



Sirmilik
National Park
parksCanada.gc.ca

Visitor Information Package

Sirmilik

To arrive prepared, to identify backcountry challenges, and to plan an enriching Arctic experience, please thoroughly read this package.

Photo: Dave Reid/www.polarsea.ca



Parks Canada Parcs Canada

Canada

For More Information

Contact our Park Office in Pond Inlet, or visit our website.

Pond Inlet Office

Phone: (867) 899-8092

Fax: (867) 899-8104

sirmilik.info@pc.gc.ca

Hours of Operation

Year Round

Monday to Friday 9:00am-12 noon, 1pm-5pm

parkscanada.gc.ca/sirmilik



Related Websites

Additional Resources: parkscanada.gc.ca/sirmilik

Nunavut Tourism: www.nunavuttourism.com

Mirnguiqsirviit – Nunavut Territorial Parks: www.nunavutparks.com

Weather Conditions –

Pond Inlet: www.weatheroffice.gc.ca/city/pages/nu-25_metric_e.html

Arctic Bay: www.weatheroffice.gc.ca/city/pages/nu-10_metric_e.html

Transport Canada: www.tc.gc.ca

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Photo: Lee Narraway

In Preparation for Your Trip

Pre-Trip

Before booking my travel I have:

- **contacted Parks Canada in Pond Inlet**
- **allowed sufficient time prior to entering the park to attend a mandatory orientation and registration session**
- received the Sirmilik National Park Visitor Information Package
- received the Sirmilik National Park interpretive brochure/map
- received the Safety in Polar Bear Country brochure

For hiking or skiing I have:

- provided Parks Canada with a detailed itinerary of my planned trip including any side trips
- contacted local outfitters to arrange for transport into the park (optional but recommended)

If I am starting my trip in Arctic Bay I have:

- booked my flights accordingly to attend an orientation and registration session in Pond Inlet or Iqaluit.
- contacted local outfitters to arrange for transport into the park

For mountaineering or glacier travel I have:

- provided Parks Canada with a detailed route description of my planned trip

To setup a base camp or caches (a permit is needed in advance) I have:

- provided Parks Canada with details of my planned trip including base camp operations and cache content and location.
- requested for permission from Parks Canada to create a base camp and/or cache and received approval

For a sea kayaking trip I have:

- provided Parks Canada with details of my planned trip

I have booked a time for my registration and orientation.

Date: _____

Time: _____

Location: _____

Post-Trip

After leaving the park I have:

- contacted Parks Canada to de-register
- completed the Nunavut Visitor Survey

Please Note: Permits for operating a business (guiding, outfitting), filming and commercial photography, research, landing an aircraft, establishing a cache or base camp, or for transporting a firearm through the park must be acquired through the Parks Canada office well in advance (some permits may take 90 days or more to be issued).

Welcome

Sirmilik, Inuktitut for “Place of the Glaciers” is a park in four parts – Bylot Island (jointly managed with the Canadian Wildlife Service as a bird sanctuary), Baillarge Bay Sea Bird Colony, Oliver Sound and the Borden Peninsula. At the northern tip of Baffin Island, Sirmilik is part of the high Arctic experience right beside the legendary North West Passage and the teeming with wildlife waters or sea ice of Lancaster Sound.

Even before entering the park, the massive spills of glaciers into Eclipse Sound can be seen shining and brilliant in the Arctic light from the community of Pond Inlet, one of the two gateway communities to the park. Sixteen glaciers, alone, fan out across Bylot Island. More glaciers carve the landscape and fall into Oliver Sound as well as push the rock forward that forms the expansive Borden Peninsula.

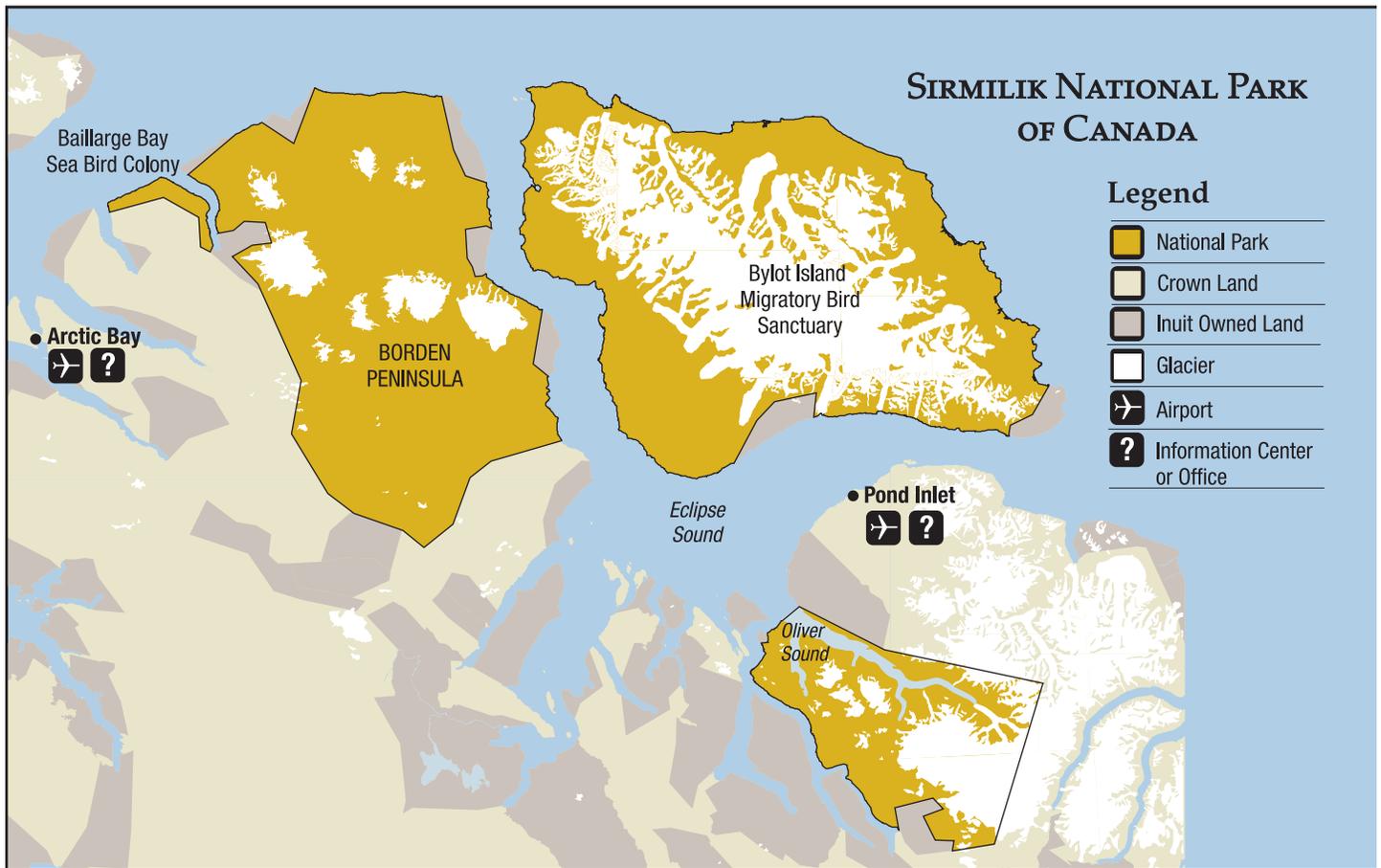
Climb and cross glaciers by ski and crampon in brilliant high intensity spring light. Ski the sea ice or take in the floe edge where marine life is concentrated at the deep navy blue waters exposed against the startling white of ice in May or June. July is ice break up so you must wait until August and September to hike U-shaped river valleys sculpted by glaciers. Boat or kayak in the sounds, or explore this part of the high Arctic on an expedition cruise ship.

These open waters attract some of the largest numbers of arctic sea birds that can be seen circling in late summer skies. Filling the air with their cries as they feast on the bounty found in this part of the marine ecosystem, while narwhal and seals in their thousands chase their catch along side.

On land, brilliant, profuse plant life scatters across the landscape and the exposed geology reveals layers of multi-coloured rock. From magenta to ochre to green and grey with the surprise of red stone hoodoos huddled like a crowd in the distance. They are all revealed to you in the clear golden arctic light.



Map of Sirmilik National Park

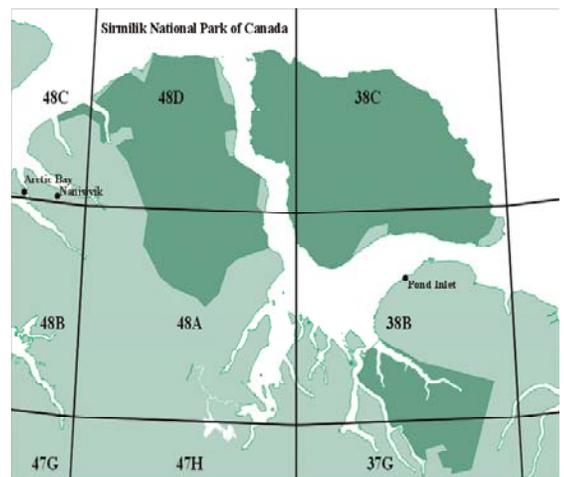


Topographic Maps

Route planning is best done with 1:250,000 maps while navigation should be done with the appropriate 1:50,000 maps. A diagram of the corresponding 1:250,000 maps can be found below.

Call the Parks Office in Pond Inlet for assistance with your route directions. For all areas of the park, you will need to purchase topographic maps prior to arrival.

To find regional distribution centres for topographic maps please check http://maps.nrcan.gc.ca/distribution_e.php



How to Get Here

Air Access to Nunavut

First Air and Canadian North offer scheduled flights to Pond Inlet and Arctic Bay (Nanisivik) via Iqaluit from Montreal, Ottawa, and Yellowknife. Air Canada will likely begin offering flights from Ottawa and Montreal to Iqaluit in 2010.

Please Note: If you are shipping supplies from an international location, please allow 4-6 weeks for these items to clear customs on top of the normal shipping time.

First Air Ltd.
1-800-267-1247
www.firstair.ca

Canadian North
1-800-661-1505
www.cdn-north.com

Air Canada
1-888-247-2262
www.aircanada.com

**Weather conditions in the north may dictate your travel schedule.
Be flexible enough to allow for lengthy delays in your plans.**

Community Information

Community Visitor Information

Pond Inlet
Nattinnak Visitors Centre
Phone: (867) 899-8226
Fax: (867) 899-8246

Arctic Bay
Hamlet Office
Phone: (867) 439-9917
Fax: (867) 439-8767



Local Outfitters

Travel to and from Sirmilik, from either Pond Inlet or Arctic Bay, can be arranged with local outfitters who are licensed to operate in Sirmilik National Park. Outfitters will take you to and from the park by either boat or snowmobile, depending on the season. In Pond Inlet, park staff can help you make the necessary arrangements with local outfitters. In Arctic Bay, call the Hamlet Office at (867) 439-9917.

Please Note: Outfitters must have a current National Parks Business Licence to transport visitors to the park. Ensure your outfitter has a current licence before hiring them. This package was produced in advance of the annual licensing and permitting cycle.

Pond Inlet

Polar Sea Adventures (Equipment rentals also)

Dave Reid

Phone: (867) 899-8870

Fax: (867) 899-8010

Email: info@polarseaadventures.com

www.polarsea.ca

Tagak Outfitting Service

Sheatie Tagak

Phone: (867) 899-8932

Fax: (867) 899-8616

Inuarak Outfitting

Elizabeth and Charlie Inuaraq

Phone: (867) 899-8551

Fax: (867) 899-8111

Email: inuarak@gmail.com

Nanooq Expedition

Namen Inuaraq

Phone: (867) 899-8851

Email: nanooq@qiniq.com

Arctic Bay

Qaqluk Outfitting

Juda Taqtu

Phone: (867) 439-8205

Email: Valerie_taqtu@hotmail.com

North Baffin Outfitting

Esau Tattatuapik

Phone: (867) 439-8478

Fax: (867) 439-8344

Email: etattatuapik@qiniq.com

Koonoo Outfitting

Jeannie Inutig

Phone: (867) 439-8252

Ullivik Outfitting

Andrew Taqtu

Phone: (867) 439-8156

Arqvartuuq Services

Transportation to and from airport

Phone: (867) 439-8227

Fax: (867) 439 8017

Local Stores

Northern Store

Arctic Bay: (867) 439-9914

Pond Inlet: (867) 899-8848

Tununiq Sauniq Co-Op Ltd

Pond Inlet: (867) 899-5101

Taqut Co-Op Association Ltd

Arctic Bay: (867) 439-9934

Accommodations

Pond Inlet

Tununiq Sauniq Hotel

Phone: (867) 899-6500

Fax: (867) 899-8364

Email: innsnorth@arcticco-op.com

Campground

Minimal services. Located 5km from town.

Arctic Bay

Tangmaarvik Inn

Phone : (867) 439-8005

Fax : (867) 439-8007



Photo: Todd Windle



Activities

Hiking and skiing opportunities are endless in Sirmilik National Park, while there are no designated travel routes, park staff will be able to help you with trip planning.

Hiking

A high plateau and broad river valleys of the Borden Peninsula and the variety of terrain of Bylot Island are prime hiking destinations in the park. In the Southwest region of Bylot there are extensive opportunities for wildlife viewing from foxes to geese. Most hikes on Bylot Island will put you up-close to numerous ancient glaciers whose grandeur can occupy your entire view. With 16 glaciers to choose from on Bylot Island alone, the hardest part of your trip will be deciding which ones to visit. Your approach to the glaciers is across varied terrain that will provide you with a hands-on experience into the world of glacial features and how their movement sculpts this land.

Day or Weekend Trips



Bylot Island can be seen from Pond Inlet. Visitors who only have a day or two can hire local outfitters to bring them to the island by boat or snow machine depending on the season for a short day hike or visit to Sermilik Glacier.

Contact our office or an outfitter directly to discuss what trip would be best for you.

Wildlife Viewing

Bylot Island is a Migratory Bird Sanctuary managed jointly with the Canadian Wildlife Service. The island is a haven for seabirds, migratory waterfowl, and other wildlife and has the largest colony of greater snow geese in the world. The Baillarge Bay sea bird cliffs, near Arctic Bay, are home to thousands of thick-billed murres and black-legged kittiwakes best seen by expedition style cruise ships.



Skiing, Mountaineering and Glacier Travel

Sirmilik National Park is 'the place of glaciers'. Spring (late March to early June) is the ideal time for ski touring and mountaineering here, especially on Bylot Island. Groups planning to do glacier travel should have an experienced leader and have thorough knowledge of glacier travel including crevasse rescue.



Floe Edge Tours

The most popular wildlife viewing is guided, spring floe edge tours where visitors may see narwhal, beluga whales, polar bear and many species of birds. During your spring trip to the floe edge ask your guide to take you past the thousands of migrating birds that nest on the cliffs of Sirmilik National Park. You may also want to inquire about a visit to some of the many cultural sites located in the park or travel to see our magnificent glaciers.



Photo: Terry Kalluk

Sea Kayaking

During open waters, the opportunities await. The waters of Oliver Sound are located in the park and can be used for sea kayaking with a local guide or on your own. Equipment rentals may be available in Pond Inlet.

Inuit Cultural Activities

You may encounter beneficiaries of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) while travelling in Sirmilik. We would like to remind you to respect Inuit subsistence hunting, fishing and trapping rights and refrain from interfering with their activities. Beneficiaries of the NLCA may travel through the park by motorized vehicle for the purposes of harvesting. If they are transporting a visitor to the park for commercial gain they require a license. All visitors need to be registered.

Registration and De-Registration

For visitor safety, it is mandatory to register all trips into the park prior to entering and to de-register once done. **If you plan on travelling on Inuit-owned land contact the Qikiqtani Inuit Association at 1-800-667-2742 for permission.** During the registration and orientation we can point out areas of interest along your route. This information helps make your trip safe and enjoyable. We also provide information on the hazards present in the park, and the risks associated with the activities you plan to undertake. You will be briefed on current route conditions, weather, water levels, area closures, park regulations, polar bear sightings and much more.

To register your trip:

- Make a reservation for your orientation at the Parks Canada office in Pond Inlet at least 48 hours in advance by phone or email.
- Orientations are conducted during regular business hours (Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 4:30pm). Orientations will not be started past 3:30pm. Please consider this when making your travel and trip plans, and allow appropriate time for your orientation.
- If you are beginning your trip from Arctic Bay, please schedule your flights accordingly to allow time for your orientation and registration to take place in Pond Inlet or Iqaluit.
- This can take 60-90 minutes depending on what type of trip you are going on.

To de-register your trip:

- Within 24 hours of exiting the park, visit the Parks Canada office in Pond Inlet or contact them by phone at (867) 899-8092. If you wish to speak to a Parks Canada staff member, please call during business hours.
- **Failing to de-register within 24 hours of this date will initiate an investigation by park staff.**

What information will you need to provide when you arrive?

- The name, address and phone number of each group member and an emergency contact for each member;
- A de-registration date (date you plan to exit the park);
- The name(s) of the local outfitter(s) that you plan to use;
- Your flight information;
- A list of your equipment (brand, number, color, etc), your satellite phone number (if applicable);
- The type of activities you will undertake; and,
- Your detailed in-park trip plans.



Photo: Christian Kimber

Tour Companies

If you prefer to travel in a guided group, please contact one of the tour companies below. Please check that the company you are planning to travel with is currently licensed to operate in the park before hiring them.

This package was produced in advance of the annual licensing and permitting cycle.

Black Feather Wilderness Adventure Company

Parry Sound, ON
Toll Free: 1-888-849-7668
Fax: (705) 746-7048
info@wildernessadventure.com
www.blackfeather.com

Whitney and Smith Legendary Expeditions Inc. (Explorers Corner)

Canmore, AB
Toll-free: 1-800-713-6660
Fax: (403) 678-5176
info@legendaryex.com
www.legendaryex.com

Polar Sea Adventures (Equipment rentals also)

Phone: (867) 899-8870
Fax: (867) 899-8010
info@polarseaadventures.com
www.polarsea.ca

Cruise North Expeditions Inc

Toronto, ON
Toll Free: 1 866 CNE 3220
Phone: (416) 789-3752
Fax: (416) 955 9869
info@cruisenorthexpeditions.com
www.cruisenorthexpeditions.com

Quark Expeditions

Norwalk, CT
Toll Free: 1-866-961-2961
Phone: (203) 803-2888
Fax: (203) 857-0427
enquiry@quarkexpeditions.com
www.quarkexpeditions.com

Adventure Canada

Toll Free: 1-800-363-7566
Fax: (905) 271-5595
info@adventurecanada.com
www.adventurecanada.com

Arctic Kingdom

Toronto, ON
Toll-free: 1-888-737-6818
Fax: (416) 887-0529
adventures@arctickingdom.com
www.arctickingdom.com



Arctic Seasons and Your Trip

The following are approximate dates for the methods of accessing the park. Please check in advance with the park office in Pond Inlet for this year's likeliest scenario.

**Late March to
Early June (spring)**

This is the best time of year for winter activities. The oceans are frozen, making it possible to travel from either Pond Inlet or Arctic Bay to the park boundary by snowmobile or dog team to start your trip.

**Late June to
mid-July (break up)***

During ice break up, travel to the park is impossible. This is a great time to explore the areas around Pond Inlet and Arctic Bay.

**Late July to late
September (summer)**

This is the best time for hiking and camping. Boat travel to the park is possible.

**October to early
November (freeze up)***

During freeze up, travel to the park is impossible.

**November – February
(winter)**

Travel to Sirmilik National Park is not advisable at this time. Cold temperatures, near-constant darkness and access difficulties in early winter make winter travel unpleasant, dangerous and, often, impossible.

* If your plans include travel to the park during break up or freeze up, please phone to check ice conditions. You can also check: <http://ice-glaces.ec.gc.ca/> for Arctic ice conditions.

Climate and Extreme Weather

The polar marine climate means long, cold winters and short, cool summers. Although summer brings almost endless daylight from May to August, the sun is absent from the sky December and January. Spring brings strong winds and late summer is often cloudy. In winter, loss of daylight and the presence of sea ice can make for extremely cold weather.

Weather in the Arctic is notoriously changeable. Abrupt weather changes can affect sea and boating conditions forcing boaters to wait out rough waters, sometimes for several days. **Be prepared for snow anytime, anywhere in Sirmilik!** White out conditions are possible any time of year.

Hypothermia

Hypothermia is a life-threatening condition. People with hypothermia can no longer keep themselves warm and cannot re-warm themselves without assistance. Know the signs and symptoms of hypothermia, know how to treat it and take precautions to prevent its onset.

River Crossings

In summer the greatest hazard you will face is stream and river crossings. Streams and rivers in Sirmilik are mostly glacial fed, so water volume and velocity change throughout the day, and from day to day. This makes crossing them unpredictable, susceptible to rapid change and challenging to assess. Ideal crossing points change regularly and you and your group will need to assess and find suitable places to cross. When the sun is at its strongest, the glacial melt increases and so does the amount of water in the rivers and streams.



Here are some tips to help you assess rivers and streams and make a crossing safer:

- Be cautious along the river banks, they may be unstable and could collapse.
- Unfasten the waist and chest straps on your pack when crossing, so you can remove it quickly if necessary.
- Cross major rivers and streams early in the day, as early as 2am – 7am.
- Wait until the water level is lower if you doubt your ability to ford a stream or river. This could mean hours or days!
- During and after rainfall watch for deep fast river flow. Be prepared to wait this out!
- Sections on flat ground with several branches tend to be shallower.
- Use a walking stick or ski pole to test water depth and to help with balance while crossing.
- Test cross the river first without your pack.
- Link arms to support one another, with the strongest member upstream creating an eddy, so that weaker group members can use it downstream.
- Neoprene boots with gripping soles will protect your feet from the cold water and tumbling rocks and will allow you to keep your boots and socks dry.

River crossings are one of the most significant risks visitors face in Sirmilik National Park

All rivers and streams are dangerous.

Some streams may remain uncrossable for some members of your group.

Be prepared to change your route or turn back.

Terrain Hazards

Rockfall

Bare, freshly broken rock is a sign of active rockfall; these areas may extend well out from the rock walls and cliffs. In or around steep terrain, choose routes carefully, watch and listen for falling rock and avoid stopping for long breaks in potentially active or unprotected areas. Be particularly careful when it is raining and during periods of freeze-melt temperatures as these conditions loosen rock and increase rockfall. Choose campsites in protected areas, away from steep terrain.

Glaciers

Parties should only cross glaciers with experienced leaders, using proper equipment. Parties should travel roped up and individuals should be capable of undertaking crevasse rescue. Never venture onto a glacier alone and unprepared.

Avalanches

If there is snow and you will be travelling across or near slopes of more than 25° angle, you need to consider the possibility of avalanches. You should be trained and experienced in assessing avalanche hazards, route-finding skills and self-rescue techniques if you plan to travel in avalanche areas. All members should carry an avalanche transceiver, shovel and probe.

Water Quality

Although there have not been any reported cases of giardia, we advise you to fine filter (<0.5microns), treat (iodine or chlorine in warm water), or boil your drinking water. To prevent the spread of diseases, human waste should be disposed of in a responsible manner; this will be covered during your orientation.

Snow Machine and Boat Safety

Snow Machine and Qamutik (sled) Safety

Snow machines can provide quick access to wilderness areas and are a common method of travel to some of the National Parks in Nunavut.

Travelling, using a snow machine and qamutik can, however, be dangerous and must be treated with respect. Injuries result when the snow machine makes a sudden stop; when the driver or passenger falls from the machine or qamutik due to bouncing over uneven terrain; when the snow machine flips; or when the qamutik is pulled by a rope rather than a rigid hitch and the sled overtakes the snow machine pulling it.

Avoiding Accidents and Injuries

- Check your qamutik frequently to ensure you know how it is riding and where it is in relation to your snow machine.
- If you slow down or stop unexpectedly, check your qamutik's location. Prevent your qamutik from running into others or your own snow machine by slowing your speed gradually.
- Be especially careful when approaching other snow machines, people on foot and other types of vehicles. Plan your stops in advance and slow your machine as you approach the location you intend to stop.
- Use qamutiks with a steel hitch.
- Avoid travelling at high speeds. Adjust your speed to the terrain and other conditions.

Thin Ice Areas/Sea Ice

- Some parts of the sea ice are prone to thinning earlier than the rest of the ice due to strong water currents. Please talk to our staff to identify these locations. For current ice conditions please visit <http://ice-glaces.ec.gc.ca> (go to Eastern Arctic then Approaches to Resolute)
- If there is deep snow and one area is darker than the surrounding area, the dark area is typically thin ice. Pass by that area giving it a wide berth.
- When deep snow is present with water on top or the snow is soaked through with water, it means that there is open water beneath it. Do not approach these areas.
- Sea ice close to river mouths is generally thin.
- Bays and inlets often have strong currents during spring and are prone to thin ice and open water. Avoid travelling through bays and inlets that have narrow channels.



Floe Edge

Camping close to the floe edge can be dangerous. Be especially wary when prevailing winds are strong and during large tides (full or new moons) since these conditions increase the following risks:

- Ice breaks up along the floe edge.
- A huge pan of ice may break off from the land fast ice (up to 10 kilometres or more in size) even if there is no wind or extreme tides. Bring a global positioning system (GPS) and regularly check to see if the coordinates change. If you don't have a GPS visually align a piece of ice some distance from you to the land and periodically check to see if the ice you are on is moving.
- Watch for moving ice that is wedging and piling up into the land fast ice.
- Polar bears travel along the floe edge in search of food. They will hunt for fresh prey or will scavenge any carcasses they find. Do not camp near an old kill because polar bears, with their excellent senses of smell, will come to forage from it. Polar bears are very efficient and skilled stalkers (both on ice and in the water). Always keep watch for them.
- Camp well away from the floe edge itself.

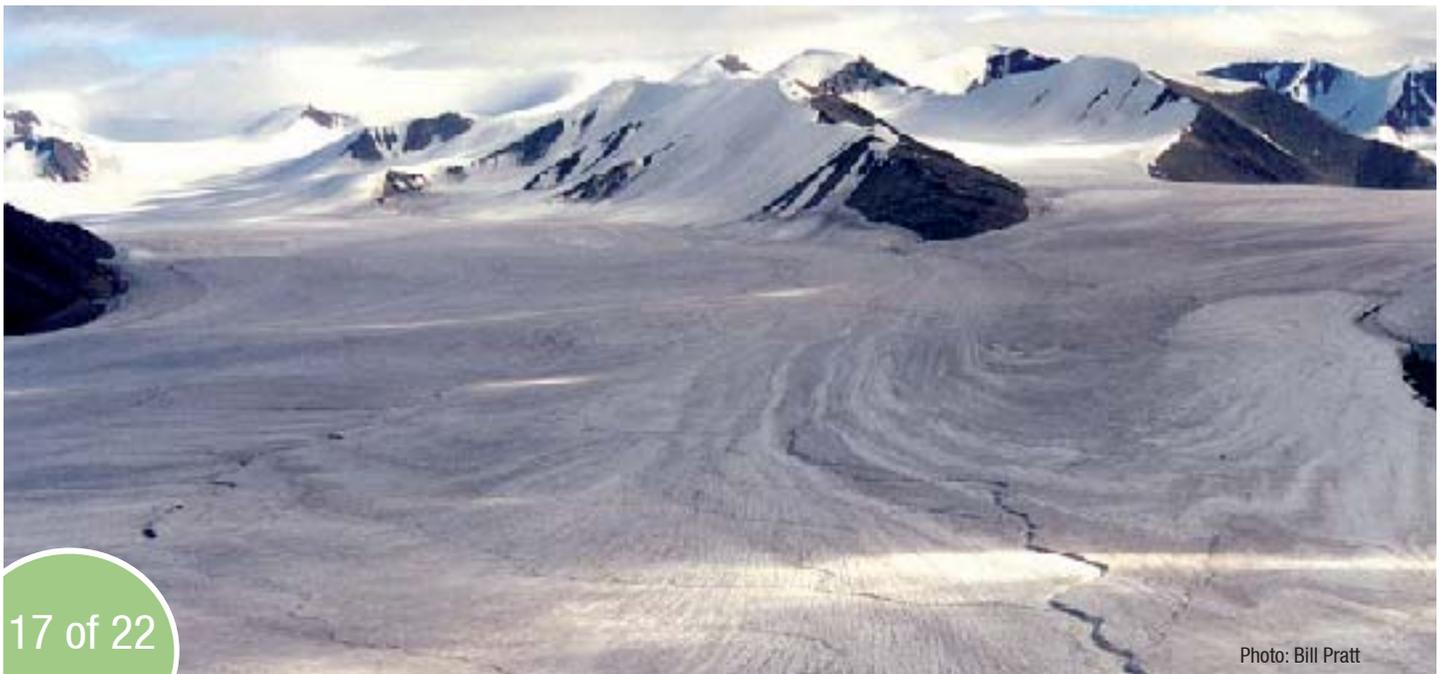
Boat and Kayak Safety

During the summer season boat and kayak trips are the most popular way to explore Sirmilik. There are several skills you will need in order to be properly prepared to travel safely in this area. We recommend:

- You are comfortable with bracing, manoeuvring, surf landing and launching and self-rescue
- You can interpret marine charts and tide tables and use them to identify marine hazards
- You can establish your position and follow waypoints using a GPS.
- You can navigate in fog
- You are able to estimate the speed of a current and estimate ferry angle under varying conditions

Wind and Rough Water

Remember that areas of calm seas and areas of wind and rough waters may be relatively close together. Generally, during the full and new moons you can expect three to four days of strong prevailing winds and rough sea conditions. Local outfitters know the conditions and weather trends for the area. Please listen to local knowledge and local outfitter advice regarding winds, rough water and points of land that are dangerous during challenging weather conditions.



Search and Rescue

Sirmilik is one of the most remote parks in North America, and rescue services and facilities are very limited. Our public safety staff are trained in first aid, patient stabilization and evacuation in non-technical terrain. Park search and rescue operations may be delayed by poor weather conditions, geography, aircraft or staff availability. For high-angle technical evacuations, assistance from outside of Nunavut is required.

TO HELP US AND YOURSELF, PLEASE:

- Be self-reliant and responsible for your own safety;
- Have the required equipment, knowledge, skills and physical fitness;
- Consider the public safety information and advice provided by Parks Canada;
- Seek out additional advice from our staff if you are uncertain about what you may encounter;
- Follow the public safety registration and de-registration program;
- Be prepared for emergencies (medical, wildlife or weather related).

When will a search be initiated?

A search and rescue response will be initiated when a distress signal is reported or when a group has failed to de-register and an initial investigation suggests a group is overdue. In the case of an overdue group, a physical search may not occur until at least 48 hours after the de-registration date has passed.

**IN CASE OF EMERGENCY
CALL THE EMERGENCY DISPATCH LINE
(780) 852 3100
THIS NUMBER IS MONITORED 24 HOURS A DAY**

Do not forget to de-register!

Visitors who fail to de-register place an unnecessary burden on our limited search and rescue capabilities. You can place rescue staff in danger and make the rescue team unavailable for a real emergency. Please remember to visit or call our Parks Canada office upon your safe return from the park.

Air Support

- There are only commercial aircraft in Pond Inlet or Arctic Bay
- Air access may be delayed, sometimes for many days, due to poor visibility, weather conditions or high winds.
- Aircraft cannot land in the backcountry if the terrain is unsuitable for a safe landing.

Polar Bears and Other Wildlife

Polar bears may be encountered at any time of the year and in any area of the park, including glaciers.

The more people in your party, the less likely you will encounter a bear. Polar bears are most active along the coast of the Borden Peninsula and along the north, west, and east coasts of Bylot Island. Be particularly cautious in March/April when females with cubs are emerging from their dens and July to October when the sea ice is gone and bears are forced ashore.

For more information, please speak with our parks staff, read the Safety in Polar Bear Country pamphlet carefully and watch the Polar Bears: A Guide to Safety DVD at the park office or distributed at www.distributionaccess.com.

If you are nervous about bears, or uncertain of your ability to deal with them, consider joining a guided group. Guides are knowledgeable and experienced at travelling in bear country. When hiring a guide, ask about their experience, how they will avoid encountering polar bears and their plans of action should you encounter a bear.

Report polar bear encounters

Report sightings, tracks and signs to Parks Canada staff as soon as possible by radio or satellite phone.

Foxes and wolves can carry rabies. Do not allow them to approach you. Be especially suspicious if wildlife appears “friendly” or “tame”.

Birds and wildlife are inquisitive and opportunistic. They will scavenge food left out and raid caches that are not securely stashed. Make sure food and garbage is securely stored.

Walrus or whales can be aggressive and easily upset a boat. Keep your distance.

As a general rule keep a safe distance from all wildlife and remember that it is illegal to touch, feed or entice wildlife with food items in a National Park.



Minimizing Risk

Experience Level

Your group should have advanced skills in wilderness first aid and be prepared to handle any medical, wildlife or weather related emergency. If someone in your group is uncertain about their skill level, consider travelling with an experienced guide. Contact information can be found in this package.

Communications

Please be aware that all of these recommended modes of communication can be unreliable and at times you will be unable to make contact with anyone. If you are having difficulty receiving a signal it may be possible to get to higher ground to improve signal strength. This can be very time consuming and in some cases dangerous, please use caution. As always with technology, be aware of the weaknesses of your system.

Sirmilik National Park lies within the area of compass unreliability. GPS receivers are your best bet for navigation. Keep in mind that batteries must be kept warm and even the best unit can fail. Bring a backup unit and the right maps.

Satellite Phones are the preferred means of making contact. Your phone can put you in touch with emergency assistance 24 hours a day. We recommend obtaining a satellite phone prior to your trip.

*The Iridium system provides the most reliable coverage over Sirmilik but other options are available. Make sure to bring extra batteries. Portable solar chargers for batteries are also recommended. Be sure to write down emergency phone numbers **and** program them into the phone.*

SPOT can be used to allow family and friends to track your progress on your trip as well as initiate a distress signal. Emergency signals are received by the Canadian Forces and they will initiate a rescue if one is received. This signal is non-reversible and is to be used in a life-threatening situation only. In some areas of the park, at some times, signal reception may be limited and your signals may not be sent as expected. Please advise your family and friends of this to remove any undue concern about your progress should they not receive an OK. During your registration we will collect information about your unit in the event that there is a need to check the activity from it.

Personal Locator Beacons (PLB) can also be carried into remote areas. When activated, they send a distress signal to the Canadian Forces in Trenton, Ontario who will initiate a rescue from there. Once activated, the signal is non-reversible; these are to be used in a life-threatening situation only. Make sure your PLB is properly registered by calling the Canadian Personal Emergency Beacon Registry in Ottawa at (613) 992-0079 or online at www.canadianbeaconregistry.forces.gc.ca/. Only PLB's that transmit a distress signal at 406 MHz are permitted in Canada.

Travelling with Dangerous Goods

In order to transport used stoves and fuel bottles, Transport Canada has several regulations about how to do so. For details about how to treat your gear in order to transport it on a plane please go to the following link: www.tc.gc.ca/civilaviation/commerce/dangerousgoods/news/notices/menu.htm. If you have any questions about these regulations please contact the inspector from your region. A list of contacts can be found at: www.tc.gc.ca/civilaviation/commerce/dangerousgoods/contact.htm

We ONLY recommend bringing new, unused stoves and new, empty fuel canisters with you to avoid difficulties when traveling. Please keep these items in their original packaging and bring all receipts with you. You will likely also need to leave these items in the communities on your return trip home.

Bear deterrents and many noisemaking devices used to scare bears are strictly prohibited from travel on airplanes.

To make your travel easier, we recommend buying your stove fuel in the community where you begin your trip and leave any unused fuel behind. White gas is readily available in the communities. Some compressed tanks may be available – contact stores directly for more information. Outfitters in both communities often accept leftover white gas. Contact outfitters directly. You can also check with local outfitters or stores to see if bear deterrents are available for purchase locally. Commercial deterrents are limited in the north; you will need to check for availability with local outfitters or stores prior to your trip.

Please Note: Due to the problem of travelling with dangerous goods, Sirmilik has a limited supply of bear deterrents to sign out. Please contact the office for more details.

Environmental Conservation Practices

- Choose routes on durable terrain.
- When traveling across steep terrain use rock outcrops or snow.
- Select campsites in durable locations where signs of your occupation will be minimal, especially for base camps or if you are traveling in a large group.
- Minimize the use of soaps and, when necessary, use biodegradable soap.
- Dish and excess cooking water should be poured into a shallow sump hole away from your campsite and 50 meters away from water sources.
- Pack out everything that you packed in. This includes your toilet paper!
- Do not build cairns (rock pile or Inuksuk), markers, or leave messages in the dirt.
- Please do not cover human waste as it will degrade quicker in the sun and air. Please use an area away from main routes and water sources.

Fees

Entry fees are charged at most national parks. Most of the money raised through admission fees remains in the particular park where it is collected. This means that every time you visit a park you are investing in its future – and in a legacy for future generations.

An annual northern park backcountry excursion fee of \$147.20 (Cdn) per person (used for multi-day trips) will be applied at the time of registration. Daily fees of \$24.50 (Cdn) per person per day are also available.
(These prices include all applicable taxes.)

The Annual Northern Backcountry Excursion Pass is valid in any national park/reserve in Nunavut, the Northwest Territories and Yukon, except for Kluane and Wood Buffalo National Parks.

The Parks Canada Discovery Passes covering Park Entry Fees are not valid in the National Parks in Nunavut.

Park Regulations

The Canada National Park Act and Regulations, as well as other federal legislation, are in place to preserve and protect our natural and cultural resources. The following is a guide to ensure you have a safe and memorable wilderness experience while visiting Sirmilik National Park.

- You must register your trip with the Park Office in Pond Inlet and de-register upon its completion.
- All garbage must be packed out.
- No person shall be in possession of a firearm in the park.
- Parks Canada may issue a permit to those wishing to transport a firearm through a national park. Please contact the park office and allow at least two months to process your application.
- Campfires are not permitted in the park.
- Pets must be kept on leashes at all times.
- No person shall remove, deface, damage or destroy any flora or natural objects in the park.
- No person shall wilfully remove, deface, damage or destroy any prehistoric or historic artefacts or structures in the park.
- No person shall hunt, disturb, hold in captivity or destroy any wildlife within the park.
- No person shall disturb or destroy a nest, lair or den in the park.
- No person shall touch or feed wildlife in the park.
- Fishing is not permitted anywhere within Sirmilik National Park.



Sirmilik. *Real. Inspiring.*