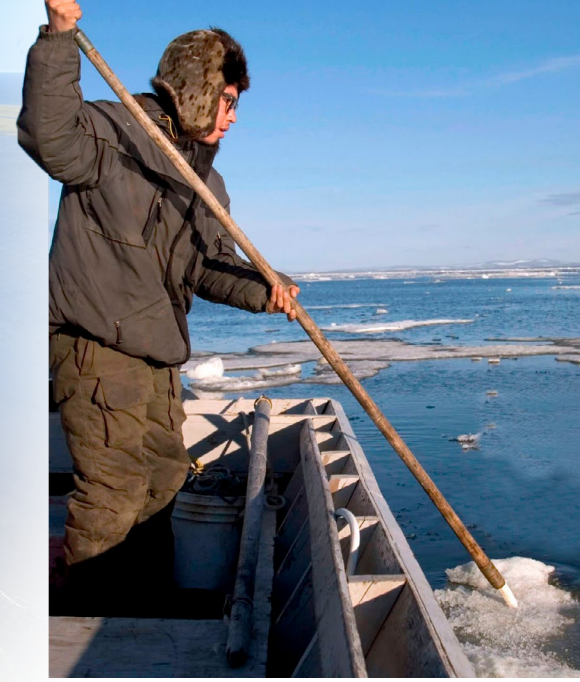




Kamchatka rhododendron and granite tors at Serpentine Hot Springs



Coast at the preserve's northeast edge, south of Cape Espenberg
Left: Blueberry (Inupiaq: Suḡaq)



An Inupiaq hunter navigates ice in the Chukchi Sea.
© GILLES MINGASSON



Imuruk Lake is lined with lava rocks.



Salmonberry (Inupiaq: Akpik)
PEXELS / JK MSCW

Approaching Serpentine Hot Springs
by snowmachine

Kamanaaniqshraq Vast, Vital, Vibrant

Beringia was not just a land bridge between two continents. It was a permanent part of the world for plants, animals, and people. It was not just a stop during migrations; it was a place to call home.

At the peak of the last ice age, about 21,000 years ago, much of Earth's water was locked in massive ice sheets. Sea levels dropped more than 300 feet, revealing a landmass that connected Asia and North America. Beringia, as it became known, had an extremely dry, windy climate. It kept snow from accumulating in the piles needed to form ice sheets. The ice-free landmass became home to a great diversity of life.

As global temperatures rose and ice sheets melted, Beringia was slowly submerged. The mammoth steppe slowly transitioned to tundra. Some species—the woolly mammoth and steppe bison—went extinct. Others, like the caribou and muskox, adapted to a warming world. By about 10,000 years ago, Beringia no longer connected the two continents.

The Inupiat have lived in Beringia for thousands of years. Their culture is deeply connected to the land, animals, and plants. Communities like Wales, Shishmaref, and Deering continue to thrive by passing traditional knowledge down

through generations. These lands are the homeland of Inupiaq communities and support an ongoing subsistence way of life.

Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, in Beringia's heart, covers 2.7 million acres of wildlands. People can hunt, fish, and gather plants and berries, as they have for generations. Its ecosystems are vital for migratory birds and Arctic animals. It is a place of extraordinary beauty, history, and culture.



Below: Imagine a summer day at Serpentine Hot Springs 12,000–13,000 years ago. It might have looked like this illustration, with herds of large grazing animals like horses, bison, and mammoths.

NPS / BETH ZAIKEN
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Tundra swan

Common raven

Steppe bison

Arctic ground squirrel

Woolly mammoth skull

Ptarmigan

Arctic horse

Arctic poppy

Mountain avens

Gray wolf

Pacific golden plover

Muskox

Caribou

Giant short-faced bear

Northern wheatear



Walrus (Inupiaq: aiviq) calf and cow
US GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Maar Lakes

Formed by massive explosions when magma and permafrost met underground, the preserve's four maar lakes are the largest in the world. Devil Mountain Maar Lake, created about 17,500 years ago, is the largest and youngest lake.

Coastal Lagoons

Lagoons are vital nurseries for birds, fish, marine mammals, and other species. Lagoons are also hubs where people fish, hunt, and berry-pick.

Serpentine Hot Springs

The hot springs (lyat) and the surrounding valley are a gathering place for travelers as well as local people. They have sought respite and healing here for millennia.

Imuruk Lava Fields

The lava fields, formed over millions of years, cover more than 100,000 acres. They were shaped by flows from over 75 now-dormant vents. The last eruption was 1,500 years ago.

Plan Your Visit

Bering Land Bridge National Preserve in northwest Alaska is a vast landscape—among the most remote areas in the National Park System. No roads connect this region with others.

Visiting the Heritage Center
Jets from Anchorage serve Nome and Kotzebue daily. The Heritage Center, open seasonally, is located in the Sitnasuak Building at 214 Front Street, Nome. Check the preserve website for hours. Stop in for a visit

and check out the exhibits, park film, and bookstore.

From Nome or Kotzebue, travel to the preserve is by snowmachine, fixed-wing aircraft, boat, and, occasionally, foot. A list of approved air taxis is available on the website.

Inside the Preserve
Snowmachines are allowed with adequate snow cover. • Hiking on the tundra's uneven ground can be challenging. • Be prepared for changing weather, high winds, rain, snow, cold temperatures, and animal encounters. • Carry enough food to cover a delay. • Tell someone about your plans.

- You may see people engaged in subsistence hunting, fishing, trapping, and gathering. Do not interfere with camps, traps, nets, or other equipment.
- Many areas in the preserve are privately owned. Do not enter private land without the landowner's permission.
- Federal laws protect all natural and cultural features.
- For hunting, fishing, and trapping regulations; safety information; and firearms and other regulations, check the website.

Emergencies call 911

Bering Land Bridge National Preserve is one of over 430 parks in the National Park System. To learn more, visit www.nps.gov.

More Information
Bering Land Bridge National Preserve
PO Box 220
Nome, AK 99762
907-759-8020
www.nps.gov/bela

Use the official NPS App to guide your visit. Download the park to use offline.

Follow us on social media.

National Park Foundation.
Join the park community.
www.nationalparks.org

Selected Inupiaq Place Names		
English place name	Inupiaq place name	Translation
Arctic River	Agugvik	Place to put a skirt on, or root place
Cape Espenberg	Nuvua	Point
Cowpack Inlet	Kuukpaum Imagzrua	Kuukpak Inlet
Cowpack River	Kuukpak	Big river
Devil Mountain	Izrisaq	To fall down
Devil Mountain Lakes	Qitiqhiik	Two in the middle
Ear Mountain	Inigagik	A place to look out from
Goodhope River	Pittam kuuvia	Pittaq River
Ikpek Lagoon	Taziq	Lagoon
Imuruk Lake	Imagzruk	Simulated, or Like-a-Man Lake
Killeak Lakes	Kialilik	To the east
Nugnugaluktuk River	Niglanagtuuq	Place with brants
Potato Mountain	Kinjazraq	First peak
Serpentine Hot Springs	lyat	Cooking pot, or a site for cooking
Serpentine River	Kuuvia	Main river
Shishmaref Inlet	Kigiqtaq Imagzrua	Shishmaref Inlet
Sullivan Bluffs	Kigivlich	Eating place
Whitefish Lake	Nazvaazruk	Big lake

Inupiaq place names on the map are in parentheses per policy by the United States Board on Geographic Names.

Left: Serpentine Hot Springs bunkhouse and bathhouse
Above: Muskox (Inupiaq: umigmak) © TOM BLANDFORD
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