



# Nunavut

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## Why Go?

Picture a treeless, ice-encrusted wilderness lashed by unrelenting weather with a population density that makes Greenland seem claustrophobic. Add polar bears, narwhals, beluga whales and a scattered Aboriginal population who have successfully mastered a landscape so harsh that foreigners dared not colonize it.

Nunavut is Canada's largest and most lightly populated subdivision, a mythical assortment of uninhabited islands and frigid ocean that exists on the planet's climatic and geographic extremes. Visitors here face multiple obstacles, not least perennial blizzards, no roads and massive travel costs. But those that do get through have the benefit of welcoming communities and awe-inspiring natural wonders, as well as the privilege of joining a small band of intrepid trailblazers, safe in the knowledge that they are setting foot where few have trodden before.

## Best Places to Eat

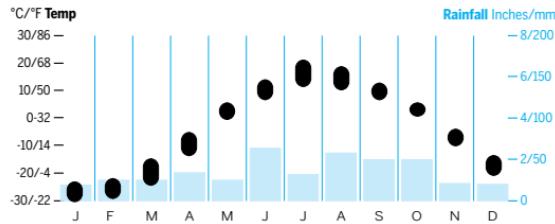
- ➡ Granite Room (p823)
- ➡ Dorset Suites (p827)
- ➡ Gallery (p824)

## Best Places to Stay

- ➡ Dorset Suites (p827)
- ➡ Accommodations by the Sea (p822)
- ➡ Discovery Lodge Hotel (p822)
- ➡ Nanuq Lodge (p829)
- ➡ Nunattaq Suites (p822)

## When to Go

### Iqaluit



**Jul & Aug** Prime visiting time during the short hyperactive summer season.

**Apr & May** The ideal time for dog-sledding and other snow sports and activities.

**Jun** The midnight sun coincides with Iqaluit's Alianait Arts Festival.



## Nunavut Highlights

- ❶ Feel small beside the planet's most precipitous cliffs in **Auyittuq National Park** (p826).
- ❷ Encounter soapstone polar bears – but watch out for real ones – in the art mecca of **Cape Dorset** (p827).
- ❸ Chomp char, chew caribou and munch musk ox at eateries in Canada's most curious capital, **Iqaluit** (p820).
- ❹ Moonwalk across awesomely lunar **Resolute** (p828), where nothing grows despite four months of midnight sun.
- ❺ Canoe amid cascades and caribou on the Edenic **Soper River** (p825).
- ❻ Hit Pond Inlet for floe-edge wildlife-watching or the bird sanctuaries of **Sirmilik National Park** (p828).
- ❼ Get seriously far north at **Quttinirpaaq National Park** (p828).
- ❽ Boat in to see wildlife up close in **Ukkusiksalik National Park** (p830).