



*We welcome you in the name of Christ to Saint Nilus Skete
and the land of Saint Herman of Alaska.
We hope you will find spiritual rest here from the cares of the world.*

*Because our life here is unique,
we offer this practical advice for your pilgrimage.*

When to come:

We welcome women pilgrims from May until mid-September. We are unable to receive guests between late September and April due to the stormy seas which prevent safe travel. Our guesthouse is a one-room log cabin with three beds, heated by a wood stove. We have no indoor plumbing. We are not able to accommodate men overnight in our skete, but they are welcome for day visits.

What to bring:

Pack warm clothing. Kodiak's weather is variable; while it might be warm and sunny during your stay, it may also be windy, cool and rainy. Open skiffs (boats) are our primary mode of transportation, so come prepared to be "out in the elements." You must be agile enough to climb in and out of the skiff.

- You will want a hat, a warm jacket, leggings and perhaps a pair of gloves. We recommend bringing clothes for layering.
- Bring a sturdy rain jacket (not just a poncho). You may also want rain pants.
- Standard-height rubber boots (not ankle height) are a must for boarding the skiff from the beach. They are also useful on hikes (trails on Spruce Island can be boggy), so be sure your pair is comfortable for walking. They can easily be purchased in Kodiak.
- You may want to bring a comfortable pair of shoes for outdoor work.
- We generally do not wear "outdoor" shoes in our house or chapel. You may want to bring a pair of slippers, slip-on shoes, or heavy socks for wearing indoors.
- We also suggest bringing a flashlight or headlamp.
- We urge you to travel as light as possible and not to bring large suitcases that you cannot easily carry.

We follow the traditional customary “dress code” of Orthodox monasteries, asking that women wear modest, long-sleeved shirts, skirts that fall below the knee, and head coverings. We ask that men wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants.

Travel Arrangements:

- Before making your travel reservations, please contact us at: PO Box 18, Ouzinkie, AK 99644. The space in our guesthouse is limited.
- After receiving your letter with your phone number, we will call you in order to discuss your options for transportation to our island. There is no regular, scheduled boat service.
- As you plan your itinerary, keep in mind that inclement weather can make it necessary for you to stay in Kodiak for a night or two at the beginning or end of your pilgrimage.

In the Monastery:

Building project: This summer, we will –God willing– continue the construction of a large building. We hope you will enjoy being a part of our growth, and that you will forgive us if, in the midst of construction, the silence and solitude of our island – one of the “treasures” we delight in sharing with you – seems in short supply!

Daily Schedule: Pilgrims join the sisters for all services in the chapel, as well as for common meals.

Cell Phones: So that you and others can fully benefit from the atmosphere of the monastery, we ask all guests to limit cell phone use. Cell phone coverage on the island is limited and variable. Please be aware that we are “off the grid” and have limited electricity; always check with one of the sisters before charging electrical devices.

Photographs: Please enjoy taking photos of the island and wildlife; we request, however, that you ask the blessing of the abbess before taking pictures of the monastics or other guests.

Special Diets: If you have any dietary restrictions or allergies to pets or foods, please let us know prior to your visit. Our remote and rustic conditions might prevent us from accommodating your health needs.

May God bless you! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

–The sisterhood of St. Nilus Skete