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

Fur-bearing animals, unique to Alaskan waters by 1792, supported the eider and ivory gull hunting before the arrival of the Russians. TheseSeal Cove in 1784. This settlement, near the present-day village of Old Harbor, moved to the site of present-day Kodiak in 1792 and became the center of Russian fur trading. The other populations dwindled due to overhunting and Russian fur interest in its American colony, eventually selling Alaska to the United States in 1867.

The effects of World War II on Kodiak can still be seen as Fort Abercrombie SHP and Buskin River SRS, which were fortified as part of a coastal defense system.

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 explorers who want to experience some of the best fishing on Kodiak.

Wildlife
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 bear is the only large mammal native to the island, but in the past century, Alaska black-tailed deer, mountain goats, and reindeer have been successfully introduced.

Kodiak bear (Ursus arctos middendorffi) with salmon

Area Highlights
Welcome to Alaska's "emerald isle" is just as verdant and striking as its name suggests, and coming to Kodiak's state parks will reveal some of the best parts of its natural splendor.

Area Highlights
Welcome to Kodiak. Even if you don't see a bear, you'll never be far from one. Bears are curious, intelligent, and potentially dangerous animals, but under the law bears can endanger both bears and people. By following these guidelines you can avoid a story.

• Avoid surprising bears; look for signs of bears and make plenty of noise.
• Avoid crossing bears' territory; respect the "personal space." be patient.
• Avoid attracting bears through improper handling of food or garbage.
• Plan ahead; stay calm; identify yourself; don't run.

Fishing and Hunting
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, coho salmon, pink, chum, and silver salmon. If you want to avoid the crowds, Fort Abercrombie has great lake fishing, and all the remote parks have great fishing spots if you're willing to look.

Transportation
A Kodiak bear (Vulpes vulpes) scans the landscape

Welcome to Alaska State Parks
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Transportation
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 parcels. Shuyak 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 shaded interior waterways than anywhere in the Kodiak Archipelago. The park's waters host sea otters, whales, harbor seals, sea lions, Dall's porpoises, and an amazing variety of seabirds. Kodiak brown bear and Sitka black-tailed deer inhabit the island's forests.

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Getting There

Shuyak Island SRS is only accessible by boat or airplane. Air charters, water taxi services, and boat rentals are available in Kodiak.

Check the Kodiak website for a list of authorized accommodation and water taxi services.

Afognak Island State Park

Located in 1983 as one of the nation'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 79,000 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 old-growth Sitka spruce forests, and salmon-spawning habitat. Kodiak brown bear, Sitka black-tailed deer, Roosevelt elk, and the endangered marbled murrelet inhabit the park.

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