

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Kodiak

*National
Wildlife
Refuge*





Steve Hillebrand/USFWS

Kodiak is a rugged, beautiful island off the coast of southwestern Alaska. Kodiak Refuge occupies about two-thirds of the island. The refuge was established in 1941 to protect habitat for brown bear, salmon and other wildlife. Kodiak's scenery is magnificent—rugged

mountains, hundreds of miles of shoreline, lakes, marshes, bogs, and meadows. Four-thousand-foot mountains rise from the sea, dissected by fjordlike inlets and blanketed by lush vegetation—ranging from sedges, alders and spruce to colorful wildflowers and berries.

Steve Hillebrand/USFWS



Fox

A Home for Wildlife
Kodiak Refuge is home to the bears, eagles and salmon. The first two flourish largely because of the abundance of the last. The refuge is known world-wide for the Kodiak brown bear. Besides the brown bear, five other native land mammals live on Kodiak— red fox, river otter, shorttailed weasel, little brown bat, and tundra vole. Introduced mammals include Sitka black-tailed deer, beaver, snowshoe hare, and mountain goat. Whales, porpoises, seals, sea otters, and sea lions inhabit the bays.

The interior of the refuge is covered by dense vegetation. Fireweed grows to five or six feet, often mixed with salmonberry and rose bushes. Dense thickets of willow, alder, and elderberry abound. Devil's club grows heavily in the woods and on the slopes with thorns that can penetrate leather.

The island has hundreds of miles of convoluted coastline, 117 salmon streams, 14 major watersheds, 11 large lakes, and countless shallow marshes, bogs, salt flats, and meadows. No place on the refuge is more than 15 miles from the ocean.



Fireweed



Kamchatka rhododendron



Forget-me-not

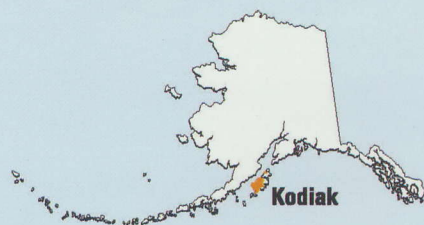


Salmon stream

©Rollie Ostermick

Kodiak

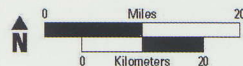
National Wildlife Refuge



Legend

- Road System
- Refuge Boundary
- Rivers
- Refuge Recreation Cabins
- Refuge Headquarters
- Refuge Visitor Center

Several areas within the boundaries of Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge are privately owned. You must obtain permission to access private land. For a map detailing these areas please contact the refuge.





Silver salmon



Tufted puffin



Emperor geese



Bald eagle

Fisheries— Precious Resource

Kodiak Refuge provides spawning and rearing habitat for five species of Pacific salmon— pink, chinook, chum, sockeye and silver. Salmon usually spend one to five years at sea feeding on a variety of food from plankton to small fish. The adult salmon return to Kodiak's streams in late May to September. Approximately 64 percent of the salmon harvested by commercial fisherman in the Kodiak area originate from streams on the refuge. In addition to salmon, the refuge supports resident rainbow trout, steelhead trout, Dolly Varden and arctic char.

Over 200 Species of Birds

Shoreline marshes attract waterfowl, shorebirds, and seabirds. Bays shelter Arctic and Aleutian terns, scaup, scoter, mallard, goldeneye, bufflehead, and harlequin ducks. Rocky intertidal areas including adjacent cliffs are home to blacklegged kittiwakes, horned and tufted puffins, pigeon guillemots, and black oystercatchers. Other common birds include the northwestern crow, black-billed magpie, raven, glaucouswinged gull, fox sparrow, goldencrowned sparrow, Wilson's warbler, hermit thrush, winter wren, pine siskin, water pipit, rock and willow ptarmigan, Lapland longspur, and savannah sparrow.

Bald Eagles

Bald eagles reside year-round on the refuge and are considered very common nesters. About 500 pairs nest on shoreline pinnacles, cliffs, and in cottonwood and spruce trees.

Brown Bear

Kodiak brown bears are the world's largest carnivore. Large females weigh about 650 pounds, and males can weigh up to 1400 pounds. Bald eagle Surveys indicate that the

Kodiak bear sow with cubs

refuge supports a healthy population of about 3,000 animals. When bears emerge from their dens in the spring their diet consists primarily of broad-leaved herbs, grass, and sedges. During summer and fall, salmon and berries are primary diet components. Most bears enter winter dens between late October and mid-December. They remain in their dens without food or water until spring.



Working with Wildlife

Diverse island ecosystems, abundant fish and wildlife, and a remote wildland setting serve as an ideal outdoor laboratory. Working jointly, biologists from the refuge, State of Alaska, and U.S. Geological Survey monitor populations of Kodiak brown bear, bald eagle, salmon and other fish and wildlife to estimate trends in their abundance, survival, and productivity. The refuge also sponsors and conducts basic and applied research projects, develops new monitoring methods, and evaluates management strategies. Study results provide a solid framework for conservation and management of the refuge's famous bears along with other fish, wildlife, and habitat resources.

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Recreation

Kodiak Refuge offers superb recreational opportunities but presents formidable challenges. Normally reachable only by floatplane or boat, the refuge covers 1,990,271 acres on Kodiak, Uganik, Ban, and Afognak Islands.

Recreation activities include wildlife viewing and photography, hunting, fishing, backpacking, rafting, and camping. Seven recreational cabins are available on a lottery/reservation basis. Additional information is available on the refuge website and from the refuge staff.

Some lands within the refuge boundary are privately owned and must be respected as such. If you are uncertain about land status contact the refuge office.

The refuge visitor center, open year round, is located at 402 Center Street in downtown Kodiak. It features interactive exhibits, trip planning information and the Alaska Geographic bookstore. The refuge orientation film and other selections are shown daily and upon request. In addition, the refuge staff offers interpretive programs for visitors and assistance to schools and other groups interested in outdoor classroom experiences. Admission is free. More information is available at www.kodiakwildliferefuge.org.

Information on hunting and fishing is also available from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (Address: 351 Research Ct., Kodiak, Alaska 99615. Tele: 907-486-1880).

It is advisable to check with refuge personnel prior to a visit to determine which activities are allowed and what regulations apply.

Weather

The weather on Kodiak Island is generally cool and wet. Despite relatively mild winter temperatures, weather and winds are unpredictable. The weather can differ within short distances because of varied terrain. Flying can be hazardous and flights can be delayed for days. Visitors should take extra provisions as a precaution against weather problems.

Backcountry Basics

- Be bear safe: Keep a clean camp. Cook, clean and store food away from sleeping areas. Bear-proof food containers and electric fences are recommended.
- Use existing fire rings and use only down and dead wood. If you must make a new fire ring, remove it after use.
- Do not camp within 100 feet of a drinkable water source.
- Don't litter; pack out cigarette butts, shell casings when possible, and all other trash. There should be little or no sign of your use when you are ready to leave.
- Toilet areas should be away from sleeping areas and water sources. Bury human waste at least six inches deep.
- Disturbing and/or removing archaeological artifacts is illegal.
- Prepare for changes in weather and unexpected delays.
- Practice the principles of minimum impact back country travel.

Uganik Lake cabin
Steve Hillebrand/USFWS



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Kodiak, Alaska 99615
1 888/408 3514 or
907/308 3963
kodiak@fws.gov
<http://kodiak.fws.gov>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1/800/344 WILD
Federal Information Relay:
(TTY/voice) 1 800/877 8339
<http://www.fws.gov>

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**The mission of the National Wildlife
Refuge System is to administer a
national network of lands and waters
for the conservation, management, and
where appropriate, restoration of fish,
wildlife and plant resources and their
habitats for the benefit of present and
future generations of Americans.**

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