



CRYSTAL CREEK LODGE

Hosts of the Alaskan Experience





Crystal Creek Lodge is located 5 miles East of King Salmon, Alaska. This world-class Bristol Bay fishing and adventure lodge is an award-winning Orvis Endorsed Lodge, consistently demonstrating its exceptional fishing, facilities and commitment to excellence in service...

GENERAL CHART OF ALASKA

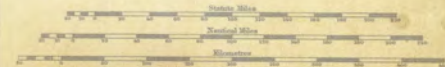
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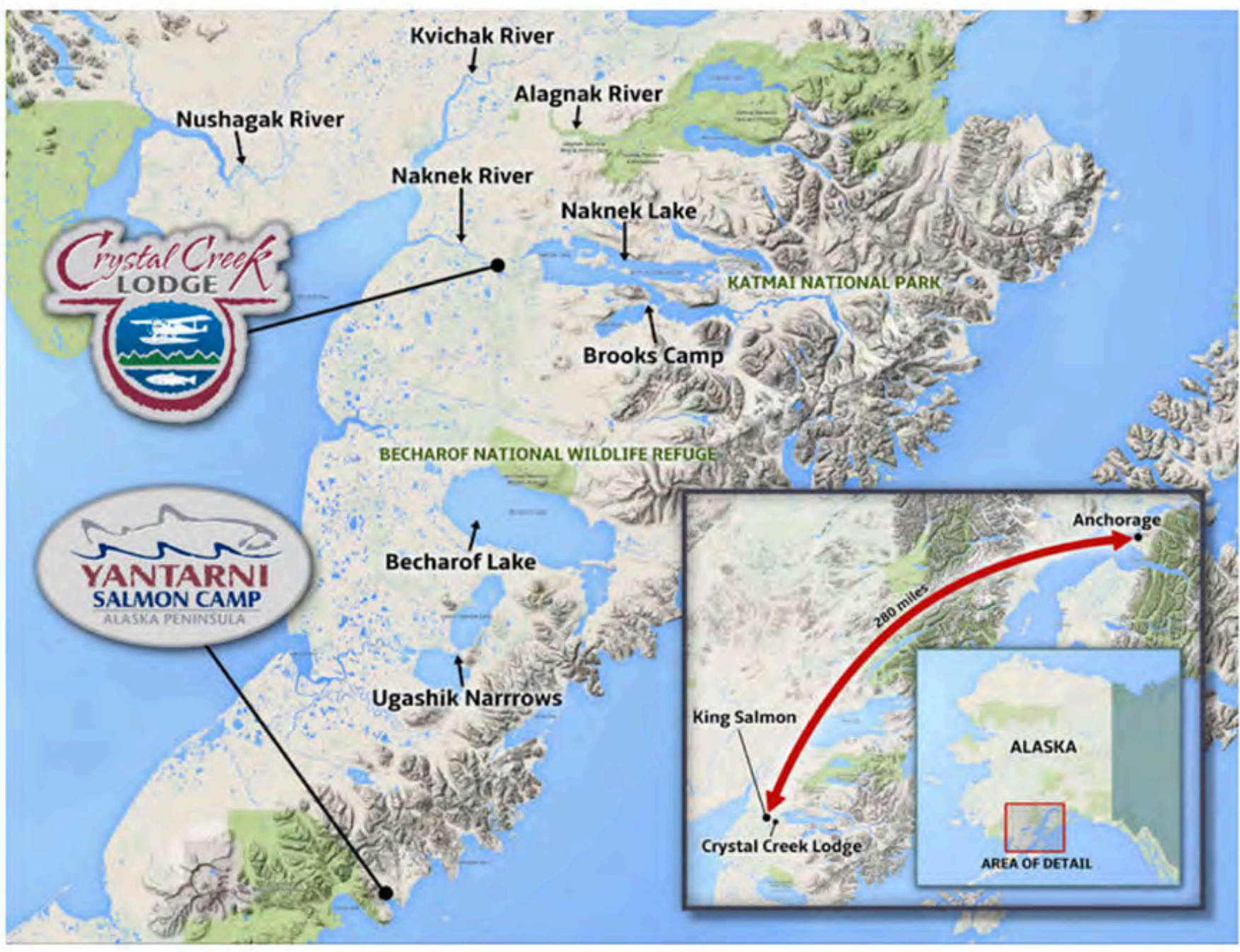
Compiled from United States and Russian Authorities

ALL SOUNDINGS IN FATHOMS, DEGREES IN DEGREES

Published 1898 E. FRITCHETT, Hydrographer
United States Hydrographic Office
R.D. Twenty, First Coast U.S.N. Hydrographic Engineer

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Adventure at Crystal Creek Lodge, King Salmon, Alaska

Few places on earth can conjure the images of expansive wilderness, extraordinary fishing and hunting and a sense of unlimited adventure. Fewer still can deliver. The Alaska Peninsula is one place that can and consistently does.

The Peninsula is formed by the Alaska Peninsula Mountain Range, rising thousands of feet from sea level, rugged in form and punctuated by dormant volcanoes and valleys formed by repeated glaciation. Scores of millions of acres of the Peninsula are preserved in pristine condition within the bounds of Katmai National Park and Preserve, Becharof National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge and Aniakchak National Monument.

The Peninsula has the highest concentration of Brown Bears on earth. The Bears of Katmai National Park are not hunted; they are accustomed to seeing humans so they can be safely watched in plain sight. Caribou, moose, wolves and numerous other mammals large and small thrive within the boundaries of the local National Parks and Wildlife Refuges. Birds migrate into and through the Peninsula. Walrus and seals by the thousands haul out onto the beaches.

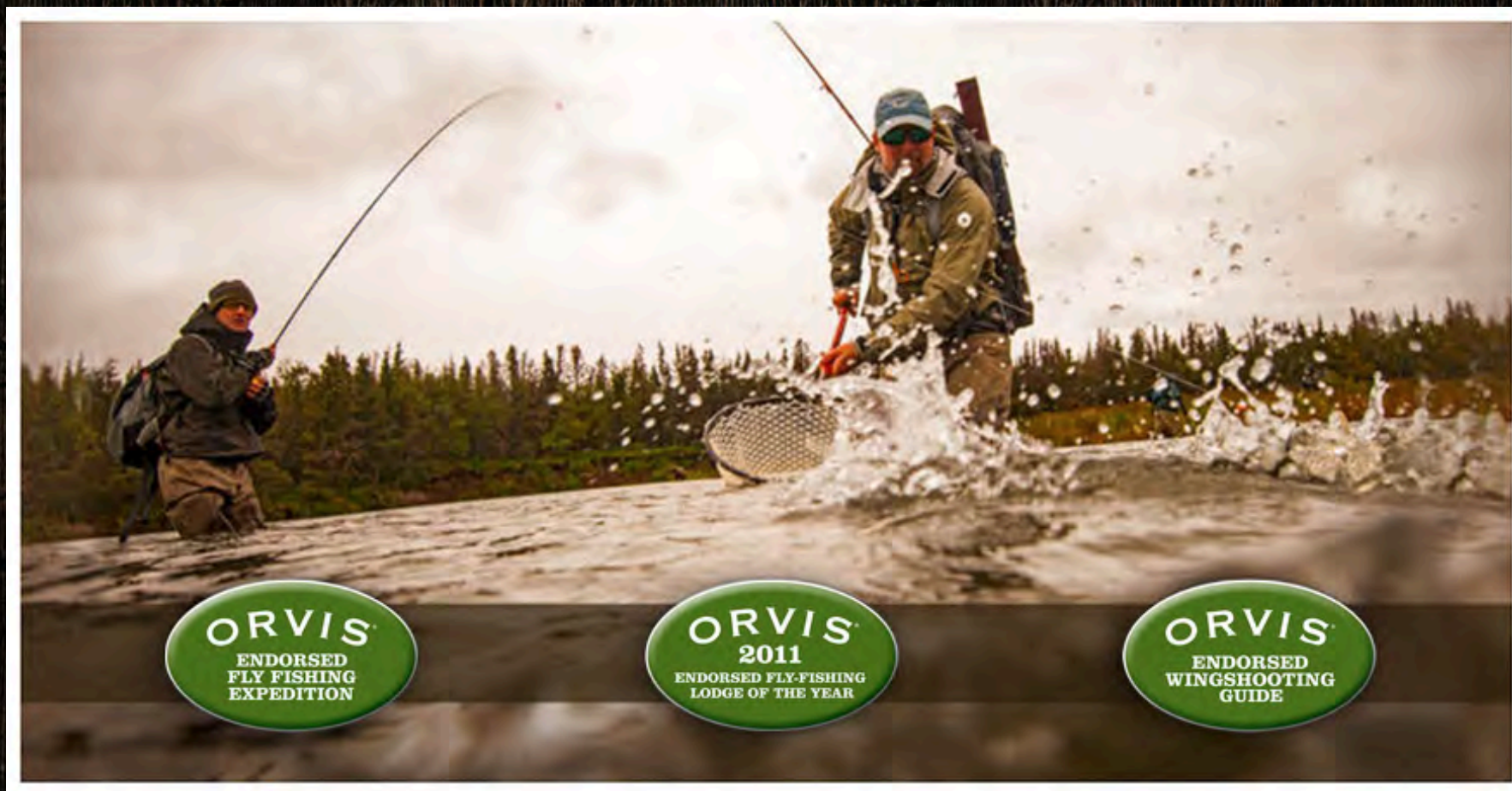
Hundreds of miles of rivers and streams cross millions of acres of trackless wilderness on the Alaska Peninsula, and those rivers and streams are teeming with literally millions of Pacific Salmon. The same waters teem with char, grayling and the largest wild Rainbow Trout on earth.

Willow Ptarmigan, an upland bird closely related to the fabled Red Grouse of Scotland, grow wild in abundance on the Alaska Peninsula. The Alaska Peninsula is also the first staging area for the waterfowl of North America's great Pacific Flyway. Ducks and geese use the Peninsula as a conduit each spring and fall as they travel to and from their summer breeding grounds.

The Alaska Peninsula is thus a paradise for the fishing and bird-shooting enthusiast. If you have this book in your hands you most likely are such an enthusiast. This book is a glimpse as the possibilities available to you through the services of Crystal Creek Lodge, an award-winning Orvis Endorsed Fly Fishing Lodge near King Salmon, Alaska.

The mission statement of Crystal Creek Lodge is "Host of the Alaskan Experience". We are extremely clear that the foundation of our business is based in hospitality, service and the ability to deliver an inspiring Alaskan experience. We chose long ago to serve a limited number of guests and serve them with the finest aspects of lodging, meals, equipment and guiding ability available in Alaska, if not the world. 14-16 guests, maximum, experience Crystal Creek Lodge at any given time during our 16-week season. The 16-week season runs June through early October. Our staff number is 18, and our ratio of lodge square footage, boats, aircraft and guides to guests are the highest available in the business.

Each day at Crystal Creek Lodge offers unique possibilities. We say a trip to Crystal Creek Lodge is several adventure vacations wrapped into one. There are far more experiences to share with our guests than can be undertaken within a few days afield.



For instance, guests could find themselves fishing for salmon in the roaring rapids of a river one day, fishing for trout in a shallow quaint creek the next, then rafting a wild river or watching Brown Bears feed on salmon the day after. Each week in the season has unique adventure and sporting opportunities. A guest could come the same week on the calendar for 20 years and see something new each time. We have proved that.

Crystal Creek Lodge was founded in 1988, and since we have served thousands of guests. We look forward to having you as our guest, and to providing a memorable and inspiring Alaska experience. Enjoy the photos within this book. We had a blast creating them.

-Dan Michels, Owner, Pilot and Guide at Crystal Creek Lodge since 1988





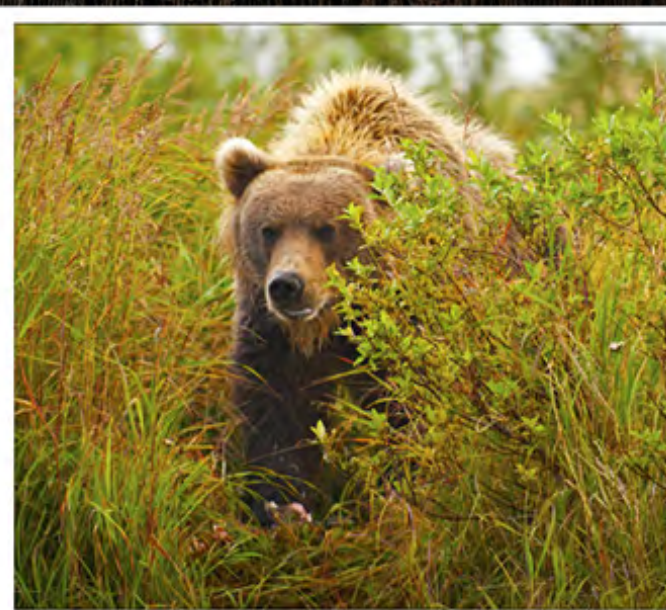


The quality standard of Alaskan luxury wilderness lodge accommodations. The distinctions of a vacation with Crystal Creek Lodge are in the details. We have created an environment of exceptional comfort and subtle inspiration to complement our comprehensive guiding fishing & adventure program and reputation for extraordinary service. The lodge and guest rooms are finely appointed. The food service is exceptional. The amenities are remarkable.





Welcome to the land of dreams: the Katmai region of the Bristol Bay area and the greatest freshwater river and stream fishing in Alaska, if not the entire earth. Bristol Bay rivers have the largest Pacific Salmon runs on earth. The rivers and streams of Katmai are infused with wild Alaska Rainbow Trout and grow some of the largest Trout on earth. The Naknek River, home water of the lodge, grows trout upwards of 30 inches. Arctic char and arctic grayling also inhabit these waters in prolific numbers, and the combination of salmon, trout and char make for a fishery of intense productivity and diversity.





The Rainbow Trout of Alaska are fish of legend. The Naknek River and streams of the surrounding Katmai National Park region offer some of the finest Rainbow Trout fishing in the world. Crystal Creek Lodge is on the Naknek River and very close to other famous rivers and streams of Katmai.











Within the treasure trove of species that define the Alaskan fishery, the Chinook Salmon or King as they are known in Alaska, is the crown jewel. These majestic fish, returning each year to the heart of their spawning grounds in the Bristol Bay region, cruise the deep channels of the Naknek and Nushagak Rivers as a hidden ransom of silver. Kings are gunmetal grey fading to silver-purple, slab-sided, angry-eyed, and line-ripping strong





Sockeye are the most numerous of the salmon, with numbers in some rivers running in the millions. Through sheer biomass they comprise the foundation of the Bristol Bay/Alaska Peninsula ecosystem. Sockeye Salmon are best caught on a fly and pound-for-pound are the hardest fighting of the salmon and their firm, red meat is the finest for eating. We fish for Sockeye late June through late July and they are available at several different rivers. Some of the best fishing is had on the Naknek River.



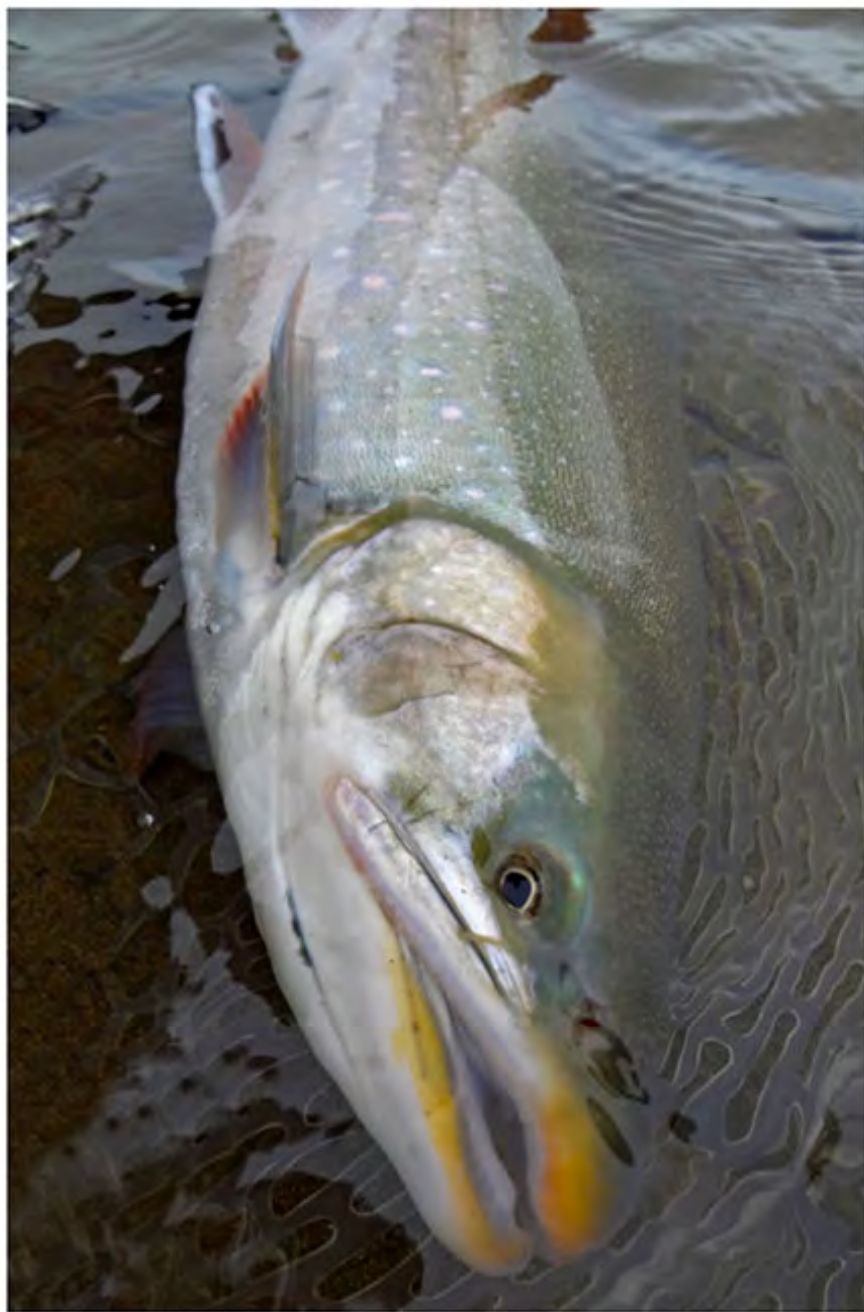


Dolly Varden are members of the char family, beautiful fish closely related to Brook Trout, Lake Trout, Bull Trout and Arctic Char. We call them the Brown Trout of Alaska. They are aggressive feeders, and can be found in high concentrations within small streams. Many of our guests have their highest number catches while fishing for “Dollies”, but who’s counting?.





Arctic Char are the denizens of the deep lakes, coming out only in August and September to feed on the eggs of spawning Salmon. They are large, strong and beautiful, sure to test the tackle of any angler.

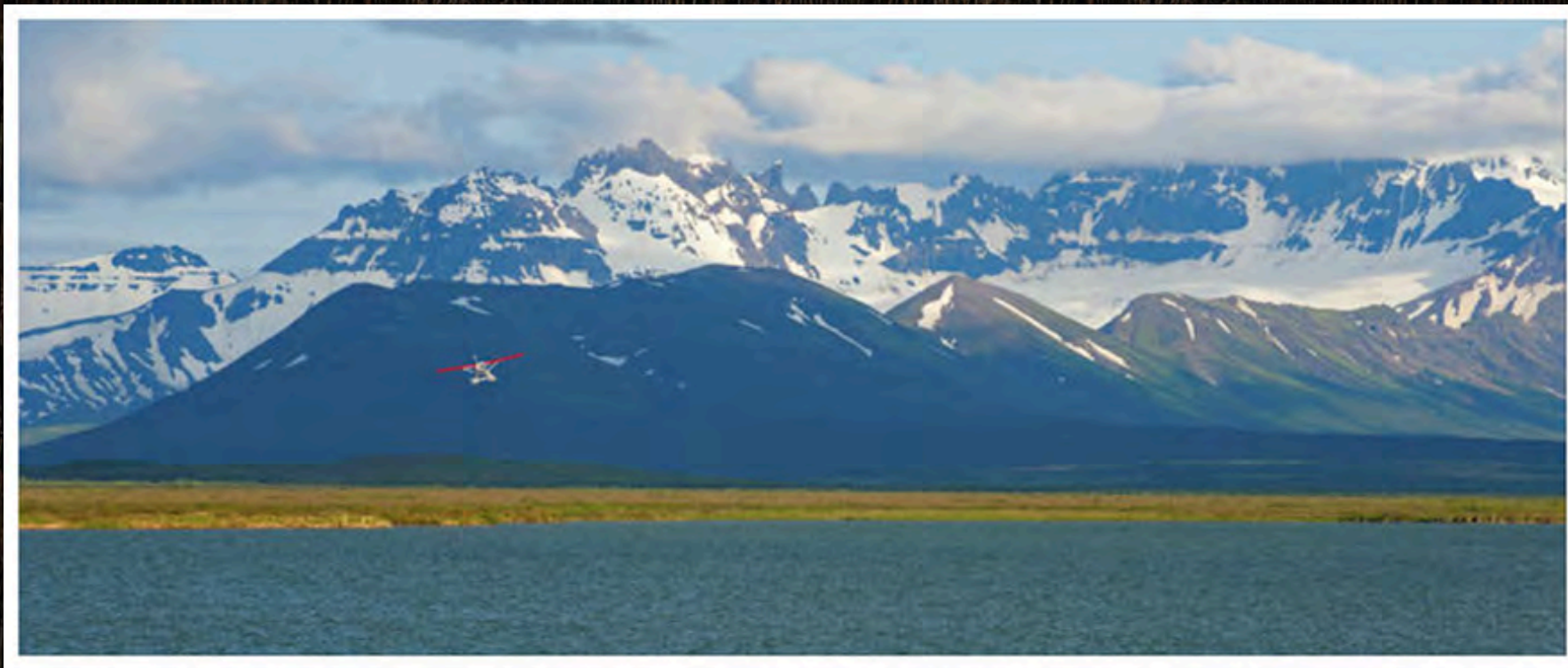






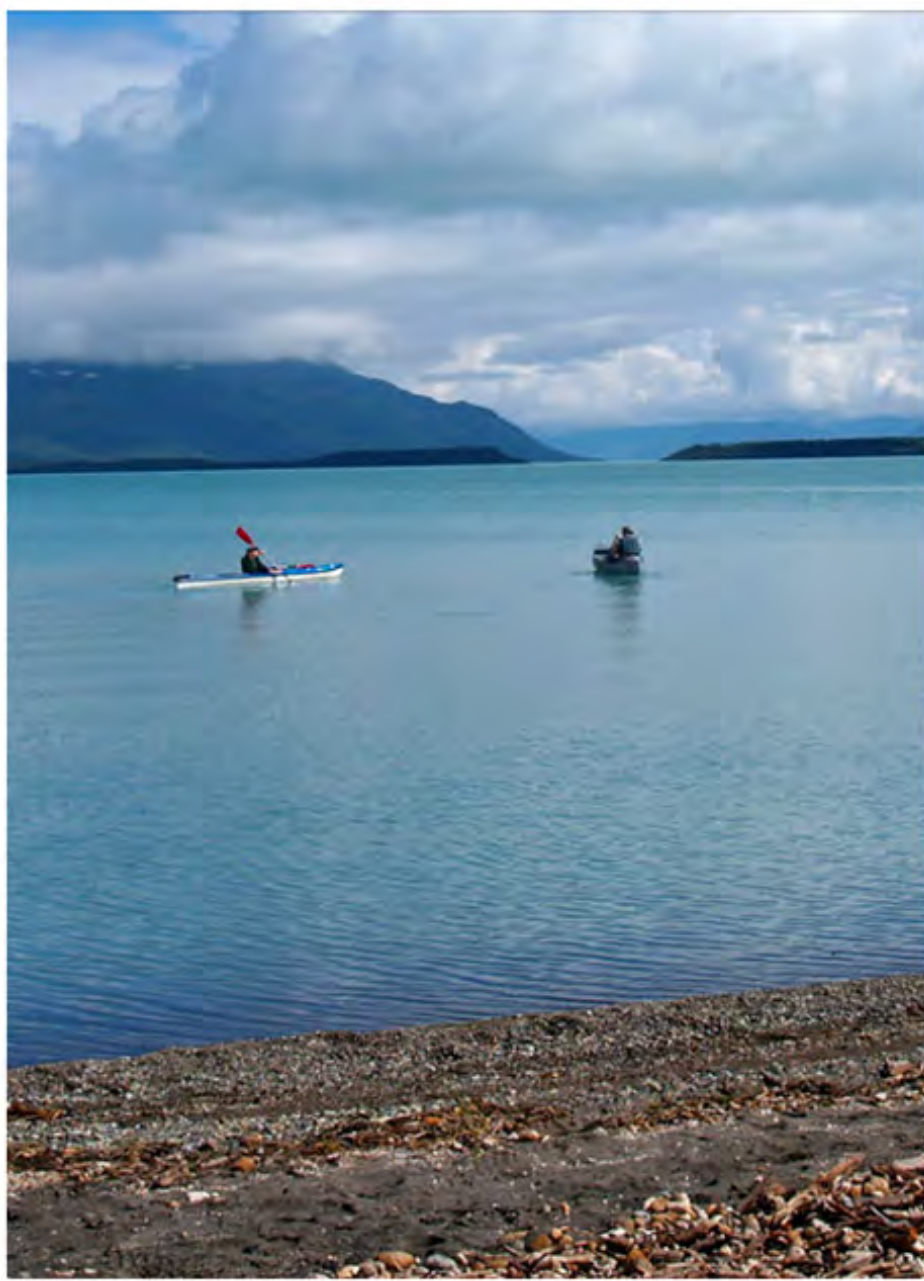
Catching the majestic Silver Salmon is one greatest fishing experiences an angler can have. When hooked, ocean fresh silvers do not merely fight, they explode showering water in all directions, jumping, cartwheeling, and tail-walking across the water surface..

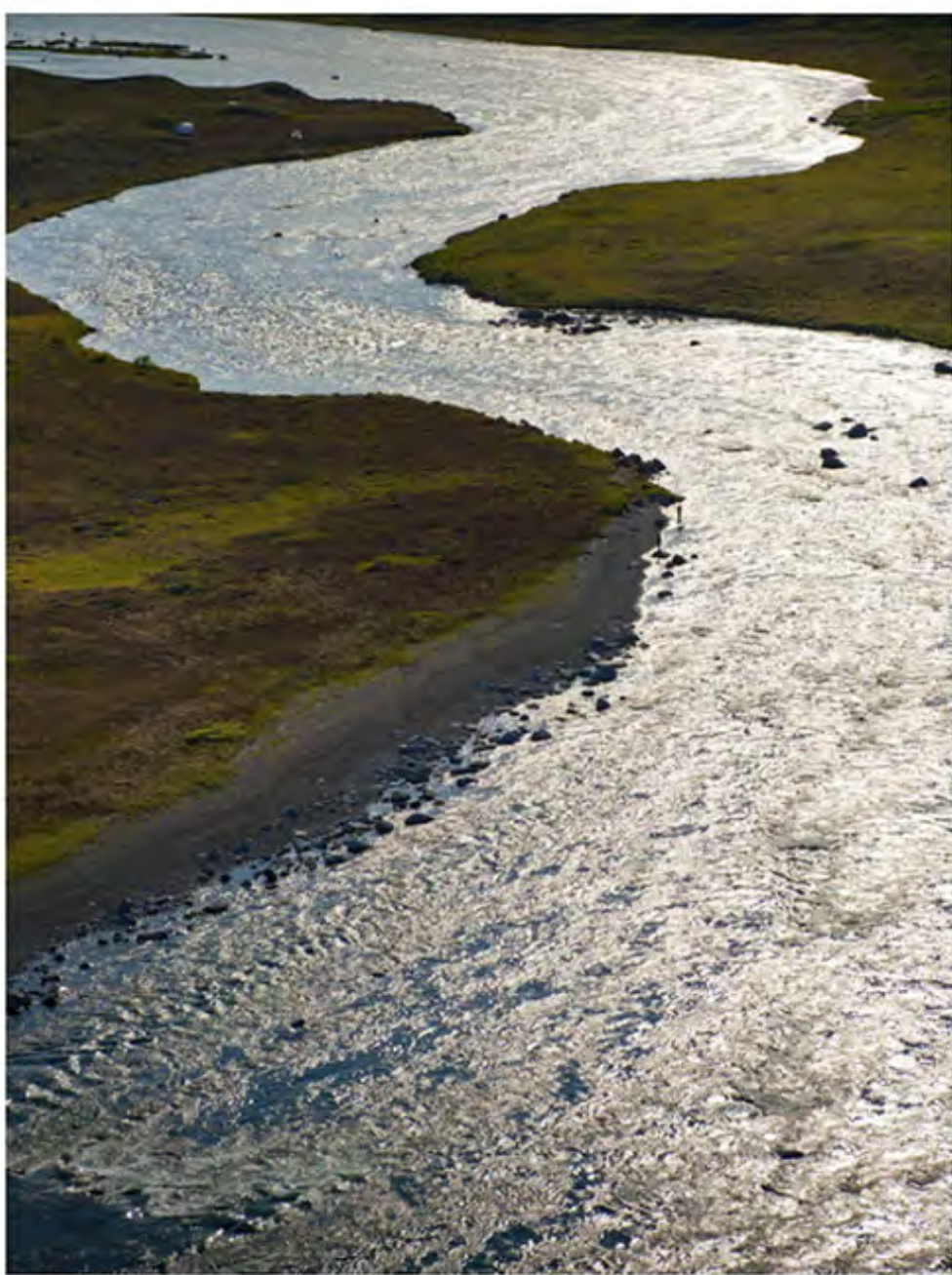




Adventure awaits those with an explorer's soul. The local National Parks, Monuments and Wildlife Refuges are millions of acres in size and are visited by few during the season. It's your vacation. Whether you'd fish all week, a little or not at all, we'd love to show you the sights.

Imagine a day flying through the majestic Alaska Range to a private location where we watch several Brown Bears feeding. Imagine another where you fly along a hundred miles of coastline to be the only visitor of the day to a spectacular National Monument. A day spent flying around the second largest lake in Alaska is extremely interesting, especially in the company of a guide who knows several cool landing spots, animal concentration zones and points of geological, archaeological and historical interest. How about a day flying to see several thousand wild walrus hauled out on the beach as they jostle and roar? Who gets to do that? Who gets to beach comb a few antique glass fishing floats on the way home? You do, of course.







The Valley of 10,000 Smokes is the heart of Katmai National Park. It will stir your soul. An apparent moonscape in a land of green, the Valley was created by the most powerful volcanic explosion of the 20th century, in 1912.

Nearby the Valley of 10,000 Smokes is the world famous Brooks River and the Bears of Katmai.



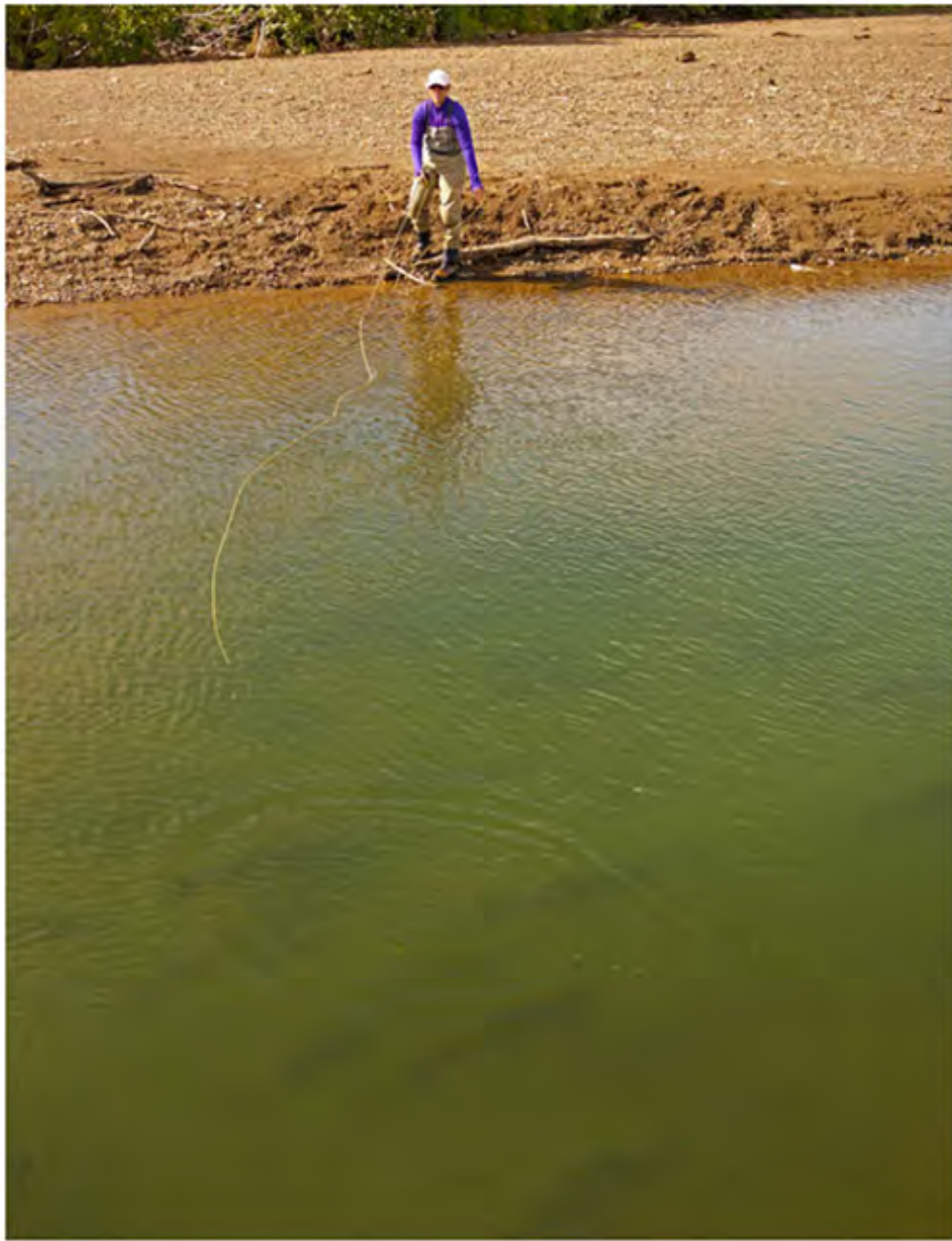
As the days pass and the inspiration floods in, your adventures become true opportunities for recreation. Lower your binoculars & cameras and trade them for a glass of wine at lunch. Listen to the water lap, the birds cry and wind whistle through the trees. Take a nap if you want. Adventuring is serious work and getting adequate rest is important.





A special treat for Crystal Creek Lodge guests is a visit to our Yantarni Salmon Camp. Yantarni, open late August through September, is a wilderness tent camp set in one of the most remote regions of Alaska. Think of it as visiting the Last Frontier of the Last Frontier. Day or overnight trips are available. This is a trip suitable for hard-core fishing enthusiasts seeking a high-volume wilderness salmon fishing experience. It is also a trip suitable for those who want a peaceful wilderness experience. Days can pass without hearing the sound of an aircraft and the only fishing competition is from your fellow camp mates.



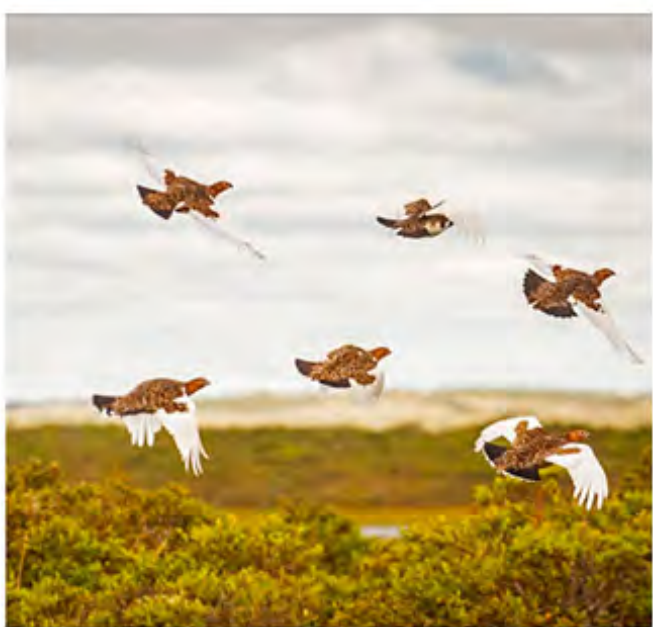


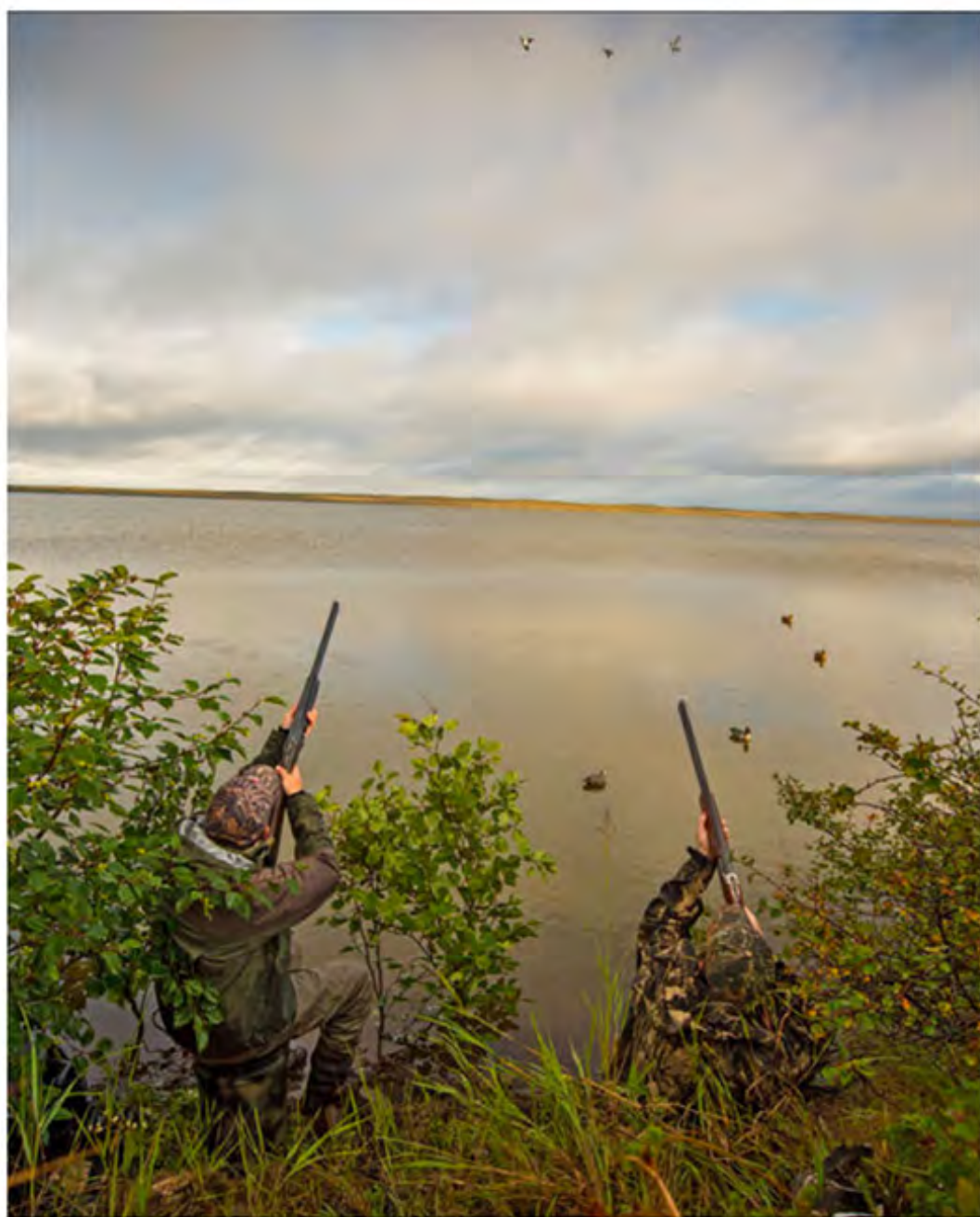


We fish three different streams within a short distance from the Yantarni Salmon Camp. The main stream, within walking distance from the camp, is filled with ocean-fresh Chum, Pink and Silver salmon, as well as sea-run Dolly Varden. The Silvers and Chums are on the larger size, weight-wise, compared to other runs in Alaska. Some Silvers reach uphill of the 15 lb. mark.



Bird hunting goes nicely with fly fishing, and Crystal Creek Lodge offers the class act of guided Alaskan upland bird hunts. Ptarmigan hunting season begins in southwest Alaska on August 10 of each year and goes through the end of the lodge season. All birds are wild. Seeing and flushing bird numbers into the hundreds is not unusual on any given day in the field.







The earliest waterfowl season in the United States opens in Alaska on September 1. The ponds and estuaries of the Alaska Peninsula comprise the first staging area for migratory waterfowl entering the Pacific Flyway. Waterfowl pursued are duck species of American Widgeon, Northern Pintail, Green Wing Teal, Mallard, Greater Scaup (Bluebill), and Gadwall as well as species of geese including Cackling Canada Goose and Pacific Brant.



If the adage is true that a picture is worth a thousand words, the experience is worth a thousand pictures. If you have been our guest, we thank you for being with us as we live and share the life we love. If you have not, we invite you to visit Crystal Creek Lodge to experience an inspired vacation in the wonderland of the Alaska Peninsula.







See you down the trail...



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