

Pangnirtung
Population: 1070
Baffin Island

Sometimes referred to as the beginning of the “Canadian Arctic,” Pangnirtung is the gateway to the majestic Auyuituq National Park. Visitors can hike the glacial valleys along the scenic Pangnirtung Pass or explore the area’s whaling history. The history of Pangnirtung is interwoven with the history of whaling. By the mid-1800’s, Cumberland Sound became one of the favored gathering spots for whaling ships waiting for the seasonal arrival of bowhead whales. Local Inuit helped Scottish and American whalers at rendering stations, like the one now commemorated at Kekerten Historic Park 30 miles from Pangnirtung. Here rusted iron kettles, stone building foundations, barrels, anchors and ribs of former vessels remain as testimony to an historic period when thousands of whales were harvested to provide baleen and oil to the world. The Angmarlik Interpretive Center in Pangnirtung provides further exhibits on this era. Pangnirtung is well known for its woven crafts and soapstone and bone carvings.