

CANADA'S ARCTIC

# Nunavut

UNTAMED ✶ UNSPOILED ✶ UNDISCOVERED

## TERRITORY MAP

**LEGEND**

- Roads
- Canadian Heritage Rivers
- Tree Line
- Glaciers
- National Parks
- Territorial Park
- National Wildlife Areas & Sanctuaries

Lambert Conformal Conic Projection, Standard Parallels 49°N and 77°N.  
Modified Polyconic Projection, North of Latitude 80°.

Scale 1 : 7 100 000

Kilometres 100 0 100 200 300 400 Kilometres

Cartography : JLC géomatique





# Nunavut

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## Nunavut at a Glance

### Nunavut – “Our Land”

After decades of negotiations, the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement was signed in 1993. It was the largest land claim ever settled in Canadian history. Six years later, on April 1st, 1999, Nunavut officially became Canada's newest territory. The word “Nunavut” means “our Land” in Inuktitut, the language of its Aboriginal people, the Inuit, who represent 85 per cent of Nunavut's residents.

#### Regions of Nunavut

Nunavut is divided into three regions: Kivalliq, Kitikmeot and Baffin. Each one is distinct in terms of differences in climate, geography and food supply. Each region also experienced contact with European missionaries, whalers and traders differently.



### Hello, Bonjour, Qanuippit!

In most communities, you'll get by just fine with English. However, Inuktitut, which has many regional dialects, is the first language of most Nunavut residents. Inuktitut began as a purely oral language yet today it is primarily written with a system of “syllabics” originally developed by Anglican missionaries for the Cree and adapted for Inuit at the beginning of the 19th century.

Δ	i	ᐅ	u	ᑕ	a	ᐃ	ᐅ
Λ	pi	>	pu	<	pa	<	
ᐅ	ti	ᐅ	tu	ᑕ	ta	<	
ᐅ	ki	ᑕ	ku	ᑕ	ka	ᑕ	
ᐅ	gi	ᑕ	gu	ᑕ	ga	ᑕ	
ᐅ	mi	ᑕ	mu	ᑕ	ma	ᑕ	
ᐅ	ni	ᑕ	nu	ᑕ	na	ᑕ	
ᐅ	si	ᑕ	su	ᑕ	sa	ᑕ	
ᑕ	li	ᑕ	lu	ᑕ	la	ᑕ	
ᑕ	ji	ᑕ	ju	ᑕ	ja	ᑕ	
ᑕ	vi	ᑕ	vu	ᑕ	va	ᑕ	
ᑕ	ri	ᑕ	ru	ᑕ	ra	ᑕ	
ᑕ	qi	ᑕ	qu	ᑕ	qa	ᑕ	
ᑕ	ngi	ᑕ	ngu	ᑕ	nga	ᑕ	
ᑕ	&i	ᑕ	&u	ᑕ	&a	ᑕ	

### Follow me

An Inuksuk (Inukshuk in English), meaning “likeness of a person” in Inuktitut, is a stone monument made in the shape of, or to indicate, a human form. These Cairns are a common feature throughout Nunavut. Inuksuit (the plural of Inuksuk) serve a variety of purposes including; to guide hunters on their way home, to indicate where food was stored, to mark an area where significant events took place and to help hunt caribou herds. In many ways, inuksuit have done the work of humans for thousands of years.

Today, the Inuksuk serves an additional role. It has become a symbol of Nunavut and of strength, leadership and co-operation.



#### Nunavut's Ecozones

Nunavut spans ecozones – some of the most unspoiled habitats in the world. The Southern Arctic is completely above the tree line, but is home to millions of nesting birds. The richest ecozone might be the marine environment of the surrounding seas – full of food for huge populations of birds, whales, walrus, seals, and polar bears.



## Welcome to Nunavut!



### Where the Sun Never Sets

The Arctic Circle is the line that defines seasons of total light and dark in the north.

Depending on how far north you are 24 hour sunshine can last from weeks to months.



### Did You Know??

#### FAST FACT ONE

The Native people of Nunavut prefer to be known as Inuit, which means “people” in Inuktitut. One person is an Inuk. A person from Nunavut is a Nunavummiut.

#### FAST FACT TWO

The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement makes the Inuit of Nunavut the largest private landowners in North America, with outright ownership of more than 355,842 square kilometres (137,355 square miles), an area nearly as large as California.

#### FAST FACT THREE

The magnetic north pole is moving westward. It's currently located south of the geographic North Pole just west of Ellesmere Island.

#### FAST FACT FOUR

The Capital of Nunavut is Iqaluit (formerly Frobisher Bay). It is Nunavut's most populated community and the territory's main transportation hub.

#### FAST FACT FIVE

Nunavut is about eight times the size of the United Kingdom, but Nunavut's entire population, an estimated 29,500 people, would fill barely half the seats in a modern stadium.

### Cool shades

Snow goggles were used by hunters out on the land in spring to prevent snow-blindness. Made of bone, ivory or wood, they were tied to the head with sinew. These “sunglasses” were used to cut down on the sun's brilliant yet damaging reflective glare that was enhanced by miles of fresh white snow.



### Footprints

The first humans arrived in Nunavut approximately 4,000 years ago. Archaeological remains indicate a rich social and spiritual life. The Thule, ancestors of the Inuit, arrived about 1,000 years ago and their progressive maritime hunting culture flourished.

In 1578, Martin Frobisher arrived. He was among the first of many to come in search of a the Northwest Passage. By the 1800s, qallunaat – mostly whalers and missionaries – were here to stay.

In the 20th century, war and a growing awareness of the Arctic by Canadians and the Canadian Government brought Mounties, the military and many others. This led to many changes in the Inuit way of life.

### A Home-grown Government

The creation of Nunavut as Canada's third territory had its origins in a desire by Inuit – 85 per cent of the area's residents – for more say in their future. The first formal presentation of the idea – The Nunavut Proposal – was made to Ottawa in 1976. More than two decades later, in February 1999, Nunavut's first 19 Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) were elected to five-year terms. Shortly after, those MLAs chose one of their own, lawyer Paul Okalik, to be the first Premier.

The resulting government is a public one; all may vote – Inuit and non-Inuit – but outcomes definitely reflect Inuit values. For instance, few southern governments would have Departments of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. More amazingly, the Nunavut Legislative Assembly operates a “consensus government” (there are no political parties).

### Air Access

Unless you're arriving by cruise ship, air travel is the only way to get to Nunavut. There are no road links from the south, and, with the exception of a 21 kilometre stretch between Arctic Bay and Nanisivik, no roads between communities. You're likely to arrive in Nunavut by jet, but when travelling between communities, you will often be seated on a smaller plane – a different experience, but just as reliable.



### Our Circumpolar Neighbourhood

Inuit are the main inhabitants of the Arctic region. This top-of-the-world neighbourhood spans four countries: Canada, Russia (Chukotka), the United States (Alaska), and Greenland (Denmark). We are, therefore, a cultural group that is international in scope. Together, we are working to encourage sustainable and culturally appropriate development in the Arctic through the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, and as a participant in the eight country Arctic Council.

### Untamed Nunavut

As one of the world's most pristine ecosystems, Nunavut is home to half the world's population of polar bears, millions of birds, hundreds of thousands of caribou, tens of thousands of musk-ox, walrus, whales and so much more! You'll find wildlife close to every community. Our Territorial and National Parks, Bird and Wildlife Sanctuaries offer incredible viewing opportunities.

### How to contact Nunavut Tourism

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[www.NunavutTourism.com](http://www.NunavutTourism.com)



### Bearly believable!

The world's largest land carnivore, the polar bear can run up to 40 km/h (25 mph) for short distances, and have been known to swim up to 96 kilometres (60 miles).

