

Kotzebue (Population: 3138)

Located on a peninsula near the discharge of the Kobuk and Noatak Rivers, Kotzebue is 26 miles above the Arctic Circle. The strategic location has served as a hub of ancient arctic trading routes long before the arrival of Europeans. Inupiaq Eskimos have occupied this site for nearly 600 years. The community was ultimately named for German Lt. Otto Von Kotzebue, who “discovered” Kotezebue Sound in 1818 for Russia. Kotzebue now serves as the service and transportation hub for all villages in the northwest region.