



## **Auyuittuq, Hiking Expedition**

### ***Program Descriptive & Day-by-day:***

#### **Auyuittuq National Park**

Majestic towers, carved in bedrock by glaciers, shooting straight for the sun: such scenery is what Auyuittuq National Park has to offer. It is, without a doubt, one of the most awe-inspiring places on Earth. Set in the middle of the Penny Ice Cap, bisected from North to South by the Akshayuk pass, an immense valley opens inland. After a two-day hike surrounded by severe-looking, barren plateaus, we will set up base camp. From there, you will go on a day hike to one of the most spectacular lookouts of the park, Mount Thor. On your way, you will have an opportunity to see impressive rock formations dating back to the last ice age, moraines, boulder fields, and much more. During this five-day hike, you will tread over terrain ranging from arid gravel to humid, fertile tundra, with sharp peaks and a huge glacier in the backdrop. Memories like these are unlikely to fade away.

#### **The hiking trip**

To hike Auyuittuq Park you will need to be able to walk with a 16 to 20 kg (35-45 lb) back pack for a distance of 8 to 18 km (5 to 12 mi) per day (4 to 8 hours a day). Trail is not technical and do not present an altitude challenge, be ready to have, at moment to cross glacier river (water high to your knees). Days will be spent in the great outdoor while nights will be spent in tent. You should be prepared to live outside for the entire trip and have minimal camping experience

#### **Kekerten Island and Pangnirtung**

After leaving Auyuittuq Park, an Inuit guide will take you on a boat ride to the remarkable Kekerten Island. There, you can see a remaining of an old whaling station that would have been at its busiest in the 1870s. To this day, the artifacts on Kekerten Island are carefully preserved. This guided tour will take you through a part of history that is kept alive by a few elders in the village. Pang for the intimate, is a small northern community with a rich history and a booming arts and crafts scene that serves as the gateway to the park for hikers. Remnants of historical whaling activity, Pangnirtung will fascinate you.



## **Day-by-day:**

### **Day 1 / Monday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

- Flight from Montreal or Ottawa
- Meeting with the guide (preparation of equipment and briefing in the afternoon)
- Night at your accommodation in Iqaluit

Day one: the beginning of a great adventure! After a three hour flight (approx. 0900AM to 1200PM) from Ottawa with a local northern airline, one of your guides will meet you at the Iqaluit airport. From the airport, we will stop at your full-service hotel (your accommodation for the night) to check in, drop off your extra luggage and for a chance to grab a light snack at the coffee shop.

At the group meeting held later at the Inukpak Outfitting office, you'll meet your guides (all of Inukpak Outfitting's expeditions are led by one of its owners, Martine or Louis-Philip; when group size requires it, a second guide will co-lead). All participants will have a chance to discuss their different experiences, expectations and motivations that have brought them on their adventure. We will then discuss the itinerary and answer questions about gear and any other aspect of the trip overview.

After going back to your hotel for some last minute repacking, we highly suggest that you visit one of our great local restaurants, and ask if arctic char or caribou is on the menu.

### **Day 2 / Tuesday, July 21<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

- Flight: Iqaluit to Pangnirtung (Departure: 0900 – Arrival: 1000)
- Registration at Park Canada office
- Boat charter to the Park
- Hiking
- Night in the wild (camping)

With the Inukpak Outfitting van waiting for you outside the hotel, you will join your co-hikers for a quick ride to the airport. The stunning 60 min flight to Pangnirtung will give you a glimpse of what the mountains surrounding Auyuittuq National Park have to offer.

As soon as we touch down, our group will head to the Parks Canada office. Staff from Parks Canada will be expecting us, as it is mandatory to go through the safety briefing given by one of the experienced park wardens. As you watch the video on polar bear safety, your guide will take care of the last few details of the group registration, and gather the last few locally sourced items. We will eat lunch on the deck between the Parks Canada office and the Visitor centre - wait until you see that view! And this is really just the beginning!

You will then meet Peter, our long term Pangniqtuumiut friend, owner of Peter's Expediting & Outfitting Services. He will take us aboard his boat to travel to the entrance of the park. Peter was a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut



from 1999 to 2008, where he personally participated to the formation of Nunavut; he is much more than just a boat captain! Feel free to ask him questions as he always has amazing stories. The boat ride (approx. 60 min over 30 km) will take us to Overlord Camp, the southern entrance of Auyuittuq National Park.

As soon as we land, we'll get into hiking mode, as our goal is to cover a few kilometres before setting camp.

### **Day 3 / Wednesday, July 22nd, 2020**

- Hiking
- Night in the wild (camping)

On the first real morning of the trip, you'll wake up in a truly awe-inspiring place. Your guide will already be up, coffee should be ready; all that's left is for you is to sit down and enjoy! Mosquitoes might also be up, but your guides have a plan: Breakfast will be served in the rain/bug shelter. Rest assured, as soon as the wind picks up - and it will - the bugs will be swept aside. As you repack camp for the first time, your guide will give you pointers on how to do it efficiently.

Early that morning, you will come to our first river crossing; as you sit on your backpack, you'll soon learn your new river crossing mantra: Boots off, sandals on. We'd like to remind you that your guide has crossed river like this hundreds of time; they will give you a safety briefing and they will advise on the best group strategies to cross safely. Yikes! I agree: The first one is always the coldest!

Your goal for today is to reach the base of "The Sandcastle", an immense gravel moraine left by the glacier millions of years ago. If time allows, you can venture to the top of the moraine to observe the lake.

### **Day 4 / Thursday, July 23rd, 2020**

- Hiking
- Night in the wild (camping)

Similar morning: wake up, coffee, breakfast and pack your gear. Today's hike will take us through a variety of terrains - sandy beaches, fields of green tundra with splashes of colorful flowers, rocky ups and downs. Expect to cross a few rivers again today.

You will soon be part of the very select group of people who can brag about having crossed the Arctic Circle on foot. Years ago, Parks Canada erected an Inukshuk that marks this point; group photos are a must! The Arctic Circle marks the latitude where you have at least one full day of darkness during the winter and its sunny counterpart during the summer.



Across the Weasel River are Schwarzenbach Falls. Starting with a roughly 200 m vertical drop over a granite ledge, this impressive waterfall then cascades down the steep cliffs over a distance of about 700 m.

Our goal for the day is to reach Windy Lake, where, as the name might imply, record wind speeds have been observed. This is why hikers have, over the years, built rock walls, behind which we will shelter our tents for the night. Windy Lake is also the location of the second Emergency cabin on our route; while sleeping in the cabins is strictly reserved for emergencies, we are welcome to use them for the evening.

### **Day 5 / Friday, July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

- Hiking
- Night in the wild (camping)

Day 5 is a special day: after a hearty morning meal, we will leave our heavy equipment behind at camp, pack for a day hike and head out on our mission: Today we are pushing toward Thor Peak. It won't be too long before you see it, as Thor Peak is the second tallest rock face on earth (a little over a kilometer and a half of straight rock face). Climbers from around the world travel here to climb it.

Once again, photos are a must! By the end of the afternoon, we will be back in our camp from the previous night, finding our tents where we left them that morning.

### **Day 6 / Saturday, July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

- Hiking
- Night in the wild (camping)

The day of the challenge: 2 days in one! Our goal today is to hike in a single day the distance we covered in two days earlier in the trip, all the way back to Overlord, and set camp as close as possible to the boat pick up point.

### **Day 7 / Sunday, July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

- Boat charter to visit Kekerten Island and Pangnirtung
- Night in accommodation in Pangnirtung

This is a boating day, so make sure to keep your warm clothing handy. Peter will take us to Kekerten Island Territorial Park for a tour. On Kekerten Island, you can see the remains of an old whaling station that was at its busiest in the 1870s. Keep an eye on the water as we travel, as there still are Bowhead whales in the area.

Once we get back to Pangnirtung, we will head to the Auyiittuq Lodge, our accommodation for the night. On the way over, we will stop at the Parks Canada office for group de-registration. Accommodations in Arctic communities have limited capacity and could differ from what you are used to in the rest of North America. Since we will be in Pangnirtung at the busiest time of year, please expect to have to share a room (with your partner or a person of the same sex for solo travelers).



## Day 8 / Monday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020

- Flight: Pangnirtung to Iqaluit (Departure: 1045 – Arrival: 1145)  
\*Possible to connect flight to Ottawa or Montreal
- Night at your accommodation in Iqaluit if you decide to leave the next day (not included)

Our last few hours in Pangnirtung will be spent visiting the impressive tapestry and print making shop at the Uqqurmiut Centre. Your eyes can feast on internationally recognized local art and, if you were to fall in love with a piece, the centre's staff will help you pack it to make it travel proof. This is also the place to buy the famous "Pang Hat".

Two options are available as you flight back South: flights from Pangnirtung to Iqaluit can connect with flights to Ottawa or Montreal, so you could fly all the way to Southern Canada. For those who decide to stay in Iqaluit for an extra night, you will be invited to share dinner with the group. It is a great chance to share photos, remember great stories and exchange contacts.

*\*Please note that this is a suggested itinerary and schedule,  
Depending on good weather and flight availability*

### **Price:**

#### **Program - Auyuittuq, Hiking Expedition**

\$5,010.00 CAD + GST 5% / person (double occupancy) \*\*\*

\*\*\*solo traveller pricing available

### **Program inclusions:**

#### **Included:**

- Return flights from Ottawa, ON. or Montreal, QC. to Iqaluit, NU.
  - If city of departure is available on travel days
- Return flights from Iqaluit, NU. to Pangnirtung, NU.
- Full service hotel accommodation in Iqaluit
  - B&B option
  - double occupancy
  - days #1
- Full service hotel accommodation in Pangnirtung
  - B&B option
  - double occupancy
  - days #7
- Guided Expedition for the duration of the trip
  - bilingual guide (English / French)
- Meals, trail snacks and hot drinks while in Pang and expedition
- Specialized equipment and safety gear
- Transportation to/from Iqaluit airport. Pang is by foot.
- Boat charter between Pang, Auyuittuq National Park and Kekerten (Return)
- Admission fees to the Parks

**Not included:**

- Accommodation in Iqaluit day #8
- Camping, clothing and personal equipment (hiking gear, sleeping bag\*\*, mattress\*\*, personal clothing, personal hygiene kit, medication)
- Meals in Iqaluit
- Personal travel insurance (mandatory)
- Bad weather / out of our control, cancellation related fees
- Gratuities

\*\*Can be rented at no additional cost. Please notify 30 days in advance.

***Program details:*****Payment:**

Payment is due in full (100%) upon reservation. Payment can be made by: EMT, cash at Inukpak Outfitting office (contact us prior), corporate cheque, wire transfer.

**IMPORTANT:**

2% interest charges per month on balance over 30 days

**Cancellation:**

- Receive full refund less non-refundable expenses contracted by Inukpak Outfitting for cancellation made 30 days prior trip departure.
- Charge of 100% of total program/package cost will be requested for any cancellation within 30 days of the trip departure.
- Please note that some activities are requesting good weather forecast, in case of cancellation due to weather (the decision will be taken by Inukpak Outfitting's guide), only the non-refundable expenses contracted by Inukpak Outfitting will be charged to you.

**Dates:**

Monday, July 20<sup>th</sup> to Monday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Day 1: Participants need to be in Iqaluit no later than Monday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 1500 to attend the group / pre-expedition meeting.

Day 8: It is possible to connect flight directly from Pangnirtung to Ottawa and Montreal on the Monday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

**Group:**

Min. 4 / Max. 6 participants

**Ratio:**

1 guide – 6 participants

3310 Niaqunngusariaq Street - P.O. Box 11392 - Iqaluit, Nunavut, Canada - X0A 1H0  
Phone 867.222.6489 - Info@InukpakOutfitting.ca - [www.InukpakOutfitting.ca](http://www.InukpakOutfitting.ca)



### **Custom Add-Ons:**

Inukpak Outfitting is dedicated to ensuring your Nunavut trip exceeds expectations. Please contact us to inquire about customizations, activities add-ons and/or additional nights to this program.

### **Difficulty level:**

To hike Auyuittuq Park you will need to be able to walk with a 16 to 20 kg (35-45 lb) backpack for a distance of 8 to 18 km (5 to 12 mi) per day (4 to 8 hours a day). Trail is not technical and do not present an altitude challenge, be ready to have, at moment to cross glacier river (water high to your knees). Days will be spent in the great outdoor while nights will be spent in tent. You should be prepared to live outside for the entire trip and have minimal camping experience.

### **Accommodation:**

Full-service hotel accommodation (or B&B option) in double occupancy is included in the price. While in Iqaluit, convenient in-town restaurant options range from take-out, to pub fare, to fine dining.

During the expedition part of the trip, nights will be spent in camping (tent, sleeping bag and mattresses.)\* Participants will share tents with the person of their choice when possible or will be partnering with a person of same gender.

\*Can be rented at no additional cost. Please notify 30 days in advance.

### **Traveling in Nunavut:**

Traveling in Nunavut can be one of your life time adventures. Scenery, people and wildlife are only few of a million things giving such a unique taste to the Canadian arctic. But traveling in Nunavut, also mean, traveling following permitting weather, and so, bad weather cancellations are not impossible. Also, "out of our control" situation can happen even with the best preparation. Replacement pieces for aircrafts and specialised workers to fix engines often need to be brought from South and are not always available the next morning.

To enjoy your next experience up North it is important to be ready to face those situations and to be ready to play with your schedule. Following those comments, we highly recommend that everybody traveling to the Arctic take few days off at the end of their trip to accommodate delay, with a smile.

### ***For more details, contact us at:***

#### **Inukpak Outfitting**

Louis-Philip Pothier  
*President / Head Guide / Instructor*

Phone: (867) 222-6489  
Email: [Info@InukpakOutfitting.ca](mailto:Info@InukpakOutfitting.ca)  
Web site: [www.InukpakOutfitting.ca](http://www.InukpakOutfitting.ca)