

Chukotka

The museum's Chukotka Exhibition has come about in connection with the Uummannaq Children's Home visit to Chukotka – previously known as the Far East. They met their kinsmen and kinswomen from Russia, and exchanged culture and experiences.

Ethnic groups

Around 52,000 people live in Chukotka:

30,000 Russians

20,000 Chukachi

1,700 Yupik Eskimo (Inuit)



In the local dialect, Yupik means "an honest person". They often simply call themselves "Eskimos".

Languages

Yupik is an Eskimo language, which is thought to have originated in western Alaska, from where the population expanded, first towards the west and later towards the east. Consequently, the language diverged into two separate Eskimo languages: Yupik and Inuit Inupiat (which includes Greenlandic and other languages).

The official language in Chukotka is Russian, and today only a few older Yupik Eskimos speak Yupik fluently.

Despite this, for Yupik Eskimos the language is strongly associated with ethnic identification, especially since the fall of the Soviet Union. Today, the Yupik language is more domain-based and situation-based.

It is used in cultural contexts, e.g. when talking about hunting, the weather, talking to seniors, "children's speech", expressing oneself in anger, traditional songs/ceremonies, or when making a joke.

Economy

Living standards continue to be low, the economy is very informal (barter, hunting, pure breeding, fishing, handicrafts, gathering berries, etc.)

But Chukotka is now the third largest producer of gold in Russia. A lot of energy is being put into upskilling the indigenous population, so they can be employed in the industry.



Anadyr - the main administrative center

Sources:

<http://sprog museet.dk/sprogpolitik/eskimoisk-i-fjernosten>

Sermitsiaq, 7 November 2013: "International Inuit Dag is celebrated in Chukotka".