

Kotzebue, Alaska

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Kotzebue /ˈkoʊtsəˌbjuː/ (*Qikiqtaġruk^{/qikiqtaʁʒʊk}* in Iñupiaq) is a city in Northwest Arctic Borough in the U.S. state of Alaska. The population of the city was 3,201 as of the 2010 census. Kotzebue is the largest city in the Northwest Arctic Borough.

Contents

- 1 History
 - 1.1 19th century
 - 1.2 20th and 21st century
- 2 Geography
 - 2.1 Climate
- 3 Demographics
- 4 Infrastructure
 - 4.1 Airport
 - 4.2 Health care
- 5 Notable people
- 6 References
- 7 Further reading
- 8 External links

History

There is archaeological evidence that Inupiat people have lived at Kotzebue since at least the 15th century. Because of its location, Kotzebue was a trading and gathering center for the entire area because of its major size. The Noatak, Selawik and Kobuk Rivers drain into the Kotzebue Sound near Kotzebue to form a center for transportation to points inland. In addition to people from interior villages, inhabitants of the Russian Far East came to trade at Kotzebue. Furs, seal-oil, hides, rifles, ammunition, and seal skins were some of the items traded. People also gathered for competitions like the current World Eskimo Indian Olympics. With the arrival of the whalers, traders, gold seekers, and missionaries the trading center expanded.

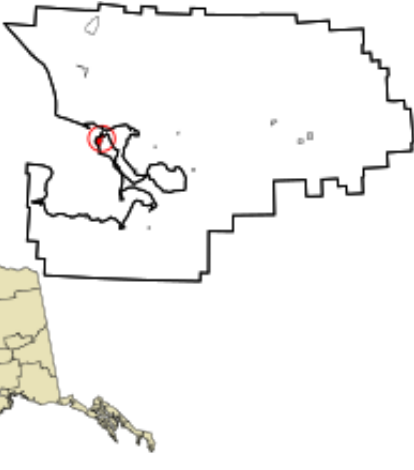
Kotzebue, Alaska Qikiqtaġruk

City



Aerial view of Kotzebue

Motto: "Gateway to the Arctic"



Location in Northwest Arctic Borough and the state of Alaska.

Coordinates: 66°53′50″N 162°35′8″W

Country	United States
State	Alaska
Borough	Northwest Arctic
Incorporated	October 14, 1958 [[]1]
Government • Mayor 	Maija K. Lukin [[]2]
Area • Total • Land • Water 	28.7 sq mi (74.2 km²) 27.0 sq mi (69.9 km²) 1.7 sq mi (4.3 km²)

Kotzebue was originally known as *Kikiktagruk* or *Qikiqtagruk*, which means "almost an island" in Inupiaq, the language of the Inupiat, which is a reference to the spit. Kotzebue gets its name from the Kotzebue Sound, which was named after Otto von Kotzebue, a Baltic German who explored the sound while searching for the Northwest Passage in the service of Russia in 1818.

19th century

Reindeer herding was introduced in the area in 1897. Although Alaska had caribou, the wild form of reindeer, the domesticated reindeer were brought to Alaska from Asia.

A United States post office was established in 1899.^[4]

20th and 21st century

Kotzebue was a filming location for the 1991 film *Salmonberries*.

Geography

Kotzebue lies on a gravel spit at the end of the Baldwin Peninsula in the Kotzebue Sound. It is located at 66°53′50″N 162°35′8″W﻿(/﻿66.897192; -162.585444),^[5] approximately 30 miles (48 km) from Noatak, Kiana, and other nearby smaller towns. It is 33 miles (53 km) north of the Arctic Circle on Alaska's western coast.

According to the United States Census Bureau, the city has a total area of 28.7 square miles (74 km²), of which 27.0 square miles (70 km²) is land, and 1.6 square miles (4.1 km²), or 5.76%, is water.

Kotzebue is home to the NANA Regional Corporation, one of thirteen Alaska Native Regional Corporations created under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANCSA) in settlement of Alaska Native land claims.

Kotzebue is a gateway to Kobuk Valley National Park and other natural attractions of northern Alaska. A Northwest Arctic Heritage Center is located in the town to acclimate National Park Service travelers. Nearby Selawik National Wildlife Refuge also maintains office space in the town.^[6]

Climate

Kotzebue has a very dry subarctic climate (Köppen *Dfc*) bordering on the Tundra climate, with long, somewhat snowy, and very cold winters, and short, mild summers. Monthly daily average temperatures range from −3.5 °F (−19.7 °C) in February to 54.7 °F (12.6 °C) in July, with an annual mean of 21.8 °F (−5.7 °C). Days of above 70 °F (21 °C) can be expected an average of five days per summer.^[7]

Elevation	20 ft (6 m)
Population (2010)	
 • Total	3,201
 • Density	110/sq mi (43/km2) ^[3]
Time zone	AKST (UTC-9)
 • Summer (DST)	AKDT (UTC-8)
ZIP code	99752
Area code	907
FIPS code	02-41830
Website	City of Kotzebue, Alaska (http://www.cityofkotzebue.com/)

Precipitation is both most frequent and greatest during the summer months, averaging 10.1 inches (257 mm) per year. Snowfall usually falls in light bouts, averaging 39 inches (99 cm) a season. Extreme temperatures have ranged from −58 °F (−50 °C) to 85 °F (29 °C), with the latter occurring as recently as June 19, 2013.

Climate data for Kotzebue, Alaska													
Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Record high °F (°C)	39 (4)	40 (4)	39 (4)	48 (9)	71 (22)	85 (29)	85 (29)	80 (27)	69 (21)	57 (14)	40 (4)	37 (3)	85 (29)
Average high °F (°C)	3.7 (−15.7)	3.0 (−16.1)	7.2 (−13.8)	19.6 (−6.9)	37.8 (3.2)	50.8 (10.4)	60.0 (15.6)	56.7 (13.7)	46.4 (8)	27.5 (−2.5)	13.3 (−10.4)	6.0 (−14.4)	27.67 (−2.41)
Average low °F (°C)	−8.6 (−22.6)	−9.9 (−23.3)	−7.7 (−22.1)	3.3 (−15.9)	25.3 (−3.7)	38.8 (3.8)	49.4 (9.7)	47.4 (8.6)	37.2 (2.9)	18.8 (−7.3)	3.2 (−16)	−6.4 (−21.3)	15.9 (−8.93)
Record low °F (°C)	−55 (−48)	−52 (−47)	−58 (−50)	−44 (−42)	−12 (−24)	20 (−7)	30 (−1)	26 (−3)	13 (−11)	−19 (−28)	−37 (−38)	−49 (−45)	−58 (−50)
Average precipitation inches (mm)	.55 (14)	.42 (10.7)	.38 (9.7)	.41 (10.4)	.33 (8.4)	.57 (14.5)	1.43 (36.3)	2.00 (50.8)	1.70 (43.2)	.95 (24.1)	.71 (18)	.60 (15.2)	10.05 (255.3)
Average snowfall inches (cm)	5.6 (14.2)	4.3 (10.9)	3.9 (9.9)	3.9 (9.9)	1.2 (3)	trace	trace	trace	1.0 (2.5)	5.8 (14.7)	6.5 (16.5)	7.1 (18)	39.3 (99.8)
Avg. precipitation days (≥ 0.01 in)	8.5	6.9	6.7	6.5	5.5	5.9	9.9	14.0	12.3	10.9	9.5	9.6	106.2
Avg. snowy days (≥ 0.1 in)	7.8	6.5	6.0	6.5	2.1	.1	0	0	1.1	7.4	8.6	8.9	55.0
Source: NOAA (normals, 1971–2000), ^[7] Weather.com (extremes) ^[8]													

Demographics

As of the census^[11] of 2000, there were 3,082 people, 889 households, and 656 families residing in the city. The population density was 114.1 people per square mile (44.1/km²). There were 1,007 housing units at an average density of 37.3 per square mile (14.4/km²). The racial makeup of the city was 71.19% Native American, 19.47% White, 1.82% Asian, 0.32% Black or African American, 0.06% Pacific Islander, 0.78% from other races, and 6.36% from two or more races. Hispanic or Latino of any race were 1.17% of the population.

There were 889 households out of which 50.4% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 46.1% were married couples living together, 17.4% had a female householder with no husband present, and 26.1% were non-families. 19.3% of all households were made up of individuals and 2.0% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 3.40 and the average family size was 3.93.

In the city the age distribution of the population shows 39.8% under the age of 18, 8.5% from 18 to 24, 30.4% from 25 to 44, 17.2% from 45 to 64, and 4.1% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 26 years. For every 100 females there were 102.0 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 104.5 males.

Historical population		
Census	Pop.	%±
1910	103	—
1920	230	123.3%
1930	291	26.5%
1940	372	27.8%
1950	623	67.5%
1960	1,290	107.1%
1970	1,696	31.5%
1980	2,090	23.2%
1990	2,751	31.6%
2000	3,082	12.0%
2010	3,201	3.9%
Est. 2014	3,284 ^[9]	2.6%

U.S. Decennial Census^[10]

The median income for a household in the city was \$57,163, and the median income for a family was \$58,068. Males had a median income of \$42,604 versus \$36,453 for females. The per capita income for the city was \$18,289. About 9.2% of families and 13.1% of the population were below the poverty line, including 14.9% of those under age 18 and 6.0% of those age 65 or over.

Infrastructure

Airport

Kotzebue's Ralph Wien Memorial Airport is the one airport in the Northwest Arctic Borough with regularly scheduled large commercial passenger aircraft service to and from Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport and the Nome Airport.

Health care

Kotzebue is home to the Maniilaq Association, a tribally-operated health and social services organization named after Maniilaq and part of the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium. Maniilaq Health Center is the primary health care facility for the residents of the Northwest Arctic Borough. The facility houses an emergency room with local and medevac support for accident/trauma victims, as well as an ambulatory care clinic, dental and eye care clinics, a pharmacy, a specialty clinic, and an inpatient wing with 17 beds for recovering patients.

Health care providers at Maniilaq Health Center provide telemedicine support to Community Health Aides (CHAPs) in the outlying villages of the Northwest Arctic Borough. The CHAPs, who work in village-based clinics, are trained in basic health assessment and can treat common illnesses. For more complicated cases, the CHAPs communicate with Maniilaq Health Center medical staff via phone, video-conference, and digital images.

Notable people

- John Baker, winner of the 2011 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. His finishing time that year was a race record, which stood until broken by Dallas Seavey in 2014.
- Reggie Joule, currently mayor of the Northwest Arctic Borough (of which Kotzebue is the seat), achieved minor national fame during the 1980s for his exploits in the World Eskimo Indian Olympics
- Seth Kantner, novelist
- Segundo Llorente, Spanish-born Jesuit, philosopher, author and politician
- Adam Stennett, painter

References

1. *1996 Alaska Municipal Officials Directory*. Juneau: Alaska Municipal League/Alaska Department of Community and Regional Affairs. January 1996. p. 86.
2. *2015 Alaska Municipal Officials Directory*. Juneau: Alaska Municipal League. 2015. p. 92.
3. "2010 City Population and Housing Occupancy Status" (http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=DEC_10_PL_GCTPL2.ST13&prodType=table). U.S. Census Bureau. Retrieved May 14, 2012.
4. Dickerson, Ora B. (1989) *120 Years of Alaska Postmasters, 1867-1987*, p. 44. Scotts, Michigan: Carl J.

Cammarata

5. "US Gazetteer files: 2010, 2000, and 1990" (<http://www.census.gov/geo/www/gazetteer/gazette.html>). United States Census Bureau. 2011-02-12. Retrieved 2011-04-23.
6. "Kobuk Valley National Park" (<http://www.nps.gov/kova/planyourvisit/directions.htm>). *U.S. National Park Service*. January 20, 2011. Retrieved July 28, 2011.
7. "Climatology of the United States No. 20 1971–2000: KOTZEBUE WIEN AP, AK" (<http://cdo.ncdc.noaa.gov/climatenormals/clim20/ak/505076.pdf>) (PDF). National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. 2004. Retrieved 2011-01-18.
8. "Average Weather for Kotzebue, AK – Temperature and Precipitation" (<http://www.weather.com/weather/wxclimatology/monthly/graph/USAK0135>). Weather.com. Retrieved 2011-01-18.
9. "Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Incorporated Places: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2014" (<http://www.census.gov/popest/data/cities/totals/2014/SUB-EST2014.html>). Retrieved June 4, 2015.
10. "Census of Population and Housing" (<http://www.census.gov/prod/www/decennial.html>). Census.gov. Retrieved June 4, 2015.
11. "American FactFinder" (<http://factfinder2.census.gov>). United States Census Bureau. Retrieved 2008-01-31.

Further reading

Anderson, Douglas D., and Robert A. Henning. *The Kotzebue Basin*. Alaska geographic, v. 8, no. 3. Anchorage: Alaska Geographic Society, 1981. ISBN 0-88240-157-2

Giddings, J. Louis, and Douglas D. Anderson. *Beach Ridge Archeology of Cape Krusenstern Eskimo and Pre-Eskimo Settlements Around Kotzebue Sound, Alaska*. Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1986.

Lucier, Charles V., and James W. VanStone. *Traditional Beluga Drives of the Iñupiat of Kotzebue Sound, Alaska*. Fieldiana, new ser., no. 25. Chicago: Field Museum of Natural History, 1995.

External links

- Official website (<http://www.cityofkotzebue.com>)
- Northwest Arctic Borough School District (<http://www.nwarctic.org/>)
- Kotzebue, Alaska (https://www.dmoz.org/Regional/North_America/United_States/Alaska/Localities/K/Kotzebue) at DMOZ



Wikimedia Commons has media related to ***Kotzebue, Alaska***.

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Kotzebue,_Alaska&oldid=671928758"

Categories: Borough seats in Alaska | Chukchi Sea | Cities in Alaska
 | Cities in Northwest Arctic Borough, Alaska | Populated coastal places in Alaska
 | Populated places of the Arctic United States

- This page was last modified on 18 July 2015, at 00:45.
- Text is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License; additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy. Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization.