

Cape Krusenstern Noatak Kobuk Valley

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

For information, write or call: Superintendent, Northwest Alaska Areas, National Park Service, P.O. Box 1029, Kotzebue, AK 99752. Telephone (907) 442-3760 or 3890.

For a list of U.S.G.S. topographical maps, books, and other publications write: Alaska Natural History Association, P.O. Box 1029, Kotzebue, AK 99752.

Access and Information

Cape Krusenstern National Monument, Kobuk Valley National Park, and Noatak National Preserve together are known as the Northwest Alaska Areas. Their visi-



tor information center, located in Kotzebue, is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. It is open longer hours and on weekends in summer. Kotzebue can be reached by air only; there is no road access.

Transportation. Most people reach the Northwest Alaska Areas by scheduled airlines from Fairbanks or from Anchorage. Scheduled flights are available from Kotzebue to the villages of Noatak, Kivalina, Shungnak,

Ambler, Kobuk, and Kiana. Air taxi or charter flights are available from Kotzebue, Kiana, Ambler, Bettles, and Fairbanks. Write to the superintendent for a list of author-

ized air taxi services for Cape Krusenstern National Monument, Kobuk Valley National Park, and Noatak National Preserve.

Activities

There are no National Park Service developments, services, campgrounds, or trails in these park areas. Summer access to and through them includes boats, aircraft, non-motorized craft, and by foot. Light aircraft land on gravel bars and tundra airstrips or on rivers, lakes, and lagoons. Floating the major rivers is an enjoyable experience. At Cape Krusenstern kayaking along the coast and through lagoons is possible. Camping, hiking, backpacking, wildlife observation, and

photographic opportunities abound. At Kobuk Valley motorboats, kayaks, canoes, and rafts use the river. The Great Kobuk Sand Dunes, up to 100 feet high, are an easy hike from the Kobuk River. At Noatak fine canoeing, kayaking, and rafting opportunities abound on the Noatak River. Aircraft also provide access for fishing and backpacking.

Regulations

Private property. Private lands are located within all three areas, normally along rivers and beaches. Respect property and privacy. Local residents engaged in a subsistence way of life are legally permitted to continue, subject to certain management principles and purposes. Do not interfere with subsistence camps and equipment.

Fishing. Fishing can be good when rivers are clear and fish are running. Species include grayling, arctic char, sheefish,

salmon, pike, and whitefish. An Alaska fishing license is required for all persons 16 years of age or older. Obtain fishing regulations from the visitor center.

Hunting. Sport hunting is permitted in Noatak National Preserve with an Alaska hunting license. Alaska seasons and regulations apply. Kobuk Valley National Park and Cape Krusenstern National Monument are closed to sport hunting. Subsistence hunting by local residents living in

identified resident zones is permitted in all three areas. State and federal subsistence hunting regulations apply.

Camping. The three park areas have no campgrounds. Tundra and river bars are usually used. Use river bars with caution: Rapid changes in river levels can occur without warning. Camp only where escape routes are available to safe, higher ground. Keep gear above river level and secure boats and other floatable items.

Precautions

This is a vast area subject to harsh weather, high winds, rain, and snow. Guard against hypothermia. Animals are wild and must be respected. Before traveling in the backcountry, review the brochures about handling wildlife encounters. These are available at the visitor center or by mail. Mosquitoes and biting flies are prevalent; headnets and repellent are recommended. Drinking water should be boiled for one minute before use. *Giardia lamblia* can be a problem.

Bear Warning

Grizzly and black bears are common to the parks. They are unpredictable and dangerous. Never surprise them or approach closely; stay cautious and alert at all times. Make noise—loud talking, ringing a bell, shaking stones in a can, etc. If you meet a bear, yield the right-of-way by moving slowly away, not by running.

Clean camps are essential to reducing bear problems. Foods and their odors attract bears. Keep sleep area and cook area

separate. Store food in airtight containers and leave scented foods such as bacon and smoked fish at home. Burn and carry out all garbage. It is legal to carry a firearm for bear protection.

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