**Kodiak History**

For at least 7,500 years, the Kodiak Archipelago has been home to the native people, who depend on its natural abundance.

Russian traders, hoping to develop trade with the Aleuts, arrived in Kodiak in 1784. The arrival of the Aleut Island (now Russian) Empire in 1867. The Russian traders established Fort Abercrombie in 1796, which was eventually sold to the United States in 1907.

The Kodiak Island has a healthy population of introduced Roosevelt elk. Sitka black-tailed deer, mountain goats, and sea otters live on the island. In the past, the Kodiak was hit hard by the 1964 Good Friday Earthquake and tsunami that destroyed much of the waterfront and business district, and wiped out the villages of Old Harbor and Kaguyak.

Today, Kodiak is the center of a commercial fishing industry and a unique draw for sport fishermen and hunters. The Kodiak Archipelago is home to many kinds of wildlife, ranging in size from the little brown bat to the famous Kodiak brown bear. The Kodiak brown bear is the only large mammal native to the island, but in the past century, Aleut black-tailed deer, mountain goats, and reindeer have been successfully introduced. The Kodiak brown bear is the Kodiak bear, with salmon.

**Wildlife**

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Humpbacks, fish, gray, and killer whales frequent these waters, and other aquatic mammals, such as harbor seals, sea lions, and sea otters can be seen along the coastline. They are also tremendous birdwatching opportunities, with over 95 species frequenting Fort Abercrombie SHP alone.

**On the Water**

Always wear a life jacket. The waters around Kodiak Archipelago are cold and can be rough at times. When conditions are poor, be patient. Carry emergency communication and signaling devices on your person, plus food, water, and spare clothing for unexpected delays. File a float plan with family or a close friend describing your trip plan, boat, gear, and the size of the party. For more information on safe boating, visit www.adfg.alaska.gov.

Shuyak Island SP and Ahoghn Island SP are popular with hunters looking to find their skills. Losar is required for all hunting. Please consult current Alaska Department of Fish and Game regulations at www.adfg.alaska.gov before you begin your trip.

**Welcome**

Alaska’s “emerald isle” is just as verdant and striking as its name suggests, and striking Kodiak’s state parks will add some of the best parts of its natural splendor.

To the remote party, Uyak Island State Park, and Woody Island State Recreation Area, offer excellent opportunities for backcountry fishing, hunting, and untouched wilderness. Fort Abercrombie State Historical Park (SHP) includes the ruins of a WWII-era Army coastal defense system.

The waters around Kodiak are renowned for their great fishing, and Kodiak’s state parks offer great places to land your catch at Pasagshak and Buskin River you can fish for Dolly Varden, kokanee, pink, chum, and silver salmon. If you want to avoid the crowd, Fort Abercrombie has great lake fishing, and all the remote parks have great fishing spots if you’re willing to look. For more information on fishing, visit www.adfg.alaska.gov.

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**Alaska State Parks**

Fishing and Hunting

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Shuyak Island State Park

Shuyak Island State Park, roughly 54 miles north of Kodiak, comprises most of the island's 47,000 acres, except for a few small private peninsulas. Shuyak Island is part of a coastal forest system, which is unique to the Kodiak Archipelago and contains only one tree species, Sitka spruce.

This compact, 12-mile wide island contains more sheltered interior waterways than anywhere in the Kodiak Archipelago. The park's waters host sea otters, whales, harbor seals, sea lions, polar bears, and an amazing variety of seabirds. Kodiak brown bears, Sitka black-tailed deer inhabit the island's forests.

Afognak Island State Park

Located in the 1932 acres of the former's first conservation areas, Afognak Island was originally designated as the Afognak Forest and Fish Culture Reserve because of its outstanding wildlife and salmon habitat value. Over 70,000 acres of the island were purchased as state park lands to protect and restore habitat lost due to the 1989 Exxon Valdez Oil Spill. Since then, the state has purchased additional land also managed as part of this park. Afognak Island is known for its rugged topography, dense-growth Sitka spruce forests, and salmon-spawning habitat. Kodiak brown bear, Sitka black-tailed deer, and the endangered marbled murrelet inhabit the park.

Buskin River State Recreation Site

The Buskin River is one of the most productive fisheries on the Kodiak island system and visitors from around the world flock to this river each summer to fish for sockeye and coho salmon. Rikers and mountain taimakans can traverse the park's spruce forest using old military roads, which connect historic WWII-era structures that once part of Fort Greely. Visitors can expect to see a variety of land and wildlife including brown bears, eagles, harlequin ducks, and harbor seals.

Pasagshak River State Recreation Site

Pasagshak River, an hour-long drive from Kodiak, is considered one of the outstanding sport-fishing streams on Kodiak Island and house arrival runs of Dolly Varden, sockeye, pink, chum, and silver salmon. Pasagshak River SRS provides public access to the lower section of Pasagshak River for sport fishing, camping, and picnicking. Besides seasonal salmon runs, Pasagshak Bay supports a rich and varied constellation of land, coastal and marine wildlife, including brown bear, whales, seals, harlequin ducks, eagles, herring gulls, and harbor seals.