



**Yukon Island Main Site National Historic Landmark
Kachemak Bay, Alaska**

Yukon Island is called Ni'ka ("big island") in Athabascan. The Island's position at the outlet of Kachemak Bay is the ideal vantage point to oversee the passage of boats in and out of the bay, and to control access to the bay's wealth of resources. Kachemak Bay and the Gulf of Alaska region are an intersection where Athabascan, Yup'ik, and Alutiiq territories overlap. Archeological sites in Kachemak Bay have been found to extend from 2500 BCE (Before Common Era) to the recent past. The Yukon Island sites were studied by Dr. Frederica de Laguna, the first woman anthropologist and archeologist to dedicate her career to Alaskan history. Dr. de Laguna excavated the Yukon Island sites on her first expedition to Alaska in 1930, bringing her brother Wallace as her assistant and as a bear guard. She wrote the *Archaeology of Cook Inlet, Alaska* (1934), the first modern monograph on Alaska culture and history about an area little understood by outsiders.