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Iqaluit's Aurora Borealis

Watch for the Aurora Borealis to dance across the sky just outside of Iqaluit. This vibrant city thrums with an eclectic blend of traditional and metropolitan life and is surrounded by unspoiled nature.





5 days/4 nights

ITINERARY

Day 1: Ottawa – Iqaluit

Enjoy Northern hospitality aboard your flight from Ottawa to Iqaluit. You will be met on arrival and transferred to your hotel, with some time to get settled in to your room. Head out to explore the city this afternoon. A great place to start is the Unikkaarvik Visitors Centre, where you can gather up lots of information on local sites to see and events that may be happening during your stay. This evening your guide will pick you up from your hotel and take you out on a Northern Lights tour, which includes a buffet dinner.

qaluit has something for everyone, and is one of the most accessible northern communities with flights direct from Ottawa. The city has all a great collection of cultural activities and museums, a lively arts scene, comfortable hotels, tasty restaurants and hip cafes, not to mention an array of outdoor activities such as cross country skiing, tobogganing and hunting for the Aurora Borealis or Northern Lights.

With a population of 7,740 people (2016 census) Iqaluit is Canada's smallest provincial or territorial capital, but what it lacks in size it more than makes up for in cultural energy. From the Nunavut Legislative Building's integrated Inuit motifs, to the igloo-shaped Anglican Cathedral, the evident blend of cultures creates an exciting new set of traditions. As the capital of Nunavut it has the most to offer in terms of shops, services and museums of any of the Arctic communities we visit. However, that doesn't stop the community here being well-connected to their lands. Year round you'll find locals practicing traditional methods of hunting, fishing, and trapping. Since the arrival of Europeans in the Canadian Arctic, the Inuit have found work as excellent guides and leaders, and that tradition continues today. You'll find outdoor pursuits, interpretive information, and exploration easy and accessible here in Iqaluit.

Days 2: Iqaluit Community Tour

After breakfast you are collected from the hotel to go on a community tour. There's no better way to gain perspective about a community and area than from someone who not only lives there, but also loves and cares for their surroundings. The guides revel in showing you their favourite spots, taking you to the best places for spectacular views, and introducing you to the extensive history of lqaluit's land. After lunch it's time to pay a visit to the Nunavut Legislative Assembly, in its unique building. Following the legislature tour you'll visit the Nunatta Sunakkutaangit Museum and call at the Unikkaarvik Visitor Centre to see an Inuit documentary. This evening there's the option to add on a third Northern Lights tour or to do a make-up tour should you have encountered bad weather last night. Or, you may choose to spend some time in Iqaluit having a relaxing dinner in town.

Day 3: Dog Sledding and Elder Visit

Your guide will pick you up at the hotel after breakfast and take you dog sledding, a very iconic Arctic activity. This afternoon you'll go on an Elder visit, where you'll have the chance to learn first hand about the areas history and Inuit culture. Then its on to the Nunavut Research Institute for a tour of this centre, dedicated to scientific research to benefit the citizens of Nunavut. This evening your guide will take you out on a second Northern Lights tour, which includes a buffet dinner.

Day 4: Road to Nowhere & Inuksuk - Inuit Art - Photo Shoot

Time for breakfast before your guide picks you up for a tour on the Road to Nowhere and the Inuksuk. In the afternoon enjoy a creative afternoon visiting an Inuit Arts Carving Workshop and a Photo Shoot with Inuit clothing and seal skins. This evening is free to relax and explore Iqaluit a bit more or to book on another Northern Lights Tour, should you wish.

Day 5: Depart Iqaluit

Your last chance to look around town and pick up some souvenirs before being transferred to the airport for your flight back to Ottawa.

Details

2019 Departures:

Daily from Ottawa January-March / September-December

2019 Pricing:

From CA\$4,985 - Twin

Taxes: CA\$132.69 on airfare | 5% GST on total

Prices are shown in CA\$ per person, based on two people sharing a twin room. Single pricing is available on request. Final price will depend on the availability of flights and accommodation.

Trip Code:

810118-W20

INCLUDED

- Round trip airfare between Ottawa and Iqaluit
- Airport transfers in Iqaluit
- 4 nights of accommodation in Iqaluit
- Services of a local guide for all transfers and tours
- 2 Northern Lights tours with buffet dinner
- Community tour
- Nunavut Legislative Assembly visit
- Nunatta Sunakkutaangit Museum
- Unikkaarvik Visitor Centre to view an Inuit documentary
- Dog sledding tour
- Elder Visit
- Nunavut Research Institute
- Road to Nowhere and Inuksuk tour
- Inuit Arts Carving Workshop
- Photo Shoot with Inuit clothing and seal skins
- Pre-trip information

NOT INCLUDED

- Airfare from your home city to/from Ottawa
- Taxes on airfare
- Optional tours and excursions
- Meals not specified
- Travel Insurance
- Items of a personal nature
- Gratuities to local guides

TOUR NOTES

Who should visit Iqaluit?

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ROUTE MAP



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