



Floe Edge Base Camp

From the community of Pond Inlet, we will travel by snowmobile and *Qamutik* (wooden sled) towards the floe-edge, an area known as the "line of life". Guided by seasoned and highly qualified guides, ice conditions and weather will determine our exact route. A comfortable base camp will serve as a hub for the expedition and the various activities that will be undertaken. Each trip will focus on activities such as wildlife and bird viewing, and skiing.

On each of these expeditions, full advantage will be taken of the endless days to explore and learn more about this incredible environment and area. During this expedition, we have a chance of seeing polar bears, a variety of species of sea birds, narwhals, seals, walrus and possibly the massive bowhead whale. With our hydrophone you may hear seals and perhaps whales underwater. The Floe Edge of North Baffin Island is a must see place for wilderness photographers, birders, and wildlife observers. This basecamp expedition is perfect for any outdoor enthusiast seeking a one of a kind adventure in a most unique landscape!

The Trip at a Glance

Floe Edge Base Camp

- Base camping with day trips
- Trip Length: 8 days
- Skill Level: 2 (see page 5)
- (Trip Code) 2026 Trip Dates:
 - (26-102) May 15 - 22
 - (26-103) May 22 - 29
 - (26-104) May 29 - June 5
- 2026 Trip Fee (per person)
- Trip Rendezvous:
 - Pond Inlet, Nunavut
 - *register by December 31, 2025 and save \$300*

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Floe Edge Basecamp Itinerary*



Day 1 Friday May 15th, 22nd or 29th, 2026 - Arrival

- flight from Ottawa to Pond Inlet, via Iqaluit* (own expense)
- airport pick up and transport to hotel for check in and welcome dinner
- group talk and gear check, evening spent relaxing or exploring some of the community

Day 2 Expedition Departure to the Floe Edge

- breakfast at hotel
- tentative lunchtime departure from Pond Inlet by snow machine and Qamutik to the Floe Edge, located about 70 Km east of the town, weather permitting
- arrive at basecamp

Day 3-6 Day Trips from our Base Camp

- explore the Floe Edge and the shores of Bylot Island by snow machine and Qamutik - view bird cliffs, icebergs, floe-edge and sea ice
- *weather and ice conditions permitting, there may be opportunities for skiing*

Day 7 Return to Pond Inlet

- Return journey by snow machine and Qamutik to Pond Inlet
- dinner and hotel accommodation

Day 8 Friday May 22nd, 29th or June 5th, 2026 - Departure

- breakfast at hotel
- flight from Pond Inlet to Ottawa, via Iqaluit (own expense)

**the 2026 Canadian North flight schedule may require participants to stay overnight in Iqaluit the day before Day 1 and/or on Day 8 at their own expense*



What is included in the trip fee?

- **Black Feather Guides** - maximum of 5:1 ratio, with additional basecamp support staff
- **Inuit Guides** - Between 2 and 3 Inuit guides/bear monitors
- **Accommodation**
 - 5 nights camping (double occupancy)
 - 2 night's accommodation Pond Inlet on Day 1 and 7
- **Meals**
 - all meals and snacks from Day 2 lunch to Day 7 lunch
 - dinners (Day 1 and 8) and breakfast (Day 2 and 8) in Pond Inlet
- **Expedition Clothing & Equipment**
 - base camp - kitchen / group tents, bathroom, generators, cooking stoves, utensils, dishes, etc.
 - sleeping tents - free standing expedition tents tall enough to stand in - 2 per tent
 - sleeping bags and sleeping cots
 - winterized rubber boots & parka
 - skis/ski boots
- **Safety Equipment**
 - first aid, safety, rescue and repair kits
 - communications equipment (satellite phone)
- **Transportation**
 - snow machine transfers between Pond Inlet and the expedition location on Day 2 & 7
 - daily tours by snow machine Day 3 - 6
 - airport transfers in Pond Inlet
 - transportation of guides, group gear, food, etc. to Pond Inlet

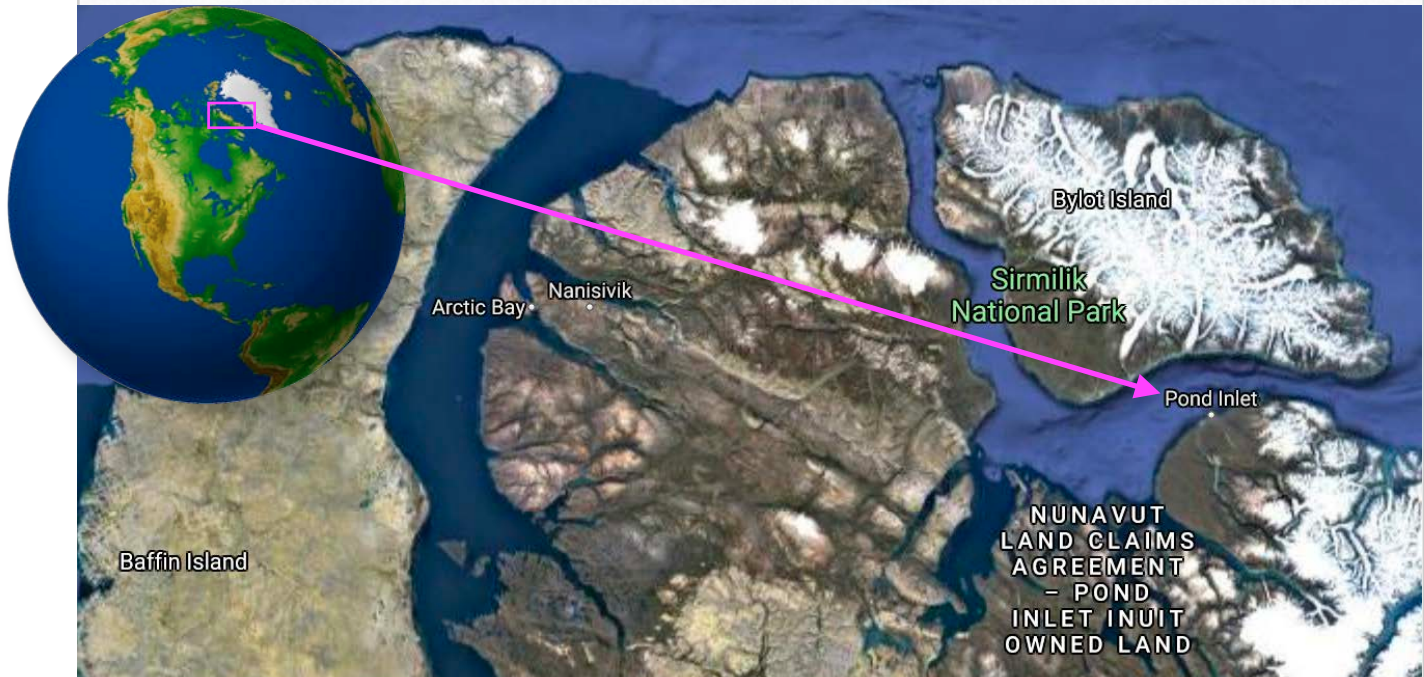
Floe Edge Base Camp



What isn't included?

- GST (goods and services tax): 5% of the trip fee
- Personal clothing and gear - [click here](#) to view a recommended clothing & equipment list
- Travel between your home and the trip rendezvous in Pond Inlet
- Hotel accommodation and restaurant meals other than those listed above in Pond Inlet
- Single Hotel Occupancy - please inquire with our office to determine pricing and availability
- Solo tent - Mountain Hardwear Trango 4 - at no additional charge, but please inform our office
- Souvenirs, purchases of a personal nature, personal phone calls etc,
- Any additional personal expenses or costs incurred by Black Feather as a result of delays or changes to the trip itinerary caused by factors beyond our control – i.e. unsafe flying and/or landcraft conditions, wind, rain, snow, fog, ice conditions, travel delays, pandemic, etc.
- Any costs associated with your emergency evacuation from the trip - see [page 4](#)
- Gratuities - Floe Edge trips are by far the most heavily staffed trips that Black Feather runs. You can expect to have between 5 and 9 guides on your trip, including basecamp staff and cooks, Inuit guides and bear monitors. *Tips are appreciated and we recommend each participant tips \$10-\$20 per day per guide.* Tips can be made directly to the team in cash at the end of your trip, or through our office once you are home. Tipping through the office can be done via credit card (5% surcharge applies) or via e-transfer to info@blackfeather.com (no surcharge, transfers will be automatically accepted. Please include your guides' names in the comments section of the e-transfer)

Where in the world is Pond Inlet?



How do I get to the trip?

The Floe Edge Base Camp expedition begins and ends at the airport in [Pond Inlet](#), Nunavut (YIO). Pond Inlet is serviced only by Canadian North, via Iqaluit, from Ottawa. Depending on the flight schedule offered, it may be necessary to spend the night in Iqaluit en route.

When can I book my flights?

Once you receive email confirmation from the Black Feather Office that your trip status has changed from “tentative” to “confirmed”, you may go ahead and book your flights! If your trip status is tentative, you are welcome to plan and research, but we ask you to refrain from booking non-refundable airfare/accommodation, in case any changes to your trip’s itinerary are required. If your airfare/accommodations are fully refundable, booking these while the trip is still tentative is acceptable. [Click here](#) for more information on our terms and conditions for booking, payment and cancellation.

Do I *really* need to purchase insurance?

YES, Black Feather strongly encourages all participants to protect their trip with comprehensive insurance and to do this research at the time of confirming travel plans to and from a trip. This should include medical, cancellation and interruption insurance. This insurance may need to be purchased within a certain time frame (generally 24-48 hours) of a non-refundable purchase.

Black Feather is partnered with Boulevard Travel to offer travel services including flights, hotel bookings and travel insurance. We are also partnered with Global Rescue, an emergency response company who also has a very comprehensive travel insurance package offered in partnership with IMG Signature Travel Insurance. [Click here](#) to learn more about the options through Boulevard & Global Rescue.

About Pond Inlet

The Pond Inlet Floe Edge Expedition meets and ends at the airport in Pond Inlet, Nunavut. The Inuit name is *Mittimatalik* which means “the place where Mitima is buried”. Pond is an Inuit community of 1,550 people in northeast Baffin Island in the eastern Arctic. It is one of the most picturesque communities with mountainous ranges viewable from all directions. Icebergs that have calved from nearby glaciers and some frozen sea ice will dot the open sea. There is an abundance of wild animal species to watch, including the magical unicorns of the sea — narwhals. There can also be beluga and orca whales, ringed and harp seals, caribou, arctic foxes and wolves, seabirds, geese, gyrfalcons, ptarmigans, gulls and ravens to encounter, plus the occasional polar bear to be viewed from a safe distance. Nearby are Tarmaarvik Territorial Park, Sirmilik National Park and the Bylot Island Migratory Bird Sanctuary.

The Weather

Pond Inlet is classified as having a Polar Tundra Climate. In the 24 hour darkness of mid winter the average day time low is a punishing -38°C. By June it is light 24 hours a day and things have warmed up considerably. Expect the day time high to average around +6°C

(43°F) with night time lows of about 0°C (32°F). The record highs and lows range from +15.5°C (60°F) to -14°C (7°F) during the dates of the expedition. Wind is very common in this environment, with average speeds of 9 km/h. With the gradual warming in the spring, precipitation increases with an average of 5 cm of new snow and 12 mm of rain in June. The sun is very bright during this time of year, thus sun protection is important as the light reflects from the snow.

All in all the weather is quite pleasant for outdoor activities -

cool enough that things stay dry but not uncomfortably cold. Due to the dynamic nature of the Floe Edge environment, hazardous conditions can develop quickly. These include but are not limited to: ice cracks, surface ice flooding, and rapid break-up. Black Feather takes every reasonable precaution during these expeditions and reserves the right to change, shorten, or cancel a Floe Edge trip at any time due to any hazardous or developing situation. For all Floe Edge Expedition participants, Trip Cancellation and Interruption Insurance is highly encouraged.



Trip Highlights and Optional Activities

Although most adventurers on a Floe Edge Expedition are focused on wildlife viewing and photography, there are a number of other opportunities on the trip.

Inuit Culture

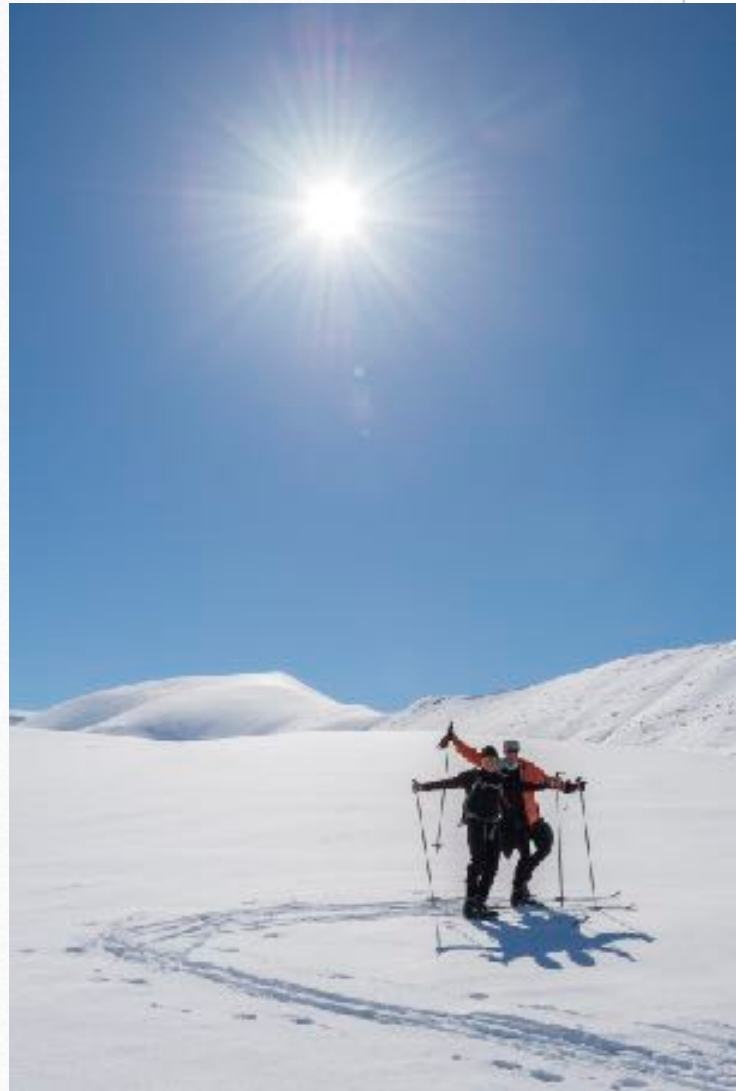
On the Floe Edge trip, a number of local Inuit hunters will be working alongside your Black Feather Guides. This allows you to learn first hand about Inuit Culture. Over the week you can develop a friendship with these remarkable hunters. It is a unique opportunity to gain some insight into the local people's way of life, their world view, and the opportunities and challenges facing their community. Their specialized knowledge of the local wildlife, ice and weather conditions, and highly developed skills in ice travel are an essential contribution to the success and safety of the expedition.

Cross Country Skiing

For those interested, there is the option of cross country skiing. Metal edged touring skis and warm touring ski boots are available. When snow conditions allow, we'll offer guided ski tours. This allows us to greatly extend the area we can reconnoitre. Travel on the ice is easy and you don't need to be an experienced skier. Depending on the camp location we can explore inland, finding some hills to ski and climbing to vantage points overlooking the sea ice. We'll tailor the ski tours to the group's abilities and interests.

Ice Travel

Our Floe Edge Basecamp will be located a considerable distance from the village of Pond Inlet. You will travel on a *Qamutik* (a large wooden sled) pulled by a snow machine. You will quickly get a demonstration of the guides knowledge and skills on the ice. We may have to cross leads (sections of open water in the sea ice - see photo below), or drive through blowing snow. Getting to the camp is an adventure in itself.



The Guides

Black Feather guides are exceptionally qualified. Each principal guide has an extensive outdoor background, formal emergency response training and decision making and leadership experience. We will also be hiring local Inuit hunters as guides and bear monitors on this trip. They provide a wealth of local knowledge and route finding, natural and cultural interpretation, and assist with the transportation of guests and equipment.

On this trip there will be assistant guides, as well as at least one basecamp manager/cook, and excursion guide. The guides are always ready to provide coaching and helpful advice on any aspect of the trip and will attempt to maximize the spirit of adventure for each individual. Your safety is their prime concern and your guide will make decisions with this in mind. We must stress that listening carefully to instructions given by the guide is your responsibility and in your best interest and that of the group. Each group member is encouraged to contribute to the tasks of the trip and your guides will act as helpful resource people. Lastly, as this is your holiday, the Black Feather guides have a real sense of fun and excitement, and will help to make this your trip of a lifetime!

Can I do this trip?

This Trip is rated Skill Level 2 - Some previous experience and basic skills are expected.

Our basecamp facilities are comfortable, and can accommodate travellers with limited experience in the outdoors. We sleep on camp style cots, in top quality expedition tents, however please note that these tents are not heated. We enjoy a spacious group lounge and dining tent where meals and hot drinks are served. This tent is often lightly heated, however the experience is still more akin to light winter/cold camping. Each basecamp will have at least one group privy. Most years the sea ice that we travel on will be relatively smooth, however rougher sections can be encountered, which can make the ride much bumpier. The Qamutiq (sleds for guest travel) are designed to maximize comfort and enjoyment. Route-wise, this expedition is almost completely on the frozen ocean – sea ice. Each day the group will depart from the base camp and explore the surrounding area. Areas such as bird cliffs on Bylot Island, icebergs, glaciers, ancient dwelling sites and historic sites may be visited. All clients are expected to assist in some camp duties.

Ready for an adventure to the Floe Edge?
[Click here](#) to return to the trip's webpage and to sign up.