

# UNALASKA <sup>2017</sup>

International Port of Dutch Harbor

Visitor & Relocation Guide

# Much of the land on Unalaska, Amaknak and Sedanka Island is privately owned by the Ounalashka Corporation.

All recreational use of OC land requires a permit  
A permit can be obtained at our office located at **400 Salmon Way**

*"Thank you for respecting our property and keeping it clean so that others may enjoy it."*



While visiting our office you can:

- Get hiking trail information
- Visit our cultural library
- See our collection of Unangan baskets, sculptures, art and more.

400 Salmon Way | P.O. Box 149, Unalaska, AK, 99685 | 907.581.1276

PHOTOS COURTESY OF: SZ - SANU ZAOLEK, JT - JOHANNA TELLMAN.



## WELCOME TO UNALASKA

Located just fifty miles from the Great Circle Route to the Orient on the coast of the Bering Sea, the community of Unalaska sits in the heart of the North Pacific and Bering Sea Fisheries. The City of Unalaska, home to the International Port of Dutch Harbor, encompasses 27 miles of ports and harbors, and is one of the busiest and most prosperous stretches of coastline in Alaska.

Unalaska is renowned as a major commercial fishery port that has led the nation in volume of landings for 19 straight years. However, Unalaska is much more than a commercial fishing port; it is a community of great beauty and rich historical heritage. The Aleut (Unangan) people have lived in Unalaska for 10,000 years. The lasting impact of the Russian influences, from their colonization of Alaska in the 1700's until the sale of Alaska

to the United States in the mid-1800's, is still felt in the community by the influence of the Orthodox religion, and the most historical landmark, and local treasure, the beautiful Holy Ascension Cathedral. As you visit Unalaska, you will see WWII remnants throughout the community



Frank Kelty  
Mayor of Unalaska

from the attack by Japanese carrier planes on June 3rd and 4th of 1942. A visit to the WWII Visitor Center or the Museum of the Aleutians will assist you on a better understanding of the culture and history of Unalaska. There are a variety of outdoor activities to do during your time here, including sport fishing, bird watching, whale watching and hiking.

The community also offers various restaurants for your dining needs, as well as a Parks Culture and Recreational facility for any of your exercise needs. The Unalaska Public Library is a five star library, providing free internet access to patrons. The community also has a variety biking or jogging trails, and very nice local parks to relax in. We know you will be impressed with the beauty, history, and the wonderful people of this community. We welcome you to the City of Unalaska.

Frank Kelty Mayor of the City of Unalaska

### 2017 Visitor & Relocation Guide

- 1 Welcome
- 2 Traveling to Unalaska
- 5 WWII in the Aleutians
- 8 Museum of the Aleutians
- 10 Cathedral of the Holy Ascension of Christ
- 12 Ice Free Port
- 13 Unalaska Fisheries
- 15 Fish of Unalaska



- 16 Marine Life
- 18 Weather
- 20 Map
- 22 Things to do
- 22 Hiking in Unalaska



- 26 Birding in the Aleutians
- 28 Parks, Culture, & Recreation
- 30 Aleutian Plants
- 32 Calendar of Events
- 34 Makushin Volcano
- 37 Coast Guard
- 40 Visitor Information

# TRAVEL PLANS



## CLOTHING

The Aleutian weather can be unpredictable! It is recommended that you pack clothing that can be layered for sun, wind, and rain.



## CELL PHONE SERVICE

Cell phone service may be sporadic or unavailable depending on your carrier. Connection options are available through retail outlets on the island.



## LUGGAGE

Pack all medicines, valuables and an extra set of clothes in your carry-on. Due to weight capacities & weather factors, there is a chance your luggage might be delayed.



## HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

There is only one hotel in Unalaska. Make sure your accommodations are reserved ahead of time.



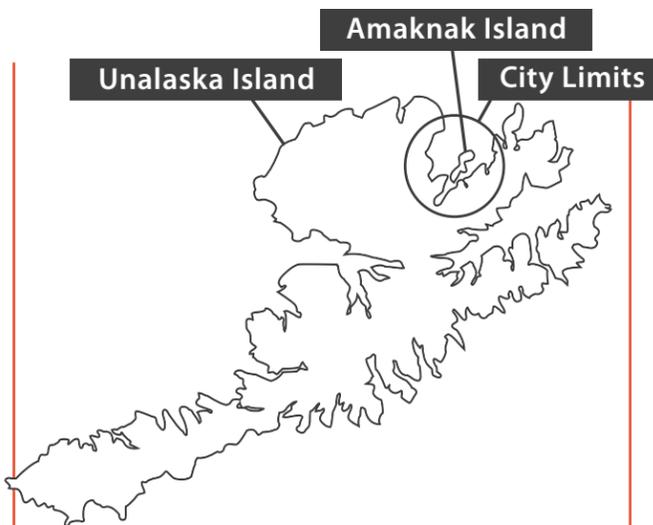
PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF LARRY KASHEVALOFF



## PLANE, FERRY, OR CRUISE SHIP

Travel to Unalaska by boat, such as the Alaska State Ferry, cruise ship, personal sail boat, or by plane.

- 1. Travel By Plane** | YEAR ROUND  
There are daily flights operated by PenAir out of Anchorage, Alaska, that can be booked through Alaska Airlines.  
[WWW.ALASKAAIR.COM](http://WWW.ALASKAAIR.COM)
- 2. Alaska State Ferry** | APRIL - SEPTEMBER  
The ferry runs a 4-day scenic trip from Homer, Alaska with stops along the way to Unalaska/Dutch Harbor.  
[WWW.FERRYALASKA.COM](http://WWW.FERRYALASKA.COM)
- 3. Yacht or Sailboat**  
Several full service dock facilities offer multiple berths with long and short term moorage for vessels up to 200 feet in length.
- 4. Cruise Ships** | APRIL - SEPTEMBER  
Between April and September select cruise ships sail to this unique region of Alaska.



## What is the Actual Name? Unalaska or Dutch Harbor?

There is an unsubstantiated story, that in the late 1700's a Dutch ship anchored up in what was then known as Ulakta Harbor, a naturally very deep and protected harbor along the south shore of Amaknak Island.

### DUTCH HARBOR

The Russian population at the time dubbed that body of water Dutch Harbor. During WWII, the military referred to the entire area as Dutch Harbor as did the people that came here later to work in the commercial fisheries industry.

**AMAKNAK** is commonly referred to as the "Dutch Harbor" side.

### ILIULIUK

The main village on the island was called Iliuliuk which refers to the curvature of the bay.

### AGUNALAKSH

The indigenous Unangan (Aleuts) called their island Agunalaksh, which roughly translates to "close to the mainland."

### OUNALASHKA

Russian fur traders came to the islands in the mid-1700's and eventually referred to the island and village as Ounalashka. After the United States bought Alaska, the U.S. Board of Geographical Names standardized the spelling to Unalaska

Today, the two names are used interchangeably to identify the area. Technically, they are both within the limits of the City of Unalaska, which encompasses all of Amaknak Island and the northeastern end of Unalaska Island. In 1980 the two were connected by the "Bridge to the Other Side."



Photo by Andrew Chiles



# Welcome to Unalaska!

We hope you enjoy your stay! The City of Unalaska offers many services for visitors, which we invite you to enjoy. Please visit our website for extensive information about Unalaska and the International Port of Dutch Harbor at [www.ci.unalaska.ak.us](http://www.ci.unalaska.ak.us)

## COMMUNITY CENTER, 907.581.1297

Gymnasium & Racquetball Courts  
Indoor Track & Weight Room  
Cardio Fitness Center & Exercise Classes  
Shower Rooms & Lockers  
Art Room & Music Room with Piano

## PARKS, 907.581.1297

The City offers 8 lovely parks for your enjoyment that include playground equipment, tennis and basketball courts, baseball fields, gazebos, BBQ pits, a National Historic Landmark, memorials to our Nation's Armed Services and fishermen, walking and biking trails, a skate park and more!

## AQUATIC CENTER, 907.581.1649

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Pool Slide, Sauna & Cardio Fitness Center

## PUBLIC LIBRARY, 907.581.5060

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Local / National Papers & Magazines  
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Fax & Notary Services

## PORTS & HARBORS, 907.581.1254

Call for short term moorage at one of four City docks

## CITY OF UNALASKA

43 Raven Way • P. O. Box 610 • Unalaska, AK 99685  
City Hall (907) 581-1251 • [www.ci.unalaska.ak.us](http://www.ci.unalaska.ak.us)



Bombing of Fort Mears in Dutch Harbor (Amaknak Island.) JUNE 4, 1942

The impact of World War II in the Aleutian Islands remains one of the most visible features that dot this remote landscape today. Quonset huts, barracks, and former gun emplacements blend with Unalaska's modern physical features, providing visitors and locals alike with a unique opportunity to explore this part of United States history.

# WWII - IN THE - ALEUTIANS

Jeff Dickrell Author & History Teacher, Unalaska City High School

For more on World War II in the Aleutians you can visit the Aleutian World War II Visitor Center, the Ounalashka Corporation, or the Museum of the Aleutians.



Navy Ships in Dutch Harbor (Amaknak Island). Ballyhoo Mountain in the background.

ASL-P338-0431



BEFORE : APRIL 1941

UAA-HMC-0506-series-5-4

Above is the 24-bedroom hospital in Unalaska that was operated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Below is the building after it was bombed during WWII.



AFTER : JUNE 4, 1942

UAF-1970-11-70

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF ALASKA STATE LIBRARY.

The United States military paid little attention to the Aleutian Islands prior to WWII. A naval exercise in 1934 was a disaster due to weather, and Navy PBY airplanes were allowed to fly out only in summer. A treaty with Japan forbade the building of bases in the island chain. All of this changed in 1938 when Japan announced it would abandon the treaty. The U.S. military began looking in earnest at the options for base building.

The decision to use Dutch Harbor as the main naval base did not come easily. Little flat ground, and a harbor that was too small for turning large vessels, were balanced by the fact that the navy already had a radio station and weather observatory in place here. The private buildings that made up the village on Amaknak Island were bought and construction began in the summer of 1940. Six months later, the Naval Section base was commissioned, with an air station completed by September 1941. When the war began in December of that year, the base at Dutch Harbor was ill defended. Only a major artillery position on Ballyhoo Mountain was completed.

In May 1942, a Japanese naval force of two aircraft carriers and several smaller ships steamed 180 miles southwest of Unalaska Island. Their mission was to neutralize the air base at Dutch Harbor and destroy its ability to attack Japan. In a strange compromise, due to the lack of flat ground, American airfields had been built 100 miles east, at Cold Bay, and 80 miles west, on Umnak Island, Cape Field.

On June 3rd, at 6 A.M., eleven Kate bombers and six Zero fighters attacked the base. The Americans, having broken the enemy code, were prepared. Finding no airfield, the planes dropped their bombs on the Army barracks of Ft. Mears. This tightly packed cluster of white buildings housed most of the 9,000 men on the island. More bombs fell on radio stations and anti-aircraft positions. No Japanese planes were shot down. Strangely, communication with the American airfields failed during the attacks. No planes came to the defense of Dutch Harbor. Over the next 24

hours, American aircraft searched for the Japanese. A few unsuccessful attacks were made against the fleet.

On June 4th, Dutch was attacked again by eleven Zeros, nine Kates and an additional punch of eleven Val dive-bombers. Having photographed the base the previous day, the Japanese dropped bombs that destroyed fuel tanks, and a ship used for power generation (the Northwestern), as well as smaller random targets. Once again, communication with the airfields failed. In total, less than fifty men were killed in action.

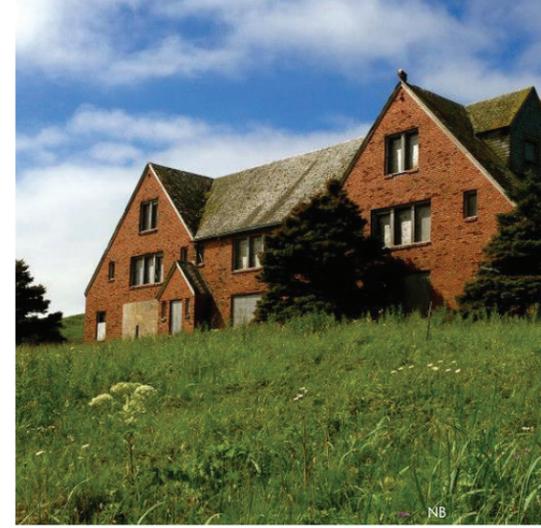
As the Japanese steamed away westward, the Americans made two important decisions. Priority one was to build a runway in Dutch Harbor. This was done in nine days and is still used today. The second was to evacuate the native Unangan (Aleut) people from the entire chain. The decision was ill planned and carried out with no regard for the victims' well being. Eight hundred eighty-one

people from eight villages were sent to makeshift camps in southeast Alaska. There the discomfort and lack of care resulted in high death rates among the youngest and oldest of the culture, losses that are still felt today. A week after the attacks on Unalaska, the Americans

**"ON JUNE 4TH, DUTCH WAS ATTACKED AGAIN BY ELEVEN ZEROS, NINE KATES AND AN ADDITIONAL PUNCH OF ELEVEN VAL DIVE-BOMBERS"**

discovered that the Japanese had occupied two islands on the western end of the chain, Attu and Kiska. A concentrated attempt to bomb the enemy from the islands failed, so a new tactic was developed. This was the building of airfields closer and closer to the enemy-held islands. By the end of August 1942, a major base was opened on Adak Island. This shifted operations from Unalaska further west. The base at Dutch Harbor soon became a minor support center.

A year after the Japanese attacks on Dutch Harbor, the Americans invaded Attu, and in nineteen days of heavy fighting cleared it of the enemy. Two months later, the Americans landed on Kiska expecting the same fanatical resistance. Instead, they discovered the Japanese had evacuated their entire force. This ended the Aleutian Campaign but not the American presence on Unalaska, which lasted until the war ended.



WWII Radio Station



The sunken ship Northwestern

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF: NB - NATALIE BECKETT, BR - BRETT RICHARDSON ALL OTHERS PROVIDED BY THE CVB STAFF.

## JOIN US IN UNALASKA

- June 2-4, 2017 -

As we commemorate the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Dutch Harbor on June 3 & 4, 1942 and the evacuation and relocation of the Aleut residents of the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands to Southeast Alaska.

- EVENTS INCLUDE -

MEMORIAL CEREMONY Honoring and Acknowledging Veterans & Aleut Evacuees  
- HISTORICAL PRESENTATIONS - TRADITIONAL ALEUT FOODS LUNCHEON  
- PERSONAL STORIES - MESS HALL MEAL - TOURS OF WWII FORTS & BUNKERS  
- FLYOVERS BY HISTORIC AIRCRAFT

For more information, contact Lydia Gordon, Ounalashka Corporation, at (907) 581-1276, or Rachel Mason, National Park Service, at (907) 644-3472.

In collaboration with the National Park Service, the Ounalashka Corporation, along with the City of Unalaska, Museum of the Aleutians, Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, the Alaska Veterans Museum, the Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association, the Qawalangin Tribe, and The Aleut Corporation.



# The MUSEUM of the ALEUTIANS



Unangan bentwood hat, crafted by Gert Svarny.

The Museum of the Aleutians is a state-of-the-art cultural center of the Aleutian Islands and the Unalaska community. The Museum opened its doors in 1999 with the mission to collect, preserve, and research the ethnography and history of the Aleutian Islands Region. Through actively growing ethnographic, Russian/American, WWII, and artwork collections, the Museum provides stimulating permanent and changing exhibits, as well as a home to researchers and community events.

The Aleutian Islands chain is made up of approximately 100 islands in a 1,250 mile range, separating the Bering Sea to the north and Pacific Ocean to the south. Volcanic, foggy, and windswept, these islands have been home to the Unangan (also known as Aleut) culture for thousands of years. Given the harsh climatic condition of sea life, it is not surprising that the Unangan developed and shaped their culture to co-exist with the unique environment that defines the Aleutian Islands. Ioann Veniaminov (1797-1879), a Russian Orthodox priest and the Unangan's first ethnographer, identified adaptability as one of the key cultural characteristics that enabled the Unangan people to develop and sustain a complex maritime lifestyle for at least 10,000 years.

Academic research on the Aleutian Islands reaches back to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, and prehistoric cultural development is continuously explored through anthropological studies and archaeological fieldwork to date. Aleutian archaeologists have counted at least 25 known prehistoric village sites within a 2-mile radius of the Dutch Harbor Airport, and there are doubtless many more sites waiting to be discovered and documented. Chert and obsidian projectile

**"ALEUTIAN ARCHAEOLOGISTS HAVE COUNTED AT LEAST 25 KNOWN PREHISTORIC VILLAGE SITES WITHIN A 2-MILE RADIUS OF THE DUTCH HARBOR AIRPORT"**

points, worked and decorated bone root picks, ivory needles, and whale bone bowls are just a sampling of the artifacts from these archaeological excavations that are yours to view and enjoy at the Museum of the Aleutians. By analyzing these objects, one can come closer to understanding how the Unangan people thrived in the Aleutians.

The most important survival method for early Unangan culture was subsistence living--surviving off the land and natural environment--and consisted of understanding and utilizing every aspect of island topography. Kayaks, called iqyaks or ikyaadak in Unangam Tunuu (the Aleut language), were commonly used for hunting marine mammals, such as seals, whales, and sea otters, in the dangerous open seas. Ethnographic studies suggest that all parts of an animal were incorporated into daily life, as evidenced by the archaeological record as well as by the continuing oral tradition to this day. Gut parkas, or kamleikas, were made by sewing seal or sea lion intestine together, capitalizing on the material's waterproofing and weather-protective capabilities. Kamleikas are still made today, and examples of these are on permanent display in the Museum's Special Collections Gallery.

The adaptation of indigenous language, traditions and subsistence skills that are many centuries old are continued today through native culture camps, exhibitions, publications, and research. The Museum works with local

**"CHERT AND OBSIDIAN PROJECTILE POINTS, WORKED AND DECORATED BONE ROOT PICKS, IVORY NEEDLES, AND WHALE BONE BOWLS ARE JUST A SAMPLING OF THE ARTIFACTS FROM ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS"**

Marine Advisory Program, helping to bridge the gap between scientific biological research and the local community by hosting the Forum of Alaska Marine Issues lecture series, which is open to the public. It is through endeavors such as these that we can strive to better understand this exceptional part of the world.

artisans, scientists, anthropologists, and linguists to help preserve the time-honored skills and traditions of the Aleutians' first inhabitants, as well as to keep abreast of the most current scientific research passing through our neighborhood. The Museum also works closely in partnership with the University of Alaska Fairbanks



MOTA

This gut parka (kamleika) was primarily made of seal, sea lion or walrus intestine, and was used for waterproof protection while kayaking or for tide pool hunting and bird egg collecting. When dry, the gut parka is not very flexible and tears easily. When wet, the gut becomes soft and flexible and fits the wearer's body.

[www.aleutians.org](http://www.aleutians.org)  
Museum of the Aleutians, 314 Salmon Way  
**907-581-5150**

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF MOTA - THE MUSEUM OF THE ALEUTIANS, AB - ALI BONOMO

**Gert Svarny**  
Unangan Artist

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PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF JOHANNA TELLMAN

# The CATHEDRAL of the HOLY ASCENSION of CHRIST

The oldest cruciform-style  
Orthodox church in  
North America  
by Sharon Svarny-Livingston



This woodblock print, entitled "September Afternoon" by Ray Hudson depicts one of the restoration projects completed on the Russian Orthodox church in 1997.

When a visitor is planning a trip to the City of Unalaska and the International Port of Dutch Harbor, more likely than not a photograph of the Cathedral of the Holy Ascension of Christ has crossed his or her desktop. The cathedral, the oldest cruciform-style Orthodox church in North America, stands as a sentry on the front beach and is the most photographed landmark in the Aleutian Islands.

The cathedral was completed in 1896 and stands on grounds where Saints have walked and that have housed Orthodox chapels since 1808. Surprisingly, within the cathedral are portions of the older churches that are the history of the site. Specifically, the chapel dedicated to St. Sergei of Radonez houses the original Iconostas from the 1808 chapel, with the exception of the royal doors which are from the church built by Fr. John Veniaminov in 1825.

The chapel originally dedicated to St. Innocent of Irkutsk, houses the Iconostas from the 1825 chapel that Fr. John built, with the exception of the royal doors which are from the original chapel constructed in 1808. The site, declared a National Historic Landmark in the 1970's, has undergone a restoration which has removed it from the listing as one of the twelve most endangered historic landmarks in the world. Phase two of the restoration, which has been ongoing since 1997, includes the restoration of the nearly 700 icons and relics within the cathedral.

The cathedral and the church grounds have been a cornerstone in the lives of the Unangan/Unangas since the introduction of orthodoxy. Although the church has been in Unalaska for only a brief moment in time considering the documented 9,000-year history of Unangan occupation, the church has solidified its importance to the Unangan people over the ensuing

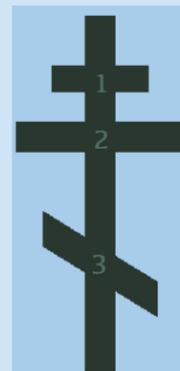
years and the tumultuous times of "Americanization" and, especially, during the evacuation of the indigenous population during World War II. The relationship began with Veniaminov's protection of the people from the cruelty of enslavement, grew with his dedication to the artistic traits of the Unangan people and his belief in the importance of tradition and culture. His creation of an alphabet for Unangam Tunuu allowed the indigenous population to move forward in time, changing the way that they were able to document their own history. Over the years, the church has given a sense of community when it was desperately needed, and the people have reciprocated with their unfailing faith and by being the caretakers of the physical church, maintaining the structure as best they could, even in times of total destitution.

The Bishop's House, a neighboring structure, was built in 1882 in San Francisco, dismantled and shipped to be reassembled in Unalaska for Bishop Nestor. Unfortunately, he was lost at sea on his way to Unalaska, and never lived in the house. The Bishop's House is the only surviving remnant of a cluster of church buildings that once included a seminary and school. The Bishop's House is slated for restoration during a third restoration phase planned by the Unalaska Parish.

THE CATHEDRAL AND THE CHURCH GROUNDS HAVE BEEN A CORNERSTONE IN THE LIVES OF THE UNANGAN/ UNANGAS SINCE THE INTRODUCTION OF ORTHODOXY.

Still an important part of village life, regular services are held on Saturday evening at 6:30 and Sunday morning at 10:00. All are welcome to attend. Bear in mind that attendees stand during the services and the services are conducted in a mixture of English, Unangam tunuu, and Old Church Slavonic.

## Symbols of the Orthodox Cross



**1. The top cross represents the sign saying "King of the Jews" (ICXC) Greek for Jesus Christ), placed there by the Roman soldiers as a joke, but now regarded as the truth.**

**2. Second cross is the arm board to which Christ's hands were nailed.**

**3. The third is the most important. It represents the foot board where Jesus' legs were supported. This allowed the person being crucified to hold themselves upright and keeping them alive, until they were too tired and allowed themselves to suffocate.**

It also represented the fact that Jesus suffered on the cross, wrenching the board in his agony. This shows he was truly human, not a pain-free god.

Lastly it represents the two other men crucified on the cross with Jesus. The man on the left did not believe and was sent down to hell, the man on the right believed and was sent to heaven. Therefore the third cross piece always points UP to Jesus' right.

INTERPRETATION COURTESY OF JEFF DICKRELL

# PORT OF DUTCH HARBOR: DEEP DRAFT, ICE FREE PORT

Chris Hladick, Former City Manager

RUSSIA

ALASKA

BERING SEA

Unalaska

SEATTLE

PACIFIC OCEAN

"Fish and seafood products are shipped from Unalaska to markets around the world, both foreign and domestic."



CVB

JAPAN

► The Port of Dutch Harbor, located on Unalaska Island, has a rich Aleut (Unangan) history dating back at least 10,000 years. There have been many habitations near the bay due to the natural protection of the sand spit that forms Dutch Harbor. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Russian fur traders first sailed here.

► The Port of Dutch Harbor is the only deep draft port that is free of ice year round on the west coast of Alaska from Unimak Pass, west to Attu, north to the Bering Straits, and south to Canada. Unalaska is unique among Alaska's coastal communities in the full array of support services provided. Because of the wide variety of services provided, no other community in the region has Unalaska's capacity to support shipping and commercial fishing.

► During WWII, Dutch Harbor became a sea base for amphibious planes and submarines, again because of the natural port features of deep water, protected bays, and being free of ice year round. During the war, there were 9,000 troops stationed at various forts on the island. Evidence of the military's presence is visible today, with many bunkers and WWII era buildings, some of which are still in use.

► With the advent of increased shipping activity along the Northern Sea Route, it is expected that the Port of Dutch Harbor will also be involved as a key element of shipping cargo over the pole. As the ice melts, more shipping companies will seek to take advantage of the cost savings to be realized in shipping cargo over the pole.

► The Port of Dutch Harbor is intensively planning for the future and the City of Unalaska is interested in meeting the demands of industry in the most efficient way possible. It is expected that the Port of Dutch Harbor will continue to be a vibrant economic hub far into the future.

# UNALASKA AND ITS ROLE IN THE FISHERIES

## RESOURCES OF THE BERING SEA

by FRANK KELTY  
Mayor of the City of Unalaska



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF BEATRICE??

Historically, our community has benefited from the rich fishery resources of the Bering Sea. Groundfish harvest allocations for the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands are capped at 2.0 Million Metric Tons annually. For the past 21 years, Unalaska has been the nation's number one commercial fishing port in terms of pounds landed, and either first or second during that time frame in dollar value of product landed.

In 2015, the most current fisheries data provided by National Marine Fisheries Service showed that Unalaska's commercial fishing fleet landed 787.4 million pounds of fish and shellfish, at a dollar value of \$218.2 million.

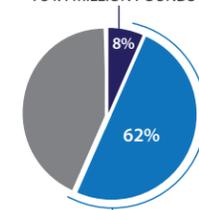
Following the The Magnuson - Stevens Act in 1976 ▼ the Pollock fishery in the Bering Sea quickly became the nation's largest and most valuable fishery; in 2015 the Pollock fishery had a harvest of 3.3 billion pounds at an ex-vessel value of 441 million dollars.

► In 2015 Alaska's fishery landing totaled 6 billion pounds which was 62% of the nation's landing of 9.7 billion pounds. In 2015 Unalaska landings of 784.4 million pounds accounted for 13.0% of the State of Alaska landing of 6.0 billion pounds and

### 2015 Alaska Fishery National Landings

9.7 BILLION POUNDS

UNALASKA  
784.4 MILLION POUNDS



ALASKA  
6 BILLION POUNDS

8% of the total nations total landing of 9.7 billion pounds.

The seafood industry of the Bering Sea is the economic engine for the community. Unalaska processors and local businesses provide employment, processing, and support services for the approximately 300 licensed vessels that fish the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands for Pollock, Pacific Cod, Halibut, Sablefish, Crab, Sole, Rockfish, Herring, and Salmon. The Seafood Industry of this region is also a major economic force for the State of Alaska. It is the state's largest private sector employer, providing over 40,000 jobs and is second only to the oil and gas industry in providing revenues of over \$100 million to the Alaska general fund.

Unalaska is unique among Alaska's coastal communities in the support services it provides for the Bering Sea fleet.

Support services encompass a wide range of businesses such as diesel repair, electrical, and electronics, freight forwarding, hydraulic, refrigeration services, logistical support, marine pilots/tugs & maritime agencies, gear replacement and repair, stevedoring, vehicle rentals, warehousing, vessel haul outs, and welding.

No other fishing community in the region has the capacity to support commercial fishing in the Bering Sea/ Aleutian Islands.

In Unalaska, we realize that the health and sustainability of the Bering Sea/Aleutian Island fisheries is critical to our community's survival.

We strongly support sustainable and well managed fisheries that have been and will continue to be an economic foundation bringing prosperity and growth for Unalaska for years to come.

IN UNALASKA, WE REALIZE THAT THE HEALTH AND SUSTAINABILITY OF THE BERING SEA/ ALEUTIAN ISLANDS FISHERIES IS CRITICAL TO OUR COMMUNITY'S SURVIVAL.

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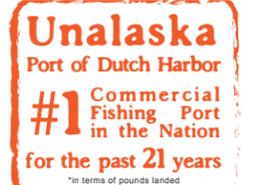
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- Machining
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- Fiberglass
- UHMW Items
- Exhaust Lagging
- AWS D 1.1, ASME B 2.1,
- API, ARC, TIG, MIG



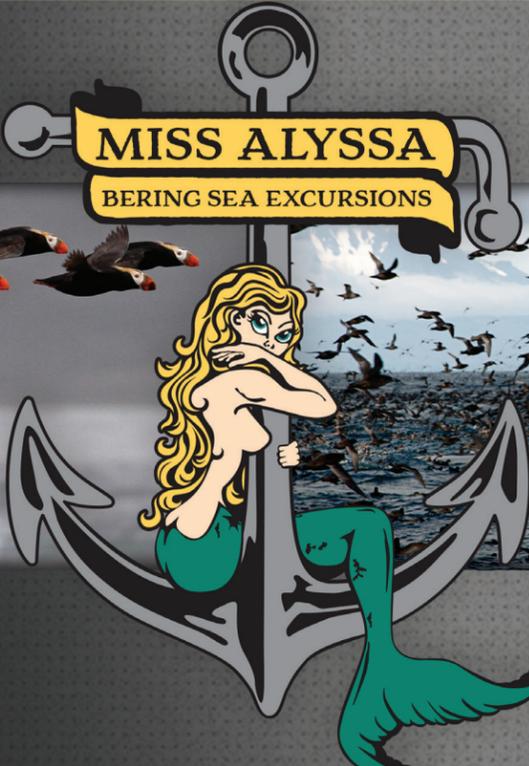
### THE MAGNUSON - STEVENS ACT

In 1976 Congress passed The Magnuson-Stevens Act, increasing the United States Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) from 3 miles to 200 miles off shore, essentially eliminating foreign fishing fleets from fishing the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands. In the early 1980s, the huge Pollock/Pacific Cod fisheries of the Bering Sea began to become Americanized, first through the development of the offshore catcher processor fleets, followed by the onshore development with the building of large multi-species processing plants in Unalaska, Akutan, King Cove, Sand Point and Kodiak.

--- 3 MILES OFFSHORE    ■ POST 1976 U.S.A. E ECONOMIC ZONE



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# Fish of Unalaska

For accurate seasonal fishing dates, and fishing license information please visit:  
[www.adfg.state.ak.us](http://www.adfg.state.ak.us)

-   
**DOLLY VARDEN: FRESH & SALT WATER**  
 SEASON: MID-MAY — MID-AUGUST
-   
**CHUM SALMON: FRESH & SALT WATER**  
 SEASON: MID-AUGUST — SEPTEMBER
-   
**PINK SALMON: FRESH & SALT WATER**  
 SEASON: MID-JULY — AUGUST
-   
**RED SALMON: FRESH & SALT WATER**  
 SEASON: MID-MAY — JULY
-   
**SILVER SALMON: FRESH & SALT WATER**  
 SEASON: MID-AUGUST — OCTOBER
-   
**KING SALMON: FRESH & SALT WATER**  
 SEASON: DECEMBER — JANUARY
-   
**KELP GREENLING: SALT WATER**  
 SEASON: DECEMBER — JANUARY
-   
**COD: SALT WATER**  
 SEASON: DECEMBER — JANUARY
-   
**FLOUNDER: SALT WATER**  
 SEASON: DECEMBER — JANUARY
-   
**HALIBUT: SALT WATER**  
 SEASON: MAY — MID-NOVEMBER

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF: ?? - ??, SZ - SAM ZMOLEK - ALL OTHERS PROVIDED BY THE CVB STAFF.

# Marine Life of the Aleutian Islands

**Melissa Good** Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program Agent

The Aleutian Islands are home to a thriving marine ecosystem, unmatched in its biological productivity and diversity of marine life. Stretching along a 1,100 mile arc, the Aleutian Islands extends from the Alaska Peninsula towards Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula, lying south of the Bering Sea, west of the Gulf of Alaska and as the northern border of the Pacific Ocean. Otherwise known as the "birth place of the winds", these islands are characterized by massive storm systems that influence weather of the entire North American continent, inter-island tidal rips that can make 100 foot boats bob like bath toys, and rugged undersea terrain that is seemingly of another world.

While these conditions may seem harsh, they are drivers of a rich marine ecosystem, and these spectacular islands provide sanctuary for some of the largest populations of unique marine mammals, seabirds, fish and invertebrates in the world.

Extreme winter weather systems and oceanic upwelling draw cold nutrient-rich waters from the depths of the ocean. An abundance of nutrients and long summer days create conditions which allow explosions in primary production, the growth of microscopic plant life called phytoplankton, the base of the ecosystem's food chain. Spring and late summer phytoplankton blooms provide the base of this extensive marine food web and the platform for over 450 species of fish and invertebrates.

Harvest of fish such as Pacific halibut, pollock, Pacific cod, sablefish, and Atka mackerel provide numerous jobs within the region and support the subsistence lifestyle of indigenous Aleuts and residents of the Aleutian Islands. Many other fish species, including sculpin, rock greenling, gunnels, species of rock fish, sole, flounder, and other flatfish call the area home and are commonly observed by fishers and scuba divers. Invertebrates play no less of a role. Various fishing methods are used to harvest red king crab, Tanner and Dungeness crabs, shrimp, bidarkis (chitons), shield limpets, and sea urchins. One glance into a tidepool reveals a world of pink coralline algae, bright orange and red anemones, clumsy hermit crabs, and a magnificent array of seastars. Rolling waves of kelp in the nearshore provide shelter for fish nurseries, Giant pacific octopus, soft corals, large vase sponges, and colonial bryozoans.

In the Aleutian Islands, the extensive marine life extends from the sea to the air. Each year, an abundant source of food and mild ice-free winters attracts 40-50 million seabirds, birds that spend the better part of their lives away from land on the ocean. These birds come to the Aleutian Islands to feed and build nests precipitously perched on

steep cliffs. Visitors to the area are often greeted by an abundance of bald eagles, ravens, cormorants, pigeon guillemots, kittiwakes, various gull species and ducks. Wandering along the shore, rock sandpipers and oystercatchers along with other shorebirds are common sites. Just offshore, horned and tufted puffins, murrelets, fulmars, and shearwaters call these waters home. If you are lucky you may even spot such rarities as the short-tailed albatross, red-legged kittiwake, or Steller eiders.

ROLLING WAVES OF KELP IN THE NEARSHORE PROVIDE SHELTER FOR FISH NURSERIES, GIANT PACIFIC OCTOPUS, SOFT CORALS, LARGE VASE SPONGES, AND COLONIAL BRYOZOANS.

to sea. Endangered Steller sea lions can be seen nearshore thrashing salmon and other fish and invertebrates in the air. Threatened Northern sea otters can be seen lazily floating among the kelp forests, and, if you look closely, you may catch a harbor seal peaking its head just above the surface.

The marine life of the Aleutian Islands is vibrant and spectacular. Visitors will not be disappointed with these close and personal wildlife experiences, or the joy and energy derived from being surrounded by this pristine marine environment.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF LYNDA LYBECK-ROBINSON



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# Williwaw WEATHER

BY BOBBIE LEKANOFF

A williwaw is defined by Webster's New World Dictionary, in part, as a "sudden, violent, cold wind blowing down from mountain passes toward the coast in far northern latitudes as on the Alaskan coast and Aleutians." In the Aleut Dictionary/Unangam Tunudgusii, compiled by Knut Bergsland, 1994, it is described as a "squall, whirlwind (wind raising up smoke on the sea), or wind coming from different directions." This is just one of the extreme weather phenomena that occur in the Aleutians. The area has been dubbed the cradle of storms; the birthplace of the winds. The wind

"THERE'S NO BAD WEATHER, JUST BAD CLOTHES."

is kicked up by what are known as the Aleutian lows, low fronts that form out over the Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea, and move over the Aleutians from west to east. They actually determine much of the weather over Canada and to some degree the lower 48 states. The weather is one of the main topics of conversation if you live and work in Unalaska/Dutch Harbor, and may determine any outside activity you may be participating in. You definitely dress in layers and keep in mind, to quote a local, "there's no bad weather, just bad clothes."

	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
Average Temperatures	37/26	37/26	38/27	41/30	45/36	51/40	57/45	59/46	54/42	47/36	43/32	38/29
Average Rainfall	7 IN	6 IN	6 IN	3 IN	4 IN	3 IN	2 IN	3 IN	5 IN	6 IN	7 IN	7 IN
Average Snowfall	23 IN	21 IN	14 IN	6 IN	1 IN	-	-	-	-	-	5 IN	15 IN

# Wonderful WEATHER

BY LYNDA LYBECK-ROBINSON

In the deepest dark of a bleak midwinter morning, when the winds can shake

"The memory of a perfect Unalaska summer day warms the spirits amidst the deep dark bleak midwinter day"

the eaves; when the cold seems insurmountable and endless, there is one thought to warm their spirits: The memory of a perfect Unalaska summer day. Throw open the windows, and, depending on where you stand, the scent of the sea and windswept tundra, greets you. Beyond, a water colored emerald landscape dotted with purple lupine, crisp white daisies smiling with golden eyes gently wave and turn toward the sun, while flocks of young grey crowned rosy finches, lapland longspurs and sparrows dance with almost a hundred summer bird



species over the sweet reddening salmonberries tucked, growing and ready for picking. The sound of "whoosh" carried over the breeze excites, and you turn just in time to see humpbacks blowing and sounding in the bay. After years of living here, you aren't surprised when you see that long time residents still carry cameras

with them everywhere they go, and say to each other, "Can you believe this day?" Count a day like this, along with a million other reasons, why Unalaska is one of the most beautiful places in the world, and keeps folks in love with it even through the hardest of winters.

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF: JT-JOHANNA TELLMAN, ALL OTHERS PROVIDED BY THE CVB STAFF.

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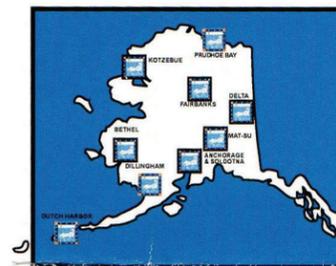
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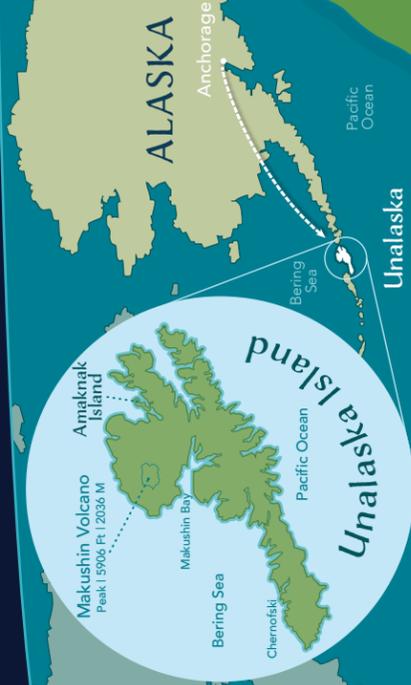


Anchorage	563-4111
Fairbanks	451-7246
Bethel	543-7600
Palmer	746-7846
Wasilla	892-7246
Kotzebue	442-4435
Delta	895-5055
Soldotna	420-4949
Dillingham	842-2300
Prudhoe Bay	717-9222



# UNALASKA

PORT OF DUTCH HARBOR



- Fort Schwatka**  
\* Former site of Army Base Fort Schwatka WWII remnants & bunkers can be found here.
- 14 Harbor View Bar & Grill**
- 15 Harbor Sushi**  
(see back cover)
- 16 Aleutian Chiropractic**  
(pg. 23)
- 17 City of Unalaska**  
(pg. 35)
- 18 Visitor Information**  
(pg. 36)
- 19 Parks Culture & Recreation**  
(pg. 25)
- 20 Channel 8/ KUCB 89.7 FM**  
(pg. 29)
- 21 Alyeska Trading Co.**  
(pg. 11)
- 18 Orthodox Cathedral**  
The Cathedral of the Holy Ascension of Christ is the oldest cruciform-style church in North America. (pg. 8)
- 19 Dutch Harbor Fast Food**
- 20 Arctic Chiropractic**  
(pg. 33)
- 21 Unalaska Building Supply**  
(pg. 34)

- 1 City Dock Ferry & Cruise Ships**
- 2 WWII Visitor Center**  
(inside back cover)
- 3 AIRPORT**
- 4 Airport Restaurant**
- 5 Red Fish Electronic**  
(pg. 16)
- 6 BC Rentals**  
(pg. 24)
- 7 North Port Rentals**  
(pg. 24)
- 8 Aleutian Fresh Seafood**  
(pg. 13)
- 9 LFS Marine Supplies**  
(pg. 15)
- 10 Island Grind Coffee**
- 11 Amelia's Restaurant**
- 12 Safeway**  
(pg. 13)
- 13 GCI Wireless**  
(pg. 16)
- 14 Norwegian Rat Saloon**  
(pg. 13)
- 15 The Grand Aleutian Hotel**
- 16 The Chart Room**  
Cape Cheerful Margaret Bay Cafe' Gift Shop  
(see back cover)
- 17 Bering Sea Office Supplies**
- 18 Alaska Ship Supply**
- 19 Key Bank (ATM)**
- 20 Ounalashka Corporation**  
Hiking Maps & Land Use Permits  
(see inside cover)
- 21 Museum of the Aleutians**  
(pg. 6-7)
- 22 Dutch Harbor Mall**  
Carolyn Reed Art & Framing  
(pg. 36)

- Informational boards** located around town with important historical information
- 1** The S.S. Northwestern
  - 2** Naval Radio Station
  - 3** Alert/Evacuation
  - 4** Underground Hospital
  - 5** The "Daughboys" of Dutch Harbor
  - 6** Alaska Native Service Hospital
  - 7** Relocation of 1942
  - 8** Expedition Island Sub Base 151



**- Map Key -**  
**Unalaska Island & Amaknak Island**

<b>ROADS &amp; TRAILS</b>	<b>FACILITIES</b>	<b>PUBLIC SERVICES</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Drivable Roads</li> <li> Non-Drivable Roads</li> <li> Hiking Trails</li> <li> Parks page 25</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Public Restrooms</li> <li> WiFi Access</li> <li> ATM</li> <li> Emergency Medical Clinic</li> <li> United States Postal Service Dutch Harbor 99692 Unalaska 99685</li> <li> Public Safety Police, Fire Station, DMV</li> <li> Unalaska Public Library page 35</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> 0 1/2 MILE 1 MILE</li> <li> 0 1.3 MILES 2.4 MILES</li> </ul>

# THINGS TO DO



## Island Eats

- Taste the bounty of the sea at Harbor Sushi
- Relish the Sunday brunch at the Grand Aleutian Hotel
- Listen to the local musicians at Cape Cheerful Lounge
- Grab hot wings at the Norwegian Rat Saloon
- Enjoy a hearty breakfast at Amelia's Restaurant
- Eat at the Grand Aleutian Hotel's Wednesday Seafood Buffet
- Grab Phö at Dutch Harbor Restaurant



## SUMMER

In June the flowers bloom almost overnight and the hills turn from calico brown and white to lush vibrant green. The daylight peaks at about 17 hours in June and slowly loses light after the solstice at about 4 minutes a day.



See, smell, or pick a wildflower



Pick wild Salmonberries\*  
AUGUST



Watch local residents play softball at Kelty Field  
MAY - SEPTEMBER



Walk around Sitka Spruce Park planted in 1805



## FALL

The lush green hills start to change with the addition of rusty red spots, along with light splashes of orange, yellow, and brown. The air begins to get more crisp, the chilling wind picks up with more vigor, and the call of the seagulls become more noticeable. The fishing vessels start to prepare for the start of the upcoming fishing and crabbing season.



Observe fishing vessels and crabbers prepare for the fishing season



Watch the talented Swan Net crew untangle nets in front of the hotel



Watch the Pink Salmon (Humpy) spawn in Iliuliuk Creek  
SEPTEMBER

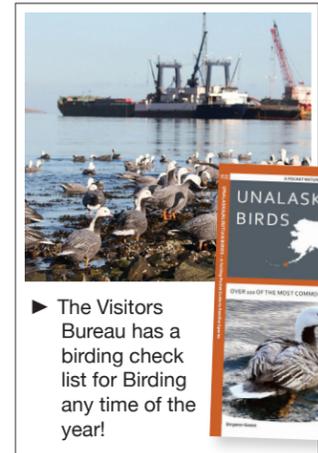


Visit Memorial Park



## WINTER

Colder months brings the shortest days of the year to Unalaska, with the shortest daylight averaging to 7 hours and 23 minutes. Winters are typically mild here, and can bring thick blankets of snow or warm southern rain storms. Days where there is a pristine cover of snow and clear blue skies can showcase some of the most breathtaking scenery.

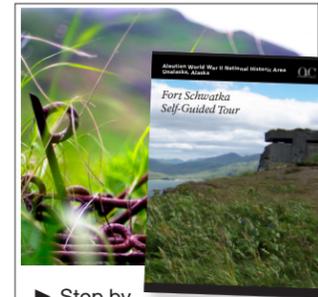


► The Visitors Bureau has a birding check list for Birding any time of the year!



## SPRING

An Unalaska Spring day could present a mix of all seasons in one day. Unalaska often receives snow into April and sometimes May. It is a slow wait for the roads to beaches and hiking areas to be cleared. The days start getting longer and Unalaska gains daylight at a rate of about 4 minutes per day.



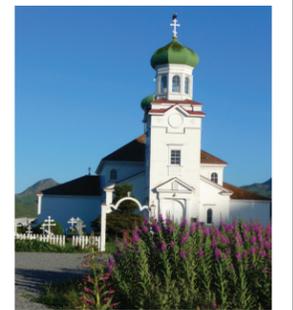
► Stop by the WWII Visitor Center to pick up a copy of Fort Schwatka self-guided tour booklet



## Enjoy Unalaska Anytime



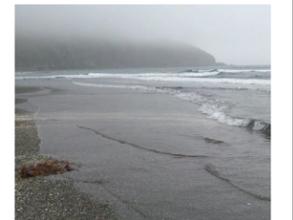
► Swim or sauna at the Aquatic Center



► Visit the Russian Orthodox cruciform-style church in North America



► Beach comb for sea glass on Front Beach



► Venture out to Summer Bay\*



► Visit the Unalaska Library and the Alaskan room



► Watch the New Year's fireworks on December 30th



► Visit the Museum of Aleutians



► Get inside a WWII bunker



► Watch an unforgettable sunrise

\* The Unalaska Corporation owns much of the surrounding land. Some activities require that you purchase a land use permit to enjoy your recreational activities. Permits can be purchased at the Unalaska Corporation Building, located at 400 Salmon Way.

# Adventure & Hiking in the Aleutians



Whether you are a first-time visitor or you are planning your next trip to Alaska, the Aleutian Islands offer some of the very best chances for a truly 'wild' adventure experience. Free from other people in many readily accessible recreation areas, you can truly have a wilderness experience that is all your own.

## PLAN EXTRA DAYS

Allowing enough days for your trip is the best option for a successful and satisfying Aleutian Islands adventure. Summer time fog, rain and wind can persist for days at a time. July and August are typically the driest months, but regardless of when you visit come prepared for many potential and abrupt weather changes in a single day. Instead of having a rigid schedule or inflexible plan in mind for your trip, be ready with a few options and prepared for changing activities based on what the weather will allow. Having a range of clothing layers and a warm hat with you will help keep you dry and comfortable and prepared for whatever the day brings.

## CLOSE TO TOWN

If you only have a day or two to spend in Unalaska a car rental will enable you to quickly get to the starting point of some exceptional hikes. A paved bike trail along Airport Beach Road brings you to the base of a quick hike up Bunker Hill; with its historic WWII remains and stunning 360 degree views of town and surrounding waterways.

## MAPS

Maps of accessible hiking trail routes from Unalaska/Dutch Harbor are available from the Ounalashka Corporation. Keep in mind that many of the trails are unmarked and not maintained in any way. In some cases there is little or no physical evidence of a trail or it may suddenly disappear completely. A tip to following these trails is to look farther ahead and you may see a zigzag streak reappear along the ridge side in the distance ahead of you. On a clear day, the treeless vistas enable you to see every detail of the landscape unfolding in front of you and allow you to find a route to your own liking. Scree slopes are commonly encountered and snow slopes persist along some trails late into the summer, requiring careful steps. A few historic trails are frequented enough that they are quite easy to follow.

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF: SZ - SAM ZMOLEK, ALL OTHERS ARE PROVIDED BY CVB STAFF.

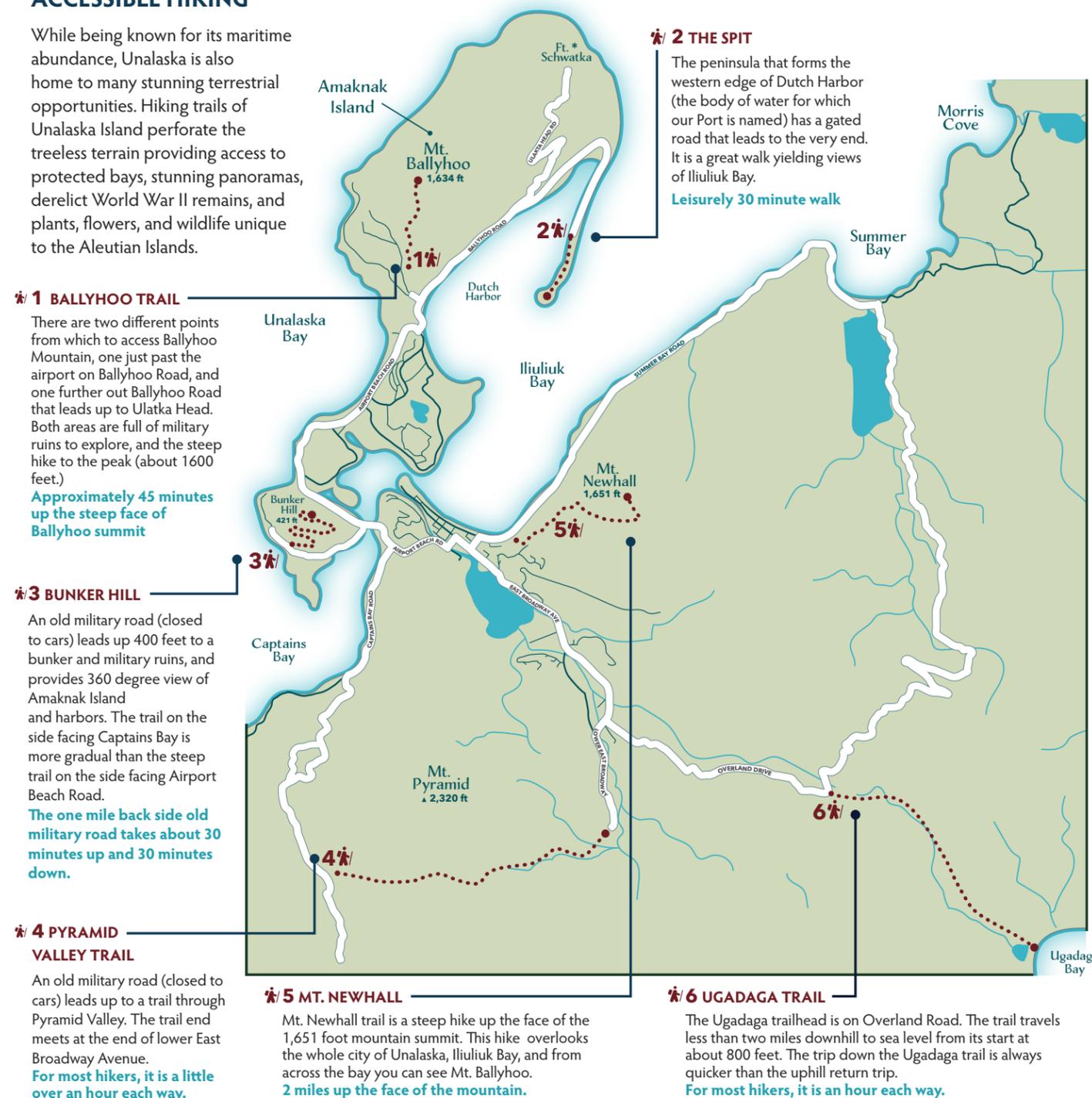


Hike up Bunker Hill to get a 360° aerial view of the island.

\* The Ounalashka Corporation owns much of the surrounding land. Some activities require that you purchase a land use permit to enjoy your recreational activities. Permits can be purchased at the Ounalashka Corporation Building, located at 400 Salmon Way.

## ACCESSIBLE HIKING

While being known for its maritime abundance, Unalaska is also home to many stunning terrestrial opportunities. Hiking trails of Unalaska Island perforate the treeless terrain providing access to protected bays, stunning panoramas, derelict World War II remains, and plants, flowers, and wildlife unique to the Aleutian Islands.



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**B**irders around the world know the Aleutian Islands as a spectacular destination! During the summer, an estimated forty million seabirds nest throughout the Aleutians. Our ice free coastal waters shelter tremendous flocks of wintering waterfowl, and spring and fall migrations regularly bring Asian strays into the islands.

Unalaska, which is much more accessible than Attu or Shemya, gives birders the opportunity to add to their "life lists" a number of Beringian endemics, species seldom seen outside the Aleutians. A leisurely walk around town, a drive or tour along the road system, or a hike along the coast will take you into the varied habitats of a broad list of birds. Layers, light rain gear and waterproof boots are always a good idea.

Readily seen during the summer months are all the alcids; puffins, murrelets, guillemots, auklets and murrelets. This is the time to seek the tiny Whiskered Auklet, found only in the Aleutian and Commander Islands and Central Kuriles. It is possible to see them from the ferry crossing the pass between Akutan and Unalaska Islands, or by taking a charter to the nearby Baby Islands. Be advised to give yourself extra 'weather days' for getting out on the water, as gales are frequent even during the summer. Other offshore species include shearwaters, petrels, fulmars, Laysan and Black-footed Albatross, and occasionally Short-tailed Albatross and Red-legged Kittiwakes. Easily seen nearshore are Black-legged Kittiwakes and three species of cormorant, including the Red-faced Cormorant, seen only in Alaska and Northeast Asia. A handful of songbirds are year round residents here, among them are Common Redpoll, Snow Bunting, American Dipper, and the Aleutian subspecies of Song Sparrow, Pacific Wren and Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch.

Our breeding birds include Lapland Longspur, American Pipit, Bank Swallow, and Savannah Sparrow. Accidentals and casual migrants include Brambling, Wagtails, Warblers, and even the occasional Hummingbird and Robin.

Bald Eagles, year round residents, are always seen about town, and are tallied in the hundreds during the community's Christmas Bird Count.



Adding to their "life lists" in Unalaska

Among shorebirds are the resident Rock Sandpiper and Black Oystercatcher, and the breeding Least Sandpiper and Semipalmated Plover. If your timing is right, you'll see Bar-Tailed Godwits in the spring, and during fall migration Ruddy Turnstones, Wandering Tattlers, and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper.

The challenge of winter birding has its rewards in the great flocks of waterfowl and sea ducks filling the local bays. Aleutian specialties such as the Emperor Goose, whose entire world population winters here in the Aleutians, and the handsome Steller's Eider, are easily seen and photographed from the roadways. Scoters, Long-tailed Ducks, and Harlequin Ducks are also very common. Fresh water ducks include the Eurasian subspecies of Green-winged Teal and large flocks of scaup which on occasion include closely related Tufted Ducks, casuals from Asia.

During a winter walk around town, you may see Peregrine Falcons chasing Snow Buntings, and Rock Ptarmigan come down when the snows get deep. You can also see ptarmigan with their broods during summer months.

Aside from the pelagic species, almost all our birds are apt to be found close to town along the roadways, so the birding is always great (even if the weather isn't!)

# Birding in the Aleutians

Suzi Golodoff Author & Aleutian Naturalist

DURING THE SUMMER AN ESTIMATED FORTY MILLION SEABIRDS NEST THROUGHOUT THE ALEUTIANS



CORMORANT SONG SPARROW WONDERING TATTLER COMMON REDPOLL COMMON LOON ROCK PTARMIGAN AMERICAN DIPPER BRAMBLING

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF: SZ - SAM ZMOLEK, AB - ALI BONOMO, SG - SUZI GOLODOFF, BD - BRIAN DIXON, ALL OTHERS ARE PROVIDED BY THE CVB STAFF

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# PARKS, CULTURE, & RECREATION

The Unalaska Parks, Culture and Recreation Department welcomes you to our wonderful community of Unalaska. With Unalaska's inclement weather the community realizes the need for exceptional indoor recreational facilities. The PCR Department has three major facilities and seven parks and playgrounds. We hope you take a moment and stop in and visit our Public Library, Community Center, or our Aquatic Center.



## UNALASKA PUBLIC LIBRARY

For the seventh year in a row, the Unalaska Public Library has been given a top rating by an industry publication called the Library Journal. A national rating based on the use for the size of library, size of community it serves.



The Community Center completed a renovation in December 2011. The renovation saw upgrades to all aspects of our facility. We increased the size of our cardio and weight room fitness areas, added two sound proof music rooms and a larger area that houses a baby grand piano available for public use.

The facility also has two racquetball courts, a full size gymnasium, locker rooms, multipurpose dance room, teen room, a fully equipped art and pottery room, commercial kitchen, and an after school childcare area.

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## PARKS

While out walking and touring the community, stop in at one of our seven local parks and playgrounds. Our Memorial Park located on the waterfront of the original townsite of Unalaska is one you will not want to miss. The park honors our native residents, fisherman lost at sea as well as our veterans who served in the Aleutians during WWII. Flags from all our service branches fly proudly throughout the park.

**City of Unalaska**

- 1. Sitka Spruce Park**  
- Playground - Walking Trails - National Forest  
- Restrooms - Pond - Grill - Picnic Tables & Benches
- 2. Expedition Park**  
- Gazebo - Picnic Tables - Grill - Fire pit
- 3. Town Park**  
- Gazebo - Playground - Portable Restrooms  
- Picnic Tables & Benches - Grill
- 4. Tutikoff Field**  
- Soccer Field with Goals - Restrooms - Bleachers
- 5. Memorial Park**  
- Benches - Historical & Memorial Monuments  
- Boardwalk
- 6. Tanaadakuchax Park**  
- Playground - Basketball Net & Pad  
- Picnic Tables - Grill
- 7. Ounalashka Community Park**  
- Softball Field - Pavilion - Picnic Tables & Benches  
- Grills - Tennis Court - Outdoor Basketball Court  
- Walking Path with Fitness Stations



### AQUATIC CENTER

In 2016 the Aquatic Center welcomes new renovations to the locker rooms, showers, and a remodeled sauna. The new sauna doubles the seating space of the previous steam room its foldable bench makes it fully accessible.

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# UNANGAM HITNISANGIN ALEUT PLANTS

Sharon Svarny-Livingston

The variety of plants on the islands of the Aleutians, and particularly on Unalaska and Amaknak, will amaze most visitors who are fortunate to visit during summer months.

Aside from the simple beauty of the plant life and the importance of plants to the wildlife of the area, plants have always been important to the indigenous people who have inhabited the Aleutians for millennia. Medicinal knowledge of the plants is the one aspect of Unangan healing capabilities that survived the advent of outside contact. Absent today are the advanced surgical abilities of the Unangan/Unangas, as well as the practice of acupuncture. The demise of both was due to the devastation of the population, from an estimated 15,000 to 25,000, to a mere 1,875 within 60 years of contact with European invaders.

Use of medicinal plants requires precise knowledge of the environment, the seasonal patterns of native plants, where they grow, when to collect them (at their most potent stage), how to prepare them, and how and in what dosages to administer them. In our region of the Aleutians, the Unangan used this knowledge to cure illnesses, alleviate pain, heal burns and bone fractures, and fight infection. When we see plants we think of them, not solely in terms of beauty, but to solve and balance health needs.

There is a vast array of Aleutian flora that would be too numerous to list, here are a few examples of local plants with traditional uses.

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF: MM - MARILYN MCCrackEN, SSL - SHARON SVARNY-LIVINGTON, BL - BOBBIE LEKANOFF, AB - ALI BONOMO, LG - LYNNETTE GUITARD, ALL OTHERS ARE PROVIDED BY CVB STAFF. ILLUSTRATIONS BY SG - SUZI GOLODOFF

The trio of umbels most closely associated on Unalaska Island, Beach Lovage, *Angelica ludicida* L., (St. Paul Putchky), and Putchky (Cow Parsnip), each has an edible and medicinal component.



Putchky

Cow Parsnip, or Putchky as we call it, is a wonderful wild celery. Care must be taken when gathering and eating, as the sap reacts to sunlight and will burn your skin. Roots of the Putchky plant were used as a poultice to help draw out pain.



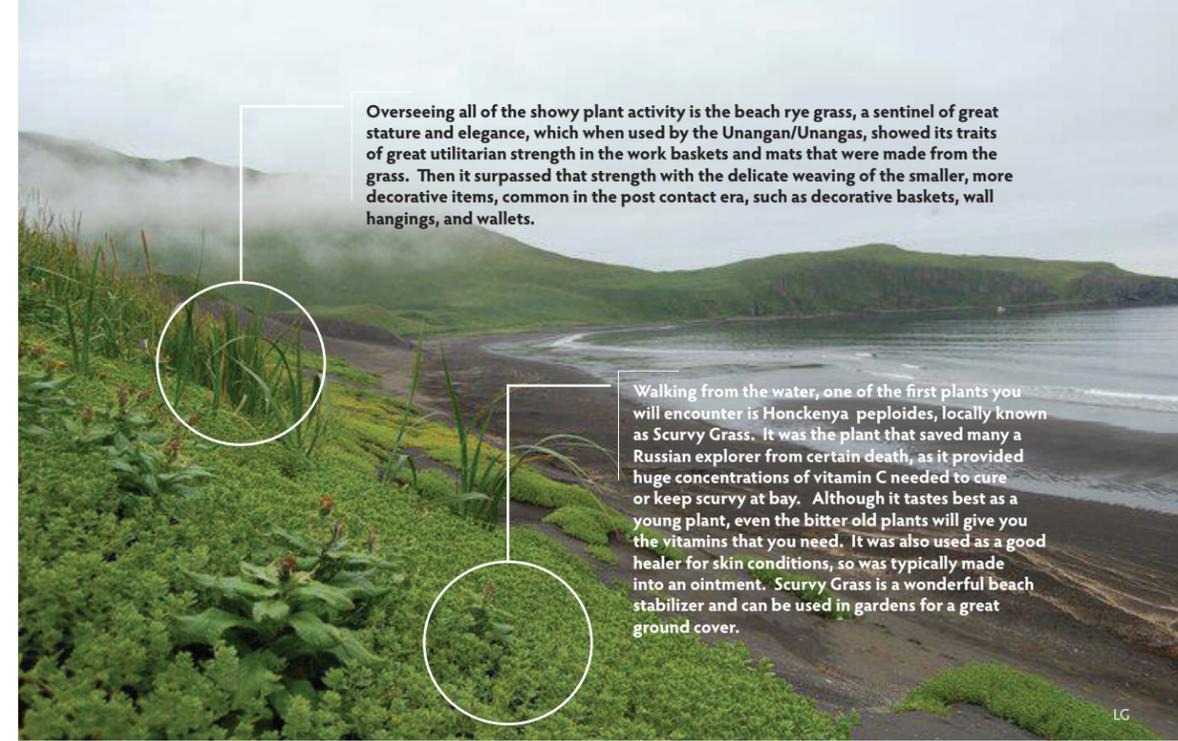
Angelica

Angelica is prized for its ability at soothing sore muscles and joints, for clearing up infections, and, most surprising, healing the burn of the related Putchky plant.



Beach Lovage

Beach Lovage is the plant used as wild parsley, though it is much more exciting than boring old parsley. It has a definite peppery flavor which lends itself extremely well in spicing seafood. Medicinally, the seeds are used to make a tea for indigestion.



Overseeing all of the showy plant activity is the beach rye grass, a sentinel of great stature and elegance, which when used by the Unangan/Unangas, showed its traits of great utilitarian strength in the work baskets and mats that were made from the grass. Then it surpassed that strength with the delicate weaving of the smaller, more decorative items, common in the post contact era, such as decorative baskets, wall hangings, and wallets.

Walking from the water, one of the first plants you will encounter is *Honckenya peploides*, locally known as Scurvy Grass. It was the plant that saved many a Russian explorer from certain death, as it provided huge concentrations of vitamin C needed to cure or keep scurvy at bay. Although it tastes best as a young plant, even the bitter old plants will give you the vitamins that you need. It was also used as a good healer for skin conditions, so was typically made into an ointment. Scurvy Grass is a wonderful beach stabilizer and can be used in gardens for a great ground cover.

Starting at the beach and reaching the very tips of the mountains, the absolute green will shock the eye. Probably one of the most amazing, and by far the easiest methods of discovering the plant life of an Aleutian island, is to simply take a seat in the tundra. You will be astounded with the number of wildflowers, mosses, and grasses within a one foot square area, completely within the grasp of your hand.

## Unalaska Orchids

The absolute beauty of the orchids on Unalaska Island, including the Lady's Slipper, Purple Orchid, and the extremely rare Bering Bog Orchid, are not to be missed.



PURPLE ORCHID



LADY SLIPPER



BOG ORCHID



The stinky fragrance of *Fritillaria camschatcensis* (the Chocolate Lily), and its edible roots. Called a wild rice, the roots were collected, boiled, and stored in oil for winter eating. They could also be dried and ground for use as a "flour".



## YARROW

The many uses of the Yarrow, from blood coagulator to blocker of the common cold makes one wonder about the use of plants as medicines and how the uses came about. Many elders remember the fragrance of yarrow tea steeping in their childhood homes and will sometimes just drink a cup without having any ailments.



## WORMWOOD

Wormwood was used extensively for diminishing pain from rheumatism and arthritis. The leaves and stems were used either fresh or dried to switch the skin during a steam bath. The volatile oils from the plant entered the bloodstream through the open pores in the skin, easily passing through the vessel barriers. Oils and salves were also made from the plant for joint and muscle aches, as well as infections and rashes. A tea was made from the plant and taken sparingly, as a cure for chest ailments such as bronchitis and asthma.

## Recipe



### Fast Aleut Salmon Pie

Recipe by: Mary Bourdukofsky, St. Paul Island

- 5 strips of bacon, cut into pieces
- 2 big onions, sliced
- 2 celery sticks, cut into small pieces
- ½ cabbage, chopped
- 3 carrots, grated
- 2 bay leaves
- 3 cups cooked rice
- 3 cans or jars salmon
- 4 eggs, boiled and chopped
- 1 can chicken soup or mushroom soup
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1 tsp. lemon pepper
- ½ tsp garlic
- 2 packages Krustz
- 2 cups Bisquick
- Milk (small amount to brush onto top layer of crust)

Fry bacon and remove from pan. Empty grease and add vegetables to sauté: onions, celery, cabbage and carrots. Add two bay leaves. After sautéing, place vegetables in a bowl. Add to this, cooked rice, salmon, bacon, boiled eggs, soup, mayonnaise and spices. Mix together.

Follow directions on Krustz for making pie crust with 2 packets. Add Bisquick to dough and add more water to get pastry consistency. Divide the dough in half for a top and bottom crust. Roll out dough and fit into 13 X 9 inch pan. Spread salmon mixture on top and then cover with the rest of dough. Brush milk over the top of the pastry. Cut small vents on the top of the crust. Bake in 400 degree oven for 45 minutes.

## Unalaska Flower Favorites



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# Community Events

## JANUARY

Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration



## FEBRUARY

Channel 8 Auction  
Polar Bear Run  
Ice Cream Social

## MARCH

USAFV Soup-Off Auction  
Lions Club Easter Breakfast



## APRIL

CVB Wine Event  
Community Art Show  
Spring Coffee House

## MAY

Unalaska Clean-Up Week  
AAC Just Desserts (Classical Music Concert)  
Lions Club Memorial Day Celebration  
Iliuliuk Clinic Community BBQ  
Missoula Children's Theatre

## JUNE

Summer Solstice 5K

## JULY

4<sup>th</sup> Of July Parade & Fireworks Display  
Ballyhoo Run

## AUGUST

KUCB's Tundra Golf Classic  
Women's Conference  
Heart Of The Aleutians Festival  
Santa Cruzan Parade  
Bobby Johnson Summer Bay Classic Bike/Run  
Camp Qungaayux̄ (Unangan Culture Camp)

## NOVEMBER

MOTA Auction  
AAC Arts & Crafts Fair  
Turkey Trot 5K

## DECEMBER

Firefighters Ball  
Annual Christmas Bird Count  
Moonlight Madness Fair  
New Years Eve Firework Display

## SEPTEMBER

Fall Coffee House  
Unalaska Triathlon  
Color Run  
AAC Membership Meeting & Auction

## OCTOBER

KUCB Radio Pledge Drive  
Pumpkin Plunge



For more event listings

**AAC**  
Aleutian Arts Council

**MOTA**  
Museum of the Aleutians  
[www.aleutians.org](http://www.aleutians.org)  
(pg. 8)

**KUCB Radio/ CHANNEL 8 TV**  
[www.kucb.org](http://www.kucb.org)  
(pg. 33)

**PCR**  
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(pg. 28)

**USAFV**  
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(pg. 34)

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# MAKUSHIN VOLCANO



Makushin Volcano is an ice-covered stratovolcano located on Unalaska Island.

With an elevation of 5,906 ft, its summit is the highest point on the island.

Most recent eruption was in 1995



PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF JAKE WHITAKER

**"The extreme summit of Makushin was wrapped in white clouds, and from beneath these the glaciers were seen descending impressively into the sunshine within a thousand or fifteen hundred feet of sea-level. This fine mountain, glittering in its showy mail of snow and ice, together with a hundred other peaks dipping into the blue sky, and every one of them telling the work of ice or fire in their forms and sculpture"** – excerpt from John Muir's book *The Cruise of the Corwin* (1881)

Once we reached the rim of the fumarole we were greeted with the sight of an almost fluorescent blue pond of water inside! Moreover, there were dozens of hissing vents emitting substantial quantities of what appeared to be sulfuric gas. The smell was noticeable but a gentle breeze kept the vapors at a distance. The sight was remarkable and it most certainly made our day-and-a-half trek to the top of Makushin Volcano worth it. This triumph only motivated us to explore the caldera further and eventually lead us to the highest point on the volcano.

While exploring, Cory pointed out a small rocky outcropping that appeared higher than anything else we could see. Upon reaching it, we found ourselves standing at 6,007'! The Alaska Volcano Observatory puts the summit at approximately 5,906' which was just shy of what our two GPS units were reading. We had hiked more than 15 miles to reach the highest point on Unalaska Island. We could even make out Shishaldin and Isanotski almost 150 miles off in the distance on Unimak Island.  
– Jacob Whitaker, Unalaska Resident and blogger [www.aleutianhiker.com](http://www.aleutianhiker.com)

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It is responsible for regulatory oversight and enforcement of vessel, facility and waterway federal laws and regulations. The unit also manages safety enforcement for the largest fishing port in the United States to ensure viability of fisheries industry and safeguard the economic interest of the United States. As the sole Coast Guard unit on the Aleutian Islands, MSD Dutch Harbor also provides support to deployed Coast Guard cutters and helicopters facilitating personnel transfers and delivering essential parts.



for a history of Bering Sea Patrol visit  
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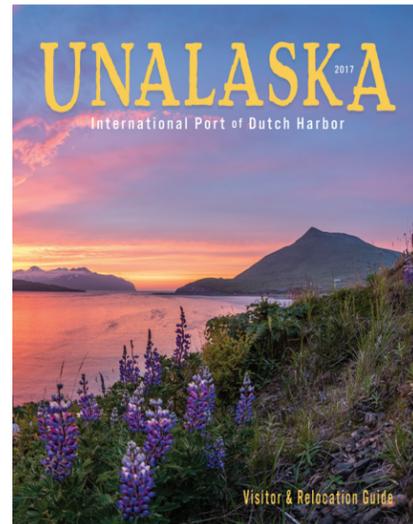
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[www.unalaska.info](http://www.unalaska.info)



Cover Photo by Sam Zmolek

Sam Zmolek grew up in Colorado, which is where he got his start as a lover of mountains and wilderness. He first visited Unalaska as a fisheries observer in 2007, and fell in love with the local landscape so much that he took a full-time job on the island for 5 years in 2011.

Sam's passion for mountains, wilderness, and photography found a natural outlet in Unalaska. He became a regular contributor for the mountaineering club of Alaska during those years, as he climbed most of the mountains within a long day hike or overnight from town, and he still finds time to explore the stark beauty of the landscape whenever he can.

Instagram: @wallybipster  
Facebook: /samuel.zmolek

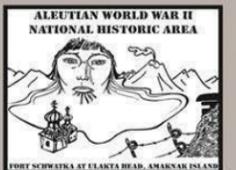


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Learn about the men and women who served in the US Armed Forces in the Aleutian Islands during World War II and about the removal and internment of the Unangax (Aleuts). The Aleutian World War II National Historic Area and Visitor Center communicates the history of the Islands with stunning clarity.

The Aleutian World War II National Historic Area at Ulakhta Head shelters the remains of Fort Schwatka, a sprawling network of garrison, command centers, bunkers, magazines, gun mounts, and tunnels. Built to protect Unalaska and Dutch Harbor from Japanese attacks during the War, Fort Schwatka is perched 1,000 feet above the storm tossed waters of the Bering Sea with the summit of Mount Ballyhoo looming another 800 feet above the ruined fort. It is the highest coastal battery ever constructed in the United States and a testament to military engineering.

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