

Alaskan Spends Christmas in Moscow, Awaits Deportation

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An American citizen who had mistakenly sailed from Alaska to Russia is reportedly spending Christmas in Moscow's temporary detention facility awaiting deportation.

John Martin III, 46, was [seeking](#) to reunite with his estranged family in China when he [washed](#) ashore in an abandoned Far East Russian village in August. A court in Russia's Chukotka autonomous district found him in breach of immigration rules and [ordered](#) him removed from the country.

"The foreigner was escorted to Moscow by plane," Interfax quoted the Chukotka autonomous region's Federal Court Marshals Service as [saying](#) Tuesday.

Related article: [Alaskan Sails to Russia, Requests Political Asylum](#)

A series of Martin's blog posts detailing his journey [claim](#) the court rejected his latest appeal last Tuesday and he was set to be [shepherded](#) to Moscow on the next available flight.

Martin will remain in Moscow's temporary holding center for foreign citizens until he collects the needed travel documents, according to Interfax. Alaska Public Media [reports](#) the Anchorage native had his passport revoked over unpaid child support.

The drifter wrote on his blog that a friend had arranged to [donate](#) his eight-foot rowboat he had sailed from Alaska to Chukotka to a local museum. In a phone interview with Alaska Public Media, Martin said he plans to publish a book about his journey and use the earnings to pay off child support and get his passport.

“[E]ven once they do deport me, you know, I do hope to reach China,” he was quoted as saying.

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