

Welcome

to Cold Bay – a one-of-a-kind community that prides itself on its rugged wilderness and down-to-earth lifestyle. If you have an adventuresome, outdoor spirit and are ready to experience Alaska at its most wild, Cold Bay, with its rich history and front-door access to the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge, is just the place for you.

Community With A View

On a clear day in Cold Bay, you can see some of the most dramatic sights in the world.

To the west, you'll see the National Natural Landmark, Shishaldin Volcano. Shishaldin Volcano is about 50 miles away from Cold Bay on Unimak Island. At more than 9,000 feet high, Shishaldin is the tallest volcano on the island. The Aleut name for Shishaldin is Sisquk, which means "mountain which points the way when I am lost." Shishaldin almost always has a puff of steam from its summit crater, hence the nickname, "Smoking Moses." It's an active volcano which is highly unpredictable. Frosty Peak is a 5,803-foot volcano that sits to the southwest of Cold Bay. Topped with snow throughout the year, Mount Frosty's snow melt feeds Russell Creek.

About 35 miles due east are the dramatic Aghileen Pinnacles, which form a portion of the boundary between Izembek and the Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge. Sitting next to the pinnacles is Pavlov, another active volcano that's visible from Cold Bay. Mount Pavlov is 8,200 feet high. It last erupted in 2007.



Photo by Monty Martin

A Story Down Every Street

Though you won't see many street signs in Cold Bay, most of the streets have names. These names are the keys to many of Cold Bay's stories.

Venaminov Circle takes us back to a Russian Orthodox missionary, now known as St. Innocent, who traveled to the Alaska Peninsula in the 1800s. Baranov is named after successful Russian trader Aleksandr Baranov, who was the Chief Manager of the Russian-American Fur Company.

It was General William Buckner's plan to build Fort Randall here secretly, under the guise it was a fish-processing plant. Buckner Street honors his contribution to the community.

Reeve Avenue is named after Bob Reeve, who provided the first civilian passenger air service in and out of Cold Bay after World War II.

Dias Avenue, named after former resident Gerry Dias (who served as Cold Bay Mayor and City Council Member for many years), is the most-recently-named street. The Cold Bay City Council named the street after him when he retired from his job as Cold Bay Airport Manager.

Izembek National Wildlife Refuge

The 417,533-acre Izembek National Wildlife Refuge (INWR) plays an integral part in everyday life for those lucky enough to live in Cold Bay. More than 95 percent of the INWR is designated wilderness. The refuge also draws visitors from around the world.



Photo by Monty Martin

Izembek is home to a wide variety of fish and wildlife in this ecologically unique part of the world. You'll find parka squirrels, foxes, caribou, moose, land otters,



ermine, brown bears, shorebirds, seabirds and an array of waterfowl here. The coastal waters around the refuge are populated with harbor seals, sea otters, walrus and Steller sea lions. Each spring and fall, gray, minke, killer and humpback whales migrate through.

World-famous hunting opportunities for brown bear, caribou and waterfowl can be found in Izembek and the entire

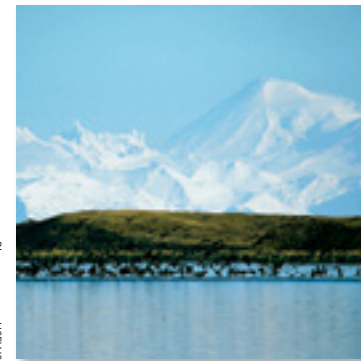


Photo courtesy USFWS

region. When salmon are running, brown bear densities are among the highest recorded in Alaska. At the heart of the refuge is the Izembek Lagoon. Home to some of the largest eelgrass beds in the world, the lagoon provides feeding and resting grounds for hundreds of thousands of birds. More than 98 percent of the world's Pacific black brant arrive at Izembek Lagoon each fall to feed on eelgrass in preparation for their 3,000 mile non-stop flight to Mexico. Other birds traveling through the refuge each fall include mallards, Canada Geese, rock sandpipers and dunlins. Steller's eiders and emperor geese stay through the winter.

A visitor's center is located at the refuge headquarters. Here you'll find several wildlife displays, maps and other information. Refuge staff members are available to answer questions and provide more information.



Photo courtesy USFWS



Photo courtesy Izembek Lodge



Cold Bay's Covert Beginnings

Built as a covert U.S. military air base, transformed into a secret Russian training camp, then a base for the legendary Flying Tigers, Cold Bay's military history is as dramatic as the wilderness around it.

Cold Bay was officially settled in August of 1941, when a military contractor arrived to build a secret military base and airstrip here. The goal was to build a post quietly, to defend the Aleutian Islands and mount offensives against the Japanese during World War II.

To escape the notice of the Japanese Imperial Navy, the military contractor took on the assumed name "Saxton & Company" and claimed to be working on a salmon cannery. Fort Randall, as it was later known, was completed in 1942. Later, the U.S. government found another use for this strategically-located base with its deep, protected port and world-class runways. Near the end of World War II, the United States entered into a secret alliance with Russia called Hula Two. In exchange for equipment and training, Russia, which previously had signed a neutrality agreement with Japan, agreed to declare war against its former partner. Cold Bay was selected as a secret transfer and training site for Russian troops. Russian soldiers and sailors came to Cold Bay, received training from the U.S., and sailed out on war ships under the Russian flag. The base was officially closed in 1945, after World War II had ended.

After the war, Reeve Aleutian Airways made Cold Bay accessible to civilians when it began flight operations out of an abandoned military Quonset hut. The Korean conflict made Cold Bay home to a military supply base and Northwest Orient Airlines operated a number of facilities here.

Cold Bay bustled again during the Vietnam War, when the Flying Tigers Line obtained a military contract to haul freight overseas. At the end of the war, the Flying Tigers remained in Cold Bay to focus on retail operations in facilities purchased from Northwest Orient Airlines. Reeve Aleutian Airways later purchased and operated many of those facilities.

Today, the airfield built during World War II is still one of the community's most important assets. Reeve Air continued to operate in Cold Bay for more than 50 years, until it closed in 2001. Today, Peninsula Airways (PenAir) uses this world-class airport to provide passenger service for the region.

Insider's Guide to COLD BAY ALASKA



Photo by Monty Martin

Unique.
Even for Alaska.

Cold Bay

POINTS OF INTEREST

1 Grant Point Kiosk

Cold Bay is renowned for its excellent bird-watching opportunities, especially around Izembek Lagoon, which holds one of the world's largest eelgrass beds and attracts birds from around the world. The Grant Point Kiosk, constructed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, provides a safe, comfortable place to view waterfowl feeding and nesting in the lagoon.



Photo courtesy USFWS

2 Alaska Department of Fish and Game

The Department of Fish and Game Commercial Division opens its Cold Bay office during the summer months. Though the staff focus is on managing commercial fisheries in the region, visitors can come here to get general information about hunting and subsistence-related activities. The center is open weekdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday – Friday, from May until September.

3 Community Center

The Community Center has a fireplace, kitchen and other homey amenities. This is the place where the community gets together for potlucks and special events. The facility is available for rent for special events through the City of Cold Bay. The City Council also meets at the Community Center once a month.



Photo by Morny Martin

4 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The Izembek National Wildlife Refuge of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service hosts a small visitor's center in its headquarters office, with wildlife exhibits, maps, brochures and information about refuge resources. The center is open weekdays (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) with staff available to help with refuge use permits and subsistence-related activities.

5 City Building/Library/Exercise Room/Racquetball Court

Whether you're looking for directions, a fishing or hunting license, a little exercise or a great book, the city building is the place to go. Visit the City Clerk for fishing and hunting licenses, copying services, sending faxes and general information about Cold Bay. Under the same roof, you'll find an excellent selection of books and videos for loan at the Cold Bay library. The library is staffed by volunteers, so be sure to check to see when it's open. The building also houses a racquetball court and exercise room. The racquetball court is open during the day, when the main doors are open.



Photo by Morny Martin

6 Golf Course

On a sunny day in Cold Bay, locals often gather at the Cold Bay golf course. Though it's not big – just two holes – this little patch of grass is a testament to the spirit that makes Cold Bay the wonderful community that it is.

7 Cold Bay School

Kids between kindergarten and 12th grade attend the Cold Bay School. Enrollment averages 14 students. With two teachers and one half-time aide, the student-teacher ratio is excellent.

8 PenAir Terminal

Peninsula Airways (known as PenAir) is the primary passenger carrier in and out of Cold Bay. Visit the terminal to check on flight times or wait for your plane to come in.

9 The Bearfoot Inn and Store

Housed in the Bearfoot Inn building, the store carries groceries, personal care products, fishing supplies and alcoholic beverages. Fresh produce and other products are delivered weekly. Lodging is also available.



Photo by Morny Martin

10 Post Office

One thing you can count on in Cold Bay is that the Post Office flag is always flying. You can see it anywhere you travel in town. Visitors use it as a navigational aid in case they get turned around. Because it takes a beating in the community's dramatic weather conditions, the flag is replaced once a month on average. Got your passport? Get it stamped here in remembrance of your trip.



Photo by Morny Martin

11 Frosty Fuel

Frosty Fuel is the place to stop and gas up your vehicle. Frosty Fuel gets its name from snow-topped Frosty Peak that sits southwest of the community. Call the main office (907-532-2467) to schedule vehicle refueling.

12 Anna Livingston Clinic

Named after long-time resident Anna Livingston, the local clinic is staffed by a mid-level provider and community health aide. It is open during regular business hours, with 24-hour emergency care available. Walk-ins are welcome. The clinic houses two emergency rooms, one exam facility and an ambulance bay for the volunteer EMS squad.

13 Cold Bay Terminal

The 11,400-square foot Cold Bay Terminal Building, located near the city airport's main runway, houses offices for the National Weather Service, the Federal Aviation Administration and the Aleutians East Borough's (AEB's) hovercraft, which provides scheduled passenger and freight service between Cold Bay and King Cove. The new facility was completed in the summer of 2008.



Photo by Morny Martin

The AEB hopes to lease space to one or more air carriers in the future. The facility includes a passenger terminal with freight storage and handling space, office space, loading and parking areas, an access road and support services. The AEB has planned for the terminal building to serve as the nucleus of the preeminent transportation hub for the Alaska Peninsula and the Aleutian Islands.

