

IQALUIT NUNAVUT



Canada 



CÉCS
CONSEIL
ÉCONOMIQUE
ET COOPÉRATIF
DE LA
SASKATCHEWAN



PHOTO CREDITS : NUNAVUT TOURISM

WELCOME TO IQALUIT...



The city of Iqaluit is Nunavut's largest city with a population of around 7250 people; over 60% of this population is Inuit. The city is situated in the Baffin Island region in Frobisher Bay. The languages commonly used in Iqaluit are Inuktitut, English and French. The temperatures vary from -4°C to 8°C from the month of May to the month of September. However, the air is very dry so it will often feel warmer than the indicated temperature. On average, between the months of May and August, Iqaluit receives 16 hours of sun each day. From the end of June to mid-July, the city is sunny almost 24/7.



TRANSPORTATION

As there are no buses in Iqaluit, the best modes of transportation are by foot, by taxi or with others. The city is not very big, so it is easy to walk most places. Although, it is not always practical. Taxi fares are always \$7 per person, no matter the distance of the route or the destination. However, the best way to get around is to make friends with whom you can carpool.



ACCOMMODATION

Finding accommodation in Nunavut can be tricky so we strongly suggest you communicate with your employer about finding an affordable and convenient place to live. The employers know the area well, and can have contacts in their network who are ready to rent out a room at a lower price than most.

Some people leave on vacation during the summer months, so housesitting or petsitting is a possibility, but again, speak with your employer about this as it is harder to learn of these opportunities without being on-site.

The distance between home and work can have a considerable impact on your overall experience with the program. For this reason, we recommend you search for accommodation after knowing the address of your workplace.

Living with roommates or a host family during your stay can help to avoid feeling lonely, and it can give you an opportunity to practise your second language.

The cost of rent in Nunavut is among the most expensive in Canada, but the higher wages help to compensate for the high cost of living.

Feel free to consult the Facebook page, [Iqaluit Housing](#), as it can help you in your search for accommodation.

LAWS IN NUNAVUT

In Nunavut, the age of majority is 19 years old.

[Information about Health and Safety Laws](#)

MEDICAL INSURANCE

For Quebecois students, please note that your Quebec health card will not cover fees in other provinces and territories. If you have to see a doctor, you will be charged, in which case there is always a possibility of being reimbursed by your health insurance later on. However, we do recommend that you get complementary coverage to cover your expenses during your stay.

For students from other provinces, your health card will cover your healthcare expenses in Nunavut. However, certain services can be more expensive than in your native province, which presents a risk that they may not be entirely covered by your medical plan. It is advised to verify with your province what is covered, and what is not, when travelling out-of-province.

TO VISIT

Unikkaarvik Visitors' Centre

Here, you can learn everything you need to know about the city's different activities.

Nunatta Sunakkutaangit Museum

Discover more about Inuit culture: tools, clothing, artefacts, and art, of course!

Apex

Visit Apex to see Frobisher Bay and the old Hudson Bay buildings. You can get there by taxi, but the 40-minute walk in the trails is definitely worth it!

The Legislative Assembly

In Nunavut's government centre, you will discover a historical and traditional atmosphere through the architecture and decoration of this modern space.

Road to Nowhere

Iqaluit's most famous road: the Road to Nowhere. It will bring you to the city limits, by the lakes, the hills, the tundra, and then, naturally, to nowhere.



FOOD AND GROCERY

The cost of food in Nunavut is much higher than elsewhere in Canada. In comparison to Ottawa, prices can sometimes be 50% higher, and in some cases, even more. We advise you to bring some common commodities with you.

The most known grocery stores are Northern Stores, Market Place and Baffin Island Canner Ltd. If you are a vegetarian, or prefer to eat organic, the alternative is to order food online from Edo Produce Canada. However, you will still have to pay the cost of freight. Additionally, [amazon.ca](https://www.amazon.ca) has free shipping to Iqaluit, so dry foods and other things can be ordered at a more affordable price.

If you are over 19 years of age, you can purchase alcohol in bars. However, there are no liquor stores in Nunavut. You are authorised to bring your own alcohol (for personal use only), but it is quite regulated. We advise you to look into these regulations, should you chose to bring any with you.

WHAT TO WEAR

- Rain coat and rubber boots: essential.
- Even during the summer, it can get cold! Warm clothing is needed for the beginning of summer and for outdoor activities.
- There can be lots of mosquitoes, so remember to wear repellent and to dress accordingly.
- A toque and mittens are practical items to bring, just in case.
- Walking shoes are a must for outdoor activities.

PRACTICAL ADVICE

- Bell and Virgin Mobile are the most reliable telephone providers in Iqaluit so it is worth looking into these companies if one of them is not your regular provider.
- Internet access can be very slow and expensive. Past students have suggested that increasing their cellphone data plans and using their phones to generate a Wi-Fi connection with computers when necessary is what worked best for them.
- RBC and CIBC are the only two banks in Iqaluit.
- Be aware that you may encounter cultural norms you may not be used to.
- Nunavut has very dry air so lip balm and lotion are practical items for your packing list.
- The sun can be very strong, so bring sunscreen.
- The museum is the place for the best souvenirs at the best prices.

RESTAURANTS

Stonehouse Bar & Grill

The perfect place for a good meal and good company.

Yummy Shawarma

A Lebanese restaurant giving Iqaluit an international taste!

Big Racks Barbecue

Good food and reasonable prices.

Snack

Fast food with 24/7 delivery? Yes, please!

Kickin' Caribou Pub

For a laid-back and friendly atmosphere.

The Frob Kitchen & Eatery

A little secret: their breakfast menu is amazing.

PARKS

Qaummaarviit Historical Territorial Park

Discover the Thulé culture in this great park, rich in history, situated on Qaummaarviit Island.

Sylvia Grinnell Territorial Park

Perfect for summer camping, fishing and picnics! Keep your eyes peeled for caribou and arctic foxes!

Katannilik Territorial Park

Visit the Soper River!

FITNESS

There are two gyms in Iqaluit. Atii Fitness Centre offers a variety of equipment as well as classes. There is also a gym located in the Frobisher Hotel.



FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

Alianait Arts Festival

A festival to promote and celebrate artists from both the local and international visual arts scene.

With music, theatre, cinema, storytelling, and even circus performances, this festival has a little bit of everything.

Nunavut Day

Canada Day Celebrations

Fête de la St. Jean

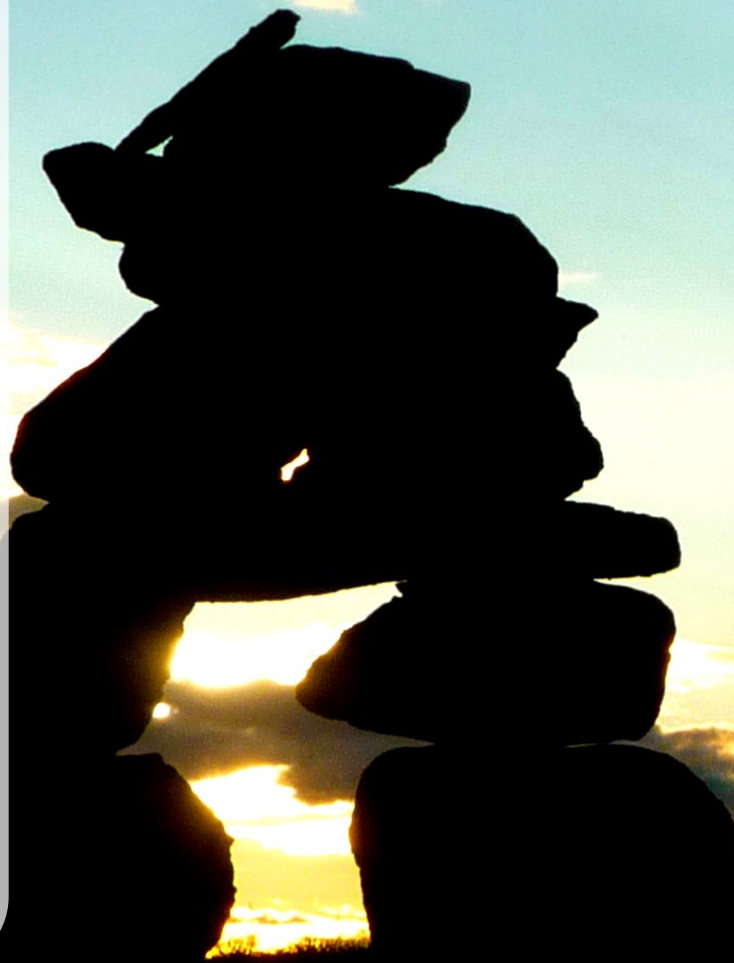
L'Association des francophones du Nunavut
organises lots of fun activities throughout the summer months.

OTHER RESOURCES

- The blog, [Finding True North](#) and the [Guide de la Commission scolaire francophone du Nunavut](#) have a lot of information about life in Iqaluit.
- The [Iqaluit Public Service Announcement](#) Facebook page a great source of information about all that is happening in the community.
- [L'Association des francophones du Nunavut](#) offers multiple services and hold a list of the francophone organisations in Iqaluit.
- The blog [run gloria run](#) lists companies that have free-shipping to Iqaluit.

FAVOURITES

- ♥ Sylvia Grinnell Park
- ♥ Taking a stroll to Apex by the Bay
- ♥ Sunday morning brunch at the Frobisher Hotel
- ♥ Fitness Classes and the ambiance at Atii Fitness.
- ♥ Nature and the long days
- ♥ The sky at midnight
- ♥ The Northern Lights
- ♥ The charm of the little bars, restaurants, and DJs who always play the same songs.



ADVICE FROM PAST YCW STUDENTS



“Even if it’s a kind of a lost city in the middle of nowhere, there is an abundance of activities. I did not have one weekend with nothing to do!”

“Why go to Nunavut? Because it’s a superb experience which allows you to discover the Canadian North, and Inuit culture. Iqaluit is a great mix of Inuits, Francophones, and Anglophones, creating a dynamic community where the people are very nice.”

“You need to be open-minded and ready to try new things.”

“I hope all the future students will live as wonderful of an experience as I did in this beautiful city, full of history!”

HAVE FUN IN IQALUIT!

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