



## Naujaat Floe Edge Expedition

Let us introduce you to the magical Arctic! This tour will take you from Canada's golden prairies to the epic floe edge in search for narwhal right on the Arctic Circle. Experience traditional life in an Inuit community as you explore lands that few visitors reach every year.



YOUR  
ADVENTURE  
AWAITS

6 days/5 nights

### ITINERARY

#### Day 1: Arrive Winnipeg

Arrive Winnipeg and check into your hotel located at the Winnipeg airport. Alternatively, you may choose to stay downtown in order to take advantage of Winnipeg's highlights. Visit the Canadian Museum for Human Rights (newly opened in 2014), the Manitoba Museum (which houses the best introduction to the Arctic), and the Winnipeg Art Gallery (with an amazing collection of Inuit art!). Walk around the Exchange District, shop at the Forks Market, and explore the "French Quarter" of St. Boniface. We can quote you for a downtown hotel as well as private transfers, if you wish.

#### Day 2: Winnipeg to Naujaat

The Arctic Circle awaits you! Board your flight to Naujaat (Repulse Bay) and head north. Today we will fly straight north over and above Hudson Bay to this small hamlet, home to approximately 1,000 people. Naujaat (Repulse Bay) lies directly on top of the Arctic Circle in central Nunavut. It is here that the Arctic Circle cairn stands, a symbol that marks the Arctic Circle's location. Naujaat (Repulse Bay) is the only North American community located on the Arctic Circle. 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.

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, your home base for the next three nights. 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 and afterwards 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 (Repulse Bay) 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.

Time is no longer important to us as we're almost in the land of the midnight sun! With the long daylight hours you'll have a chance to look around well into the evening.

### **Day 3: Naujaat 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. We'll watch for wildlife and savour the encounters that we hope will come our way!

Naujaat (Repulse Bay) is renowned for its excellent artisans, especially for its Inuit carvers who work in bone, ivory and stone. 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. Hopefully tonight, if they're around town, we will have the chance to meet some local soapstone carvers.

### **Day 4: Dog sledding**

Take another look around as we embark on our last day of exploring in this community. After breakfast our local guide will take us on a guided dog sled ride along the sea ice. This is the last time the dogs will be running on ice! Keep your eyes wide open as you experience traditional travel methods in the north that people still rely on today.

This afternoon we will head out and try our hand at fishing. Either at North Pole River, or ice fishing on the land we'll try to catch some delicious fresh Arctic Char which inhabits these pristine waters. Later, we will try to make our way to the John Rae house, conditions permitting. John Rae, a young doctor practising in Canada at the time, was commissioned in July 1846 to sail up the west coast of Hudson Bay from Churchill to Naujaat (Repulse Bay) to examine the north coast of this mysterious bay. Rae discovered this beautiful area and returned in August to winter. This was when Rae and his men built the stonehouse at Fort Hope (North Pole River). Some of the parts were even brought up from Churchill! He was familiar with constructing stone houses as he was native to Scotland and familiar with the sedimentary rock surrounding him. Construction was finished by the beginning of September and the rest is history!

This evening we'll have our last meal on the Arctic Circle before a well deserved rest.

### **Day 5: Naujaat to Winnipeg**

This morning is yours 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. We will be presented with our Arctic Circle crossing certificates, and take photos at the monument to prove that yes, we really were this far north!

We'll board our flight which will take us community hopping south. Window seats are ideal, as the views on clear days are spectacular while flying over Nunavut's Kivalliq region. Upon arrival back in Winnipeg, we will transfer for our last nights' accommodation and the final night of the tour.

### **Day 6: Depart Winnipeg**

Your tour concludes after breakfast.



## Details

**Group Size:** 6

### 2019 Departures:

From Winnipeg daily, except Wednesday, early May to early July

### 2019 Pricing:

From CA\$3,725 – twin

Taxes: CA\$115 on airfare / 5% GST on total

Prices are quoted in CA\$, per person based on two people sharing a twin room. Pricing for one person in a single room is available on request. 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:

810103 - W20

## INCLUDED

- Airfare Winnipeg – Naujaat (Repulse Bay) – Winnipeg
- Two nights' accommodation in Winnipeg
- All transfers in Naujaat
- Three nights' accommodation in Naujaat (Repulse Bay)
- Continental breakfast daily in Naujaat
- Lunch and dinner daily in Naujaat
- Community tour in Naujaat
- Floe edge tour
- Comprehensive pre-departure materials
- Arctic Circle crossing certificate

## NOT INCLUDED

- Airfare from your home city to/from Winnipeg
- Meals in Winnipeg
- Gratuities
- Travel Insurance (Medical & Cancellation mandatory)
- Items of a personal nature

## 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.

The journey to the floe edge is a full day excursion and includes lunch out on the ice. The ride over the sea ice is on a traditional qamutik, pulled by a snowmobile. Not recommended for travellers with any health concerns, especially back problems.



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## ROUTE MAP



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