
ᐅᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴ *katjaqnaaq*
listen to the land
aliannaktuk
en osmose avec la terre



Here, where the rivers flow into the sea, the ancestors of today's Inuit lived in harmony with the land, utilizing bone and stone, skins and snow to survive in a harsh environment.

Qamaviniqtalik, “the place with old sod houses”, is one of the treasures of Nunavut and of the Inuit culture. Here, you can see beautifully preserved examples of the stone structures that were so much a part of the life of the past. Occupied from 1200 – 1775 AD by the Thule, and later by the Caribou Inuit, this site was used from late summer through early winter.

A gravel trail meanders through the park, and passes by semi-subterranean autumn houses, tent rings, stone supports for drying racks, and many storage caches. There are stone kayak cradles, fox traps, and even a grave. There is a sod hut at the entrance to *Qamaviniqtalik*, where cultural programs are frequently held. Along the river, there are faint remains of stone fishing weirs and *inuksuit* game drive systems, plus hunting

blinds used for goose or caribou hunting in the past. *Iqalugaarjuup Nunanga* offers some of the best examples of these structures easily accessible from a community. A printed guide, available at the Rankin Inlet Visitor Centre at the airport, explains the geology, wildlife, plant communities, and explains the structures and the culture of the people who lived here.

Birdwatching in the park is superb from June through September, and it is often possible to see three species of loons, nesting

long-tailed ducks, peregrine falcons, rough-legged hawks, gulls, ravens, ptarmigan, shorebirds, and many species of tundra-nesting small birds like Lapland longspurs, redpolls, horned larks, and snow buntings. Mammals are a bit more chancy, but there are dozens of ground squirrels (locally called *sik sik*), lemmings, arctic foxes, short-tailed weasels, and arctic hares. You may also see thousands of caribou move through the park if you visit when the caribou migration passes near Rankin.

This park offers excellent hiking, and camping is permitted. There are several wooden tent platforms, as well as picnic facilities and outhouses. In late August through mid-September, the berry picking is wonderful – there are great quantities of lingonberries, crowberries, and bearberries,

and some spots where there are blueberries and cloudberries. Fishing is seasonally very good on *Iqalugaarjuk*, and some local lakes, but the river is too shallow for canoeing or kayaking.

TRAVELLING TO THE PARK

Rankin Inlet is the gateway to the Kivalliq region in central Nunavut, and is accessible only by air, from Ottawa through Iqaluit, from Winnipeg, and from Edmonton thorough Yellowknife. Operators in Rankin Inlet offer road trips to *Iqalugaarjuup Nunanga Territorial Park* as well as boat trips along the coast and to Marble Island, and fishing trips to many inland lakes for world-class lake trout fishing. Vehicles can be rented in Rankin Inlet, but a trip to the park is enhanced when it is done with a guide who can share information about the history of the area, the Inuit culture and way of life. Travellers going to canoe the Thelon, Dubawnt, or Kazan Rivers or to *Ukkusiksalik National Park* also usually pass through Rankin Inlet.

The park is accessible by snowmobile or dogteam in the winter and springtime, when snow covers the land and the road is impassable. It is accessible by road from early June through September, and sometimes later, if there is not too much snow.

For more information on this park, check the Nunavut Parks website at www.nunavutparks.com, or call Nunavut Tourism at 1-866-NUNAVUT to request the Nunavut Travel Planner, which lists all licensed tourism operators, accommodations, and services. ■



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