

Government of Nunavut

Tunngasugitti -- Welcome to Nunavut!

Nunavut Communities

Arctic Bay - 823 people

Arctic Bay, or Ikpiarjuk "the pocket", is surrounded by hills. Located on northern Baffin Island, it is a great place to experience the sights of sea mammals. Arctic Bay is connected to the nearby mining community of Nanisivik by a 32 kilometre (km) road. On Canada Day, the area draws visitors from around the world for the Midnight Sun Marathon. Participants can view the spectacular panorama between Nanisivik and Arctic Bay.

Arviat - 2,318 people

The name "Arviat" comes from arviq, the Inuktitut name for bowhead whale. The community is located on the western shore of Hudson Bay, north of Churchill, Manitoba. Arviat's lands and waters are rich in wildlife. The McConnell River Migratory Bird Sanctuary, south of town, is a great place to observe thousands of nesting waterfowl. In the fall, beluga whales are frequently seen in the bays around town and caribou are often spotted near the community. The Inuktitut language remains very strong among residents.

Baker Lake - 1,872 people

Baker Lake, or Qamani'tuuq, is situated inland, at the huge widening at the mouth of the Thelon River, close to the geographic centre of Canada. Baker Lake is well known for its arts and craft community. Distinguished artists and studios promoting arts and crafts, such as the Inuit Heritage Centre, the Jessie Oonark Centre, and well-established independent art galleries are assets to the community's arts and craft industry.

Cambridge Bay - 1,608 people

Cambridge Bay is a centre for business in western Nunavut. The people in the community are active in business and government, catering to tourists visiting the area for fishing and outdoor experiences and exploration companies working on Victoria Island. The Inuktitut name for Cambridge Bay is Iqaluktuuttiaq, which translates to "a good place with lots of fish"; outstanding fishing can be experienced in the lakes and rivers of the area.



Cape Dorset - 1,363 people

The Inuktitut name for Cape Dorset, Kingait, refers to the picturesque hills that surround the community. Located on southwestern Baffin Island, Cape Dorset has been inhabited for over 1000 years. Thule and Inuit archeological sites are located in the Mallikjuaq Historic Park, adjacent to the community. Cape Dorset has an international reputation for Inuit Art specifically print making and stone carvings.

Chesterfield Inlet - 313 people

Chesterfield Inlet is located on the northwest coast of Hudson Bay. Its traditional name is Igluigaarjuk, which translates to “place with a few igloos”. Chesterfield Inlet is the oldest community in the Arctic, dating back to the 1920s. Before this, remains of a complex of sod houses are located just outside the community, where it is believed that over 700 people resided before contact with European culture. Today, the Chesterfield Inlet Historic Trail outlines the rich history of the area.

Clyde River - 934 people

Clyde River, which is Kangiqtugaapik or “nice little inlet”, can be found on the eastern shore of Baffin Island in the shelter of Patricia Bay. The mountains, icebergs and glaciers in the Clyde River area attract rock and ice climbers from around the world. There is also a multitude of animals to be seen, including caribou, narwhals and other sea mammals. The Iqalirtuuq National Wildlife Area, a protected bowhead whale sanctuary, is located in Patricia Bay.

Coral Harbour - 834 people

Coral Harbour is located on the southern shore of Southampton Island, on the northern rim of Hudson Bay. The Inuktitut name for the community is Salliq, “large, flat island in front of the mainland”. Coral Harbour is one of the best places in Nunavut to see wildlife. The nearby Coates Island is a resting place for colonies of walrus. Two bird sanctuaries, the East Bay Migratory Bird Sanctuary and the Harry Gibbons Migratory Bird Sanctuary are a must for bird watchers; snow geese, tundra swans, sandhill cranes and other species migrate to the area in spring.



Gjoa Haven - 1,279 people

The Inuktitut name for Gjoa Haven is Usqsuqtuuq, which means “a place of plenty of fat”. The name refers to the fattened fish and seal that were abundant in the area. The explorer Roald Amundsen first travelled to the area in 1903 to gain information about the Magnetic North Pole. The community is named after the Amundsen’s ship, the Gjoa (pronounced “Joe”). Gjoa Haven has a lot to offer its visitors, from the Northwest Passage Territorial Historic Park, where visitors can relive the quests of explorers such as Frobisher, Ross and Franklin, to the 9-hole golf course, famed as Canada’s most northerly course.

Grise Fiord - 130 people

The “Most Northern Community of Canada”, Grise Fiord is located in the High Arctic on Ellesmere Island. Picturesque and remote, it is surrounded by high hills and, for most of the year, sea ice. The local residents of the Hamlet, call Grise Fiord, Ausuiktuq, “the place that never thaws out”, referring to the glacier above and behind the mountains of the community. Visitors come to Grise Fiord to witness its spectacular beauty and wildlife.

Hall Beach - 546 people

Hall Beach is located on the shore of Foxe Basin on the Melville Peninsula. The traditional name for Hall Beach is Sanirayak or “one that is along the coast”. Hall Beach was created when a Distant Early Warning (DEW) Line site was built in the area in 1957 to help monitor Canadian air space in the far North. Hall Beach is considered one of the more traditional communities in Nunavut. Hall Beach is a spectacular place to see walrus, seals, waterfowl and other arctic wildlife; fishing for arctic char is superb.

Igloolik - 1,454 people

Igloolik is located on a small island in Foxe Basin, just off Melville Peninsula on the mainland of Nunavut. Although Igloolik is part of the Qikiqtaaluk, or Baffin region, there exists a mix of Inuit cultural traditions from each of the three regions. Igloolik is a community that balances modern living with a traditional way of life. This balance is illustrated by Isuma Production’s Atanarjuat, the award-winning movie based on traditional legend.



Iqaluit (Capital of Nunavut) - 6,699 people

Iqaluit, formerly known as Frobisher Bay, is the business and government centre for the Baffin region and the capital of Nunavut. Iqaluit means “place of fish”, and is located on the southern portion of Baffin Island on Koojesse Inlet, Iqaluit is the largest community in Nunavut and the gateway to the Arctic from Eastern Canada. Iqaluit has experienced remarkable growth between the years of 1998 and 2009. Residents have witnessed a surge of new building construction to house the growing population.

Kimmirut - 455 people

The community of Kimmirut, previously known as Lake Harbour, is a scenic town located on the southern coast of Baffin Island, near the mouth of the Soper River. Hikers access the Katannilik Territorial Park Reserve from just outside the community. Other outdoor pursuits enjoyed in the area are sea kayaking, canoeing, and hunting. Kimmirut has a lot to offer its visitors; residents are continuing to promote their community’s tourism industry from both within and outside the territory. Many of Kimmirut’s residents are renowned carvers whose art is sold and collected worldwide.

Kugluktuk - 1,450 people

Kugluktuk, formerly known as Coppermine, is situated along the banks of the Coppermine River and on the shores of the Coronation Gulf. Kugluktuk is the most westerly community in Nunavut. In summer, canoeists and rafters take the popular route up the Coppermine River to the scenic Bloody Falls Territorial Historic Park. Other outdoor activities include hiking, fishing, hunting, kayaking and photography. Because the tundra is close to the tree line, a variety of wildlife can be viewed in the area, including grizzly bears, wolverines and moose, as well as tundra wildlife, such as muskoxen, caribou, foxes and wolves.

Kugaaruk - 771 people

The name Kugaaruk means “a river flowing through the community that is used for fishing and to supply water”. Kugaaruk—formerly known as Pelly Bay—is located on the Simpson Peninsula. As the name suggests, the area is known for its excellent fishing. Kugaaruk is nestled within coastal mountains, which lie between the bay and the wide expanse of the tundra. As a result, the area is very picturesque with a diverse landscape. A stone church built by missionary priests in the 1930’s and 40’s is a historic site that has been maintained by the Hamlet of Kugaaruk.

Pangnirtung - 1,425 people

Pangnirtung is located on Baffin Island, in Cumberland Sound. Known to outdoor enthusiasts as the gateway to the famous Auyuittuq National Park, there are many attractions for visitors to this community. Pangnirtung is famed for its art and one of the great attractions is the Uqqurmiut Inuit Arts Centre. Pangnirtung Fisheries contributes to the community’s economy through the harvesting and processing of arctic char and Baffin turbot (Greenland halibut).

Pond Inlet - 1,549 people

Pond Inlet is located on the northeastern shore of Baffin Island. It is known to the Inuit as Mittimatalik, “the place where Mittima is buried”. Although the name remains, the identity of Mittima is a mystery to the present-day people of Pond Inlet. The gorgeous scenery is a mix of mountains, glaciers, and icebergs that attract many tourists from all over the world. There are many outfitters for hire that will readily take visitors out on dogsled or snowmobile to see the abundant wildlife and scenery that Pond Inlet has to offer.

Qikiqtarjuaq - 520 people

Qikiqtarjuaq, formerly known as Broughton Island, is located just off the east coast of Baffin Island 97 km north of Arctic Circle. Although the island is referred to as “the big island”, the island is in fact only 12 km wide by 16 km long. Qikiqtarjuaq is known for its traditional Inuit and modern clothing. Abundant wildlife and beautiful scenery attract visitors to Qikiqtarjuaq. Qikiqtarjuaq is also known as the iceberg and diving capital of Nunavut.

Rankin Inlet - 2,266 people

Rankin Inlet, or Kangiqtinig “deep bay/inlet”, is the business and transportation hub of the Kivalliq region. Rankin is the gateway to Nunavut from Central and Western Canada. The Ijiraliq (Meliadine) River Territorial Historic Park is a favorite spot for hiking, fishing and bird watching. Archaeological sites, such as the European whaler shipwreck near Marble Island and the Thule site in the Ijiraliq River area provide glimpses into a remarkable past.



Repulse Bay - 945 people

Repulse Bay lies directly on top of the Arctic Circle in eastern Nunavut. The Inuktitut name for Repulse Bay is Naujaat, which means "nesting place for seagulls". Nesting grounds are located on cliffs 5 km north of the community, and every June the area is occupied by thousands of seagulls, snow birds, loons, eider ducks, longtail ducks, and jaegers. Repulse Bay is renowned for its excellent artisans. Community residents have formed the Aivilik Arts Society in an effort to promote Repulse Bay art.

Resolute Bay- 214 people

Resolute Bay is located in the High Arctic. It is the major stopover for expeditions to the North Pole and to Quttinirpaaq (Ellesmere Island) National Park, and a base for scientific research. There is a weather station as well as the Polar Continental Shelf Project research camp located within the community. Resolute's history has the most European influence of all the Nunavut communities. The community is named after the HMS Resolute, a British ship that was in search of the lost Franklin expedition.

Sanikiluaq - 812 people

Sanikiluaq, the most southerly community of Nunavut, is located on the Belcher Islands in the Hudson Bay. The terrain is composed of many rocky cliffs. Many of these cliffs are nesting grounds for eider ducks, whose feathers (eiderdown) are collected from nests and made into duvets and outer-wear. Sanikiluaq carvers are known worldwide for their distinctive carvings made from argillite, the dark stone found on the Belcher Islands.



Taloyoak - 899 people

The Inuit name Taloyoak describes a large stone formerly used by hunters to herd caribou for the kill. Taloyoak is west of the Boothia Peninsula, at the heart of the Northwest Passage. The area has a long history of exploration, including the famed John Ross expeditions in the 1830s' that resulted in pinpointing the Magnetic North Pole. Taloyoak's present attractions are primarily its landscape, history, and fish and wildlife resources. Artists, carvers and artisans are prolific in the area.

Whale Cove - 407 people

The community of Whale Cove, or Tikirarjuaq (long point), is nestled within a bay, along the western shore of Hudson Bay. Whale Cove remains a mainly traditional community, with diverging dialects and cultures, originating from both inland and coastal traditions. The abundance of land and marine wildlife has enabled the Inuit of Whale Cove to enjoy a traditional diet and lifestyle. Seal, walrus and beluga are the mainstay of the traditional diet.