



AANG!
Greetings!

TUMAN TANAX AGLIISAAXTAN
(too-man ta-naa aglee-saa-k-tan)
(Take Care of our Land)

We are a visiting people, and want you to enjoy your stay on the island. Remember the essence of St. George Island is rooted in natural law, which requires respectful observations.

SOME WILDLIFE ON ST. GEORGE

Northern Fur Seals, Harbor Seals, Stellar Sea lions, Sea otters -rare

Horned & Tufted Puffins, Least, Parakeet & Crested Auklets

Common and Thick billed Murres, Ancient Murrelet

Pelagic and Red Faced Commorants

Red Legged Kittiwakes (85% World's Pop. Nest On St. George)

Black Legged Kittiwakes, Northern Fulmars, Gulls, Snowy Owls

Many ducks: loons, eiders, harlequin, bufflehead, etc.

Gray-crowned rosy-finches, winter wrens, snow buntings, Lapland longspur, sparrows, swallows, Migratory ones - sand hill cranes, whooper swans, emperor & Various Geese, terns, many others.

Reindeer, Arctic Foxes, Lemmings

FUR SEALS: Signs are posted to protect our fur seal rookeries. These are to be strictly observed to ensure protection of the fur seals, and for your safety. The eyesight of the fur seals is poor, but their sense of smell is very keen. They study their surroundings for irregularities particularly things that break the horizontal view. A person moving in a seal habitat is extremely disturbing to the seals as it is a foreign movement and causes significant rookery disturbance, which can cause pup death by trampling. Please do not smoke while around seal habitats or make excessive noises or movements.

TUNDRA: The tundra is a fragile habitat and susceptible to erosion. The tundra is also a nesting habitat for numerous birds so care should be taken to avoid nest trampling. The tundra along the cliffs may be undercut (meaning no support underneath trail) and extreme caution should be taken when bird watching.

You may contact local resource organizations (see back panel), or talk with the local people who will be happy to point you in the right direction. Asking questions helps us avoid putting up too many signs and the island stays as natural as possible.

BIRDS: The Island is home to millions of birds including migratory visitors. Many birds are unique to the Pribilofs. Please respect their habitat and minimize disturbance to cliffs and other environments.

FOXES, REINDEER, LEMMINGS AND OTHERS:

Foxes are beautiful animal for photograph but please do not feed them.

Reindeer: To hunt reindeer please see St. George Tanaq (Land) Corporation (back page resource list).

Lemmings are numerous but elusive. Lemmings play an important role in the food chain.

Snowy Owls are magnificent birds and can often be seen hunting the lemmings.

Rat Free Island

St. George Island is rat free. Rat predation is a tremendous threat to bird populations, as nests are on the ground. Active surveillance is ongoing. If you sight rat activity report this immediately to the Traditional Council Eco-Office 859-2447.

WEATHER: St. George weather is highly unpredictable and influenced by the ocean currents. One can see sunshine, fog, rain & winds in just one afternoon! Fog can be highly treacherous especially to first time visitors. So please be aware of your surroundings when out hiking as the village can become thickly cloaked in fog and reduced visibility to within just a few feet. Please let someone know where you are going and your expected return time. A lost tourist is not uncommon and could be life threatening. Because of the high humidity of our maritime environment rain gear is highly recommended. Temperatures can reach 50+ from May to October. November to April can bring an occasional below zero wind chill, typically temperatures are in teens to late 20's.

TRAILS: There are numerous trails all over the island. Some are more traditional walking trails and are shown on the map. Many trails are those of reindeer and fox and lead to many different areas of the island. Trails can be often hard to distinguish and it is important to get weather conditions before proceeding on a lengthy hike and observe the weather changes locally at all times. It is important to inform others of your destination, departure and expected time back. Be cautious on trails that go to close to the cliff edge due to the undercut.



Aerial photo of St. George



St. George Island Environmental Etiquette Guide

**Our people, Unangan (Aleuts),
indigenous to the Bering Sea Islands, respectfully request your participation in
caring for and protecting
St. George Island
and all of its unique wildlife, resources and habitats.**

BRIEF ST. GEORGE HISTORY

Pop. Approx. 120 Language English & Aleut Culture: Russian/Aleut

St. George was known to the Aleuts of the Aleutians through legends recording the discovery of St. Paul by an Aleut of Unimak long before the Russians. However, it was not until 1786 when Russians fur traders, on the vessel '*St. Georgii*' captained by Gerasim Pribilov, in search of the legendary fur islands, came upon Tolstoi Point. Thereafter, Aleuts from the Aleutian Chain were moved to both St. George and St. Paul for the sole purpose of harvesting the fur seals. After the Sale of Alaska to America in 1867, the U.S. Government leased the islands to the Alaska Commercial Company and continued the fur seal harvesting industry for another 100 years. St. George residents did not gain their independence from the Government occupation until 1983.



Aleut Hunter

Aleut men honored the sea mammal spirits by wearing highly decorated hunting costumes. This hunter is dressed in a gut-skin *kamleika* ornamented with yarn, appliqué designs, and hair embroidery. Sea lion whiskers on the hat indicate the hunting ability of its owner. In his hands are a sea otter dart and throwing board.

LOCAL RESOURCES

St. George Traditional Council

P.O. Box 940,

St. George Island, AK, 99591

Tel: (907) 859-2205

Contact for: Fur Seal viewing blind permits, to register Marine Mammal Parts (i.e. Teeth, bones, etc) in your possession, and with environmental concerns or questions. Note: Possessing parts of endangered species is prohibited.

St. George Tanaq Corporation

Tel: (907) 859-2255

Contact for. Reindeer hunting permits, camping permits, truck rentals

St. George Clinic

Tel: (907) 859-2254

Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO)

Tel: (907) 859-2403, 859-2415

Contact for law and safety issues

U.S. Fish & Wildlife/National Marine Fisheries Service

Tel: (907) 859-2233 or 859-2257

Canteen (store)

Mon. – Fri. 9am –12:30pm, 2pm-6pm

Sat. 1pm-3pm, closed Sunday

US Post Office

Mon. – Fri. 9:30 – 11:30 am, 1 – 2 pm

Sat. 10 – 11:30 am

Good Resources of Information on the Pribilofs and Aleuts

<http://arcticcircle.uconn.edu/HistoryCulture/Aleut/Jones/ch10.html>

Has a Century of Servitude: Pribilof Under U.S. Rule electronic version and wonderful bibliography for other resources.

<http://arcticcircle.uconn.edu/HistoryCulture/Aleut/aleutindex.html>

<http://www.nps.gov/aleu/UnanganHistoryAndCulture.htm>

<http://www.nps.gov/aleu/AleutInternmentAndRestitution.htm>

<http://www.apiai.com/Apia/Html/apiahistory.html>

<http://www.tooyoo.l.u-tokyo.ac.jp/Russia/bibl/Aleut.html>

http://www.alaskool.org/projects/traditionalife/Aleutian_Chain/Text.html