Ambler, located on the north bank of the Kobuk River near the confluence of the Ambler and the Kobuk rivers, lies 45 miles north of the Arctic Circle and 138 miles northeast of Kotzebue. In 1958, people from Shungnak and Kobuk moved upstream because of the abundance of subsistence resources in the area and permanently settled Ambler. Subsistence is a major part of the local economy.

**DEMOGRAPHICS AND SOCIOECONOMICS**

- Year Incorporated: 1971
- Community Type: 2nd Class City
- Federally Recognized Tribe: Native Village of Ambler
- Percent Alaska Native/ American Indian alone or in combination (2013-2017): 96%
- Fuel Cost (2019):
  - Gasoline: $9.79/gallon
  - Heating Oil: $9.53/gallon
- Denali Commission Distressed Community (2018): Yes

**INFRASTRUCTURE**

- Electric Utility: Alaska Village Electric Cooperative
- Water System: Circ
- Wastewater System: Gravity
- Landfill Class: III
- Road Access: No
- Air Access: Gravel airport
- Runway 1: 2,400 ft x 60 ft
- Runway 2: 3,000 ft x 60 ft
- Dock/Port: Yes
- Barge Access: Seasonal

**EMPLOYMENT**

- Top Employers:
  - Ambler Elementary School: 10-19
  - Northwest Arctic Borough School District: 10-19
  - Native Village of Ambler: 10-19
  - US Federal Aviation Admin: 10-19
- Number of Active Business Licenses (2019): 10

**SCHOOLS**

- Ambler K-12 School:
  - Grades: Pre K-12
  - Enrollment: 75
  - Year Built: 2004

For more information, contact: Economic Development Commission of Northwest Alaska and NAB Economic Development Department, 907.442.8219; https://www.nwabor.org/departments/economic-development/
Located on the west bank of the Buckland River, Buckland is 75 miles southeast of Kotzebue. Residents have occupied at least five other sites along the river; the presence of fossils indicate prehistoric occupation of the area. Buckland is an Iñupiat village, and subsistence is an important part of the local economy.
Deering
Ipnatchiaq

Established in 1901 as a supply station for Interior gold mining, Deering is located on a sand and gravel spit in Kotzebue Sound at the mouth of the Inmachuk River. The local economy is a mix of cash and subsistence activities. Residents of the primarily Iñupiat village are interested in developing a craft production facility, cultural training center, and eco-tourism opportunities, including a road to Inmachuk Springs.

For more information, contact: Economic Development Commission of Northwest Alaska and NAB Economic Development Department, 907.442.8219; https://www.nwabor.org/departments/economic-development/
Kiana—“a place where three rivers meet”—is located at the confluence of the Kobuk and Squirrel Rivers, 57 miles east of Kotzebue. The Kobuk River Kowagmiut Iñupiat people settled the village hundreds of years ago. Subsistence is a significant part of the local economy. The village is interested in developing eco-tourism opportunities, such as guided river trips.
Kivalina
Kivaliniq

Kivalina is located between the Chukchi Sea and Kivalina River at the tip of an 8-mile barrier reef. Erosion and wind-driven ice have resulted in plans to relocate the village to a new site 2.5 miles away. Subsistence, including whaling, is an important part of the local economy.

For more information, contact: Economic Development Commission of Northwest Alaska and NAB Economic Development Department, 907.442.8219; https://www.nwabor.org/departments/economic-development/
Kobuk Laugviik

The smallest village in the Borough, Kobuk is located along the Kobuk river. The village was founded in 1899 as a supply point for mining activities. When the village relocated to Shungnak, remaining residents re-named the existing village Kobuk. The local economy is primarily based on subsistence activities.

For more information, contact: Economic Development Commission of Northwest Alaska and NAB Economic Development Department, 907.442.8219; https://www.nwabor.org/departments/economic-development/
Kotzebue
Qikiqtagruk

Kotzebue is located on the Baldwin Peninsula in Kotzebue Sound, 549 air miles from Anchorage and 26 miles above the Arctic Circle. As the service and transportation hub for all villages in the northwest region and the transfer point between ocean and inland shipping, Kotzebue has a healthy cash economy, growing private sector, and stable public sector. The Iñupiat people have occupied the site for at least 600 years.

For more information, contact: Economic Development Commission of Northwest Alaska and NAB Economic Development Department, 907.442.8219; https://www.nwabor.org/departments/economic-development/
COMMUNITY PROFILE

Noatak Nautaaq

Noatak, located 70 miles north of the Arctic Circle and west of the Noatak National Preserve, is the only settlement along the Noatak River. In the early 19th century, Noatak was established as a hunting and fishing camp; subsistence activities remain central to the culture and economy today.

For more information, contact: Economic Development Commission of Northwest Alaska and NAB Economic Development Department, 907.442.8219; https://www.nwabor.org/departments/economic-development/
Noorvik
Nuurvik

Noorvik—"a place that is moved to"—is downriver from the 1.7 million acre Kobuk Valley National Park on the Kobuk River and 45 miles east of Kotzebue. Fisherman and hunters from the village of Deering settled Noorvik in the early 1900s. Subsistence is actively practiced and an important part of the local economy.

For more information, contact: Economic Development Commission of Northwest Alaska and NAB Economic Development Department, 907.442.8219; https://www.nwabor.org/departments/economic-development/
Selawik
Akuligaq

Selawik is located at the mouth of the Selawik River, approximately 90 miles east of Kotzebue and near the Selawik National Wildlife Refuge. The village spans three riverbanks linked by bridges. Subsistence activities are an important part of the local economy.

For more information, contact: Economic Development Commission of Northwest Alaska and NAB Economic Development Department, 907.442.8219; https://www.nwabor.org/departments/economic-development/
Shungnak
Issingnak

Shungnak, on the west bank of the Kobuk River, was originally located 10 miles further upstream at Kobuk until river erosion and flooding forced the village to relocate. Issingnak is the Iñupiat word for jade, which is found throughout the neighboring hills. Shungnak is an Iñupiat village where subsistence is an important part of the economy.

For more information, contact: Economic Development Commission of Northwest Alaska and NAB Economic Development Department, 907.442.8219; https://www.nwabor.org/departments/economic-development/