

Chapter 1 : Unalaska, Alaska - Wikipedia

Dutch Harbor lies within the city limits of Unalaska and is connected to Unalaska by a bridge. Amaknak Island is home to almost 59 percent of the city's population, although it has less than 3 percent of its land area.

Whether or not that statement is true, the fact remains that we purposefully took our year-old son to this rugged and remote area of the state " for vacation. Two destinations, really, within reach of each other, and often mistaken for one swinging loop of the same land, Unalaska and the Port of Dutch Harbor are located nearly 1, miles from Anchorage, along the sweeping Aleutian Islands, a land known for wild weather and the Deadliest Catch, and honestly, to many people, not much beyond that. Could it sustain a family for a few days of interesting and kid-friendly activities, or would we find ourselves trolling the airport waiting for the next flight home? Thankfully, the former was true, mostly due to exemplary planning efforts by a dedicated team at the Unalaska Port of Dutch Harbor Convention and Visitors Bureau. Often at a loss for everything from restaurants to attractions, visitors will find this is the place to begin any adventure in the Aleutians, no matter how you get there and who comes with you. We arrived via the Alaska Marine Highway , a journey-destination combination that was the cornerstone of our trip, thanks to an impending manuscript deadline for Alaska on the Go: Exploring the Marine Highway System with children. Visitors to Unalaska Dutch Harbor are treated to far more than fishing boats. We chose BC Rentals , located at the airport, and found their service and 4-wheel drive vehicles to be exactly what we needed for our two days of temporary residence. Lodging is available in once place; the Grand Aleutian is an enormous hotel boasting two restaurants that serve kids, and one bar that does not. Excellent service and child-friendly selections in the Margaret Bay coffee shop, and a to-die-for Sunday brunch in the Chart Room fine dining room, still with plenty of options for appeasing a picky kid like ours. Bowls and bowls of king crab? World War II history comes alive at this wonderfully-renovated museum and visitor center near the airport. Take a tour with Bobbie Lekanoff, owner of Extra Mile Tours , which perfectly sums up her ability to do it all. Lekanoff and her comfortable van transport visitors from one end of town to the other, and even over, if you have time. Narrating a nine thousand year history that includes kayaking Aleut People, WWII bombing raids, and traditional Russian Orthodox religion, Kenakoff provides an excellent framework for the rest of your visit. Aleut history is explained at the Museum of the Aleutians , located at Salmon Way, just around the corner from the Grand Aleutian hotel. Here, a comprehensive and very interesting history of the first people to settle these grassy mountains and beachfronts. Spend some time at this museum, and encourage kids to investigate traditions and activities by youngsters their own age. World War II is everywhere in Unalaska Dutch Harbor; in the hillsides as partially-buried bunkers, along city streets as discarded turrets, and above and below the surface of this grassy land. A stop at this National Historic Area is helpful before visiting the near-ruins of the hillside bunkers and enormous Fort Schwatka, located on Ballyhoo Mountain above the port. Hiking is hilly but generally accessible, and those with an interest in war history will want to explore the Fort Schwatka, Bunker Hill, and Memorial Park areas, all of which are suitable for most hikers above age 7. Do remind kids about safety rules for fort exploration: Most of these concrete hide-holes, while fun, are perched precariously on the edge of cliffs and require careful entrance. An interesting and quite wonderful side note: There are NO bears on Unalaska or Amaknak islands. Lots of birds, fox, ground squirrels, and eagles, but no bears. Prepared families will bring rain gear and boots to the Unalaska Dutch Harbor. While temperatures are fairly moderate, at least by Alaska standards, rain and wind can make everyone miserable if not prepared. So, pack rain pants, rain coats, gloves, hats, and layers of fleece and non-cotton clothing to mitigate any weather-related misery. Add rubber boots for beach time, too. That completes your packing list. Also bring binoculars, a camera, and map of the state. Internet is spotty and expensive in this area of the world; the only free location for internet is at the public library.

Chapter 2 : Travel Alaska - Unalaska / Port of Dutch Harbor Traveler and Vacation Information

The Unalaska/Port of Dutch Harbor Convention and Visitors Bureau is established to promote and encourage tourism and to support the development and sustainability of tourism infrastructure in the Unalaska/Dutch Harbor Region.

A mile long spit extending from the northeast end of Amaknak Island makes Dutch Harbor a natural port, protecting ships from the waves and currents of the Bering Sea , although winds off the Bering Sea have tossed shipments from decks of ships. Dutch Harbor is close to some of the richest fishing in the world, and it is ice-free. The native people are known as the Aleut. When the Russians arrived, they exploited the Aleut by taxing them in fur pelts. The Aleut accepted the Russian Orthodox Church because it offered them support and educated their children. It used Dutch Harbor in the transport of goods, mainly seal and sea otter fur. In Russia sold Alaska to the United States. Fur was the main export in Alaska after the United States took control. A decline in the sea otter population slowed trade in The year brought a crowd of potential prospectors looking to get rich from the Alaska gold rush. The first army troops arrived in June and the navy air base was finished in September During the war, Dutch Harbor was also used to house refugees evacuated from other Aleutian Islands. Army troops and civilian workers alike spent time at "Blackies", the only bar in the area. This establishment had cheap beer and cent shots of whiskey, but no stools or chairs as they "splintered too easily in event of a fight". Other entertainment included a brothel named "Pleasure Island", but this was closed in and later replaced by part of the U. The man mess hall doubled as a theater. The tickets for military were 15 cents and 35 cents for civilian workers. Navy predicted that there would be a Japanese attack in the North Pacific area, and naval codebreakers warned Dutch Harbor of the impending attack. On June 3, , at 5: By mid, a small submarine base was in place, with a squadron of old U. By May , a peak of 10, sailors and 9, soldiers were stationed at the base. Navy left Dutch Harbor and the base was decommissioned. In , the U. During the mids, the US government finally funded a cleanup of the derelict fort, and the area was turned over for commercial use. Navy also scrapped its air base on it. Current events[edit] The harbor is prominently featured in the Discovery Channel reality television series Deadliest Catch , which has been airing there since

Chapter 3 : Ounalashka Corporation – Unalaska, Alaska – A Real Estate Leasing and Development C

Unalaska, the small, wind-swept volcanic rock, draws researchers, tourists, adventurers, birders, World War II buffs, fishermen, and seasonal workers - so many that the population swells from about 4, in winter to nearly 10, in summer.

Together, the port of Dutch Harbor and the city of Unalaska make up a surprisingly accessible slice of remote Alaska, where you can experience the deep roots of Alaska Native culture, explore historic military ruins, marvel at the windswept beauty of the treeless islands, and much more. The city of Unalaska covers much of Amaknak Island and the northeastern end of Unalaska Island; the two islands are connected by a bridge. Before being used as a commercial fishery, the entire area around Amaknak Island was known as Dutch Harbor by WWII-era military, and before that, Russian fur traders referred to the island and village as Ounalashka. But the first occupants of this land were the indigenous Unangan Aleuts, who called the island Agunalaksh. Flights continue year-round, weather allowing, but the cruise ships and state ferries come only during the late spring, summer and fall, generally April through October. To give you an idea of the distances involved, flying from Anchorage to Dutch Harbor takes a little more than two hours, and the most direct ferry sailing from Homer takes four days. Tip Visitors are often surprised to find that flying within Alaska can be at least as expensive – and sometimes much more so – than flying to Alaska from elsewhere in the country. Unless, or until, that happens, you can either rent a car to get around, bike, walk to the closest attractions or take taxis. Learn About Local Culture Unalaska and the lands around it are full of rich culture and history. The indigenous Unangan Aleut people have lived there for some 10, years, and you can see fine artifacts and the clever technology they developed for surviving – and thriving – in harmony with the land on display at the Ounalashka Corporation headquarters and the Museum of the Aleutians. Russian influence also runs deep here, thanks to fur traders who colonized Alaska in the s and stayed until the sale of Alaska to the United States in One of the most visible – and lovely – marks of this is the Russian Orthodox Cathedral of the Holy Ascension of Christ. Construction on the cathedral was completed in , which makes it the oldest cruciform-style Orthodox church in North America, although portions of even older chapels and churches were incorporated in its construction. Army Fort Schwatcka, which was designed to withstand earthquakes and mph winds. Taking a guided naturalist tour is one of the fastest and most rewarding ways to learn about the flora, fauna and cultural history of this remote stretch of land. Go Hiking or Camping There are no bears on Unalaska. But you do need a permit from the Ounalashka Corporation, which owns much of the land here, and you should still be aware of all the other attendant risks of hiking and camping in such a remote place: Fast-moving fog and very high winds are common, and summer temperatures typically peak in the high 50s – so hypothermia is possible in any season. The safest places to walk are on well-marked trails or along the coast, although the latter means you must also be aware of the fast-moving tides. Most of the big wildlife is in the water; keep an eye out for humpback whales, harbor porpoises, sea otters, sea lions, orcas, gray whales and sperm whales. Hidden under the water, there are more than fish species and ancient deep-sea corals. On land, look for Arctic and red foxes, ground squirrels and collared lemmings. The Unalaska area is home to more than species of birds, including rare species like the whiskered auklet and ancient murrelet that are unique to the Aleutian chain; and the Aleutians in general host a thriving population of some 40 to 50 million seabirds. So before you go, stop by the Ounalashka Corporation headquarters at Salmon Way to purchase a recreational permit for a modest fee. This is also a great resource for information on local hiking trails – ask for a map and suggestions, since many of the local trails are unmarked and unmaintained. If rain and wind kick up, Unalaska has excellent indoor community recreation facilities that include a full gymnasium, racquetball courts, an indoor track, a weight room, a cardio fitness center, a heated meter pool with lap swim and family swim times, and both land-based and aquatic exercise classes. There are also seven parks and playgrounds to choose from, a selection of music rooms including one with a baby grand piano that is available for public use , and a dedicated room for pottery and art. Wool, synthetic fabrics like capilene, and non-cotton fleeces all work well. Tip The more isolated the place in Alaska the more expensive food will be, due simply to the logistics of getting the foodstuffs there.

Chapter 4 : About Dutch Harbor-Unalaska

Situated between the Pacific Ocean to the south and the Bering Sea to the north, the Aleutian Island community of Unalaska/Dutch Harbor is rich in history, and for the last 20 years has been the top commercial fishing port in the country.

Board of Geographical Names standardized the spelling to Unalaska. The Russian population at the time dubbed that body of water Dutch Harbor. During WWII, the military referred to the entire area as Dutch Harbor as did the people who came later to work in the commercial fisheries. Today the two names are used interchangeable to identify the area. Technically, they are both within the limits of the City of Unalaska, which encompasses all of Amaknak Island and the northeastern end of Unalaska Island. July and August are generally the best times to visit in terms of weather and ease of getting around but Unalaska offers unique opportunities for unforgettable experiences at all times of the year. If you are coming to view eagles, most leave the port area in July and August to hunt fish in the many salmon streams around the island. How do I get there? Peninsula Airways is the only regularly scheduled airline, flying several times a day from Anchorage. The flights must be booked through Alaska Airlines: Due to weight capacities and weather factors, there is a good chance that your luggage may be delayed. Make sure you pack all medicines, valuables and an extra set of clothes in your carry-on. From May until September, the Alaska state ferry Tustumena also brings visitors to the island. You can book your sailing at the Alaska Marine Highway website: Unalaska has a mild year-round temperature, rarely exceeding 65 degrees F in the summer or dropping below 21 degrees F in the winter. The average daily mean for the year is Average precipitation is 61 inches per year. The weather is unpredictable and can change rapidly. Visitors should be prepared for wind and rain and it is recommended that they dress in layers. How do I get on the Internet? Roaming cell phone service with phones from the Lower 48 is very sketchy. Texting or any kind of data use will not be possible unless you sign up for a paid WiFi service. Optimera has WiFi hotspots throughout the island. How many come here to work? There are about 4, year-round residents. About are descendants of the indigenous peoples, the Unangan, commonly called Aleuts. Processors in the local plants come from all over the world, including many from Somalia, Sudan, the Phillippines, Mexico, Samoa, and Ukraine. How many children are there at the school? There are around children in the two schools, preschool through 12th grade. Is there a pharmacy here? No, the Iliuliuk Clinic has limited pharmacy supplies and a visit to a clinician is necessary for a refill. What emergency health services are there? The Iliuliuk Clinic is prepared to handle many emergencies and there are two services that offer medevac service to hospitals in Anchorage. LifeMed Alaska offers a medevac insurance for a small annual fee. Fishing takes place during A and B seasons for pollock, Pacific cod, black cod, halibut, and yellowfin sole. There is a small herring bait fishery in summer. There is no commercial salmon fishery in Unalaska. Fishing for crab takes place in the winter. Most crab fishing tables place in October and January-February. How can I see the boats and crews from Deadliest Catch? Most of the year these boats and crews are in Seattle. Why are there so few trees and what kind grow here? Most of the trees growing on Unalaska are Sitka Spruce. In fact, three of the oldest trees were planted by the Russians in the early s, and these are designated as a National Historic Landmark. There are several factors limiting tree growth in the Aleutians, including acidic soil. The main factor has been the low average summer soil temperature but in recent years this has increased and resulted in more tree growth. Other trees species are also taking hold and flourishing.

Chapter 5 : Grand Aleutian Hotel

This specific harbor is one of many within the greater Unalaska Bay and is said to have been given its name because a Dutch vessel was the first to anchor there. The name dates from the late 18th century.

It was the 9th largest community in Alaska. This included a majority of Creoles, 84 Natives, 66 Whites and 2 Asians the total population included adjacent Dutch Harbor, and 5 docked vessels including the steamers Arago and Dora and schooners Nellie Martin, Pearl and Matthew Turner. It reported again as Iliuliuk in , but has reported from onwards as Unalaska. It was formally incorporated in . In the census [22] of , there were 4, people, households, and families residing in the city. There were housing units. The racial makeup of the city was Hispanic or Latino of any race were . There were households out of which . The average household size was 2. In the city, the population was spread out with . The median age was . For every females, there were . For every females age 18 and over, there were .

Satellite view of Dutch Harbor. Dutch Harbor has also been the largest fisheries port in the United States, in terms of volume of seafood caught, for nearly every year since . It is rarely economical to ship the fish oil elsewhere and Alaskan communities are heavily dependent on diesel power generation. The local factories process 3. Local government[edit] Unalaska has a councilâ€”manager form of government. The mayor is elected at large, and serves a three-year term; his or her powers are mostly ceremonial. They also serve three-year terms. The city council has for its mission to "enact the laws of the city, set the mill rate for property taxes within the city, approve the annual budget for the city, and appropriate funds to provide for city services". Marquardt was elected without opposition to a fourth term in office in , the first time in over two decades that a mayoral election went uncontested. Legislative representation[edit] Unalaska is located in the Aleutians No. Unalaska was home to Carl Moses , who moved there from King Cove in the mid s and was a business and political leader in the community for decades until shortly before his death in . Moses was the longest-serving member in the history of the Alaska House, serving a total of 22 years, from to and from to . He also served under three different political parties, first as a Republican , later switching to Democrat, and also served the majority of one term as a member of the Alaskan Independence Party. The only other Unalaska resident to serve in the legislature was Eric G. Sutcliffe served a single term in the House, from to .

Education[edit] Primary and secondary education[edit] As Unalaska is designated a first-class city and located within the Unorganized Borough , it is required under state law to operate its own schools rather than participate in a Rural Education Attendance Area. It has also consistently been one of the highest scoring schools in Alaska in both the Standards-based exams and Alaska Exit Exam. This college is part of the College of Rural Alaska network and offers both conventional classroom and distance classes. Because of the very harsh weather conditions around Unalaska Airport , about a fifth of those flights are cancelled. Out of the ten major docks in Unalaska, three are operated by the city. A World War II sub dock was refurbished and now offers ship repair services. These roads recorded an annual average daily traffic volume of approximately 3, cars.

Chapter 6 : FAQ - Unalaska/Port of Dutch Harbor Convention and Visitors Bureau

Everywhere in Unalaska and Dutch Harbor, two things catch your eye: concrete pillboxes and crab pots. In a nutshell, that's the story of these twin towns on Unalaska and Amaknak Islands: the pillboxes are a reminder of the wartime past, while the crab pots acknowledge the important role of.

The town of Unalaska is spread across two islands. The two sides of Unalaska are connected by bridge. The ferry docks in Dutch Harbor near the north end of Amaknak Island. If you plan to explore on your own, make your first order of business getting a land access permit. The permit gives permission to hike off area roads or to drive on Ballyhoo Mountain or Strawberry Hill, on property owned by the Ounalashka Corp. During weekday working hours, permits may be obtained in town at the Ounalashka Corp. Red-legged kittiwakes may also be found here. Bald eagles are numerous. In , a crabbing boat piloting through early morning darkness in Unalaska Bay was hit with a hail of several hundred dead and dying shearwaters, and area beaches were found littered with more than 1, bird carcasses. Mount Ballyhoo offers a prime vantage point for viewing the area, as well as for up-close views of bald eagle nesting areas. From Airport Beach Road, trails leading off the main road will take you around the coastline at Bunker Hill. A walk along Bunker Hill trail is rich in bird and other wildlife sightings, including fox, harbor seals, harbor porpoise and numerous seabirds, including gulls, cormorants, marbled murrelets, pigeon guillemots and black oystercatchers. A bald eagle making a racket near Dutch Harbor processing boats Bald eagles nest on the cliff sides, and on the eastern side of Bunker Hill. In winter, emperor geese may be seen in Unalaska Bay. Look also for tufted and horned puffins, black oystercatchers, red-faced cormorants, mergansers, harlequins and other ducks, as well as pigeon guillemots. Songbirds include snow bunting, Lapland longspur, redpolls, song sparrow, winter wren, bank swallow, American dipper and the distinctively colorful, delightfully common gray-crowned rosy-finch. If you will be staying over in Unalaska rather than returning by ferry, consider a trip to Summer Bay, on the western shore of Unalaska Island, to view Steller sea lions, tufted puffins and " just maybe " some whiskered auklets. The whiskered auklet is found in only two places: The birds breed on the rocky islands, and feed on nearby tiderips. At least some stay close by year-round, nesting in August.

Chapter 7 : GRAND ALEUTIAN HOTEL - Updated Reviews (Dutch Harbor, Alaska) - TripAdvisor

(TSP) to improve access to Unalaska/Dutch Harbor. The City of Unalaska is located in the Aleutian Islands, some air miles from Anchorage. Dutch Harbor is a port facility on Amaknak Island within the city.

Chapter 8 : What to Do in Dutch Harbor Alaska? | USA Today

Unalaska/Dutch Harbor Channel Line-up Card (effective 3/1/18) Please note, many of the networks will have a different channel number on the new digital TV platform. As Eyecom works to finalize aspects of the new digital system, some channel placements will change temporarily.

Chapter 9 : Unalaska Sights & Attractions

Dutch Harbor is a harbor on Amaknak Island in Unalaska, theinnatdunvilla.com was the location of the Battle of Dutch Harbor in June , and was one of the few sites, besides the attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, in American territory to be bombed by the Japanese during World War II.