



Sustainable Travel  
International™

A group of people in winter gear standing in a snowy, mountainous landscape.

# Inuit Adventures

Nunavik, Quebec



# Tunngasugit! Bienvenue! Welcome!

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## An Extraordinary Destination

Nunavik is a destination encompassing a vast expanse of wilderness that is rarely visited by outsiders. It is rich in natural beauty, full of pristine arctic landscapes, wildlife, and warm friendly faces. From Hudson Bay to the west, to the Hudson Strait and Ungava Bay to the north, to the Torngat Mountains rising in the east - this is our land, our home, and we Nunavimmiut – the people of Nunavik - invite you to explore this relatively unknown region of arctic Canada for an unforgettable journey.

Our company, Inuit Adventures, is dedicated to encouraging a responsible local tourism industry in Nunavik. We represent 14 community cooperatives, and serve to help local Inuit guides develop, market, and deliver professional tour packages that showcase the very best of our region. At the same time, we provide meaningful experiences for our guests

that respect the natural heritage of our land and strengthen the social and cultural traditions of our communities.

When you travel to Nunavik, you will make footprints in one of the most uninhabited regions on earth. You will meet the elders and artists of our villages and share in the traditional knowledge and stories of our people. You will immerse yourself in the many wonders of nature and be forever changed by the experience. On behalf of our guides and communities, I welcome you to our home and we look forward to meeting you soon.



Eli Eliyassiapik  
President, La Fédération des coopératives  
du nouveau Québec

*This is our land, our home, and we Nunavimmiut – the people of Nunavik - invite you to explore this relatively unknown region of arctic Canada*

## The Experience

Imagine a place the size of France, with no highways, no shopping malls, and no city skyscrapers - just 14 small villages with a total population of less than 12,000. A place that is home to one of the world's oldest living cultures, the Inuit, who thrive in one of the most spectacular wilderness regions left on Earth. This is the near frontier of Nunavik, in the north of Quebec, Canada, only a two hour flight from Montreal. In winter, this pristine corner of the Arctic brings spectacular displays of the Aurora Borealis, and the white-covered tundra provides “nature's roadway”, as the Inuit travel by dog-sled and snowmobile across the land. In summer, Nunavik bursts with life - polar bears roam, herds of caribou wander, migratory birds nest undisturbed, wildflowers carpet the land, and trout, salmon, and char fill the rushing streams and rivers. Think pleasantly warm

days and fleece cool nights, with tall mountains, wide-open tundra, and countless freshwater lakes (no one yet knows exactly how many there are). And your hosts? Some of the most hospitable people you will meet anywhere – the soft-spoken and quick-to-laugh Inuit.

Nunavik offers today's adventure-seeking traveler an immersion into nature on a truly grand scale, the way our ancestors once experienced the North American frontier – raw, powerful, and pure in its abundant beauty. It is a retreat from the increasingly congested and urbanized world we live in – a place where hiking, exploring, learning about an age-old culture, and just sitting and cherishing Mother Nature's treasures will leave you yearning to return again.

*Think pleasantly warm days and fleece cool nights, with tall mountains, wide-open tundra, and countless freshwater lakes*







© Heiko Wittenborn

## Natural Attractions

Arriving in Nunavik, one's first impression is vastness – the expanse of tundra stretching off to the horizon, mountains in the distance, the immensity of the sea. In summer, the land is alive with wildflowers and wildlife revelling in the nearly 24 hours of daily sunlight. The local people, also, take full advantage of the warm season – fishing, exploring, and traveling by boat across the numerous rivers and bays.

For centuries, caribou have provided the Inuit with food and clothing. Large numbers of caribou journey through the taiga forests and tundra plains of Nunavik, a migration second only to that of Africa's great wildebeest. Summer also brings schools of

spawning Arctic Char, Atlantic salmon and wild trout to the streams, rivers, and bays.

Pingualuit National Park, one of a series of new national parks, holds the stunning “Crystal Eye” of Nunavik – a symmetrical cobalt-blue crater lake, 267 meters deep, created by a meteorite strike over a million years ago. Kuururjuaq National Park is home to the dramatic peaks and lush valleys of the Torngat Mountains, where the Inuit believe the spirit world overlaps with our own. Here you can hike to Mount D'Iberville, the highest peak in eastern Canada at 1,646 meters, or canoe along the Koroc River - a journey through lands barely touched by humans, where

caribou, wolves, and black bears thrive. Tursujuq, another national park being mapped around Richmond Gulf, showcases this immense inland lake, which joins the Hudson Bay through a narrow channel surrounded by high cliffs. Further inland still, dramatic waterfalls plunge into the Gulf from the surrounding mountains. During July and August, beluga whales and their calves find shelter in these calm waters, and over 50 archaeological sites discovered to date trace occupation by Inuit, Cree, and even an old Hudson's Bay Trading Post.

Further east, Nunavik's Leaf Bay may have the highest tides in the world - scientific studies continue

to document this visually dramatic surge of water. And then there is Akpatok Island in Ungava Bay. In a crown filled with natural jewels, Akpatok is one of the brightest diamonds. A lost world rising from the sea, its steep cliffs are home to thousands of soaring seabirds. Walrus gather here, and polar bears wander the white-gravel shores, eating fish and bird eggs during the summer until they can return to the winter ice.

Taken all together, few places left in the world remain as wild and yet to be fully explored as Nunavik.

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# Our commitment to you...

## Experience

Inuit Adventures draws upon over 40 years of experience as a part of the tourism division of La Fédération des coopératives du Nouveau-Québec. Established in 1967, the cooperatives own and operate 13 community hotels, several remote outpost camps, and a full-service travel agency in addition to providing many essential community services. No other organization has the depth of community support, logistical know-how, or understanding of the local conditions that is required to successfully deliver tourism products and services in northern Québec.

## Professional

Inuit Adventures is committed to implementing professional standards and business practices. We are qualified and licensed as a tour operator, and are recognized members in good standing with Aventure Écotourisme Québec. We work with our community partners to facilitate ongoing guide training and certification, to develop contingency itineraries, as well as to ensure that liability insurance is in place for all of the tourism activities we offer. Whether it is the first visit, or an annual trip north, our guests can count on us to provide a worry-free travel experience.

## Local

Inuit Adventures provides the introductions needed to experience the arctic through the eyes of the local Inuit - a culture that has thrived for thousands of years in one of the least known parts of the world. However, we do not just work with the Inuit of Nunavik. With cooperative membership representing more than 90% of Nunavik's population, we are the Inuit of Nunavik. Our extensive network of friends and family in every community represents the cumulative knowledge of our region's most trusted guides, our most respected Elders, and our most talented artists.

## Personal

Inuit Adventures provides a wide range of specialty services for individuals and groups that require something a little out of the ordinary. We can develop a custom itinerary for your personal Nunavik Bucket List, coordinate refuelling stops for private aircraft, or provide logistical support for a remote base camp. From families to film crews, to corporate executives and research scientists – be it for pleasure or work - Inuit Adventures has the local network, resources, and experience to help you safely and comfortably travel in the vast arctic lands we call home.

## Responsible

Inuit Adventures is owned by and accountable to the 14 member cooperatives located in the Inuit communities along the Ungava and Hudson coasts of northern Québec. The Inuktitut word “Atautsikut” embraces their collective vision of working together to develop as a people, leaving none behind. As such – in addition to helping create and support local employment and business opportunities – all of Inuit Adventures' profits are reinvested through local cooperatives to fund social and economic development initiatives within Nunavik communities.

## Value

Inuit Adventures offers unique, authentic cultural experiences for those travellers who seek to explore a destination from a local perspective. We have negotiated exclusive preferred rates with all of our regional suppliers – many of them also Inuit-owned enterprises. This gives us a pricing advantage second to none that allows us to extend to our guests an unparalleled opportunity and value. It also allows us to share more of the economic benefits of tourism with the communities and people that make Nunavik such an extraordinary destination.

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Flying over the tidal flats, Leaf Bay (Tasijuaq)



Exploring the tundra, Akpatok Island

My guide, Yaaka Yaaka, is explaining to me how the villagers of Kangiqsujuaq, near the northern most point of Nunavik, traditionally collected the feathers from duck nests to make the world’s original down parka, packing the tiny, soft, insulating feathers into pockets of hand-sewn seal skin. I am learning that some of the most useful things I own – my warm winter down coat, the sun glasses I travel with, and even my kayak – have their origins in Inuit ingenuity. “Most people have no idea that the Inuit designed and created the first kayak,” Yaaka says as we explore the uninhabited islands dotting Wakeham Bay.

On one of those islands, we find hundreds of nesting eider ducks and Yaaka gives me a hands-on demonstration of how the Inuit carefully remove the fine down feathers from a nest, so the ducks will continue to return to breed as they have for centuries. It is a ‘back to the future’ moment: At a time when more people are realizing the importance of sustainable living on a finite planet, the Inuit have long understood the wisdom of living in harmony with nature - taking only what is needed for today in order to safeguard natural resources for future generations. Nearby, Yaaka spots a circular pattern of rocks that suggest an ancient settlement once stood there. “These rocks were probably used by our Thule ancestors to anchor the walls of an animal skin tent more than 1000 years old,” he says.

If there is one thing I am quickly learning during my trip to Nunavik, it is that there are still places on our planet yet to be fully explored, where a deep and profound sense of living close to nature exists. I do not say that lightly: I have spent the last two decades traveling to 127 countries across six continents looking for true wilderness, first as a wildlife researcher and later as an editor for National Geographic Traveler.

From Wakeham Bay, I make the short trip to Pingualuit National Park where I hike around a stunning crater lake left behind from a meteorite that crashed here 1.4 million years ago. Along the way I see a herd of perhaps 600 caribou walking across the vast unblemished landscape. The only noise is the sound of the wind. At night, the only lights are the stars that appear in a moonless July sky. After traversing the world in search of pristine nature, I would have never guessed that I would find it only a three hour flight from my New England home. You can bet I will be back again.

*Costas Christ*

Costas Christ, Editor at Large, National Geographic Traveler



Elders Conference, Kangirsuk



Puvirnituq Snow Festival, Puvirnituq



## Booking Conditions

Inuit Adventures is a division of the tourism development department of La Fédération des coopératives du Nouveau-Québec.

### Reservations

Contact Inuit Adventures or your travel agent for updated tour package rates and dates and to book your trip.

### Deposit and Final payment

A 30% deposit will be required within 10 days of your initial booking to confirm your reservation.

Final payment must be received 60 days prior to your tour departure date.

For reservations made less than 60 days prior to departure, the full amount is due upon booking.

### Cancellations and Refunds

If you cancel your trip reservation, the following cancellation fees will apply:

Up to 61 days before trip departure date - 30% deposit

Within 60 days of trip departure date - 100 % of trip cost

All trip cancellations must be communicated in writing. Inuit Adventures strongly recommends purchasing trip cancellation insurance.

### Insurance

Nunavik is a remote fly-in only destination, and therefore Emergency Medical and Evacuation Insurance is highly recommended for all non-residents of Canada booking a tour with Inuit Adventures. Travel and lost luggage insurance policies are also recommended. You may contact us or your travel agent for more information.

### Minimum bookings required

Please note that if there is an insufficient number of confirmed bookings 45 days prior to a scheduled trip, the trip may be cancelled. You will be refunded all monies deposited on the trip.

### Published rates

Published package rates are indicative only, based on ground costs, airfares, and other fees at the time of printing. Rates are quoted in CDN\$ on a per person basis and based on double occupancy. A single supplement applies for persons travelling alone. Published rates do not include applicable taxes and a consumer protection fee. The total cost of your selected package will be reconfirmed at the time of booking.

### Included in the published rates

Unless otherwise stated, our packages include return airfares from Montreal, inter-community and charter flights within Nunavik, park fees where applicable, accommodations, services of local guides and all meals for the duration of the tour.

### Not included in the published rates

Any costs other than those specified in the package. Without limitation, you are responsible for all transportation between your residence and Montreal, all accommodations and meals in Montreal prior to your trip departure, rental of appropriate clothing and sleeping bags for tour activities, excess baggage charges, alcoholic beverages, telephone calls, gratuities, insurance and items of a personal nature.

Inuit Adventures is licensed by the Province of Quebec.

### Unused services

There are no refunds for services included in the package which were partially used or not used at all.

### Changes to itinerary

It is not uncommon in arctic regions of northern Canada for flights to be cancelled or delayed due to weather conditions. Please note that should it be necessary to amend or reschedule planned activities, scheduled outings, ground services or otherwise change the planned itinerary, such changes will be made to assure your safety and to enhance your overall experience. No reimbursement will be made for any adjustments in planned activities or changes to the itinerary.

### Liability

Inuit Adventures and/or its agents, do not assume nor shall be liable for any injury, damage or loss of any nature whatsoever, caused or occasioned by neglect, default or by any act of commission and/or omission, whether negligent or not, of any person, company, or carrier, nor of their respective representatives, servants, employees and/or sub-contractors.

Inuit Adventures and/or its agents, reserve the right to cancel or alter any package and/or to refuse to accept or retain any person as a customer of any package at any time and for any reason whatsoever which Inuit Adventures and/or its agents, shall in its (their) sole judgment deem necessary. In any such event, Inuit Adventures and/or its agents, may refund the customer all collected payments up to the value of the cancelled portion of the package and, upon such refund, the customer shall have no recourse whatsoever, directly or indirectly, against Inuit Adventures and/or its agents, with respect to the cancellation of the said package.

The passage contract in use by the participating airline carrier, when delivered to the user, shall constitute the sole contract between the airline carrier and the user. The participating airline carriers shall more particularly not be liable for passenger expenses and/or inconveniences resulting from flight delays and/or cancellation due to circumstances beyond the airline carrier’s control and including, but without restricting the generality thereof, due to weather conditions, nor for any act of omission and/or commission or event during the time passengers are not aboard the airline carrier’s planes or conveyances.

Inuit Adventures and/or its agents, reserve the right to adjust their activities when necessitated by weather conditions. They shall not be held liable for any extra expenses and/or inconveniences and/or any damages resulting from any delay due to a cause beyond their control, including, but without restricting the generality thereof, delays caused by unfavourable weather.

Should illness, safety or personal reasons necessitate the evacuation of one or more customers, the evacuation expenses will be paid by the individual customer(s) involved. Persons engaging in any activities while participating in any package do so at their own risk and peril.

Upon paying a deposit at the time of booking the said package, the customer accepts the terms and conditions contained in this brochure and acknowledges that the said terms and conditions have been fully read and understood and form an integral part of the customer agreeing to be included in the package and the customer furthermore relinquishes any and all rights whatsoever to make any claims of any nature against Inuit Adventures and/or its agents for any injury, damage, inconvenience or loss that may be sustained while engaged in the activities.

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This brochure contains recycled paper





The night sky, Salluit



Collecting Eider down, Hudson coast



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