

INSOMNIA MIDNIGHT SUN

TRAVEL ITINERARY JUNE – AUGUST



DAY 1

AFTERNOON ARRIVE IN INUVIK

INUVIK.CA

Located on the East Channel about 60 kilometres into the Mackenzie Delta, Inuvik is built on frozen delta soils, called permafrost. Permafrost created unique challenges for the town planners, who decided to erect large buildings on piles driven into the ice, with open space beneath the buildings to dissipate the structure's heat. Central heating is supplied to the original community by utilidors. These raised box-like structures enclosed heat and water lines, and can still be seen linking parts of the central area. Inuvik offers a variety of authentic Arctic experiences, from touring, to great dining, to shopping, boat tours, and in winter, dog sled rides, cross country skiing and Aurora watching. The town boasts a number of full-service hotels for travellers.

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EVENING

TOUR OF THE TOWN OF INUVIK

2 hour tour

“There are strange things done in the midnight sun” begins the famous poem The Cremation of Sam McGee but come find out for yourself. The summer months are an extraordinary time to visit Inuvik – this northern community revels in 56 days of 24-hour sunlight. Must-sees in Inuvik include the community greenhouse and the Western Arctic Regional Visitors’ Centre. Our Lady of Victory, the Igloo Church, is a famous landmark with a heart-warming story of construction and decoration by volunteers.

Revel in the history of the town, learn how the community was built atop permafrost, and get the inside scoop on the best places to find local handmade crafts. End your day with a visit to the beautiful, friendly White Huskies at the Arctic Chalet.

OVERNIGHT

INUVIK



DAY 2

MORNING

WHITE HUSKIES WALK

6 hour tour

Begin your morning by stretching your legs on a guided walk with an option to bring some white huskies along. The trail is between 45 minutes and one hour long. It is well marked and intended for an experienced hiker. Follow the contours of the land and observe birds and foliage on the trek through Boreal Forest. The trail will take you up and down small hills and skirt around a beautiful lake with an active beaver colony. A cozy outpost cabin awaits you at the end of your hike. Take a moment to rest, skim the selection of northern books, and put your feet up in the front porch. Gaze out at the lake view as you’re served lunch then choose to explore or simply relax. The surrounding area is hilly with beautiful lake views. You can also hop in a canoe and paddle across the lake to even higher view points. This is possibly the most striking area to hike in the Inuvik area and a great place to look at the wildflowers that bloom in summer. At the end of the day you will hike back unaccompanied to the trailhead and be driven back to town.

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DAY 3

MORNING BOAT FROM INUVIK TO TUKTOYAKTUK 6-8 hour tour

This covered jetboat tour will usher you through the creeks and channels of the stunning Mackenzie Delta. Stop at Reindeer Station, established in 1932, the headquarters of the Reindeer Project which introduced reindeer farming to northern Canada. Keep an eye open for wildlife, do some bird watching, and watch for belugas (seasonal) on your way to Tuktoyaktuk. The magnificent landscape is dotted by more than 10,000 ice-dome pingos. The tallest is a staggering 16 stories high.

In Tuktoyaktuk your local guide will share stories, lore and history of the area. You will see the Lady of Lourdes schooner, a traditional sod house, the Hamlet's churches, Northern early warning site, and the Trans Canada Trailhead site. This tour provides plenty of photo opportunities as well as the chance to dip your toe in the Arctic Ocean!

Finally, scope out the amazing underground community freezer which is naturally cooled, year-round, by permafrost. No Tuktoyaktuk experience is complete without a taste of northern cuisine. A traditional lunch awaits your taste buds.

AFTERNOON FLY TO INUVIK FROM TUKTOYAKTUK

Board a bush plane to travel back to Inuvik. This 45 minute flight will give you a spectacular aerial view of the pingos in the Mackenzie Delta, a pristine landscape dotted with lakes.

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DAY 4

MORNING DEMPSTER HIGHWAY DRIVE

Full day tour

You'll have the drive of a lifetime as you rumble down the famous Dempster Highway with an experienced driver who worked as an Arctic bush pilot for over 35 years. He has enough tales of adventure in the North to regale you for hours. On this unique drive you will see the beauty and wonder of the far North. Travel on the ferries over two rivers in the vast Mackenzie Delta with a brief stop in Fort McPherson. The first ferry will take you across the Mackenzie River where it meets the historic Arctic Red River and the second crosses the Peel River.

The land along the Dempster is a pristine wilderness almost entirely unspoiled by mankind. No wonder this drive is rated as one of North America's top ten drives! As Canada's most Northern highway it is a scenic route that stretches from the Yukon almost to the Arctic Ocean. The Dempster is 740 kilometres from the Klondike gold fields in the Yukon to Inuvik in the Northwest Territories. Your journey will take you as far as the 66th Parallel North, the Arctic Circle. Be sure to take a snapshot at this landmark before returning to Inuvik.

OVERNIGHT INUVIK

DAY 5

EARLY AFTERNOON DEPART INUVIK