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Wild, Exotic, Arctic! Your Adventure Awaits.

Dare to explore where relatively few visitors trek each year—to the far reaches of Canada's Arctic. Discover protected ecosystems of the vast and rugged north. Celebrate the establishment of some of Canada's newest national parks. Meet the people who call the Arctic home.

Auyuittuq, Quttinirpaaq, Sirmilik and Ukkusiksalik showcase inspiring, dynamic and spectacularly beautiful examples of the Arctic's natural regions. These national parks are among the most remote and northerly in the world and are protected for their unique natural and cultural environments for today's Canadians and future generations.

Nunavut. *Real. Inspiring.*



Parks Canada Parcs Canada

Canada



Welcome

Quttinirpaaq National Park

The park is on northern Ellesmere Island. To get to Quttinirpaaq, visitors arrive by charter airplane from Resolute Bay, from late May to late August. Contact park staff for information about sharing charter flights with other visitors or choose your trip with a licensed tour operator.

Sirmilik National Park

The park is on northern Baffin Island. Local outfitters from Pond Inlet or Arctic Bay provide snow machine access in spring (May and June) and boat access in summer and early fall (August and September) to the park. During ice break up in July the park is not accessible.

Auyuittuq National Park

Located on southern Baffin Island, access to the park is from Pangnirtung and Qikiqtarjuaq. In winter/spring local outfitters provide transportation by snow machine or dog team to the park. In summer and early fall, access to the park is by boat. During ice break-up and freeze-up the park is virtually inaccessible.

Ukkusiksalik National Park

Located on the west coast of Hudson Bay, Ukkusiksalik can be accessed using local tour operators from Rankin Inlet, Repulse Bay, Coral Harbour, Chesterfield Inlet and Baker Lake. In summer, access is by air charter or boat (July and August).



How to get here by sea or air

Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet are the starting points for access to the parks and their neighbouring communities once you've arrived in Nunavut.

Expedition cruise tours to Nunavut, including the Northwest Passage, can involve visits to national parks and national historic sites as part of their itineraries. Shore visits with day hikes to see the landscape up close and opportunities to see marine wildlife, archaeological sites and take part in local cultural events abound.



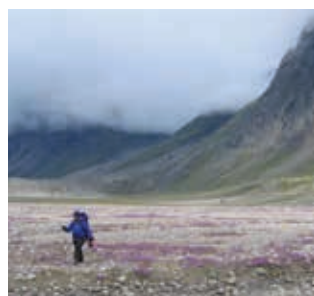


Auyuittuq

The Land That Never Melts

Sweeping glaciers and polar ice meet the jagged granite mountains of Auyuittuq National Park, where the park protects 19 089 km² of glacier scoured terrain and includes the highest peaks of the Canadian Shield, such as internationally famous Thor Peak, Mount Asgard, the Penny Ice Cap and Akshayuk Pass.

Marine life, such as narwhal and ringed seal, thrive in the coastal fiords of Auyuittuq. Inland, the landscape is windswept and rocky with small pockets of vegetation that explode into wildflower colours in summer. Evidence of the dynamic nature of this park and the erosive action of ice, wind and water can be seen all around as you explore the park's challenging terrain.



Choose Your Adventure

Auyuittuq's glaciers, rock cliffs and mountains provide world-class opportunities for spring ski touring and ski mountaineering and summer climbing, hiking, backpacking and camping in a spectacular wilderness.

Akshayuk Pass, a 97 km corridor between the communities of Qikiqtarjuaq and Pangnirtung that bracket the park, has been traversed by Inuit for hundreds of years. Most modern visitors anchor their adventures to the pass.

Remnants of ancient cultures can be seen in the park. Visitors may see tent rings, kayak stands, inuksuit, fox traps and other evidence of human habitation.



Quttinirpaaq

Place at the Top of the World

The High Arctic is THE choice for the truly adventurous. A mere 720 km from the North Pole, it encompasses one of the most northern points of land on our planet. Mountainous and glaciated Quttinirpaaq National Park represents the Eastern High Arctic Glacier natural region.

World-class features include: ice caps up to 900 metres thick and the lush Lake Hazen ecosystem, a thermal tundra oasis within a valley of south-facing mountains. The park boasts 150 species of plants, 192 species of moss, 44 species of lichen, and a rich diversity of arctic wildlife. In the High Arctic, plants and animals are sparsely scattered.



While visiting Quttinirpaaq it is possible to see muskox, arctic wolf, arctic fox, lemming, arctic hare, weasel and thirty species of migrating shore and sea birds. The park is home to the endangered Peary caribou.

Quttinirpaaq National Park and its surrounding region has a rich legacy of cultural resources that tell the story of human occupation of the area—a story that dates back thousands of years.

Choose Your Adventure

The visitor season is brief but as Canada's second largest national park there are lots of choices for unique High Arctic experiences.

Hikers can explore the park from drop-off points at Tanquary Fiord, at Lake Hazen or Historic Fort Conger, by special permission. Because much of the park is glaciated, ski touring is possible for most of the season.

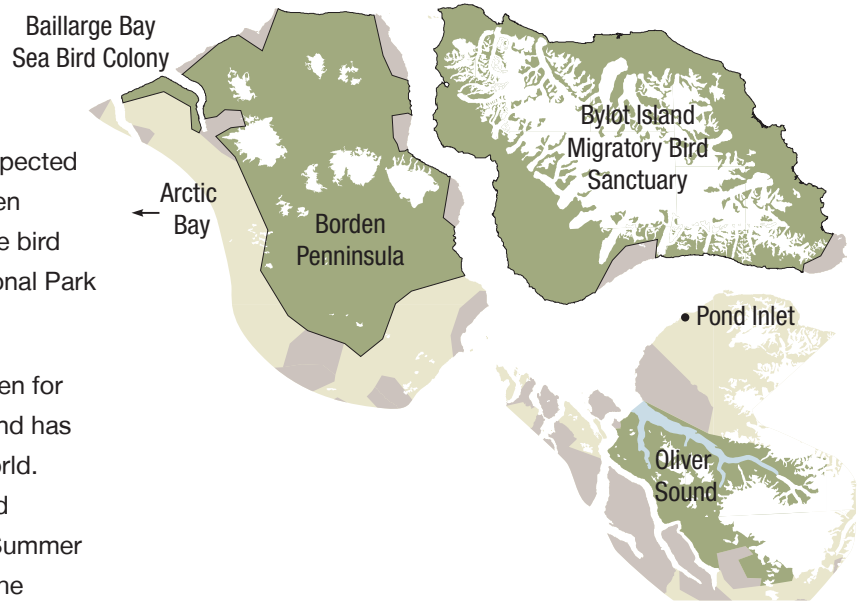


Sirmilik

Place of Glaciers

Glaciers spilling into the sea, icebergs afloat, unexpected geological formations, sea ice fractured by the open water of the floe edge, and one of the most diverse bird communities in the High Arctic make Sirmilik National Park a surprising collection of options for visitors.

The Bylot Island Migratory Bird Sanctuary is a haven for seabirds, migratory waterfowl and other wildlife, and has the largest colony of greater snow geese in the world. Thousands of thick-billed murres and black-legged kittiwakes colonize the bird cliffs within the park. Summer wildflowers and red sandstone hoodoos sprinkle the plateau and river valleys of the Borden Peninsula. Kayakers can explore the waters of Oliver Sound.



Choose Your Adventure

From bird watching to botany, the natural and cultural features of Sirmilik are sure to delight those willing to brave the rugged conditions of the region.

A high plateau and broad river valleys of the Borden Peninsula and the variety of terrain of Bylot Island are prime hiking destinations in summer and provide ski opportunities in spring. Arctic water kayaking is starting to develop in this region.

The most popular wildlife viewing is guided, spring floe edge tours where visitors may see narwhal and beluga whales, seal, polar bear and many species of birds.

Experience the warmth and hospitality of modern-day Inuit in the communities of Pond Inlet and Arctic Bay.



Ukkusiksalik

The Place Where There is Stone That Can Be Used to Carve Pots and Oil Lamps

Ukkusiksalik National Park represents the Central Tundra Natural Region of Canada. The geological foundation of mudflats, cliffs, rolling hills, tundra banks and unique coastal regions along with a reversing waterfall created by tidal action, await visitors who come to explore the park. Ukkusiksalik surrounds Wager Bay, a 100 km long saltwater inlet on the northwest coast of Hudson Bay. It is a rich arctic location that supports high densities of polar bear and an array of other wildlife such as caribou, muskox, wolf, seal, golden eagle and peregrine falcon.



Concentrations of wildlife supported Inuit who lived in the area from AD 1000 through to the 1960s. Ukkusiksalik is the traditional homeland of the modern Inuit who live in the area and maintain living ties to the land. Over 500 archaeological sites have been identified in the park, including such features as fox traps, tent rings and food caches. The Hudson's Bay Company had a trading post here from 1925–1947.



Choose Your Adventure

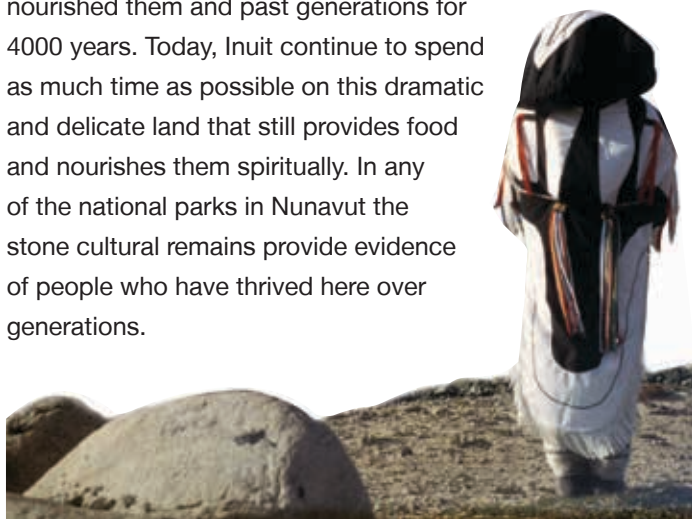
Experienced guides and outfitters lead day hikes along the rolling hills surrounding Wager Bay to see abundant wildlife and countless individual cultural sites scattered throughout the park.

Getting to the park by boat with an experienced outfitter is a great Arctic adventure and a wonderful way to experience Wager Bay. It is the safest way to view polar bear and the surest way to see the abundant marine life including seal, beluga whale and occasional narwhal.



Shared Stewardship

Together, Parks Canada and Inuit protect the national parks in Nunavut. The parks are cooperatively managed with advice provided by management boards appointed by both Inuit and the Government of Canada and Inuit make up half Parks Canada staff. Inuit had no words in Inuktitut for “park;” these areas were all part of the land that has nourished them and past generations for 4000 years. Today, Inuit continue to spend as much time as possible on this dramatic and delicate land that still provides food and nourishes them spiritually. In any of the national parks in Nunavut the stone cultural remains provide evidence of people who have thrived here over generations.



Nationally, Parks Canada protects and showcases a system of national treasures (parks, marine conservation areas, historic sites and canals) providing outstanding visitor experiences and educational opportunities while preserving these special places for future generations.

Climate

The polar marine climate is characterized by long, cold, dark winters and short, cool summers with endless daylight.

Safety in Polar Bear Country

Nanuq, the great white bear, is found in many of Canada’s northern national parks and in some national historic sites. For your safety, and the safety of the bears, learn about safe travel in polar bear country and take precautions.



Travel Tips

Visiting a national park in Nunavut is one of the world’s great adventures. It is also a serious adventure. Local outfitters can provide boat or snow machine or air transportation to the park but visitors must carry appropriate gear, be self-reliant and able to handle any emergencies.



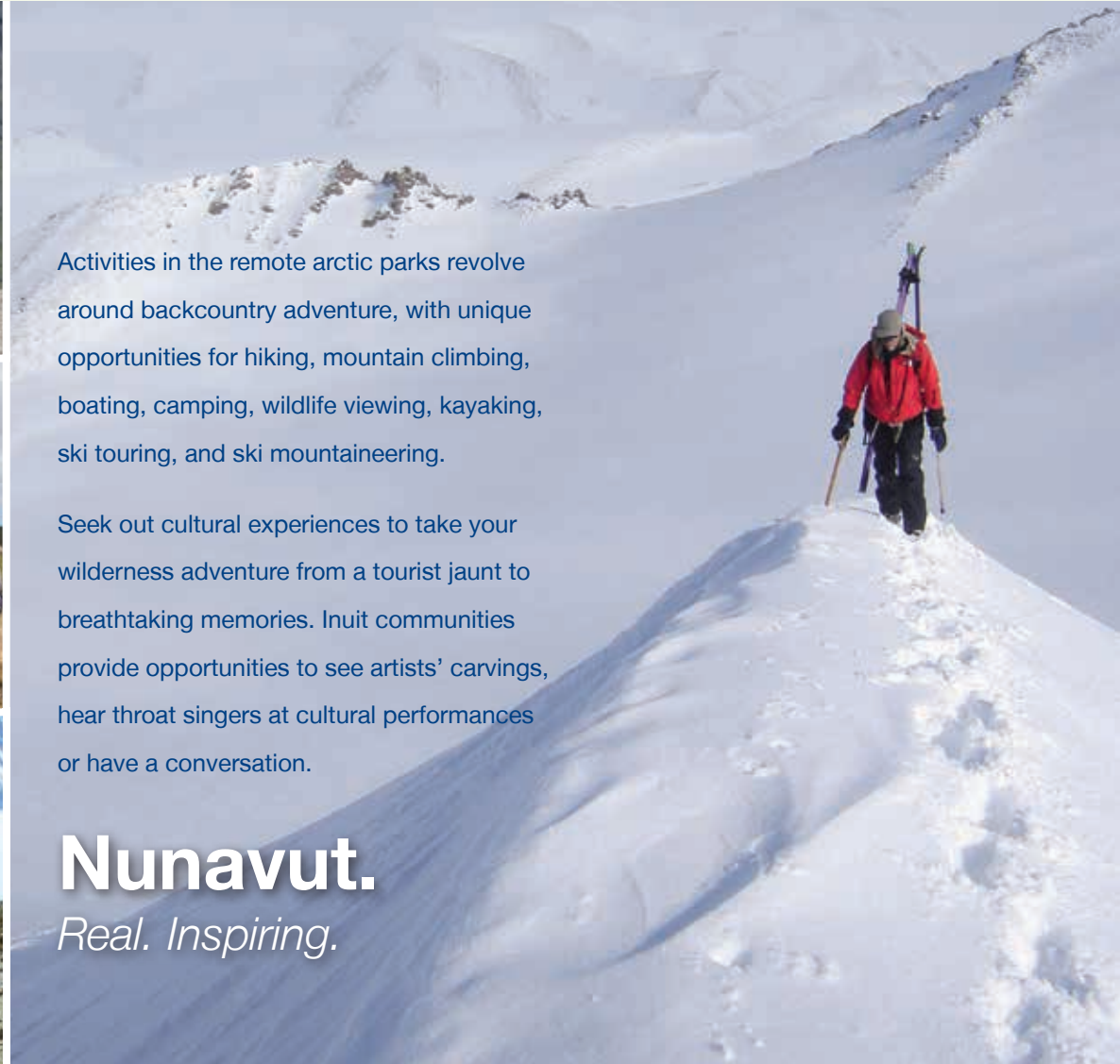
All visitors must register and participate in an orientation before entering a national park. Contact us for a complete package of pre-trip planning information and to book your orientation session.

Come prepared to accept the Arctic on its own terms and it will open its heart to you.

Experience the warmth and hospitality of modern-day Inuit in the remote communities near the parks and consider the extra time to be not only a buffer for unexpected delays, but also an essential and exciting part of your northern experience.

Experience a Canadian national treasure

Auyuittuq, Sirmilik, Quttinirpaaq, and Ukkusiksalik
National Parks of Canada



Activities in the remote arctic parks revolve around backcountry adventure, with unique opportunities for hiking, mountain climbing, boating, camping, wildlife viewing, kayaking, ski touring, and ski mountaineering.

Seek out cultural experiences to take your wilderness adventure from a tourist jaunt to breathtaking memories. Inuit communities provide opportunities to see artists' carvings, hear throat singers at cultural performances or have a conversation.

Nunavut.
Real. Inspiring.



For more information

Visit the Parks Canada website: parkscanada.gc.ca
or call toll-free: 1-888-773-8888

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