Pribilof Islands ...

The "Galapagos of the North"

St. George Island

The Pribilof Islands are perfectly located in the nutrient rich Bering Sea. This nutrient laden water is the foundation of an amazing abundance of sealife. Seals and seabirds by the millions return every year to raise their young and feast on this bounty of the sea.

Fur Seals

Approximately 70% of the world's population of fur seals breed on the Pribilof Islands, about 800,000 animals. Much of the island's history hinged on fur seals. Seal furs fueled years of forced labor as Russians enslaved Unungan (Aleut) Natives to kill and process the seals. Under American control, commercial seal harvests dominated for many years. Today Unungan (Aleut) Natives still harvest fur seals for subsistence purposes.

Seabirds

This birder's mecca is home to one of the largest seabird colonies in the world. Over two million seabirds nest on the Pribilof's each summer including 80% of the world's population of red-legged kittiwakes. The proximity to Asia also yields rare Asian migrants. Unungan (Aleut) Natives recognized the significance and sensitivity of island nesting areas and sold the major sites for inclusion in the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge. The major threat today is from accidental introduction of rats.