

Protect the Past

The archaeological sites preserved today represent the entire record of the Alutiiq past available for all time. Once damaged, sites lose information and their ability to teach us about history. State and federal laws protect archaeological sites and their contents. It is illegal to disturb sites or collect artifacts without permission. This activity is damaging and disrespectful.

Take Photos Not Objects

Help protect Kodiak's history by respecting archaeological sites and their contents. The past can inspire the future if we work together to preserve it.

- Never dig in a site. Recreational digging destroys history.
- Never collect artifacts, even from the beach. When taken, artifacts lose information.
- Never buy or sell artifacts. The artifact trade is illegal and encourages site looting.
- Never disturb or collect human remains.



REPORT

If you discover a site or an artifact, note the location and contact the landowner, an archaeologist, or the Alutiiq Museum. Report your find so it can be documented.

Alaska Office of History & Archaeology
Anchorage, 907-269-8700

Alutiiq Museum & Archaeological Repository
Kodiak, 844-425-8844

The Alutiiq/Sugpiaq People

The Alutiiq or Sugpiaq are an Alaska Native people, closely related to the peoples of the Bering Sea coast and the Aleutian Islands. They are Kodiak's first settlers and have always made a living from the sea.

Alutiiq Museum & Archaeological Repository

At the museum history extends beyond the written record. Our exhibits, program, and publications bring the Alutiiq story to life with artifacts and original research and invite all people to discover Alutiiq culture and history.

The museum has an active archaeology program. We locate and study sites, analyze and care for artifacts, share finds, and teach historic preservation.



215 Mission Road, Suite 101
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844.425.8844



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Kodiak Archaeology:

An introduction to sites, artifacts, and historic preservation

Pebble drawing of an Alutiiq ancestor.
Olga Bay, KAR-006, AM485.

Archaeology Explained

Archaeology is the study of history from the things people leave behind. For thousands of years, people have built shelters, made tools, harvested resources, raised families, and celebrated life. Archaeologists search for evidence of these activities, collect information, and study past societies. Archaeologists are historians who work with objects to reveal the past.

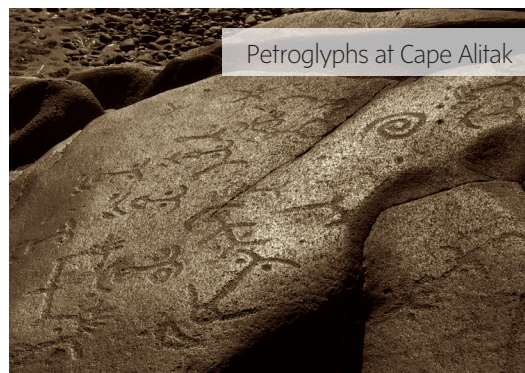
Archaeologists study all eras, from ancient times to the recent past. Many archaeological finds record life before written records and offer a rare glimpse of distant history. Archaeological studies can fill gaps in written history. For Native American people, ancient sites are particularly important as they illustrate the lives of ancestors.



Kodiak Sites, Artifacts, and Middens

More than seven thousand years ago, daring paddlers in skin-covered boats set out to explore a distant island. Braving wind-swept seas they settled the Kodiak Archipelago, founding the islands' Alutiiq culture. You won't find the story of these remarkable people in books. Alutiiq history is preserved in over 2,000 archaeological sites. These sites are a library of Alutiiq history and each has a unique story.

Sites: Kodiak's rich archaeological record contains numerous places where people lived and worked. Any place over 50 years old can be considered a site. Ancestral Alutiiq sites include villages, camps, lookouts, forts, caves, quarries, cairns, weirs, trails, and rock art. Sites from the past 250 years include bunkers, cabins, canneries, fox farms, mines, and many other places.



Artifacts: Artifacts are objects made by people, including tools, artwork, and manufacturing debris. Alutiiq artifacts include harpoon points, fishhooks, lamps, masks, and many other things. Trade beads, ceramics, axe heads, and gun parts are among the artifacts found in recent sites.

Middens: Piles of shells, fish bones, animal remains, and charcoal are often found in Alutiiq sites. This garbage is filled with information about harvesting, butchering, the season people were present, and even the age of a site.

