions. For

Lake and several points along the Naknek River. Taxi services are available and are often on-hand to meet most commercial flights. Rental vehicles are available in both King Salmon and Naknek.

## Visitor Information

A good place to begin your visit to the Alaska Peninsula is the King Salmon Visitor Center. The Center is conveniently located at the King Salmon Airport near the Pen Air & Alaska Airlines terminal. During the summer season it is open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Fall, winter and spring operating hours are 9:00 a.m.

## What to Wear & Bring

The only dress code in Bristol Bay is comfort. A functional article of clothing is more highly prized than the latest fashions. The easiest way to adapt to the frequently changing weather is to dress in layers. Start with a light layer, add a sweater or sweatshirt and top it off with a weatherproof jacket.

It is easier to take off a layer, than to put on what you don't have. Don't forget to pack your rain gear and waterproof footwear. During the winter months add a down or fiberfill jacket, and other cold weather gear.

If you are planning to tour by floatplane or boat, hip boots or knee boots are good accessories. Some operators offer loaner boots, but be certain to ask ahead. The local sporting goods stores can offer advice on equipment and gear for your trip. Be sure to bring your camera, binoculars or spotting scopes. Film can be purchased locally. Bug nets and insect repellent are often required for enjoyment of the inland areas; these items can also be purchased locally.





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## Be Prepared

Planning for your Bristol Bay adventure should always include an ongoing awareness of weather, terrain, vegetation, wildlife and emergency preparedness.

The only certainty about the weather in Bristol Bay is that it changes frequently. The latest weather predictions for the area can be obtained from the National Weather Service Weather Line: **1-800-472-0391** enter 2-1-1 at the recording or, to follow the menu options, press 2 for Southwest Alaska, then 1 for Bristol Bay, then 1 for King Salmon, Naknek & Dillingham.

Topographic maps and nautical charts are available at the King Salmon Visitor Center or local sporting goods stores. For hiking trips, compasses are recommended for orientation in dense vegetation. Even an experienced hiker can become disoriented when traversing alder thickets.

Several local plants can cause skin irritation, rashes, and even chemical-like burns. Wild celery, also known as poochki, and devil's club are two plants that all campers and backcountry trekkers should avoid.

Plan your routes carefully. Don't

be fooled into believing that what appears to be flat tundra is easily traversed. Thick, spongy tundra vegetation hides the unevenness of the terrain and can make walking difficult. Always give yourself extra time to reach your destination.

Observe wildlife viewing guidelines and bear country precautions listed on page 3.

Careful planning, the right gear, and common sense will ensure a safe and enjoyable outdoor adventure.

## Emergency Preparedness

Wherever your plans may take you, be prepared for the unexpected. Take extra supplies and provisions in case weather delays your plans.

Clothing may be your most vital piece of emergency equipment. In addition to dressing in layers, wear waterproof boots for boat and air charter landings. Take precautions to prevent hypothermia in the backcountry; drink plenty of water, bring along convenient trail snacks, keep as dry as possible, and bring along a lightweight solar blanket in case of emergency.

## Suggested Reading

- **The Alaska Almanac: Facts About Alaska, Alaska Northwest Books**
- **Katmai National Park & Preserve**, Jean Bodeau
- **Readings from Southwest Alaska**, John Branson
- **Brown Bears of Brooks River**, Ron Squibb & Tamara Olson
- **Guide to the Birds of Alaska**, Robert Armstrong
- **Down By the River**, Sara Donkersloot
- **Reaching Home**, N. Fobes
- **The Silver Years, Alaska Geographic**, Vol. 3, No. 4
- **Wildlife Notebook Series**, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
- **Field Guide to Alaskan Wildflowers**, Vera Pratt
- **Tanaina Plantlore**, P. Kari
- **Alaska's Volcanoes, Alaska Geographic**, Vol. 18, No. 2
- **Becharof and Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuges**, Video
- **Trails Illustrated Map** – Katmai National Park & Preserve

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# Leave No Trace

## Guidelines

### 1. Plan Ahead and Prepare

Know the regulations and special concerns for the area you'll visit. Prepare for extreme weather, hazards, and emergencies. Schedule your trip to avoid times of high use. Visit in small groups. Split larger parties into groups of 4-6. Repackage food to minimize waste. Use a map and compass to eliminate the use of marking paint, rock cairns or flagging.

### 2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

Durable surfaces include established trails and campsites, rock, gravel, dry grasses or snow. Protect riparian areas by camping at least 200 feet from lakes and streams. Good campsites are found, not made. Altering a site is not necessary. In popular areas: Concentrate use on existing trails and campsites. Walk single file in the middle of the trail, even when wet or muddy. Keep campsites small. Focus activity in areas where vegetation is absent. In pristine areas: Disperse use to prevent the creation of campsites and trails. Avoid places where impacts are just beginning.

### 3. Dispose of Waste Properly

Pack it in, pack it out. Inspect your campsite and rest areas for trash or spilled foods. Pack out all trash, left-over food, and litter. Deposit solid human waste in catholes dug 6 to 8 inches deep at least 200 feet from water, camp, and trails. Cover and disguise the cathole when finished. Pack out toilet paper and hygiene products. To wash yourself or your dishes, carry water 200 feet away from streams or lakes and use small amounts of biodegradable soap. Scatter strained dishwater.

### 4. Leave What You Find

Preserve the past: examine, but do not touch, cultural or historic structures and artifacts. Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them. Avoid introducing or transporting non-native species. Do not build structures, furniture, or dig trenches.

### 5. Minimize Campfire Impacts

Campfires can cause lasting impacts to the backcountry. Use a lightweight stove for cooking and enjoy a candle lantern for light. Where fires are permitted, use established fire rings, fire pans, or mound fires. Keep fires small. Only use sticks from the ground that can be broken by hand. Burn all wood

and coals to ash, put out campfires completely, then scatter cool ashes.

### 6. Respect Wildlife

Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow or approach them. Never feed animals. Feeding wildlife damages their health, alters natural behaviors, and exposes them to predators and other dangers. Protect wildlife and your food by storing rations and trash securely. Control pets at all times, or leave them at home. Avoid wildlife during sensitive times: mating, nesting, raising young, or winter.

### 7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors

Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience. Be courteous. Yield to other users on the trail. Step to the downhill side of the trail when encountering pack stock. Take breaks and camp away from trails and other visitors. Let nature's sounds prevail. Avoid loud voices and noises.

To learn more about the nationwide Leave No Trace program call (800) 322-4100 or visit its web site at



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## Naknek (Population 601)

Located on the north shore near the mouth of the Naknek River, the village of Naknek is the seat of the 531 square-mile Bristol Bay Borough. Incorporated in 1962, the Bristol Bay

# At Home In Bristol Bay Borough

Airport Terminal is the King Salmon Visitor Center with its displays and exhibits, including a large relief map of the area, wildlife exhibits and cultural displays. Stop here at the beginning of your trip to pick up brochures and information about the area, to watch one of their many videos, or to pick up books about the area to read on that long flight home.

## South Naknek (Population 88)

Located across the river from Naknek, South Naknek is a more traditional Alaskan community. The native village of Qinuyang was once located here. Many villagers came to South Naknek from the villages of New and Old Savonoski. Old Savonoski was located near the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes and was abandoned after the 1912 eruption of Novarupta in Katmai National Park. Today, commercial fishing and salmon processing are the economic mainstays of South Naknek.

South Naknek is not accessible by road, although for several months during most winters vehicle travel across the frozen Naknek River is possible. Children here are flown daily to attend school in Naknek, riding the nation's only flying school bus.

Borough is the oldest borough in the state. Yup'ik Eskimos and Athabascan Indians first settled this area over 6,000 years ago.

In 1821, the original Eskimo village was recorded as Naugeik. By the time the first census was taken in 1880, the village was called Kinuyak. It was later spelled Naknek by Captain Tebenkov of the Imperial Russian Navy. The Russians built a fort near the village and fur trappers inhabited the area for some time prior to the U.S. purchase of Alaska.

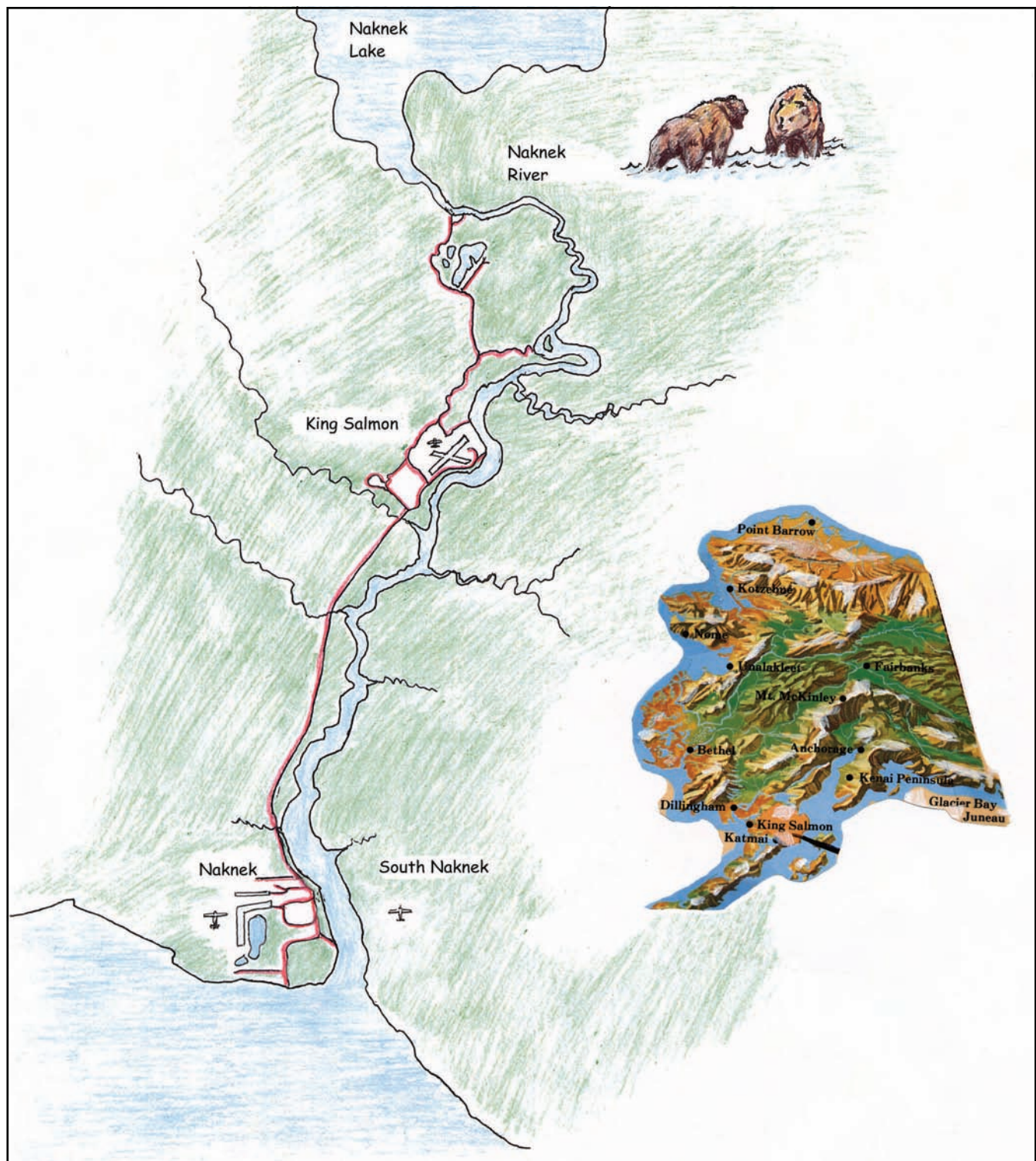
The first salmon cannery opened on the Naknek River in 1890. By 1900, there were approximately 12 canneries in Bristol Bay. One hundred years later, Naknek's economy is still based on salmon fishing and processing. Over the years, Naknek has developed into a major center for the Bristol Bay commercial sockeye salmon fishery. During the summer months, the population swells to about five thousand, most of whom are fishermen and cannery processor workers.

## King Salmon (Population 404)

Your visit to Bristol Bay will likely begin in King Salmon, site of a U.S. Air Force Base during World War II. With its 8,500 foot runway, the King Salmon airport hosts visitors enroute to wilderness and fishing adventures in the area. During the busy summer months the airport will see commercial cargo, passenger and private jets along with military training flights. King Salmon is also the jumping off point for smaller commuter flights to outlying areas, including a float plane base for flights to Katmai National Park, the Alagnak Wild River and Becharof National Wildlife Refuge. A visit to the King Salmon City Dock to watch float plane traffic is well worth the walk.

Next door to the King Salmon







# Bristol Bay Celebrations

## Fishtival

Fishtival is a celebration to cap off the commercial fishing season in Bristol Bay. It is usually held the last week of July. The celebration begins with a parade and a salmon barbecue. Other special events include rubber duck races, dart tournaments, pool tournaments, chili cook off, beer/wine tasting, barbecue, watermelon eating contests, judging of canned goods, pies, cookies and crafts. South Naknek hosts the oyster eating contest and lots more.



Melanie Pergiel

## Winterfest

Winterfest is held the first week in February as a celebration of winter in the northland. Activities during Winterfest include ice fishing, dogsled races, ice skating and cross country skiing. Activities with a local flair include snowmobile poker run, snowshoe races, penguin dip, bazaar, bas-

ketball tournament, live entertainment, dart tournaments, turkey bowling and other activities. And to quench your appetite after all that fun, you may want to attend the dessert social, chili cook-off, or pancake feed.

## The Penguin Dip

The Penguin Dip is a local remedy to an ailment known as cabin fever and is one of the highlights of Winterfest.

Commercial fishing, sport fishing and other outdoor water related forms of work and play are vital to life in Bristol Bay. It seemed only natural to include water in the Winterfest activities, even if it was covered with up to 4-feet of ice.

The Penguin Dip originated in February 1992 as a demonstration of the life saving advantages of having a survival suit on your boat. Every commercial fisherman knows, going into Alaskan waters leaves one with only minutes until hypothermia will incapacitate the victim. After that first year's survival suit demonstration, a few hardy souls jumped into the icy lake wearing only shorts.

Well, the rest is history; so much for education. The entertainment went to the brave or foolish ones that jumped with shorts and sometimes shirt. The

crowd wanted to see blood or at least goose bumps and icicles. Each year a hole is cut in the ice of Airplane Lake, where wind chills of 50 below and air temperatures as low as -20 haven't kept the crowds away or the jumpers out of the water.

-- Allen Gilliland



Allen Gilliland

## Where to Worship

### King Salmon

Community Baptist Church	246-3365
St. Theresa Catholic Church	246-3757

### Naknek

Naknek Community Church	246-4470
Soul's Harbor	246-6197
Russian Orthodox Church	246-2252
United Pentecostal Church	246-6670
Naknek Lutheran Church	246-6624
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints	246-3400

### South Naknek

South Naknek Lutheran	246-6693
Russian Orthodox	246-6524 or 6531
Catholic Church	246-6545

## Native People of Bristol Bay... A Cultural Mix

Eskimos, Aleuts, and Athabascan Indians used this area of the Naknek River during the past 6,000 years. There are numerous archeological sites, hunting camps, old villages and evidence of use along the river and its tributaries. Old Savonoski, on Savonoski River at the east end of Naknek Lake, and New Savonoski and Paugvik on the Naknek River are all abandoned village sites. The original Eskimo village at Naknek went through various names as recorded by the Russians after they arrived in the area in 1819 (1821-"Naugeik"; 1880-"Kinuyak"; and finally Naknek as named by Russian Navy Captain Tebenkov).

The Russians built a fort at the site of present day Naknek and fur trade was an economic use of the area for a while. In 1883 the first salmon cannery was open in Bristol Bay; then, in 1890, one opened on the Naknek River, and a fishery related economy has been the mainstay since

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that time. The influence of the Katmai Volcano Explosion in 1912 and the influenza epidemic in 1919 nearly decimated the Naknek people and area. According to oral history there were only about three original families left at that time.

The Russian Orthodox Church was the first entity to obtain land under the U.S. Government after the Treaty of Cession in 1867. Under the Homestead Act, the Russian Church obtained title to much of the ground that currently comprises Naknek. They provided lots to residents who built around the Church. The canneries and fishing industry drew many residents from other Alaska Native villages, and from fishing communities and countries creating a mixing of cultures built upon the returning salmon.

This mixing of peoples involved in the fishing industry has caused the communities to be comprised of an international culture in many ways. The result is an almost unique culture of the Bristol Bay

Borough composed of about 52% non-native and the other 48% a mix of Alaska Native cultures. The economy is based on government employment, salmon fishing and processing. Naknek has a seasonal economy as a service center for the huge red salmon fishery in Bristol Bay. 122 residents hold commercial fishing permits, and several thousand people typically flood the area during the fishing season. Millions of pounds of salmon are loaded onto ships, or trucked over the Naknek-King Salmon road each summer for transport to market.

-- Naknek Native Village Council

## Historical Milestones

### The Russian Era

Russian exploration of Bristol Bay may have occurred as early as 1791 when Dmitry Bocharov crossed the Alaska Peninsula in the vicinity of the lake that now bears his name (in slightly modified form – Becharof). But exploration did not begin in earnest until 1818 with an expedition led by Petr Korsakovski. The Russians built a fort at present day Naknek and fur trade was an economic use of the area for a while.

The most lasting legacy of the Russian era is the Russian Orthodox religion. The first chapel was constructed in the 1870s. A tiny later chapel can be found behind the Bristol Bay Borough building surrounded by a small cemetery with the distinctive Russian Orthodox crosses.



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## The American Period

In 1867, after the purchase of Alaska by the United States, the San Francisco firm of Hutchison, Kohl and Company purchased the assets of the Russian-American Company. It was later reorganized to form the Alaska Commercial Company, which operated until the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

A commercial development in Bristol Bay that had a greater and more lasting effect on the people of this region than the fur trade was the salmon fishing industry. In the Naknek River region commercial fishing began in the early 1890s when salteries were established a short distance above the river's mouth. In 1894 the first cannery was constructed. Today there are 6 canneries along the Naknek River and commercial fishing still plays a primary role in the economy of the area. To arrange a guided tour and learn more of the history of the area, see the Tours listing.

## 1912 Eruption

Life forever changed on June 6, 1912 for those living in the shadow of Mt. Katmai. Forewarned by the jolting and rumbling of the earth for sev-

eral days before the colossal explosion, many Natives fled their villages. Although the eruption was the most voluminous volcanic eruption of the

darkness and the island was cloaked under gray drifts of ash several feet thick.

The sound of the eruption was heard in Juneau, 750 miles away and in Fairbanks 500 miles northeast. Two feet of ash covered an area of 2,500 square miles and dust fell in Puget Sound, 1,500 miles away.

In 1916, Robert F. Griggs led a National Geographic expedition over Katmai Pass and saw, for the first time, the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes. Two years later, the area was

designated Katmai National Monument.

## WWII

In 1941, at the beginning of World War II, the U.S. built an air base in King Salmon. The base was a major military installation in western Alaska. Although the air base was self contained, the village grew up around it. In 1949, a post office was established and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers constructed a road to Naknek. In 1993, the Air Force

Station went into caretaker status, but periodic military activities still occur here. Today, the state-owned airport with its 8,500-foot paved runway has allowed King Salmon to develop into a



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twentieth century, few people witnessed it and, miraculously, nobody



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was killed or hurt.

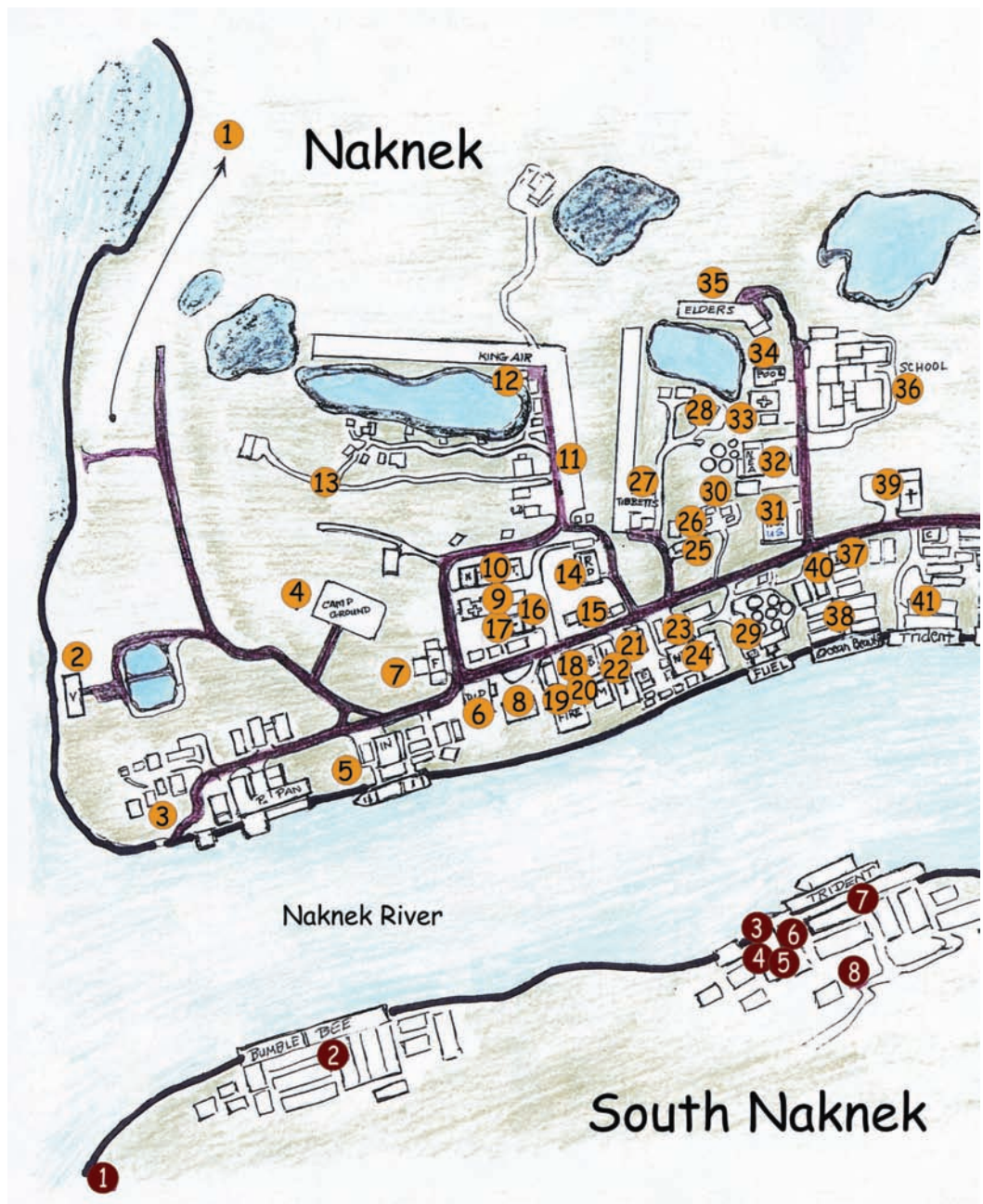
The ash cloud from the eruption darkened the sky over Kodiak, blotting out all daylight. When the ashfall finally dwindled on the morning of June 9th, Kodiak had experienced two days and three nights of nearly unbroken

## Naknek

1. Pederson Point Cannery
2. Bristol Bay Viewing Platform
3. Peter Pan Seafoods
4. Public Campground
5. Baywatch Seafoods
6. D & D Restaurant & Hotel
7. Fisherman's Bar and Liquor Store
8. Hadfield's Bar and Liquor Store
9. Naknek Native Village Council & Health Clinic
10. Naknek Trading Lumber Yard
11. Naknek Airport & Airport Lake—Aviation channel 122.9
12. King Air (avgas) - Aviation channel 131.9
13. Russian Orthodox Church
14. Red Dog Restaurant Bar/Hotel
15. Lundgren Building Historical Site
16. Naknek Lutheran Church
17. Katmai Boys & Girls Club
18. Bristol Bay Borough Offices
19. Naknek Volunteer Fire Department
20. Naknek Historical Cemetery
21. Naknek Engine Sales & Service (gasoline)
22. Martin Monsen Library
23. Tundra Sub
24. Naknek Trading Company
25. Apple Haus Bed & Breakfast

26. Pac Man Fisheries
27. Tibbetts Field
28. Kings Apartments
29. Delta Western Fuels
30. Al & Lou's Bed & Breakfast
31. Naknek Post Office
32. Naknek Electric Association

33. Camai Medical Center
34. Kvimarvik Swimming Pool
35. Southwest Elders Home
36. Bristol Bay Borough School & Administrative Offices
37. Peninsula Automotive & Repair (gasoline)





- |                             |                                                                                       |                                      |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 38. Ocean Beauty Seafoods   | 45. NAPA Auto Parts                                                                   | Transfer                             |
| 39. Naknek Community Church | 46. Paug-Vik, Inc.                                                                    | 50. Sasser Enterprises (glass)       |
| 40. Souls Harbor Church     | 47. Port of Bristol Bay Dock / Bristol Bay Borough Public Works / Public Fish Grinder | 51. Cedar Village / Captain's Cabins |
| 41. Trident Seafoods        | 48. BBC Storage Yard                                                                  | 52. KAKN Radio Station               |
| 42. Alaska General Seafoods | 49. Bryce B's Hair & Gifts/ Monsen                                                    | 53. DaKine Enterprises               |
| 43. Bering Sea Adventures   |                                                                                       | 54. YAK / Red Salmon Cannery         |
| 44. UAF Naknek/Inlet Salmon |                                                                                       | 55. Jake Custer Enterprises          |

- 56. Nacho Mama's
- 57. Coastal Surveyors
- 58. Bristol Bay Supply
- 59. S.A.C.
- 60. Leader Creek Fish / Watzituya Net Hanging
- 61. LFS Marine Supplies / Boat Storage
- 62. Icicle Seafoods
- 63. Chuck's Boat Storage & Car Rentals
- 64. Yacht Club Boat Storage
- 65. Leader Creek Boat Storage
- 66. D&E Boat Storage
- 67. Adams Enterprises
- 68. Redline Taxi / Jodie's Idea's



### South Naknek

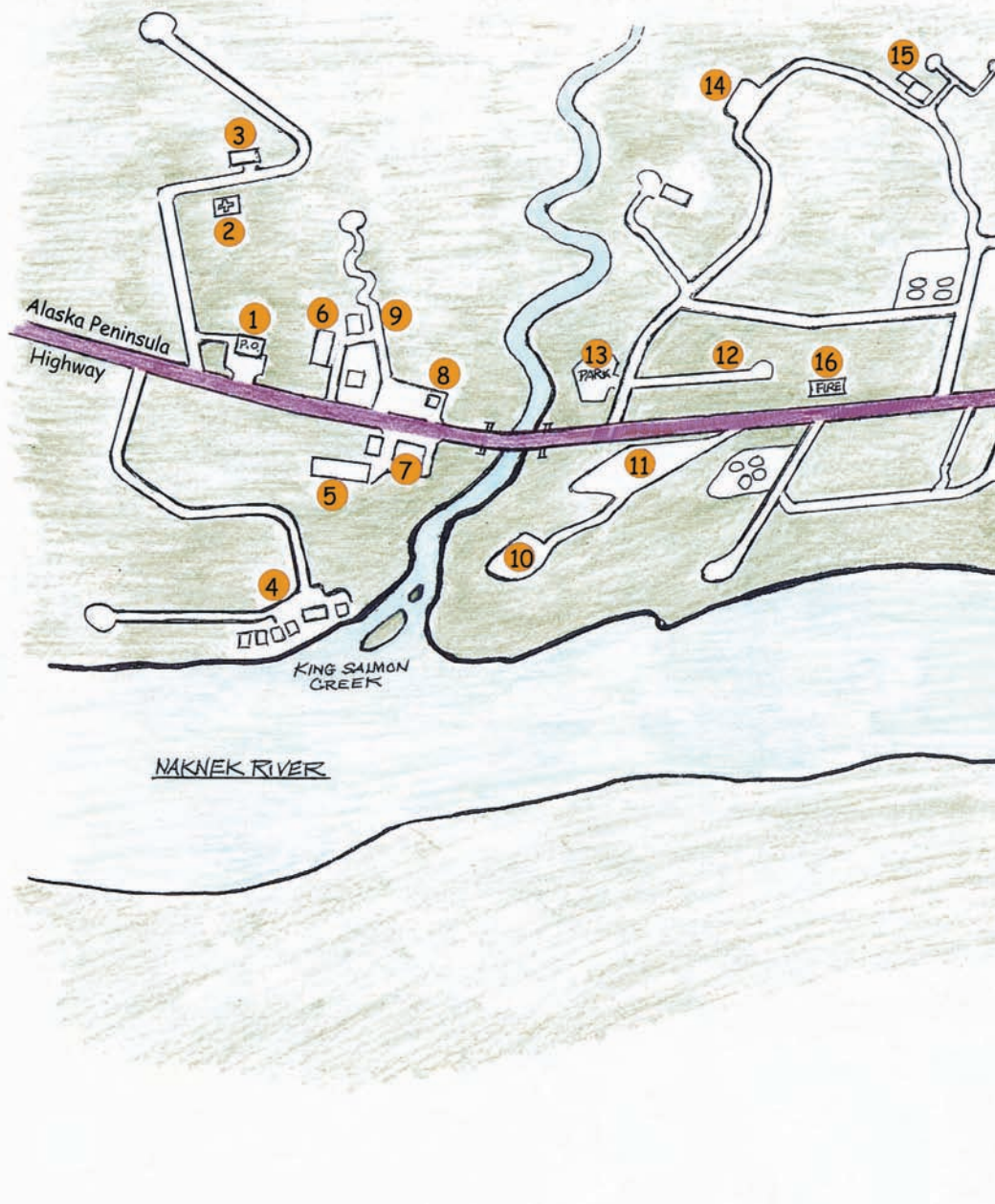
- 1. Louis Harris Cabin on Beach Historical Site
- 2. Bumble Bee Seafood Cannery Historical Site
- 3. The Pit Bar
- 4. South Naknek Native Village Council
- 5. South Naknek School
- 6. South Naknek Cemetery Historical Site
- 7. Trident Seafoods South Naknek
- 8. South Naknek Airport
- 9. Peter Pan Warren

## King Salmon

1. King Salmon Post Office
2. King Salmon Village Council
3. Tiaga View Apartments
4. Bear Trail Lodge
5. King Salmon Inn (Formerly the Ponderosa Inn)
6. Fundeen's Apartments
7. Bristol Bay Contractors
8. Terry's Repair
9. Johnson Drilling
10. West Housing
11. F.A.A Housing
12. Diamond Lodge
13. King Salmon Park
14. North/South Bluff Monument Camp
15. Lake and Peninsula Borough / School District Administration Offices
16. King Salmon Volunteer Fire Dept.
17. Quinntat Landing Hotel
18. King Salmon Air Force Base
19. Eddies Fireplace Inn / Bay Amusement
20. Antlers Inn
21. Alaska Commercial Company
22. King Salmon Air Force Fire Dept.
23. Prestage's Sportfishing Lodge
24. King Ko Inn
25. King Salmon Mall (Wells Fargo Bank, Aurora Florealis Designs, Fireweeds Catering & Salad Shop, National Park Service Headquarters)
26. Bristol Bay Borough

- Police Department
27. King Salmon Air Force Base Hangars
28. Peninsula Airways, Northern Air Cargo, Alaska Airlines
29. King Salmon Visitor Center
30. King Air Hangar / Hair Shapers

31. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game
32. Bristol Bay Telephone Cooperative
33. Charlie's Sport Shop
34. Dave's World
35. Bristol Bay Borough Public Boat Launch

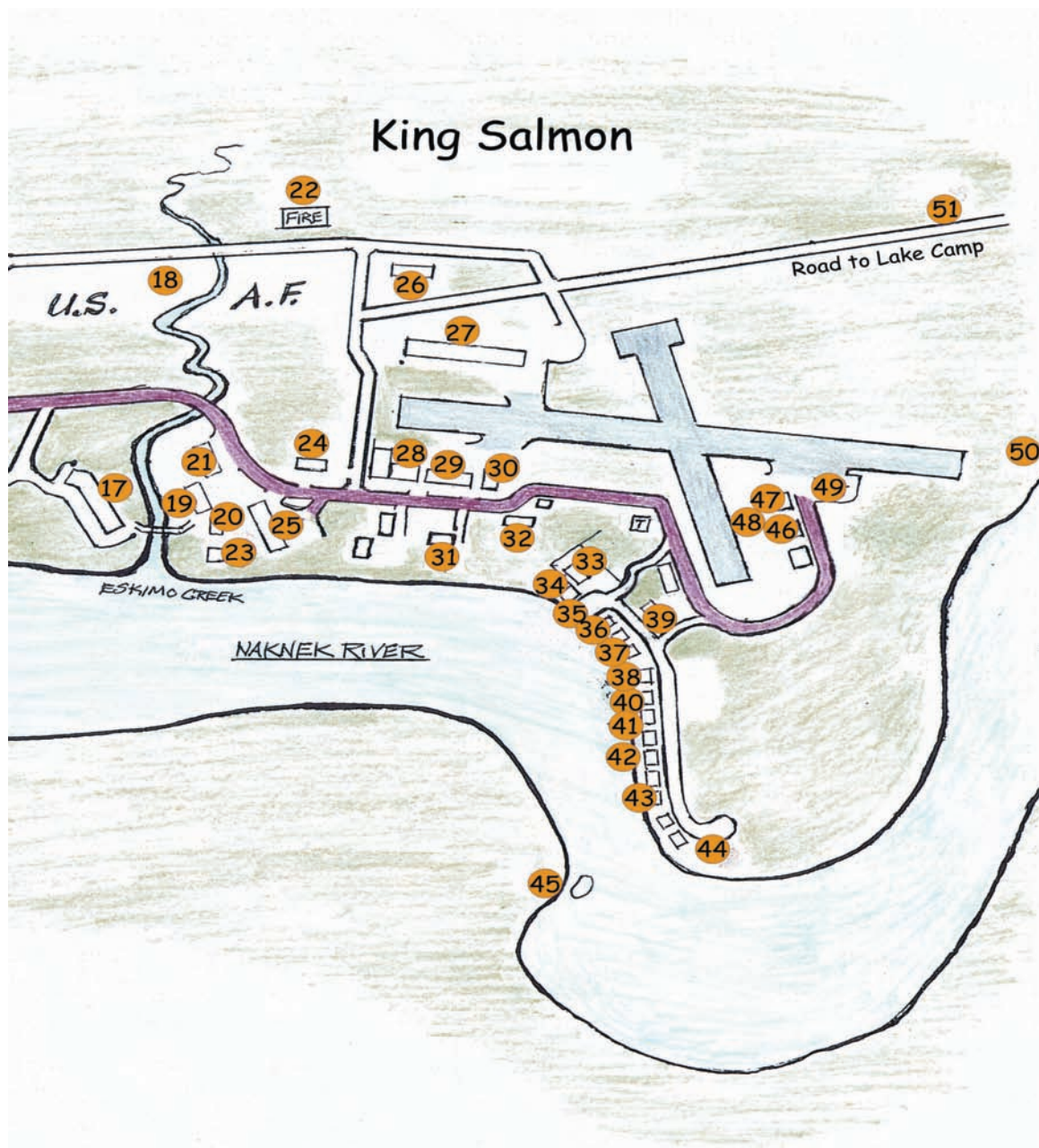




- 36. Katmai Air
- 37. Enchanted Lake Lodge Dock
- 38. King Salmon Inn Dock
- 39. Donigal Surplus
- 40. Fundeen's Marina
- 41. Brand River Air Service Dock
- 42. C-Air Dock
- 43. No-See-Um Lodge Dock

- 44. Scenic Overlook
- 45. F.A.A. Rock (Fishing Hole)
- 46. Egli Air Haul
- 47. Tibbitts Airmotive
- 48. King Salmon General Aviation Parking
- 49. King Salmon Ground Service
- 50. Paradise Point Scenic Overlook

- 51. Road to Rapids Camp, NPS Public Boat Launch, & Naknek Lake



Located southwest of Anchorage along the Alaska Peninsula, the Lake and Peninsula Borough encompasses approximately 23,782 square miles of land (roughly the size of West Virginia) and 7,125 square miles of water, extending 400 miles from Lake Clark in the north to Ivanof Bay in the south.

It contains three National Parks (Lake Clark National Park & Preserve, Katmai National Park & Preserve and Aniakchak National Monument & Preserve); two National Wildlife Refuges (Becharof NWR and the Alaska Peninsula NWR); and numerous designated Wild and Scenic Rivers and State Critical Habitat Areas.

The Lake and Peninsula Borough is geographically and ecologically diverse. It is bordered on the west by Bristol Bay and on the east by the Pacific Ocean. The Bristol Bay coast is comprised of low lying wetlands and the rugged Pacific coast is dominated by numerous volcanoes of the Aleutian range which runs the length of the Borough from Lake Clark to Ivanof Bay. Iliamna Lake, located in the north, is the largest fresh water lake in Alaska and the second largest in the United States. Iliamna Lake has one of only two colonies of freshwater seals in the world. Becharof Lake, located in the Bristol Bay region, is the second largest fresh water lake in Alaska. These lakes provide nurseries to the largest red salmon runs in the world.

The Lake and Peninsula Borough

# At Home In Lake and Peninsula Borough

provides large amounts of high quality habitat that support a phenomenal amount of flora and fauna. The Bristol



Bay region is recognized as a world leader in salmon productivity. Commercial fishing, sport fishing and hunting, bear viewing, recreation and tourism, and subsistence are important economic activities that rely on the

bounty of the Borough's landscape. Salmon spawning streams attract some of the largest concentrations of brown bear in Alaska. Approximately 10,000 brown (grizzly) bears populate the region, making them more numerous than people. Abundant moose and caribou inhabit the region. Other mammals include wolves, wolverines, river otters, red fox, and beaver. Sea otters, sea lions, harbor seals and migratory whales inhabit the shoreline and offshore waters.

Coastal estuaries are home to waterfowl while nesting eagles, peregrine falcons, and thousands of seabirds inhabit the sea cliffs.

## Government

The Lake and Peninsula Borough was incorporated in April 1989 as a home-rule borough with a manager form of government. The Borough is predominately rural and contains seventeen communities, six of which are incorporated as second-class cities. Village or Tribal Councils govern the remaining eleven communities.

## History

The Lake and Peninsula Borough region has been inhabited almost continuously for the past 9,000 years. The area is rich in cultural resources and diversity. Yup'ik Eskimos, Aleuts, Athabaskan Indians, and Inupiaq people have jointly occupied the area for the past 6,000 years. Russian explorers came to the region during the late 1700's. The late 1800's brought the



ations. A flu epidemic in 1918 was tragic to the Native population. Reindeer were introduced to assist the survivors, but the experiment eventually failed. In the 1930's, additional disease epidemics further decimated villages. After the Japanese attack on Dutch Harbor during World War II, numerous military facilities were constructed on the Alaska Peninsula including Fort Marrow at Port Heiden.

## Economy

Commercial fishing and fish processing are the most significant sectors of the economy within the Lake and Peninsula Borough, which contains three of the State's most important salmon fishing districts: Egegik and Ugashik on the Bristol Bay, and Chignik on the Pacific coast. This industry provides approximately 90% of all locally generated tax revenue for the Borough. The majority of Borough residents rely upon commercial fishing as a primary source of cash income. Seven shore-based processors and numerous floating processors operate within Borough boundaries, generally importing their workforce from outside the area.

Tourism and recreational activities are the second most important industry in the Borough, and are rapidly increasing in economic importance. The Borough contains over 60 hunting and fishing lodges and approximately 100 professional guides are registered to operate within Borough boundaries.



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## Transportation

The Lake and Peninsula Borough contains seventeen small and widely scattered communities. Only two, Iliamna and Newhalen, are connected by road. There are two regional roads located in the Borough: the Iliamna – Nondalton Road and the Williamsport – Pile Bay Road. Scheduled air service provides transportation of passengers to the region's hubs in Iliamna and King

Salmon. Air taxi and charter service transport passengers from the hubs to local communities. Heavy cargo and durable goods are transported to Borough communities by ship, barge or ferry. Chignik is the only community served by the Alaska Marine Highway System, calling on the community about 6 times per year beginning in April and ending in October. The Williamsport – Pile Bay Haul Road provides access from the Pacific side to the Iliamna Lake communities. Perishable goods and time-value cargo are shipped by air, typically through King Salmon, Iliamna or Port Heiden.

## Communities

The seventeen communities in the Lake and Peninsula Borough are located within three distinct areas of the region: the Lakes Area, the Upper Peninsula Area, and the Chignik Area. The Lakes Area communities include Port Alsworth, Nondalton, Pedro Bay, Iliamna, Newhalen, Kokhanok, Igiugig and Levelock. The Upper Peninsula Area communities include Egegik, Pilot Point, Ugashik, and Port Heiden. The Chignik Area communities include Chignik Bay, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Lake, Ivanof Bay, and Perryville. Borough communities have a combined year-round population of approximately 1823 people, 79.7% of which are Alaska Native.



## Lakes Area Villages

**Port Alsworth ♦ Nondalton ♦ Iliamna  
Newhalen ♦ Pedro Bay ♦ Kokhanok  
Igiugig ♦ Levelock**

All the attractions that define Alaska—rugged mountains, pristine rivers and streams, abundant fish and wildlife—can be found in this region. The region's lakes, rivers, and mountains provide abundant recreational opportunities for wilderness adventurers. Anglers find trophy fish in its waters, hikers explore high tundra slope, river-runners thrill to the Tlikakila, Mulchatna, and Chilikadrotna Wild Rivers, and campers find lakeshores inspirational. The region is unsurpassed for wildlife viewing and photographic opportunities.

Lake Clark, situated in the northeastern corner of the region, is nearly 50 miles long and is surrounded by Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, one of Alaska's often overlooked National Parks. The mountains

of the Lake Clark National Park and Preserve are part of Dall Sheep territory.



of the Lake Clark National Park and Preserve are part of Dall Sheep territory, the only wild, white sheep in the world.

Iliamna Lake lies in the middle of the region and is the largest lake in Alaska and the second largest in the U.S., at 1,115 square miles. The lake is distinguished for its resident population of fresh water seals, one of only two colonies of freshwater seals in the world. It also is reputed to harbor a sea monster known locally as Ogo Pogo.

The Kvichak (pronounced Kwee-jack) and Alagnak Rivers lie in the southern-most part of the region, and are world-renowned for its rainbow trout. A number of pristine rivers run through the area, including the turquoise-colored Newhalen River, which connects Six-mile Lake and Iliamna Lake.

Although continuously inhabited since early prehistoric times, the area remains wild and sparsely populated, with aircraft providing the primary means of access. There are no roads from the outside, and only about 20 miles of gravel road within thousands of square miles of wilderness. Iliamna is the transportation hub of the area, served by several airlines providing daily scheduled flights from Anchorage. Air taxis and charter service provide

wide transportation to outlying villages.

If you aren't an experienced wilderness adventurer, the best way to experience the Lakes region is to let lodge owners, guides and outfitters arrange transportation and set up trips for you. Limited services are available in the area and vary greatly from community to community. Check the local listings in the business directory of this guide for

available services.

### Port Alsworth (Population 113)

Port Alsworth is located on the southeast shore of Lake Clark at Hardenburg Bay in the Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, 22 miles northeast of Nondalton and 170 miles southwest of Anchorage. There are two privately-owned and operated airstrips in Port Alsworth: a 3,000' long by 100' wide dirt/gravel airstrip operated by Glen Alsworth / The Farm Lodge, and a 4,200' gravel airstrip operated by David and Jackie Wilder. Scheduled and charter air services are available from Iliamna and Anchorage.

Tanalian Point, the forerunner of Port Alsworth and Lake Clark's first Euro-American settlement, was settled by prospectors in the late 1880s. The site offered ready access to nearby copper prospects and the best wood fuel and timber for cabins. Dena'ina Athabaskan Indians lived at Tanalian Point after prospectors established it as a community. It developed into a staging area for the Telaquana Trail and mining activities on Kontrashibuna Lake and Portage Creek. Big game hunters arrived in 1921 seeking local guides. Pioneer bush pilot Leon "Babe" Alsworth and his wife Mary,



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the settlement's first postmistress, were among the first settlers in the 1940s. Port Alsworth now has numerous fishing lodges, some open year-round, and is the local headquarters for the Lake Clark National Park and Preserve.

Local attractions include the 40-mile-long Lake Clark, one of the spawning grounds for the world-famous Bristol Bay sockeye salmon run; the ruins of historic Kijik village listed on the National Register of Historic Places; and picturesque Tanalian Falls.

### A STORY FROM NONDALTON

By Antone Evan

*Up at the head of Lake Clark,  
up in that valley, in the pass,  
on each side of the valley  
there are a lot of glaciers.  
When the glaciers start melting,  
all the water flows into the river.  
And then it flows into Lake Clark,  
Little Lake Clark.  
It flows into Qizhjah Vena,  
which is known as Lake Clark.  
And then it flows into Nundaltin Vena,  
which is known as Nondalton Lake,  
Six-mile Lake.  
And then it flows all the way down  
the Newhalen River.  
And then it flows into Nilavena,  
which is known as Lake Iliamna.  
And then it flows down into the outlet  
of Iliamna Lake  
which is known as Kvichak River.  
And then it flows right into the  
salt water,  
which is Bristol Bay.  
That same water from the head of  
Lake Clark  
travels all the way into salt water.  
That is why long ago they used to say  
water travels farther  
than human beings.*

## Nondalton (Population 205)

Nondalton is located on the west shore of Six Mile Lake, 15 miles

north of Iliamna and 200 miles southwest of Anchorage. Nondalton is primarily accessible by air and water. A State-owned 2,800' long by 75' wide gravel

runway services the community. Scheduled and charter air services are available from Anchorage and Iliamna.

Nondalton is a Tanaina Indian name first recorded in 1909 by the U.S. Geological Survey. The village was originally located on the north shore of Six Mile Lake, but in 1940, wood depletion in the surrounding area and growing mud flats caused the village to move to its present location on the west shore. The post office, established in 1938, relocated with the villagers. Nondalton formed an incorporated city government in 1971. Nondalton's St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Chapel, originally constructed in 1896 and moved with the rest of the village, is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Most residents in Nondalton are Alaska Native, primarily Dena'ina Athabaskins. Dena'ina values and traditions are very strong here, where elders continue to educate the younger generation in bilingual and bicultural education in hopes of preserving their culture. Residents here practice a subsistence lifestyle, dependent upon fish and game for food.

## Pedro Bay (Population 47)

Pedro Bay is located at the head of Pedro Bay in Lake Iliamna, 30 miles northeast of Iliamna and 180 miles southwest of Anchorage. Located in a heavily wooded area, with birch, cot-

tonwood, alders, willow and white spruce trees, Pedro Bay has one of the

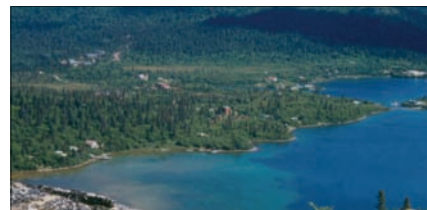


Pedro Bay Village Council

most attractive settings in southwest Alaska. Pedro Bay is accessible by air and water. There is a State-owned 3,000' long by 60' wide gravel airstrip. Scheduled and charter air services are available from Iliamna and Anchorage. Barge service is available from Naknek via the Kvichak River. Goods are also sent by barge from Homer to Iliamna Bay on the Cook Inlet side and portaged over a 14-mile road to Pile Bay, 10 miles to the east.

The Dena'ina Indians have inhabited this area for hundreds of years, and still live in the area. The community was named for a man known as "Old Pedro," who lived in this area in the early 1900s. A post office was established in the village in 1936. St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Chapel, built in 1890, is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Today, most residents obtain summer employment in the Bristol Bay fishery or in Iliamna Lake tourism services. Most families depend heavily on subsistence activities, utilizing salmon, trout, moose, bear, rabbit and seal. Several wilderness lodges operate in Pedro Bay.



Pedro Bay Village Council

## Iliamna (Population 90)

Iliamna is located on the north side of Lake Iliamna, 225 miles southwest of Anchorage. Iliamna is primarily accessible by air and water. An 8-mile gravel road connects Iliamna to Newhalen, and a 22-mile road to Nondalton is under construction. There are two paved State-owned airstrips, one measures 5,080' long by 100' wide, the other is 4,800' long by 150' wide, these are located between Iliamna and Newhalen. Additional facilities include: float plane facilities at Slop Lake, East Bay and Pike Lake, a private airstrip at Iliamna Roadhouse, and private float plane access at Summit Lake. Iliamna is the transportation hub of the area, served by several airlines providing daily scheduled flights from Anchorage. Air taxis and charter service provide transportation to outlying villages.

Prior to 1935, "Old Iliamna" was located near the mouth of the Iliamna River, a traditional Athabascan village. A post office was established there in 1901. Around 1935, villagers moved to the present location, approximately 40 miles from the old site. The post office followed. Iliamna's current size and character can be attributed to the development of fishing and hunting

lodges. The first lodge opened in the 1930s. A second lodge was built in the 1950s. During the 70s and 80s, lots were made available by the Baptist Church, and additional lodges were constructed. In recent years Iliamna has become a recreational and tourist attraction due to the excellent fishing at Iliamna Lake and in the surrounding areas.

Many residents participate in subsistence hunting and fishing activities, utilizing salmon, trout, grayling, moose, caribou, bear, seal, porcupine and rabbits.

## Newhalen (Population 183)

Newhalen is located on the north shore of Iliamna Lake at the mouth of the Newhalen River, 4.5 miles southwest of Iliamna and 230 mile southwest of Anchorage. There are two paved State-owned airstrips, one measures 5,080' long by 100' wide, the other is 4,800' long by 150' wide, these are located between Iliamna and Newhalen. Scheduled and charter air services are available. A gravel road connects these communities and the airport.

The 1890 census listed the Eskimo village of "Noghelingamiut," meaning "people of Noghelin," at this location, with 16 residents. The present name is an anglicized version of the original. The village was established in the late 1800s due to the bountiful fish and game in the immediate area. Newhalen incorporated as a City in 1971.



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Newhalen includes Yup'ik Eskimos, Alutiiq and Athabascans. Most practice a subsistence and fishing lifestyle. Newhalen and Iliamna share a post office and school.

Thousands of sport fishermen visit the area each summer for trophy rainbow trout fishing on the lake. Residents rely heavily on subsistence activities, and most families travel to fish camps during the summer.

## Kokhanok (Population 166)

Kokhanok is located on the south shore of Lake Iliamna, 22 miles south of Iliamna and 88 miles northeast of King Salmon. Kokhanok is accessible by air and water. A State-owned 2,920' long by 60' wide gravel airstrip and a seaplane base serve scheduled and charter air services from Anchorage, Iliamna, and King Salmon.

The original site of Kokhanok, called "Isigiug", was located 2 ½ miles down the beach from the present location of Kokhanok. This fishing village was first listed in the U.S. Census in 1890 by A.B. Schanz. The village has a mixed Native population, primarily Aleut. Subsistence activities are the focal point of the culture and lifestyle. The village is served by the Saints Peter and Paul Russian Orthodox Church, which is on the National Register of Historic Places.



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## Igiugig (Population 56)

Igiugig is located on the south shore of the Kvichak River at the southwest end of Lake Iliamna, about 50 miles southwest of Iliamna and 50 miles northeast of King Salmon. Igiugig is accessible by water and air. Charter flights are available from Anchorage, Iliamna and King Salmon. The State owns and maintains a 3,000' long by 75' wide gravel runway. A small public dock is available.

The word "Igiugig" means "like a throat that swallows water" in the Yupik language – a name clearly derived from the location of the village at the mouth of the Kvichak River. Kiatagmuit Eskimos originally lived on the north bank of the Kvichak River in the village of Kaskanak, and used Igiugig as a summer fish camp. At the turn of the century, these people moved upriver to the present site of Igiugig. People from Branch also moved to Igiugig as it began to develop. Today, about one-third of residents can trace



Igiugig Village Council

their roots back to the Branch River village.

As is typical for the region, salmon fishing is the mainstay of Igiugig's economy. Many travel to Naknek each summer to fish or work in the canneries. There are seven commercial lodges that serve sports fishermen and hunters seasonally in Igiugig. Subsistence is an important part of the residents' lifestyle. Families in Igiugig, like many other Native villages in Alaska, have developed a unique culinary style characterized by the available food and resources in nature not commonly found in the lower 48 or other industrialized parts of the state. A few of their recipes are shared throughout this visitor's guide.

## Levelock (Population 57)

Levelock is located on the west bank of the Kvichak River, 40 miles north of Naknek, and 280 miles southwest of Anchorage. Levelock is accessible by air and water. The State owns a 3,281' long by 59' wide lighted gravel runway in Levelock. Scheduled and charter flights are available.

Early Russian explorers reported the presence of Levelock, which they called "Kvichak." Kvichak was mentioned during the 1890 census, although the population was not measured. A 1908 survey of Russian missions identified "Lovelock's Mission" at this site. Koggiung Packers operated a cannery at Levelock in 1925-26. A second cannery operated from 1928-29. In 1930 the first school was built, and a post office was established in 1939. During the early 1950s, another cannery was in operation. Today, Levelock is a mixed Alutiiq and Yup'ik village. Commercial fishing and subsistence activities are the focus of the community. Sharing is a way of life in this village; no one goes hungry for lack of ability to hunt or fish.

## Upper Peninsula Area Villages

Egegik ♦ Pilot Point ♦ Ugashik  
Port Heiden

Katmai National Park & Preserve, Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve, Becharof National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge, Aniakchak National Wild and Scenic River, and numerous state critical habitat areas are all located within this region, preserving the area's remarkable natural and cultural history.

This region has been continuously

### Fireweed Jelly

#### Ingredients:

1 1/2 cups tightly packed Fireweed petals  
2 1/4 cups water  
2 tbsp. lemon juice  
3 1/2 cups sugar  
3 oz. pectin

Pour Fireweed petals into saucepan with water and crush petals. Bring to boil and simmer until petals have washed out color. Strain mixture and measure 1 3/4 cups of Fireweed Juice. Mix in saucepan with 2 tbsp. lemon juice and 3 1/2 cup sugar. Boil on high heat stirring consistently. add 3 oz. pectin (Certo) to mixture and keep on rolling boil for approx. 1 minute. Place into jelly jars and cover with Paraffin Paper.

Contributed by: AlexAnna Salmon

occupied for the past 9,000 years. Archaeological sites are scattered throughout the Alaska Peninsula, making them some of the oldest sites in North America. Katmai National Park and Preserve is the site of the Brooks River National Historic Landmark with North America's highest concentration of prehistoric human dwellings. For those who would like a glimpse into the past, a reconstructed *barabara* (a semi-subterranean house) is located just a short hike west of Brooks Camp. Native villages of today provide a hint into the area's cultural history through the traditional subsistence lifestyles its residents continue to practice.



Forming the backbone of the Alaska Peninsula, the Aleutian Range is part of the Pacific Ring of Fire, and has many large, volcanic peaks. One of the most prominent mountains in the area, Mt. Peulik, is located in the Becharof National Wildlife Refuge. This peak sits at the southern edge of Becharof Lake, the second largest lake in Alaska. Other points of interest in the refuge include the "Gas Rocks", where you can view carbon dioxide seeping through fractures in the rock. A hot spring in the lake discharging 120-degree water can also be found at the base of the Gas Rocks. Another unique geological feature in the refuge is Ukinrek Maars. Maars are shallow, low-rimmed craters that are caused by violent geological activity. The two Ukinrek Maars were formed in 1977 along the south shore of Becharof Lake. This is the only maar-producing activity ever recorded in the United States.

In the heart of the Alaska Peninsula lies the Aniakchak Caldera. Formed 3,500 years ago after the collapse of a 7,000-foot mountain, the six-mile wide

caldera is part of the Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve. More recent eruptions have left behind cinder cones, lava flows, and explosion pits inside the caldera. Surprise Lake, located in the caldera, is the source of the Aniakchak Wild River, a 27-mile river which cascades through a 1,500-foot gash in the caldera wall known as "The Gates." Class III and IV rapids dropping 70-feet per mile for 13 miles, thrill experienced river runners.

Big-game hunting is a popular activity in this region, particularly in the Becharof and Alaska Peninsula Wildlife Refuges, where world-class trophy moose and brown bear are regularly taken. Great sport fishing opportunities for salmon and fresh water species abound in the waters of Becharof and Ugashik Lakes and their tributaries. No matter the recreational activity – hunting, fishing, hiking, river-running, bird watching, wildlife viewing – this region is packed full of adventures waiting for those who are willing to venture off a path less traveled.

Access to this region is primarily by

air. There are regularly scheduled flights from Anchorage to King Salmon, which serves as the transportation hub for the area. Air taxis and charter service provide transportation to the outlying villages of Egegik, Ugashik, Pilot Point and Port Heiden, and other points of interest. Very limited services are available in the outlying villages and vary greatly from community to community. Check the local listings in the business directory of this guide for available services.

## Egegik (Population 76)

(Pronounced EE-guh-gick.) Egegik is located on the south bank of the Egegik River on the Alaska Peninsula, 40 miles southwest of King Salmon and 326 air miles southwest of Anchorage. The community is accessible by air and water. A city-owned 5,600' long by 100' wide lighted gravel runway with crosswind airstrip is located 2 miles northwest of Egegik. Scheduled and charter flights are available from King Salmon.

According to anthropologists, settlement of the Bristol Bay region first occurred over 6,000 years ago. Yup'ik Eskimos and Athabascan Indians jointly occupied the area. Aleuts arrived in later years. The first recorded contact by non-Natives was with Russian fur traders between 1818 and 1867. The village was reported by Russians as a fish camp called "Igagik" (meaning "throat") in 1876. Local people would travel each year from Kanatak on the Gulf coast through a portage pass to Becharof Lake. From there they would hike or kayak on to the Egegik Bay area for summer fish camp. In 1895, an Alaska Packers Association salmon saltery was established at the mouth of Egegik River, and a town developed around the former fish camp. During the influenza outbreaks beginning in 1918, Natives from other villages moved to Egegik in an attempt to iso-



were enlisted to help build the King Salmon airport, with many subsequently serving in Dutch Harbor and elsewhere.

Today, the economy in Egegik is based on commercial fishing and fish processing providing seasonal employment from May to August. The population swells by 1,000 to 2,000 fishermen and cannery workers during the commercial fishing season. Five on-shore processors are located on the Egegik River and numerous floating processors participate in the Egegik fishery. Local working tours of the Bristol Bay set-net fishery are available. Check the business directory of this guide for tour operators.

The Becharof National Wildlife Refuge and Becharof Lake are accessible from here by plane or skiff up the Egegik River where sport fishing, hunting are wildlife viewing are popular activities. The Becharof Lake is the second largest lake in Alaska and is the nursery for the world's second largest run of sockeye salmon.

## Pilot Point (Population 76)

Pilot Point is located on the northern coast of the Alaska Peninsula, on the east shore of Ugashik Bay. The community lies 84 air miles south of King Salmon and 368 air miles south-

west of Anchorage. Pilot Point is ac-

### Porcupine Pot Roast

#### Ingredients:

1 teaspoon salt  
1/4 teaspoon pepper  
1 teaspoon minced garlic  
1/4 teaspoon pickling spices  
1/4 cup Wesson Oil  
1/2 cup water for fresh porcupine (none needed if frozen)  
Carrots and celery optional

*Cut the porcupine to desired sized pieces (this should equal between 2 and 3 pounds of meat) and place in a Dutch Oven. Pour Wesson Oil over the meat and add spices. Cook meat on the stove with burners on low for approximately 3 hours (stir occasionally)*

Contributed by: Annie Wilson

cessible by air and water. A State-owned 3,280' long by 75' wide gravel airstrip is available. Regularly scheduled and charter flights are available from King Salmon. Dago Creek serves as a natural harbor; a dock is available. Modes of local transport include ATVs, snow machines, skiffs and trucks.

This mixed Aleut and Eskimo community developed around a fish salting plant established by C.A. Johnson in 1889. At that

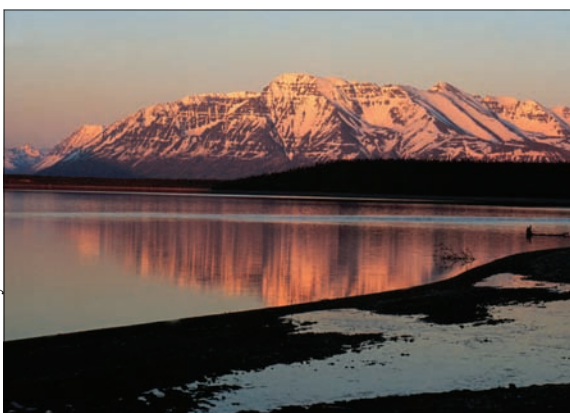
time, it was called "Pilot Station," after the river pilots stationed here to guide boats upriver to a large cannery at Ugashik. In 1892, Charles Nelson opened a saltery which was sold the Alaska Packer's Association in 1895. The saltery continued to expand, and by 1918, developed into a three-line cannery. Many nationalities came to work in the canneries - Italians, Chinese and northern Euro-

peans. Reindeer herding experiments at Ugashik helped to repopulate the area after the devastating 1918 flu epidemic, although the herding eventually failed. A Russian Orthodox Church and a Seventh Day Adventist Church were built in the village. A post office was established in 1933, and the name was changed to Pilot Point at that time. Today, the community is primarily of Alutiiq ancestry, with Yup'ik Eskimos, and practices a fishing and subsistence lifestyle.

The Alaska Peninsula Wildlife Refuge is accessible from here by plane or skiff up the Ugashik River. The Alaska Peninsula Refuge offers a variety of recreational opportunities including sport fishing and hunting, flightseeing, wildlife viewing, hiking,



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backpacking, boating and camping. Refuge lands are remote and accessible only by small aircraft, boat or rugged cross country hiking. There are no roads or maintained trails.

## Port Heiden (Population 90)

Port Heiden is 424 miles southwest of Anchorage, at the mouth of the Meshik River on the north side of the Alaska Peninsula. It lies near the Aniakchak National Preserve and Monument. A State-owned airport consists of a lighted gravel 5,000' long by 100'

The old village of Meshik was located at the current site of Port Heiden. Influenza epidemics during the early 1900s forced residents to relocate to other villages. During World War II, Fort Morrow was built nearby, and 5,000 personnel were stationed at the base. The Fort was closed after the war. A school was established in the early 1950s, which attracted people from surrounding villages. Today, Port Heiden is a traditional Alutiiq community, with a commercial fishing and subsistence lifestyle.

The Alaska Peninsula Wildlife Refuge is accessible from Port Heiden by small aircraft, boat or rugged cross-country hiking. Popular activities in this area include sport fishing and hunting, flightseeing, wildlife viewing, hiking, backpacking, boating and camping. Bird watchers can easily add to their life list since more than 200 species of birds have been observed in this area, of which 15-20 species of game birds, shorebirds, songbirds, and raptors are year-round residents.

Several bed and breakfasts are open here year-round to accommodate visitors.

## Ugashik (Population 12)

(Pronounced yoo-GASH-ick.) Ugashik is located on the northwest coast of the Alaska Peninsula, 16 miles up the Ugashik River from Pilot Point. There is a State-owned, 3,000' long by 60' wide gravel runway available. Sched-

uled and charter flights are available from King Salmon.

Yup'ik Eskimos and Aleuts jointly occupied the area historically. This Aleut village was first recorded

in 1880 as "Oogashik." In the 1890s, the Red Salmon Company developed a cannery, and Ugashik became one of the largest villages in the region. The 1919 flu epidemic decimated the population. The cannery has continued to operate under

various owners. The Briggs Way Cannery opened in 1963.

It is a traditional site of the Alutiiq, however very few people now live in Ugashik year-round. Some of the village's people live in nearby Pilot Point, on the coast. Tribal members live throughout Alaska, California and Washington. Commercial fishing, fish processing and subsistence activities sustain residents of the area. The population of this tiny community swells to

over 200 during the summer as commercial fishermen return to participate in the Bristol Bay salmon fishery.

Accessible by air taxi or boat from here, the

nearby Ugashik Lakes are world renowned for trophy arctic grayling fishing. The lakes also support large concentrations of lake trout and provide key feeding habitat for large numbers of sockeye and coho salmon. The Ugashik Narrows, where two of the largest lakes

are joined by a shallow flowing narrows, has outstanding recreational opportunities for angling for trophy arctic grayling, and other popular sport fish. The Narrows was also important to prehistoric Native com-

munities.

A bed and breakfast is available year-round here to accommodate visi-

Hattie Albecker



Hattie Albecker



Hattie Albecker



Hattie Albecker







## Chignik Area Villages

**Chignik Bay ♦ Chignik Lagoon ♦  
Chignik Lake ♦ Ivanof Bay ♦ Perryville**

This region is home to some of the finest fresh and saltwater fishing in the world where anglers fish for salmon, halibut, trout, ling cod, black bass, and more. Trophy Brown Bear and Moose taken from the area are listed in the top spots of the Boone and Crockett Club. Wilderness adventures aren't limited to fishing and hunting. Other popular activities include hiking, kayaking, bear viewing, beach combing, whale watching, clam digging and berry picking.

Characterized by cool summers and warm rainy winters, these five villages are located on the south shore of the Alaska Peninsula, bordering the Pacific Ocean. They are the most difficult villages in the region to reach by air due to their remote locations, frequent high winds, and mountainous surroundings, but are well worth the effort.

Having no land connections to neighboring communities in the region, these villages are accessible only by air and sea. Scheduled daily flights to Chignik, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Lake and Perryville are available from King Salmon. Ivanof Bay is accessible only by charter flights. Weekly barge service from Seattle to Chignik is available during the summer and monthly during the winter. The state ferry operates bi-monthly from Kodiak to Chignik

between April and October, and is the only community in the region served by the Alaska Marine Highway System. ATVs and skiffs are the most common modes of local transportation.

Commercial fishing and subsistence activities are the mainstays of the economy in this region. Salmon, halibut, black cod, and tanner crab are harvested in the area. The Chignik area is best known for its "Castle Cape Reds" where fishermen use seines and seine boats to harvest salmon bound for Chignik Lake and Black Lake.

Limited services are available in the area and vary greatly from village to village. Check the local listings in the travel directory of this guide for available services.



Chignik Anglers

## Chignik Bay (Population 92)

(Pronounced CHIG-nick.) The village of Chignik Bay, often referred to as Chignik, is located on Anchorage Bay, adjacent to the Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge about 450 miles southwest of Anchorage and 180 miles south of King Salmon.

A village called "Kalwak" was originally located here, but was destroyed during the Russian fur boom in the late 1700s. Chignik, meaning "big wind" was established in the late 1800s as a fishing village and cannery. A four-masted sailing ship called the "Star of Alaska" transported workers and

supplies between Chignik and San Francisco. Chinese crews from San Francisco traveled to Chignik in early spring to make tin cans for the cannery. Japanese workers followed in mid-June to begin processing. Coal mining occurred in the area from 1899 to 1915.

Today, as is typical of villages in the region, commercial salmon fishing is the mainstay of the economy. Salmon, herring roe, halibut, cod and crab are processed here. 600 to 800 people come to Chignik to fish or work in the processing plants each summer.

## Chignik Lagoon (Population 103)

Chignik Lagoon is located 8 ½ miles west of Chignik, 16 miles east of Chignik Lake, and 280 miles east of Unimak Pass (the separation between the Alaska Peninsula and the Aleutian Islands). It obtained its name from its location and proximity to Chignik, the Sugpiaq word for "big wind".

The area was originally populated by Kanaiguit Eskimos. After Russian occupation, the intermarriage of the Kaniags and Aleuts produced Koniags. The people of this era were sea-dependent, living on otter, sea lion, porpoise and whale. During the Russian fur boom from 1767 to 1783, the sea otter population was decimated. This, in addition to disease and warfare,



Chignik Anglers



reduced its Native population to less than half its former size. Current residents are of mixed Alutiiq ancestry.

Over the decades, Chignik Lagoon became a fishing village and now serves, along with Chignik, as a regional fishing center. It experiences an influx of fishermen during the summer months, swelling the population by 200.

### Agutag (Eskimo Ice Cream)

#### Ingredients:

1 qt. desired berries (moss berries, blueberries, salmon berries, or a combination thereof)  
 1/2 to 3/4 cups Crisco  
 1/3 cup sugar (to desired sweetness)  
 2 tbsp. hot water or milk  
 1 boiled whitefish (optional)

Place Crisco in medium bowl. Add hot water/milk and stir until soft and creamy consistency achieved. Add berries and stir to consistent texture. Add sugar, stir again, and cool. (Serve chilled)

#### Variation: Cranberry & Whitefish Agutag

Follow above directions, add de-boned and boiled whitefish to Agutag and mix to desired consistency. (Serve chilled)

Contributed by: Christina Wilson, Ida Nelson, and Kacey Walker

## Chignik Lake (Population 113)

Chignik Lake is located next to the body of water bearing the same name, 13 miles from Chignik and 16 miles west of Chignik Lagoon.

The present population traces its roots from Aleuts who lived on the west side of the Alaska Peninsula near Illnik and the old village of Kanatag near Becharof Lake. In 1903, the village was the winter residence of a sin-

gle family who fished near Chignik Lagoon. Other families moved from surrounding villages in the early 1950s when a school was built.

The residents of Chignik Lake retain close ties with its Alutiiq heritage and practice a subsistence lifestyle. Commercial fishing is the mainstay of Chignik Lake's economy. Some residents leave the village during the summer months to commercial fish, crew or work at the fish processors in Chignik.

## Ivanof Bay (Population 5)

Ivanof Bay is located on the north-east end of the Kupreanof Peninsula at the north end of Ivanof Bay, about 268 miles south of King Salmon.

Ivanof Bay was named by Lt. Dall of the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey in 1880. The village occupies the site of a former salmon cannery which operated from the 1930s to the early 1950s. In 1956, several families moved from Perryville to Ivanof Bay to pursue a peaceful lifestyle, religious freedom, better water quality and better hunting. Ivanof Bay was recognized as an established community in 1965.

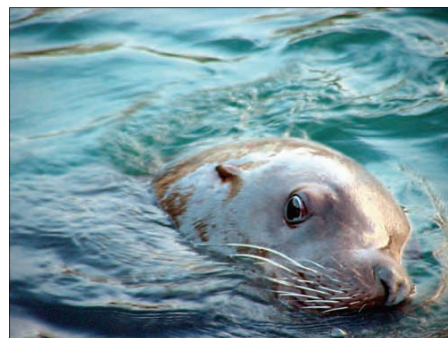
The residents of this isolated village fish commercially for salmon and halibut. Many trap in the winter. The people here are largely dependent upon subsistence hunting and fishing, and use salmon, trout, crab, clams, moose, caribou, bear, porcupine and seals.

## Perryville (Population 110)

Located at the south end of the Alaska Peninsula about 265 miles south of King Salmon, is the scenic village of Perryville.

It was founded in 1912 as a refuge for the Alutiiq people driven away from their villages by the eruption of Mr. Katmai. Many villagers from Douglas and Katmai survived the eruption because they were out fishing at the time. Captain Perry of the ship "Manning" transported people from the Katmai area to Ivanof Bay, and later, to the new village site. The village was originally called "Perry", but the "ville" was added to conform to the post office name, established in 1930.

The residents of Perryville maintain an Alutiiq culture and a subsistence lifestyle. During the summer, the majority of residents leave Perryville to fish in Chignik and Chignik Lagoon. Some residents trap during the winter, and all rely heavily on subsistence food



Chignik Anglers