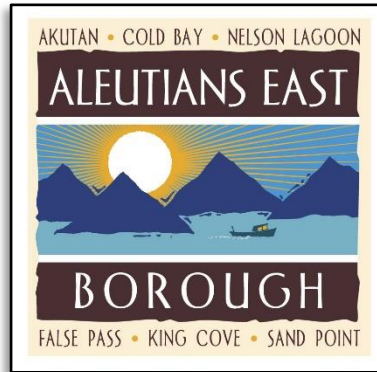


In the Loop



Hikers Cover 2,500 Miles to Reach Southernmost Portion on Unimak Island



Quoc Nguyen of Littleton, Colorado (left) and Dan Binde (right) of Lake Park, Minnesota pause for a photo at Stony River during their 2,500-mile-long trek to Unimak Island.

Hikers Dan Binde of Lake Park, Minnesota and Quoc Nguyen of Littleton, Colorado, have worn out plenty of hiking shoes to experience the wilds of Alaska and feast their eyes on the rugged beauty of the Last Frontier. In 2018, they hiked the Brooks Range and traversed the mountains in northern Alaska. Two years later, they embarked on a new challenge: to see the remote areas of southwest Alaska along the

Alaska Peninsula and in the Aleutian Islands, ultimately reaching the southernmost portion of Unimak Island.

“It was tough on the joints and the body, and I went through a lot of shoes,” Binde said, “but seeing the southern part of Alaska was definitely worth it. There’s just nothing like Alaska.”

This rewarding experience required logging approximately 2,500 miles within four months. After flying to Alaska, the pair started their journey in mid-June from different locations. Nguyen embarked on this adventure from Cantwell, just outside of Denali National Park. Binde commenced his portion of the trip in Yakutat.



Multiple pairs of shoes were mailed out for the expedition. “Expecting to blow them all out in one hike,” Quoc Nguyen posted on Instagram.

“We both made our way to the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, and traversed the Alaska Range and the Alaska Peninsula,” Nguyen said.



Dan Binde paddles across the water at the mouth of the Meshik River in the bay of Port Heiden,

Boxes packed ahead of time with food and other supplies arrived at various points along the way.

“Mom sent them off every week or two, and we just picked them at every post office, and continued on to the next town,” Binde said.

To access points in between, the adventurers used small boats (pack-rafts). The two men experienced terrain and weather obstacles right at the beginning of their expedition, but they met these hurdles head on.

“West of Denali National Park, the terrain got quite brushy and the temperatures were cold,” said

Nguyen. “It was raining a lot. There were some days we were bushwhacking pretty much the entire time in the rain.”

Both hikers agree this was the most difficult portion of the entire trip.

“It was kind of cold, and it wasn’t easy walking,” Binde said. “There were a lot of glaciers to forge through.”

Their odyssey took them through Lake Clark National Park and Preserve.

“Our arrival at Port Alsworth/Lake Clark National Park marks the completion of what's considered the Alaska Range Traverse, a feat only a few have ever achieved,” Nguyen said on his Instagram post. “I now understand why it's so rarely done -- because it's stupid hard!”

Next on their journey was Katmai National Park, an area with a dazzling landscape, teeming with wildlife. Then they made their way south along the Alaska Peninsula.

“There were definitely some challenges on the Peninsula,” Nguyen said. “Some days were brutal,”

he added on an Instagram post. “Crazy windy! When we were on the beach, there were some rough nights camping out in the open with our tents and the wind blowing so hard.”

Near Pilot Point, the hikers faced some additional hurdles.

“There were a couple of bay crossings that were slow-going,” said Binde.



Quok Nguyen poses for a photo at Anderson Pass on the West Fork Glacier in Denali National Park.



A stunning sunset at a campsite along Iliamna Lake.

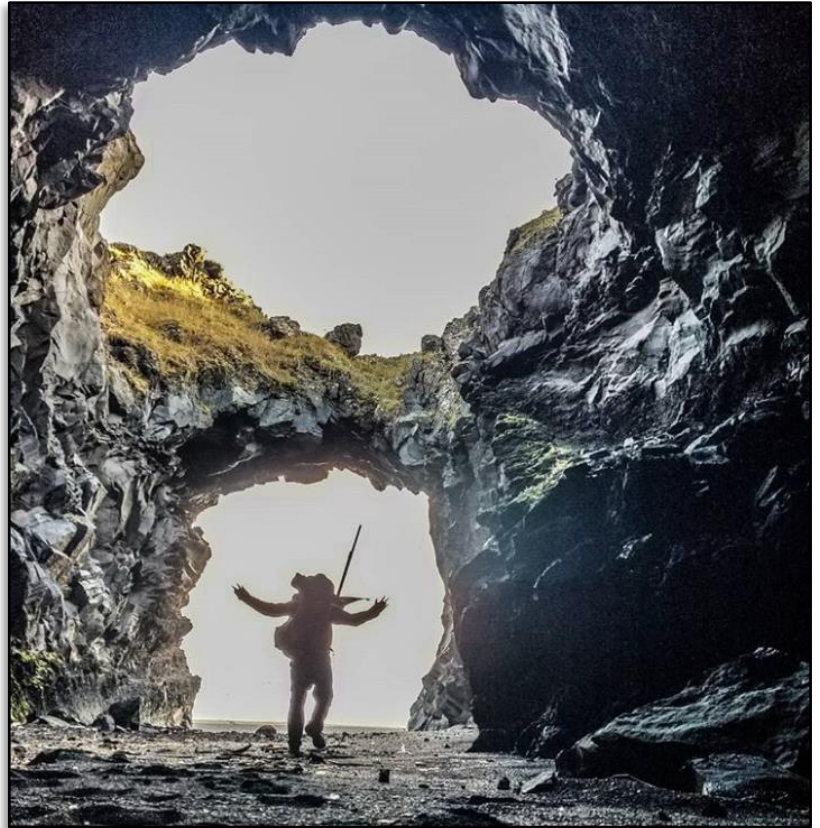
Difficulties included getting stuck in black mud, but other areas provided some relief from these challenges.

“A lot of it was beach walking, and there were some passes in Herendeen Bay where the terrain wasn’t too bad,” Binde added.

“The number of grizzlies on the peninsula has been absolutely insane!” Nguyen added on Instagram. “They’re freaking everywhere!”

The adventurers were rewarded with additional wildlife and spectacular sights as they headed further south through the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge and toward the ending point.

“We’re now in Cold Bay and about three days out from our last stop,” Nguyen posted. “We might actually pull this off!”



Dan Binde enjoys the amazing scenery on Unimak Island.

As they continued south, the breathtaking scenery continued to amaze them.



Quoc Nguyen and Dan Binde savor the moment near Cape Sarichef after reaching the end of their epic adventure on Unimak Island.

“Around Cold Bay and the False Pass area, it was great hiking, in the refuge and pretty much the rest of the way,” Nguyen said.

Reaching the end of their journey, near Cape Sarichef, was undeniably a huge accomplishment. The sights along the way, included taking in the wildlife and astonishing scenery, making the arduous expedition all the more fulfilling.

“Near the end, on Unimak Island, was my favorite portion of the entire trip,” Nguyen said. “It wins all the prizes in all the hiking I’ve done in Alaska. It’s

actually some of the finest hiking I've ever done in the world," Nguyen posted on Instagram. "We were able to get up high to the (Fisher) Caldera. There weren't many signs that other people had been there. The Aleutians are truly a special place!"

"I saw 123 bears and twice as many big black dots, sealions, walrus, seals, sea otters, moose, caribou, wolf, red fox, eagles, porcupines and lava fields," Binde posted on Instagram. "It was a perfect ending."

Their expedition came to a close on October 19th after returning to Cold Bay from Unimak Island. The hikers stayed overnight with Happy and Paige Kremer. But first, high up on their list, was a stop at the library to access Wi-Fi. The two hikers were able to catch up on social media and post photos of their epic adventure. Their photos and memories undoubtedly capture their unforgettable experiences, including the many friends they made along the way.

"I can't say enough about all the amazing people I met along the journey, and the places to crash, showers, hot meals. It's been unbelievable, running into people who just opened up their homes to us, like Hap and Paige," Binde said. "Everyone has been so welcoming. We also met some incredible people in False Pass, Port Heiden, and Pilot Point. Pretty much in every town along the way, there are such amazing people!"

It was an adventure that few experience.

"No doubt the Alaska Traverse pushed me to new boundaries," Binde posted on his Instagram account.

"It was really something special," Nguyen added.



Nguyen said some of the finest hiking in the world is located on Unimak Island.

Reminder: The November 15th Deadline is just Around the Corner!

Have you been financially impacted by COVID-19?

Aleutians East Borough would like to help. If you are a Borough resident and of the age of 18 or older as of March 1, 2020 you are eligible, all you have to do is submit a grant application.

Aleutians East Borough now has an Emergency Assistance & Economic Stimulus Grant Program open from September 1st until November 15th, 2020. Each eligible resident is able to get up to \$750 from the Borough for impacts due to COVID-19.

Applications can be downloaded at www.aleutianseast.org
or picked up at your local post office soon

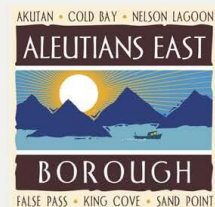
The application is made up of **Five Parts**

- 1) **Application Contact Information**—checks will be issued to the information provided on the application.
- 2) **COVID-19 Impacts**—let us know how you have been impacted
- 3) **Use of Funding and Proof of Payment**—we have a list of what qualifies for this category in the application for you to select from
- 4) **Proof of Residency**—in order to be eligible, you must be a resident in the region on or before March 1, 2020
- 5) **Acknowledgement**—confirming that the application is correct and complete

Applications can be submitted **three ways**

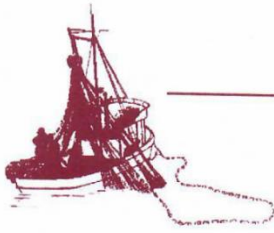
- 1) **Mail** to 3380 C Street, Suite 205 Anchorage, AK 99503
- 1) **Email** to covid19@aeboro.org or
- 2) **Fax** to (907) 276-7569

If you have any questions about the application process, please contact Mary Tesche, Assistant Borough Administrator, at (907) 274-7559 or covid19@aeboro.org



The deadline to apply is November 15, 2020!

For more information and an application, visit this link: <https://bit.ly/32Lg9jh>



City of False Pass

P.O. Box 50 · False Pass, Alaska 99583-0050
Telephone (907) 548-2319 · Fax (907) 548-2214



Notice:

The City of False Pass is applying for financial assistance under the Rural Development Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program to construct a harbor house adjacent to the False Pass harbor. Any written comments regarding this application should be provided within fifteen (15) days of this publication to USDA, Rural Development, or for additional information, please contact Nikki Hoblet at (907) 548-2319 or Robert Chambers at (907) 761-7770, Director, Community Programs USDA Rural Development, 800 E. Palmer-Wasilla Hwy, Suite 201, Palmer, AK 99645.

CITY OF FALSE PASS JOB DESCRIPTION HARBORMASTER

| | | |
|----------------|---|---|
| APPOINTMENT | - | By City council |
| SUPERVISOR | - | Mayor |
| WAGE | - | Range 9, DOE |
| WORK SITE | - | Harbor, Docks, City Office |
| HOURS OF WORK | - | Up to 40 hours a week in busy months |
| CLASSIFICATION | - | Regular Full Time, the Harbormaster however holds office at the pleasure and approval of the City council |

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

1. High School graduate or equivalent (GED)
2. Ability to type and experience with computers preferred.
3. Experience in dealing with the public.
4. Ability to work cooperatively with others.
5. Demonstrated ability to manage assigned projects.

6. Ability to follow budgets.
7. Ability to work with minimal supervision and carry out duties.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Under the immediate supervision of the Mayor and under the direction of the Mayor and City council the Harbormaster shall carry out all duties as directed: These include supervision and control of the harbor and the respective docks including City Sheetpile Dock, City Wooden Dock and Boat Harbor. The harbormaster enforces the municipality's ordinances, harbor and dock laws. Examples of work, may include: Keeping records of all boats moored in the harbor and docks; keeps registration paperwork up to date, collects payment as necessary, assisting with budget, purchasing necessary equipment and supplies, provides assistance to vessels in distress or difficulty in the harbor, oversees and performs the maintenance and repair of floating docks and gangway.

This **job description is not** intended to be **all-inclusive**. Employees may perform other **duties** as negotiated and assigned to meet the ongoing needs of the City.

For more information, please contact: cityoffalsepass@ak.net.

The City of False Pass has available housing for rent

Beautiful, newly constructed duplex apartments:

954 square feet, 2-bedroom, 1 bath.

For questions, additional information or to apply, please contact the City Office at 907-548-2319 or email: cityoffalsepass@ak.net.

If you have news you'd like to share or if you'd like to subscribe, please email ltanis@aeboro.org .



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[Link to King Cove's Facebook page](#)

[Link to Cold Bay's Facebook page](#)

[Link to Sand Point Department of Public Safety page](#)

