



Δοβ<ο
INUKPAK
OUTFITTING

AUYUITTUQ HIKING EXPEDITION

NUNAVUT  CANADA

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIVE & DAY-BY-DAY

LEVEL

3

DAYS

8

NIGHTS

2

HOTEL

5

CAMPING

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 hike 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). The trail is not technical and does not present an altitude challenge; however, at times you will have to cross glacier-fed rivers, with water up to your knees. Your days

will be spent in the great outdoors, while nights will be spent in a tent. You should be prepared to live outside for the entire trip and have some camping experience.

KEKERTEN ISLAND AND PANGNIRTUNG

After leaving Auyuittuq Park, a Panniqturmiutaq guide (Pangnirtung resident) will take you on a boat ride to the remarkable Kekerten Island, where you can see the remnants of a 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 art and crafts scene. Pangnirtung, this historic historic community, which serves as a gateway to the park, will fascinate you.





DAY-BY-DAY:

DAY 1



- **Flight from home to Iqaluit, NU** (not included)
- **Transfer from the airport to your accommodation** (by Inukpak Outfitting staff)
- **Group meeting** (preparation of equipment and briefing in the afternoon)
- **Night at your accommodation in Iqaluit**

Day one: the beginning of a great adventure! Upon your arrival in the Arctic Capital, one of your guides will meet you at the Iqaluit airport. From the airport, we will stop at your full-service hotel (B&B option) to check in, drop off your luggage and for a chance to grab a light snack at the coffee shop.

After you settle in, time to attend a group meeting at the Inukpak Outfitting office. You'll meet for the first time your guides (Inukpak Outfitting has all of their expeditions led by one of the owners: Martine or Louis-Philip and when group size requires it, co-led by a second guide). All participants will have a chance to exchange about their different experiences, their expectations and motivation for choosing that trip. Plan and itinerary will be discussed, questions about gear answered and all other aspects of the trip overview.

Back at your hotel for a 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



- **Transfer from your accommodation to the airport**
- **Flight Iqaluit to Pangnirtung, NU**
- **Registration at Parks 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 Auyittuq 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 Panniqturmiutaq friend (Pangnirtung resident), 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 (18 mi)) will take us to Overlord Cabin, the southern entrance of Auyittuq 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



B L S D

- **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 rivers like these hundred of times; 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



B L S D

- **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 (656 ft) vertical drop over a granite ledge, this impressive waterfall then cascades down the steep cliffs over a distance of about 700 m (0.4 mi).

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



B L S D

- **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



B L S D

- **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



B L S D

- **Boat charter to visit Kekerten Island and Pangnirtung, NU**
- **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 Auyittuq Lodge, our accommodation for the night. On the way over, we will stop at the Parks Canada office for group de-registration.

Accommodation in the Arctic communities can be different from what we are used to in North America. Most hotels in communities have shared rooms (couples & same gender), since we will be in Pangnirtung during the high season, get your mind set to meet a new sleeping buddy or sharing one more night with your tent partner!

DAY 8



OR



B

- **Free morning in Pangnirtung**
- **Transfer to the airport**
- **Flight* Pangnirtung to Iqaluit, NU**

*May be possible to connect flight to your home destination

- **Transfer from the airport to your accommodation in Iqaluit if you decide to leave the next day**
- **Night at your accommodation (hotel or B&B option), 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".

You have a few options for your flight back home: the flight from Pangnirtung to Iqaluit may connect with your flight back to your home destination. 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**

PROGRAM DETAILS:

Due to potential reasons out of our control, please note that prices, dates and inclusions/exclusions may vary without notice. Website information always prevail.

Price:

Program - Auyittuq, Hiking Expedition

Please refer to the [Program's section](#) of our website.

Dates:

Please refer to the [Program's section](#) of our website.

Day 1: Participants need to be in Iqaluit on or before Day One at 1500 to attend the group / pre-expedition mandatory meeting.

Day 8: It may be possible to connect flight directly from Pangnirtung (short layover in Iqaluit) to your home destination on the last day.

- 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 Pangnirtung and expedition
- Specialized equipment, safety and communication gear
- Ground transportation to/from Iqaluit airport. Pangnirtung is by foot.
- Boat charter to/from Pangnirtung, Auyittuq National Park and Kekerten
- Admission fees to the parks

Not included:

- Airfare from home to Iqaluit, NU (return)
- Accommodation in Iqaluit day #8
- Camping, clothing and personal equipment (hiking gear, tent**, 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

PROGRAM INCLUSIONS:

Included:

- Return mandatory group flights from Iqaluit, NU. to Pangnirtung, NU.
- Full-service hotel accommodation in Iqaluit
 - B&B option
 - double occupancy
 - days #1

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

AUYUITTUQ - HIKING EXPEDITION



Payment:

Please refer to the [Terms & Conditions](#) section of our website.

Cancellation:

Please refer to the [Terms & Conditions](#) section of our website.

Group:

Min. 4 / Max. 6 participants

Ratio:

1 guide – 6 participants

Custom Add-Ons:

Inukpak Outfitting is dedicated to ensuring your Nunavut trip exceeds expectations. Please contact us to inquire about our flights at preferential rates between home and Iqaluit, additional nights, customizations add-ons and/or activities to this program.

Difficulty level:

To hike Auyuittuq Park you will need to be able to hike 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) on an uneven terrain. 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 expedition and have some camping experience.

Flights:

Mandatory group flight from Iqaluit to Pangnirtung (return) is included.

Airfare from home to Iqaluit, NU (return) is NOT included.

* Inukpak Outfitting has a great working relationship with the airline company that serves the Arctic. If you would like to take advantage of our preferential rates between home and Iqaluit, it will be a pleasure for us to help you book your flights at that reduced rate.

Accommodation:

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

During the expedition part of the trip, nights will be spent in camping. Participants will share tents with the person of their choice when possible or will be partnering with a person of same gender.

Traveling in Nunavut:

Traveling in Nunavut can be one of your lifetime 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.

B = Breakfast **L** = Lunch **S** = Snack **D** = Dinner **N/A** = Not Applicable

**FOR MORE DETAILS,
CONTACT US AT:**



Inukpak Outfitting

Louis-Philip Pothier

President / Head Guide / Instructor

Phone: (867) 222-6489

Email: Info@InukpakOutfitting.ca

Web site: www.InukpakOutfitting.ca