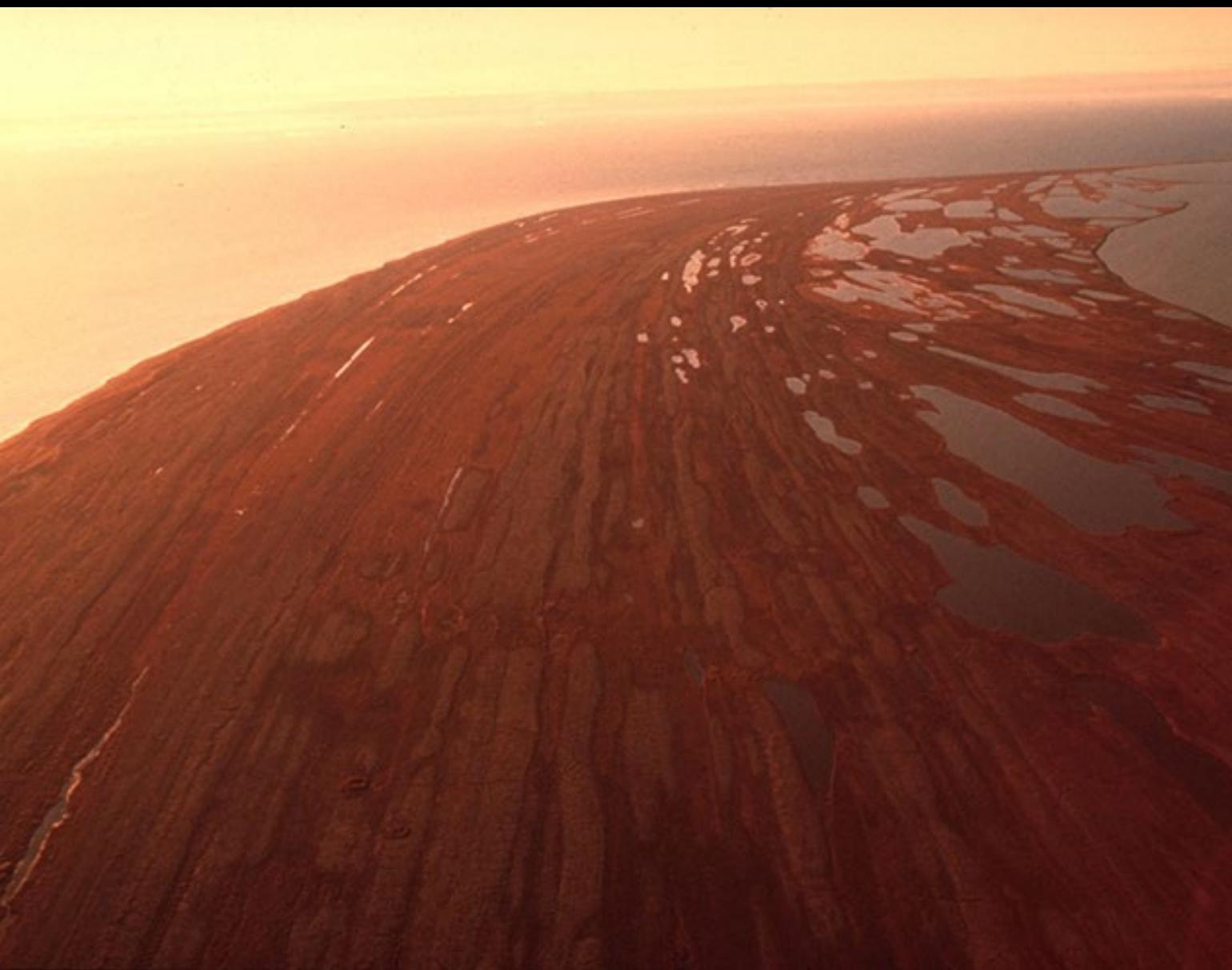




Foundation Document Overview

Cape Krusenstern National Monument

Alaska



Contact Information

For more information about the *Cape Krusenstern National Monument Foundation Document*, contact: wear_webmail@nps.gov or (907) 442-3890 or write to:
Superintendent, National Park Service, P.O. Box 1029, Kotzebue, AK 99752

Purpose



The purpose of CAPE KRUSENSTERN NATIONAL MONUMENT is to preserve, study, and interpret a sequential archeological record of human migration and adaptation, and to protect arctic ecosystems and subsistence resources.



Significance and Fundamental Resources and Values

Significance statements express why Cape Krusenstern National Monument resources and values are important enough to merit national park unit designation. Statements of significance describe why an area is important within a global, national, regional, and systemwide context. These statements are linked to the purpose of the park unit, and are supported by data, research, and consensus. Significance statements describe the distinctive nature of the park and inform management decisions, focusing efforts on preserving and protecting the most important resources and values of the park unit.

Fundamental resources and values are those features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, or other attributes determined to merit primary consideration during planning and management processes because they are essential to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance.

Cultural Resources: In cooperation with the Inupiaq people, Cape Krusenstern National Monument preserves, studies and interprets evidence of human migration from Asia and thousands of years of cultural adaptation in arctic Alaska.

- National Historic Landmark
- Coastal Archeological Sites
- Inland Archeological Sites
- Ethnography
- Museum Collections
- Scientific Study
- Education



Fundamental Resources and Values

Geological Processes: Cape Krusenstern National Monument preserves a landscape supporting dynamic processes of coastal erosion, accretion, and aggradation in an arctic environment as exemplified by the formation of over 100 beach ridges containing a 5,000 year record of sequential human use.

- **Geologic Record**
- **Ongoing Process of Erosion, Accretion, and Aggradation**
- **Scientific Research and Monitoring**
- **Education and Outreach**

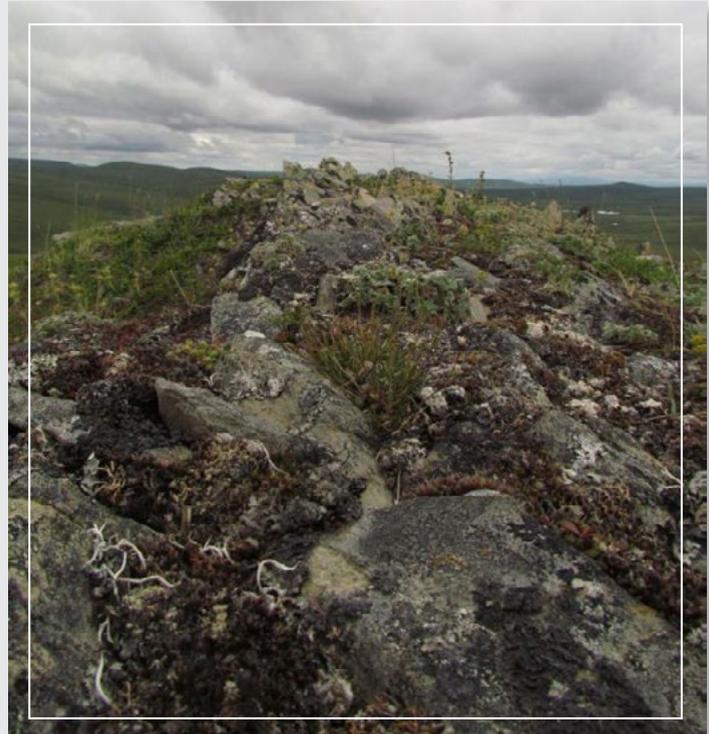
Fish, Wildlife and Habitat: Cape Krusenstern National Monument protects habitat for and populations of birds, fish, and other wildlife in an ecologically diverse coastal and upland ecosystem.

- **Birds**
- **Fish and Wildlife**
- **Marine Mammals**
- **Plant Communities**
- **Research and Monitoring**
- **Education and Outreach**



Subsistence: Cape Krusenstern National Monument protects natural resources that provide the opportunity for local rural Alaska residents to engage in customary and traditional subsistence use.

- **Healthy Aquatic Systems**
- **Subsistence Resources**
- **Marine Mammal Regulatory Cooperation**
- **Cultural Knowledge**
- **Education**



Description

Cape Krusenstern National Monument was established on December 2, 1980 under the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), to protect and interpret a series of archeological sites depicting every known cultural period in Arctic Alaska; to provide for scientific study of the process of human population of the area from the Asian continent; in cooperation with Native Alaskans, to preserve and interpret evidence of prehistoric and historic Native cultures; to protect habitat for marine mammals; to protect habitat for and populations of birds and other wildlife, and fish resources; and to protect the viability of subsistence resources.

North of Kotzebue and above the Arctic Circle, the monument is comprised of 659,807 acres of land and water and forms 70 miles of shoreline on the Chukchi Sea. It is characterized by a coastal plain dotted with sizable lagoons and backed by gently rolling, limestone hills. On the east, the coastal plain meets an ancient sea cliff now mantled with tundra and blue-gray limestone rubble. In the southeast portion of the monument is the highest point, Mount Noak with an elevation of 2,010 feet. More than 114 beach ridges provide evidence of human

use for 5,000 years. The Inupiat continue to use the area today. Vast wetlands provide habitat for shorebirds from as far away as South America. Hikers and boaters can see carpets of wildflowers among shrubs containing wisps of qiviut from muskoxen.

Kayaking, fishing, camping, hiking, backpacking, wildlife watching, and photo opportunities abound in the summer. With winter arctic survival skills and personal equipment, snow machining, skiing and dog mushing are also possible. Community programs are available in the summer at the Northwest Arctic Heritage Center. Topics include natural and cultural history of the monument, local research, local crafts and children's activities. There are no developed facilities in Cape Krusenstern National Monument. Summer hikes are possible along the many miles of beach. A hike in the hills provides a spectacular view of

tundra landforms, the Chukchi Sea, and possibly muskoxen. Be prepared for the spongy tundra to slow your hiking speed. Kayaking is also possible on several large lagoons. Remember to pack warm clothing, as prevailing westerly winds may drop wind chill factors below freezing, even in summer.

Northwestern Alaska is not connected to the state's road system. Daily commercial flights connect Anchorage to Kotzebue, the largest community in the region. From Kotzebue, access to the monument is by aircraft or boat; in winter, during periods of adequate sea ice, access by snowmachine, atv's, and dogsled is possible. Average flight time for a chartered aircraft to drop off passengers at Cape Krusenstern and return to Kotzebue is one hour. Aircraft land on public and private landing strips, beaches, tundra, or if float equipped, on lagoon waters. Extremely variable weather can and does curtail travel to and from the monument. Visitors should be prepared to enjoy a non-traditional National Park Service experience. There are no roads, trails, campgrounds or regularly attended ranger stations in Cape Krusenstern National Monument. This is truly a wild area.

