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## Welcome to Arviat!

Arviat is one of the more southerly and most accessible Inuit communities in Nunavut, Canada's newest territory. Located on the western shores of Hudson Bay, framed in by several large barrenland rivers lies this intriguing land rich in wildlife, a flat to gently rolling landscape dotted with lakes and ponds, and steeped in Inuit culture.

Arviat presents the authentic best in Nunavut tourism. If you are looking for a real arctic tourism experience Arviat offers spectacular wildlife viewing combined with an interactive cultural program providing insight into fascinating age old Inuit cultural traditions.

### **Arviammiut (the people of Arviat) are your hosts in this magical land.**

We are a proud people living in harmony with the land and wildlife around us and we maintain a strong connection with our Inuit traditions and culture. This landscape has been occupied for thousands of years and much of the physical evidence of early occupations still survives due to the Arctic climate.

Two National Historic Sites that can be easily accessed from the community are testament to the rich cultural heritage and resources on the land [www.historicplaces.ca](http://www.historicplaces.ca)

Come explore the land of the Inuit, with the Inuit.

If you are interested in learning more about the Inuit of Arviat you can visit the Nanisiniq website: [nanisiniq.tumblr.com](http://nanisiniq.tumblr.com)



Michelle Valberg

## **The Arviat Community Ecotourism (ACE) initiative is true community-based tourism.**

ACE is owned and operated by the community. Your experience in Arviat will be from the Inuit perspective, the original stewards of this rich landscape. We are proud to share our culture and land with you. A full 100% of the fees for ACE programs stays in the community helping to create an important economic opportunity for our generation, and future generations. Elders, youth and adults will guide you on your journey in discovery of this fascinating part of Canada.

Your journey with ACE is helping to support local economic development and Inuit cultural preservation.

## **Awe inspiring Wildlife spectacles.**

Arviat is situated on 'polar bear alley' where hundreds of polar bears annually make the trek north along the coast in October and November searching for sea ice so they can resume their seal hunting. In the summer, once the Bay melts fully, polar bears can often be found along the coast, swimming in the sea or on the many islands offshore. Inland there are many species of wildlife that can sometimes be seen including barren ground grizzly bears, muskox, wolves, Arctic fox, wolverines and abundant birds and waterfowl.

In early May just west of Arviat a major wildlife spectacle, the annual caribou migration takes place with thousands of cows and calves moving steadily towards their summer calving ground. In September these caribou begin their slow trek back south through the changing colors of the tundra, back to the treeline where they typically overwinter.

South of Arviat lies the federally designated McConnell River Migratory Bird Sanctuary, a coastal sedge wetland of international significance and one of the



Jason Curley

key migratory terrestrial bird habitats in Nunavut. In the spring (beginning in May) this area comes alive with thousands of returning geese and other bird species, creating a third great wildlife spectacle in Arviat.

A total of 111 bird species have been recorded in this area but it is renowned as breeding habitat for thousands of snow geese and Ross' gees as well as Canada geese and Sandhill Cranes and many other bird species.



A fall or winter visit to the Kivalliq Region will give you a chance to see one of the most amazing natural lightshows on Earth; the Aurora Borealis. The Northern Lights are anything but rare, with occurrences taking place almost nightly on clear evenings from October until March. While they are usually green, the lights can change to white and even red as they pulsate in ribbons through the sky. There are a variety of Inuit legends about the lights. The midnight sun adds a magical element to Arctic adventuring in the summer months.

### **What to Expect in Arviat**

Arviat's surrounding landscape is flat to gently rolling tundra. This makes for relatively easy travel for most of the year. The tundra vegetation consists mostly of low-lying willow bushes, but in the summer, the land is a burst of colour with tiny flowers, lichens, and mosses. This prairie-like land is treeless, with occasional sand and gravel ridges called eskers. 90 kilometers southwest of Arviat lies the tree-line. In the warmer seasons (July-September) wetlands popular with nesting waterfowl are created by melting snow, and you will need rubber boots. Although, the permafrost leads to quite marshy ground in places, with limited growth of vegetation, the conditions are ideal for berry picking.

There are several major rivers within reach of Arviat, such as the McConnell River, and Maguse River, where many local people spend time fishing. There are no roads connecting to



neighbouring communities, but several roads can be found within town, as well as one gravel road that leads out of town. If you are interested in taking trips "on the land," this road will take you about 21 kilometers northwest towards Maguse River, where many Arviammiut have cabins. There are also many trails suitable for all-terrain vehicles.

When you first arrive in Arviat, you will likely be somewhat overwhelmed by the simplicity and isolation and the big skies and vistas. It is important to discard any preconceptions and take time to acquaint yourself with the 'Inuit way.' Enjoy a Guided



Tour around Arviat. The sooner you get involved in community events, the better. Immerse yourself in the culture and have fun sharing language. Arviammiut communicate predominately in Inuktitut, but most people also speak English.

There is a comfortable balance in Arviat between the traditional and modern ways of life. Arviat is still a relatively young settlement. Many people in Arviat do not have wage paying jobs. In recent years, many Inuit have completed their education and gone on to open their own businesses. A significant number of people are employed by selling their own arts or crafts, providing guided tours on the land, fixing skidoos or ATVs, working for the local schools, stores, construction companies, the Hamlet of Arviat, and the Government of Nunavut. A major goal of the community is to prepare locals with employable skills, while continuing to incorporate traditional knowledge into daily living.

The preservation of Inuit culture is reflected in many day to day activities such



as hunting, and sewing. Many furs are collected by families to make winter parkas, mitts, or kamiks [seal skin boots]. The local Northern Store, Eskimo Point Lumber store, the Co-op store, and the Kiluk Centre also sell these pelts provided by the hunters. The resourcefulness of Arviammiut is evident in the assortment of items that are produced locally in the Kiluk Centre or from the artists and craftspeople themselves.

Country foods harvested by hunters are still a mainstay of the diet for many people in the community. Look for bright red Arctic char ("pipsi" in Inuktitut) drying on front porches in the summer months and year round you will see furs stretched and drying in peoples yards.

Many talented artists make carvings of soapstone, caribou antler, soapstone, and ivory, which can be purchased locally. Watch as carvers turn pieces of soapstone or bone into one-of-a-kind works of art. There are many skilled seamstresses, who also employ themselves by making jackets, amautiks (the parkas women wear), kamiks, or mitts.

There is much to learn from this little town and the fascinating Inuit culture.

## History of Arviat

Arviat's name was derived from the Inuktitut word arviq because the nearby coastal landscape resembles the shape of a bowhead whale. Traditionally, this location was known as Tikirajualaaq, meaning a little long point. Thule culture sites here date back to AD 1100 – the Thule are the direct ancestors of today's Inuit. Many ancient qajaq stands and tent rings found at traditional summer campsites are evidence that hundreds of Inuit gathered



Eskimo Point circa 1930

in this area. Two of these sites, Arvia'juaq (an island shaped like a big bowhead) and Qikiqtaarjuk (little island), were designated National Historic Sites in 1995.

When the Hudson's Bay Company established a post here in 1921, they called it Eskimo Point. Campsites were moved into the vicinity as trapping became increasingly profitable. Arctic fox were plentiful and the harsh climate ensured thick, full coats. A visit to Nuvuk Point, the site of the old HBC post, will introduce visitors to one of the last York boats to ply the waters of Hudson Bay.

The early history of the Roman Catholic mission, established in 1924, can be viewed through exhibits at the Mikilaaq Centre, a diocese-operated community centre located in the original Roman Catholic church. The Anglican mission, founded in 1926, brought missionaries Donald and Winifred Marsh from England to the Arctic. Their books, including *Echoes from a Frozen Land* and *People of the Willow*, paint a colorful picture of the area in the early days.

At the same time that caribou migration patterns changed, demand for furs dwindled, creating hardship for many groups of inland Inuit – especially the Pallirmiut, Taeormiut, and the Ahiarmiut. The hardest hit were the Ahiarmiut, described in Canadian author Farley Mowat's books, *People of the Deer* and *The Desperate People*. Eventually, the Canadian government relocated these people to Arviat. The community's Federal Day School opened in 1959, marking the beginning of permanent settlement. By the mid-1960s, a nursing station was in operation and many new services were established in the North, changing Eskimo Point forever.

Today Arviat is the largest Hamlet in the Kivalliq Region of Nunavut, and the second largest community in Nunavut. Arviat Hamlet Council is made up of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and 7 councilors. Together the council makes decisions and plans on behalf of the residents of Arviat. Hamlet council also represents Arviat on a territorial and national level.

Geographical Coordinates: 61°06'29"N 094°03'25"W

Elevation: 10 m (33 ft)

Population: 2851

Average Temperature (July): 10C

Average Temperature (January): -25C



## Arviat Tours

Here is an overview of the main seasonal tour offerings in Arviat.

### Arviat Summer Wildlife Tour

Summer in Arviat comes in July and August and it seems the whole community is out on the land travelling, hunting and harvesting country foods, and just enjoying the long days and often good weather.

Summer travel is typically by all terrain vehicle on the land and by boat on Hudson Bay. Travellers will find a land rich in cultural heritage resources and remnants of ancient cultures.



A wide variety of wildlife can be seen in the summer months including polar bears, caribou, beluga whales, seals, wolves, arctic foxes, sometimes muskox, and an abundance of birds and waterfowl. Just south of the community lies the McConnell River Migratory Bird Sanctuary easily reached by ATV or boat providing beautiful long vistas and an astounding number and variety of nesting geese. Just to the west and north of the community the National Historic Sites of Arvia’juaq and Qikiqtaarjuk can be accessed by boat and ATV respectively, providing a glimpse into the historic cultures that inhabited the area. And not far to the north lies the majestic Maguse River and further inland the large and winding Maguse Lake an excellent staging point for trips inland to view wildlife.



### September Caribou and Northern Lights

In September the tundra slowly begins to change with colours, turning to the spectacular yellows, oranges and reds the barrens

are famous for. This is the time the caribou begin their slow meander back south towards the treeline for the winter. Travel by ATV or utility vehicle is the most common form of transport out on the land at this time of year. Several options exist for the September packages, either day trips from the community or extended trips out from the community or charter flights into one of several remote lakeside camps owned and operated by Arviammiut.



### **Fall Polar Bear Migration**

The months of October (latter half) and November provide another of Arviat's wildlife spectacles, the annual migration of polar bears moving from the southern end of Hudson Bay, where they came off the melting sea ice, north up the coast searching for the forming sea ice. Temperatures begin to drop at this time of year resulting in the bears becoming more active and moving north. This is the time of year when the community can provide opportunities for polar bear viewing (although there are no guarantees with nature), often providing exceptional photographic opportunities. Travel is by all terrain vehicles or utility vehicles until there is sufficient snow cover for snowmobile travel.

The Arviat polar bear tour provides an up close and personal experience with polar bears, expertly guided by professional Inuit ecoguides.

### **Other Times of the Year**

Visitors are welcome at other times of the year to enjoy experiences like ice fishing and dog sledding or sleeping in an igloo in the spring months (April – May), witnessing the fascinating migration of birds and wildlife back onto the tundra in May (with the possibility of witnessing the caribou migration depending on location). Or come in the winter months to experience the arctic and witness the day to day lifestyles of the

Inuit, a culture that has survived for generations in this harsh climate.

Custom designed packages can be created on request for these or other experiences.

### **The Cultural Value Add**

All of the wildlife programs are complemented with an interactive Inuit cultural experience. Typically the cultural program will include the following elements:

- Community tour by school bus or van with interpretation on the community's history and modern lifestyle and visits to local stores, the High School, two elder artists in their home for storytelling, the Visitor Centre and the Kiluk Sewing Centre.
- Tupiq program with an educational and entertaining program offering a glimpse into the old days under a caribou skin tent.
- Storytelling with two elders in their home.
- Cultural performance by Qaggiqtiit, a professional group of drum dancers, throat singers and other musicians.
- Fabulous meals including a selection of local country foods put on by the ACE cooking team.

Temperatures on the land are always much colder than within the community, so dress accordingly if you are taking a trip out on the land or on a boat. Even in August, you will need to dress warmly if you leave town.



## **Inuit Cultural Programs**

The preservation of Inuit culture is reflected in many day-to-day activities. There are many authentic Inuit cultural experiences awaiting you in Arviat, Nunavut!

## **Musical Performance**

The community is the birthplace of many gifted musicians, including Susan Aglukark, one of Canada's most widely recognized singer/songwriters ([www.susanaglukark.com](http://www.susanaglukark.com)), as well as renowned Inuit performer Charlie Panigoniak.

One option while in town is to attend a cultural musical performance, which includes traditional drum dancing, ayaya signing, throat harping, throat singing, and other musicians, performed by the local Arviat cultural group Qaggiqtiit. The group is managed by Karen Panigoniak and includes the Queen's Diamond Jubilee winner and performer Lois Suluk-Locke (listen to Lois describe the unique style of throat singing in Arviat). Performances by talented younger artists can also be arranged.

Arviat is one of the most traditional communities in Nunavut so the cultural traditions are very much alive and well. Visitors can try their hand at drum dancing or the art of throat singing.

There is a rich modern music scene in Arviat as well. Many local music groups have released CD's, and they are only too happy to jam or perform if the opportunity arises.



## **Story Telling**

Listen to storytelling with elders as they relay their first experience meeting white folk, growing up on the land and moving into communities and much more.

Two of the ACE cultural interpretive programs are staged in a handcrafted caribou skin tent, or a tupiq, the summer dwelling traditionally used by people in the Arviat region. These programs

both involve story telling, history and the interpretation and demonstration of artifacts and historical tools and implements. Another program takes small groups of visitors to the home of Mark and Angie Eetak, two artists and elders who love to tell stories of times gone by over a shared mug of tea and Mark's famous hot bannock. Ask Angie to tell you how she said no to the Queen of England twice!



Michelle Valberg

## **Arts and Crafts**

Arviat is renowned for its quality of artists, soapstone and bone/antler carvers and seal skin clothing makers. Visitors can meet the artists and commission their own works or check out their current inventory. A piece of art has a lot more meaning when you have met the artist and understand the stories behind the piece.

## **Local Foods**

Most visitors who travel to Arviat love to try some of the local foods ranging from caribou stew, arctic char, snow goose breast, local wild berries and bannock to more exotic delicacies like muqtuq or seal meat. ACE has its very own professionally trained cooking team offering guests the authentic Arviat local food experience.

Traditional foods are also sometimes dried, including Arctic char and caribou. Dried char (called "pipsi" in Inuktitut) is a delicious way to try this tasty fish. Dried caribou (called "mikku") is also a traditional staple.

## **Climate**

The best way to describe northern weather is unpredictable so visitors have to be prepared by dressing with layers. In the winter months on the calmest of days you can suddenly be thrown into a blinding blizzard. Spring and summer bring more stable weather patterns. Usually, the days have a moderate to strong wind blowing from the northwest.



## Spring

Spring in Arviat begins when the days get longer and the warmth comes back into the sun. April/May is a spectacular time to visit when it becomes more comfortable to travel distances by snowmobile, and in early May the tundra comes alive when the huge migration of birds and animals back onto the tundra begins. By June once the sea ice melts and the snows are melted on the land it is possible to begin to travel once again by ATV and boat, a sign that summer is not far behind. Early spring can be a good time to view the shimmering aurora borealis.



## Summer

The weather in the summer can be quite pleasant. July and August can see the temperatures average between 15 and 20°C. Do not be surprised if you also see a thunder shower or two! There can be a lot of flies in and around town. Bring some insect repellent!

Out on the water between the islands where it is common to find the odd polar bear the winds keep the bugs away. Travel by ATV on the land and boat allows visitors to reach some of the unique local destinations like the McConnell River Migratory Bird Sanctuary to the south or Maguse Lake to the north where one might see caribou, muskox and other smaller wildlife species. Summer is the best time of year to visit the many archaeological sites in and around Arviat including the two National Historic Sites.

## Fall

September brings the spectacular fall colours to the tundra, the bright reds, yellows and oranges, and the aurora borealis on clear nights. Typically at this time of year the bugs are gone and the caribou are working their way south to the treeline and this is the best time to see the bulls with their massive antlers. By mid October the annual polar bear migration up the western shores of Hudson Bay begins. The longer nights mean the northern lights begin to re-appear.

## Winter

The first snow can be expected sometime in mid to late October. January, February, and March are the coldest months. In February, the temperature ranges from approximately  $-25$  to  $-35^{\circ}\text{C}$ , but may feel like  $-50$  to  $-65^{\circ}\text{C}$  with the combined wind chill! February and March are generally the "storm" months for Arviat. This is the time of year when most of the blizzards happen, although you will almost surely experience some earlier. During the winter months, the air indoors can become very dry, so you may wish to have a humidifier with you - and lots of lotion.

## Arviat Wildlife

Arviat and the ACE program features a wealth of local bird and animal viewing possibilities.

Polar bears, muskoxen and herds of caribou call the Arviat region home. Caribou have long been an important source of food and clothing for Inuit in the Kivalliq region. Known as the Caribou Inuit, the animal was their lifeline. Many current residents of Arviat can trace their ancestry back to the Caribou Inuit. To this day, local hunters take advantage of the huge number of caribou migrating through the region each year for subsistence purposes.

The Qamanirjuaq Caribou herd west of Arviat is the largest and one of the healthiest caribou herds in Nunavut, and according to the Nunavut Wildlife Biologist the annual mass migration of cows and calves to the west of Arviat on their way to the calving ground is one of the world's most predictable and accessible caribou migrations. The annual journey of some Qamanirjuaq caribou can span more than 2,000 kilometres, between the calving areas and their wintering grounds which can extend in





some years into north-central Manitoba. Some parts of the herd remain on the tundra year-round. The width of the herd's range stretches about 500 kilometres east to west, from the west coast of Hudson Bay inland across the southern Kivalliq region of Nunavut and northern Manitoba and includes part of southeastern NWT and northeastern Saskatchewan. Barren ground caribou breed in the autumn. Calving times are generally during the month of June following a gestation period of 7.5 to 8 months.

Annual migration occurs along the coastal portions of the study area, and bears have been known to come into the community in the fall and remain in the area until December when the sea ice begins to freeze. An area southwest the community of Arviat, south of McConnell River, is an occasional winter location and denning area. A 2011 aerial survey of the Western Hudson Bay (WH) polar bears estimates the total abundance of the population to be 1,000.

Muskoxen, a prehistoric mammal straight out of the Ice Age are also an important animal for local subsistence uses.

Other terrestrial mammals commonly found in the Arviat area include barren ground grizzly bears, arctic wolves, arctic foxes, arctic ground squirrels, lemmings, arctic hares, and wolverines.

Listen for the sounds of ground squirrels (called "siksik" in Inuktitut) on hikes outside the community. They are some of the most common animals you will see during your stay.

The salt waters of Hudson Bay are home to a variety of sea mammals, including ringed seals, harp seals, bearded seals, and beluga whales.

Freshwater lakes and rivers teem with Arctic char, Arctic grayling and trout at certain times of the year.

Birdwatchers visiting in spring should watch nearby lakes for tundra swans and sandhill cranes. Keep an eye on the skies for Peregrine falcons and gyrfalcons, which can be seen as they dive for prey, or the snowy owls. The area around Arviat, and particularly the McConnell Bird Sanctuary are rich with geese including Snow, Blue, Canada, Ross's and Brant geese.

A comprehensive bird list for the area can be provided on request.

To learn more about Arviat's abundant wildlife, please explore the links below.

**Hudson Bay Beluga Project:** [www.oceansnorth.org/hudson-bay-beluga-project](http://www.oceansnorth.org/hudson-bay-beluga-project)

**Qamanirjuaq barren-ground caribou:** [www.arctic-caribou.com](http://www.arctic-caribou.com)

**McConnell River Migratory Bird Sanctuary:** [www.ibacanada.com](http://www.ibacanada.com)

**Polar Bears:** [worldwildlife.org/species/polar-bear](http://worldwildlife.org/species/polar-bear)

Polar bears are dangerous animals and should be treated with respect. These bears migrate and hunt throughout the Kivalliq region and sometimes enter communities looking for food, especially at the local landfill.

Keep your distance and never approach a polar bear. Attacks don't happen often, but bears have been known to attack humans.

When travelling on the land, make sure to listen to your guide and stay nearby.



Cub and Sow, affection, Arvia'juaq-0292, Mark Seth Lender

## Suggested Reading List

The following books relate to the people and places around Arviat. They each provide glimpses into the history of Arviat and the people.

**Birket-Smith, KAJ**

**The Caribou Eskimos, Report of the Fifth Thule Expedition, 1921-24, Vol.V**

A weighty tome, but full of fascinating detail about the inland Inuit from whom many in Arviat descend, written by the anthropologist Knud Rasmussen's famous expedition.

**Harper, Francis**

**Caribou Eskimos of the Upper Kazan River, Keewatin**

The earliest publication of ethnographic research done in the region where many ancestors of current Arviammiut lived.

**Leden, Christian**

**Across the Keewatin Icefields**

An unusual account of a solo traveller's journey through the region during the years of World War One.

**Marsh, Rev. Donald**

**Echoes from a Frozen Land**

Largely autobiographical, this book offers lots of detail of the author's time at Eskimo Point (now Arviat), where he established the Anglican Mission and lived through the 1920s and '30s.

**Marsh, Winifred**

**People of the Willow**

Beautiful watercolours illustrate Mrs. Marsh's shorter account of the missionary couple's time at Eskimo Point.

**Mowat, Farley**

**People of the Deer**

An account, not always entirely accurate but nonetheless fascinating, of Mowat's time in the 1950s traveling in the region where many ancestors of current Arviammiut lived.

**Mowat, Farley**

**The Desperate People**

A follow-up volume to the above, in which Mowat attempts to respond to some of the criticisms his first book raised.

**Pelly, David**

**The Old Way North**

An exploration of the overlap country shared by Inuit and Dene, and a history of the old travel route used by both peoples between their respective territories.



## Getting to Arviat

**First Air** – offering turbo prop access to Arviat through Rankin Inlet, which is serviced with daily First Air jet flights from Winnipeg. First Air is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Makivik Corporation, an Inuit development corporation based in Nunavik, northern Quebec. In the Inuktitut language, Makivik means “advancement” which reflects the company’s mandate to advance the political, economic and social conditions of the Inuit. First Air also offers jet service between Rankin Inlet and Iqaluit or Yellowknife three times a week.

**Calm Air** – offering turbo prop air access to Arviat through either Rankin Inlet or Churchill. Both airports are serviced from Winnipeg by Calm Air with daily jet service.

**Flight from Winnipeg** - The flight from Winnipeg to Arviat on Calm Air is 3.5 to 4 hours long with a half an hour stop in Churchill. If you take the First Air jet from Winnipeg your flight time would be 3 to 3.5 hours with stops in Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove.

The weather can sometimes prevent planes from taking off and landing, even in summer. Arviat is situated on the coast, which can mean fog in the spring and summer.

In winter, blizzards and high winds can affect flight schedules.

Remember you could end up staying in the community longer than you planned.

## While in the Community

**Getting around** - Once in Arviat getting around is simple. There are local taxis to get to town from the airport. You can arrange to rent vehicles from Eskimo Point Lumber Supply. It is easy to walk everywhere in town.

**Where to eat** - There are three (3) grocery stores in Arviat. The Northern Store, which has everything from fresh produce to major appliances. The Northern store also has a KFC quick-stop attached to it if you are looking for some fast food. The Padlei Co-op is another local grocery store. They also carry everything from fresh produce to major appliances. The Co-op is open from 9am to 9pm Monday to Friday. There is also a convenience store attached to it that is open until 12 midnight. The Padlei Coop

also owns the Inns North hotel and restaurant. Arctic Connections is a new store providing some groceries as well as fast food including pizza. Most ACE programs include meals catered by the ACE cooking team.



**Where to Stay** - There are three commercial hotel accommodations in town including the Coop, owned and operated Padlei Hotel ([www.arviathotel.com](http://www.arviathotel.com)) or the privately owned and operated Katimavik Suites ([www.katimaviksuites.com](http://www.katimaviksuites.com)), or the much sought after Beach House situated right on the shore. Another alternative is the Bayside B&B.

**Visitor Centre** - The Margaret Aniksak Visitor Centre celebrates the rich history of Arviat and the Padlei Area. Enjoy the many displays featuring traditional tools, Inuit games and traditional clothing. The Visitor Centre is a focal point for the ACE programs.

**Art Centre** - There is the local Kiluk sewing centre, where you can find the work of local artists for sale. Also sealskin vests, mitts, hats, computer bags and specialties such as Labrador Tea.

**Banks** - There is no retail bank in Arvia, but ATM machines can be found at the Northern Store, the Padlei Co-Op Store, and at Eskimo Point Lumber Supply.

**Alcohol restrictions** - Arviat is a dry community, which means no alcohol is permitted.

**Community Events** - Participating in community events is a great way to interact with local residents. Below are the main events that take place in Arviat throughout the year.

## JUNE

National Aboriginal Day is a Canadawide event, including Nunavut, and is celebrated on June 21 every year.

## JULY

Canada Day July 1 is Canada's birthday and communities across the Territory hold Canada Day celebrations, often including a local parade.

Nunavut Day Nunavummiut celebrate the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement Act and the Nunavut Act on July 9 every year. The acts were passed by Canadian parliament in 1993 before Nunavut

split from the Northwest Territories in 1999. Every community does something special and all government offices are closed.

## **AUGUST**

The annual Hamlet Day celebrations take place on Labour Day weekend.



## **OCTOBER/NOVEMBER**

The Inummariit Music Festival typically takes place in October or November and features some of Nunavut's most talented musicians.

## **DECEMBER**

Christmas/ New Year's Eve. Even in the darkest part of winter, residents of Kivalliq communities gather together to celebrate the Christmas holidays. Community feasts, iglu and snow sculpture making and games are staples of the holiday season.

## **JANUARY**

The John Lindell Memorial Hockey Tournament is held in Arviat every year and attracts teams from throughout the region.

## **Visitor Protocol**

The following are a few protocols and visitor expectations that you should be aware of when visiting the community or travelling on the land outside Arviat.

- Be aware that elders in the community may not speak English, and Inuktitut is the primary language for all Inuit in Arviat. This should be the incentive you need to learn a few Inuktitut phrases.
- Always ask before photographing a person, a group of people or their homes, or any culturally significant places.
- When visiting any of the wide variety of cultural heritage sites in and around Arviat always ask about appropriate behaviour.



- Whenever traditional feasts are held in an Inuit community, the Elders and older people are often asked to offer prayers to bless the events or to do the opening or closing ceremonies. They are also served first and they never have to wait in line or are left standing if chairs are unavailable.
- It is illegal to disturb any archaeological site and it is a federal offence to remove any artifacts.
- Expert permits are required for the removal of any animal part from Nunavut including frozen meats purchased from a store. Visitors should be fully aware of all the import regulations of their home country before purchasing any animal products.
- Please respect the alcohol ban in Arviat.
- Please respect Inuit subsistence hunting, fishing and trapping rights and refrain from interfering with these activities.

## Interested in Learning Some Inuktitut?

Inuktitut is the name of some of the Inuit languages spoken in Canada. It is spoken in all areas north of the tree line, including parts of the provinces of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, to some extent in northeastern Manitoba as well as the territories of Nunavut, the Northwest Territories, and traditionally on the Arctic Ocean coast of Yukon.

It is recognized as an official language in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. There are an estimated 35,000 Inuktitut speakers in Canada, including roughly 200 who live regularly outside of traditionally Inuit lands.

Inuktitut was an oral language until missionaries introduced systems of writing to the Inuit. Roman orthography and syllabics both developed as a means of teaching the Bible. There are many different Inuktitut dialects throughout Nunavut.



	<b><u>Inuktitut</u></b>	<b><u>Phonetics</u></b>
How are you?	Qanuipit?	Ka-nwee-peet?
I am fine	Qanuigittunga	Ka-nweeng-ni-toon-ga
What is your name?	Kinauvit?	Kee-nau-veet?
Do you understand?	Tukisiviit?	Too-kee-see-veet?
Thank you	Qujannamiik	Coo-yan-na-mee-ick
That's all	Taima	Tay-ma
You are welcome	Ilaali	Ee-lah-li
I am hungry	Kaatunga	Kak-toon-ga
I am cold	Qiuliqtunga	Key-u-lick-toon-ga
Help !	Ikajunga !	Ick-eang-nak-took
Did you make this?	Una sanajait?	Oo-na san-ai-yate?
How many?	Qatsiit?	Cat-seet?
Yes	Ii	Ee
No	Aakka or Aagaa	Ah-ka or ah-gah
Maybe	Atsuuli	At-soo-lee
What is it?	Una suna?	Oo-na soo-na?
Goodbye (to one person)	Tavvauvutit	Tah-vow-voo-teet
Goodbye to you all	Tavvauvusi	Tah-vow-voo-see
Good Morning	Ulaakut	Oo-lah-coot
Good Afternoon	Unusakut	Oo-nah-sa-coot
Good Evening	Unukut	Oo-new-coot
Me too	Uvangatau	Oo-va-naw-taa-u
Come here	Qaigit	K-eye-geet
Spouse or partner	Aippaq	Eye-puck
Son	Irniq	Ear-nick
Daughter	Panik	Pa-nick
Sun	Siqiniq	Sick-awn-nick
Sled	Qamutik	Caw-moo-tick
Walrus	Aiviq	Eye-vick
Polar Bear	Nanuq	Naa-nook
Walrus	Aiviq	Eye-vick
Seal	Nattiq	Naa-tick
Caribou	Tuktu	Took-two
Arctic Char	Iqaluk	Ick-ka-look
Arctic Squirrel	Siksik	Sick-sick
Dog	Qimmik	Kim-mick
Lemming	Avinggaq	Ah-ving-ack
Musk Ox	Umimmak	Oom-mim-mack
Wolf	Amaruq	Um-ma-rook
Rabbit	Ukaliq	Ew-ka-lick



## What to Pack

It is important to pack the right clothes for travel to the Canadian arctic because the weather is generally quite a bit cooler than the southern provinces and can change quickly. The following are some seasonal clothing recommendations. More specific recommendations can be provided by your outfitter or tour operator.



### **Summer and early fall – July – September**

Warm sweater, fleece or sweatshirt

Warm jacket particularly for trips out on the water where it can be cooler

Sun hat with brim and toque for trips out on the water

Light gloves

Lightweight/breathable rain gear – jacket and pants

Comfortable long pants

Long underwear

Warm sleepwear

Short sleeve shirts and long sleeve shirts

Ankle high hiking boots or warm rubber boots in September

Bug jacket

DEET insect repellent (at least 30% wilderness formula)

Warm wool socks

Refillable water bottle

Walking stick for those who might need one

Sunglasses and sun block

Tripod for photographers

Plastic ziplock bags to keep camera gear dry

Binoculars

## **Fall – October - November**

Down or equivalent parka with fur trim

Insulated wind pants

Warm toque or other warm headgear

Warm long sleeve shirts or turtle necks

Warm rubber boots until the snow arrives and then insulated winter boots

Mittens or gloves and light liner gloves for taking photos

Heavy fleece

Warm long underwear

Indoor slippers or shoes

Plastic ziplock bags for camera gear (coming in from the cold can create condensation in your cold camera unless warmed up first in a sealed bag)

Binoculars

Walking stick

Tripod for photographers

## **Snow Season – late November – end of May**

Down or equivalent arctic parka with fur trim

Insulated snow/wind pants

Insulated pants

Warm toque or other warm headgear

Warm long sleeve shirts or turtle necks

Insulated winter boots

Hand/feet warmers

Heavy mittens and gloves and light liner gloves for taking photos

Heavy fleece

Warm long underwear

Indoor slippers or shoes

Plastic ziplock bags for camera gear (coming in from the cold can create condensation in your cold camera unless warmed up first in a sealed bag)

Binoculars

Walking stick

Tripod for photographers

Sunglasses and sunblock for spring travel on the land (May)





To Maguse Rd.



Commun

Eskimo Point Lumber  
Supply

Health Centre

RCMP

Arctic College

Glad Tidings Church

Bayside B&B

Alliance Church

Andy Aulatjut  
Elders Centre

Padlei Inns North

John Ollie Complex  
Arena & Community Hall

John Arnalukjuak  
High School

Katimavik Suites

Kiluk Center

Government Of Nunavut  
Pana Building

City Dock

Hudson Bay

# ARVIAT ᐱᕐᕐᕐᕐ

The Northern Store  
& Post Office

Hamlet Office

Qikiqtaaluk Middle  
School

Visitors Centre

Mikilaaq Centre

Catholic Church

Library

Padlei Co-op  
& Convenience

Anglican Church

RK'd  
Levi Angmak  
Elementary School

Katimavik Beach House



To Cemetery and Nuvuk

Quick Stop

Joe's Taxi.....	857-4350
Tony's Taxi.....	(867)-857-4433
Lola's Taxi.....	854-4114
Visitors Centre.....	857-2921
Katimavik Suites.....	857-4760
Padlei Inns North.....	857-2919
Bayside B&B.....	857-2653
Calm Air.....	857-2997
First Air.....	857-4047
Health Center.....	857-3100
RCMP.....	857-0123
Canada Post.....	857-2859
Hamlet Office.....	857-2841





# Useful Contact Information in the Community

**Arviat Community Ecotourism:**

867-857-2921

**Padlei Coop Hotel:**

867-857-2919

**Hamlet Office:**

867-857-2841

**Katimavik Suites:**

867-857-2752

**Katimavik Beach House:**

867-857-2322



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Canada's Accessible Arctic

[www.visitarviat.ca](http://www.visitarviat.ca)

