

See our Iñupiat way of life

The Traditional Room is the vibrant center of our living culture facility. We continue to make equipment essential to our subsistence lifestyle and to teach our youth these critical life skills. Depending on the season, you can observe local craftsmen working on their umiaq (skinboats) or carving baleen or ivory, or women preparing and sewing skins.



SPECIAL PROGRAMS

- May 15 - September 15: A local craft sale and daily demonstrations of dancing, games, and blanket toss.
- September - May: School tours by reservation.
- Year-round: Facility is available for community events, conferences, and private parties.

COLLECTION RESOURCES AVAILABLE AT IHC

- The Mound 44 archeological collection excavated from a sod house buried over four hundred years ago.
- Photographic archives dating from the early 1900s and oral history recordings since the 1960s.
- *The Tundra Times* photographic collection at the Tuzzy Consortium Library.
- Chipp-Ikpikpak / Meade River, Barrow Photo Album, and Marvin Peter Photo Album and Project Jukebox computer programs.

ECHOES FROM THE TOP OF THE WORLD GIFT SHOP

Shop for North Slope gifts and books, handmade Iñupiaq arts and crafts, and *Made in Alaska* products. Your purchase helps support exhibit and education programs.



HOURS

Monday – Friday: 8:30am - 5:00pm (Closed noon - 1pm)
Saturday: 2:00pm - 4:00pm (May 15 - September 15 only)
Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's Day and all other North Slope Borough holidays.

Admission is charged and group rates are available. Groups (10 or more) reservations recommended. Facilities are handicap accessible, and a wheelchair is available.

GALLERY GUIDELINES

To help us protect our exhibits, please observe the following guidelines:

- No food or beverages in the gallery.
- No smoking in the facility.
- No touching of objects (dirt and oil from skin can cause damage).
- No cell phone use during performances.
- Photography is allowed, but no flash or tripod use.
- Commercial photographers must obtain permission before filming.

All contributions to the Iñupiat Heritage Center are tax-deductible. We also accept donations of objects to expand our collections.

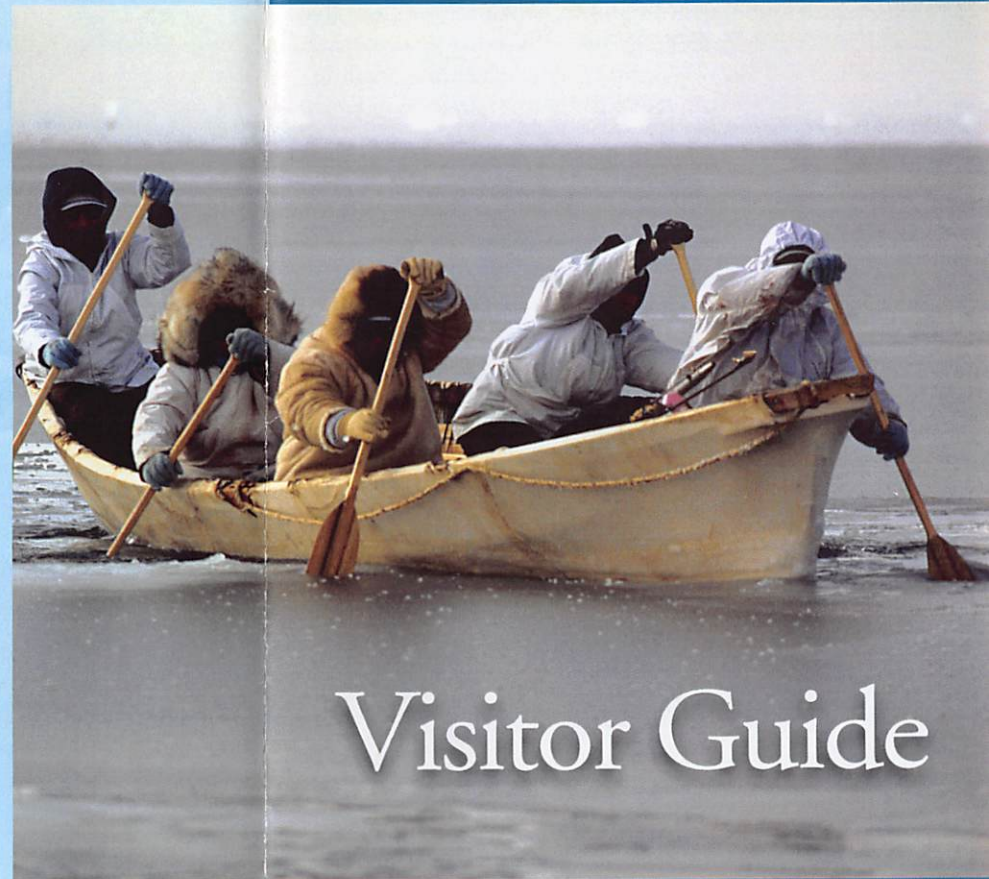
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Photo credits: Luciana Whitaker (whalers, sewers); Karen Breuster (Iñupiat Heritage Center); Tupaaq Crist (Barrow Dancers); National Park Service, Alaska Affiliated Areas.



Iñupiat Heritage Center

Barrow, Alaska



Visitor Guide

*Learn about
The People of Whaling*



Welcome to the Iñupiat Heritage Center

We are the Iñupiat, and we want to share our way of life with you. The Iñupiat Heritage Center is a place for learning, sharing, remembering, and passing on our traditions. Our collections in archeology, art, ethnology, historical photography, and oral history help perpetuate Iñupiat culture, history, and language of the North Slope.

The **People of Whaling** exhibit in our main gallery illustrates our traditional and modern life, values, hunting practices, and equipment. Enter our world and experience Iñupiaq whaling.

Thank you for your visit.



Qaiqattaavsaagmautin

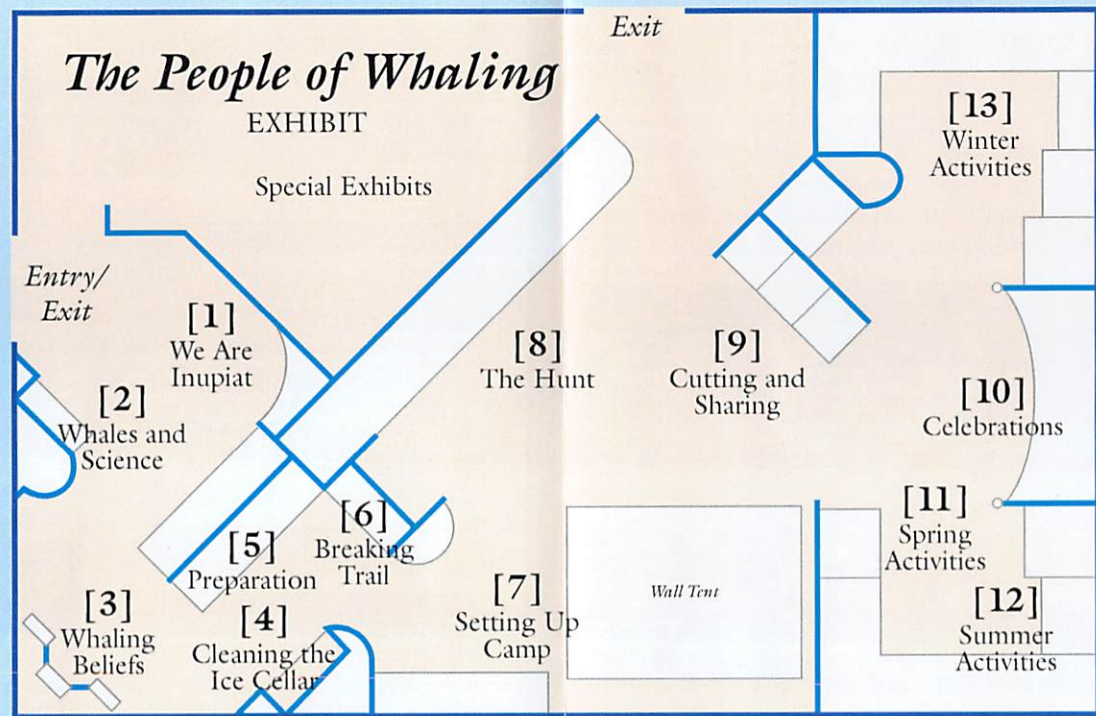
Iñupiaqvluta qaanjitsichisuktugut iñuusiṭṭignik iluḡavsignun.

IHC inillanagikput ilisaḡvigisuktugu, qaanjittichiniaqsalluta, itqaaḡḡi pilḡusivut suraḡautchivullu.

Tutquqsimaruat alḡaaniqsat, piliat, suraḡauchivut, qiniḡaat, quliatuat ikayuutausuurt Iñupiat sivunniutaiññun, taimaniqsatigun, uqautchiptigun iñuuniḡnikullu maani nunapṭiñni.

Aḡviqsuqtit qiniḡsitaaviat maninagikput qanḡnisaniḡ panmapaglu iñuusiṭṭignik, piraḡausiṭṭignik, anuniḡniṭṭigun sulṭi anuniutiniḡ. Isiglusi aḡviqsuḡniḡput qiniḡaaqsuñ.

Quyanaq, isiqataavsaagmautin.



WHALING IS CENTRAL TO OUR LIVES.

- [1] As whalers, we value our traditions, respect the whale, and share the harvest with the whole community.
- [2] We use our traditional and scientific ways of knowing to hunt and survive in the Arctic.
- [3] We believe that whales give themselves to worthy hunters.
- [4] Before the whaling season begins, we prepare a clean place to store the fresh whale meat out of respect for and to encourage the return of the whales.
- [5] Everybody helps prepare the equipment and supplies for whaling.
- [6] Crew members cooperate to cut trails through the ice to the water's edge where we set up our whaling camps.
- [7] We follow prescribed rules of behavior at whaling camp to ensure safety and a successful hunt.
- [8] Whaling is a group effort that we approach with dignity and respect. It is an honor to harvest a whale.
- [9] Shares are distributed to everyone who helps pull up and butcher the whale.
- [10] We are grateful for the gift of the whale and celebrate with a feast and blanket toss called Nalukataq.

- [11] In addition, year-round subsistence activities are critical to our way of life. In the spring, we hunt polar bears, which provide a valuable source of fur and meat. We duck- and goose-hunt as cooperative Iñupiat family activities. We trap even though our traditional trapping and trade systems have shifted to commercial operations.
- [12] During the 24 hours of summer daylight, we are busy hunting caribou, seal, and walrus. We teach our young hunters to be aware of ice, ocean, wind, and weather conditions since the Arctic can be a dangerous place. We emphasize respect for any animal hunted. For example, walrus hunters must be patient and humble so that the walrus will not attack the boat with its tusks. Fish is a stable food source that we harvest and prepare in a variety of ways depending upon the season.
- [13] During the cold and dark winter, we focus on indoor activities: we sing and dance to celebrate and express our joy, and our talented seamstresses sew new parkas and fur boots for their families. We prepare our children to carry these teachings through future generations.