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INUKPAK
OUTFITTING

AKSHAYUK PASS

SKI EXPEDITION



PROGRAM DESCRIPTIVE & DAY-BY-DAY

LEVEL

4

DAYS

14

NIGHTS

2

HOTEL

11

CAMPING

AKSHAYUK PASS, 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. An expedition surrounded by austere looking, barren plateaus, that will take you to two of the park's most spectacular lookouts, Thor Peak and Mount Asgard.

On your way, you will have an opportunity to see impressive rock formations dating back to the last ice age, ice caps, moraines, boulder fields, and much more. During this ski expedition, you will tread over terrain ranging from arid gravel to frozen river, with sharp peaks and a huge glacier in the backdrop. Those are memories that will remain with you forever.

Following a 4-hour snowmobile ride from Qikiqtarjuaq we arrive at the park's northern entrance, and then follow 11 days of backcountry skiing and 100 km (62 mi) of breathtaking scenery, to be crossed on skis, boots and crampons over the more difficult sections (especially the river's ice cascades). Along the way, you will have an opportunity to see impressive rock formations dating back to the last ice age, moraines, boulder fields, with spectacular views of Mount Thor and Mount Asgard.



Throughout the expedition, you will be mesmerized by the presence of glaciers, landscapes and mountains each more impressive than the last. Our goal, reaching the Southern entrance of the Park, where 30 km (18 mi) of snowmobile ride will be separating us from Pangnirtung the closest community.

THE BACKCOUNTRY SKI TRIP

To ski the Akshayuk Pass, you will need to be able to ski, pulling a 23-32 kg (50-70 lb) sled for a distance of 8 to 15 km (5 to 9 mi) per day (6 to 8 hours a day). Trail is not technical and do not present an altitude challenge, be ready to have, at moment to put crampon on your ski boot to cross section of frozen rivers and cascades. 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 winter camping experience.



DAY-BY-DAY:

AVAILABLE ON DEMAND FROM MARCH TO APRIL

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 get 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 from Iqaluit, NU. to Qikiqtarjuaq, NU.**
- **Registration at Parks Canada office**
- **Snowmobile charter to the Park**
- **Skiing**
- **Night in the wild** (camping)

The Inukpak Outfitting van is waiting for you outside the lobby of your hotel where you are joined by your co-skiers for a quick ride to the airport. A short 60 min flight to Pangnirtung followed by a stunning 30 min flight to Qikiqtarjuaq will give you a glimpse of what the mountain surrounding Auyuittuq National Park has to offer.

As soon as we touch ground, your group will take the direction of the Parks Canada office. Staff from Parks Canada is waiting for us, it is mandatory to go through a safety training given by one of the experience park wardens. As you watch the "Polar bear Safety" video, your guide will cover the last few details of the group registration, gather the last few local items (ex: camping fuel).

Meet Billy, our long-time Qikiqtarjuarmiutaq friend (Qikiqtarjuaq resident)! Feel free to ask him questions, he always has amazing stories. The snowmobile ride (approx. 80km (50 mi) – 4 hours long) will take us to North Pang Emergency Cabin, the Northern entrance of Auyuittuq National Park.

As soon as we touch ground, we'll get into skiing mode, our goal is to cover few kilometers before setting camp.

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DAY 3 TO DAY 12



B L S D

- **Skiing**
- **Night in the wild** (camping)

DAY 13



B L S D

- **Snowmobile charter to Pangnirtung, NU.**
- **Free afternoon to tour Pangnirtung** (Visitor centre and Uqqurmiut Centre / art gallery)
- **Night in accommodation in Pangnirtung**

Meet Peter! Our long-term Panniqturmiut friend (Pangnirtung resident) and owner of Peter's Expediting & Outfitting Services. Peter was a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut from 1999 to 2008, he personally participated to the formation of Nunavut, so much more than just a snowmobile driver!

Make sure to keep your warm clothing handy as the snowmobile ride can sometimes be cold. Peter is taking us to Pangnirtung. Once back in town, we will take the direction of the Auyuittuq Lodge, our accommodation for the night, en route, we do a quick stop at the Park Canada office for the 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 a short time, get your mind set to meet a new sleeping buddy or sharing one more night with your tent partner!

DAY 14



OR



B

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

AKSHAYUK PASS - SKI EXPEDITION



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: Akshayuk Pass - Ski Expedition

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

Dates:

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

The Akshayuk Pass Ski Expedition program operates on demand, from March to April. March offers the best Northern Lights viewing and the most reliable snowpack, April offer; longer days and the annual Toonik Tyme festival in Iqaluit.

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

Day 14: It may be possible to connect flight directly from Pangnirtung (short layover in Iqaluit) to your home destination on the last day.

PROGRAM INCLUSIONS:

Included:

- Mandatory group flights from Iqaluit, NU. to Qikiqtarjuaq, NU – return from Pangnirtung, NU to Iqaluit, NU.
- Full-service hotel accommodation in Iqaluit
 - B&B option
 - double occupancy
 - day #1
- Full-service hotel accommodation in Pangnirtung
 - B&B option
 - double occupancy
 - day #13
- Guided Expedition for the duration of the trip
 - bilingual guide (English / French)
- Meals, trail snacks and hot drinks while in Pangnirtung, Qikiqtarjuaq and expedition

- Specialized equipment, safety and communication gear
- Expedition-grade apparel and footwear (pulk, boots, insulated pants, parkas, mittens)
- Ground transportation to/from Iqaluit airport. Pangnirtung and Qikiqtarjuaq are by foot.
- Snowmobile charters to/from Pangnirtung, Qikiqtarjuaq and Auyuittuq National Park
- Admission fees to the National Park

Not included:

- Airfare from home to Iqaluit, NU (return)
- Accommodation in Iqaluit day #14
- Camping, clothing and personal equipment (ski 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

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

Payment:

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

Cancellation:

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

Group:

Min. 6 / Max. 8 participants

Ratio:

2 guides – 8 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.

AKSHAYUK PASS - SKI EXPEDITION



Difficulty level:

To ski Auyuittuq Park you will need to be able to ski pulling a 23-32 kg (50-70 lb.) sled for a distance of 8 to 15 km (5 to 9 mi) (6 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 put crampon on your ski boot to cross section of frozen river and cascade.

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 winter camping experience.

Flights:

Mandatory group flights from Iqaluit, NU. to Qikiqtarjuaq, NU – return from Pangnirtung, NU to Iqaluit, NU. are 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:**



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