

Sitka, AK

Known first as She-it-ka by the Tlingit people and then as Novo Arkhangelsk by the Russians, this town on Baranof Island at the Gulf of Alaska was the capital of Russian America from 1808 until 1867, then of the Alaska Territory until 1906. The

current population of 9,000 is isolated between Fuji-like Mt. Edgecumbe, Sitka Sound, and Mt. Verstovia. It features, in almost unbelievable quantity, the beauty of ocean and forest, and rain. The people include Tlingit, Haida, and Russian, with 20% of the population being Native Alaskan. Tourism from cruise ships is a large contributor to the economy. JVs have served in Sitka since 1992.

