



**Wales Sites National Historic
Landmark Kinjigin, Wales, Alaska**

The Wales Sites National Historic Landmark is made up of the Kurigitavik Mound site and the Hillside site. These archeological sites date back to at least 500 CE (Common Era) and include artifacts from the Birnik archaeological culture (the earliest recognizable manifestation of modern Inupiaq culture in Alaska). Wales, Alaska is a small village originally known as Kinjigin and the people who live there refer to themselves as Kingikmiut (the people of Kinjigin). Kinjigin and the Wales sites are strategically located at the point where the Russian mainland lies within reach by umiak from North America, about 68 miles. In the past, Kinjigin was the hub through which people, their material culture, and ideas would have passed from Siberia to Alaska since the submersion of the Bering Land Bridge by the Bering Sea.