

Bering Land Bridge

National Preserve
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



An ancient link between two worlds, the Bering Land Bridge provided access for plants, animals and humans from Asia to America during the glacial epoch 14,000 to 25,000 years ago. It is possible that the prehistoric hunters who made this trek were the ancestors of all native peoples of the Americas.

Today the Land Bridge, which may at times have been as wide as 1,000 miles, is overlain by the Chukchi and Bering Seas. Bering Land Bridge National Preserve is a link with the ecological and human history of the

area just as it was a bridge to man's future. The preserve lies just below the Arctic Circle on the Seward Peninsula in Northwest Alaska, between Kotzebue and Nome. It encompasses one million hectares (2.59 million acres.) There is much tundra, and the area is relatively flat. Lakes, streams and lagoons provide fine habitat for waterbirds and fish. There is a variety of wildlife and plants, hot springs, lava beds and other volcanic phenomena, and of archeological and paleontological sites.

SUMMER

Most people visit here between mid-June and mid-September when temperatures average around 7°C (mid-40s°F) along the coasts and 18°C (mid-60s°F) inland. During the ice-free periods along the coasts (late May to late October), cloudy skies prevail, fog occurs,

daily temperatures remain fairly constant in the long hours of daylight, and the relative humidity is high. Clearer skies and more pronounced temperature changes occur inland. Insects are most numerous and most irritating from mid-June to early August.

CLOTHING, FOOD AND GEAR

There are no campgrounds. You must arrive self-sufficient for food, clothing, shelter, and in some cases fuel. Some driftwood occurs on beaches, but inland wood is scarce and should be used chiefly for cooking.

Before entering the preserve you should possess good outdoor skills and the stamina to survive difficult conditions. You need hiking, backpacking, and camping experience. Knowledge about the food, clothing, and gear will make your trip pleasant and rewarding.

Once here you must carry everything on your back, so bring only essentials: good tent with rain fly, sleeping bag and pad, insect

repellent and head net, cooking and eating utensils, first aid items, maps, knife, food, warm clothing and rain gear, calf-high boots with waterproof lowers and extra socks. Fishing tackle and manageable camera equipment will add to your enjoyment.

PRECAUTIONS AND COURTESIES

The preserve is vast, and a number of dangers may confront even the experienced here. Do not travel alone. Local residents carry on their subsistence way of life within the preserve. Their camps, fishnets, and other equipment are

critical to their well-being. Please respect their property and privacy.

Travel on tundra can be difficult and very tiring. Plan your trip with this in mind.

ACTIVITIES

Part of the preserve's attraction is seeing Eskimos from neighboring villages pursue subsistence lifestyles, manage reindeer herds, and produce arts and crafts.

During the short summer the area bursts into life. There are some 245 species of plants, many blooming in splashes of color, others delicate and subtle. From mid-August to mid-September, tundra plants assume the colors of a New England autumn.

You also may see and photograph wildlife: some 112 migratory bird species; marine mammals such as seal and endangered whales; grizzly bear, wolf, and moose. Streams and lakes provide excellent sport fishing for salmon, char, grayling. River floating, boating and canoeing opportunities are here, if the logistics of gear transport can be solved. And there are volcanic areas, hot springs, sea cliffs, and beaches to explore.

ACCESS

The preserve is isolated. No roads lead here and airports at Nome and Kotzebue that handle jets are far away. These are usual intermediate points for flights into the preserve

or to nearby Native villages. You can charter flights out of Nome and Kotzebue into Serpentine Hot Springs and onto preserve beaches.

ACCOMMODATIONS AND SERVICES

Nearest lodging and meals are at Nome and Kotzebue. Reserve a room because tour groups book much hotel space. Rooms and meals are expensive. Transportation costs in the "bush" keep prices high in these areas. There are no accommodations in the preserve or in Native villages close by. If you plan to stay in the preserve you must arrive self-sufficient. Some food, clothing, and beverages and some gear may be purchased in Nome and Kotzebue, but supplies in village stores are generally depleted and are intended for local Native

consumption. No local guides or outfitters operate in the preserve; bush pilots in Nome and Kotzebue who are familiar with the preserve can be helpful in providing information and services.

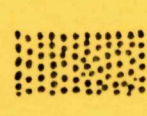
Please get specific information about your planned trip by writing:


Superintendent
Bering Land Bridge National Preserve
P. O. Box 220
Nome, Alaska 99672
Phone: (907) 443-2522



The Bering Strait area is still commonly visualized as a narrow path or trail over which people hustled, in one direction, on their way to take up positions in which they would presently be discovered...In fact, the Bering Land Bridge was an enormous continental area extending nearly 1,500 km from its southern extremity, now the eastern Aleutians, to its northern margin in the Arctic Ocean.

William Laughlin

 Maximum expanse of land mass & glaciation during Pleistocene epoch

 Present coastline