

Code of Conduct for Operators in Nunavut

1. Educate staff about local history, contemporary culture, norms and values so that they can inform/educate guests about restrictions, local customs and expected behaviour. Ensure that staff members distribute the “Welcoming Visitors to Nunavut Guide” to clients and any community-specific material that outlines expectations.
2. Provide your clients with an understanding of the economic aspects of making a living in Nunavut through tourism. Help them understand fair pricing for local cultural activities, special experiences, art and souvenirs.
3. Remember that some communities are dry and no alcohol can be brought in. Illegal substances are not welcome in communities. Ensure that clients, staff and crew do not provide alcohol or illegal substances to anyone in these communities or trade them for anything.
4. Be informed about wildlife product import laws. If your guests wish to purchase local carvings or art made of bone or other wildlife products they may need an export permit prior to departing for their trip.
5. Follow all requirements of the Government of Nunavut for tourism vessel operations in the territory, as well as any relevant community by-laws and federal requirements.
6. Establish contact with, and send information on sailing plans to, each community that you plan to visit. Advise the community as soon as possible of any changes.
7. Ensure that you have proper permissions and permits for visiting Inuit owned lands, Territorial or Federally protected areas (e.g.. National Parks), archeological sites, and other specially recognized sites.
8. Train your staff fully and maintain your equipment in good order so that landings and shore-based activities have minimal or no negative impacts on the environment and cultural heritage.
9. Undertake a litter check after any shore visit.
10. Please do not disturb the wildlife. Keep a conservative distance and maintain a respectful noise level. Do not lure, pursue or otherwise seek out polar bears or other wildlife.
11. Whenever possible please hire/use local guides, local dock or landing facilities, local performance groups or other community-based personnel. If a community can directly see the benefits of your visit, they will look forward to you returning next year. Ensure that your journey has a positive economic impact for the territory, communities and individuals.
12. Good practice on cruise vessels includes hiring two culturists to travel with you for the entire journey or part of it.
13. Call in your position to the Canadian Coast Guard daily and when you enter new ice zones. In addition to providing us with important information on your location you will also be able to access navigational data and up to date ice information.
14. Be aware of environmental conditions at all times. Ice cover and ice distribution in the Canadian Arctic is always changing. Seek local knowledge where possible
15. Respect privacy in communities; keep a good distance from private houses and never glance or photograph through private windows. Before taking a photograph of a person, obtain his or her permission.
16. In many Nunavut towns and settlements there are large numbers of sled dogs. They are working dogs and not pets. Ensure that your clients, staff and crew do not approach, attempt to pet, or feed these dogs without permission and supervision from the dog owner/handler.
17. Where possible, operators should use distilled fuel oil during all operations in the Arctic. Lower emission outboard engines are also encouraged.