

Baffin Island, Nunavut, Canada

Canada's largest island and one of the Arctic's most dramatic stages — sheer granite fjords, drifting icebergs, beluga whales, and ancient Inuit homeland await beyond the floe edge.

 Tender/Zodiac only  Typical call: 5-8 hrs per community  Canadian Dollar (CAD)  Inuktitut & English  Expedition ships only

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____	Arrive: _____	All aboard: _____
Excursion: _____	Notes: _____	

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: No cruise piers — all landings via Zodiac inflatable boats

Communities visited: Iqaluit, Pond Inlet, Pangnirtung, Qikiqtarjuaq

Best for: Wildlife (narwhal, polar bear, walrus), fjord scenery, Inuit culture

Season: July–September (ice-free coastal access)

 Getting around:  Taxi  ~C flat rate ·  Rideshare  not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Sam Ford Fjord Zodiac Cruise** — Glide beneath near-vertical granite walls rising over 1,200 m from sea level in one of the world's great fjords.
- **Narwhal and Beluga Watch** — Baffin Bay's North Water Polynya supports one of the Arctic's richest marine ecosystems.
- **Pangnirtung Inuit Art Visit** — Pangnirtung is world-famous for its Inuit tapestries and printmaking.
- **Auyuittuq National Park Hike** — Hike into the Akshayuk Pass — a dramatic glaciated valley flanked by the peaks of Mount Thor (highest vertical cliff on Earth) and Mount Asgard.
- **Pond Inlet Community & Sirmilik National Park** — Pond Inlet (Mittimatalik) is called the Jewel of the North for good reason: tidewater glaciers, narwhal-rich waters, and a warm Inuit community.

BEST WALKS

- **Pangnirtung Village Stroll** Easy · 1-2 hrs · flat gravel roads — Walk from the Zodiac landing at the Pangnirtung wharf through the hamlet to the Uqqurmiut Centre for Arts & Crafts, then continue along the beach for views up...
- **Pond Inlet Hamlet Walk** Easy · 1 hr · flat — From the small boat landing, walk through Mittimatalik along the shoreline road with views across Eclipse Sound to Bylot Island.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)				DAYLIGHT & MONEY	
Mon	High	Low	Rain	Apr 5:03AM–8:06PM · Aug 4:29AM–8:45PM · Sep 5:58AM–6:57PM · Oct 7:24AM–5:13PM	
Apr	17°	6°	7d		
Jun	44°	34°	10d		
Aug	52°	42°	13d		
Sep	41°	33°	10d		
Oct	30°	21°	10d		

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Layer up, even in August. Air temps on Baffin Island average 5–10°C in summer and drop fast with wind chill. Wool mid-layers + waterproof outer shell is the minimum.
- Cash is useful in hamlets. The Northern Store accepts cards, but small vendors and artists may prefer cash (CAD). ATMs are not always reliable in remote communities.
- Polar bear country — always. Never wander alone onshore. Expedition teams carry deterrents and conduct formal bear watches; this is not just protocol, it's essential safety.
- No cell coverage offshore. Satellite phone or ship's communications only at sea. Some hamlets have limited service. Save maps offline before departing.
- Buy Inuit art directly from artists when possible. Pangnirtung tapestries and Pond Inlet carvings are authentic and support local makers. Certificates of authenticity are available.
- Midnight sun in July. The sun barely sets from late June through late July — great for late-evening photography from the ship's deck.

Baffin Island, Nunavut, Canada — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



- 1** Sylvia Grinnell Territorial Park
- Nunavut's most-visited park, 1 km from downtown Iqaluit, where the Sylvia Grinnell River runs through glacier-carved terrain past Dorset and Thule archaeological sites.
- 3** St. Jude's Cathedral, Iqaluit
- The Anglican cathedral seat of the Diocese of the Arctic, conducting services in both English and Inuktitut since reopening in 2012.

- 2** Legislative Building of Nunavut
- The glass-and-wood seat of Nunavut's consensus-government Legislative Assembly, opened in 1999 and inaugurated by Queen Elizabeth II in 2002.

- P** Cruise port / terminal