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Aleutian World War II

National Historic Area

Land-Use Permits

A Land Use Permit must be obtained to visit this privately owned park. Permits can be purchased Online at ounalashka.com.

Please note that access to Fort Schwatka as well as all bunkers and tunnels, is at the visitor's own risk. Please stay on marked trails and adhere to all rules to ensure a safe visit.

nps.gov/aleu/index.htm

Permits may be obtained online at
Ounalashka.com.





The Area Can Be Dangerous, Please Watch Your Step!

Time has taken its toll on the features of Fort Schwatka, and visitors should be aware of the hazards that exist within the National Historic Area.

The site preserves bunkers that are still in excellent condition; however, tunnel entrances leading into the bunkers are not stable or have caved in. Many of the floors were constructed of wood that has rotted over the years. There is no electricity on Ulakta Head and the underground buildings and tunnels are dark. Entrance into these tunnels and bunkers is at the visitor's risk. Cliff edges and collapsed tunnels may be hidden by dense fog. Please remain on roads and trails.

History

The cultural history of the Aleutian Islands dates as far back as 9000 years before present. Archaeological sites in and around Unalaska Bay have yielded evidence of a complex and sophisticated maritime culture that thrived for thousands of years. The landscape has also been modified by Russians, Americans, and the now thriving multi-ethnic fishing industry.

The Aleutian World War II National Historic Area you are currently visiting encompasses the historic footprint of the U.S. Army base Fort Schwatka. At 867 feet above sea level, Fort Schwatka is the highest coastal battery ever constructed in the United States. In 1996, Congress designated this National Historic Area to interpret, educate, and inspire present and future generations about the history of the Unangan people and the Aleutian Islands in the defense of the United States in World War II. The park is affiliated with the National Park Service.

Located on Amaknak Island in the Aleutian Islands of Alaska, the fort was the largest of four coastal defense posts built to protect Unalaska/Dutch Harbor during World War II. The remaining three outposts of the "Iron Ring" of defense surrounding Dutch Harbor were Fort Learnard on Eider Point, Fort Brumback in Summer Bay, and Hill 400 (locally known as Bunker Hill).

Construction began in 1941, and by 1942, Fort Schwatka had gun batteries, artillery fire control stations, ammunition magazines, an underground plotting-spotting switchboard building, and a combination Harbor Entrance Control Post and Harbor Defense Command Post (HECP-HDCP). Engineers built the concrete observation posts and command stations to withstand earthquakes and 100 mile-an-hour winds. In addition, a permanent garrison with bunkhouses, cabanas, Quonset huts, Bachelor Officers Quarters, a shop and mess halls were constructed at Fort Schwatka. There were a total of 100 buildings and 200 men during the war.



Be Safe and please supervise children and pets at all times!

- Please stay on the marked roads and pathways.
- We recommend visitors stay at least 20 feet from cliff edges.
- Cliff edges are steep and very often undercut.
- Unexpected wind gusts can cause a person to lose balance.

