



Ukkusiksalik
National Park

Visitor Information Package



Photo: Jovan Simic



Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada

Canada

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Photo: Parks Canada

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Photo: Marlis Butcher

Contact Information

Contact Ukkusiksalik National Park staff by email or phone, or visit our website:

www.parks.canada.ca/ukkusiksalik

Naujaat (Repulse Bay) Office

Phone: (867) 462-4500

Fax: (867) 462-4095

Email: nunavut.info@pc.gc.ca

Hours of Operation

Year Round

Monday to Friday

8:30 am – 12:00 pm

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Closed on weekends

Follow us on social media:

 @ParksCanadaNunavut

 @ParksCanNunavut



National Parks in Nunavut

There are four other national parks in Nunavut representing various examples of Canada's 39 natural regions – Auyuittuq National Park (Northern Davis), Sirmilik National Park (Eastern Arctic Lowlands), Quttinirpaaq National Park (Eastern High Arctic), and Qausuittuq National Park (Western High Arctic).

Auyuittuq National Park

www.parks.canada.ca/ayuittuq

Sirmilik National Park

www.parks.canada.ca/sirmilik

Quttinirpaaq National Park

www.parks.canada.ca/quttinirpaaq

Qausuittuq National Park

www.parks.canada.ca/qausuittuq

Welcome



Photo: Karen Petkau

Ukkusiksalik (Ok-koo-seek-sa-leek) National Park protects a 20,885 km² area surrounding Wager Bay, a 100 kilometre long inland sea on the northwest coast of Hudson Bay. Wager Bay is so huge that eighteenth century explorers thought it might be the long sought Northwest Passage. It wasn't, but it is important for other reasons.

The richness of Ukkusiksalik lies in its very high concentration of wildlife and its numerous cultural sites. With its mudflats, rolling hills, tundra banks and rich tidal and marine areas, Ukkusiksalik represents the central tundra natural region in the Parks Canada system. This landscape provides habitat for a diverse array of wildlife. Polar bear, caribou, muskoxen, wolf and fox are abundant. Golden eagle or peregrine falcon

may be seen soaring overhead as they scan for siksiks (ground squirrel), lemmings and arctic hare. The marine life is richer still, so you will likely capture pictures of seal, whale, fish and polar bear in your seascape images.

Ukkusiksalik is the "place where there is stone to carve pots and oil lamps" in Inuktitut, which refers to the soapstone found within the national park boundaries. This is but one feature of the landscape that made it attractive to early inhabitants. The plentiful marine life in Wager Bay has drawn Inuit and their predecessors for hundreds of years. Evidence of this is found in more than 450 documented archaeological sites within national park boundaries that include tent rings, food caches and fox traps.



Photo: Parks Canada

Inuit Cultural Activities

Ukkusiksalik is the traditional homeland of the modern Inuit who live in the area. Many of those who were born before the establishment of the local communities were raised along the shores of Wager Bay. Residents maintain living ties to the land, and it is not unusual to see Inuit families camping in the national park, practicing traditional harvesting activities.

Please respect Inuit subsistence hunting, fishing and trapping rights by giving Inuit their privacy and refrain from approaching unless invited. Nunavut Inuit may travel throughout the national park by motorized vehicle for the purposes of harvesting, but anyone transporting a visitor in the national park for commercial gain requires a business licence.

Activities



Photo: Jovan Simic

Boat Tours, Hiking & Wildlife Viewing

Getting to the national park by boat with an experienced outfitter is a great arctic adventure and a wonderful way to experience Wager Bay. It is the safest way to view polar bears and the surest way to see the abundant marine life including seals, beluga whales, walrus, orca, bowhead and occasional narwhal. Kayaking is discouraged because of the extreme polar bear risk.

From Wager Bay, it is possible to do day hikes along the coast and rolling hills inland with an experienced bear guard. Viewing opportunities abound for both wildlife and countless cultural sites scattered throughout the national park. Daylight in the summer months will never limit your hiking options, but tide schedules may since the swift currents and long tidal flats influence boat access.

For an up to date list of licenced outfitters with boats from each community, contact the community hamlet office. Boat trips into the national park can take a day or longer, so it's a good idea to inquire about base camp possibilities.

Camping

Camping is only recommended if your party is able to establish an active solar powered electric fence around your camp and station a sentry. Overnight camping without a hard-sided shelter (not yet available) or functioning electric fence with sentry is not recommended in Ukkusiksalik National Park.

Please note that the maximum group size for any trip into Ukkusiksalik National Park is 15 people.



Photo: Jovan Simic

Due to the extremely high density of polar bears in Wager Bay, visitors are legally required to be accompanied by a qualified bear guard when entering Ukkusiksalik National Park.

Activities



Photo: Parks Canada

Cultural Sites

There are more than 450 documented archaeological sites within the national park boundaries. Some sites consist of a single feature such as a tent ring or food cache, where others are extensive complexes of many features such as tent rings, food caches, fox traps, fish wiers and graves.

Ak&lungiqtautitalik is a very extensive site with a large, distinctive stone feature that is believed to have been used for rope based games when Inuit gathered at the site. Archaeologists believe that the stone feature might have been used both prehistorically and in relatively recent times. Ak&lungiqtautitalik means “place of the rope game”.

In 1925, a Hudson's Bay Trading Post was set up at the head of Wager Bay above an area of reversing tidal falls, to take advantage of inland trade potential and additional trade routes. Of all the Hudson's Bay Trading Posts, this was the only one to be run by an Inuit manager. Old buildings remain on-site as relics of this era.

Some of the cultural sites require visitors to be accompanied by a trained guide as well as a bear guard. If you wish to visit the Hudson Bay Trading Post, contact Ukkusiksalik National Park staff for information about trained guides. Ak&lungiqtautitalik is not currently open to visitors.



Photo: Parks Canada



Photo: Barb Brittain

Please contact Ukkusiksalik National Park staff well in advance of your trip to discuss expedition plans and submit applications for any caches or base camps.

When To Visit



Photo: Jovan Simic

Arctic Seasons and Your Trip

The following are approximate seasons and methods for accessing the national park. Please note that area closures are possible any time.

Spring

**March
through May**

Spring trips by snowmobile or dog team may be possible until mid-May. By late May, snow and ice melt make travel unpredictable.

Break Up

June to mid-July

During ice break up, national park access is by chartered aircraft only; the national park cannot be accessed by boat during this time.

Summer

**Mid-July
through October**

It is possible to access the national park by boat. The best time for hiking and camping is from mid-July through August.

Fall & Winter

**November
through March**

Fall and winter access is not advisable due to heightened bear hazard, weather and darkness.



Photo: Parks Canada



Photo: Parks Canada

If your plans include travel to the national park during break up or freeze up, please call Ukkusiksalik National Park staff to check ice conditions. You can also check ice-glaces.ec.gc.ca for arctic ice conditions.



Photo: Ryan Bray

Travel to Ukkusiksalik National Park

Air Access to Nunavut

Ukkusiksalik National Park can be accessed from the communities of Baker Lake, Chesterfield Inlet, Coral Harbour, Rankin Inlet, and Nauyasat (Repulse Bay). Scheduled flights to Rankin Inlet are available from Winnipeg with Canadian North and Calm Air; from Ottawa, Edmonton and Montreal with Canadian North. Calm Air and Canadian North operate scheduled flights from Rankin Inlet to the other four communities.

Canadian North

Phone: 1-800-267-1247

Email: contact@canadiannorth.com

Website: www.canadiannorth.com

Calm Air International

Phone: 1-800-839-2256

Website: www.calmair.com

Weather conditions in the North may dictate your travel schedule. Allow for lengthy delays in your plans.

If you are shipping supplies from an international location, please add an additional six weeks for items to clear customs in addition to shipping time.

Travelling with Dangerous Goods

Transport Canada has several regulations regarding the transport of used stoves and fuel bottles. For details about how to treat your gear in order to transport it on a plane please go to the following link: tc.canada.ca/en/aviation/transportation-dangerous-goods-aircraft. If you have any questions about these regulations please contact the inspector from your region. A list of contacts can be found at: tc.canada.ca/en/dangerous-goods/transportation-dangerous-goods-canada.

We recommend bringing new empty fuel bottles and unused stoves with you to avoid difficulties when travelling. To make your travel easier, we recommend buying your stove fuel in the community where you begin your trip and leaving any unused fuel behind at the end of your trip. White gas is readily available in the communities, though it's a good idea to call ahead and confirm that it is available. Outfitters and the Hunters and Trappers Organizations in the communities often accept leftover white gas.

Bear deterrents including bear spray and many noisemaking devices are strictly prohibited from travel on scheduled airplanes. Parks Canada has a limited number of bear deterrents that visitors can borrow; check with staff for availability. Visitors can also check with outfitters or stores to see if bear deterrents are available for purchase locally. If nothing is available locally, you may want to discuss the option of shipping them to yourself in the community where you begin your trip with Ukkusiksalik National Park staff.



Photo: Barb Brittain

Emergency Medical Travel & Nunavut Visitors

From the Government of Nunavut Department of Health:

If you are not a resident of Nunavut and you need medical travel during your time in the territory, you will be responsible for all medical travel costs. Visitors needing medevac will be invoiced for the full cost of the flight. No travel assistance is offered to visitors to return home. You will need to make your own travel arrangements if you wish to return to the community you were visiting. The Government of Nunavut Department of Health suggests that you buy travel insurance before visiting Nunavut. Health-care in Nunavut can be very expensive. Be prepared for emergencies.



Photo: Jovan Simic

Charter Services

Before hiring a company to transport or guide your party, check with Ukkusiksalik National Park staff to ensure the company is currently licenced to operate in the national park.

Kivalliq Air Ltd.

From Winnipeg and Iqaluit
Phone: 1-877-855-1500
Website: www.kivalliqair.com

Kenn Borek Air Ltd. / Unaalik Aviation

From Rankin Inlet, Iqaluit, and worldwide
Aircraft capable of landing in remote areas
Phone: 1-800-536-1149
Iqaluit Base: (867) 979-0040
Rankin Base: (867) 645-2535
Website: www.borekair.com

Air Nunavut

From Iqaluit and Oshawa, Ontario
Phone: 1-866-388-5888
Iqaluit Base: (867) 979-4018
Website: www.airnunavut.com

Ookpik Aviation

From Baker Lake
Aircraft capable of landing in remote areas.
Flight season: March to November
Phone: (867) 793-4720
Website: www.ookpikaviation.ca

Custom Helicopters

From Rankin Inlet
Flight season: June to September
Phone: 1-800-782-0780
Rankin Inlet Base (seasonal): (867) 645-3939
Website: www.customheli.com



Photo: Parks Canada

Local Outfitters & Tour Companies

Travel to and from Ukkusiksalik National Park from Nauyasat (Repulse Bay) can be arranged with licenced outfitters. Outfitters can take you to and from the national park by boat from mid-July to October. Charter flights into the national park can be arranged with an airline listed above. If you prefer to travel in a guided group, contact Ukkusiksalik National Park staff for the current list of tour companies operating in the national park.

Outfitters and tour companies must have a current national park business licence to transport visitors in the national park. Pilots must have a valid air access permit when landing in the national park. Please contact Ukkusiksalik National Park staff or municipal offices for the current list of business licence holders.

Community Information



Photo: Parks Canada

Naujaat

Local Stores

Naujat Co-op

Phone: (867) 462-9943
Email: manager@naujat.coop
www.arctic-coop.com

Northern Store

Phone: (867) 462-9923
Email: store560@northwest.ca
www.northmart.ca

Quickstop – Northern Store

Phone: (867) 462-9923
Email: store560@northwest.ca
www.northmart.ca

Visitor Information

Hamlet of Naujaat

Phone: (867) 462-9952
Email: edorepulse@qiniq.com
www.repulsebay.ca

Accommodations

Naujat Hotel

Phone: (867) 462-4304
Email: manager@naujat.coop
www.innsnorth.com

Coral Harbour

Local Stores

Katudjevik Co-op

Phone: (867) 925-9969
Email: manager@kissarvik.coop
www.arctic-coop.com

Northern Store

Phone: (867) 925-9920
Email: store172@northwest.ca
www.northmart.ca

Visitor Information

Hamlet of Coral Harbour

Phone: (867) 925-8868
Email: coraledo@qiniq.com
www.coralharbour.ca

Accommodations

Leonie's Place Hotel & Craft Shop

Phone: (867) 925-9751
Email: leoniesplace867@gmail.com

Ulu House B & B

Phone: (867) 925-8255
Reservations: (807) 344-2099
Email: bruce_mckitrick@yahoo.com
Website: ulu-house.business.site

Chesterfield Inlet

Local Stores

Pitsiulak Co-op

Phone: (867) 898-9975
Email: manager@pitsiulak.coop
www.arctic-coop.com

Northern Store

Phone: (867) 898-9920
Email: store158@northwest.ca
www.northmart.ca

Visitor Information

Hamlet of Chesterfield Inlet

Phone: (867) 898-9951
Email: edo_hamlet@qiniq.com
www.chesterfield-inlet.ca

Accommodations

Tangmavik Hotel - Inns North

Phone: (867) 898-9190
Email: tangmavik@innsnorth.coop
www.innsnorth.com

Community Information



Photo: Bernice Maliki

Rankin Inlet

Local Stores

Kissarvik Co-op Ltd.

Phone: (867) 645-2801
Email: manager@kissarvik.coop
www.arctic-coop.com

Northern Store

Phone: (867) 645-2823
Email: store552@northwest.ca
www.northmart.ca

EPLS Home Hardware

Phone: (867) 645-3232
Email: rankinorder@eskimopointlumber.com
www.homehardware.ca

Kativik Rankin Inlet

Phone: (867) 645-4579
Email: store552@northwest.ca
www.northmart.ca

Keewatin Meat & Fish

Phone: (867) 645-3137
Email: obrian@arctic.ca
www.ndcorp.nu.ca

Kivalliq Arctic Foods

Phone: (867) 645-3137
Email: tundra@qiniq.com
www.ndcorp.nu.ca

Local Stores

(continued)

Quickstop

Phone: (867) 645-2823
Email: store552@northwest.ca
www.northmart.ca

Red Top Variety Shop

Phone: (867) 645-2110

Visitor Information

Hamlet of Rankin Inlet

Phone: (867) 645-2895
Email: cedo@rankininlet.ca
www.rankininlet.ca

Kivalliq Regional Visitor Centre

Phone: (867) 645-3838
Email: info@destinationnunavut.ca
www.destinationnunavut.ca

Accommodations

Katimavik Suites Hotel

Phone: 1-855-333-5366
Email: katimavik.suites@gmail.com
www.katimaviksuites.com

Nanuq Lodge

Phone: (867) 645-2650
Email: nanuq@qiniq.com
www.nanuqlodge.com

Accommodations

(continued)

Siniktarvik Hotel - Inns North

Phone: (867) 645-2807
Email: siniktarvikmanager@netkaster.ca
www.innsnorth.com

Tara's B & B

Phone: (867) 645-3478
Email: tarasbb3478@gmail.com

Turaarvik - Inns North

Phone: (867) 645-4955
Email: innsnorth@arctic.coop
www.innsnorth.com

Arts & Crafts

The Matchbox Gallery

Phone: (867) 645-2674
Email: matchbox_gallery@hotmail.com
www.thematchboxgallery.com

Ivalu Ltd.

Phone: (867) 645-3400
Email: ivalu@qiniq.com
www.ivalu.ca

Community Information



Photo: Jovan Simic

Baker Lake

Local Stores

Northern Store

Phone: (867) 793-2920
Email: store120@northwest.ca
www.northmart.ca

Sanavik Co-op

Phone: (867) 793-2912
Email: manager@sanavik.coop
www.arctic-coop.com

Visitor Information

Hamlet of Baker Lake

Phone: (867) 793-2874
Email: dnukik@bakerlake.ca
www.bakerlake.ca

Vera Akumalik Visitor Centre (Summer only)

Phone: (867) 793-2456
Email: cedo@bakerlake.ca

Accommodations

Aura by BLCS Hotel and Restaurant

Phone: (867) 793-2831
Email: aura@blcs.ca
www.blcs.ca

Baker Lake Lodge

Phone: (867) 793-2905
Email: bakerlakelodge@hotmail.com
www.ookpikaviation.ca/
bakerlakelodge

Iglu Hotel - Inns North

Phone: (867) 793-2801
Email: iglu@innsnorth.coop
www.innsnorth.com

Accommodations

(continued)

Jo's Bed & Breakfast

Phone: (867) 793-2372

Nunamiut Lodge

Phone: (867) 793-2127
Email: info@nunamiutlodgehotel.ca
www.nunamiutlodgehotel.ca

Innujarvik Territorial Park

Seasonal camping
Phone: (867) 793-2874
Email: blede@netkaster.ca
www.nunavutparks.com

Arts & Crafts

Baker Lake Fine Arts & Crafts Shop

Phone: (867) 793-2865

Inuit Heritage Centre

Phone: (867) 793-2598
Email: blheritage@netkaster.ca
Website: www.ihti.ca

Jessie Oonark Centre

Phone: (867) 793-2428
Email: jessie_ndc@qiniq.com

Ookpiktuyuk Art Gallery

Phone: (867) 793-2534
Email: ford645@aol.com

Qamanittuaq Fine Arts Gallery and Studio

Phone: (867) 793-2662
Email: qamanittuaq@aol.com

Yapaksut Fabric Creations

Phone: (867) 793-4393

Additional Resources

Mirnguiqsirviit – Nunavut Territorial Parks

www.nunavutparks.com

Destination Nunavut

www.destinationnunavut.ca

Travel Nunavut

www.travelnunavut.ca

Transport Canada

www.tc.canada.ca

Tide Charts

Chesterfield Inlet

waterlevels.gc.ca/eng/station?sid=5140

Coral Harbour

waterlevels.gc.ca/eng/station?sid=5180

Naujaat (Repulse Bay)

waterlevels.gc.ca/eng/station?sid=5200

Rankin Inlet

waterlevels.gc.ca/eng/station?sid=5100

Weather Conditions

Baker Lake

weather.gc.ca/city/pages/nu-14_metric_e.html

Chesterfield Inlet

weather.gc.ca/city/pages/nu-17_metric_e.html

Coral Harbour

weather.gc.ca/city/pages/nu-9_metric_e.html

Naujaat (Repulse Bay)

weather.gc.ca/city/pages/nu-3_metric_e.html

Rankin Inlet

weather.gc.ca/city/pages/nu-28_metric_e.html

Kivalliq Inuit Association

Phone: 1-800-220-6581

Email: info@kivalliqinuit.ca

Website: www.kivalliqinuit.ca

Topographic Maps & Navigation



Photo: Barb Brittain

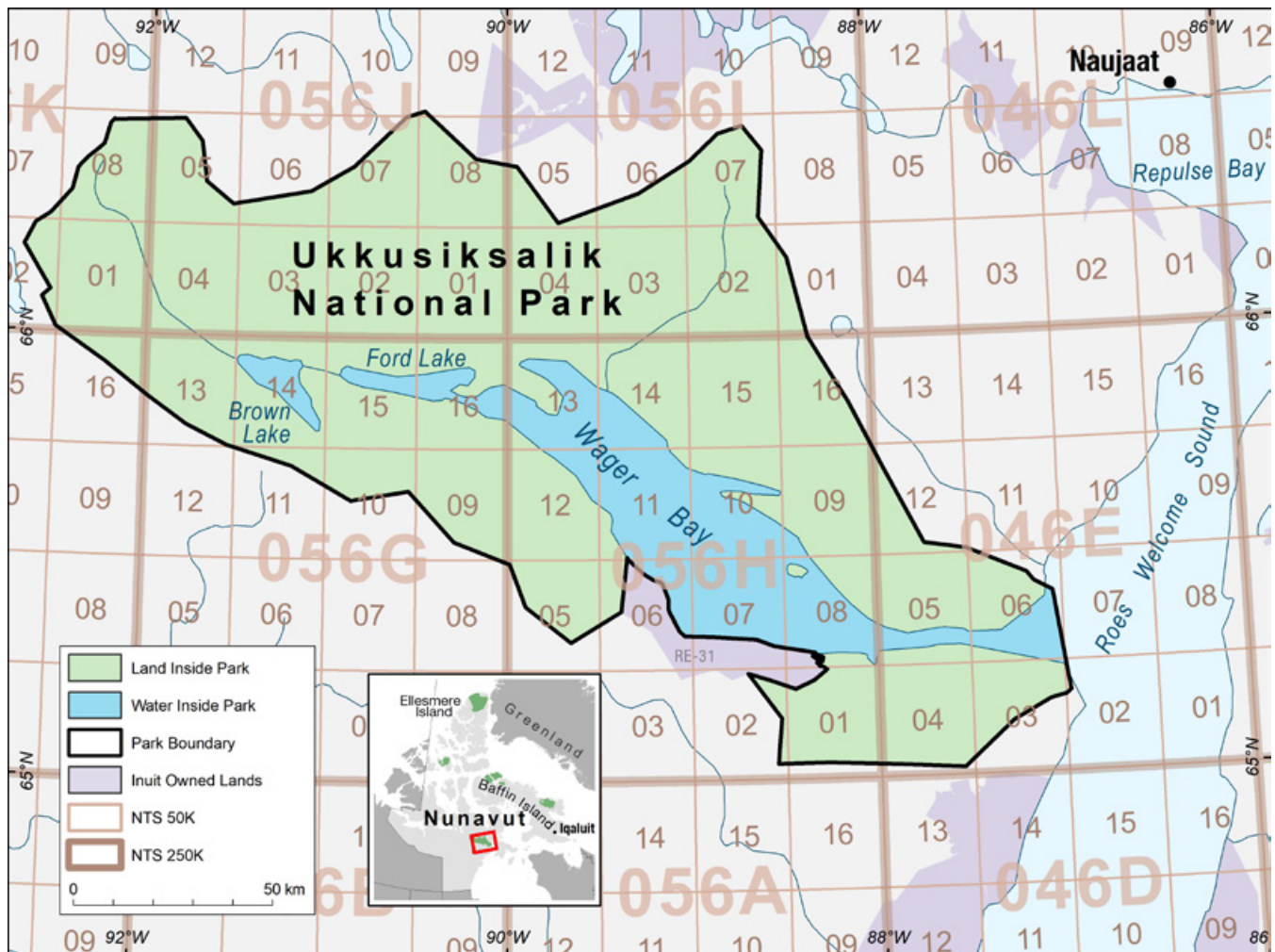
Call Ukkusiksalik National Park staff in Naujaat (Repulse Bay) for assistance with your route directions. For all areas of the national park, you will need to purchase topographic maps and marine charts prior to arrival.

Route planning is best done with 1:250,000 maps while navigation should be done with the appropriate 1:50,000 maps. The map below indicates which topographic maps cover the national park. The Wager Bay Map, 56-G and Douglas Harbour Map, 56-H cover the area around the Sila airstrip whereas 56-I, 56-J, 56-F, 56-K and 46-E cover the rest

of the national park. The nautical charts for the area include: 5440 Wager Bay; 5533 Roes Welcome sound; and 7405 Repulse Bay and Approaches.

Information on where to purchase maps can be found on the Natural Resources Canada website: nrcan.gc.ca/maps-tools-and-publications/maps/topographic-maps/10995. Nautical charts are available at www.charts.gc.ca.

Maps that you receive are up-to-date only to the year indicated on the map.



Permits & Fees

Photo: Barb Brittain

If you plan to travel on Inuit-owned land, contact the Kivalliq Inuit Association at 1-800-220-6581 or email info@kivalliqinuit.ca for permission.



Photo: Barb Brittain

Permits

Permits for operating a business (guiding, outfitting), filming and commercial photography, research, landing an aircraft, establishing a cache or base camp, and for transporting a firearm through the national park must be acquired well in advance of your trip (some permits may take ninety days or more to be issued). Research permits are only issued in winter and spring. For information and applications, contact Ukkusiksalik National Park staff.

Fees

Park use fees are charged at most national parks. Most of the money raised through park use fees remains in the national park where it is collected. This means that every time you visit a national park you are investing in its future – and in a legacy for future generations.

Northern Backcountry Camping and Excursion Fees apply at national parks in Nunavut. Fees are paid during the mandatory registration and orientation session:

\$17.75	for day use/person (no overnight)
\$37.00	per night/person
\$256.50	for an annual backcountry pass/person
FREE	Admission for youth 17 and under

The annual pass is a great option if you plan to stay a total of 6 or more nights in any combination of the following national parks prior to March 31st: Aulavik, Auyuittuq, Ivavik, Nahanni, Quttinirpaaq, Sirmilik, Tuktu Nogait, Vuntut, Qausuittuq and Ukkusiksalik National Parks.

The Parks Canada Discovery Pass is not applicable in any of the national parks in Nunavut.

Registration & De-registration



Photo: Karen Petkau

All national park visitors in Nunavut must participate in a mandatory orientation and registration session and pay their park use fees prior to entering the national park and de-register upon exiting the national park.

During the registration and orientation session you will be briefed on safety considerations, weather, water levels, area closures, park regulations, polar bear sightings, areas of interest, recommended routes and more.

Be prepared to provide the following information during registration:

- The name, address and phone number of each group member;
- Two emergency contacts for each group member;
- Your de-registration date (the date you plan to exit the national park);
- Your flight information;
- A list of your large identifiable equipment (e.g. 1 green two-person tent, 2 orange pulks, 1 blue and 1 red backpack). Include brand names if possible.
- The contact information for your communication device(s); and
- Your detailed trip plan including activities and routes.

Registration

- Contact Ukkusiksalik National Park staff at least two weeks in advance of your arrival to arrange a time and location for your orientation and registration. Virtual orientations may be considered.
- Plan to spend about two hours at the Parks Canada office for your registration, orientation, and payment of park use fees.
- Orientations are conducted during regular business hours (Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00pm). Orientations will not be started after 3:30pm. Ensure you take orientation schedules into consideration when booking your flights
- If you are using a charter company to access the national park, ask for an estimated time of arrival and ensure you schedule plenty of time for your registration and orientation.

De-registration

- Within 24 hours of exiting the national park, visit the Parks Canada office in Naujaat (Repulse Bay) to complete de-registration. If you are unable to visit, call Ukkusiksalik National Park staff to de-register over the phone. Outside of regular business hours, you can leave a message to indicate that your party has successfully completed the trip.
- Failing to de-register within 24 hours of this date may initiate an investigation by Ukkusiksalik National Park staff.



Photo: Jovan Simic



Photo: Barb Brittain

River Safety & River Crossing Tips

Gear Considerations

Footwear

Neoprene boots in combination with a gripping sole thick enough to walk over rocks for long distances will protect your feet from the cold water and will allow you to keep your boots and socks dry.

Hiking Poles

Hiking poles are useful for testing water depth and supporting balance during river crossings.

Deciding to Cross

Group Abilities

Ensure that all group members are willing to take the risk. Consider the abilities of the weakest group member.

Timing

Be prepared to wait hours or days until water levels are low enough for your group to make a safe crossing. During warm periods, water levels are generally lowest between 2:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. Following heavy rain, water levels may continue to rise for several hours.

Location

Assess the safest location to cross, remembering that ideal crossing locations change regularly. Consider the following:

Water Depth: Braided areas tend to be shallower than single channels.

Water Speed: Flatter areas tend to have slower-moving water than steeper areas.

Hazards: Riverbanks: May be unstable and could collapse.

Underwater: Cloudy water can obscure rolling rocks and unstable footing.

Downstream: Be aware of waterfalls, deep pools, open sea, etc.

Safe Crossing Techniques

- Heavy packs make crossings more difficult; you may wish to test cross without a pack or have stronger members shuttle packs.
- When crossing with a pack, unfasten waist and chest straps so you can remove your pack easily if you become pinned underwater.
- Face upstream, move with the current and use hiking poles to maintain balance.
- Consider group crossing techniques, i.e., the leader is upstream with group members in single file behind to take advantage of the leader's downstream eddy and support.



Photo: Michael H. Davies

All rivers and streams are dangerous. Some streams may be uncrossable for some members of your group. Be prepared to change your route or turn back. To learn more about river safety, consider taking a swift-water safety course before your trip.

Wildlife Safety



Photo: Parks Canada

Report polar bear encounters, sightings, tracks and signs to Ukkusiksalik National Park staff as soon as possible by radio or satellite phone.

Polar Bears

Polar bears are far more abundant in Ukkusiksalik National Park than in most other arctic parks. Several encounters are likely on any trip. Because of this extreme danger, visitors must travel in the national park with a properly equipped and trained polar bear guard who is experienced in polar bear country. When hiring a guard, ask about their experience, how they will avoid encountering polar bears and their plan of action should the party encounter a polar bear. Polar bear guards may not be able to act as both a guide and bear guard. In addition to the mandatory polar bear guard, you may want to also consider hiring a guide.

For more information, you can speak with Ukkusiksalik National Park staff, read the *Safety in Polar Bear Country* pamphlet carefully and watch the *Polar Bears: A Guide to Safety* DVD at the Parks Canada office or distributed at www.kodiakcanada.com/collections/bear-safety-videos/products/polar-bears-a-guide-to-safety-dvd.

Other Wildlife

Foxes and wolves can carry rabies. Do not allow them to approach you. Be especially suspicious if wildlife appears “friendly” or “tame”.

Birds and wildlife are inquisitive and opportunistic. They will scavenge food left out and raid caches that are not securely stashed. Make sure wildlife attractants (e.g. food, toiletries, garbage) are securely stored.

Walrus or whales can be aggressive and easily upset a boat. Keep your distance.

Grizzly bears, muskoxen, and wolverines have also been sighted in the national park and do not like to be approached.

As any animal can be dangerous, keep a safe distance from all wildlife and remember that it is illegal to touch, feed or entice wildlife in a national park.



Photo: Jovan Simic



Climate & Weather Safety

Low precipitation levels, low temperatures and high winds characterize Ukkusiksalik National Park’s marine arctic climate. Combined with the low temperatures, the wind produces some of the highest wind chill factors in North America and the most blowing snow. Hudson Bay influences the area’s climate by creating a heat sink in the summer. On shore winds create fog in the summer and snowstorms in the fall. The ice remains on the bay until mid-July.

Weather in the Arctic is notoriously changeable and Ukkusiksalik National Park is no exception. Abrupt weather changes can affect temperature and visibility sometimes for several days. **Be prepared for snow and whiteout conditions anytime and anywhere in Ukkusiksalik National Park!**

Month	Average High (°C)	Average Low (°C)	Precipitation (rain/snow in mm)
January	-28.7	-35.8	0/84
February	-27.9	-35.1	0/84
March	-22.9	-31.5	0/128
April	-12.6	-22.1	0.5/153
May	-2.2	-9.4	6.7/102
June	+9.2	+0.5	20.8/33
July	+16.7	+6.0	41.8/0
August	+14.0	+5.0	45.7/13
September	+5.9	-0.6	35.8/81
October	-4.2	-10.7	5.3/294
November	-16.3	-23.9	0.1/213
December	-24.8	-31.9	0/122

Your group should have advanced skills in wilderness first aid and be prepared to handle any medical, wildlife or weather related emergency. If someone in your group is uncertain about their skill level, consider travelling with an experienced guide.



Hypothermia & Frostbite

Hypothermia is a life-threatening condition. People with hypothermia can no longer keep themselves warm and cannot re-warm themselves without assistance. Know the signs and symptoms of hypothermia, know how to treat it and take precautions to prevent its onset. Spring travellers must guard against frostbite when travelling in Ukkusiksalik National Park. Conditions of extreme cold are common and care should be taken to avoid exposing the skin.

Wind & Rough Water

Before heading into the national park, you can obtain weather forecasts. Remember that areas of calm seas and areas of wind and rough waters may be relatively close together. Local outfitters know the conditions and weather trends for the area. Please listen to local outfitter advice regarding winds, rough water and points of land that are dangerous during challenging weather conditions.

Photo: Parks Canada



Photo: Parks Canada

Sea Ice Safety

Some parts of the sea ice are prone to thinning out earlier than the rest of the ice due to strong water currents. Leads – long cracks in the sea ice – can be narrow and crossed with caution or can be too wide to traverse and must be avoided. Contact Ukkusiksalik National Park staff to identify specific locations.

- When there is deep snow, if one area has a darker hue than the surrounding snow that usually means the ice is thin. Pass by that area, giving it a wide berth.
- If deep snow is present and there is water on top of the snow or the snow is soaked through with water, it means that there is open water covered with snow. Do not approach this area.
- Sea ice close to river mouths is generally thin. Stay away from those areas.
- Bays and inlets often have strong currents during spring and are prone to thin ice and open water. Avoid travelling through bays and inlets that have narrow channels.



Photo: Parks Canada

Floe Edge Safety

Camping close to the floe edge can be dangerous. Be especially wary when prevailing winds are strong and during large tides (full or new moons) since these conditions increase the following risks:

- Ice breaks up along the floe edge.
- A huge pan of ice may break off from the land fast ice (it may be up to 10 kilometres or more in size) even if there is no wind or extreme tides. Bring a global positioning system (GPS) and regularly check to see if the coordinates change. If you are caught without a GPS use this method: visually align a piece of ice some distance from you to the land and periodically check to see if the land fast ice you are on is moving.
- Watch for moving ice that is wedging and piling up into the land fast ice.
- Polar bears travel along the floe edge in search of food. Polar bears will hunt for fresh prey or will scavenge any carcasses they find. Do not go near an old kill because polar bears, with their excellent senses of smell, will come to forage from it. Polar bears are very efficient and skilled stalkers (both on ice and in the water). Always keep watch for them.
- Always camp in hard-side accommodations or with an experienced outfitter equipped with a polar bear fence and camp well away from the floe edge itself.



Photo: Parks Canada

Drinking Water & Human Waste Safety

We advise you to fine filter (<0.5microns), treat (iodine or chlorine), or boil your drinking water. To prevent the spread of diseases, solid human waste should be disposed of in a responsible manner. Human waste decomposes slowly in arctic environments. Go at least 100 metres from lakes and streams and 50 metres from travel routes. Leave feces exposed to air to decompose faster. Used toilet paper can be burned or packed out.



Photo: Barb Brittain

Please be aware that all of these recommended modes of communication can be unreliable and at times you will be unable to make contact with anyone. If you are having difficulty receiving a signal, it may be possible to get to higher ground to improve signal strength. This can be very time consuming and in some cases dangerous; please use caution. As always with technology, ensure you know how to use your device and be aware of the weaknesses of your system.

Satellite Phones

Satellite phones are the preferred means of making contact. Your phone can put you in touch with emergency assistance 24 hours a day. We recommend obtaining a satellite phone prior to your trip as they are not available in the North. Phones that operate on the Iridium system currently provide the most reliable coverage over Ukkusiksalik National Park but other options are available. Make sure to bring extra batteries and keep your device dry and warm if possible. Portable solar chargers for batteries are also recommended. Be sure to program the emergency phone numbers into the phone and bring a written copy as back up.

Satellite Messenger Devices

Satellite messenger devices (e.g. InReach or SPOT) can be used to allow family and friends to track your trip progress as well as to initiate a distress signal (SOS). The SOS signal is non-reversible and is to be used in a life-threatening situation only. Like satellite phones, the Iridium satellite system provides more reliable coverage in Ukkusiksalik National Park.

For this reason, InReach devices are currently recommended over SPOT devices. Some models of both InReach and SPOT devices allow for two-way text messaging. Ensure you pre-load your contacts before beginning your trip. Make sure that you have advised your family and friends who may be tracking your “okay” messages that the absence of a message does not necessarily mean you are having problems; it may indicate poor coverage. SOS signals have inadvertently been sent (pocket dialed) without the user knowing it, resulting in unnecessary search and rescues in Nunavut national parks; please ensure you carefully handle and monitor your device. During your registration we will collect information about your device(s) in the event that there is a need to check the activity from it.

Personal Locator Beacons

Personal Locator Beacons (PLB) can also be carried into remote areas. When activated, they send a distress signal to the Canadian Forces in Trenton, Ontario who will initiate a rescue from there. Once activated, the signal is non-reversible; these are to be used in a life-threatening situation only. Make sure your PLB is properly registered by calling the Canadian Beacon Registry, CFB Trenton at **1-877-406-7671**, online at www.cbr-rcb.ca/cbr or by email at cbr@sarnet.dnd.ca. Only PLB's that transmit a distress signal at 406 MHz are permitted in Canada.

Search and Rescue



Photo: Karen Petkau

Ukkusiksalik National Park is one of the most remote parks in North America, and rescue services and facilities are very limited. Our public safety staff are trained in swift-water recovery, first aid, patient stabilization and evacuation in non-technical terrain. Parks Canada search and rescue operations may be delayed by poor weather conditions, geography, aircraft or staff availability. For high-angle technical evacuations, assistance from outside of Nunavut is required.

The only first aid available to your party may be the expertise your party holds. Your party should include a licenced guide who is experienced in arctic travel and familiar with the area. Nonetheless, you should be prepared and experienced to handle any emergency without the assistance of the guide.

When will a search be initiated?

A search and rescue response will be initiated when a distress signal is reported or, if a group fails to de-register, by the date indicated on their registration forms or shortly thereafter. In the case of an overdue group, a physical search may not occur until at least 48 hours after the de-registration date has passed.

Remember to de-register!

If you fail to de-register you place an unnecessary burden on our limited search and rescue capabilities. You can place rescue staff in danger and make the rescue team unavailable for a real emergency. Please remember to visit or call Ukkusiksalik National Park staff upon your safe return from the national park.

To help us and yourself, please:

- Be self-reliant and responsible for your own safety;
- Have the required equipment, knowledge, skills and physical fitness;
- Consider the public safety information and advice provided by Parks Canada;
- Seek out additional advice from Ukkusiksalik National Park staff if you are uncertain about what you may encounter;
- Register and de-register; and
- Be prepared for emergencies (medical, wildlife or weather).

Air Support

- Air access may be delayed, sometimes for many days, due to poor visibility, weather conditions or high winds.
- Aircraft cannot land in the backcountry if the terrain is unsuitable for a safe landing.

In case of emergency, call the emergency dispatch line at (780) 852-3100.

This number is monitored 24 hours a day.



Photo: Jovan Simic



Photo: Karen Petkau



Photo: Parks Canada

Park Regulations

The *Canada National Parks Act* and associated regulations, as well as other federal legislation, are in place to preserve and protect the natural and cultural resources of the national park. The following information provides a brief summary of some regulations. For a complete listing of park regulations, please contact Ukkusiksalik National Park staff.

- Registration and de-registration: You must register and attend the mandatory orientation before entering the national park and de-register upon exiting.
- Firearms: No person shall be in possession of a firearm in the national park (does not apply to Inuit beneficiaries carrying out traditional harvesting activities or persons authorized by the Superintendent).
- Pets and sled dogs must be kept under physical control at all times in the national park.
- Fishing is prohibited in Ukkusiksalik National Park (not applicable to Inuit).
- Campfires are not permitted in the national park.
- In the national park, no person shall:
 - remove, deface, damage or destroy any flora, fauna or other natural objects;
 - hunt, disturb, hold in captivity or destroy any wildlife;
 - disturb or destroy a nest, lair or den;
 - touch, feed or entice wildlife; or
 - wilfully remove, deface, damage or destroy any cultural objects, features or artifacts.

Conservation Practices

- Do not move any rocks from features that look even remotely like an archaeological site (e.g. tent rings, fox traps and food caches, Inuksuk or cairns).
- Do not build Inuksuk, cairns etc. Replace all rocks used at your camp to exactly where you found them before leaving the site.
- Where possible, choose routes on durable terrain such as gravel, rock outcrops or snow.
- Select campsites in durable locations where signs of your occupation will be minimized. This is especially important for base camps and large group camps.
- Dish and excess cooking water should be strained for food particles and poured into a shallow sump hole away from your campsite and 50 metres away from water sources.
- All garbage must be packed out. This includes, strained food particles, food waste, packaging, unwanted food, clothing, unused toilet paper etc.
- Use biodegradable soap when needed and minimize the use of soap when possible.

Trip Checklist

Photo: Jovan Simic

Before Booking Your Travel

- Read the Ukkusiksalik National Park Visitor Information Package (this publication).
- Read the *Safety in Polar Bear Country* brochure.
- Contact Ukkusiksalik National Park staff to:
 - Ask trip planning questions that you were not able to answer from your readings;
 - Discuss your planned route; and
 - Schedule your mandatory orientation and registration session. This process takes approximately two hours, so allow sufficient time before leaving the community for the national park for your orientation and remember flight and weather delays are common in the Arctic.
- Apply for any additional permits your party may require such as: air craft landing permits, cache or base camp permits, commercial film or photography permits, use of a DRONE permit, or for transporting a locked and unloaded fire arm permit.
- Contact an outfitter or charter company to ensure transport between the national park and community is available.
- Arrange for a bear guard to accompany your group. Parks Canada requires that you visit Ukkusiksalik with a licenced guide due to the extremely high density of polar bears in Wager Bay.**
- Contact the Kivalliq Inuit Association for permission if your route takes you on Inuit Owned Land.
- Ensure your skills, experience, knowledge and equipment is equal to the trip.
- Ensure your party follows all **Government of Nunavut Department of Health guidelines** while in the territory.

Contact Information

Contact Ukkusiksalik National Park staff or visit our website:

www.parks.canada.ca/ukkusiksalik

Naujaat (Repulse Bay) Office

Phone: (867) 462-4500

Email: nunavut.info@pc.gc.ca

The Parks Canada registration and orientation time that I have booked is:

Date: _____

Time: _____

Location: _____

Remember to de-register! Within 24 hours of leaving the national park, visit or phone the Parks Canada office in Naujaat (Repulse Bay) to complete de-registration.