

Onion Portage Archeological District National Historic Landmark Kobuk Valley, Alaska

Onion Portage, known locally as Paatitaaq, is roughly 100 miles east of the mouth of the Kobuk River and has been occupied for at least the last 8,000 years. Paatitaaq (Iñupiaq for "wild onions") is known by archeologists for its many layers of stratigraphy with the remains of thousands of years of camping, hunting, tool manufacturing, preparing game, and building homes at Onion Portage and surrounding area. Today, communities in the Kobuk River Valley continue to rely on fishing, hunting, and gathering as an important component of their local economy. When the Western Arctic caribou herd crosses the Kobuk River during its biannual migrations, locals continue the thousands of years of hunting traditions at Onion Portage.