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Photo by Joseph Andy Dyson, 2022



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Photo courtesy of Carey Carmichael Case / Wild Iris Photography



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Velkommen to “Alaska’s Little Norway” The town that fish built on Lingít Aaní

Welcome to Petersburg, known for its mix of Norwegian and Lingít heritage and for harboring one of Alaska’s most prosperous fishing fleets.

Fishing has been an Indigenous tradition on Mitkof island since time immemorial. Archaeological evidence of large scale fish traps have been identified on all the major waterways on the island. The oldest of which has been dated to around 5,000 years old, and the Sandy Beach

area long served as a productive fish camp for the local Lingít community.

Around the turn of the 20th century, a Norwegian, Peter Buschmann, eyed the blue ice of LeConte Glacier. Buschmann decided the north end of Mitkof Island, with glacier ice available nearby, would be an ideal spot for a cannery.

In 1897, construction began on the new site for Icy Straits Packing Co., for which Busch-

mann was manager. Icy Straits also built a sawmill to cut lumber for the building of the cannery, which was completed in 1900. Docks, homes, warehouses and other businesses sprang up around the cannery and in 1910 the city of Petersburg was incorporated.

Icy Straits, after changing hands several times, eventually evolved into Petersburg Fisheries Inc., now the largest seafood processor in town as measured by canning capacity. Petersburg Fisheries eventually developed into a major seafood-processing corporation, Icicle Seafoods Inc, and, in 2020, Icicle merged with another of Alaska’s oldest seafood companies, Ocean Beauty, to form OBI Seafoods.

Many of Petersburg’s residents can trace their heritage back to Norwegian ancestors, who followed Peter Buschmann to the snowy mountains and fjords that reminded them of home. At one time, Norwegian was commonly heard on the town’s wooden streets and Norwegian Constitution Day is still celebrated during the Little Norway Festival each May.

Fishing continues to be the backbone of the economy, with some \$45.1 million in seafood landed and processed. Tourism has replaced logging as a driver of the local economy. Small timber harvests continue on a much more limited basis.

Ours is a busy, working fishing community that enjoys hosting summer visitors.

Getting to Petersburg



The state ferry Matanuska makes its stop in Petersburg on its south-bound journey, carrying passengers and vehicles from Juneau.

Photo courtesy of Carey Carmichael Case of Wild Iris Photography

Getting to Petersburg is part of the adventure. To reach Mitkof Island, where Petersburg is located, you will have to fly or float. Many visitors arrive on Alaska Marine Highway ferries. Small cruise ships also bring guests to our shores.

Alaska Airlines provides twice-daily jet service from Seattle or Anchorage and several smaller scheduled and chartered air taxis serve Petersburg from throughout Southeast Alaska. And best of all, Petersburg is off the beaten path of the large cruise ships, keeping it less crowded than many tourist destinations.

Petersburg hosts a growing flotilla of luxury yachts, owned and leased by the rich and famous. It is a popular port of call for smaller cruisers from both Alaska and along the western coastline of the lower 48.

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Rainy days, mild temperatures

Petersburg has average recorded temperatures of 53.6 degrees in June, 58.3 degrees in July and 57.4 degrees in August, according to National Weather Service data.

Petersburg's typical weather patterns bring a lot of rain. The average annual rainfall for the area is about 120 inches according to data from the National Weather Service. Compare that to an annual average of just 15 inches in Anchorage or 11.3 inches in Fairbanks and the weather in Petersburg may look inhospitable.

But the same ocean conditions that bring in all the moisture also moderate the temperatures. This makes for mild winters and cool summers. Even in the coldest month, January, temperatures rarely fall below freezing.

People who live in this climate adapt. The essential piece of rain gear, either on sea or land, is a good pair of rubber boots, sometimes called "Petersburg sneakers." Style takes a back seat to the comfort of dry feet, and it is not out of place to wear these brownish-red boots on almost any occasion.

On the other hand, umbrellas are uncommon, and serious outdoor work or play is more comfortable in a good waterproof rain jacket and rain pants.

WEATHER NUMBERS



Average Daylight: Hours

7	9	12	14	17	18	17	15	13	10	8	7
JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC

Average High Temperature: °F

35	39	43	50	57	62	64	62	56	48	40	36
JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC



Average Monthly Precipitation: Inches

11.9	3.6	11.8	11.1	2.7	7.5	8.7	13.9	15.2	16.0	9.3	9.2
JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC

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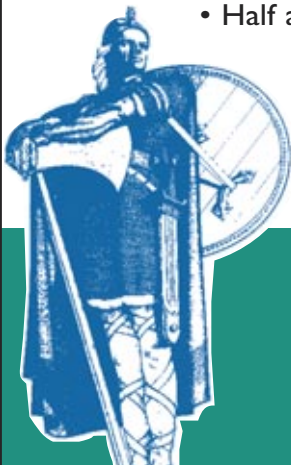
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An aerial view of Petersburg from a northern direction. Photo courtesy of Carey Carmichael Case of Wild Iris Photography

Petersburg facts and statistics at a glance

• **POPULATION:** 3,368 within the Petersburg Borough in 2021.

• **SIZE:** Mitkof Island is 23 miles at its longest point and about 16.5 miles wide at its widest point, covering 211 square miles. Much of the island's flat land is covered by muskeg bogs.

• **GEOGRAPHY:** The island's highest point is Crystal Mountain, which reaches an elevation of 3,317 feet. Mitkof Island is separated from Kupreanof Island by the 20-mile-

long Wrangell Narrows, which, in some areas, is just wide enough to accommodate the state ferries. The tide in the narrows can vary as much as 23 feet in one day from high tide to low tide.

• **ANNUAL PRECIPITATION:** The average annual precipitation is about 120 inches. About half of that falls in September, October, November and December. In 2015 135.99 inches of rain fell upon Petersburg.

• **DAYLIGHT:** 17 hours

and 50 minutes on the summer solstice; six hours and 46 minutes on the winter solstice.

• **PERSONAL INCOME:** The estimated median household income for the Petersburg Borough census area is \$68,667. In Petersburg, private sector wages are paid to 50 percent of the workforce; 24 percent are employed by the government sector and 20 percent are self-employed.

• **DEMOGRAPHICS:** According to the 2020 Census,

Petersburg is 73% white; 13% two or more races; 8% American Indian and Alaska Native; 4% Asian; 2% Black; 1% Pacific Islander and 2% other.

• **ECONOMY:** Federal, state and local government, which includes the schools and hospital, is the largest employer in the town, employing 30 percent of the workforce.

Fishing is the economic force that drove the creation of Petersburg and continues to be a driving force in today's economy.

The town's seafood processors employ a total of about 1,100 people during a busy summer season.

• **EDUCATION:** About 89 percent of the population over 25 has at least a high school education. About one quarter have a bachelor's degree or higher. The Petersburg public school system has around 400 students enrolled in grades K-12 and in 2020 reported a 100 percent high school graduation rate.

• **FOOD:** According to a food cost survey conducted by the University of Alaska Fairbanks, in 2017 the aver-

Continued on page 5

Petersburg Medical Center



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Facts and statistics

Continued from page 4

age weekly food cost for a family of four in Petersburg is \$268.40, which is 24% percent higher than in Anchorage and is 82% higher than the national average.

- **ELECTRICAL:** Borough owned Petersburg Municipal Power & Light provides electrical power to the borough. The borough consumes approximately 48,698,286 kilowatt hours (kWh) of power. The majority of that came from the Tyee Hydro facility in Bradfield Canal connected by an 83-mile transmission line. The local hydroelectric power source is located at

Crystal Lake on Crystal Mountain south of Petersburg and generates around 25% of the Borough's power. Less than a million kWh comes from stand-by diesel generated sources that provide back-up power to the borough.

- **GARBAGE:** Municipal solid waste is collected by the borough's sanitation department, baled, and shipped to the Roosevelt Regional Landfill in Washing-



Bojer Wikan Fishermen's Memorial Park.

Photo courtesy of Carey Carmichael Case of Wild Iris Photography

PETERSBURG *Little Norway...*

BIG SHOPPING: We're a small town with a giant selection of goods and wares. You can buy outdoor gear that can last a lifetime at our clothing store or a spool of inch-thick wire rope at our shipyard. Our art galleries feature the work of world-renowned artists and the crafts of many locals. Grocery stores here rival the selection of the chain-owned stores "down south," while our retail seafood processors will pick-up and fillet your catch or serve your recently delivered seafood, cooked to perfection. Don't miss our hardware stores. Home Depot and Lowes have nothing on us.

Shop keepers joke: "if we don't have it, you don't need it."

BIG WILDLIFE: Our critters are well fed. From 500 lb. black bears to 30-ton humpbacks to trophy moose, we have it all. Early morning walks or drives are the best way to view our wildlife on shore. Off-shore, charter captains can take you to view orcas, porpoises, humpbacks, sea lions and all species of sea birds. Try your hand at hooking and netting our famous wily king salmon.

BIG BOATS: Walk the 3-miles of floats in Petersburg's north, south and middle harbors and view nearly 700 vessels from 12-ft row boats to mega-tenders that can haul hundreds of thousands of pounds of salmon back to the canneries. Often mega-yachts of the rich and famous tie-up here during the summer. Sorry, no 2,000 passenger cruise ships here. We lack the amenities for that many guests.

BIG MARKETS: Petersburg is consistently one of the top ranked fishing ports in the nation. According to NOAA Fisheries, in 2019 Petersburg fishermen brought in \$37.5 million in fish landings, the 29th highest value in the nation.

ton State. Wood products and metals are processed within the Petersburg landfill and curbside recycling pickup is provided by the borough.

- **UTILITIES:** Petersburg's Water Utility treats, filters, and disinfects surface water from its two reservoirs, Cabin Creek Dam and City Creek Dam, which have a combined capacity of approximately 267 million gallons. A few

homes use cisterns, wells or have water delivered. Municipal sewage receives primary treatment.

- **TOTAL ASSESSED VALUATION:** About \$330 million Borough-wide.

- **GOVERNMENT:** Petersburg Borough has a manager/assembly form of government. The borough's annual general fund budget is \$9.7 million.

Petersburg Visitor Information Center

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Community events throughout the year

Rainforest Festival — The festival is a non-profit series of events taking place during all four seasons with the goal of bringing participants closer to the natural world through education, exploration and the arts while learning more about our rainforest and the ocean that surrounds it. Events include lectures and field trips, walking tours, workshops, visiting artists and authors, and collaborative community art installations. Check out their website akrainforestfest.org to see when the next events are happening.

Little Norway Festival — The third full weekend in May. Petersburg's celebration of Syttende Mai — May 17, Norwegian Constitution Day. This is Petersburg's biggest festival featuring food and crafts downtown, parade, pageant, melodrama, dances and much more. Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce; 772-3646.

The Market in Petersburg — Every other Saturday throughout the summer handmade and homegrown arts, crafts,

produce, baked goods and more are sold by local vendors outdoors at Inga's Galley on Main Street.

Fourth of July — Petersburg's old-time Independence Day celebration with food concessions and craft booths, a parade, carnival games, street games, races and contests, logging events and a fireworks display at night. Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce; 772-3646.

Oktoberfest Artshare — October. The largest arts and crafts fair in Petersburg, featuring handmade items by artists and crafters from Petersburg as well as around the state. Quilt show and auction, food booths and entertainment. Sponsored by Muskeg Maleriers; 772-4453

Parade of Light and Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony — Friday after Thanksgiving. Lighting of the tree, music and benediction to kick off the Christmas season. Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce; 772-3646.

Julebukking — Christmas Eve. The



Susan Erickson was unable to hold onto her title of womens' logrolling champion. Anna Early rolled Erickson into the water and became the new 2021 women's champion.

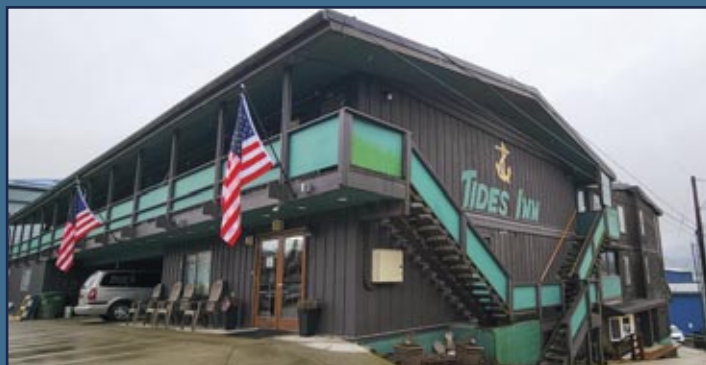
streets of downtown Petersburg fill with shoppers as, according to Norwegian tradition, merchants offer customers food and spirits in appreciation for their business that year.



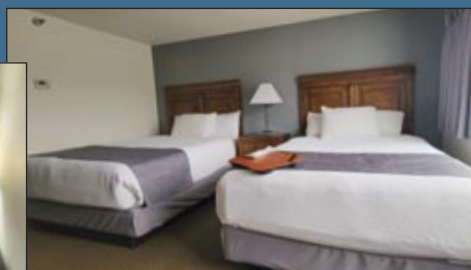
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50 Things to do in Petersburg

DESTINATION: PETERSBURG

Petersburg is a small town with a metropolis sized list of things to do. For more information drop into the Petersburg Visitor Information Center at 1st & Fram St. or call (907) 772-4636.

It is advisable to make reservations for specific tours before you arrive in town. Tours are sometimes fully booked on specific days, especially in July and August.

1. Adventure Tours: Local companies can provide wilderness adventures by land, sea or air.

2. Peruse Art Galleries: Galleries feature local and Alaska artists of all media.

3. Go Beachcombing: Search our rocky beaches for shells, rocks, & marine life.

4. Pick Berries: Harvest blueberries and salmonberries.

5. Bird Watching: A large variety of species unique to Southeast Alaska can be sighted, the most popular being the bald eagle, raven, waterfowl (Trumpeter Swans in winter), shorebirds, and songbirds.

6. Boat on a Lake: Enjoy a quiet day of rowing on one of our small lakes.

7. Fish for King Salmon: Blind River Rapids offers one of the few opportunities in southeast Alaska to fish from shore for King Salmon in June and July. Be aware of regulations.

8. Day Trip up the Stikine River: Adventure up the longest, free-flowing navigable river in North America.

9. Blind Slough Recreation Area: Picnic and swim on warm summer days, or ice skate during the brief winter freeze.



William Moulton gives historical walking tour for Viking Travel. "We start at the Sons of Norway. I introduce myself and explain why I am wearing Xtratufs; cause it rains all the time!" Moulton talks about Norwegian history in Petersburg, takes tourists to Buschmann Park, and tells them about raising his sons here. He also takes them to the totem poles, Bruno the bear, and the Elizabeth Peratrovich mural. Moulton discusses rosemary during the walk towards town and passes paintings and murals and stops at the cannery walk-in museum.

10. Go Swimming: Petersburg Aquatic Center; fun for the whole family.

11. Explore the Clausen Memorial Museum: Discover the history and many cultures of the Petersburg area. See the un-

official world record king salmon!

12. Fish Off the Public Docks: Try your hand at fishing off one of our public docks. Catch herring, Dolly Varden

Continued on page 8

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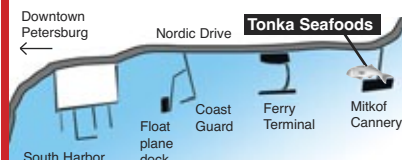
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The rocky low tide is a fascinating, rich ecosystem well worth exploring, but please watch your step and be cautious of the rising tide.

Photo courtesy of Katie Holmlund

50 Things to do in Petersburg

Continued from page 7

or maybe a passing king salmon.

13. Work Out at the Community Gym: Modern recreation complexes with a gymnasium, racquetball courts, a fitness center and arts/crafts facility. Outdoor gear rentals are available.

14. Go Flightseeing: Sightseeing by floatplane or helicopter offers a personal tour of glaciers and coastal landscape by air.

15. Fresh Water Fishing: Located along the Mitkof Highway are many streams, full of salmon and trout, just waiting for the avid fisherman. Don't forget your fishing license.

16. Self-Guided Public Art Tour: Wear comfortable walking shoes.

17. Take a Hike: A full menu of easy, moderate or challenging hikes awaits you. The

Three Lakes Loop Trails and the connecting Ideal Cove Trail are great for families, and are favorites among hikers.

18. Play Horseshoes: Pits are located in Sandy Beach Park. Inquire at the Parks and Recreation department in the community pool for equipment rental.

19. Go Kayaking or paddleboarding: In our harbor and all around the island.

20. Take a Nature Walk: The Evergreen Trail (corner of Dolphin and 5th, next to the elementary school) and the 12th Street Boardwalk next to the ballfield at the end of Excel Street. Hike the trail from Sandy Beach Park to City Creek. (See map on page 22-23)

21. Visit the Crystal Lake Hatchery: Salmon eggs are raised and released to enhance salmon stocks.

Continued on page 9

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Kayaking, canoeing, or paddle boarding can be a way to explore the lakes and sloughs of Mitkof Island. *Photo courtesy of Marissa Collison*

50 Things to do in Petersburg

Continued from page 8

22. Bojer Wikan Fishermen's Memorial Park: Our community's tribute to loved ones who have passed on, and those lost at sea.

23. Stop and take in the sights and sounds of South Harbor at the viewing platform and benches on the east end of the harbor lot.

24. See Movie: A nonprofit student-run theater offers first-run movies from Thursday to Sunday in the Wright Auditorium.

25. Performing Arts: The Mitkof Mummies, Mitkof Dance Troupe, Leikarring Dancers, Seetka Kwan Dancers, and more all perform seasonally.

26. Take Photos: What better way to remember your vacation than with your own photographs? Take advantage of the

wildlife, flora and panoramic views found in the area.

27. See Petroglyphs and Prehistoric Fish Traps: Found at Sandy Beach Park. Tread lightly! Once these nonrenewable heritage resources are gone, they're gone forever.

28. Play!: There are several conveniently located playgrounds throughout town, including Yeil Ka Chaak Park, Mort Fryer Memorial Ballfield, and two playgrounds at the elementary school.

29. Charter A Boat: Available year round: harbor tours, adventure touring, day and overnight fishing and expeditions.

30. Camp at Ohmer Creek: A campground located in the National Forest. Popular with campers due to its natural setting close to trails and fishing.

Continued on page 10



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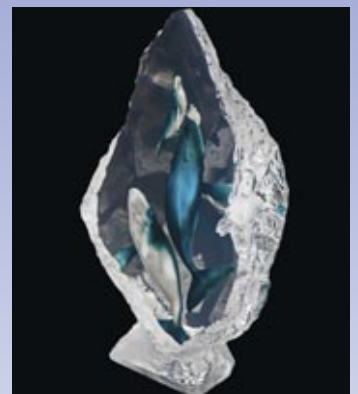
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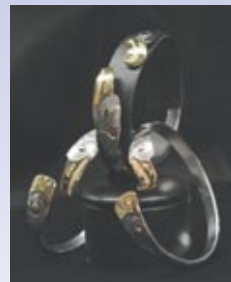
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50 Things to do in Petersburg

Continued from page 9

31. Walk the docks: Petersburg's public harbors are a popular place to observe the fishing fleet.

32. Visit the Public Library: The Public Library has a collection of rare Alaskan books. A popular location to get out of the rain! During business hours, wireless access is available at the Petersburg Library.

33. Eat at a local restaurants.

34. Lloyd Roundtree Memorial Seaplane Base: Seaplanes provide charter flights to outlying areas.

35. Go shopping

36. Take in a Game: From T-ball to adult softball leagues, there's always lots of action at the Mort Fryer Memorial Ball Park.

37. Catch a Sunset: Capture the beauty on film.

38. Watch the Aurora Borealis.

39. Walk the Waterfront: Bring your camera and enjoy a walk on the waterfront.

40. Go Whale Watching.

41. Hike Raven's Roost Trail. (see more info on page 20).

42. Falls Creek Fish Ladder: View salmon running up the Falls Creek on their way to spawn in the summer.

43. Walk the Loop: 4.7 miles.

44. See the Viking Ship Valhalla: Next to the Sons of Norway on Sing Lee Alley.

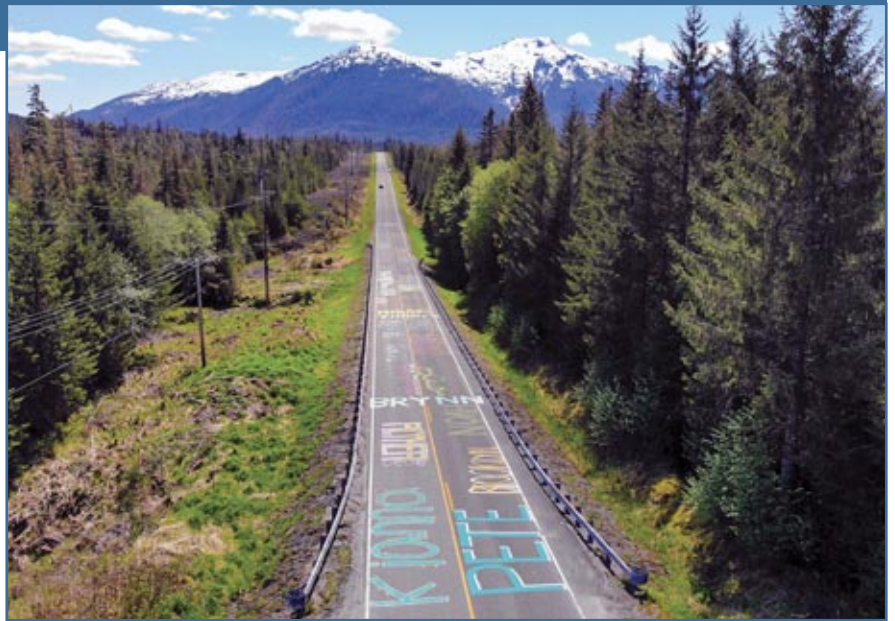
45. View Rosemaled Storefronts. See decorative Norwegian designs imprinted in the sidewalks. Historic canned salmon labels are wrapped around public trash cans throughout the town.

46. Van Tours: Island scenery/wildlife/light hiking.

47. Rent a Car: Cruise the island for a day.

48. Rent a Boat: Explore or fish local waters.

49. See the Totem Poles: The



An overhead shot of Mitkof Highway shows that 2020 Petersburg High School seniors made their way out the road to scribe their names at the 12 mile mark of Mitkof Highway per tradition at the Big Dip. Photo courtesy of Molly Platt

Eagle and Raven totem poles stand on the lawn of the federal building at the corner of Haugen and Nordic Drive.

50. Visit Outlook Park: Located on the beach side of

Sandy Beach Road. The park and gazebo offer public beach access, fixed binoculars, and a spectacular view of the Coastal Range and often whales.

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Leikarring dancers bridge tradition with today

On many summer afternoons, local residents and travelers can peek in the door of the Sons of Norway Hall and see blue dresses twirling, girls' braids flying, and arms outstretched to traditional Norwegian music.

Petersburg's Leikarring dancers perform Scandinavian-flavored dances every summer and on special occasions in town. Leikarring, which means "young people" in Norwegian, is pronounced "Lye-kar-ing."

The Sons of Norway Hall has around thirty dancers performing as Leikarring. The group is currently led by Petersburg artist and dance teacher Andrea Weathers.

The dancers perform for five or six small cruise ships a week in the summer, meeting around 400 visitors a week.

Their bright costumes are unique to Petersburg and were designed (and are altered each year) by locals specifically for the community. The fabric is bright blue and embroidered with a wildflower motif.

"The costumes are originals represent-



Julianna and Derek Allison skip along to the Klappdans.

ing Petersburg and are handed down through generations of dancers," explained lifelong Petersburg resident Heidi Lee who

started dancing these traditional dances in third grade and led the dance group for decades. Lee says she's heard that while the dresses were first being sewn, you couldn't go into a local's home without seeing bolts and bolts of blue fabric piled up somewhere.

The dances themselves are energetic and spirited, and many involve a dizzying repetition of circle patterns.

Aside from a repertoire of traditional Scandinavian dances, Lee says the group's practices and performances are educational, teaching them the manners and cooperation they'll use someday in their first jobs.

Though the cultural emphasis at performances is Scandinavian, a spectator will notice a diversity of children spinning across the wooden floor of the Sons of Norway Hall. "Anyone is welcome. We've had a lot of different kids," says Lee, concluding, "It's just the idea of having some culture. I think the idea of kids learning about culture and what it introduces them to that rich part of life."

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Colorful, historic salmon can trash bins line streets

Take a walking tour of 12 trash cans inspired by historic labels of Petersburg area canneries. Many of the labels are special to Petersburg, and showcase the strong civic pride locals share and family histories that helped build this unique fishing community.

Petersburg resident Karen Hofstad has a collection of a couple hundred seafood related cans and labels that would make fishing industry historians salivate. The majority of the collection represents the salmon industry and canneries throughout Alaska, including Kodiak, Petersburg and Wrangell, and they are the inspiration for trash cans worthy of a framed photograph.

Bruce Schactler, a fisherman from Kodiak, contacted Hofstad to ask her to share her labels to create 30 trash cans to help revitalize downtown Kodiak. The quick-thinking Hofstad, joined in on the Kodiak order to save some money through a quantity discount, and ordered 10 cans of her own to put in Petersburg.

Hofstad ended up with 12 cans that were distributed around town. They are specially made in Canada, then shipped to Oregon to complete the finished product. The graphics used to wrap the cans need to be strong enough to last and withstand the daily bump and grind a trash can takes. The company responsible for placing the graphics on the cans do the graphics for NASCAR stock cars, so they keep their finish and look good for years to come, Hofstad says.

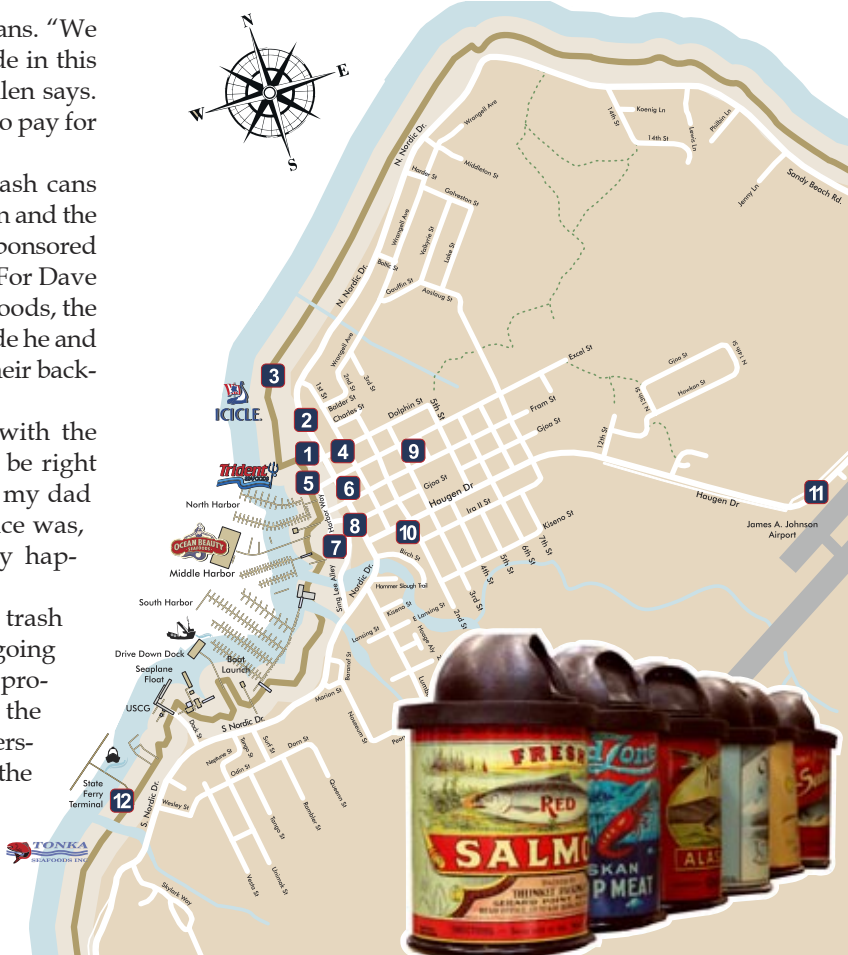
Hofstad enlisted the help of Petersburg local Glo Wollen and they found sponsors to

purchase individual cans. "We have a lot of civic pride in this community," Glo Wollen says. Sponsors were found to pay for all the cans.

Eleven of the 12 trash cans are dedicated to salmon and the other is a shrimp can sponsored by the Ohmer family. For Dave Ohmer of Trident Seafoods, the can symbolizes the pride he and many others have in their back-ground.

"We are thrilled with the can, and it's going to be right there out front where my dad and grandfather's office was, and I couldn't be any happier."

Hofstad says the trash cans are part of an ongoing effort to preserve and promote the history of the fishing industry in Petersburg. The majority of the cans are downtown, with one at the airport, one at the library and another placed at the ferry terminal.



Clausen Memorial Museum & Museum Shop

Petersburg Area History,
Rotating Exhibits

World Record Salmon, Fresnel Lens,
Tlingit Canoe, Discovery Center,
Museum Store



On the Cover...

Five Finger Lighthouse on
a flat calm day in Frederick Sound
*Photo courtesy
of Stephanie Hayes*

We would like to extend our
special thanks to Hillary Hunter,
Rachel Newport, Marissa Collison,
Kaylee Earll, Stephanie Hayes,
Carey Carmichael Case and Molly
Platt for sharing their photography
in the 2022 Visitor Guide.

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Cannery Park honors seafood processing workers

Cannery workers, past and present are recognized for their contribution to Petersburg's seafood industry with a covered, open air gazebo that sits over a concrete slab with two benches on Main Street, next to the Trading Union, Inc. parking lot. On three walls of the structure are five panels that give a history of the canneries that have operated in Petersburg. One panel displays cannery workers throughout the years. Some are peeling shrimp by hand and others are using more modern techniques of processing seafood. Another panel shows a timeline of all the canneries that have operated in Petersburg. There's also a map of the current canneries in Petersburg, and historic labels from salmon and shrimp cans processed in town sits on a panel next to the map. Probably the most detailed panel shows the history of the Peter Buschmann Cannery.

Decorative metal benches were designed & produced by local welder Josef Quitslund.



The colorful panels detail the history of the various canneries that have operated in Petersburg over the years.

Yet to be added to the project, are planters and cement bricks on either side of the structure. There are also four mosaics that feature a salmon, shrimp, rockfish and crab that are to be placed on the concrete slab.

Production workers have

come from all over the world to work at Petersburg's various canneries, and Petersburg's Icicle Seafoods General Manager Patrick Wilson said, "They should be recognized."

"There's usually not much mentioned about their contribution to the industry," said

Wilson. Their work is often overshadowed by that of the fishermen.

Another historic cannery panel is on display at the Clausen Memorial Museum that was donated by local historian and publisher Karen Hofstad.

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Photo courtesy of Kaylee Earl

Eagle & Raven totems

In 2000 Sitka totem pole artist Tommy Joseph was commissioned to carve two 35-foot tall healing totems that now stand at the corner of Haugen and Nordic Drives.

According to information displayed near the totems Eagle and Raven represent the two distinct kinship groups, or moieties, that divide Lingít society. Each moiety is further broken down into individual clans (groups of people descended from a common ancestor). All of the clans in Petersburg are displayed on the two poles at the site.

Drawings posted at the site identify the English and Lingít names of each clan.

One element of the Raven pole also honors an important local geographic feature — Devil's Thumb — while other portions of the pole display parts of the post-flooding migration story with Man in Canoe and Stikine River.

The Petersburg Eagle and Raven poles were raised on October 7, 2001 and were carved in recognition of the Lingít contribution to the prosperity and diversity of the town and to represent a link between ancestors and descendants.

A walking tour through Petersburg

The following numbers correspond with the map on pages 22 and 23.

1. OBI Seafoods — Pilings were driven in 1897 for a public dock, now the site of the cold storage. Icy Straits Packing Co. (Quadra Packing Co.), with Peter Buschmann as manager, built a sawmill where the Trading Union now stands to provide lumber for the cannery, which was completed in 1900. Icy Straits Packing Co. packed 32,750 cases of salmon that season. In 1901, they sold to Pacific Coast and Norway Packing Co. Pacific American Fisheries purchased it in 1929. PAF sold to Petersburg Fisheries Inc. in 1965. In 1977 they changed their corporate name to Icicle Seafoods, with Petersburg Fisheries as a subsidiary.

Petersburg Fisheries celebrated their 50th Anniversary in 2015. Ownership of the company changed in 2020 when Icicle Seafoods and Ocean Beauty Seafoods announced a merger forming a new company named OBI Seafoods, LLC.

2. Buschmann Historical Marker — Placed in 1967, it marks the spot where Peter Buschmann, originally from Norway, built a cannery in 1898.

3. Cannery Park — Learn about Petersburg's cannery history.

4. Trident Seafoods, Inc. — Founded in 1916 as Alaskan Glacier Seafoods and later moved to the corner of Main and Excel streets after a 1943 fire. The cannery was destroyed by fire again on Feb. 1, 1985. The oldest shrimp cannery in Alaska, it was founded by Earl Ohmer and Karl I. Sifferman. Three generations of Kaino, Greinier and Ohmer families have taken part in the operation. Dave Ohmer Jr. remains as general manager. The cannery merged with Silver Lining Seafoods of Ketchikan in January 1990, then merged with Lafayette Fisheries Inc. two years later to form NorQuest Seafoods Inc. It is now owned by Trident Seafoods. The plant handles salmon.

Continued on page 15

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A walking tour through Petersburg

Continued from page 9

mon, halibut, shrimp, crab, rockfish, black cod, sea cucumbers and sea urchins.

5. Petersburg Boat Harbors

— The North Harbor was originally constructed in 1958 and rebuilt in 2014. Middle Harbor was built in 1972 and the South Harbor was built in 1984. The entire harbor has more than 700 stalls for Petersburg's large commercial fishing fleet and numerous pleasure crafts. Visitors' boat moorage is on a per-foot basis. Public restrooms and showers are available. Grids can handle boats up to 70-80 feet long. Water and electricity are available on the floats. Children younger than 12 must be accompanied by an adult and wear a personal flotation device, which are available at the Harbormaster shed. Box 1047. Phone 772-4688. Standby on Channel 16 VHF and CB Channel 9.



Overcast skies are pretty typical around here, so, when we do get a clear night and the northern lights start shining, it's always a special occasion. *Photo courtesy of Carey Carmichael Case of Wild Iris Photography*

6. Ocean Beauty Seafoods

— Ocean Beauty is in a building built before 1912 by Citizen Wharf Co. for steamships. Alaskan Glacier Seafood's original cannery was located on the dock, and then moved to its Harbor Way and Excel Street location following a fire in 1943. Chris Dahl next bought the dock and operated a crab cannery. In 1945 Dahl and Dean Kayler formed Kayler-Dahl Fish Co. and started canning salmon as well. In 1946 the cold storage was built. Kayler-Dahl operated it until October 1969 when they sold to Whitney-Fidalgo Seafoods, Inc. It was purchased by Chatham Strait Seafoods in April 1987, and next owned by Ocean Beauty Seafoods. The cannery no longer is in operation and was put up for sale in 2018.

7. Sing Lee Alley Area —

Formerly called Indian Street, this was the center of early Petersburg. The street contained the Variety Theater and skating rink (built in 1912), the Salvation Army Hall, Enge Building (built in 1901) housing a restaurant and store, and Sons of Norway Hall (built in 1912). The Petersburg Trial Court's building is on the corner of Sing Lee Alley and Nordic Drive.

HISTORIC MARKER LOCATIONS:

Bronze markers and photo interpretive plaques are displayed at several historic sites listed below.

8. Gjoa & Nordic Drive—Centennial Park, Centennial Plaque & "Bruno" Bear Sculpture.

9. 13 N. Sing Lee Alley — Helse Restaurant

Continued on page 16

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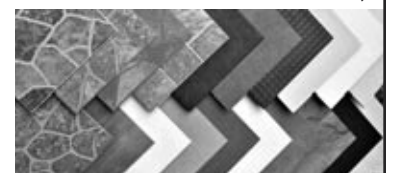


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A walking tour through Petersburg

Continued from page 15

10. 15 N. Sing Lee Alley — Kinder Komfort Toy Store

11. 14 S. Sing Lee Alley — Enge Building

12. 18 S. Sing Lee Alley

13. 23 S. Sing Lee Alley — Sons of Norway Hall — Fedrelandet 23 — The hall was built in 1912 and declared a National Historic Site in 1979. Sons of Norway is an international fraternal organization to preserve Norwegian heritage. The building is built on pilings over Hammer Slough. Rosemaling on the exterior is a traditional Norwegian art form. Box 629. Phone 772-4575.

14. Bojer Wikan Fishermen's Memorial Park — Located next to the Sons of Norway Hall the Bojer Wikan Memorial Park, constructed in 1998, provides a commemorative memorial for those who have lost their lives at sea.

15. Federal Building — Built in 1972, the building contains the Petersburg Ranger District office for the U.S. Forest Service,

which is open weekdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Area maps, woodcutting permits and general information are available at the district office. Lingít totem poles and a small park are located in front of the building.

16. Municipal Building — Built in 1959, the building houses the police department (dial 911), the borough assembly chambers and administrative offices. Box 329. Phone 772-4425. The structure was remodeled in 2016-17 for \$6.3 million.

17. Petersburg Public Library — Built in 2013, this facility houses digital and print collections, computer terminals and public wifi, conference rooms, and more.

18. John Hanson Sr. Hall — Built in 1978. Center for tribal meetings, the Alaska Native Brotherhood and the Alaska Native Sisterhood. Available for all community activities. Box 1128. Phone 772-3636.

19. Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Information Center — On the corner of First

and Fram streets. General business and recreational information available, including a Marine Mammal Center kiosk. Box 649. Phone 772-3646. Bronze Historic Marker site.

20. Petersburg Medical Center — The hospital was built in 1983 and 1984, and dedicated in November 1984. The long-term care wing was renovated and incorporated into the new hospital. The building housing the Joy Janssen clinic was erected in 1994. The hospital is at 103 Fram St. Phone 772-4291.

21. "The Fisk" — On the grounds of Clausen Memorial Museum, this fish sculpture was designed and fabricated by former Petersburg artist Karsten Boysen.

22. Clausen Memorial Museum and Museum Store — 203 Fram St. Opened in 1967, with the Heritage of the Sea addition added in 1976. Petersburg-Kupreanof area history and culture is represented by a diverse collection of business, social and cultural items. Special attractions include a Lingít

dugout canoe, the Cape Decision Lighthouse lens, fish-trap anchors, and a stuffed 126.5-pound king salmon. On the grounds is "Land, Sea and Sky," a wall piece designed and mounted by the Petersburg Arts and Crafts Guild in 1977. Call for more information. Handicapped-accessible. Phone 772-3598.

Turn right on Second Street and head south to Haugen Drive. Turn left on Haugen, heading 1/4 mile to Twelfth Street. A paved walking path runs parallel to Haugen Drive beginning at Eighth Street.

23. Hallingstad Peratrovich Center — Located on 12th Street, the building houses offices of the Petersburg Indian Association.

24. Mountain View Manor — Located on 12th Street off Haugen Drive. The borough-owned facility features a 48-unit apartment building for senior citizens. The grounds include beautiful flower gardens and landscaping. The building was doubled in size in 2004.

25. Petersburg Fire Hall — Petersburg's Fire Hall was completed in 2012 and is the headquarters for Petersburg's volunteer fire and EMS providers.

26. U.S. Post Office — Completed in 2000, the post office is open 24 hours for box holders. The post office window is open from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. weekdays and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays.

27. James A. Johnson Airport — Built in 1969. The first daily jet service started in June 1977 by Alaska Airlines. The Alaska Airlines terminal was remodeled and expanded in

Sandy Beach fish traps date back thousands of years

While the modern town of Petersburg has over 100 years of history under its belt, it is very young in comparison to the Lingít presence on the island.

U.S. Forest Service archaeologists have studied ancient intertidal fishing structures across southeast Alaska, one of which is located at a popular recreation site near town at Sandy Beach. These structures are made of sharpened wood stakes or piles of stones configured to form traps or weirs. The technology uses the ebb and flood of the tides to capture fish and radiocarbon analysis suggests the technique has been used for millennia.

The traps at Sandy Beach have been dated to approximately 2,000 years old and can be seen at most low tides. They are each over 30 feet across and have a distinct heart-shaped

pattern, in which V-shaped leads direct fish into heart shaped enclosures. The Lingít people positioned the traps so that the fish that had swum into the Sandy Beach cove with the flooding tide would then be funneled into the leads and trapped within the heart shape trap as the tide went out, unable to escape. The trapped fish were then available to the Lingít people to be harvested.

The stone alignments and wooden stakes preserved by the anaerobic conditions in the fine, wet sand still remain in the heart and V-shaped patterns. Please remember that archaeology sites are protected by Federal regulations and it is unlawful to remove or disturb artifacts from a site. For more information on how to see the Sandy Beach Fish Traps, visit the Petersburg Ranger District office or call 772-3871.

Continued on page 17

A walking tour through Petersburg

Continued from page 16

1991. The former gravel runway was paved in 1982. Private plane tie-downs, fuel and aircraft maintenance, as well as helicopter and fixed-wing air service are available. Careful scrutiny in the area across from the airport reveals the remains of a three-plank boardwalk that people used to walk on to Sandy Beach over the muskeg before airport days.

Continue past the airport on Haugen Drive eventually turning left towards Frederick Sound.

28. Sandy Beach Recreation Area— This daytime picnic area also boasts a large newly updated playground. Low tides reveal abundant sea life and ancient petroglyphs and fish traps on the left-hand side toward the point. The petroglyphs probably mark a heart-shaped fish trap of long ago.

Beach access is available at the following locations:

29. Sandy Beach Park Middle Shelter

30. Sandy Beach Park North Shelter

31. Whale Observatory & Outlook Park — View wildlife through mounted binoculars. Interpretive panels feature information on humpback and



Frederick Sound reflects a colorful sunrise over the Coastal Mountains across from Outlook Park along Sandy Beach Road. Photo courtesy of Carey Carmichael Case of Wild Iris Photography

orca whales as well as other marine mammals which frequent Frederick Sound.

32. Hungry Point View Area — Where the Wrangell Narrows meets Frederick Sound. Offers a great view of the Coast Mountains and Devil's Thumb.

33. Strand's Home — Built in 1902 by Peter and Laura Summer. Erling began fishing with his uncle Peter in 1911 and resided in this home until his death in Oct. 14, 1984. The home is located at 806 North Nordic Drive. The home is now owned by their son.

34. Eagle's Roost Park — Atop Petersburg Fisheries Hill is a city park where bald eagles may be observed. The eagles

perch and roost there while they spy for fish to feed in Wrangell Narrows. Photo interpretive sign shows historic Ness Point.

35. Petersburg High School - Mitkof Middle School - Wright Auditorium— The school district has strong vocational and academic programs. Many electives are offered, including foreign language, surveying and aquaculture. The 1952 building was remodeled in 1986 to become the middle school/junior high school. The 1976 addition is the back building housing high school classrooms. The 300-plus seat Wright Auditorium is housed in the middle school. Northern Nights Theater, a student run movie theater, shows recent re-

lease movies year round. The entrance is at 500 First Street.

36. Petersburg Community Gym & Pool— Built in 1990 and 1991, it contains a full basketball court, racquetball courts, a weight room and an arts and crafts room.

37. The Aquatic Center — Features Olympic sized pool, water slide, warming pool, sauna, and exercise area. Built in 2006. Call 772-3392 for the swim schedule. An RV service facility available at the rear parking lot.

38. Rae C. Stedman Elementary School — Built in 1969 and renovated in 2014 for kindergarten through fifth grades.

39. Petersburg Lutheran Church — The cornerstone was laid in 1938 but the church building was completed and dedicated in November 1948. The education building was completed and dedicated in 1963. In 1997 the education building was cut in half and moved across the street. Holy Cross House, the current education/fellowship facility, was dedicated in November 1998.



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Walks & hikes close to town

FERRY TERMINAL TO TOWN

[15 minutes one way] • Easy

A left-hand turn out of the ferry terminal takes you on a quick walk to the heart of town.

On the way you'll pass the floatplane dock and South Harbor. To your left as you near town you'll see the historic Sons of Norway Hall with rosemaling on the shutters, and to the right the picturesque houses that line Hammer Slough.

FERRY TERMINAL TO SCOW BAY LOOP RD.

[45 minutes] • Easy

From the ferry terminal parking lot the walkway is indicated by highway stripes. About a mile of the walkway runs along the Wrangell Narrows shoreline..



A negative 3.4 tide on June 27 left crab pots exposed on Sandy Beach. Photo courtesy of Kaylee Earll

THE BIG LOOP

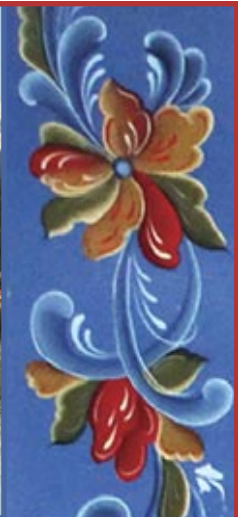
[90 minutes] • Easy

A favorite with Petersburg walkers, this loop swings up past the airport around muskeg, with an excellent view of mountains in every direction.

Head up the hill by the totem poles at the corner of Haugen and Nordic drives

until you reach the walking and biking path adjacent to the road to the airport. Follow Haugen Drive all the way to Sandy Beach Park. Then turn left and take Sandy Beach Road to Nordic Drive. Follow it along the Wrangell Narrows until it takes you back downtown.

Continued on page 19



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Walks & hikes close to town

Continued from page 18

HUNGRY POINT TRAIL LOOP

[40 minutes] • Easy, 1.25 mil

From downtown, walk up the hill to the end of Excel St. Make a left hand turn just past the end of the baseball field. Follow the gravel road past the small t-ball field and enjoy this quiet trail that bisects the town. Muskeg and mountain views are all around; blacktail deer can also often be seen. The trail exits to Sandy Beach Road. Turn left and take the sidewalk back to town along Wrangell Narrows, or take one of the stairwells down to the beach.

SOUTH HARBOR LOOP

[25 minutes] • Easy

From downtown, follow Nordic Drive south over Hammer Slough toward the ferry terminal until you reach

South Harbor. Enter the parking area and walk until reaching the harbor ramp. For those who have difficulty with inclines, be careful of the steep harbor ramp at low tide.

This is a pleasant and short jaunt past part of the Petersburg fleet. On the way back, turn left on Sing Lee Alley to pass the Sons of Norway Hall and Sing Lee Alley, which takes you back downtown.

BEACH WALK

[20 min. one way] • Easy

Stairways down to the beach can be found on North Nordic Drive past Eagle' Roost Park. At low tide you can walk along the Wrangell Narrows all the way to Hungry Point, where the Narrows meets Frederick Sound. It's a good way to check out the eagles. Occasionally, whales also can be seen from the point.



The Hungry Point Trail Loop, a local favorite for dog walkers, is an easy way to take in the muskeg and surrounding mountain vistas.

HAMMER SLOUGH

[10 min. round trip] • Easy

The Birch Street boardwalk (across the street from the police department) is the first left off of Nordic Drive after Haugen Drive, if you're coming from downtown. It's a short but picturesque walk up the slough, past old homes and warehouses.

TWELFTH STREET LOOP

[45 min] • Easy

Start off at Hammer & Wikan hardware store downtown and walk up Excel Street past the Lutheran Church and to the baseball field past Eighth Street.

Off to the right of the ball field is the William Musson Memorial pathway, which runs briefly through the muskeg and hooks up with 12th Street. In the summer, the flowers around Mountain View Manor retirement home can be enchanting.

Take a right off of 12th and you're back on Haugen Drive. Or turn left to walk to Sandy

Beach.

While you're in the area, there is a nature boardwalk at the end of Dolphin Street, next to the elementary school just a few blocks toward town from the ball field at Eighth Street. The nature boardwalk is a shortcut to Eighth Street and goes through forested wetlands for about 900 feet.

SANDY BEACH TO CITY CREEK TRAIL

[1 hour one way], 1.25 mil

• Easy (some mobility necessary to step up and down)

Trail starts at the troll bridge at the south end of Sandy Beach Park. Walk can also be started at the bridge along Frederick Sound Drive that goes over City Creek.

Trail winds through the woods following the beach with a couple overlooks. If timed right, hikers may see or hear whales in Frederick Sound. Petersburg Indian Association has upgraded portions of the trail to be wheelchair accessible.

Continued on page 20

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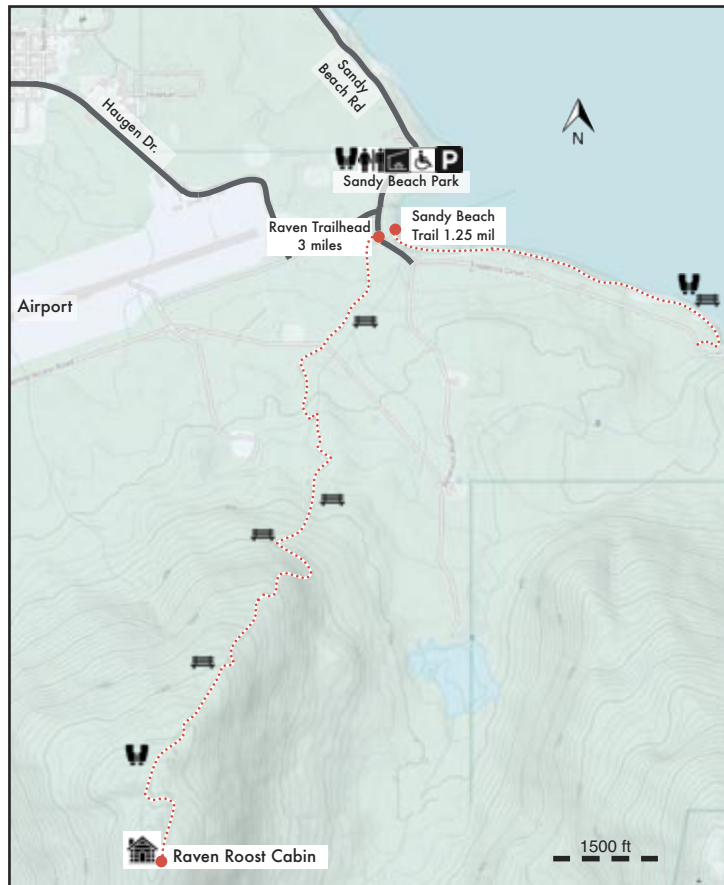
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Newly built stairs help hikers traverse some of the steeper areas of the Raven Trail. *Photo courtesy of Rachel Newport*



Walks & hikes close to town

Continued from page 19

RAVEN TRAIL

[2 h one way] • Moderate

The trail can be accessed by a new trailhead across the street from Sandy Beach Park. The beginning of the Raven Trail is gravel and connects to a Borough Service Road for a distance of 1/2-mile. Across the

service road, the trail continues for another 4.1 miles. About half of the trail is boardwalk and other parts have somewhat steep sections that are a good workout.

The view from the top offers outstanding views of Petersburg, Frederick Sound and Wrangell Narrows. The Trail accesses the Raven's Roost Cabin.



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The Tongass National Forest, as it's now known,
has for 10,000 years been Haa Aani, Tlingit Land.
This walking tour will identify traditional medicines, teas, and various
fauna that are still used today for a variety of purposes.

This walking tour of the Tongass National Forest comprises of three
stops, two of which will be trails approximately 1/2 to 2 mile in length.

Trails are low incline, but muddy in many areas.

Proper attire is recommended, i.e. hiking boots & rain gear.

Hours: Weekdays 10:00a– 5:00p, Saturday 10:00a – 4:00p
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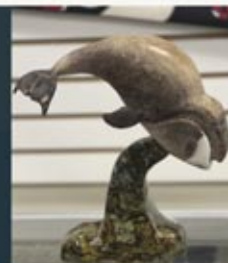
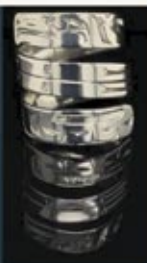
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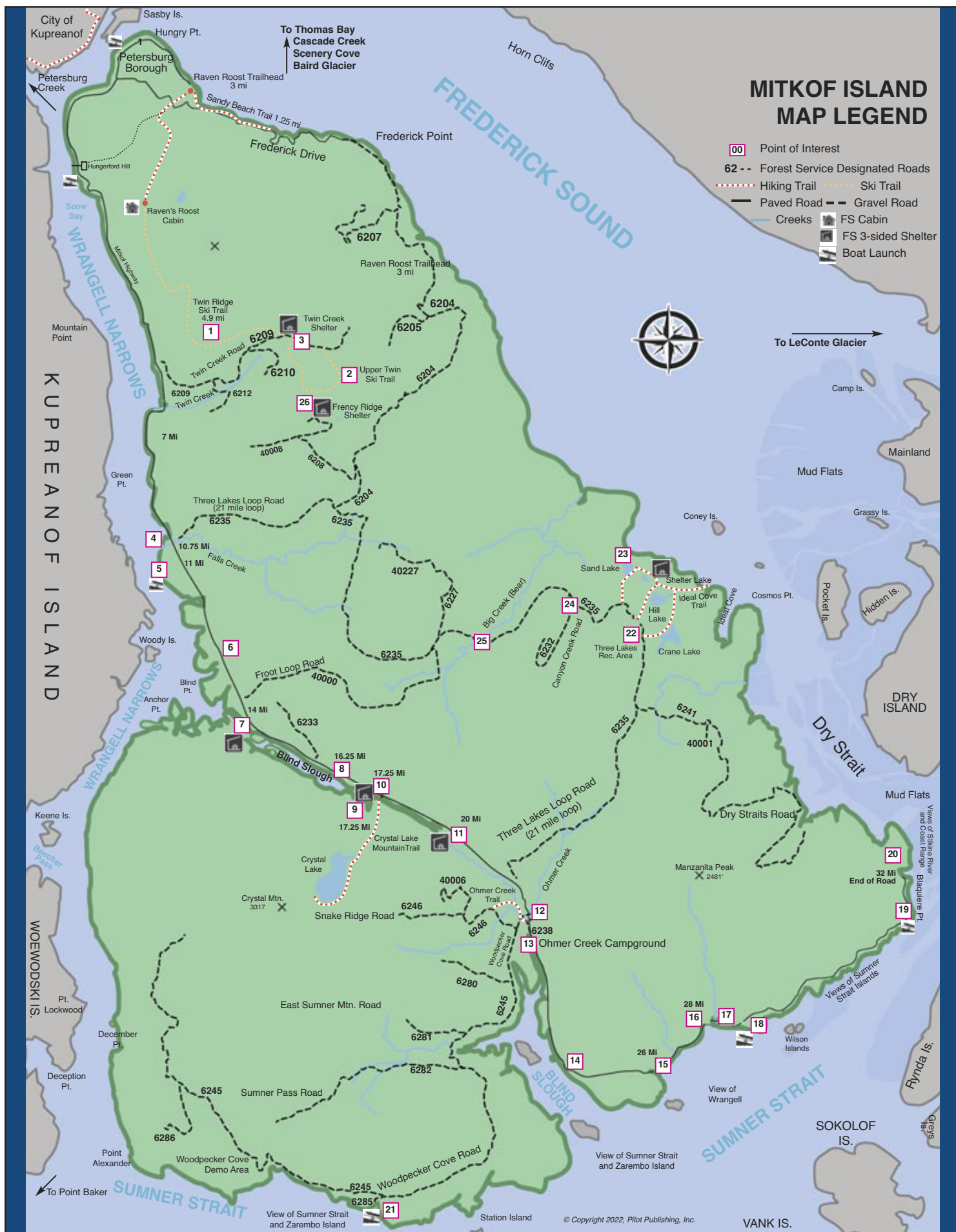
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See "A walking tour through Petersburg" on Pages 14-17







Walks and Hikes “Out the Road”

Take your own vehicle or rent one and journey south out the road to experience the largest rainforest in the world and many other attractions on Mitkof Island. The first Mitkof Highway mile marker is located just beyond the Ferry Terminal parking

lot and the first mile is measured from Wells Fargo Bank downtown.

Cell service may be limited or non-existent outside of downtown Petersburg. **Bear spray recommended.*

Points of Interest Out the Road

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1. Twin Ridge Ski Trail: 4.9 mile | 10. * Blind Slough Rec. Area: 17.25 mile
Picnic Area, Toilets | 18. Banana Point: 28 mile,
Toilets, Boat Launch |
| 2. Upper Twin Ski Trail | 11. * Manmade Hole Picnic Ground: 20 mile | 19. Blaquiere Point: 32.9 mile
Toilet, Boat Launch, Picnic Area |
| 3. Twin Creek Shelter | 12. * Ohmer Creek Trail: 21.5 mile | 20. End of Road: 33.8 mile |
| 4. * Falls Creek Fish Ladder: 10.75 mile | 13. * Ohmer Creek Campground: 22 mile | 21. * Woodpecker Cove: 21.5 mile |
| 5. Papke's Landing: 11 mile | 14. South Mitkof Ferry Terminal: 25 mile | 22. * Three Lakes Rec. Area: 21 mile, Loop |
| 6. Petersburg Shooting Range: 13 mile | 15. Green's Camp Public Use Area: 26 mile,
Picnic Area, Camp Sites, Toilets | 23. Three Lakes Shelter: 15 mile |
| 7. * Blind River Rapids Boardwalk: 14 mile,
Toilets, Fishing, Wildlife viewing | 16. Crescent Beach: 28 mile | 24. LeConte Glacier Overlook |
| 8. Swan Observatory: 16.25 mile
Wildlife viewing | 17. Wilson Creek Rec. Area: 28 mile
Picnic Area, Camp Sites, Toilets | 25. Big Creek Bridge (Bear Creek) |
| 9. * Crystal Lake Fish Hatchery: 17.25 mile | | 26. Frenchy Ridge Shelter |

#7 BLIND RIVER RAPIDS BOARDWALK [30 minutes round trip], EASY 14 miles from town

Located on Mitkof Highway, this Accessible trail leads to one of the most popular fishing spots in the area.

The trailhead sign is highly visible from the road. A large parking lot can accommodate motor homes. The boardwalk to the rapids is approximately one-quarter-mile long, and the loop is one-half-mile. The trail passes through a muskeg bog before reaching the popular fishing hole at the rapids.

Restrooms are provided near the parking lot, and a shelter is available near the trail's end.

Species:

- Black Bear
- Chickadees
- Chinook (King) Salmon
- Coho (Silver) Salmon
- Eagles
- Moose
- Pink (Humpy) Salmon
- Sitka black-tailed deer
- Woodpeckers



#8 SWAN OBSERVATORY, WILDLIFE VIEWING SITE, 16.25 miles from town

Located at Mile 16 of Mitkof Highway, the wheelchair-accessible observatory was constructed in 2008. The building provides a shielded place to view trumpeter swans, some of which winter on

Mitkof Island. Though 50 to 75 swans overwinter here, hundreds more of these large waterfowl stop here between mid-October and early December to rest and feed before continuing their migratory

journey to the south. Be careful not to disturb the resting swans. Bears and salmon also may be seen during the summer downriver from the Swan Observatory in the shallow waters.

KEY MAP LEGEND:

- | | | | |
|--------------|--------------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| Highway | Fishing Spot | Restrooms | Wildlife viewing |
| Gravel Road | Picnic Area with Shelter | Accessible | Swimming |
| Boardwalk | Bench | Parking | Boating Non-Motorized |
| Hiking Trail | Picnic Table | Cabin | Camping |

Out the Road

#10 BLIND SLOUGH RECREATION AREA, 17.25 miles from town

The Blind Slough Picnic Area includes two large shelters, a smaller, accessible shelter, and two vault toilets that are available for group and individual day use. The area accesses Blind Slough for fishing (salmon and trout), swimming, kayaking,

and small boating, as well as ice skating in the winter.

Blind Slough Picnic Area has a small boat ramp where kayaks and canoes can launch. Boating northwest leads to salt-water, and southeast leads to an array of beaver ponds.



Blind Slough is a perfect place for picnics and swimming on a warm summer day. Photo courtesy of Carey Carmichael Case of Wild Iris Photography

#11 MANMADE HOLE PICNIC GROUND

[20 minutes] EASY,
20 miles from town

Enjoy a quiet stroll in the woods around the swimming hole off Mitkof Highway at mile 20. Accessible restroom and a picnic shelter are available. The lake near the picnic

area is available for swimming during the summer months.

Trout fishing is available right at the picnic site, or the trail can access spots across the pond.



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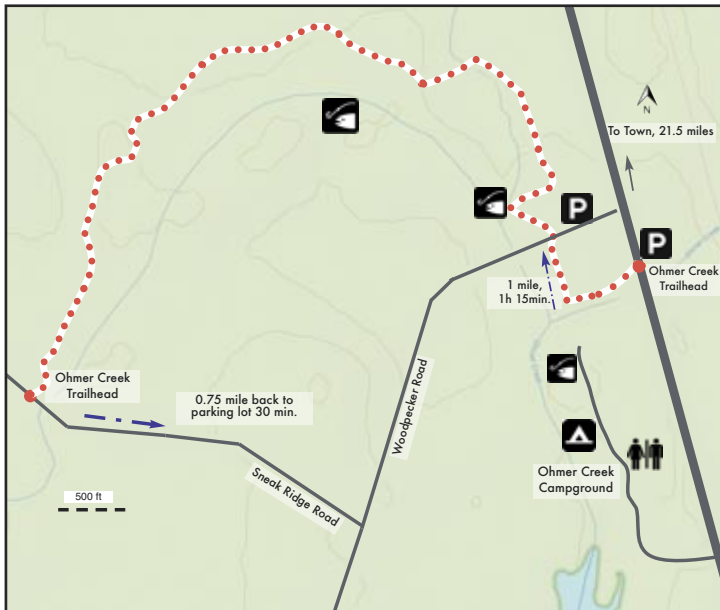
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#12 OHMER CREEK TRAIL, [1 hour] from Woodpecker Road Trailhead to Snake Ridge Road

Easy to moderate 21.5 miles from town



This one-mile trail is adjacent to the Ohmer Creek Campground, and follows Ohmer Creek through spruce and hemlock forest to a floating bridge over a beaver pond.

The first quarter-mile of the trail is wheelchair-accessible and accesses a fishing platform and the second part of the trail is plank and native tread. The trail provides anglers with access to the creek and adjacent ponds, providing fair to good trout and salmon fishing in late summer and fall. Ohmer Creek offers trout and salmon (pink and coho) fishing in late summer and fall. King Salmon return to the creek in June and July.



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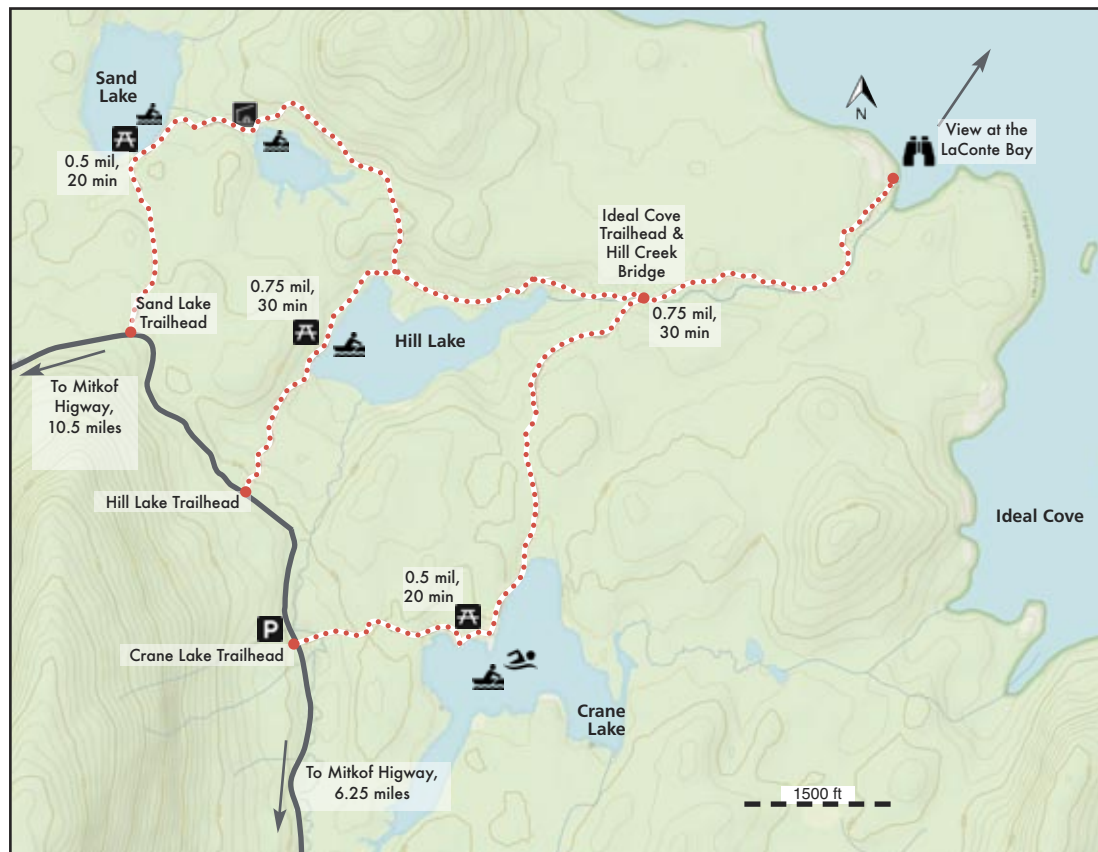
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22 THREE LAKES RECREATION AREA: Three Lakes Loop Trail and Ideal Cove Trail 26 miles from town EASY

How to get there:

To get there, drive past Crystal Lake Hatchery onto the road, past Man-made Hole and take the first left onto Three Lakes Loop Road. The total length of the Three Lakes trails and Ideal Cove Trail is about 5.4 miles.

The Three Lakes Trail system has trailheads at the beginning of the Sand, Hill, and Crane trails. They are all located off of the Three Lakes Loop Road.



The Crane Lake Trail is 1.5 miles long. It begins at the trailhead on the Three Lakes Loop Road and ends at the junction with Ideal Cove and Hill Lake Trails.

The Hill Lake Trail is 1.3 miles long. Nice views of Hill Lake and surrounding forest and muskeg.

Shelter Lake Trail is 0.75 mile long with a three-sided Adirondack-style shelter between Sand and Hill Lakes along the Three Lakes Loop Trail. The shelter was rebuilt in the mid-2000's and is avail-

able for day use.

The Sand Lake Trail is 1.4 miles long. It begins at the junction with Hill Lake Trail and ends at the trailhead on the Three Lakes Loop Road.

Wildflowers and berries abound along most of the trail and all four lakes offer trout fishing.

Rowboats, fishing platforms, and picnic tables are available at all three lakes.

The Ideal Cove trail is 0.75 miles long. It begins at the Hill Creek bridge and ends 1/4 mile north of Ideal Cove.

Where to picnic

Eagle's Roost Park — Bald eagles are frequent visitors to this park atop the hill by Petersburg Fisheries on Nordic Drive.

Outlook Park/Whale Observatory — Constructed in 2003, the park is located on the beach side of Sandy Beach Road about 1.5 miles north of downtown. The park and gazebo offer public beach access, fixed binoculars, and a spectacular view of the Coastal Range. A restroom, barbecues and benches were recently added.

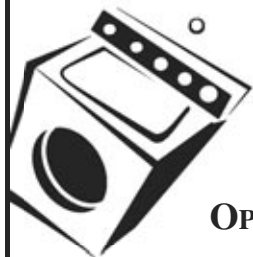
Sandy Beach Picnic Area — This day-use picnic area is at the end of Sandy Beach Road and is about two miles from downtown Petersburg. Situated in a small cove, the park has three enclosed shelters with tables, two of them with large stone fireplaces. There is a play area for children and a sand volleyball court is located near the beach. Restrooms and running water are available.

Blind Slough Recreation Area — Drive 17 miles south of Petersburg along Mitkof Highway to this impressive recreation spot. The picnic area includes tables, grills, two large covered group shelters and wheelchair accessible restrooms. It was constructed in 2009. Swimming in the saltwater slough is permitted at the risk of the swimmer.

Man Made Hole — Located at Mile 20 Mitkof Highway, this swimming hole is another picnic spot equipped with picnic tables and grills, trails and shelters — perfect for a cookout. The site was formed by removing gravel for construction of Mitkof Highway.

Ohmer Creek Campground — A day use picnic area is provided at the campground located 22 miles south of Petersburg on Mitkof Highway. Watch for signs for parking and picnic locations.

Glacier Laundry

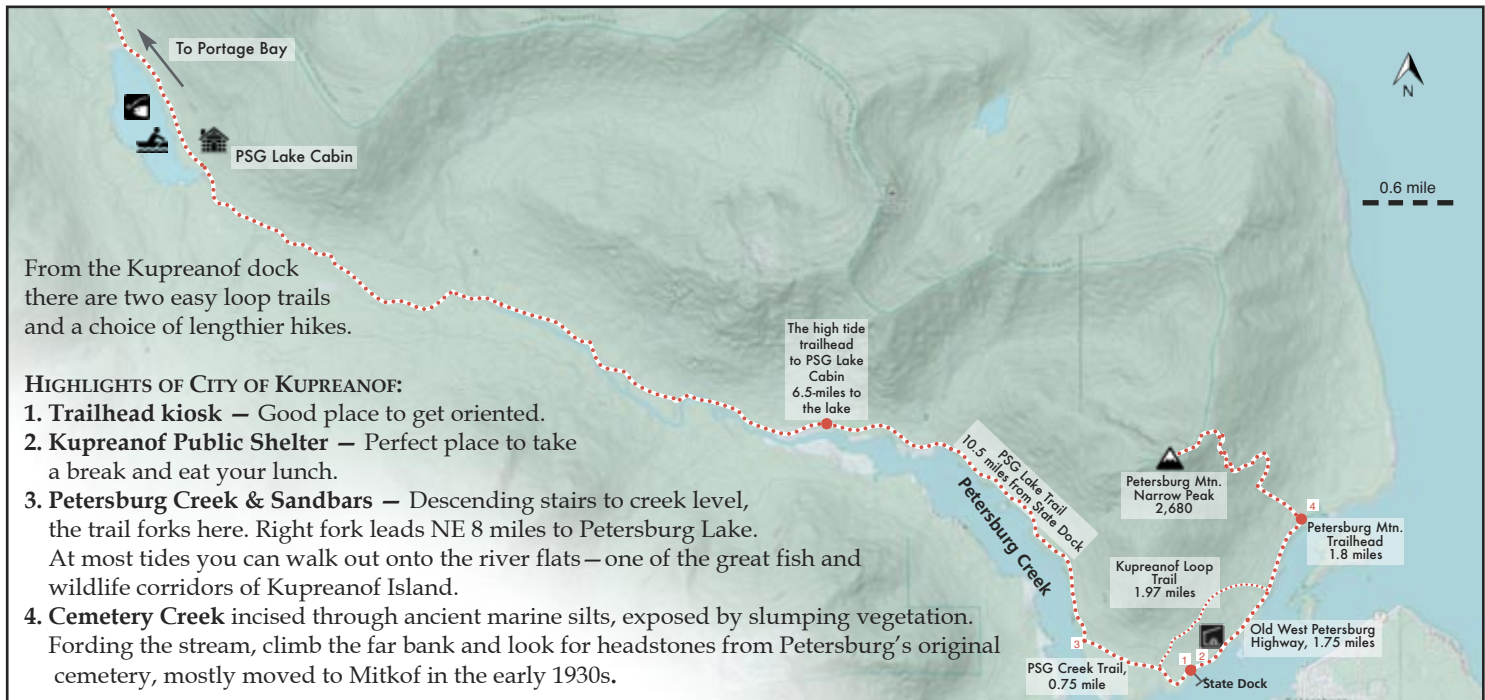


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Hikes off the Island: Kupreanof Island



Kupreanof Island:

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The City of Kupreanof is located on Lindenberg Peninsula on the North Shore of Kupreanof island. In the 1920's it was initially the industrial area for Petersburg and was known as West Petersburg. In 1975 it was incorporated as an Alaska Second Class City. It is a road-less community by ordinance and basically maintains an individual subsistence lifestyle. Wild creatures are abundant, so for your safety give the larger animals the right of way. Kupreanof is the Gateway into the Petersburg Creek Wilderness. Enjoy your visit and please remember to carry out what you carry in. For more information call 907-340-2400 or visit www.cityofkupreanof.org



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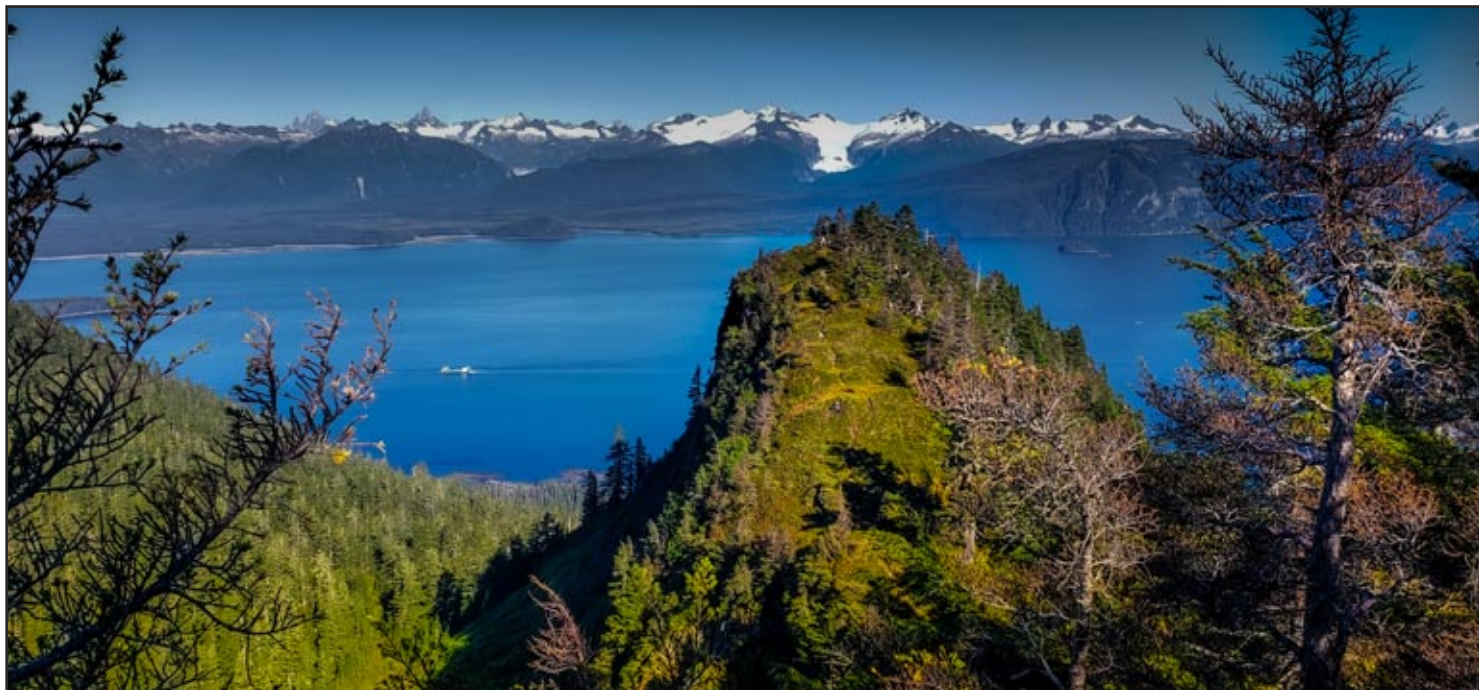
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Pictured is a popular ridge on Petersburg Mountain where hikers like to take a break. In the background across Frederick Sound is the Alaska Coastal Range, known for fjords, ice fields and tidewater glaciers.

PETERSBURG MOUNTAIN TRAIL: 3.5 miles from State Dock, DIFFICULT, [8 hours round trip]

To get across the Narrows, you need a boat ride or kayak.

On the Kupreanof side, head right on the overgrown road toward Sasby Island.

The first mile is an easy walk through the community of Kupreanof. The trail climbs fairly steeply for the next 2.5 miles to the saddle.

The last quarter-mile is a

very steep scramble over rocks to the 2,750-foot summit, which provides one of

the best views of Petersburg, the Coast Mountains, glaciers and Wrangell Narrows.

PETERSBURG LAKE TRAIL

10.5 from State Dock, MODERATE, [8-12 hours]

Hikers have a choice of getting onto the boardwalk trail at two separate locations: Kupreanof State Dock trailhead for a 10.5-mile hike, or the high tide trailhead up Petersburg Creek for a 6.5-mile hike. Both trails follow the creek, with access to trout and salmon fishing, wildflower meadows and great opportunities for photographers. The Petersburg Lake Trail construction is primitive and sometimes difficult to locate due to mud and brush.

Hikers are advised to contact the Petersburg Ranger District to check on trail conditions prior to hiking. Reports from hikers in late 2021 described the trail as impassable due to beaver pond flooding, downed trees, and aging boardwalk sinking into the muskeg.

The Petersburg Lake Cabin, located at the end of the hike is available for rent from the Petersburg Ranger District and can also be reached by float plane.

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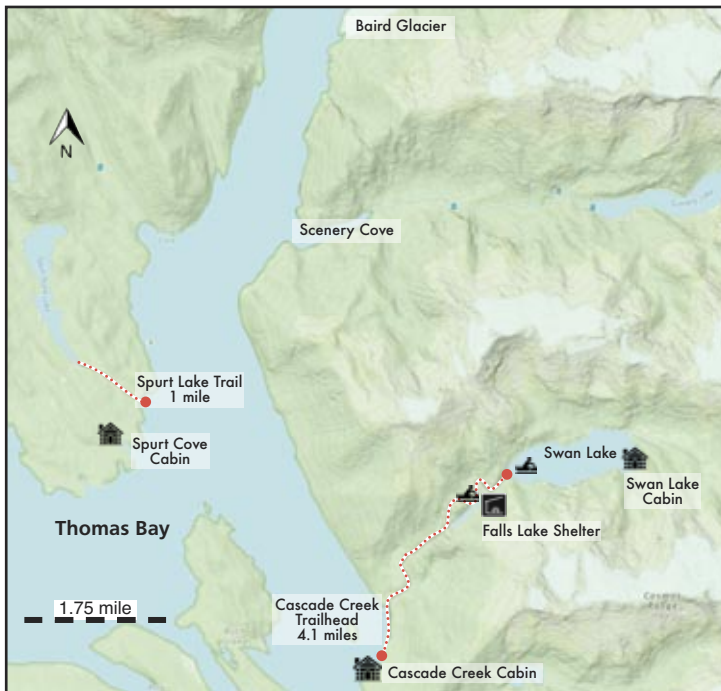


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Hikes & Attractions off the Island: Thomas Bay Area

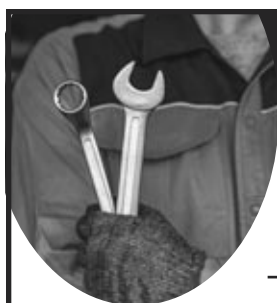


CASCADE CREEK TRAIL 4.1 mile, DIFFICULT, [6-8 hours]

The trail leaves Cascade Creek Cabin through forest, then follows the shoreline to the tidewater trailhead located 0.25 miles from the cabin. From the beach the trail follows Cascade Creek 0.25 miles to the lower falls; as it continues up the creek it gets more difficult to hike.

A bridge spans the creek at the 0.25 mile point and continues upslope along the opposite side of the creek. This portion is more difficult to hike as it ascends rapidly and has more primitive development.

About 2.5 miles from the cabin trailhead you will reach Falls Lake. You can row the boat provided to the upper or east end of the lake where the trail leads to Falls Lake Shelter and on up to the Cascade Creek Trail. The main trail continues to the left and crosses a small lake providing views of cliffs and waterfalls, then follows Cascade Creek for 1 mile to the Swan Lake trailhead. The three-sided Adirondack-style shelter at Falls Lake is for day or overnight use and there is no fee.



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BAIRD GLACIER

The Baird Glacier is located about 20 miles northeast of Petersburg, Alaska. It has a large glacial outwash plain and terminal moraine in front of the ice which supports a diversity of plant and animal life.

There are no recreation facilities such as cabins or shelters at the glacier, though other FS cabins such as Spurt Cove and Cascade Creek are nearby in Thomas Bay.

May through September are the best months to visit, although an individual will need to apply caution during the breeding period of the Arctic Tern from early May through August. Visitors coming to the area during this time period should avoid walking near where the birds are congregated and audibly warn intruders to stay away. Disturbance can not only

cause nest abandonment, but tern eggs are laid directly on the ground and are very difficult to see.

Visiting by boat can only be done within the confines of the tides, coming in just before the high and leaving before the tide starts to turn in a few hours.

It takes about 20 minutes to hike from the boat to the glacier viewing area.

Visitors wanting to climb onto the Baird Glacier cannot access the ice from the terminal moraine any longer, as the 2015 flooding and rapid retreat has broken up the terminus. A lake is blocking foot access from the terminal moraine to the ice. Climbers must plan accordingly, using small pack rafts to paddle across the lake to the ice to reach the icefields' multiple peaks.



The lupine were in bloom at Baird Glacier. The purple flower can grow up to three to four feet tall.

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Where to camp

OHMER CREEK CAMPGROUND

Located 22 miles south of Petersburg on Mitkof Highway, this Forest Service campground has 10 sites suitable for tents or trailers up to 32-feet long, but services including waste disposal and water are no longer provided. Campers should provide their own contained waste system and bring water. No fee.

The campground is set along a trout and salmon fishing stream. Fishing is permitted but licenses are required. Please check on local fishing regulations before dropping your line.

GREEN'S CAMP

A favorite location for family picnics and beachcombing, this campground is directly on saltwater 26 miles from Petersburg on Mitkof Highway. 30 campsites, four

picnic areas and multiple restrooms are available.

WILSON CREEK RECREATION AREA

At Mile 27.9 Mitkof Highway, this area has tables, outhouses and turnarounds for trailers.

CABIN RENTALS:

Eighteen Forest Service cabins are available to rent on the Petersburg Ranger District. Most cabins are accessible by boat or floatplane only. Contact charter air companies in town if you plan on flying to a cabin.

Each cabin includes tables, benches, bunks (without mattresses), wood or oil stoves (not suitable for cooking, bring your own fuel), an ax, a broom and an outhouse.

You must bring your own bedding and cooking gear. Rain gear, rubber boots and warm clothing are essential. In-

RVs are welcome here

Petersburg welcomes RV guests and has two private parks to accommodate their visits. RV parking is available at the Ohmer Creek campground, operated by the U.S. Forest Service. Ohmer Creek has limited maintenance and no water or bathrooms.

Recreational vehicles can find legal parking on most streets as long as posted signs are obeyed.

A water and service station is located at N. 3rd St. off Wrangell Ave., behind the community gym and aquatic facility. The service station fee is \$10. Contact the front desk at Parks & Rec to pay fee and receive the lock's combination.

For additional information, contact the Visitor Information Center at 2nd and Fram Streets or 772-4636.

sect repellent is often needed during summer months. Water can be obtained from nearby streams, or lakes and should be boiled for five minutes before drinking.

Cabins can be reserved through the National Recreation Reservation Service at 1-877-444-6777, or at their website www.recreation.gov. Information and assistance with cabin reservations can be found at the Petersburg Visitor Center, the Petersburg Ranger District office, or on the website.

PETERSBURG LAKE CABIN

Located on Kupreanof Island in the Petersburg Creek-Duncan Salt Chuck Wilderness, the Petersburg Lake Cabin is accessible by a short boat ride or kayak paddle across the Wrangell Narrows followed by a hike or by floatplane.

Petersburg Lake is ice-free from April through November.

The hike can begin from the Kupreanof State Dock or is accessible four miles up Petersburg Creek by boat or kayak. The hike is 10.5 miles from the state dock and 6.5 miles from the upper trail.

The pan-abode style cabin sleeps six and is heated with a wood stove. A rowboat is available at the lake.

Petersburg Lake drains into Petersburg Creek, an area with outstanding steelhead, Coho, and sockeye fishing. Cutthroat trout and sockeye salmon can also be caught in the lake. In the fall, black bears can sometimes be viewed in Petersburg Creek fishing for salmon.

KAH SHEETS LAKE CABIN

Located on Kupreanof Island, the Kah Sheets Lake Cabin is approachable by floatplane.

Continued on page 34



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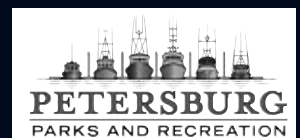
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Where to camp

Continued from page 33

The lake offers good sockeye fishing from the picnic platform or from the rowboats, which are provided at the cabin. A 2.5-mile plank trail connects the lake cabin to Kah Sheets Bay Cabin. The trail also accesses the creek for steelhead and coho fishing, and views of the falls.

The cabin, picnic platform, and outhouse all meet barrier-free standards. The cabin sleeps seven people.

CASTLE FLATS CABIN

The Castle Flats Cabin lies on the edge of the mud flats of the Castle River in Duncan Canal. It is 30 minutes by air and 30 miles by boat from Petersburg. A 15-foot high tide is required for a plane to land or a 13-foot tide for a boat to anchor next to the cabin. Water is available from a small creek west of the cabin.

Good steelhead fishing runs May to June, trout runs May to October, and excellent silver salmon fishing runs throughout August.

The tidal flats in front of the cabin make this a particularly good site for bird watching. A rowboat is provided at the cabin. The Castle River Trail connects the flats cabin with the Castle River Cabin and accesses the upper rowboat. The cabin sleeps four people.

CASCADE CREEK CABIN

Thomas Bay is located northeast of Petersburg. The Baird Glacier drains into the bay. The Cascade Creek hunter style cabin has a wood stove, and oil heater (#1 stove oil only), 2 double bunks, 2 single bunks, counter, wooden table and benches, covered porch, axe/maul, and pit-type outhouse. Stove oil, bedding, and cooking utensils are not provided. Firewood is available for wood stove use only, but is not guaranteed. The area in front of

the cabin is flat. Forested slopes directly behind the cabin become steeper with elevation gain, eventually rising to Cosmos Peak at 5,000 feet.

King salmon, halibut, and crab fishing is available in front of the cabin in Thomas Bay.

The 4.1-mile long Cascade Creek Trail connects the Cascade Creek Cabin to the shelter at Falls Lake, and the south end of Swan Lake.

RAVEN'S ROOST CABIN

The Raven's Roost Cabin construction was completed in 2021. Located on a mountain-side just behind Petersburg airport on Mitkof Island, the cabin is accessible by trail or helicopter at an 1800' elevation.

Raven's Roost Cabin is a welcome destination at the end of the recently reconstructed Raven Trail. The trailhead is located across the street from Sandy Beach Park. The trail is steep and challenging, but the destination is well worth the three-mile hike.

Available for rent year-round, during inclement weather, the cabin's propane stove provides cozy indoor

Continued on page 35



The new Raven's Roost cabin provides a view of a small pond with a bench along its shore.



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Where to camp

Continued from page 34

protection and warmth. On sunny days, however, the front porch takes advantage of the birds-eye view across the mirrored muskeg pond. The abundant windows benefit any type of weather.

Water is available from the nearby muskeg pond and propane is provided.

WEST POINT CABIN

This impressive modified A-frame is located on the northern end of Kupreanof Island. The cabin, trail and outhouse are wheelchair-accessible.

The cabin also provides access to excellent beach hiking, saltwater fishing for king and silver salmon and viewing of whales in Frederick Sound. The cabin sleeps six people.

SWAN LAKE CABIN

This A-frame cabin constructed in 2005, is one of the district's most popular. Be sure to make cabin reservations early.

Swan Lake is an alpine lake at 1,514 feet above sea level on the mainland east of Thomas Bay. The lake is accessible by a 30-minute plane ride from Petersburg.

The cabin is surrounded by the steep peaks of the Coast Range, offering some spectacular scenery and photo opportunities. The steep slopes are home to mountain goats and alpine flowers. Rainbow trout are plentiful in the lake.

Special cabin features include two rowboats and a boathouse. The cabin sleeps five people.



Weather and the intensity of the hike can make it a challenge to reach Swan Lake Cabin, but the views from Swan Lake are unforgettable. Photo courtesy of Hillary Hunter

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Black bear with a cub at the Anan Wildlife Observatory, located 30 miles southeast of the town of Wrangell.

Be cautious when encountering bears

On Mitkof Island, you're likely to see only black bears. But the larger and more aggressive brown bears occasionally have been spotted on the island.

While many bear stories are greatly exaggerated, it's smart to fear these furry mammals. Statistically, however, the likelihood of being injured by a bear in Alaska is about one-50th that of being injured in a car on a state highway. With proper precautions, the odds get even better.

The most important rule to follow is never feed the bears. In addition to it being illegal in Alaska, feeding bears can lead to injury – to you or the bear.

Cubs are cute and cuddly looking but potentially deadly because of their mother's protectiveness. If you see a bear cub in the woods, move away quickly because the mother will be somewhere nearby. Placing yourself, even inadvertently, between a sow and her cubs is virtually inviting the mother to attack.

Camping in bear country is a safe adventure if some simple rules are followed. Bears are attracted when food is left in accessible

places.

Food should be stored and eaten separately from where you plan to sleep. It also should be packed separately from clothing in case of spills or leakage.

On other occasions, being a little noisy is a good idea. A surprised bear, especially one at close range, will often charge. Loud singing or talking is the simplest method of letting bears know you are there. Backpackers sometimes tie bells or a can of rocks to their packs.

If you come into close range of a bear, do not turn and run. Instead, back away slowly, without making sudden movements that could frighten the bear.

Startled bears often make a "whoosh" or "woof" sound as they turn to run. If a bear runs away, don't be alarmed. If a bear stands its ground and begins a series of woofs or teeth-popping, this is your invitation to leave, since the bear may charge.

More information on Alaska's bears is available from the Petersburg Police Department, the U.S. Forest Service, the Visitor Information Center and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Staying safe while out on the water

The waters surrounding Mitkof Island provide ample opportunities for visitors to fish, spot wildlife and explore. Some basic safety precautions can make for a safer and more enjoyable experience on the waters of Frederick Sound, the Wrangell Narrows, the Stikine River, Petersburg Creek or wherever your adventures take you.

Petersburg Harbormaster Glorianne Wollen said having a float plan is her biggest piece of advice for those planning outings on the water. Let someone know where you are going, who you are with and when you plan to return.

In addition to that, monitoring the tides is also recommended. Many downtown retailers and banks have free tide books that can help visitors plan their water excursions and ensure they aren't left high and dry on a low tide.

Though it may be the most commonly cited advice, it's also the most likely to save your life: wear a life jacket! A life jacket or other personal flotation device not only adds a layer of insulation, but also allows you to save energy and use it for your rescue should you find yourself in the water.

In addition to motorized water craft, there is ample opportunity to paddle the nearby waters in a kayak or canoe. Both can be rented for daily use at the Community Gym, or visitors can arrange for an excursion with a local tour company.

Paddlers will find a base insulating, wicking layer (non-cotton) will help to keep them warm and dry. A rain jacket is essential for most any excursion and will be especially appreciated to protect from spray or in case of getting caught in a downpour while on the water.

Speaking of downpour, a quick check of the weather forecast is also an easy way to ensure you're prepared for the day.

Finally, paddlers should carry a waterproof handheld VHF radio to signal the Coast Guard or nearby boaters in case of an emergency.

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Wildlife viewing tips

Dawn and dusk are the best viewing times: If you arrive early or stay late, you are likely to see more wildlife.

Learn feeding habits: Many shorebirds, marine birds and waterfowl follow the tides during their feeding cycle. Other wildlife such as bears, spend large amounts of time during the summer near salmon streams and berry patches.

Blend-in: Wear natural colors and unscented lotions. Hide behind vegetation and rocks.

Look for sign: Tracks in the mud and snow, unusual scents, scat and browsed vegetation provide evidence of wildlife in the area. Use these clues to locate animals.

Be patient: Allow enough time. Even in Alaska, where wildlife is abundant, it can

take years, if not a lifetime, to see all the species.

Don't get too close: Give wildlife plenty of space. Binoculars and spotting scopes allow you to view wildlife without getting too close.

Approach wildlife slowly and quietly. Allow animals a route to escape.

View without changing behavior: Avoid using calls or devices that attract wildlife. Don't throw rocks to make birds fly. Harassing wildlife is illegal.

Be respectful: Nests, denning areas, rookeries and calving grounds are sensitive areas. Intrusive visitors may cause parents to flee, leaving young vulnerable to the elements or predators. Stay on designated trails.

Leave "orphaned" or sick animals alone: Young animals



Stellers sea lions can often be seen hauled out on the "red can" navigational buoy at the mouth of the Wrangell Narrows.

Photo courtesy of Kaylee Earll

left alone usually have parents waiting nearby.

Don't feed the animals: Don't get wildlife hooked on handouts. Some foods may

even harm their digestive systems.

Information courtesy of Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game.

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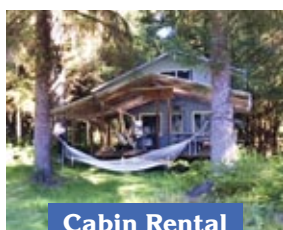
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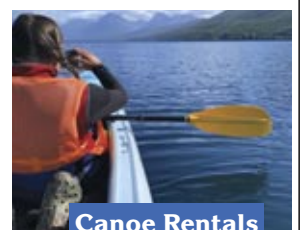
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SEEK ALASKA TOURS

Local students track the terminus of LeConte Glacier

While most high schools may take a field trip to the local museum or zoo, a select group of Petersburg High School students get to go somewhere a little bit cooler—LeConte Glacier.

Each year, students set out to survey the glacier and record how it has moved over time. They're taking what they have learned in the classroom and are applying it in the field.

The survey began in 1983 with high school teacher Paul Bowen's surveying class as an opportunity for the top students to get real world surveying experience.

In 2019 math teacher Tom Thompson took the reins.

"Where else are you going to be able to have this experience," PHS Junior in 2021 Latham Johnson said. "In what other school are you going to be able to go out to a glacier and actually be able to survey it?"

Though the trip to the glacier is intended to be an enjoyable experience, there is a heavy amount of preparation that goes into it.

To prepare for the survey the group meets during lunch on Wednesdays where they learn trigonometry and practice using

a theodolite, a surveying instrument which measure angles using a telescope.

They train with the theodolite inside the school, and outside when the weather is nice, to practice plotting points and calculating distances which Thompson said helps prepare them for when they have to set it up on uneven surfaces near the glacier.

There was no survey in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but on May 18, 2021, students were able to venture out to the glacier to conduct the survey two years in the making.

The crew was boated to Indian Point near the mouth of LeConte Bay where Wally O'Brocta with Temsco Helicopters flew half the crew to the south surveying marker and the other half to the north surveying marker near the glacier.

"He's the only helicopter that can land in the LeConte Glacier legally and so we have a special permit from the U.S. Forest



Jaime Cabral, Lydia Martin, Leesa Murph, Leiah Kittams, Owen O'Brocta, Latham Johnson, Julian Cumps, and Tom Thompson stand in front of LeConte Glacier near the northern survey marker after completing the 2021 survey.

Photo courtesy of Tom Thompson

Service to go in there and make a couple of landings," Thompson said.

Students began the survey by setting up the theodolite over the southern marker and marking points on the glacier that

they believed could be easily identifiable from the northern marker.

They recorded the angle measurements and then flew to the northern marker to help the crew there find the same points.

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LeConte Glacier is the southern-most tidewater glacier in the Northern Hemisphere. Its blue ice terminus towers hundreds of feet tall and when calving ice falls from the glacier's face the boom thunders across the bay. For Petersburg-based tour operators, it's a half-day trip to bring visitors to unforgettable LeConte Glacier.

Local students track the terminus of LeConte Glacier

Continued from page 38

"The other team tries to match up and see those same points and from where we are, because the glacier is receding so much, sometimes it's hard to see," Thompson said.

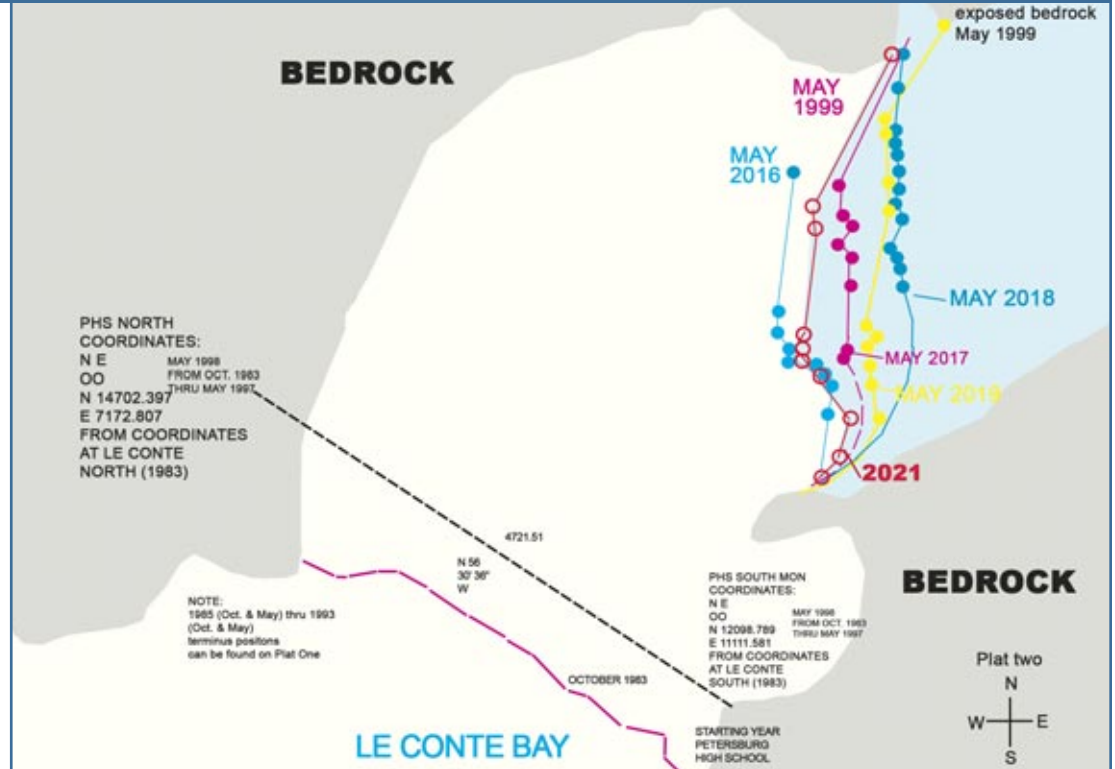
The markers have been moved from their original locations since the program first began because of how far the glacier has receded, and during the survey some points plotted from the southern side of the glacier have to be scrapped if the ice from the glacier collapses into LeConte Bay before they are recorded on the northern side.

From those measurements they can calculate the distances of each point and determine how far the glacier has either receded or grown.

According to the survey map, the glacier appears to have come forward upwards of 60 feet in some places in 2021 from 2019.

"We've got a lot of temperature changes happening in the world right now," Thompson said. "What's pretty amazing is how far it's gone from 1983."

"That's kind of why the high school started the glacier survey team just because for a while it



This map shows how the LeConte Glacier has moved in the last five surveys compared to where it was when the program began in 1983. It also displays the locations of the northern and southern markers used during the survey. *Map courtesy of Tom Thompson*

was really receding pretty rapidly," Johnson said.

"It's kind of plateaued out now but we're still just waiting to see if it starts again or just to see what it does."



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Bubblenet feeding is an awe inspiring humpback whale behavior that can be seen during summer whale watching in Frederick Sound.

Photo courtesy of Carey Carmichael Case of Wild Iris Photography

Area waters ideal for humpbacks

One of the best places in the world for viewing

By Kelly Bakos

The marine environment around Petersburg is abundant with sea life. The ecosystem is rich with plankton and fish, which makes it an ideal summer feeding ground for migratory humpback whales. Of the estimated 22,000 humpback whales in the North Pacific, approximately 5,000 - 7,000 spend the summer feeding in Southeast Alaska. Nearly half of those may pass through and feed in Frederick Sound before taking the 2,800 mile journey back to Hawaii in the fall for the birth of their calves. This makes Frederick Sound one of the best places in the world for observing humpback whales.

Orcas, sea lions, seals, and porpoises also call the local waters home. Harbor seals can be seen swimming along Petersburg's coast line and pupping on the ice near LeConte Glacier. Keep an eye out for Steller's sea lions at the harbors or along North Nordic Drive

and Sandy Beach Road, where they can often be heard while hauled out on buoy markers. Orcas are sometimes observed cruising through the Wrangell

Narrows.

With the waters prolific with marine activity, researchers, wildlife photographers, and eco-tourists travel here to

view and study these creatures. The Petersburg Marine Mammal Center (PMMC) is a non-profit organization pro-

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Humpback

Continued from page 40

viding a link between the environment and the community, students, and visitors. PMMC supports traveling researchers, delivers public education programs, and responds to local reports of stranded marine mammals as an authorized responder of NOAA Fisheries' Alaska Marine Mammal Stranding Network.

PMMC's volunteers are trained to respond to a variety of situations whether it is injury, entanglement, disease, exposure to contaminants, or disorientation, and have special equipment for disentangling 40-ton free-swimming whales from marine debris, which is a dangerous job!

If you see a stranded or entangled marine mammal, do not attempt to move, feed, or approach the animal. Often-

times, animals that appear to be distressed are actually displaying normal behavior. Whales may quietly rest on the surface for long periods of time, and it is not uncommon for seal mothers to leave their pups alone on the ice or beach while they feed. Marine mammals are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and it is illegal to disturb, approach, or handle marine mammals.

But if a marine mammal is found sick, injured or dead, reporting the stranding is the best way to help the distressed animal. It also provides biologists an opportunity to gather valuable data. Take photos from a safe distance and record as much information as you can. Please report the event by calling the Alaska Stranding Hotline at 1-877-925-7773.

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Alaska's first lighthouse

On a three-acre island 45 miles north of Petersburg, sits the Five Finger Lighthouse. It was the first lighthouse built in Alaska and last one fully manned. The names of the crew who manned the lighthouse through winter storms are scrawled on the underground walls of the structure, and their stories are recorded in log books. Located at the confluence of Stephens Passage and Frederick Sound, the historic Five Finger Lighthouse stands 68 feet tall.

There aren't any mammals on the island, but there are plenty of birds, including bald eagles, songbirds and nesting seabirds. Sea lions, harbor seals, harbor porpoise and sea otters can be seen swimming off shore, while nearby killer whales keep a close watch. Humpback whales are often found feeding on the abundance of krill and herring that surround the area.

The Five Finger Lighthouse was built in 1902 and was initially operated by the US Lighthouse Service with a lighthouse keeper and an assistant living there for years on end, until the United States Coast Guard took over duties and deployed six-person crews for 365 day assignments.

The original wooden structure burned down in 1935, but the lighthouse was rebuilt from concrete and still stands today in an art deco style unique to Alaska.

The USCG operated the lighthouse until 1984 when the light went fully automated. Now the lighthouse is maintained by the Five Finger Lighthouse Society (FFLS), a small nonprofit based out of Petersburg.

The 118-year-old lighthouse may have seen better days, but FFLS is working towards upgrading the facility and providing regular maintenance. Because of the remote location of the lighthouse, it can some-



Pods of humpback whales are often seen around the lighthouse during summer months. Photo courtesy of Carey Carmichael Case of Wild Iris Photography

times be hard to access. Rocks surround the island, and winds can pick up to storm-force speeds in the open waters to the west of the island.

Several months out of the year, lighthouse keepers volunteering with Five Finger Lighthouse Society live onsite. The lighthouse keeper works to maintain the lighthouse and greet visitors. When the flag is flying and the seas are calm, the lighthouse can be hailed by VHF and the lighthouse keeper can show visitors around. To help support the cost of upkeep, FFLS may even someday turn the lighthouse into a bed and breakfast, so visitors can experience Southeast Alaska from one of its lighthouses.

"Our objective as an organization is to preserve and maintain the historic structure and to make the site accessible to the public in order to increase the awareness of the significance and educational value of the Five Finger Lighthouse," said Thomas Cumps, vice president of the FFLS board.

In recent years, several whale research organizations have made use of the facility as a base of operation for scientific re-

search.

Anyone wanting more information about the lighthouse or

wanting to donate to support preservation efforts can visit www.fivefingerlighthouse.com.



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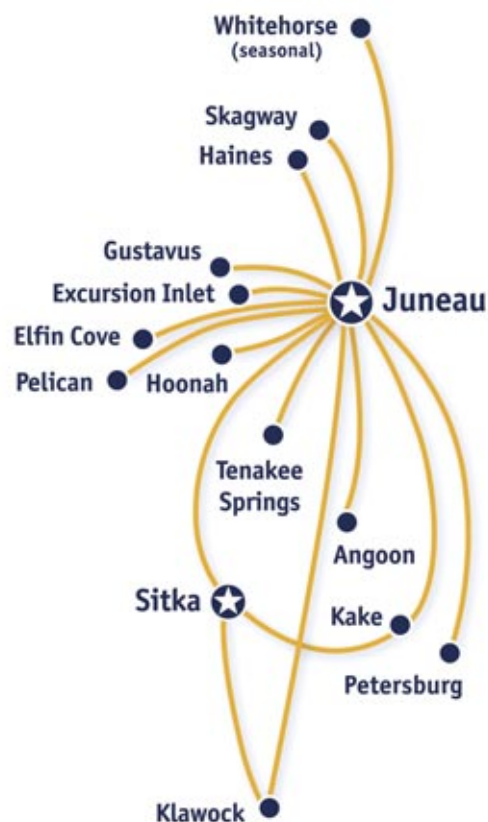
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