Sitka Walking Tour

19 stops through Sitka's history | 3.6 miles | Plan about 3 hours with stops



Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors

The Stops

Start at stop 1 and follow the numbers. Walking times are at an easy pace.

1 Princess Maksoutoff's Grave & the Lutheran Cemetery

Located in the Lutheran Cemetery, Princess Maksoutoff was the wife of Alaska's last Russian governor, Dimitrii Maksoutoff.

2 minute walk to stop 2 (0.1 mile)

2 Russian Block House

This is a replica of the blockhouse that separated the Russian and Tlingit sections of Sitka. Tlingits moved back into the area 20 years after the 1804 battle. **Not wheelchair accessible.**

2 minute walk to stop 3 (0.08 mile)

3 Shee'tka Kwáan Naa Kahídi Community House

Constructed on a site that once housed the Indian Government School, this tribal community house offers Native dance performances in full regalia, storytelling, and cultural events.

5 minute walk to stop 4 (0.19 mile)

4 ANB Founders Hall

The Alaska Native Brotherhood Building, built in 1914, is a registered National Historic Landmark. Located on Katlian Street in the heart of the traditional Tlingit village, it serves as an Alaska Native community center.

4 minute walk to stop 5 (0.16 mile)

5 Totem Square

Contains a totem pole that displays the double-headed eagle of Sitka's Russian heritage.

3 minute walk to stop 6 (0.11 mile)

6 Sitka Pioneer Home

Built in 1934 on the old Russian Parade Ground, this is a state home for elderly Alaskans. The bronze statue standing in front of the Sitka Pioneer Home, William "Skagway Bill" Fonda, was made by Alonzo Victor Lewis and was dedicated on Alaska Day 1949.

3 minute walk to stop 7 (0.12 mile)

7 Castle Hill

Early stronghold of the Kiksadi clan, later the site of a succession of Russian buildings. The one known as "Baranof's Castle" was erected in 1837. On October 18, 1867, it was the site of the transfer of Alaska to the United States. Stairs or ramps are available to the top of Castle Hill.

3 minute walk to stop 8 (0.15 mile)

8 Building 29

It is one of the few log structures surviving from the Russian Era of Alaska History. Built by the Russians in 1835, it is a national historic landmark. The structure is supported by spruce logs, a sawdust insulation system, and heavy squared beams.

3 minute walk to stop 9 (0.14 mile)

9 Sitka Lutheran Church

The site of the first Lutheran Church on the West Coast of North America contains original artifacts from the original 1843 Finnish Lutheran Church.

3 minute walk to stop 10 (0.13 mile)

10 Saint Michael's Cathedral

An important collection of Russian Orthodox art and church treasures, it was built in 1844 to 1848 and destroyed by fire in January 1966. Many of the icons and religious objects were salvaged and are in the rebuilt structure.

3 minute walk to stop 11 (0.13 mile)

11 Geodetic Survey House

Known locally as the 'White House,' this building was constructed in 1916 on the site of a former Russian tea garden as an office and quarters for scientists who maintained a nearby permanent geomagnetic observatory. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this building is currently managed by the Sitka Ranger District of the USDA Forest Service. **Not wheelchair accessible.**

7 minute walk to stop 12 (0.29 mile)

12 Sitka History Museum

All of Sitka's history converges at the Museum, with displays, photographs, and artifacts representing Sitka's history from the earliest Tlingit times through Russian, Finnish, and American influences.

2 minute walk to stop 13 (0.08 mile)

Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors

The Stops, Continued

Start at stop 1 and follow the numbers. Walking times are at an easy pace.

13 Harrigan Centennial Hall & Visitor Center

Built in 1967 during Alaska's Centennial celebration as the first convention center in the state of Alaska. The Hall is well utilized throughout the year by locals, visitors, and groups alike. A large hand-carved Tlingit canoe made from one log is displayed under a shelter near the Hall.
The New Archangel Dancers perform here when visitors arrive on large cruise ships. Sitka was originally known as New Archangel when it was owned by Russia over 130 years ago. The Dancers began in 1969 in hopes of preserving the Russian history that built Sitka. None of the current New Archangel Dancers are professional dancers, nor do they have Russian lineage, but they spread the knowledge of a past time and pride in their home with grand performances.

4 minute walk to stop 14 (0.17 mile)

14 Russian Bishop's House & Museum

The oldest intact Russian building in Sitka was built in 1842 by the Russian American Company as a residence for the Bishop of the Orthodox Church. Restored to the 1850s period when it functioned as a school, Bishop's residence and chapel. The National Park Service manages the building and grounds.

3 minute walk to stop 15 (0.14 mile)

15 St. Peter's by the Sea Episcopal Church

The oldest church structure in Sitka. The first service was held in St. Peter's in 1899, and in 1901, it was chartered as Alaska's Pro-Cathedral. Located directly behind the church is the bishop's residence, referred to as the "See House," built in 1905 by Bishop Rowe.

7 minute walk to stop 16 (0.27 mile)

16 Sheldon Jackson Museum

Showcasing an extensive collection of Alaska Native cultural objects and arts, this historic museum, housed in Alaska's oldest concrete building (built in 1895), was founded on the collection of Dr. Sheldon Jackson (1880 to 1900). Today, it is operated by the state and hosts visiting Native artists from across Alaska.

6 minute walk to stop 17 (0.23 mile)

17 Ahlgren Aquarium & Sheldon Jackson Salmon Hatchery at the Sitka Sound Science Center

The Sheldon Jackson Salmon Hatchery at the Sitka Sound Science Center has a seawater aquarium and wet lab that displays many local sea creatures.

5 minute walk to stop 18 (0.22 mile)

18 Sitka National Historical Park

The park preserves and interprets the site of a Tlingit Indian Fort and their battle with the Russians in 1804. The museum contains an exhibit of Tlingit and Russian artifacts and a fine collection of Haida and Tlingit totem poles that line the path. An active Tlingit arts program, through Sitka Cultural Center, offers an opportunity to watch and talk with Native American artisans while they work.

21 minute walk to stop 19 (0.89 mile)

19 Alaska Raptor Center

A pioneering wildlife project, the Raptor Center has proven that dedicated volunteer effort and innovative veterinary medicine can make a difference in Alaska's raptors (birds of prey). The Center's goal is to release all rehabilitated birds into the wild; however, a few never recover flight and remain housed at the Center's outdoor displays.

End of the tour. Thanks for walking with us!

Take the tour on your phone

The Travel Sitka app guides you stop to stop, shows how far it is to the next one, and keeps working when you lose cell signal.

Scan the code, or go to **app.travelsitka.com**

Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors