

SOUTHWEST ALASKA

Kodiak Island is the nation's second largest and was discovered in the 1700s by Russian Fur Traders – it is now a top tourist destination. Home of the Kodiak Brown Bear, this is where you come to view this amazing species on the ground in their habitat, from the air on a flight seeing tour or even hunt the bears with a professional outfitter. Sport fishing is another popular activity. Private fishing boat charters offer excellent saltwater fishing from April through October while commercial fishing vessels work the waters all year long. At the end of the Aleutian Island chain is remote Unalaska/Dutch Harbor, the only place to be bombed by the Japanese in WWII other than Pearl Harbor and departure point for the fall and winter crab fishing fleet of "Deadliest Catch" fame.

City of Kodiak

Location: On the northeast coast of Kodiak Island; 250 air miles south of Anchorage, one-hour flight with scheduled airlines. Visitors can fly into Kodiak or take the Alaska Marine Highway System ferry from Homer or Whittier into Kodiak or Port Lions. Island Population: 14,000. Elevation: Sea level to 4,000 feet. Visitor Information: Kodiak Island Convention and Visitors Bureau, 100 Marine Way Suite 200, Kodiak, AK 99615; Phone (907) 486-4782; Email: visit@kodiak.org; Website: www.kodiak.org. Kodiak Island Area Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 1485, 100 Marine Way Suite 300, Kodiak, AK 99615; Phone (907) 486-5557. Alaska Marine Highway Kodiak Terminal, Pier One in Kodiak; Phone: (907) 486-3800; inquiries/reservations through Ketchikan office; Toll Free: (800) 642-0066; Email: ask_amhs@dot.state.ak.us; Website: www.ferryalaska.com.

Covering nearly 5,000 square miles, the Kodiak Archipelago consists of 16 major islands in the central Gulf of Alaska at the head of the Aleutian Island chain. Ancient glaciers and millennia of stormy weather sculpted the islands' granite core into rugged mountains and intricate shoreline. This dynamic land is home to an abundance of wildlife. Whales and sea otters feed in bays. Enormous bears roam meadows of waist deep grass and salmon return to nearly every stream.

Kodiak's lush green mountainous landscape has been compared to Ireland's, hence the nickname Emerald Isle. The oldest community in Alaska was established on Kodiak by Aleksandr Baranov in 1792 when Russian rule dominated the northern region of the Pacific Northwest; the oldest Russian Orthodox Church outside of Russia was built here in 1794; Alaska's oldest standing building is the Russian American Magazin, built in 1808 as a fur warehouse. The City of Kodiak is the largest seaport in Alaska with the second largest fishing fleet in the US, while the Island's waters have been judged to offer the best sport fishing.

When "driving" to Kodiak Island, allow plenty of time to enjoy the Sterling Highway on the Kenai Peninsula into Whittier or Homer; the snow capped mountain ranges, pristine rivers, spring wildflowers and autumn colors will remain a memorable experience. Board the M/V Tustumena in Homer or the M/V Kennicott in Homer or Whittier and continue your "drive" on the Alaska Marine Highway – a 12 or 16 hour ferry boat ride across the Gulf of Alaska. Another option is to leave the vehicle on the mainland



Kodiak Sunrise
photo by:
VC TRAVEL GUIDE

KODIAK, ALASKA

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