



Ukkusiksalik  
National Park

# Visitor Information Package

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



Parks  
Canada

Parcs  
Canada

Canada

For more information

Contact our park office in Naujaat (Repulse Bay) or visit our website:

### Naujaat (Repulse Bay) Office

Phone: 867-462-4500

Fax: 867-462-4095

Email: [pc.infopnukkusiksalik-ukkusiksaliknpinfo.pc@canada.ca](mailto:pc.infopnukkusiksalik-ukkusiksaliknpinfo.pc@canada.ca)

Hours of operation

Year round

Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. - 12 noon and 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

[www.pc.gc.ca/ukkusiksalik](http://www.pc.gc.ca/ukkusiksalik)



Related websites

**Additional Resources:** [www.pc.gc.ca/ukkusiksalik](http://www.pc.gc.ca/ukkusiksalik)

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

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

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

**Weather Conditions – Naujaat:**

[http://www.weatheroffice.gc.ca/city/pages/nu-3\\_metric\\_e.html](http://www.weatheroffice.gc.ca/city/pages/nu-3_metric_e.html).

From this site you can also check weather in Rankin Inlet, Baker Lake, Chesterfield Inlet and Coral Harbour.

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# Welcome

Ukkusiksalik (Ok-koo-see-sa-leek) National Park protects a 20,885 km<sup>2</sup> area surrounding Wager Bay, a 100 km long inland sea on the northwest coast of Hudson Bay. Wager Bay is so huge that eighteenth century explorers thought it might be the long sought Northwest Passage. It wasn't, but it is important for other reasons.

The richness of Ukkusiksalik lies in its very high concentration of wildlife and its numerous cultural sites. With its mudflats, rolling hills, tundra banks and rich tidal and marine areas, Ukkusiksalik represents the central tundra natural region in the Parks Canada system. This landscape provides habitat for a diverse array of wildlife. Polar bear, caribou, muskox, wolf and fox are abundant. Golden eagle or peregrine falcon may be seen soaring overhead as they scan for siksiks (ground squirrel), lemmings and arctic hare. The marine life is richer still, so you will likely capture pictures of seal, whale, fish and polar bear in your seascape images.

Ukkusiksalik is the “place where there is stone to carve pots and oil lamps” in Inuktitut, which refers to the soapstone found within the boundaries. This is but one feature of the landscape that made it attractive to early inhabitants. The plentiful marine life in Wager Bay has drawn Inuit and their predecessors for hundreds of years. Evidence of this is found in more than 400 documented archaeological sites within park boundaries that include tent rings, food caches, fox traps and an extensive site called *Aklungiqtautitalik*, meaning “place of the rope game.” Named for a large, distinctive stone feature on the south side of the site, archaeologists believe this area might have been used both prehistorically and in relatively recent times.

In 1925, a Hudson's Bay trading post was set up at the head of Wager Bay above an area of reversing tidal falls. Here, they could take advantage of inland trade potential while working to establish an overland trade route to the Back River area, and ultimately the Arctic Ocean. It is significant as being the first post run by an Inuit manager. Old buildings remain on-site as relics of this era.



## Important information

### **Pre-trip: Parks Canada makes the following recommendations for visitors to Ukkusiksalik National Park.**

Before booking your travel, it is highly recommended that you:

- contact Parks Canada in Naujaat (Repulse Bay);
- allow sufficient time prior to entering the park to attend an orientation and registration session in Naujaat (Repulse Bay);
- read the Ukkusiksalik National Park Visitor Information Package (this publication);
- read the Safety in Polar Bear Country brochure;
- arrange a bear guide for your trip.

### **Parks Canada requires that you visit Ukkusiksalik with a licenced guide, due to the extremely high density of polar bears in Wager Bay.**

I have booked a time for my registration and orientation.

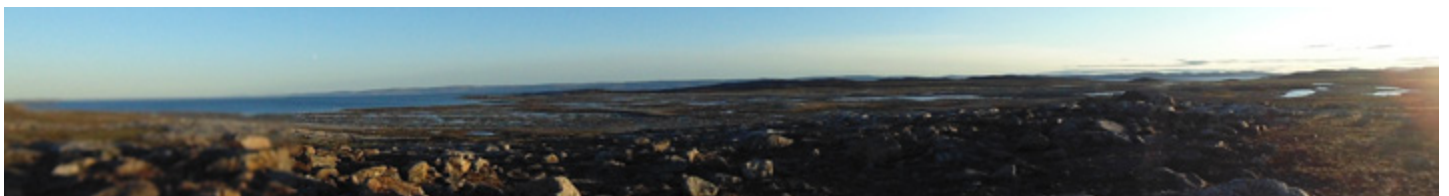
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

### **Post-trip: After leaving the park I will:**

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



## Permits

Permits for operating a business (guiding, outfitting), filming and commercial photography, research, landing an aircraft, establishing a cache or base camp, or for transporting a firearm through the park 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 and spring.

## Registration and de-registration

All visitors to Ukkusiksalik National Park **MUST** attend a mandatory orientation session, register, pay the applicable fees and obtain a valid park entry permit. If you plan on travelling on Inuit-Owned Land, contact the Kivalliq Inuit Association at 1-800-220-6581 for permission.

During the registration and orientation we outline features of interest in the park along your route, know hazards and potential safety measures, current route conditions, expectations related to low impact visits and park regulation to be aware of. You will also be able to ask questions about such as weather, water levels, area closures, polar bear sightings.

### To register your trip:

- Make a reservation for your orientation at the Parks Canada office in Naujaat (Repulse Bay) at least one week in advance.
- Orientations are conducted during regular business hours (Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.). Orientations will not be started after 3:30pm. Please consider this when making your travel and trip plans, and allow appropriate time for your orientation.
- Allow 60-90 minutes for the registration and orientation session.

### To de-register your trip:

- Within 24 hours of exiting the park, visit the Parks Canada office in Naujaat (Repulse Bay) or contact them by phone at (867) 462-4500. Please call during business hours or leave a detailed message.
- Failing to de-register within 24 hours of this date will initiate an investigation by park staff.

## 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 and polar bear guide(s) that you plan to use;
- Your flight information;
- A list of your equipment (brand, number, colour, etc), your satellite phone number and/or SPOT serial number (if applicable);
- The type of activities you will undertake; and,
- Your detailed in-park trip plans.

## Planning your trip



Ukkusiksalik National Park Map

## Topographic maps

Call the Parks Office in Naujaat (Repulse Bay) for assistance with your route directions. For all areas of the park, you will need to purchase topographic maps and marine charts prior to arrival.

Route planning is best done with 1:250,000 maps while navigation should be done with the appropriate 1:50,000 maps.

The Wager Bay Map, 56-G and Douglas Harbour Map, 56-H cover the area around Sila Lodge whereas 56-I, 56-J, 56-F, 56-K and 46-E cover the rest of the park. The nautical charts for the area include: 5440 Wager Bay; 5533 Roes Welcome Sound; and 7405 Repulse Bay and Approaches. Navigation should be done with an experienced and licensed outfitter with the appropriate 1:50,000 maps and charts.

Maps are available through the [Canada Map Office](#), while nautical charts are available through the [Department of Fisheries and Oceans](#).

## When to visit: Arctic seasons and your trip

The following are approximate dates for the methods of accessing the park. You should always check in advance with the park office in Naujaat (Repulse Bay) for this year's likeliest scenario.

- March to April:** Spring trips by snowmobile or dog-team may be possible until mid-May. By late May, snow and ice melt make travel possibilities unpredictable.
- June to mid-July (sea ice break-up):** During ice break-up, access is by chartered aircraft only; you cannot access the park by boat.
- Mid-July to October:** It is possible to access the park by boat. The best time for hiking and camping is from mid-July through August.
- November to March:** Fall and winter access is not advisable due to heightened bear hazard, weather and darkness.

You can also check: <http://ice-glaces.ec.gc.ca/> for Arctic ice conditions.



## Emergency medical travel & visitors to Nunavut

From the Nunavut Department of Health:

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.**



## How to get here

Ukkusiksalik National Park can be accessed from the communities of Baker Lake, Chesterfield Inlet, Coral Harbour, Rankin Inlet, and Nauyasat (Repulse Bay). Scheduled flights to Rankin Inlet are available from Winnipeg with First Air and Calm Air; from Ottawa and Edmonton with First Air and Canadian North; and from Montreal with First Air. Calm Air and First Air operate scheduled flights from Rankin Inlet to the other four communities.

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



### Air access to Nunavut

#### **Calm Air International**

1-888-225-6247  
[www.calmair.com](http://www.calmair.com)

#### **Canadian North**

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

#### **First Air Ltd.**

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

### Charter services

#### **Air Nunavut**

From Iqaluit and Oshawa, Ontario  
Head Office, Oshawa, Ontario  
Phone: 1-866-388-5888  
Iqaluit Base: 867-979-4018

#### **Custom Helicopters**

From Rankin Inlet  
Flight season June to September  
Head Office, Winnipeg  
Phone: 1-800-782-0780  
Rankin Inlet Base (seasonal): 867-645-3939  
[www.customheli.com](http://www.customheli.com)

#### **Kenn Borek Air Ltd. / Unaalik Aviation**

From Rankin Inlet, Iqaluit, and worldwide  
Aircraft capable of landing in remote areas  
Head Office, Calgary  
Phone: 1-800-536-1149  
Iqaluit Base: 867-979-0040  
Rankin Base: 867-645-2535  
[www.borekair.com](http://www.borekair.com)

#### **Kivalliq Air Ltd.**

From Winnipeg and Iqaluit  
Phone: 1-877-855-1500  
[www.kivalliqair.com](http://www.kivalliqair.com)

#### **Ookpik Aviation**

From Baker Lake  
Aircraft capable of landing in remote areas  
Flight season: March to November  
Phone: 867-793-4720  
[ookpikaviation.ca/ourfleet.php](http://ookpikaviation.ca/ourfleet.php)

**Note: Once Ukkusiksalik is gazetted, aircraft charter companies landing in the park will be required to have a valid National Parks Business Licence and aircraft access permit.**

## Traveling with dangerous goods

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: <http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/regions.htm>.

We recommend bringing new, unused stoves and new, empty fuel canisters with you to avoid difficulties when travelling. Please keep these items in their original packaging and bring all receipts with you. You will likely also need to leave these items in the communities on your return trip home.

To make your travel easier, we recommend buying your stove fuel in the community where you begin your trip and leave any unused fuel behind. White gas is readily available in the communities. Some compressed tanks may be available – contact stores directly for more information. Outfitters in communities often accept leftover white gas.

Pepper spray-style bear deterrents and many noisemaking devices used to scare bears are strictly prohibited from travel on airplanes. These deterrents are also limited in the north; you will need to check for availability with local outfitters or stores prior to your trip.

Please Note: Due to the problem of travelling with dangerous goods, Ukkusiksalik has a limited supply of bear deterrents to sign out. Please contact the office for more details.



## Community information

Local outfitters can access the park by boat from mid-July to October. It is a 7-hour boat trip from the closest community or a charter flight can be arranged with an airline listed on page 6. For information about local outfitters, contact the local visitor centres. It is your responsibility to ensure your guides and outfitters are currently licensed to operate in the park before hiring them to go into Ukkusiksalik National Park. Please contact Hamlet offices for a list of Outfitters with business licenses.



### Local outfitters

**Municipality of Baker Lake**  
867-793-2874

**Municipality of Chesterfield Inlet**  
867-898-9951

**Municipality of Coral Harbour**  
867-925-8867

**Municipality of Naujaat (Repulse Bay)**  
867-462-9952

**Municipality of Rankin Inlet**  
867-645-2895

### Visitor information

**Baker Lake**  
**Akumalik Visitor's Centre /**  
**Baker Lake Heritage Centre**  
Seasonal (July-September)  
Phone: 867-793-2874  
Email: cedo@bakerlake.ca

**Inuit Heritage Centre - Itsarnittakarvik**  
Phone: 867-793-2598

**Rankin Inlet**  
**Kivalliq Visitor Centre - Nunavut Tourism**  
[www.nunavuttourism.com](http://www.nunavuttourism.com)  
Phone: 867-645-3838  
Email: info@nunavuttourism.com

## Tour companies

If you wish to travel with a group, or organized tour, please contact either the Kivalliq regional office of Nunavut Tourism at 1-866-686-2888 or the Park Office for information on companies currently operating in the area. These offices can also provide up-to-date information on local accommodations and outfitters.



# Activities

## Boat tours, hiking and wildlife tours

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 bears and the surest way to see the abundant marine life including seals, beluga whales, walrus, orca, bowhead and occasional narwhal. Kayaking is discouraged because of the extreme polar bear risk.

From Wager Bay, it is possible to do day hikes along the coast and rolling hills inland with an experienced guide or outfitter and Bear Guard. Viewing opportunities abound for both wildlife and countless cultural sites scattered throughout the park.

Daylight in the summer months will never limit your hiking options, but tide schedules may since the swift currents and long tidal flats influence boat access.



## Accommodations

### Baker Lake

#### Baker Lake Lodge

Phone: 867-793-2905

Email: bakerlakelodge@hotmail.com

#### BLCS Guest House

www.blcs.ca

Phone: 867-793-2831

Email: info@blcs.ca

#### Iglu Hotel - Inns North

www.bakerlakehotel.com

Phone: 867-793-2801

Email: iglu.innsnorth@arcticco-op.com

#### Nunamiut Lodge

www.nunamiutlodgehotel.ca

Phone: 867-793-2127

Email: info@nunamiutlodgehotel.ca

#### Innujarvik Territorial Park - camping

SEASONAL

www.nunavutparks.com

Phone: 867-793-2874

Email: blede@netkaster.ca

### Chesterfield Inlet

#### Tangmavik Hotel - Inns North

https://innsnorth.com/tangmavik

Phone: 867-898-9190

Email: manager.pitsiulak@arcticco-op.com

### Coral Harbour

#### Leonie's Place Hotel

Phone: 867-925-9751

Email: leoniesplace@yahoo.ca

#### Ulu House B & B

Phone: 867-925-8255

Reservations: 807-344-2099

Email: bruce\_mckitrick@yahoo.com

### Naujaat (Repulse Bay)

#### Naujat Hotel - Inns North

Phone: 867-462-4304

Email: manager@naujat.coop

# Activities

## Camping

An experienced outfitter / tour company may be able to set up an appropriate campsite with a solar powered electric fence and a sentry. Otherwise, we only recommend the use of hard sided accommodations (not currently available; see Wilderness Accommodation below).

For an up to date list of licensed outfitters with boats from each community or contact Kivalliq Regional office of Nunavut Tourism. Boat trips into the park can take a day or longer, so it's a good idea to inquire about base camp possibilities.

## Wilderness accommodations

Sila Lodge is an Inuit owned outfitting operation and naturalist lodge located inside the park. Although not scheduled to operate this season, it is an excellent way to experience the park. Please contact the UNP office for more information.

## Accommodations

### Rankin Inlet

#### Aurora Northern Contractors B & B

Phone: 867-645-3657

Email: anc3672@qiniq.com

#### Katimavik Suites Hotel

www.katimaviksuites.com

Phone: 1-855-333-5366

Email: katimavik.suites@gmail.com

#### Nanuq Lodge & Executive Suites

www.nanuqlodge.com

Phone: 867-645-2650

Email: nanuq@qiniq.com

#### Siniktarvik Hotel - Inns North

www.siniktarvik.com

Phone: 867-645-2807

Email: siniktarvikmanager@netkaster.ca

#### Yara's B & B

www.brakininletb.ca

Phone: 867-645-3478 and 867-222-2996

Email: ozahaby@hotmail.com

#### Turaarvik - Inns North

www.rankininlethotel.com

Phone: 867-645-4955

Email: turaarvikinnsnorth@arcticco-op.com



## Cultural sites

There are more than 400 documented archaeological sites within park boundaries, including tent rings, food caches, fox traps and an extensive site called Aklungiqtautitalik, meaning “Place of the rope game.” Named for a large, distinctive stone feature on the south side of the site, archaeologists believe this area might have been used both prehistorically and in relatively recent times.

In 1925, a Hudson’s Bay trading post was set up at the head of Wager Bay above an area of reversing tidal falls, to take advantage of inland trade potential and additional trade routes. It is significant as being the first post ran by an Inuit manager. Old buildings remain on-site as relics of this era.

Several of these sites may be visited with a licensed operator. If you wish to visit the old trading post, ask if Parks Canada staff are available to accompany you. Akungiqtautitalik is not open to visitors at present.



## Inuit cultural activities

Ukkusiksalik is the traditional homeland of the modern Inuit who live in the area. Many of those who were born before the establishment of the local communities were raised along the shores of Wager Bay. Residents maintain living ties to the land, and it is not unusual to see Inuit families camping in the park, practicing their traditional harvesting activities. We would like to remind you to respect Inuit subsistence hunting, fishing and trapping rights. Please give them their privacy and refrain from approaching unless invited. Always ask permission before taking photos or videos. Beneficiaries of the Nunavut Agreement may travel through the park by motorized vehicle for traditional activities, including harvesting. Anyone transporting a visitor into the park for commercial gain will require a business licence and all visitors will be required to register with the park office prior to entering.

## Important safety information



### **Polar bears**

Polar bears are far more abundant in Ukkusiksalik than in most other Arctic parks. Several encounters are likely on any trip. Because of this extreme danger, visitors must travel in the park with a properly equipped and trained guide who is experienced in polar bear country.

Report polar bear sightings, tracks and signs to Parks Canada staff as soon as possible by radio or satellite phone. If immediate contact is not possible, please record detailed notes for later submission.

For more information, you can 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 or distributed at [www.distributionaccess.com](http://www.distributionaccess.com).

### **Other wildlife**

Foxes and wolves can carry rabies. Do not allow them to approach you. Be especially suspicious if wildlife appears “friendly” or “tame”.

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

Walrus or whales can be aggressive and easily upset a boat. Keep your distance.

Grizzly bears, muskox, and wolverines have also been sighted in the park and do not like to be approached. Please keep a safe distance.

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.

## Climate and extreme weather

Low precipitation levels, low temperatures and high winds characterize the park's marine arctic climate. Combined with the low temperatures, the wind produces some of the highest wind chill factors in North America and the most blowing snow. Hudson Bay influences the area's climate by creating a heat sink in the summer. On shore winds create fog in the summer and snowstorms in the fall. The ice remains on the bay until mid July. Be prepared for snow anytime, anywhere in Ukkusiksalik!

<b>Month</b>	<b>Average high</b>	<b>Average low</b>	<b>Percipitation in mm (rain/snow)</b>
January	-28.7°C	-35.8°C	0 / 84
February	-27.9°C	-35.1°C	0 / 84
March	-22.9°C	-31.5°C	0 / 128
April	-12.6°C	-22.1°C	0.5 / 153
May	-2.2°C	-9.4°C	6.7 / 102
June	+9.2°C	+0.5°C	20.8 / 33
July	+16.7°C	+6.0°C	41.8 / 0
August	+14.0°C	+5.0°C	45.7 / 13
September	+5.9°C	-0.6°C	35.8 / 81
October	-4.2°C	-10.7°C	5.3 / 294
November	-16.3°C	-23.9°C	0.1 / 213
December	-24.8°C	-31.9°C	0 / 122

## Hypothermia and frostbite

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 and how to treat it and take precautions to prevent its onset. Remember to take the windchill factor into account when evaluating temperatures.





## Wind and rough water

Before heading into the park you can obtain weather forecasts. Remember that areas of calm seas and areas of wind and rough waters may be relatively close together. Local outfitters know the conditions and weather trends for the area. Please listen to local outfitter advice regarding winds, rough water and points of land that are dangerous during challenging weather conditions.

## 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 50 metres from trails. More information will be provided during your orientation.

## Thin ice

- Some parts of the sea ice are prone to thinning out earlier than the rest of the ice due to strong water currents. Leads - long cracks in the sea ice - can be narrow and crossed with caution or can be too wide to traverse and must be avoided. Please talk to Parks Canada staff to identify specific locations.
- When there is deep snow, if one area has a darker hue than the surrounding snow that usually means the ice is thin. Pass by that area, giving it a wide berth.
- If deep snow is present and there is water on top of the snow or the snow is soaked through with water, it means that there is open water covered with snow. Do not approach this area.
- Sea ice close to river mouths is generally thin. Stay away from those areas.
- Bays and inlets often have strong currents during spring and are prone to thin ice and open water. Avoid travelling through bays and inlets that have narrow channels.



## Floe edge

Camping close to the floe edge can be dangerous. Be especially wary when prevailing winds are strong and during large tides (full or new moons) since these conditions increase the following risks:

- Ice breaks up along the floe edge.
- A huge pan of ice may break off from the land fast ice (it may be up to 10 kilometres or more in size) even if there is no wind or extreme tides. Bring a global positioning system (GPS) and regularly check to see if the coordinates change. If you are caught without a GPS use this method: visually align a piece of ice some distance from you to the land and periodically check to see if the land fast ice you are on is moving.
- Watch for moving ice that is wedging and piling up into the land fast ice.
- Polar bears travel along the floe edge in search of food. Polar bears will hunt for fresh prey or will scavenge any carcasses they find. Do not go near an old kill because polar bears, with their excellent senses of smell, will come to forage from it. Polar bears are very efficient and skilled stalkers (both on ice and in the water). Always keep watch for them.
- Always camp in hard-side accommodations or with an experienced outfitter equipped with a polar bear fence and camp well away from the floe edge itself.



# River crossing tips

## Gear considerations

- **Footwear:** Neoprene boots with gripping soles will protect your feet from the cold water and will allow you to keep your boots and socks dry. Alternatively, hiking boots with gaiters will provide some warmth, ankle support and may protect your feet from tumbling rocks, but you must be prepared to hike in wet boots.
- **Hiking poles:** hiking poles are essential for balance while crossing and are useful for testing water depth.

## Deciding to cross

- **Group abilities:** Ensure that all group members are willing to take the risk. Consider the abilities of the weakest group member.
- **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. 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.**

# 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.



## 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. Make sure to bring extra batteries. Portable solar chargers for batteries are also recommended. Be sure to write down emergency phone numbers and program them into the phone.

SPOT can be used to allow family and friends to track your progress on your trip as well as initiate a distress signal. Emergency signals are received by the Canadian Forces and they will initiate a rescue if one is received. This signal is non-reversible and is to be used in a life-threatening situation only. During your registration we will collect information about your unit in the event that there is a need to check the activity from it.

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 non-reversible; these are to be used in a life-threatening situation only. Make sure your PLB is properly registered by calling the Canadian Beacon Registry, CFB Trenton at 1-877-406-7671, online at <https://www.cbr-rcb.ca/cbr> or by email at [cbr@sarnet.dnd.ca](mailto:cbr@sarnet.dnd.ca). Only PLB's that transmit a distress signal at 406 MHz are permitted in Canada.

# Search and rescue

Ukkusiksalik is one of the most remote parks in North America, and rescue services and facilities are very limited. Although the park's 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. The only first aid available to your party is the expertise your party holds. Your party should include a licensed guide experienced in arctic travel and who is familiar with the area. Nonetheless, you should be prepared and experienced to handle any emergency without the assistance of the guide.

## When will a search be initiated?

A search and rescue response will be initiated when a distress signal is reported or, if a group fails to de-register, on the date indicated on their registration forms or shortly thereafter. 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.

## Remember to de-register!

Visitors who fail to de-register place an unnecessary burden on our limited search and rescue capabilities. You can place rescue staff in danger and make the rescue team unavailable for a real emergency. Please remember to visit or call our Parks Canada office upon your safe return from the park.

## Air support

Air access may be delayed, sometimes for many days, due to poor visibility, weather conditions or high winds. Aircraft cannot land in the backcountry if the terrain is unsuitable for a safe landing.

## 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).



**In case of emergency call the emergency dispatch line (780) 852 3100. This number is monitored 24 hours a day.**

## 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.
- Minimize the use of soaps and, when necessary, use biodegradable soap.
- Dish and excess cooking water should be poured into a shallow sump hole away from your campsite and 50 meters away from water sources.
- Pack out everything that you packed in. This includes your toilet paper!
- Do not build cairns (rock pile or Inuksuk), markers, or leave messages in the dirt.
- Please do not cover human waste as it will degrade quicker in the sun and air. If travelling along a body of salt water (i.e. one of the coastal areas of the park) it is acceptable to deposit your feces in a shallow pit near the low water mark or out on the sea ice. Please use an area away from main routes and fresh water sources.
- Minimize the use of toilet paper and pack it out or burn it. Tampons should be packed out in a zip-lock bag along with other garbage.

## Fees

Entry 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:

- A Northern Park Backcountry Daily Excursion Permit is \$12.00 per person per day. 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 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. New Fees will soon be implemented. They are likely to be slightly higher.

# 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 Ukkusiksalik National Park and are provided as brief information statements for convenience only. For a complete listing of park regulations please contact the park office.

The following park regulations will be in effect.

- **Registration and De-registration:** You must register and attend the mandatory orientation before 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:** Must be kept under physical control at all times.

## **Preserving Ukkusiksalik'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 artifacts or structures in the park.
- Do not move any rocks from features that look – even remotely – like an archaeological site. Sites include tent rings, fox traps and food caches.
- 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.





Ukkusiksalik. ***Real. Inspiring.***