

Bering Land Bridge

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Bering Land Bridge National Preserve



Welcome! Paġlaġipsi!



With its vast landscapes and sweeping vistas, Bering Land Bridge National Preserve lies at the heart of Beringia, an enormous Ice Age landmass that connected Alaska and Russia. The preserve is about 2.7 million acres (11,000 square kilometers) of diverse and mystic landscapes. Homeland of the Inupiat people, its vibrant arctic ecosystem has a rich variety of fish, birds, large mammals, plants and incredible volcanic features like maar lakes, hot springs and ancient lava flows.

The Lost Continent

Many people have heard of the lost continent of Atlantis, a mythical land that sank beneath the water of some unknown ocean many ages ago.

Fewer people have heard about the "Lost Continent" of Beringia, a not-so-mythical land that disappeared beneath the Bering and Chukchi Sea. During the Last Ice Age, two ice sheets covered most of Canada and North America; together they trapped enough water to drop sea levels worldwide and expose a grassy pathway between Siberia and Alaska. Ice-age megafauna, plants and people lived upon this new continent and eventually made their way to the New World. Bering Land Bridge National Preserve protects a piece of this historic gateway, which might explain how people arrived in North America. Today, the peopling of North America is one of archaeology's most fascinating mysteries. New archaeological discoveries provide more clues of where, when, and how people spread throughout the land, but conflicts still exist over interpreting a few pieces. Scientists slowly and carefully piece together clues to help tell a more complete story of human migration into North America.



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Ties to Land, Water and Sky

Inupiat people have lived in the region for thousands of years. Their cultural beliefs and values are woven into their dependence on the land and sea for subsistence resources. Subsistence is the practice of hunting, fishing and gathering plants and berries. It extends to include culture, traditional values, spirituality, and social customs. Although society is always changing, this is a place where many practices remain the same and will always be part of everyday life.



Nature's Symphony

Close your eyes. Picture a treeless expanse of tundra, rolling hills, sandy beaches and snaking streams. Imagine the sounds... gurgling hot springs, birds singing, snorting moose, the crack of muskoxen butting heads, mosquitoes buzzing, waves lapping on the shore, caribou walking on snow, wind against your face... the musical sounds of nature's arctic symphony!



Start Your Journey

Bering Land Bridge National Preserve is a remote park service unit and can be a challenging place to visit. Backcountry permits are not issued; people are able to visit the preserve on their own accord.

NPS presence in the preserve is sporadic, as our headquarters and visitor center are located in Nome, AK, approximately 100 miles (160 km) from the preserve.

The most common forms of entry are via small airplane, snowmobile, or by foot. Plan your trip carefully. Emergency help can be several hours to days away. Evaluate your resources and abilities before attempting to travel into the preserve. Tell people where you are going and when you will return.

Airplane:

Authorized air taxi services can transport you to the preserve. To learn more, please visit: www.nps.gov/locations/alaska/services-bering-land-bridge.htm.

Snowmobiling:

Snowmobiling is a common way to reach the preserve. Trip planning, navigation, and safety must be coordinated on your own. There are two staked winter trails to Serpentine Hot Springs that start in Nome and Shishmaref. The stakes should not be your sole means of navigation.

Multi-Day Hike:

For the adventurous, you can hike into the preserve from four coastal communities: Nome, Wales, Shishmaref, and Deering. Trip planning, navigation and safety must be coordinated on your own.

Leave No Trace

- Plan ahead and be prepared.
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces.
- Be considerate of other visitors.
- Dispose of waste properly.
- Leave what you find.
- Respect wildlife.



Bear Safety

- Be visible and make noise.
- Travel in a group of at least two people.
- Carry bear spray.
- Keep food 100 yards (92 meters) away from tents and equipment.



Information

Bering Land Bridge National Preserve

P.O. Box 220
Nome, AK 99762

Phone
Emergency - 911

Visitor Information
Toll Free - (800) 471-2352
Local - (907) 443-2522

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