

Quttinirpaaq National Park (Ward Hunt Island)

Scientists have been working at the station since the 1950s. Parks Canada has two Weather haven shelters with oil burner furnaces (each can sleep two people). Pending availability, researchers are welcome to use the sleepers. Centre d'études nordiques (CEN)/ Centre for Northern Studies operates three automated climate stations of SILA Network in the region, and these are in operation year-round. A laboratory made of insulated fiberglass and powered by solar panels was built in 2010.



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Owner
[Parks Canada](#)

Membership
Regular Member

Website
www.pc.gc.ca/quttinirpaaq

Latitude
83.068144

Longitude
-74.213103

Location
Ward Hunt Island

Nearest Community
Grise Fiord

Territory/ Province
Nunavut

Aboriginal Government/ Homeland
N/A

Facility Type

Seasonally-Operated Field Camp

Research Hinterland

Coastal, Marine, Sea Ice, Lake

Main Research Disciplines

Climatology, Environmental Sciences, Hydrology, Isotopic Chemistry

Research History

The Ward Hunt Island Observatory research station is owned and run by CEN in collaboration with Parks Canada (www.pc.gc.ca/index.aspx). Ward Hunt Island was briefly used as a weather station during the International Geophysical Year of 1957-58, and as the starting point for a number of attempts to reach the North Pole. During the Canadian – United States Ellesmere Ice Shelf Operations of 1953-54 the first ice-shelf and geological studies along the north coast of Ellesmere Island were performed in the area.

Current Projects

Structure and functioning of lake and river ecosystems at high latitudes; dynamics of northern ice shelves; cyanobacteria ecology; impacts of UV radiation and climate change on aquatic ecosystems.

Power

Generator, Solar, Wind

Communications

Satellite phone, VHF

Local Transportation

Transportation to the site is possible only via Twin Otter or helicopter

Equipment Storage

Some storage in a weather haven is available

Dormitory/Sleeping Facilities

Two weather havens with bunk beds

Dining/Kitchen Facilities

One kitchen weather haven with living/dining area

Laboratory Facilities

Yes

Fuel Availability

Both Parks Canada and Polar Continental Shelf Program maintain fuel caches for operational needs only, except in the case of an emergency. Arrangements for fuel can be made through PCSP, but may require additional permitting by Parks Canada. Please see polar.nrcan.gc.ca for more details.

Research Requirements

Contact the Research Coordinator for the Nunavut Field Unit of Parks Canada at (867) 975-4762 or Nunavut.Research@pc.gc.ca

Special Rules and Regulations

The site is administered by Parks Canada, Quttinirpaaq National Park. All persons going to the site must first contact Parks Canada at (867) 975-4673 for more details on park regulations. Quttinirpaaq National Park is cooperatively managed with the people of Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay through a Joint Park

Management Committee as outlined in the Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement for Auyuittuq, Quttinirpaaq, and Sirmilik National Parks.

Local External Resources

N/A

Nearest Medical Service

Nursing Station in Grise Fiord (570km), and Iqaluit hospital (2615km), air access only.

Safety Considerations

Anybody traveling to Quttinirpaaq National Park has to participate in a mandatory safety orientation delivered by Parks Canada staff.

Cost

No charge for permitted researchers.

Other Information

The first known sighting of the island was in 1876 by Pelham Aldrich, a lieutenant with the George Nares expedition, and named for George Ward Hunt, First Lord of the Admiralty (1874-1877).

Last Updated

2015-05-30