



National Indigenous Peoples Day and Floe Edge, Naujaat

Celebrate National Indigenous Peoples Day in Naujaat, located on the Arctic Circle in Nunavut. Explore the community and take in the festivities including dancing, song, local handicrafts and, of course, food! Explore the Floe Edge as we search for narwhal, seals and birds galore, and camp overnight with the polar bears.



YOUR
ADVENTURE
AWAITS

5 days/4 nights

ITINERARY

Day 1: Winnipeg to Naujaat

The Arctic Circle awaits you! Board your flight to Naujaat (formerly Repulse Bay) and head north. There will be a short stop in both Churchill (30 mins) and Rankin Inlet (1:50). We will have the opportunity to leave the airport and explore Rankin and visit a well regarded craft store where you may purchase souvenirs. Naujaat lies directly on top of the Arctic Circle in central Nunavut. The Arctic Circle is a line that delineates the points on the earth's surface north of which the sun is above the horizon for 24 hours on June 21, and entirely below the horizon for 24 hours on December 21. Naujaat is the only North American community located on the Arctic Circle and it is here that the Arctic Circle cairn stands, a symbol that marks the Arctic Circle's location.

The Inuktitut name for Repulse Bay is Naujaat, which means "nesting place for seagulls". Nesting grounds are located on cliffs five kilometres north of the community and every June the area is occupied by thousands of seagulls, as well as snow birds, loons, eider ducks, longtail ducks, and jaegers.

Upon arrival, you will be met at the airport and transferred to the Naujaat Hotel - Inns North, which will be your home base for your stay here. Your local, expedition guide will take you on a community tour where you will visit ancient ruins and spot remnants of bow-head whale bones. A stop is made at the community office where you will be given your Arctic Circle certificate. Dinner is at your hotel. Head out with your guide in the early evening for a hike to a Thule site, the ancestors of the modern Inuit. Watch for a variety of animals and birds during your trek and savour the encounters that come your way!

Time is no longer important to us as we're almost in the land of the midnight sun! With the long daylight hours you have the option to head to bed, or stay outside and marvel at the daylight that will still be around! Perhaps venture over to the community hall for a game of pool with the locals. The children of Naujaat are among the friendliest in the Arctic. They'll greet you with shy smiles that turn into a friendly "Hi!" Then, they'll ask your name, tell you theirs, and an instant friendship blooms.

Day 2: National Indigenous Peoples Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast today. Naujaat is renowned for its excellent artisans, especially for its carvers who work in bone, ivory or stone. We will have a chance to talk with and gain an understanding of this craft as we meet with renown artist, Paul Malliki. Paul's work is in many galleries across North America and has had many prestigious commissions including gifts to two prime ministers and was one of the artists to carve the centrepiece in Iqaluit.

Late afternoon we will join the community to partake in the festivities in celebration of National Indigenous Peoples



Day. There is sure to be square dancing, singing and lots of delicious foods to try, as well as the opportunity to connect with local residents. The past is valued here, as you'll soon see. Artisans create exquisite imagery in stone, intricate jewellery, and beautifully designed clothing that is warm and practical. We will have a special presentation of throat singing by a couple of ladies in the community.

Day 3: A Day on the Land

Today is an exciting day to be on the land experiencing and learning about the traditional way of life. We will hook up our dog sled teams and head out across the land enjoying this traditional method of transportation and revelling in the dogs.

Then we head out on snowmobiles to North Pole River to try our luck at catching dinner. We will fish for the beautiful Arctic Char and hope that we are successful. Along the way there may be opportunities to spot other wildlife such as caribou, arctic hare and maybe even polar bears.

Day 4: Floe Edge

Meet your local guide after breakfast and embark on the exciting journey out to the floe edge via traditional Kamitik pulled behind snowmobiles. The floe edge is where the open sea meets the frozen sea. Keep your eyes open for Arctic wildlife along the way. Seals will dot the sea-ice, as will walrus breathing holes! Marvel at the freshness of the air surrounding you, and the sheer distance north that you are.

Once at the floe edge be on the lookout for the mystical Narwhal. You will spend time in the sunshine (so bring your sunscreen!) sipping tea, sharing stories, and snacking as we observe what traditional life is still like on the Arctic Circle. Depending on the ice conditions you may be out near the Harbour Islands which consist of approximately 15 islands lying off the north coast of Naujaat (Repulse Bay). A little over a kilometre from shore, the islands appear as sparsely vegetated rocky outcrops. The largest island, measuring approximately 2 km by 1 km, has two small creeks each fed by a lake. The islands were the centre of whaling in the late 1800's and there are many remnants of this bygone era.

OPTION:

Does camping overnight on the Floe Edge, tucked into a warm sleeping bag inside a polar bear enclosure underneath the midnight sun excite you? You may select to stay at the Floe Edge, cook dinner, enjoy the absolute solitude and wilderness of being alone on an ice floe at the Arctic Circle observing the seals, whales, birds and polar bears. You must bring your own sleeping bag but tents and foam mattresses will be supplied. We will return in time for our flight home on Day 5.

Day 5: Naujaat to Winnipeg

Some time today at leisure, free to explore town and perhaps purchase some art before our early afternoon flight back to Winnipeg. Take a wander through the co-op, take last minute photos, and say goodbye to the new friends you now have living on the Arctic Circle. Transfer to the airport for the flight back to Winnipeg. Window seats are ideal, as the views on clear days are spectacular while flying over Nunavut's Kivalliq region. The tour concludes upon arrival back to Winnipeg.

Extensions are available in Winnipeg either pre or post tour if you wish to spend a night or two before or after your Naujaat tour. There's lots to see and do in Winnipeg and we can arrange hotel accommodations, a car rental and recommend points of interest to visit.

Details

2018 Departures:

June: 20

Maximum number of people: 12

2018 Pricing:

CAD\$4,069 - twin

CAD\$4,400 - single

Taxes: \$115 air taxes + 5% GST per person



Option Cost: TBA

Prices are quoted in CA\$, per person based on two people sharing a twin room or one person in a single room. Actual prices may vary depending based on the availability of flights, accommodation and tours. An accurate price will be quoted to you at the time of your inquiry.

Trip Code:

009609 - W20

INCLUDED

- Airfare Winnipeg – Naujaat – Winnipeg
- All transfers in Naujaat
- 4 nights of accommodation in Naujaat
- Continental breakfast daily in Naujaat
- Dinner daily in Naujaat
- Community tour in Naujaat
- Hiking tour to Thule site
- Floe Edge tour
- Comprehensive pre-departure materials
- Arctic Circle crossing certificate

NOT INCLUDED

- Airfare from your home city to/from Winnipeg
- Gratuities
- Travel Insurance (Medical & Cancellation mandatory)
- Items of a personal nature
- Gratuities to local guides
- Lunch on Day 1

TOUR NOTES

The touring components of this program are 100% weather dependent. We reserve the right to shift the order of components in order to best take advantage of the ever changing floe edge and nature.

Disclaimer: We do our utmost to ensure that information posted on our website is correct at the time of publication, however trip details are subject to change without notice by the suppliers and operators involved. We update the information as soon as possible when changes are advised to us, however, we cannot assume responsibility for such changes made by the suppliers and operators.

ROUTE MAP





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