



# ROUND ISLAND WALRUS ISLANDS STATE GAME SANCTUARY

## Walrus Islands Sanctuary

The Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary was established in 1960 to protect Pacific walrus haulout sites on seven small craggy islands in northern Bristol Bay: Round Island, Summit Island, Crooked Island, High Island, Black Rock, and The Twins. The sanctuary includes the surrounding waters that support a diverse group of marine mammals, seabirds, and other marine wildlife. The sanctuary is managed by the State of Alaska's Department of Fish and Game.

Round Island, one of four major terrestrial haulouts in Bristol Bay, is the best-known island within the sanctuary. It is also the only island with visitor facilities. Large numbers of male walrus return to this haul-out every spring as the ice pack recedes northward. The number of walrus using the island between feeding forays fluctuates seasonally and annually from several hundred to several thousand.

Several hundred Steller's sea lions regularly haulout at East Cape on Round Island and can be viewed and photographed there. Gray, humpback, and orca whales can be seasonally observed offshore in small pods as they move northward on their annual migrations. Red foxes are abundant on Round, Summit, and Crooked islands. There are several active dens on Round Island and fox kits may be observed during summer months.

## Getting Here

You will need to make your own arrangements to get to Round Island or other islands within the Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary. Access to the Round Island camp are by boat through the village of Togiak or in some cases, Dillingham, Alaska. Access is limited by transporter availability, weather, daylight, and tides. Aircraft access to Round Island is prohibited.

Access to Round Island and state waters within three miles of Round Island is restricted and requires a permit. Access is allowed only when sanctuary staff are present, usually between May 1 and August 15. Staff will check permits and give a safety and camp orientation upon your arrival at the island.

Visitors must contact Round Island staff via marine VHF Channel 7 prior to their visit and upon entering the access corridor. All vessels approaching the island must remain three miles from the island until they have been authorized to enter the designated access corridor and approach the island. Approach is required within the designated access corridor to Boat Cove on the northeast side of the island.

We strive to provide the public with an opportunity to view and photograph Pacific walrus and other wildlife, while minimizing impacts and disturbance to these species and their habitats.

Further information is available at:  
<http://www.walrusislands.adfg.alaska.gov>

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Portions of the sanctuary are designated as a National Natural Landmark and National Historic Landmark through the National Park Service.



# Alaska Department of Fish and Game Watch Our Wildlife

## While You Are Here

**Use permitted campsites.** The campground has 8 campsites where tents are pitched on platforms. A cook tent provides a public space for gathering, cooking and eating meals. No fires or open flames are allowed in the campground and all cooking is done in the cook shelter. Food is stored in a hard-sided container at the cook shelter. Untreated water is available from nearby stream.



**Always think safety first.** Most viewing areas on Round Island are within a mile of camp along a single-track trail. While hikes to many of these areas are not strenuous, they can be hazardous due to rocky, slippery, and uneven terrain near cliff edges. Some portions of trails are very steep and are a strenuous hike. Weather conditions can quickly make areas unsafe to use.

## Please Do

- ✓ **Do** keep a low profile, sit quietly, and use a low voice while observing walrus, sea lions, seabirds, and other wildlife.
- ✓ **Do** secure loose clothing, bags, or other materials from flapping in the wind.
- ✓ **Do** carry water, rain gear, snacks, and a jacket.
- ✓ **Do** get prior approval from staff to access the Traverse Trail or Summit Route. These trails are extremely steep and very strenuous hikes. Rain and wind can quickly make these areas unsafe to use.
- ✓ **Do** remove all personal gear and garbage upon departure.
- ✓ **Do** check the website for more detailed information.  
<http://www.walrusislands.adfg.alaska.gov>

# Round Island

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## What To Expect

### Weather changes rapidly in Bristol Bay.

Always carry water, rain gear, snacks and a jacket. The average wind speed on Round Island is about 10-20 mph, and winds often exceed 50 mph. Summer temperatures range from 35°F to 70°F; rain and thick fog are common.

**There are no visitor phone, internet, electricity, or power amenities.**

**Be careful, be safe, and enjoy your visit.** Remember that low visibility, fog, rain, and high winds may prevent transportation or emergency medical care for several days. Even during perfect weather an emergency evacuation could take many hours.



## Please Do Not

- ✗ **Do not** smoke, make noise, stand up, or move briskly at viewpoints.
- ✗ **Do not** feed the foxes or other wildlife.
- ✗ **Do not** go down to any beach at any time during your visit. All beaches are CLOSED to access.
- ✗ **Do not** go off the marked trail system or on any closed trails.
- ✗ **Do not** go beyond any of the yellow markers at the viewpoints.
- ✗ **Do not** pick or remove any flowers or other vegetation, ivory, artifacts, rocks, etc.
- ✗ **Do not** bring pets to Round Island. Pets are prohibited.