



Take a Walk in Your Park



A 15–20 minute walk from the city docks takes Sitka visitors along the scenic Lincoln Street greenbelt, past lovely historic homes, to the fort site of Sitka National Historical Park. Set aside as a Federal Reserve in 1890, this is the oldest national park unit in Alaska. Two miles of well maintained, handicapped-accessible trails wind through the park’s 113 acres of a tranquil rainforest environment, along the beach of Sitka Sound and the banks of the Indian River. Eagles, ravens, banana slugs, sea birds, ducks, and mink are common here, and spawning salmon are abundant in the river throughout August and September.

Walking the trails

Along the park’s trails, you can experience 18 totem poles whose designs originate from throughout Southeast Alaska. Original poles were collected and displayed at the St. Louis and Portland Expositions in 1904 and 1905. The fort site unit is also the location of a decisive battle between colonist Russians and Tlingit Indians in 1804. This battle marked the last major Native resistance in Sitka to European domination of Alaska. The Russian Memorial and the site of the Tlingit fort help tell this story; the area is considered sacred by the Native community.

Our collection of resources

The park’s visitor center is located at the fort site unit as well. A variety of ranger-led walks and demonstrations are available daily. Exhibits focus on Tlingit culture, and many items are owned by local clans, including the beautiful house posts and house front gracing the lobby. The park shares the Visitor Center with the Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center, an independent park partner. World-renowned artists demonstrate traditional southeast Alaska Native arts. Included are wood and precious metals carving, robe and basket weaving, and beading. Totem poles or canoes may be taking shape in the park’s carving shelter as well.

The Russian Bishop’s House is located back along the parkway across from Crescent Harbor. A National Historic Landmark, it is authentically restored to its 1843-1853 appearance and includes many original furnishings and icons. The building is one of four surviving examples of Russian colonial architecture in North America. Tours offer a glimpse of colonial life in the capitol of Russian America. Junior Ranger programs are also available at either site for children as a fun way for kids to learn about their National Park.



Sitka

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Sitka National Historical Park
Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center

