

CARRIE M. McLAIN MEMORIAL MUSEUM

**PO Box 281
Nome, AK 99762
907-443-6630**



Date: July 9, 2025
To: Lee Smith, City Manager
CC: Dan, Grimmer, City Clerk
From: Cheryl Thompson, Museum Director
Re: Quarterly Report, Fiscal Year 25, 4th Quarter April, May, June

April was a less busy month visitor-wise. We received several calls from people seeking information on past relatives and on interest in donating items from Nome. Staff and I attached all photos that were taken by Michael Burnett to the appropriate Pastperfect accessions. I attended the Economic Summit that was organized by Megan Onders. There were some good ideas and questions. We had two visits by NACTEC kids. Tom Vaden donated to the Museum a large seal oil lamp from Wales. April 30th was the last day of work for Hannah Anderson.

May brought on Dustin Koehler as Collections Assistant. He comes from an aerospace background so he is really helping the Museum to upgrade technology. He changed out two non-working ipads and put new video material on the new replacements. He is also going through our collection of old VHS tapes and digitizing them. These include lots of Hello Central with Richard Beneville. The Museum had four class visits for the end of the school year.

The start of June brought the scanning equipment and one technician in to rescan some pages and confirm blank pages in the Recorders Books which were scanned last fall. When these are processed, the project will be complete and we will have searchable files. Ryan Wharry, Beltz History teacher who worked Saturdays most of the winter is working 25 hours per week most of the summer. He greets visitors, leads tours and is also helping digitize our VHS and films. He and Dustin brought more of the smoke damaged items out of the conex and into the storage area to be cleaned as well as possible. The Westerdam visit on June 19th was a very busy day. Lots of very interested guests including Nome's previous City Clerk Leslie Wessel came in. The next day I helped Jennifer Dean Johnson plant flower seeds with the kids on Children's Day sponsored by Kawerak's Child Advocacy Center. The next week brought Audubon Society members from Hawaii. They came in 2 groups to tour the Museum. We had good discussions about similarities of ancient tool use and design between Alaska and Hawaii. They come to see a specific Plover that winters in their backyards and summers here in Alaska. They also give generous donations. The last of the month I planted 'dredge bucket daisies' as Nancy Maguire called them, in all the dredge buckets at the Foster Building. They should fill in and come back next year. We are making plans to take down the felt exhibit and put up a local art show at the end of July-first of August.

Attached is the Nome section of stories and Ads in the current Alaska Travel Guide

Donations and gift Shop \$3,500



Nome, Alaska - Along the Bering Sea

Nome

Location: On the Seward Peninsula; by air 1.25 hours from Anchorage, 6 hours from Juneau. Commuter flights available to surrounding Norton Sound villages, Kotzebue and Russia's far east with Bering Air. Population: 3,653. Visitor Information: Nome Convention and Visitors Bureau, 301 Front Street, PO Box 240, Nome, AK 99762; Phone: (907) 443-6555; Email: visit@mynomealaska.com; Website: visitnomealaska.com

For your Alaskan vacation, envision bountiful wildlife, beautiful scenery, the Iditarod dog sled race, genuine Alaskan Native culture, gold rush history, comfortable accommodations, great restaurants, friendly tour guides, unique flightseeing, quality Northern art gift shops, nonstop festivals, superb

seafood, and jet service twice daily. That's Nome!

Three roads lead out of Nome. They each end 70 to 80 miles later and offer an exciting trip through the spectacular scenery of the Seward Peninsula and ample opportunity to view wildlife. Beaver dams are visible, musk-ox graze on the hillsides, domestic reindeer roam the Peninsula, and brown bears are numerous in the mountains where their food sources of squirrels, berries, and fish are plentiful.

Every spring, serious birdwatchers arrive in Nome to witness the return of over a hundred and eighty migratory species in brilliant breeding plumage to their nesting grounds. Sport fishing for pike and trophy grayling is popular and salmon fly fishing is superb in the rivers. Fishing guides can supply a trip tailored to each client's wish.

History buffs can spend days on the road system, hiking into the hills, floating the rivers and

60 MILES NORTH OF NOME IS PILGRIM HOT SPRINGS. NO CELL TOWERS PROVIDE SERVICE OF ANY KIND OUTSIDE OF NOME. PLEASE MAKE SURE TO HAVE DIRECTIONS WITH YOU WHEN YOU TRAVEL.

Bask in the Midnight sun

WHETHER YOU COME TO PILGRIM HOT SPRINGS JUST FOR THE DAY OR YOU MAKE IT A FULL WEEK ADVENTURE THERE ARE PLENTY OF THINGS TO MAKE YOUR TRIP WELL WORTH IT.



Welcome to Unnaatug Pilgrim Hot Springs

A PROTECTED ARTIC OASIS THAT PROVIDES FOR OUR PEOPLE

CONTACT: 500 SEPPALA DRIVE | P.O. BOX 948 | NOME, ALASKA | 99762
TEL: 907-443-4277 • PILGRIMHOTSPPRINGS.COM • PILGRIM@KAWERAK.ORG

GOLD IN NOME TODAY



Some say that there is more gold in Nome today than during the 1899 gold rush. The problem lies in extracting that illusive metal. Mother Nature doesn't play fair and will send prospectors relentless waves, wind, flooding and freezing temperatures just to test your resolve.

There are business in Nome that cater to visitors. AKAU Gold & Resort has everything you need to make your prospecting dreams come true. They have complete gold packages that included all equipment and their expertise. Within a few hours of arriving in Nome, you can start panning for gold along Anvil Creek, the place where the biggest nuggets were discovered and caused a stampede to Nome in 1899.

The Martinsons are one of Nome's long-standing gold mining families. Along with multiple land and sea claims, they also run hotels and inns in Nome: the Dredge #7 Inn, Gold House, Sluicelox Suites and a vehicle rental facility. "The smartest prospectors are the ones that take a gold pan and go down to the beach. Their investment is small and they get to spend the day on the beach," says Doug Martinson.

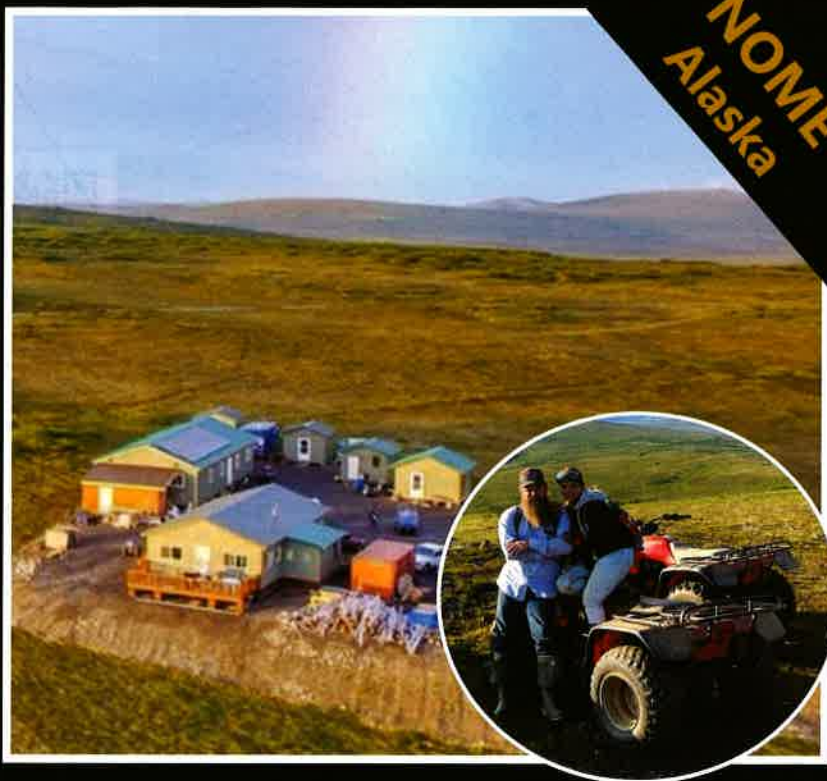
If gold fever has struck, head north to Nome. With so much to see and do, you could be one of the lucky ones who discovers the motherlode and ushers in a whole new gold rush!





**NOME
Alaska**

**Gold Prospecting
World-Class Fishing
ATV Tours
Kayaking & Hiking
Historical & Cultural Tours
Alaska Native Crafts
Wildlife Photography
Lodge/Cabins
Home-Cooked Meals
Families are welcome
Group Rates
Airport Shuttle**



1-week all-inclusive gold adventure packages



We sell nuggets!



BOOKING FOR SUMMER & FALL 2025/2026

Reserve your trip:
info@akaugold.com



ALASKA GOLD & RESORT

**NOME, ALASKA
akaugold.com**



**Call to Book:
760.500.1329**



photographing the remnants of 100 years of gold exploration. Nome's gold rush history is legendary and gold still plays a large part here. Numerous small mining companies operate in the hills and every summer people camp on the beach to search for gold in the garnet-laced "ruby sands of Nome."

For two weeks, Nome hosts the "Mardi Gras of the North" during the world famous Iditarod Race, which finishes on Front Street every year in March. Nome is also the halfway point for the world's longest, toughest snowmachine race, the Iron Dog.

Scenic Drives out of Nome

The three roads that originate in Nome lead in different directions, winding through a variety of dramatic wilderness landscapes of tundra, seacoast, and mountain valleys carved by sparkling clear rivers.

Abundant wildlife can often be seen from (or on) the road, including prehistoric muskox, reindeer, moose, bear, fox, and many of the approximately 180 species of birds that frequent or accidentally drop by the area. Hillsides are carpeted with 200 kinds of wildflowers in the warm months, and exceptional berry picking is at its zenith in mid-August. Fishing, camping, and biking are all extraordinary along these routes. Nome saw the last great Gold Rush, evidenced by old mining towns, abandoned gold dredges, railroad cars, historic wooden trestles, and "The Last Train to Nowhere."

The Nome-Council Road is optimally a 2-hour and 72-mile drive to the east with sweeping coastal views, ending at the small community of Council. The 85-mile Nome-Taylor Road (also called Beam or Kougarok Road) winds north past old mining

claims, popular Salmon Lake, and a side road to historic Pilgrim Hot Springs. The Nome-Teller Road ends at the namesake Inupiat village located 73 miles northwest of Nome and a mere 108 miles from Russia.

The roads are gravel, only passable in summer, and seriously prone to rugged potholes. Make arrangements in advance to rent a 4-wheel drive vehicle, or guided tours are also available. You can take a closer look at these routes and their many dozens of designated points of interest on the following comprehensive website and see for yourself what adventures await: alaska.org/destination/nome/scenic-drives.

A Birder's Paradise

Nome and the surrounding countryside have become known as one of the best places in the world to easily see a huge array of birds, both domestic and wind-blown Asian exotics rarely spotted in North America. The best time for birding is late May and early June, after the Bering Sea ice spring breakup ushers in the annual migration. Vast swaths of pristine nesting areas, long days, and abundant food allow for great viewing into mid-August when migration is in full swing.

The Nome road system provides access to different species along each of the three routes, and you don't even have to get out of your car to add dozens of new sightings to your life list! You'll even find quality birding on ponds, wetlands and beaches right in town. If you're visiting without a car, try the mouth of the Nome River, Cemetery Pond, and East End Park. Even through the winter buntings and other species are plentiful at Nome feeding stations.

The Northwest Campus of University of Alaska Fairbanks in Nome offers extremely affordable, daylong birding field trips for a much lower fee than dedicated birding tours. Usually held on the

"There's No Place Like Nome!"

www.visitnomealaska.com
907.443.6555

"There's No Place Like Nome!"

Located on the edge of the Bering Sea on the southwest side of the Seward Peninsula, Nome is a vital hub for Northwest Alaska. The Three Lucky Swedes discovered placer gold in Anvil Creek in 1898...the rush was on! In 1899 the population of Nome swelled from a handful to 28,000.

Today our population is 3,500 and we're still mining gold!

last weekend in May and first weekend in June, destinations typically include the coast road to Safety Sound and the Kougarok Road over two days. Less than twenty miles from Nome on the Council Road, Safety Sound is an immense migrant trap before breakup, while Council is the only place to see forest dwelling birds. It's typical to spot between 65 and 80 species on each of these field trips. There are also affordable local guides for hire.

If you're planning a trip to Nome at the height of birding season, be sure to book lodging well in advance. Visitors can check the Birding Board at the Nome Visitors Center to see what species have been spotted lately, download area guides and checklists, and find social media updates on current sightings.

Museum and Cultural Center

The Richard Foster Building, located at 7th and Steadman, houses the Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum, Kawerak's Katirvik Cultural Center and Kegoayah Kozga Library.

Carrie McLain came to Nome as a young girl in the early 1900s and spent her adult life collecting oral histories, ivory artwork, and historical photos from the surrounding area. Opening in 1967, the museum collection was greatly expanded through generous donations of photographs, artifacts, and archives. Interactive exhibits feature the landscape, Alaska Native artwork, and the town of Nome from Tent City beginnings to its present-day role as a regional hub. Step inside a miner's tent, listen to audio recordings in one of Nome's old telephone booths, and imagine mushing across the tundra as you check out a sled from the 1st Iditarod sled dog race. Relax in the mini-theatre for even more tales from Nome's early days, and browse the museum's gift shop for related books, photos, and clothing items.

The Katirvik Cultural Center was established



in 2016 to realize the vision of regional elders to celebrate, educate and share the rich culture and heritage of the Bering Strait. The center hosts displays that represent themes embodying aspects of the culture of Inupiaq, Central Yupik, and St. Lawrence Island peoples.

Festivals in Nome

Nome is a lively, friendly town hosting a wealth of community events nearly every month. Of course Nome celebrates with a July 4th spectacular, community Thanksgiving dinner, Christmas

Extravaganza, and the Midnight Sun Festival complete with a staged bank robbery. Sports and competition feature in the wintertime Bering Sea Ice Classic Golf Tournament and summer-long softball games, the wacky Great Bathtub Race down Front Street and Labor Day Rubber Duck Race, Nome River Raft Race, Polar Bear Swim, the backcountry walk-run-or-bike Wyatt Earp Dexter Challenge, and the Cannonball and Nome-Golovin Snowmachine Races. The 2300-mile Iron Dog Snowmachine Race is the world's longest and toughest, so racers and the



Best Hotel

in Nome!

From summer exploring on the Seward Peninsula to catching the northern lights and the Iditarod finish line in winter, we're the perfect base camp for your next Nome adventure.

- Flat Screen TV & Dish Network
- Free Parking
- Sauna Available for Guests
- Conference Room
- On-site Vehicle Rentals

302 E. Front St., Nome, AK 99762 | (907) 443-3838 | aurorainnome.com



Nome community enjoy a festive banquet halfway through the race.

Then, there's the Iditarod Trail Invitational in March when a select group of (fool)hardy souls test themselves against Alaska's winter elements, traversing the famed trail by mountain bike, skis, or on foot. The 5K shoreline Gold Dust Dash offers up a gold nugget to the winner, while the Poor Man's Beach Gold Panning Contest pits participants against each other to see who can find gold first in their bag of pay dirt.

Summerfest joyfully celebrates youth and art, while shopping for unique, hand-made items is a breeze at Nome's arts and crafts fairs, the largest of which is held during Iditarod Week in mid-March. The Nome Arts Council hosts the two-day Alappaa Film Festival, and biannual Open Mic events showcasing music, dance, poetry and storytelling. The Salmonberry Jam Folk Fest is three fun-filled days of local and guest music artists, workshops, dancing, crafts, and community cookout. The Blueberry Festival features arts and crafts, music and delightful blueberry concoctions. Check the Alaska.org website for more information or contact the Nome Visitors Center to determine what's happening during your visit.

Pilgrim Hot Springs

Located 60 road miles from Nome off Kougarak Road, Pilgrim Hot Springs is a lush, treed oasis with a unique past. On the National Register of Historic Places, the 320-acre property is positioned in the tundra between Hen and Chickens Hill and the Kigluaik Mountain range. Pilgrim Hot Springs was purchased in late 2009 from the Catholic Bishop of Northern Alaska by a consortium of seven indigenous organizations in the Bering Strait region who formed Unaatuq, LLC.

Unaatuq (it is warm or hot) was an important site recognized within the Qawiaqmiut traditional territory with a long history of use that continues to the present. Honored as a very special place where animals and edible plants were available for subsistence even in winter, the Native people respectfully used the springs in times of need, enjoying healing hot water soaks surrounded by the

THREADS OF TRADITION

An Inuit Woman's Modern Take on Native Clothing



Admired Craftsmanship

In 2016, a chance encounter with a group of cruise ship passengers changed the course of Alice's life. Alice's job was greeting tourists disembarking in Nome, Alaska, from the Crystal Serenity's maiden voyage—the first luxury cruise ship to transit the Northwest Passage. Wearing a traditional native garment called a Kuspuk/Qaspaq, Alice warmly welcomed passengers to the land her ancestors had called home for time immemorial. The guests commented on her coat and asked if it was waterproof, as they were looking for a jacket that would keep them dry in the rain. Unfortunately, the tourists were out of luck, but the idea of designing and selling waterproof Kuspuk/Qaspaqs was planted in Alice's imagination. Today, through an abundance of creativity and determination, Naataq Gear was born, and everyone can wear a modern take on a piece of clothing that honors Alice's heritage and shares with the world the rich culture of ancestral craftsmanship, ensuring a historical link to a long line of Native women who sewed for their family and community.

Stitched in Tradition

The word Kuspuk/Qaspaq is the phonetic translation, which means "cloth over parka." Originally made from seal guts or skin, the Kuspuk/Qaspaq was a tunic length overcoat with a large front pocket. A very special tight stitching made the garment essentially waterproof. A summer Kuspuk/Qaspaq was made using cloth and would protect the wearer from mosquitoes in the lush tundra. Each region had their own unique take on the Kuspuk/Qaspaq, which would identify not only the gender but the region and specific tribe. "I was very mindful to design a general Kuspuk/Qaspaq," says Alice. "The Kuspuk/Qaspaq is not a design I own. This belongs to our culture in Alaska and I wanted to make sure I did it right and was respectful."

Alice spent a year designing prototypes and researching how to create a garment inspired by the traditional Kuspuk/Qaspaq. Thanks to the internet, she found a U.S. women-owned manufacturer that specializes in cold-weather gear. "We keep the same innovative design, cherished and used for hundreds of years, but incorporate today's modern fabrics." Using a polyester fabric that's wind-resistant and waterproof, they also added a zipper pocket,

making it a very functional outdoor garment.

Before producing her Kuspuk/Qaspaq, Alice consulted with tribal Elders and her family. "It was very important to me to have input from my community because this is not just a garment, it is a shared history." Alice remembers growing up watching her mom and aunts sew parkas, mittens, and Kuspuk/Qaspaqs. "I learned what needed to go into a garment by watching family members sew. When you share art—how things have been done in the past—how stitches are made—and why the pattern is the way it is—it becomes instilled in you. There are years of history being passed down from generation to generation when a garment is sewed," explains Alice.


Honoring Her Family and Community

Alice credits her family with giving her the confidence to go down this path, and it is her family that continues to support Naataq Gear. "My children help in the shop, fulfill online orders and pick up freight. My husband, who is an attorney, helps with paperwork. From the beginning, with designing, sketching, and opening the shop, it has been my family and my community supporting me."

Today, Naataq Gear has an expanded selection of styles and colors. Initially, Alice expected tourists to be her main customers, but surprisingly, local Alaskans have embraced her clothing. "I am so grateful for their acceptance and approval," said Alice. "I'm offering a beautiful, innovative garment that is not only meaningful but puts our culture on the forefront. This shows that we are a thriving Alaskan Inuit community."


Please visit their on-line shop at: www.naataqgear.com. Store is located at 113 Front Street Suite 216, Nome, Alaska 99762. (907) 304-1154





Naataq Gear

Apparel & Clothing
Gift Shop
Arts & Crafts Store



Come Break Trail With Us!

113 Front Street Suite 216
Nome, Alaska 99762
(907) 304-1154
www.naataqgear.com

beauty and spirituality of the area.

During the Nome Gold Rush in the early 1900s, miners were attracted to the site but disregarded the traditional use rules. Claimed in 1905 under the Homestead Act, the area changed ownership twice. A saloon, dance hall and roadhouse were built at the site that burned in 1908. Subsequently, the property was deeded to Judge George Schofield, who in turn deeded it in 1917 to the Provincial of the Jesuit Province of California as a gift for a Catholic mission. The Catholic Diocese of Nome acquired the Pilgrim homestead, and Our Lady of Lourdes Orphanage and 14 other structures were built. A staff of around 20 priests, nuns, and other workers ran the facility, which housed about 100 children annually, the first of which primarily orphaned by the 1918 flu epidemic, followed by diphtheria and tuberculosis outbreaks.

Catholic priest Father Bellarmine LaFortune had begun relocating the mission at the village of Mary's Igloo to Pilgrim Hot Springs when the global Spanish Flu pandemic hit the Nome region. Over half the population of Mary's Igloo passed away as a result. Numbering between 60 and 70, the deceased were transported by dog team for mass burial in a sandy area near the hot springs that was not frozen ground.

Geothermal heat was used for the buildings and gardens were developed. Combined with the natural abundance of fish, wild plants, and game, the mission was largely self-supporting. After more than 20 years of operation and the decline of orphans in need, the mission closed down in 1941. A series of caretakers looked after the Pilgrim Hot Springs property until it was purchased by Unaaqtuq.

Many of the original orphanage structures and large two-story church are still standing although in a state of deterioration, and work has begun to restore the buildings.

RICH IN HISTORY

The Carrie McLain Memorial Museum



Arriving in Nome in 1905, 10-year-old Carrie McLain was fascinated with this frontier gold rush town. Over her lifetime she collected bits and pieces of Nome history: photographs, miners' clothing, household items, such as opera glasses and doilies and items made for tourists, such as an ivory carved cribbage board with reindeer and dogs. This eclectic collection became the backbone of Carrie's traveling museum. Today, the museum is housed in the beautiful Richard Foster Building, which also houses the Kegoayah Kozga Library, and the Katirvik Cultural Center. Two galleries, archival storage, a conservation lab for its thousands of artifacts, and a visiting research room make up the museum space.

The 3,200 square foot main gallery space displays the exhibit, "Nome: Hub of Cultures and Communities Across the Bering Strait."

This long-term exhibit collaborated with over 50 community members who shared stories, artifacts and photographs around five major themes: subsistence in the Arctic environment, mining, the built landscape, transportation, and sustainability. Immersive exhibits connect the past with contemporary narratives as visitors can step inside a miner's tent, operate a gold dredge, see an Inupiat skin boat, listen to audio recordings in Nome's first phone booth, and watch a film on tales of Nome's early days.

One of the more popular exhibits is "Fritz", the preserved Siberian husky dog who was musher Leonhard Seppala's lead dog during the 1925 Serum Run. The Serum Run transported diphtheria medicine by dog sled across 674 miles in just five and a half days, saving Nome and surrounding villages from the outbreak. People commemorate the Serum Run every year with the Iditarod, a dogsled race from Anchorage to Nome through some of the harshest, most spectacular landscape mother nature offers.

Whether you are in Nome for the gold, the Iditarod or even their world class birding, this first class museum should be on your list to see as it preserves the past, educates the present, and inspires the future for everyone.

**For hours of operation visit
nomealaska.org**



CARRIE M. MCLAIN — MEMORIAL — MUSEUM



**7th & Steadman Streets • PO Box 281
Nome, Alaska 99762**

Phone: (907) 443-6630

www.nomealaska.org/memorial-museum

**OPEN: Monday-Saturday 12pm-5pm
Admission is FREE**

Visit Nome Alaska

Don't miss the Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum (in the New Foster Building). Learn about Nome's Gold Rush, Indigenous Cultures and the History of Sled Dog Racing!

The Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum is dedicated to collecting, preserving, and sharing the culture, history, and artistry of Nome and the Bering Strait

NOME ALASKA

the city of **GOLD**

Gold has always been humanity's obsession. The ancient Egyptians saw it as the flesh of the sun god Ra. In the 1600s, legends of El Dorado drove explorers on fruitless global quests and just over a century ago, the Nome gold rush lured thousands to Alaska. Across time and continents, gold has tempted people to risk everything in pursuit of its glittering promise.

For the residents who call modern day Nome their home, gold can come in many forms, not just the tangible flakes and nuggets. To some, the gold of Nome lies in the rich history of the indigenous tribes who lived there from time immemorial. For others, it is the sense of community—the shared experience of living in such a remote place. Some people count the Iditarod, the “last great race” as their “El Dorado,” and there are those who value Nome’s unique geographical position that makes it a critical migration route for a wide variety of birds, guaranteeing it as a place for those whose passion is in photography.

For the people of Nome, their gold comes in many forms, such as the connections with their community, the beauty of the tundra, and the endless possibilities that bring together a people making life on the edge of the Bering Sea.

The People

Long before settlers landed on the beaches of Nome, the Inupiat thrived in the vast tundra and on the icy shores of the Seward Peninsula. The rhythm of the seasons flowed through their existence, and they lived, hunted, and fished according to the offerings of nature’s bounty. During the height of the salmon run, fish camps became vibrant hubs, where tribes came together to harvest and preserve their catch, but also share stories and pass down ancestral knowledge and traditions.

To many outsiders, the region of Nome might seem a hostile and uninhabitable environment, but to the Inupiat, this area was their land, from which they cultivated a vibrant and rich culture that sustained them for thousands of years.

Whale ships in the 1700s and fur trappers in the 1800s disturbed the social fabric of the Inupiat, as these commercial hunting practices did not align with the communal and resource sharing that was a part of the community. These outside profiteers not only brought disease but decimation of the Inupiat’s valuable resources, as the hunting went beyond the limit of sustainability.

In 1898, two Inupiat boys, Constantine Uparazuck and Gabriel Adams, showed three Scandinavian prospectors the location of gold deposits in Anvil Creek outside of Nome. This would set-off the Nome gold rush. These men became known as “Three Lucky Swedes” and by 1920 they had extracted over twenty million in gold from the creek. In several years, Nome exploded with a population of over 20,000 people, who were either looking for gold, or looking to make money off of the people looking for gold. Since Alaska Natives were not recognized as U.S. citizens, they were barred from staking gold claims or benefiting from any discoveries. By the time they were finally granted citizenship in 1924, the large gold deposits had long since vanished.

Yet despite generations of inequity and injustice, the Inupiat culture not only survived but endures. Today they create some of the most exceptional ivory carvings in the world and produce dazzling native dancing and music. The Inupiat are a part of a long continuation of a people who drew breath from this land. Their culture is woven in their songs, stories, and

traditions and the strength of their ancestors carries them into the future.

The Land

Nome, a remote port city in western Alaska, sits on the Bering Sea, 140 miles south of the Arctic Circle and near the Russian border. Accessible only by plane or ship, it’s served daily by Alaska Airlines from Anchorage. Over 300 miles of roads connect Nome to nearby communities across tundra, mountains, and coastal plains. Winters are long and cold; summers, short and cool. Muskox, known as uminmak, “animal with a beard” in Inupiaq, roam the tundra and shed a prized underwool each spring—softer than cashmere and the world’s most expensive fiber.

Nome’s diverse topography, including tundra, wetlands, rivers, lagoons, and alder thickets, supports a wide variety of bird life. As soon as the ice thaws in late spring, migration takes flight, transforming the area into a sprawling treasure trove. Thanks to its closeness to Siberia, this proximity offers sightings not found in the U.S. or even Alaska. For many birders, a trip to Nome is a paradise, enabling dozens of new entries into a birding journal.

Alaska lies on the Ring of Fire, a horseshoe shaped area around the Pacific Ocean that experiences most of the world’s volcanic events. Near Nome, geothermal energy creates hot springs like those at Pilgrim Hot Springs, 60 miles away. Once used by Inupiat hunters and later by gold miners, the site became a Catholic mission and orphanage after the 1918 flu pandemic.



Don Taylor Creek
Kaukarok Dig.

Scan Code to
Watch Video





Today, it features lush vegetation, warm pools, and historic ruins. Visitors can rent cabins or campsites, and a fee is required for entry. The Mary's Igloo Native Corporation considers much of the surrounding land sacred, and they require permits to explore beyond marked areas.

The discovery of gold in the creeks around Nome has been a defining feature of the land. Years after the Klondike gold rush, prospectors found large gold nuggets in Anvil Creek. Eroded from rock veins, gold collects in slow-moving waters like riverbeds and floodplains. The discovery of gold on Nome's beaches sparked a second rush, as locals flocked to dig up this "poor man's paradise". Today, companies like AKAU Resort offer gold prospecting experiences from June to September, with all-inclusive packages featuring lodging, meals, and activities like panning, metal detecting, and high-banking.

Nome's unique eco-system supports several fishing opportunities, including road side, backcountry, and helicopter fly-out fishing provided by companies such as Twin Peaks Adventures who offer weeklong, world class, fly-fishing tours. Spawning salmon thrive in the rivers' healthy, pollution-free waterways. Other variety of fish include large Arctic grayling, trout and pike, making Nome an angler's dream. For a unique take on sustainability there are companies such as Alaska NW Adventures who specialize in eco-culture tours that combine fishing and hunting with history, culture, along with Native



subsistence living.

Visitors to Nome can capture stunning photos of birds, fish in pristine waters, hike across wild tundra landscapes, or pan for gold in historic streams. The land transforms with the changing seasons, from spring's wildflowers scattered across the rolling hills, to summer's mid-night sun warmth, autumn's fiery foliage, and the blanket of snow covering the land in a frozen, icy stillness. Each season bears the hand of the creator as it provides, sustains and captures the essence of life below the Arctic Circle.

The Experience

Nome is very community minded and there are festivals and events throughout the year that celebrate this close-knit town.

The Iditarod

Over a thousand people descend on Nome for the finish line of the Iditarod dogsled race. The Iditarod is the world's greatest race and there is nothing like cheering on the musher and their team as they pass under the fabled Burled Arch finish line. Accommodations fill up early and bookings need to be done a year in advance.

The Midnight Sun Festival

This takes place on the closest weekend to the summer solstice (June 21st). This festival celebrates Nome with parades, a 5K gold dust fun run, a polar bear swim, and the Nome River raft race.

Nome Salmonberry Jam Folk Fest

This three-day music festivals has something for everyone including workshops, guest artists, local musicians, dancers, handmade crafts and a cookout and a community jam.

Nome Today

For thousands of years, people have been



drawn to Nome—from the Inupiat, who forged a relationship with the land and built communities, to the gold rush era, when prospectors came ashore hoping to strike it rich.

Here, neighbors measure value not by glittering nuggets but by their bonds, community strength, and enduring relationship with the land that gives back and sustains generations. The heartbeat of Nome can be found in the songs and music of the Inupiat who voices echo across the tundra and through the stories of the residents who know that the seasons shape life and bring both hardship and abundance.

The people who call Nome home have discovered a wealth that goes beyond gold. In this remote corner of Alaska, those who choose to stay find a city rich in spirit, meaning and promise. For those that make their home on the edge of the Bering Sea, Nome is their **city of gold**.



Photos courtesy of
Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum



Dredge *no.* 7 Inn

Dredge 7 Inn Gold Houses
1700 Teller Highway, Nome, AK 99762

Sluicebox suites
608 E D Street, Nome, AK 99762

State-of-the-art lodging in Nome, Alaska with Historical turn-of-the Century ambiance.



www.dredge7inn.com • stay@dredge7inn.com

MAKE YOUR RESERVATION ONLINE OR CALL US AT: 907.304.1270



MARUSKIYA'S OF NOME NORTHWEST ALASKA NATIVE ART

247 Front Street (next door to the Visitors Center) Nome, Alaska
907-443-2955 • info@maruskiyas.com • www.maruskiyas.com



Authentic Alaskan Sculptures & Jewelry • Books & Cards • Gold & Silver • Qiviut • Skin & Beadwork
Russian Novelty • Local Prints • Drinkware • Nome Gear • Shirts & Sweats • & MUCH MUCH MORE