

## Visitor Information Package

To arrive prepared, to identify backcountry challenges and to plan an enriching Arctic experience, please read this package thoroughly.

# For More Information

To reach park staff between September and early May, please contact Parks Canada in Iqaluit or visit our website. During the summer field season (approximately mid-May to mid-August), the Pangnirtung Office will assist you in connecting with field staff.

## Iqaluit Office

Phone: (867) 975-4673  
Fax: (867) 975-4674  
nunavut.info@canada.ca

## Pangnirtung Office

Phone: (867)-473-2500  
Fax: (867)-473-8612  
nunavut.info@canada.ca

## Hours of Operation

Year-round  
Monday to Friday 8:30 am - 12 noon, 1 pm - 5 pm

[parkscanada.gc.ca/quttinirpaaq](http://parkscanada.gc.ca/quttinirpaaq)



Eckblaw Lake © A. Stubbing / Parks Canada

## Related Websites

**Quttinirpaaq National Park website:** [parkscanada.gc.ca/quttinirpaaq](http://parkscanada.gc.ca/quttinirpaaq)

**Nunavut Tourism:** [www.nunavuttourism.com](http://www.nunavuttourism.com)

**Mirnguiqsirviit – Nunavut Territorial Parks:** [www.nunavutparks.com](http://www.nunavutparks.com)

**Weather Conditions –**

*Resolute:* [www.weatheroffice.gc.ca/city/pages/nu-27\\_metric\\_e.html](http://www.weatheroffice.gc.ca/city/pages/nu-27_metric_e.html)

*Grise Fiord:* [www.weatheroffice.gc.ca/city/pages/nu-12\\_metric\\_e.html](http://www.weatheroffice.gc.ca/city/pages/nu-12_metric_e.html)

**Transport Canada:** [www.tc.gc.ca](http://www.tc.gc.ca)

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## As of 2012...

1. Park closures may be in effect in the event of extreme flooding. See River Crossing information on page 11 for more information.
2. Mountain Guide certification is required for all guides leading clients in glaciated and / or technical mountain terrain. See page 13 for more information.



## **MIDNIGHT IN QUTTINIRPAAQ NATIONAL PARK – YOU’LL LOVE THE NIGHTLIFE.**

Be on top of the world, literally, for two-weeks on Ellesmere Island. Explore from Tanquary Fjord during day trips and multi-day backpacking adventures. See the midnight sun, glaciers, polar desert, muskoxen, and wolves; walk the 4500-year old Muskox Way, the route of ancient peoples. While mostly self-guided, Park staff delight in sharing their knowledge of local natural and cultural history.

Contact [nunavutinfo@canada.ca](mailto:nunavutinfo@canada.ca) to ask for more information or call 1-888-773-8888.

## **Nunavut’s Iconic Experiences**

There are five national parks in Nunavut representing various examples of Canada’s 39 natural regions - Quttinirpaaq (Eastern High Arctic), Sirmilik (Eastern Arctic Lowlands), Ukkusiksalik (Central Tundra) and Auyuittuq (Northern Davis), and Qausuittuq (Western High Arctic).

Quttinirpaaq offers an annual charter in July that leaves from Resolute and flies to Tanquary Fjord return. Multi Day hiking routes or day trips using Tanquary Fjord station as a base camp are activity options. Check out <https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/nu/quttinirpaaq/activ/experiences>.

# Welcome

Quttinirpaaq, Inuktitut for “Land at the Top of the World”, is a vast, ancient, sprawling landscape in the extreme high Arctic that has the expected: ice caps enclosing mountains, kilometres thick glaciers, worn mountains, and sparse tundra. But it also has the unexpected: the highest mountain in eastern North America (Barbeau Peak) and a thermal oasis in the Lake Hazen area. Lake Hazen, one of the largest and deepest lakes in the world above the Arctic Circle, has remarkably lush vegetation and supports higher densities of wildlife than the rest of the park. Wildlife are so unaccustomed to humans that they do not react in fear.

Quttinirpaaq is the largest National Park in Nunavut and is 800 km north of Resolute by Twin Otter charter aircraft. The park extends to the Polar Ice Cap – the last edge of North America before the North Pole’s sea ice begins.

Be among the intrepid explorers that are venturing into one of the most remote places in the world. Join the ranks of people who have strode this land in the past, from when it drew Greenlandic hunters along the Muskox Way to North Pole adventurers who over-wintered in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and scientists in the 1950’s who studied the high Arctic during the International Geophysical Year.

See nesting birds that fly from Pole to Pole or visit from Africa and Europe. Watch muskox, and the rare Peary caribou feed on lichens, avens and sedges. Take in profusions of wildflowers or lichen as far as the eye can see. Cross glaciers or glacier-fed icy rivers. Bask under high-in-the-sky intense sunlight at midnight. Catch sight of arctic wolves searching for lemmings and watch in amazement as herds of huge arctic hare sprint on their hind legs, brilliant white against the brown tundra.

Come to hike, ski or climb the mountains and be prepared to be awed.



Photo: S. Chisholm

# Important Information

## Pre-Trip

### Before booking my travel I have:

- contacted Parks Canada in Nunavut
- allowed sufficient time when I arrive at the park to attend a mandatory orientation and registration session
- received and read the Quttinirpaaq National Park Visitor Information Package (this publication)
- received the *Safety in Polar Bear Country* brochure

### For hiking from Tanquary Fiord May-August I have:

- provided Parks Canada with a detailed itinerary of my planned trip including any side trips
- ensured my skills and experience are equal to the needs of the trip
- contacted Parks Canada to arrange to attend an orientation and registration session

### For travel before May I have:

- provided Parks Canada with a detailed route description of my planned trip
- ensured that my skills and experience are equal to the needs of the trip
- booked my flights accordingly to attend an orientation and registration session in Iqaluit.

### I have booked a time for my registration and orientation.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

## Post-Trip

### Before leaving the park I will:

- contact Parks Canada to de-register
- complete the Nunavut Visitor Survey



Photo: M. Manseau

## Permits

Permits are required for operating a business (guiding, outfitting), filming and commercial photography, research, landing an aircraft, establishing a cache or base camp or transporting a firearm through the park. Permits must be acquired through the Parks Canada office well in advance (some permits may take 90 days or more to be issued). Research permits are only issued in winter or spring.

## Registration and De-registration

For visitor safety, **it is mandatory to register all trips into the park prior to entering and to de-register once done.** If you plan on travelling on Inuit-owned land contact the Qikiqtani Inuit Association at 1-800-667-2742 for permission. During the registration and orientation we can point out areas of interest along your route. This information helps make your trip safe and enjoyable. We also provide information on the hazards present in the park, and the risks associated with the activities you plan to undertake. You will be briefed on current route conditions, weather, water levels, area closures, park regulations, polar bear sightings and much more.

### To register your trip:

- During the operational season (approximately May - August), this session will take place at one of the operations stations in the park. Allow one to two hours for registration and orientation. Sessions are available during office hours, Mon-Fri 8:30 am to 12 noon and 1 pm to 5 pm. Ask your charter company to contact park staff at Tanquary Fiord to provide your estimated arrival time.
- Prior to May, book a time at the Parks Canada office in Iqaluit during office hours (Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 12 noon and 1 pm to 5:00 pm).
- You must contact the Park office a minimum of 48 hours ahead to book your orientation time.

### To de-register your trip:

- Within 24 hours of completing your trip you must contact Parks Canada Staff to de-register.
- Visit the Parks Canada station in Tanquary Fiord, or phone the Iqaluit office 24 hours a day and leave a message to indicate that your party has successfully completed your trip.
- If you wish to speak to a Parks Canada staff person please call during office hours.

### *What information will you need to provide when you arrive?*

- The name, address and phone number of each group member and an emergency contact for each member;
- A de-registration date (date you plan to exit the park);
- The name(s) of the local outfitter(s) that you plan to use;
- Your flight information;
- A list of your equipment (brand, number, colour, etc), your satellite phone number or inReach information (if applicable);
- The type of activities you will undertake; and,
- Your detailed in-park trip plans.



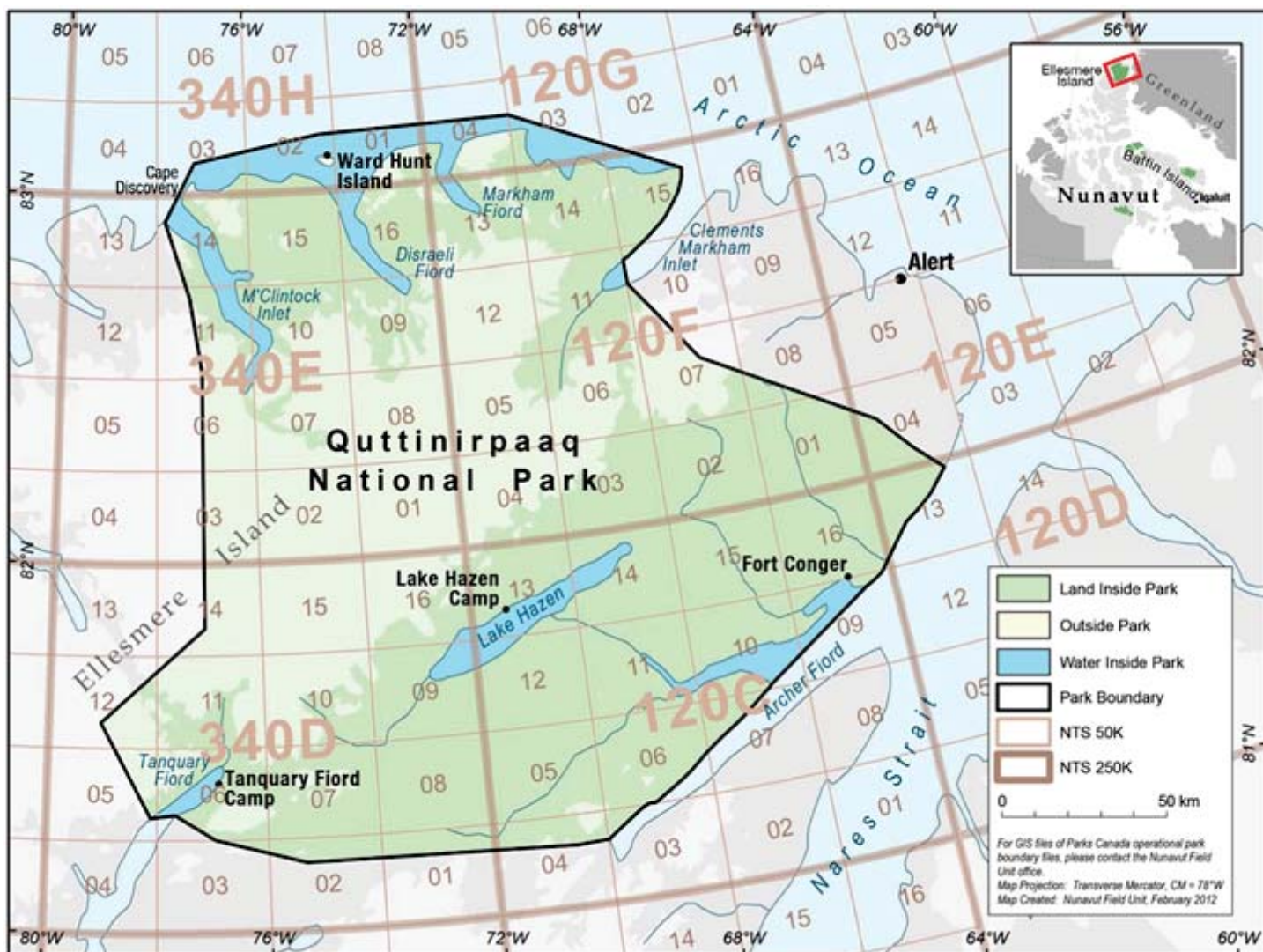
D. Stern / Parks Canada

# Planning your Trip

## Topographic Maps

Route planning is easiest with 1:250,000 maps but you should navigate with the appropriate 1:50,000 maps. The map below indicates which topographic maps cover the park. Information on where to purchase maps can be found on the Natural Resources Canada website (<http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/earth-sciences/geography/topographic-information/maps/10995>). Quttinirpaaq lies within the area of compass unreliability. GPS receivers are recommended for navigation. Keep in mind that you should keep batteries warm and even the best unit can fail. Bring a backup unit, extra batteries and the right maps. Arctic weather is very changeable; you may be required to navigate in poor visibility conditions at any time of year.

**Please note: Maps that you receive are up-to-date only to the year indicated on the map.** Care must be taken when using topographic maps to prevent unnecessary accidents.





# Emergency Medical Travel & Visitors to Nunavut

From the Nunavut Department of Health website (<http://gov.nu.ca/health/information/medical-travel>):

If you are not a resident of Nunavut and you need medical travel during your stay in the territory, you will be responsible for all medical travel costs.

Visitors needing medevac will be invoiced for the full cost of the flight.

No travel assistance is offered to visitors to return home. You will need to make your own travel arrangements if you wish to return to the community you were visiting.

***The Department of Health suggests that you buy travel insurance before visiting Nunavut.*** Health care in Nunavut can be very expensive. Be prepared for emergencies.



Image: Alex Stubbing

## How to Get Here

### ***Air Access to Nunavut***

Currently, First Air offers regular flight service to Resolute from Iqaluit. First Air and Canadian North flies to Iqaluit through Ottawa or Montreal.

**Please Note:** If you are shipping supplies from an international location, please at least an additional allow 4-6 weeks for these items to clear customs on top of the normal shipping time.

**First Air Ltd.**  
1-800-267-1247  
[www.firstair.ca](http://www.firstair.ca)

**Canadian North**  
1-800-661-1505  
[www.canadiannorth.com](http://www.canadiannorth.com)

**Weather conditions in the north may dictate your travel schedule.  
Be flexible enough to allow for lengthy delays in your plans.**

## ***Getting to Quttinirpaaq from Resolute***

Access is by chartered aircraft on a Twin Otter from Resolute. A return flight from here to Tanquary Fiord costs about \$60,000, depending on fuel costs. Other locations in the park have additional fees. Call Kenn Borek for more information. Twin Otters can carry eight to nine people and up to 1200 kilograms, so it is most economical to coordinate with other travellers. Parks Canada also offers a charter flight in July, at a reduced cost, as part of our Top of the World experience. For information on this charter, please email [nunavut.info@canada.ca](mailto:nunavut.info@canada.ca).

Kenn Borek Air offers charters directly from Resolute. Charter companies are very busy during the summer and their availability will vary. Make your travel arrangements well in advance.

[www.borekair.com](http://www.borekair.com)

### **Kenn Borek Air Ltd.**

Resolute: (867) 252-3845

E-mail: [yrb@kbaops.com](mailto:yrb@kbaops.com)

Iqaluit: (867) 979-0040

Fax: (867) 979-0132

Email: [yfb@borekair.com](mailto:yfb@borekair.com)



## ***Travelling with Dangerous Goods on Commercial Airlines***

Transport Canada has several regulations regarding the transport of used stoves and fuel bottles. For details about how to treat your gear in order to transport it on a plane please go to the following link:

<https://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/civilaviation/standards/commerce-dangerousgoods-menu-1578.htm>

If you have any questions about these regulations please contact the inspector from your region. A list of contacts can be found at: <https://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/tdg/safety-menu.htm>

***We recommend bringing new, unused stoves and new, empty fuel canisters with you to avoid difficulties when travelling.***

***Bear deterrents and many noisemaking devices used to scare bears are strictly prohibited from travel on airplanes.***

We recommend buying your stove fuel in the community where you begin your trip (Resolute or Grise Fiord) and leaving any unused fuel behind at the end of your trip. White gas is readily available in the communities though it's a good idea to call ahead and confirm. Outfitters or the Hunters and Trappers Organizations in both communities often accept leftover white gas. You can also check with local outfitters or stores to see if bear deterrents are available for purchase locally.

# Community Information

## Local Outfitters

The town of Resolute is well serviced by local outfitters who can take you out on the land. Exceptional examples of high arctic wildlife, culture and history are easily reached within a day from town. Please contact the hamlet office for more details (867) 252-3616.

You may wish to make a side trip to the picturesque community of Grise Fiord, Canada's most northerly community. It is about 360 km northeast of Resolute on the southern shore of Ellesmere Island. Arrangements for accommodations and outfitting services can be made through the Grise Fiord Inuit Co-operative at (867) 980-9917.

**Please Note:** Outfitters must have a current National Parks Business Licence to operate in the park.

Ensure your outfitter has a current licence before hiring them. This package was produced in advance of the annual licensing and permitting cycle.

## Community Visitor Information

### Resolute Hamlet Office

Phone: (867) 252-3616  
Fax: (867) 252-3749

### Grise Fiord Hamlet Office

Phone: (867) 980-9917  
Fax: (867) 980-9954  
Email: gfsao@qiniq.com

## Local Stores

### Tudjaat Co-op

Resolute: (867) 252-3854

### Grise Fiord Inuit Co-op Ltd.

Grise Fiord: (867) 980-9917

## Accommodations

### Resolute

#### Qausuittuq Inns North

Resolute  
Phone: (867) 252-3900 / 3901  
Fax: (867) 252-3766

#### South Camp Inn

Resolute  
Phone: (867) 252-3737  
Fax: (867) 252-3838



Photo: Fiona Currie

### Grise Fiord

#### Grise Fiord Lodge

Grise Fiord  
Phone: (867) 980-9913  
Fax: (867) 980-9954

# Activities

## *Hiking*

Hikers can explore the park from Tanquary Fiord Station. Historic Fort Conger visits are possible by special permission and will require a Parks Canada staff person to accompany your group.



Omega Lakes © D. Stern / Parks Canada

The most popular and iconic hiking route is a 9–10 day loop from Tanquary Fiord around the Ad Astra and Viking Ice Caps. There are also multiple 3–5 day hiking trips starting from Tanquary Fiord. Please contact the park office for more info.

## *Travelling to the North Pole*

**North Pole Jumpers must meet all registration and licensing/permitting requirements as set out in this guide.**

If you are planning to attempt the North Pole from any land managed by Quttinirpaaq National Park, including Ward Hunt Island, McClintock Inlet or Cape Columbia, you must contact park staff in Iqaluit at (867) 975-4673 to advise us of your trip. Depending on your travel plans, you may also be required to register and take part in a mandatory orientation session in person at the Iqaluit Park Office. If your itinerary does not include a stop in Iqaluit, alternate arrangements must be made in advance of your departure.

## Skiing



Photo: G. Irwin

With thousands of square kilometres of glaciers and ski-able terrain, the opportunities for ski touring in Quttinirpaaq are almost endless. What Ellesmere Island lacks in powder, it more than makes up for in awe-inspiring routes and countless unclimbed peaks. Although not an appropriate destination for beginners, visitors with strong ski touring, glacier travel, and avalanche safety skills will appreciate the opportunity to be one of the few parties to reach the summit of Barbeau Peak or traverse one of the large ice caps in the park. Spring (April and May) is an excellent time to ski tour in the park due to relatively stable weather, however any party travelling in the park at this time should be totally self-sufficient and prepared to support themselves for several days in the event that a rescue is required. See Important Safety Information on page 13 for more information about terrain hazards relative to skiing.

## Glacier Travel

Whether you are simply admiring Gull Glacier from Tanquary Fiord or hiking around the Ad Astra or Viking ice Caps, Quttinirpaaq's glaciers are sure to amaze. Since much of the park is glaciated, glaciers are bound to occupy your views throughout your trip.

Glaciers must be treated with respect as they can be dangerous. **Only those experienced in glacier travel and crevasse rescue and who have proper equipment should travel on glaciers.** See Important Safety Information on page 13 for more information about terrain hazards relative to climbing and mountaineering.

## Inuit Cultural Activities

Ancient peoples have a long history on Ellesmere Island, starting with the arrival of the Palaeo-Eskimos about 4,500 years ago, followed by the Late Dorset cultures and the Thule people who arrived during the past thousand years. Archaeological sites give testimony to the resiliency of these people and their ability to survive in this extreme northern climate. We would like to remind you to respect Inuit subsistence hunting, fishing and trapping rights and refrain from interfering with these activities. Inuit may travel through the park by motorized vehicle for the purposes of harvesting in accordance with the Nunavut Agreement.



Photo: G. Enns

Ellesmere Island has been a staging point for northern exploration and North Pole attempts since the late nineteenth century. It has also been the focus of various scientific studies over the years, including the extensive projects organized by the Defence Research Board between 1953 and the 1970s.

# Tour Companies

If you prefer to travel in a guided group, please contact one of the tour companies below. Please check that the company you are planning to travel with is currently licensed to operate in the park before hiring them.

*This package was produced in advance of the annual licensing and permitting cycle.*

## **Black Feather Wilderness Adventure Company**

Seguin, ON

Toll Free: 1-888-849-7668

Phone: (705) 746-1372

Fax: (705) 746-7048

info@blackfeather

www.blackfeather.com

## **Quark Expeditions**

Waterbury, Vermont

Toll Free: 1-(888) 892-0334

Fax: (203) 857-0427

enquiry@quarkexpeditions.com

www.quarkexpeditions.com

## **Northwinds Arctic Adventure**

Iqaluit, NU

Phone : (867) 223-0551 or (867) 979-0551

northwindsexpeditions@gmail.com

www.northwindsexpeditions.com



Photo: T. Harbidge



Photo: A. Stubbing

# Important Safety Information

## *River Crossings*

River crossings are the most significant hazard facing summer visitors. Streams and rivers in Quttinirpaaq are mostly glacial fed, so water volume and velocity changes throughout the day and from day to day. As the day progresses, glacial melt caused by warming temperatures increases the volume of rivers and streams. Rainfall also affects the volume and velocity of rivers and streams at any time of day. These factors make crossings unpredictable and susceptible to rapid change. Be prepared to wait out high water for hours or even days: at certain times of year, water levels are likely to significantly affect your trip route and schedule, so plan accordingly.

### **QuNP Park Closures possible mid-July to August 1st**

During the last decade there have been several visitor safety incidents in Quttinirpaaq National Park (QuNP) related to severe flooding. Since most rivers in QuNP are glacier fed, warm temperatures have a dramatic effect on river depth. Warmer than average temperatures in recent years have meant that river levels are higher for longer periods of time. Certain areas of the park, including glacier toes and river crossings along hiking routes, have consequently become more dangerous.

Visitor safety is our main priority. We know that a trip to the high Arctic is an extremely expensive “trip of a lifetime” and want to help you avoid disappointment by minimizing the risk of injury and / or evacuation. Please contact the park office with any questions.

**River Crossings Safety Information continued on page 12.**



Photo: A. Stubbing

## River Crossing Tips

### Gear Considerations

- Footwear: Neoprene boots in combination with a hard gripping soles will protect your feet from the cold water and will allow you to keep your boots and socks dry.
- Hiking poles: hiking poles are essential for balance while crossing and are useful for testing water depth.
- Waterproof kayak pants with feet can provide additional protection from heat loss.

### Deciding to Cross

- Group abilities: Ensure that all group members are willing to take the risk. Consider the abilities of the weakest group member.
- Timing: Be prepared to wait hours or days until water levels are low enough for your group to make a safe crossing. During warm periods, water levels are generally lowest between 2 am and 7 am. Following heavy rain, water levels may continue to rise for several hours.
- Location: Assess the safest location to cross, remembering that ideal crossing locations change regularly. Consider the following:
  - Water depth
    - Braided areas tend to be shallower than single channels.
  - Water speed
    - Flatter areas tend to have slower-moving water than steeper areas.

#### Hazards

- Riverbanks: may be unstable and could collapse.
- Underwater: cloudy water can obscure rolling rocks and unstable footing.
- Downstream: be aware of waterfalls, deep pools, open sea, etc.

### Safe crossing techniques

- Heavy packs make crossings more difficult; you may wish to test cross without a pack or have stronger members shuttle packs.
- When crossing with a pack, unfasten waist and chest straps so you can remove your pack easily if you become pinned underwater.
- Face upstream, move with the current and use hiking poles to maintain balance.
- Consider group crossing techniques, i.e. Leader is upstream with group members in single file behind for support and to take advantage of the group's downstream eddy.

**To learn more about river safety, consider taking a swiftwater safety course before your trip.**

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***River crossings are the most significant risk visitors face in Quttinirpaaq National Park***

All rivers and streams are dangerous  
Some streams may remain uncrossable for some members of your group  
Be prepared to change your route or turn back

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## *Terrain Hazards*

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### ***Rockfall***

Bare, freshly broken rock is a sign of active rockfall; these areas may extend well out from the rock walls and cliffs. In or around steep terrain, choose routes carefully, watch and listen for falling rock and avoid stopping for long breaks in potentially active or unprotected areas. Be particularly careful when it is raining and during periods of freeze-melt temperatures as these conditions loosen rock and increase rockfall. Choose campsites in protected areas, away from steep terrain.

### ***Glacier Travel***

Low temperatures combined with low annual snowfall means that glacial movement is very slow. Crevasses and icefalls are reduced compared to glaciers in more southerly regions of North America. However, glaciers must still be treated with respect as they can be dangerous. Only those experienced in glacier travel and crevasse rescue and with proper equipment should travel on glaciers. **All guides operating in glaciated and / or technical mountain terrain will require full IFMGA/IVBV/UIAGM/ACMG certification as an Alpine, Mountain, or Ski guide.** Contact the park office for more information.

### ***Avalanches***

If there is snow and you will be travelling across or near slopes of more than 25° angle, you need to consider the possibility of avalanches. You should be trained and experienced in assessing avalanche hazards, route-finding skills and self-rescue techniques if you plan to travel in avalanche areas. All members should carry an avalanche transceiver, shovel and probe.

### ***Water Quality***

We advise you to fine filter (<0.5microns), treat (iodine or chlorine in warm water), or boil your drinking water. To prevent the spread of diseases, human waste should be disposed of in a responsible manner, at least 100 metres from water sources and main travel corridors. More information will be provided during your orientation.

## ***Climate and Extreme Weather***

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Quttinirpaaq National Park is a polar desert – it is a cold region with little precipitation. Winters are very cold with some of the lowest temperatures recorded in Canada. In contrast, summers, though short, can be surprisingly warm, particularly in the Lake Hazen area. Coastal areas of the park are generally cooler and receive more precipitation than the interior. Winds throughout the park tend to be light, except on the ice caps. There are 24 hours of daylight from May to August and 24 hours of darkness from November to February.

Weather in the Arctic is notoriously changeable and Quttinirpaaq National Park is no exception. Abrupt weather changes can affect temperature and visibility sometimes for several days. Whiteout conditions are possible any time of year.

**Be prepared for snow anytime, anywhere in Quttinirpaaq!**

### ***Hypothermia & Frostbite***

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Hypothermia is a life-threatening condition. People with hypothermia can no longer keep themselves warm and cannot re-warm themselves without assistance. Know the signs and symptoms of hypothermia, know how to treat it and take precautions to prevent its onset.

Winter and spring travellers must also guard against frostbite when travelling in QNP. Conditions of extreme cold are common and care should be taken to avoid exposing the skin.

## ***Polar Bears and other Wildlife***

The frequency of polar bear encounters in Quttinirpaaq is low. However, the park contains polar bear habitat and bears may be encountered at any time of the year and in any area of the park, even on glaciers. The more people in your party, the less likely you will encounter a bear.

For more information, please speak with our parks staff, read the Safety in Polar Bear Country pamphlet carefully and watch the Polar Bears: A Guide to Safety DVD at the park office. You can purchase your own copy of this DVD at: <https://kodiakcanada.com/collections/bear-safety-videos/products/polar-bears-a-guide-to-safety-dvd>.

If you are nervous about bears, or uncertain of your ability to deal with them, consider joining a guided group. Guides are knowledgeable and experienced at travelling in bear country. When hiring a guide, ask about their experience, how they will avoid encountering polar bears and their plans of action should you encounter a bear.



Photo: Alex Stubbing



Photo: Paula Hughson

### ***Report polar bear encounters***

Report sightings, tracks and signs to Parks Canada staff as soon as possible by radio or satellite phone.

Wildlife in Quttinirpaaq has little exposure to humans and may therefore not be afraid of you. As a general rule, keep a safe distance from all wildlife and remember that it is illegal to touch, feed or entice wildlife with food items in a National Park.

**Foxes and wolves** can carry rabies. In this park, they are not used to people and will approach you because they are curious. Do not let them get too close.

**Birds and wildlife** are inquisitive and opportunistic. They will scavenge food left out and caches that are not securely stashed. Make sure food and garbage is securely stored.

**Muskoxen** have been known to charge people when they feel threatened. Please keep your distance.

# Minimizing Risk

## *Experience Level*

Your group should have advanced skills in wilderness first aid and be prepared to handle any medical, wildlife or weather related emergency. If someone in your group is uncertain about their skill level, consider travelling with an experienced guide. Contact information can be found in this package.



Fort Conger: Trips here must be accompanied by Park Staff

## *Navigation*

Quttinirpaaq lies within the area of compass unreliability. GPS receivers are your best bet for navigation. Keep in mind that you should keep batteries warm and even the best unit can fail. Bring a backup unit, extra batteries and the right maps. Since arctic weather can change rapidly, there may be times you are required to navigate in reduced or zero visibility conditions. In white outs or in poor visibility, you may need to re-evaluate if it is safe to travel.

## *Communications*

Please be aware that all of these recommended modes of communication can be unreliable and at times you will be unable to make contact with anyone. If you are having difficulty receiving a signal it may be possible to get to higher ground to improve signal strength. This can be very time consuming and in some cases dangerous, please use caution. As always with technology, be aware of the weaknesses of your system.

- **Satellite phones** are the preferred means of making contact. Your phone can put you in touch with emergency assistance 24 hours a day. We recommend obtaining a satellite phone prior to your trip as they are not available in the north. *The Iridium system currently provides the **ONLY** coverage over Quttinirpaaq. Make sure to bring extra batteries and keep your device dry. Portable solar chargers for batteries are also recommended. Be sure to write down emergency phone numbers and program them into the phone.*
- **SPOT devices** do not cover high latitudes and therefore do not work in Quttinirpaaq.
- **InReach devices** have good coverage and are fairly reliable in Quttinirpaaq.
- **Personal Locator Beacons (PLB)** can also be carried into remote areas. When activated, they send a distress signal to the Canadian Forces in Trenton, Ontario who will initiate a rescue from there. Once activated, the signal is nonreversible; these are to be used in a life-threatening situation only. Make sure your PLB is properly registered by calling the Canadian Personal Emergency Beacon Registry in Trenton at 1-877-406-7671 or online at: [https://www.cbr-rcb.ca/cbr/presentation/login\\_connexion/login\\_connexion.php](https://www.cbr-rcb.ca/cbr/presentation/login_connexion/login_connexion.php). Only PLBs that transmit a distress signal at 406 MHz are permitted in Canada.

# Search and Rescue

Quttinirpaaq is one of the most remote parks in North America, and rescue services and facilities are very limited. Our public safety staff are trained in first aid, patient stabilization and evacuation in non-technical terrain. Park search and rescue operations may be delayed by poor weather conditions, geography, aircraft or staff availability. For high-angle technical evacuations, assistance from outside of Nunavut is required.

## TO HELP US AND YOURSELF, PLEASE:

- Be self-reliant and responsible for your own safety;
- Have the required equipment, knowledge, skills and physical fitness;
- Consider the public safety information and advice provided by Parks Canada;
- Seek out additional advice from our staff if you are uncertain about what you may encounter;
- Follow the public safety registration and de-registration program;
- Be prepared for emergencies (medical, wildlife or weather related).



Photo: Sammy Angnaluak

## ***When will a search be initiated?***

A search and rescue response will be initiated when a distress signal is reported or when a group has failed to de-register and an initial investigation suggests a group is overdue. In the case of an overdue group, a physical search may not occur until at least 48 hours after the de-registration date has passed.

**IN CASE OF EMERGENCY  
CALL THE EMERGENCY DISPATCH LINE  
(780) 852 3100  
THIS NUMBER IS MONITORED 24 HOURS A DAY**

### ***Do not forget to de-register!***

You will likely exit the park at Tanquary Fiord and should speak with Park Staff there. If you DO NOT see staff when you depart for Resolute, you must call them using the satellite phone numbers you were provided upon arrival. Failing to do so can place rescue staff in danger and make the rescue team unavailable for a real emergency.

# Emergency Equipment and Facilities

- Basic rescue, first aid and survival equipment is located inside the park buildings at the Tanquary Fiord and Lake Hazen Operational Stations.
- Emergency radios are provided in the park buildings at Tanquary Fiord, Lake Hazen and Ward Hunt Island.
- Radio signals can be distorted and limited by weather, mountainous terrain and sunspot activity. In an emergency, continue transmitting your message even if there is no response. Someone may be able to receive your message.
- The nearest nursing station is in Resolute. The nearest hospitals are in Iqaluit, Nunavut and Yellowknife, NWT.
- Emergency cache barrels contain essential gear in the event that yours becomes lost or damaged. The contents are to be used only in an emergency to allow you to reach the nearest operational station. The location and contents of the barrels will be covered during your orientation session.

# Environmental Conservation Practices

- Choose routes on durable terrain.
- When travelling across steep terrain use rock outcrops or snow.
- Select campsites in durable locations where signs of your occupation will be minimal, especially for base camps or if you are travelling in a large group.
- Use biodegradable soap and only when necessary.
- Dish and excess cooking water should be strained and poured into a shallow sump hole away from campsite and 100 metres away from water sources. Strained food particles should be packed out with garbage.
- Pack out everything that you packed in. Do not leave garbage in the outhouses. This includes your toilet paper! Burn it or pack it out.
- Do not build cairns (rock pile or Inuksuk), markers, or leave messages in the dirt.
- Leave human waste exposed to air to degrade quicker in the sun and air. Do not cover it. Please use an area 100 metres away from main routes and water sources.
- When at operational stations, use the outhouse facilities provided.



# Fees

Entry and camping fees are charged at most national parks. Most of the money raised through admission fees remains in the particular park where it is collected. This means that every time you visit a park you are investing in its future – and in a legacy for future generations.

Nunavut's national parks are backcountry parks and the following fees will be charged at the time of your mandatory registration:

- The overnight permit fee is \$24.50 per person per night.
- An Annual Northern Park Backcountry Excursion Pass is \$147.20 per person. It is valid in any national park or reserve in Nunavut, the Northwest Territories, and Yukon until March 31st, except for Kluane and Wood Buffalo National Parks. It is your best option if your trip is greater than 6 days, or you plan to visit other parks in this area this year.

The Parks Canada Discovery Passes covering Park Entry Fees are not valid in the National Parks in Nunavut.

These are the fees, at time of print.



Airforce Glacier © A. Stubbing / Parks Canada

# Park Regulations

## ***Working Together to Preserve our Natural and Cultural Areas***

The Canada National Parks Act and Regulations, as well as other federal legislation, are in place to preserve and protect our natural and cultural resources. The following is a guide to ensure you have a safe and memorable wilderness experience while visiting Quttinirpaaq National Park and are provided as brief information statements for convenience only. For a complete listing of park regulations please contact the park office.

- **Registration and De-registration:** You must register and attend the mandatory orientation before / upon entering the park and de-register upon exiting.
- **Firearms:** No person shall be in possession of a firearm in the park (does not apply to persons authorized by the superintendent).
- **Pets:** No pets permitted in Quttinirpaaq National Park.
- **Fishing:** Sport fishing is prohibited in Quttinirpaaq National Park.

## **Preserving Quttinirpaaq's Natural and Cultural Integrity**

- All garbage must be packed out.
- Campfires are not permitted in the park.
- No person shall remove, deface, damage or destroy any flora or natural objects in the park.
- No person shall wilfully remove, deface, damage or destroy any prehistoric or historic artefacts or structures in the park.
- No person shall hunt, disturb, hold in captivity or destroy any wildlife within the park.
- No person shall disturb or destroy a nest, lair or den in the park.
- No person shall touch, feed or entice wildlife in the park.



Photo: D. Stern

***Have a great trip!***



**Quttinirpaaq. *Real. Inspiring.***



Parks  
Canada

Parcs  
Canada