

## FAQ

- How are the food prices?
  - o The price of food in Nunavut is slightly higher than it is in Southern Canada. However, there are programs such as Nutrition North that make healthy food, such as fruits and vegetables, more affordable.  
(<http://www.nutritionnorthcanada.gc.ca/eng/1415385762263/1415385790537> )
- What is “Country Food”
  - o Country food refers to traditional Inuit foods, such as Caribou, Seal, Fish such as Arctic Char, and Whale.
- Would I be able to buy country food while I’m in Iqaluit?
  - o Yes, there is a store in Iqaluit that sells country food. The store is called “Nunavut Country Food Store”, and is close to the town centre.
- What is sealift?
  - o Sealift is a service where non-perishables and large non-food items are brought up on ships that arrive every summer. It is a service available to both residents and businesses in Nunavut.
  - o The difference between Sealift and Air Cargo are: Sealift is a seasonal shipping method, as the Arctic Ocean is inaccessible in the winter due to sea ice, and cost- it’s more cost effective to ship large orders than it is to cargo them. Items that come through Air Cargo are perishable food items- such as fresh fruits and vegetables, and smaller items.
- Where can I go shopping?
  - o There are many stores in Iqaluit, such as grocery stores, convenience store, gift stores, and supply stores. You name it
- What kind of restaurants are in Iqaluit?
  - o Iqaluit has many different types of restaurants, from fine dining to fast food, and even food trucks in the summer.
- How much is the cost of living in Nunavut?
  - o The cost of living in Nunavut is higher than other parts of the country. However, there is a Northern allowance that is given to offset the high costs.
- What is the minimum wage in Nunavut?
  - o Minimum wage in Nunavut is \$13 dollars per hour.
- What kind of shopping is available in Nunavut?
  - o In the larger Nunavut communities like Iqaluit, Cambridge Bay and Rankin Inlet, there are multiple options for shopping for food, household items and clothing. In smaller communities, options are more limited, though each town has a store where you can buy food and common items. Many Nunavut residents bring food and other hard-to-find items from southern Canada on sealift boats that visit each community in the summer. Online shopping is also a well-used option, as some outlets ship to Nunavut.
- If I visited Iqaluit, where could I stay?
  - o In Iqaluit there are many different places to stay that include one of our multiple hotels there are also a couple Bed and Breakfasts’.

- Is there a lot of wild life in Iqaluit?
  - o Yes, there is a lot of wild life. There are many small animals such as various birds, lemmings, and the occasional arctic hare or arctic fox. Occasionally, there are sightings of larger wild life, such as wolves or even polar bears just outside the city limits.
- What kind of clothing should I bring to Nunavut?
  - o It is important that you have warm clothing in winter, especially if you will be spending a lot of time outside – this should include a parka rated to at least -40°C, boots, hat, gloves and scarf. In the summer, you will need a light jacket. Wind-proof clothing is recommended for all seasons. Practical, comfortable shoes are essential because there are no sidewalks in Nunavut and the ground is uneven.
- Is it dark all winter and light all summer?
  - o The answer to that depends on where you live. In Grise Fiord, Nunavut’s most northern community, have 24 hours of daylight in June and 24 hours of darkness in December. Southern Nunavut communities have more hours of light in the winter and more hours of dark in summer. For example, on December 21, the shortest day of the year, residents in the capital of Iqaluit will watch the sun rise around 9:30 a.m. and set around 1 p.m.
  - o Some people find it hard to adjust to the variation in light and darkness depending on the seasons. Fortunately, there are ways to help you with this. Vitamins can help keep you healthy when there are limited hours of sunlight. Window blinds that block the light are available to help you sleep during the summer.
- What is housing like in Nunavut? Do people live in igloos?
  - o Contrary to popular belief, people in Nunavut don’t live in igloos – although the word igloo is the Inuktitut word for home. People live in single family dwellings, townhouses and apartments. In the summer, many choose to live in large canvas tents on the land.
- How can I travel to/within Nunavut? Can I drive to Nunavut?
  - o There are no roads connecting communities in Nunavut. The most common type of transportation is plane. The four gateway cities to enter Nunavut are: Montreal, Ottawa, Winnipeg and Edmonton. There is also an air link to Nuuk, Greenland during the summer months.
  - o More information about flying to and within Nunavut can be found on the Nunavut Tourism website:
  - o <http://www.nunavuttourism.com>
- What is the weather like in Nunavut?
  - o The weather in Nunavut varies greatly depending on the season and where you are in the territory. Winters can be very harsh, with average temperatures of -32°C in Pond Inlet and -27°C in Iqaluit. Summers can be quite mild, with temperatures ranging from an average of 11°C in Baker Lake in July to 6°C in Hall Beach. It is best to be prepared for all types of weather when travelling to or living in Nunavut.
- Are there any parks in Iqaluit?
  - o Yes, there is one. Sylvia Grinnell is the only Territorial Park in Iqaluit
- Can I go hunting or fishing while in Nunavut?

- It is possible to go hunting and fishing in Nunavut, however there are rules and protective guidelines, such as non-beneficiaries (Non-Inuit) need to have licences for any hunting or fishing.
- Are there any museums in Iqaluit?
  - Yes, there is a museum in Iqaluit; it's called Nunatta Sunakkutaangit Museum. It is located by the visitor's centre.
- What is the art like in Nunavut?
  - There are many different types of art in Nunavut. Some more popular art forms include Carvings, Prints, Jewellery, and sewn items (such as mitts and traditional clothing)
- Is there internet?
  - Yes, there is internet in the North. Although the internet may not be as fast or have as much broad band as some are used to it gets the job done. Nunavut has 4G capability.
- Can I watch my favorite TV shows while I'm in Nunavut?
  - Yes, you can watch your favourite TV shows while in Nunavut. However, you may have to give up your Netflix, or other streaming services.
- What is the difference between a province and a territory?
  - Territories, such as Nunavut, get their powers from the Government of Canada. In contrast, provincial governments have their powers embedded in the Canadian Constitution. Territories also receive a substantial amount of their financial resources from the Government of Canada.
  - To learn more about the difference between a province and a territory, visit the Government of Canada's Intergovernmental Affairs page on the topic:
  - <http://www.pco-bcp.gc.ca/aia/index.asp?lang=eng&page=provterr&sub=difference&doc=difference-eng.htm>
- How long does it take to drive to Nunavut?
  - There are no roads connecting communities within Nunavut or to southern Canada. Flying to Nunavut is the only option available 12 months of the year. Arriving by boat can be an option during the summer months. Nunavut's large size (1.9 million km<sup>2</sup> or 20% of Canada's land mass) allows for all of its communities to be spread out across the territory, with no road or railway links.
- What does Iqaluit mean?
  - Iqaluit is an Inuktitut word that means "place of many fish". It is pronounced "ee-kha-loo-eet"
- What does Nunavut mean?
  - Nunavut is an Inuktitut word that means "our land". It is pronounced "Noo-nah-voot".
- Can I take a class to learn Inuktitut?
  - Yes, there is a program in Iqaluit that offers this serves.
- What is the population and demographics of Nunavut?
  - The population of Nunavut as of April 1, 2013, was 34,023 people (Statistics Canada). Of this population, about 84% of the population is Inuit. Nunavut also has a very young

population – the median age of a resident of Nunavut on July 1, 2012 was 24.7-years-old, compared to that of the Canadian median of 40-years-old.

- To learn more, you can visit the website of the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics: [www.stats.gov.nu.ca](http://www.stats.gov.nu.ca)
- Source: Statistics Canada. Table051-0005 - Estimates of population, Canada, provinces and territories, quarterly (persons), CANSIM (database). (accessed: 2013-07-30)
- What does the word “Qallunaat” mean?
  - Qallunaat, pronounced “Kha-loo-naht”, is the Inuktitut word for white people; however it is often used to refer to anyone who is non-Inuk.
  - Source: Environment Canada. National Climate Data and Information Archive. Canadian Climate Normals or Averages 1971-2000.
- Is the word “Eskimo” offensive?
  - The word “Eskimo” means “Raw Meat Eater” and it was a name given to the Inuit by outsiders. It is generally not seen as the appropriate terminology- however, Eskimo is an accepted term in Alaska.
- Why do people always raise their eyebrows at me?
  - Raising both eyebrows is one of the ways we say “Yes”- and “No” is shown through a scrunching of the nose.
- How culturally diverse is Nunavut?
  - Nunavut is quite diverse with many different cultures; there are people from all over the world who have decided to call Nunavut their home.
- What is Inuktitut?
  - Inuktitut is the traditional language of the Inuit. It is often written in both syllabics (the same syllabics are also used for Algonquin languages), and roman orthography (using the Latin alphabet that is used for English and French).
- What are Inuit?
  - Inuit are the Indigenous people of Nunavut. There are also Inuit in Northern Quebec (known as Nunavik), Labrador (Nunatsiavut), the Northwest Territories, and the Yukon. There are also Inuit in Alaska and Greenland. Inuit is the Inuktitut plural name, meaning “the people”, a single person would be “Inuk”, meaning person.
- How many schools are in Iqaluit?
  - In Iqaluit there are six schools, three elementary schools (Nakashuk, Joamie, and Nanook), one Middle school , one High school , and one French school
- What is the school curriculum like?
  - The schools in Nunavut follow the Alberta curriculum.
- Would my child be able to learn Inuktitut in school?
  - Yes, all schools offer Inuktitut as a second language. There is also an option to take Inuktitut as a first language from Kindergarten to grade 7.
- What are the most popular school sports in Nunavut?
  - The two most popular sports in Nunavut are Hockey and Soccer.
- Are there any post-secondary schools in Nunavut?

- Nunavut has the Arctic College, with different campuses throughout Nunavut, the main campus being in Iqaluit.
- What kind of activities can I do during the year?
  - There are many different types of activities that one can do. There are seasonal activities, such as skiidooing or boating. There is also mass registration in September.
- What kind of jobs are there in Nunavut?
  - There are many different jobs in Nunavut,
- What is Apex?
  - Apex is a small community located near Iqaluit. It's more like a suburb than a separate community.
- How far away is Apex from Iqaluit?
  - Apex is very close to Iqaluit, it is less than a 15 minute drive from the city's centre, and under an hours walk.
- How many people live in Apex?
  - There is an estimated 500 people that live in Apex.
- What language is spoken in Nunavut?
  - Nunavut's official languages are the Inuit Language (Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun), English and French. The Inuit Language is the mother tongue of 83% of the population of Nunavut (Office of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut). If you do not speak Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun, you will not have trouble communicating in English; it is widely spoken in the territory. There is also a large French-speaking population in Nunavut's capital city, Iqaluit.
  - Source: Office of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut. Nunavut's Official Languages. n.d. 30 July 2013.
  - Statistics, Nunavut Bureau of. 1 April 2013. 29 August 2013.
- What are the main industries in Nunavut?
  - The main industries in Nunavut include arts & crafts, mining, fishing and hunting and trapping. Nunavut is known worldwide for prints and carvings. Mineral exploration and mining are growing industries, but the high cost of travelling to the territory, as well as bringing materials to Nunavut, are a challenge. Nunavut has commercial char, turbot and shrimp fisheries. With much of the waters around Nunavut currently unexplored, the Government of Nunavut, with funding from the federal government, recently purchased a research vessel to collect information on marine species, habitat, and populations in waters around Nunavut. Hunting and trapping is an industry that is valued at approximately \$40,000,000 annually. Tourism is a growing industry in Nunavut as well, as tourists from all over the world are drawn to Nunavut's national and territorial parks, sport hunting and fishing, culture and natural beauty.
- What kind of activities are there in Nunavut?
  - Nunavut has a great natural landscape for outdoor activities like hiking, kayaking, camping and much more! If you are interested in indoor activities, there are plenty of options as well. Most communities in Nunavut have an arena for skating and hockey.

Indoor soccer and volleyball are also very popular sports. The capital city, Iqaluit, also has a cinema that plays new movies every week.

- There are also festivals and celebrations held in each Nunavut community annually, such as Toonik Tyme and Alainait festival in Iqaluit, and the Nattiq Frolics in Kugluktuk. No matter what community you live in in Nunavut, with a little creativity you will always have something to do.
- Where do people work in Nunavut?
  - The largest employer in the territory is the Government of Nunavut. Many people in Nunavut work for the three different levels of government: municipal, territorial and federal. New jobs are emerging in the mining and mineral exploration sector. Tourism is also growing and some Nunavummiut work as guides and tour operators.
- Where do you get your electricity?
  - All electricity in Nunavut is supplied by Qulliq Energy Corporation (QEC), which is a territorial corporation owned by the Government of Nunavut. All of the power supplied to Nunavummiut comes from stand-alone diesel generators located in each community. Diesel is brought in by ships during the summer and lasts all year until the next delivery.
  - Though Nunavut currently relies completely on imported fuel products, the Government of Nunavut is presently looking into potential energy alternatives such as hydropower and solar and wind power.
- Where do you get water in Nunavut?
  - Water is supplied by each individual municipality within Nunavut. Each community has their own water supply and water treatment plant. Some homes in Nunavut have piped water, but many homes get water delivered to their house each day by a water truck. This is especially the case in smaller communities.