

In First, Putin Visits Far East Russia's Chukotka

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Putin tours a greenhouse in Chukotka on Wednesday. Gavriil Grigorov / TASS

President Vladimir Putin has traveled to the Chukotka autonomous district, the Kremlin <u>said</u> Wednesday, the first time he has visited Russia's easternmost region during his more than two decades in power.

"The head of state will inspect a year-round greenhouse complex, talk to residents and meet with the governor in the city of Anadyr [the capital of Chukotka]," the Kremlin said in a statement.

Chutkota shares a maritime border with the U.S. state of Alaska, which is located across the Bering Strait.

The last Russian leader to visit Chukotka was former President Dmitry Medvedev in 2008.

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Around 100 residents were <u>filmed</u> watching Putin's motorcade in temperatures of minus 30 degrees Celsius, according to the regional news website 7x7.

The outlet said Chukotka's administration previously announced Putin's meeting with a "small circle" of local public figures, entrepreneurs, teachers, doctors and soldiers who fought in Ukraine.

Kremlin pool reporters <u>said</u> Putin drove around the region on an all-terrain vehicle called "Khishchnik" (Russian for "predator") during the trip, his first this year.

"We're mastering domestic [goods production]," Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov<u>told</u> state TV reporters as he boarded a "Khishchnik."

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