

Herschel Island Qikiqtaruk Territorial Park – Visitor Information



Visitor Safety

This is arctic wilderness far from the nearest settlement. You should bring all the equipment necessary for independent camping in an arctic environment, including water. Twenty-four-hour daylight during the summer months will allow you to roam the island on your own schedule. Cool temperatures and steady winds are the norm, so be prepared with well-insulated, windproof clothing including

protective hand and headwear. Mosquito repellent is essential for the calm, warm days.

Visitor Guidelines

Herschel Island – Qikiqtaruk Territorial Park’s wildlife, vegetation and historic resources are sensitive to human disturbance. You can help protect the island's integrity by following these simple guidelines:

- Camping permits are available from the park rangers. The permit outlines some of the rules and regulations in the park.
- Respect the fragility of historic structures and environmentally sensitive areas. Park rangers will inform you of which areas are particularly delicate or out of bounds. Please follow their directions.
- The buildings on the island are not available for accommodation and are used only in cases of emergency.
- Please leave the artifacts where they are for everyone to enjoy. Yukon Archaeological Site Regulations apply to all artifacts, above and below ground.
- Grave sites should be respected. Please don't disturb them.
- Use telephoto lenses and binoculars or spotting scopes to enjoy wildlife without disturbing it. Occupied bird nests and fox dens are particularly vulnerable. Please keep dogs and cats on a leash.
- Keep moving when travelling in the back-country. Ground-nesting birds, which you may not see, will leave their nests as you approach and return as you leave.
- Use the fire rings provided in the settlement area. Enjoy the warmth of your driftwood fire, but don't overdo it. The supply is limited, and driftwood piles are nesting habitat for eider ducks and other birds. When travelling outside the settlement area, you must use a camp stove.
- If your group is larger than four people, please confirm the availability of campsites ahead of time. This will help to avoid crowding and overuse.
- Please practice low-impact camping and travelling techniques. They will add to your enjoyment and that of those who follow.

Travel to Herschel Island Qikiqtaruk Territorial Park

From mid-June to mid-September, Herschel Island – Qikiqtaruk Territorial Park is accessible by boat and aircraft on a charter basis. You can charter aircraft out of Inuvik, Northwest Territories (250 km southeast). Boat charters may be operating out of various Mackenzie Delta communities.

Commercial operators arriving at Herschel Island will be required to obtain a park use permit for the landing of aircraft or other vessels including boats. Park Use Permits need to be obtained prior to arrival and applications are available online through the Park Offices

If you are rafting or kayaking the Firth River on the Yukon mainland, you can end your trip at Herschel Island – Qikiqtaruk Territorial Park. However, you must make prior arrangements for return travel. The island is often shrouded in fog, particularly in late summer, and flights can be delayed for hours or even days. Be prepared with sufficient gear and food.

