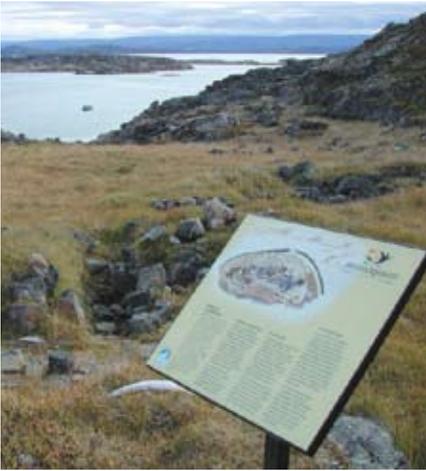




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ᐅᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ *katjaqnaaq*  
*listen to the land*  
*aliannaktuk*  
*en osmose avec la terre*

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Today, a boardwalk and trail link structures and historical sites on the island, permitting visitors to appreciate its place in the Inuit culture without disturbing the ground or the sites. Two of the houses studied by archaeologists have been left open so the structure can be seen. Tiny stone tools found in the sod walls of the Thule houses were traced to the Dorset people who likely occupied this island prior to the Thule. There are also many stone tent rings, storage caches, kayak stands, and even a grave on this island.

Interpretive signs illustrated by detailed watercolours help visitors understand the stories of the island and its inhabitants. A printed guidebook, available at the Unikkaarvik Visitors' Centre in Iqaluit, clarifies the stories with illustrations of the tools, hunting implements, and sculptures of Thule, Tunnit (Dorset), and modern Inuit. Visitors are asked to stay on the trail to protect the delicate vegetation around the ancient structures.

Since Qaummaarviit Territorial Park is located on an island about 12 kilometres from Iqaluit, it is accessible as a day trip by boat in summer and by snowmobile and

dogteam when the sea ice permits. In spring, a dogteam tour to the island with any of a number of local outfitters is an unforgettable experience, from the exciting "take-off" in Iqaluit with the dogs barking and lunging, anxious to get going, to the thrilling dash through the jumbled ice of the tidal zone. Then, they settle down for the run across the bay to Peterhead Inlet, trotting smoothly along. It's quite an experience to approach this island in the traditional way, reflecting on the old times when the dogteam was the only way of winter travel, times when the people depended entirely upon their own skills and ingenuity for food and shelter. Then, the dogs stop, the *qamutik* is anchored, and visitors hike up onto the land and along the boardwalk, stepping back in time, so to speak, exploring the past as it is written on the land.

In summer, boat tours to Qaummaarviit also provide opportunities to look for birds and sea mammals – visitors may see ringed seals, belugas, or walrus, and, with luck, might glimpse the long black back of *arvik*, the bowhead whale, or even narwhals. Peregrine falcons, gyrfalcons, and ravens nest on the cliffs of the island and adjacent mainland, and long-tailed ducks, eiders, or guillemots are always possible in summer. Caribou migrate along the mainland near the island, and can be spotted from boats. Families or

hunters going out on the land often stop at the island, so visitors may encounter people going about their traditional way of life near the island.

### TRAVELLING TO THE PARK

Occasionally, special tours are run to Qaummaarviit, especially to celebrate Canada Day or Nunavut Day in July. You may also get a chance to participate in, or witness special cultural demonstrations including drum dances, throat singing, storytelling, or traditional games. At these special events, many boats make the trip to the island, echoing the gatherings of the people in the past.

To ensure that the ancient structures are not disturbed, camping is not permitted on the island. *Sylvia Grinnell Territorial Park* in Iqaluit offers camping facilities. Operators in Iqaluit run tours to the island, and will provide snacks or meals, and interpretation. Visiting the island with a local guide ensures better understanding of the sites, and is an enjoyable way to get to know the local people.

Stop by the Unikkaarvik Visitors' Centre in Iqaluit and view colourful displays and artifacts representing the rich culture and history of the area. Staff can help you with further information on **Qaummaarviit Territorial Park** and other local attractions.

*Grassy swales alternate with rocky bedrock hills and colourful heath tundra on this attractive island, which bears some of the best-preserved examples of structures made by Inuit prior to the coming of outsiders to this land, truly providing a window into the past.*



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For further information or to locate operators who run trips to **Qaummaarviit Territorial Park**, check out the Nunavut Parks website at [www.nunavutparks.com](http://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.

#### **NUNAVUT PARKS & SPECIAL PLACES**

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#### **NUNAVUT TOURISM**

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[www.nunavuttourism.com](http://www.nunavuttourism.com)

#### **UNIKKAARVIK VISITORS' CENTRE (IQALUIT)**

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