

About Sitka

Sitka is located on the homelands of the Tlingit people who have lived in Shee At'iká since time immemorial. In 1799, Russian colonizers arrived in Sitka and gained permission from the Kiks.ádi clan to establish a trading post. The Russian trading company quickly violated this hospitality, eventually gained control, and designated Sitka as the capital of Russian America. In 1867 Russia illegitimately transferred the unceded territories of the Sheet'ká Kwáan to the United States. Sitka (pop. 8,500) is located on an island in the Pacific Ocean. Its main industries are tourism and fishing. People rely on the natural environment both for their livelihoods and to practice subsistence activities. Today about 20% of the population identifies as Tlingit or Haida. Today, the community continues to work to reconcile the harm caused to the Tlingit people and land through colonization. In Sitka, JVs address this through service at social service and environmental agencies- these agencies aim to serve Sitka by meeting direct needs of families and youth, caring for the environment, and increasing resilience in face of threats like climate and economic uncertainty.



Sitka, Alaska

Joys of Sitka

Sitka has an active volunteer and former volunteer community, both from JVC Northwest and from other service programs. The JV house is located right in downtown Sitka, and JVs can walk or bike just about anywhere in the city, including Sitka National Historical Park and Mt. Verstovia. There is an abundance of hiking trails near the JV house! Whale-watching, backpacking, and kayaking are just a few of many ways JVs can explore the natural diversity of this region.