

Our Culture

Igiugig has cultural influences from our elders, and the ever-changing world we are in today. Dances, traditions, and stories have been collected and documented to further our knowledge of our history.

In this new century, old and new are converging, making our village one that rides between two ways of life. Living between two worlds, the villagers of Igiugig know both about their history and culture and the technological world we live in today. Our culture and history are passed down from our elders, through stories and experiences shared with the younger generations.

Subsistence is the practice of hunting, fishing, or gathering food to live on (not to resell), and is practiced by almost all the residents of Igiugig. Fishing for red salmon and gathering berries in the summer as well as hunting caribou or moose in the fall and winter constitute the primary subsistence activities of the village. In the past, our elders survived primarily on subsistence hunting and fishing, spending summers in Igiugig at the fish camp; tracking caribou in the fall.

Summers today are spent setting out the net to catch sockeye swimming up to spawning locations. It is not unusual to see the elders of Igiugig surrounded by the younger generations, eager to learn the old ways.

Igiugig is one of many villages that hold onto the old Yup'ik language. Communication between the elders is mostly in Yup'ik. In 2015 Igiugig Village Council launched a language revitalization project and are working diligently to grow new first generation language speakers.



About Igiugig

Nestled alongside Alaska's largest freshwater lake and the crystalline Kvichak River, Igiugig offers an unforgettable experience: trophy rainbow trout, world's greatest sockeye salmon run, breath taking scenery, and exceptional hospitality.

The name Igiugig, originated from a Yup'ik word Igyaraq, meaning "like a throat that swallows water". It is derived from the fact that we are located at the mouth of the Kvichak River (on the south bank) at its outlet from Lake Iliamna; the river "swallows" the lake.

The population is 69 people –primarily Yup'ik Eskimos, Aleuts, and Athabascans. Residents can trace their roots to the surrounding villages of Branch, Newhalen, Kaskanak Flats, Big Mountain, and Kukaklek Lake. Igiugig Village is part of an archaeological district spanning 10,000+ years of continual use and occupation. Our people originally lived 7 miles downstream and used Igiugig as a fishcamp, but at the turn of the century they permanently settled here. Several residents are descendants of reindeer herders. There were Laplander reindeer stations located near Igiugig around 1905. The Lake Iliamna drainage is known for its trophy rainbow trout and the Kvichak River boasts the largest sockeye salmon run in the world. Most residents travel around town or to other villages like Kokhanok, Levelock, Newhalen, and Iliamna by boat, ATVs, and snow machines.

The Igiugig Tribal Council publishes a monthly newsletter called "Igyararmiut Qallemciit" (see Downloads section). Igiugig is a member of the Lake and Peninsula Borough and School District. Enjoy viewing our pictorial display in the airport hangar building to learn more about the culture, values, and people of Igiugig.

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Village of Igiugig



Informational Brochure & Map

Village Information

Restroom and Shower Facilities: Public restrooms/showers are located at the Igiugig washeteria. If these are your primary bathroom facilities, there is a \$5.00/day charge, payable to the Igiugig Tribal Council.

Laundry Facilities: Coin laundry facilities are located at the washeteria. Coinage is available at the Igiugig Tribal Council office.

Igiugig Village Clinic: The clinic, staffed with one or two health aides, is open Monday-Friday, 9 AM-3 PM. The clinic phone number is 533-3207 the on call emergency cell is 907-533-6020.

Post Office: Post office hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 12-4 PM.

Store: Igiugig General Store Hours: Monday to Saturday 4:00 PM to 5 PM *

*Newly relocated to the white house near the Zackar's house-call 907-533-3069 to open or for questions

Public Phone: A public phone is located at the airport hangar.

Gasoline and Propane: Fuel is available through the Council office. Please check at the office for current prices. *There is a \$25.00 call out fee for after hours and weekend calls.

Trash Disposal/Recycling: Please consolidate all refuse and contact the IVC office for proper disposal. Hours of landfill operation are available at the IVC main offices. Igiugig recycles aluminum cans, foil, batteries, plastic, tin, electronics waste and used oil, so please segregate these items.

Community Library/Computer Lab: The village library/computer lab is located in Igiugig School and open to the public. Please stop by the Igiugig Tribal Council offices before using it as times are subject to change.

Library Hours:

Monday-Friday: 12:00-1:00 PM & 7:00-8:00 PM

Saturday: 12:00-2:00 PM.

Closed Sunday

Public Access

Public access roads are highlighted in red. The sportfish access trail is equipped with picnic tables, barbecue pits, and bear proof trash receptacles for your convenience. A popular place to enjoy fishing for red salmon is the island located below the trail. If traveling by boat, you can park it at the public boat landing. We hope that you enjoy your visit to Igiugig.

