

Sitka, Alaska

Joys of Sitka

Sitka has an active volunteer and former volunteer community from JVC Northwest and 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 (İKt'i X'aayf) and Mt. Verstovia (Kanéisdi Shaa). There is also an abundance of hiking trails near the JV house. Whale-watching, backpacking, and kayaking are just a few ways JVs can explore the natural diversity of this region.

About Sitka

Sheet'ká (Sitka) sits on the ancestral lands of the Lingít. First colonized by Russia, the lands of the Kiks.ádi clan were illegally sold to the US in 1867. More recently, unsustainable timber and seafood harvests have taken a toll on the region. The population is estimated at 8,500 people, and its main economies rely on tourism and fishing. Approximately 25 percent of the community identifies as indigenous. The impacts of violent settler colonialism and extraction are still felt in Sitka, but the community is working to reconcile and heal. JVCNW recognizes the harm it has historically contributed through missionary efforts and proactively works to address this by partnering with local nonprofit agencies serving Sitka and meeting the direct needs of families and youth, caring for the environment, and increasing resilience in the face of threats like climate and economic uncertainty.