

BARROW ALASKA

BARROW, ALASKA

Welcome to our home, 330 miles above the Arctic Circle, where the traditions of the ancient, Iñupiaq culture remain at the center of life in the modern world.

Welcome to Ukpiagvik!

✦ In JANUARY and FEBRUARY experience Kivgiq, the unforgettable MidWinter Festival or “Messenger Feast” – a three-day celebration of dance, song and bartering that brings Inuit from across the North Slope, Russia, Canada and Greenland together to renew family ties and share age-old traditions. Kivgiq is not an annual event. Contact the North Slope Borough Mayor’s Office (907) 852-0200 or the Iñupiat Heritage Center (907) 852-4594 for more information.

✦ Bundle up for a week-long spring festival in the snow during Piuraagiqta [pee’-ur-ahg’-ee-ahk-taa’] in APRIL. Enjoy the parade, maklak [muck-luck] races, igloo building, dog mushing and geese-calling contests; snow machine races, golf on the lagoon ice and other activities. Contact the City of Barrow (907) 852-5211 for more information.

✦ Travel to the arctic in MAY, JUNE & JULY when the lush tundra is alive with over 185 species of birds including snowy owls, jaegers, swans & arctic terns. Birds are easy to see on this treeless land, where they nest and hunt on the tundra. Bird watchers flock to Barrow every year. Visit the birding station at Pepés Restaurant & contact the Iñupiat Heritage Center or local hotels for a list of available tours including those provided by Tundra Tours & AAA Tours (*see ads*).

✦ Plan your trip to the USA’s most northern community in JUNE when villagers celebrate Nalukataq [nah-loo-kah-tahk,] or blanket toss festival, which marks the end of a safe and successful whaling season. There may be more than one Nalukataq. Contact the City of Barrow or the Iñupiat Heritage Center for more information.

✦ During JULY and AUGUST Barrow residents often go with relatives and friends from other villages to areas where wild salmon berries, blue berries, black berries and cranberries are plentiful and grow right on the ground. Autumn comes early to the arctic, so prime berry picking is short.

✦ Visit us in NOVEMBER through MAY during the awe-inspiring winter, or enjoy the sun-washed evening hours of spring, and take a dog sled ride across the sea ice, past icebergs the color of blue topaz.

✦ In DECEMBER spend the holidays watching Eskimo games which require traditional feats of skill and physical prowess developed long ago to prepare our people for survival in the north. Welcome the new year at the edge of the Chukchi Sea, near the famous whale-bone arch – and wear your warmest clothes to watch the annual fireworks display.

✦ Visit the Iñupiat Heritage Center, discover collections of Iñupiaq Eskimo artifacts and crafts there and at other locations in town, and take available tours to learn how things like drinkable water, modern housing and health care are provided in this remote land, where supplies must be flown or barged in. Learn about the globally important, scientific studies taking place on the North Slope too. Enjoy Barrow’s restaurants, stores and hotels; see traditional Eskimo Dancing, catch a glimpse of arctic wildlife and learn about the ways of the whaling culture. For longer visits, or if you are moving to Barrow, check out the amenities provided by the City of Barrow (*see ad*).

Helpful Hints

Weather in Barrow can change within minutes, so having a jacket, hat and gloves is a good idea no matter the season. Be prepared for severe winter weather September through May when you should have a heavy coat, hat, gloves, warm boots and face covering. During “breakup” in the spring, birders who wish to walk on the tundra should pack rubber boots. Summer temperatures in Barrow vary widely, but average about 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

The arctic is a wild place. Depending on the season, visitors who venture out on the tundra or along the beach may glimpse polar bears, arctic fox, seals, gray whales, killer whales or the great bowhead whale – which is at the center of the Iñupiaq culture. Use common sense & do not hike away from town or venture onto the sea ice alone. So that someone knows where to find you in case of unexpected bad weather or a mishap, notify the North Slope Borough Police Department or North Slope Borough Search & Rescue (*see ads*) of your plans before you head away from town on a hike, 4-wheeler excursion or boat ride.

For much of the year, shorefast ice covering the ocean can extend for many miles. Contact the Iñupiat Heritage Center, the City of Barrow or your hotel for information about taking thrilling dog-sled rides on the sea ice and across the open landscape -- or take summer birding tours in a vehicle with tracked wheels specially designed to move over the land without damaging the fragile tundra. Another option is to take a tour to Point Barrow, the northern-most spot on the North American Continent! Newcomers should never go out on the ice alone, but rely on guides with proper equipment and knowledge of the area.



Photos courtesy John Gleason

Fast Fact: The world Iglu [Igloo] means house or dwelling. An iglu is not only a temporary shelter made of blocks of ice.

Fast Fact: Because Barrow lies at the meeting point of the Chukchi and the Beaufort seas, there is almost always a breeze, which keeps mosquitoes away – but be prepared to deal with mosquitoes when you go out on the tundra.

Fast Facts: Whaling captains schedule the Nalukataq festivals, and the whole community is invited to attend and share the bowhead whale meat and delicacies prepared by the crew’s families in the 10 days or so before a festival.

Fast Fact: The brief summer season produces many types of traditional edible and medicinal plants.

Fast Fact: April and May is spring whaling season, governed by traditions thousands of years old, scientific guidelines and international agreements.

Fast Fact: Because the sun is high in the sky 24 hours a day in the summer, Barrow does not have a fireworks show for July 4th.

Fast Fact: The Iñupiat have lived on this land for centuries. Please respect the culture, obey the laws and refrain from digging for artifacts in and around Barrow. Instead, we welcome you to see displays around town and learn about efforts to protect our heritage.

Fast Fact: The sea ice, even if it looks completely frozen, it constantly moving and changing.

Discover the Iñupiat Heritage Center, a community gathering place where the history, language and traditions of the Iñupiat are shared with visitors and North Slope residents.

The philosophy behind the Iñupiat Heritage Center is based on the “qargi” [khaar’-ghee] or community house, where many village activities traditionally took place. Among its amenities, the Iñupiat Heritage Center offers a fine museum, a traditional workshop and a growing collection of artifacts, archives and displays. The Center is used as a venue for scientific studies, academic course work and repatriation of artifacts and photos from museums and collectors around the world.



Photos courtesy Touch A Line

In addition to their other cultural preservation efforts, staff members, volunteers and representatives from the North Slope Borough School District, Iñisaġvik College, the North Slope Borough, City of Barrow, Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission and other agencies work with elders, local historians, hunters, anthropologists, biologists and other scientists to preserve, identify, document and catalog cultural knowledge and artifacts.

We invite you to come and experience some of the deep history of the arctic.

- Meet the commercial whalers who sailed from New Bedford, Massachusetts to hunt the bowhead whale during the tumultuous period of early Euro-American contact.
- Learn about the methods of contemporary subsistence whaling and the scientific contributions of Iñupiat hunters that helped make the bowhead whale the best studied population of arctic whales.
- Examine the dramatic climate changes that have shaped, and continue to shape, life above the arctic circle.
- View the North Slope Borough’s collection of mounted indigenous birds and watch our craftspeople carve walrus ivory, etch bowhead whale baleen, create beautiful jewelry and other works of art.
- Watch our Iñupiat Dancers perform ancient dances that tell stories, accompanied by the throbbing rhythm of traditional drums.
- Treat your senses to the expression of our language, Iñupiaq.
- Learn about the other North Slope villages and the opportunities they offer.

The Iñupiat Heritage Center Welcomes You!

This edition of the Barrow Visitor’s Guide was made possible, in part, by support from:

- ECHO
- Arctic Slope Regional Corporation
- City of Barrow
- North Slope Borough School District
- NSB Planning Department, Division of Iñupiat History, Language & Culture
- NSB Planning Department, GIS Division

This event is partially, or completely, funded by ECHO, Education through Cultural and Historical Organizations, CFDA 84.215Y. The purpose of ECHO programs is to amplify educational benefits, foster greater appreciation of local and national history, and assist communities in maximizing the social benefits of new technologies.



Quyanaqqak! [Quhoo’-yan-ahk’-pahk]
“Thank you very much!”

Visitor’s Guide

Paġlagivsiġin! We Welcome You!

Hiking Trips in the Barrow Area

◆ Fresh Water Lake:

Visitors prepared for any type of weather may enjoy venturing away from town along the roads leading to Fresh Water Lake (#5 on map, other side,) one of the original sources of drinking water for the village. You'll pass by satellite dishes tilted almost parallel to the ground because we are so far north. Next you'll pass Imaiqsaun Cemetery (6) where remains of ancestors recovered during excavations at the many archaeological sites around Barrow have been respectfully reburied. Here is the final resting place of the famous "Frozen Family," recovered from Mound 44 (3) in the early 1980s. Also at rest here are the remains of a prehistoric girl discovered in an eroding bluff in 1994. Since no trees grow in the arctic, the 185 species of birds that migrate to the area in the spring and summer nest on the tundra and can easily be seen and photographed. In the summer, be sure to bring bug spray to ward off mosquitoes! Another popular bird-watching destination is along Cakeater road (44.) Contact the North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife for more information: (907) 852-2611 (ext. 350.)

◆ Will Rogers & Wiley Post Crash Monument and "Hollywood":

Along the coast of the Chukchi Sea, trek or take rented ATV's 13 miles (each way) to the monument marking the site were America's beloved Will Rogers, along with pilot Wiley Post, died when their small aircraft crashed in 1935 (42.) A second monument is located next to the City of Barrow Visitor's Center (1) across from the airport. On the hike to the crash site, you will pass the area where the Walt Disney movie "Track of the Giant Snow Bear" was filmed. This area is known to locals as "Hollywood." The all-day hike to the Rogers/Post monument is strenuous. Walking on the mushy tundra or on the pebbly beach requires the right kind of footgear. Hikers should carry water, food, extra clothing – and are encouraged to notify the North Slope Borough (NSB) Police Department (907) 852-6111 or NSB Search & Rescue (907) 852-2822 of excursion



Photo courtesy Touch Alaska

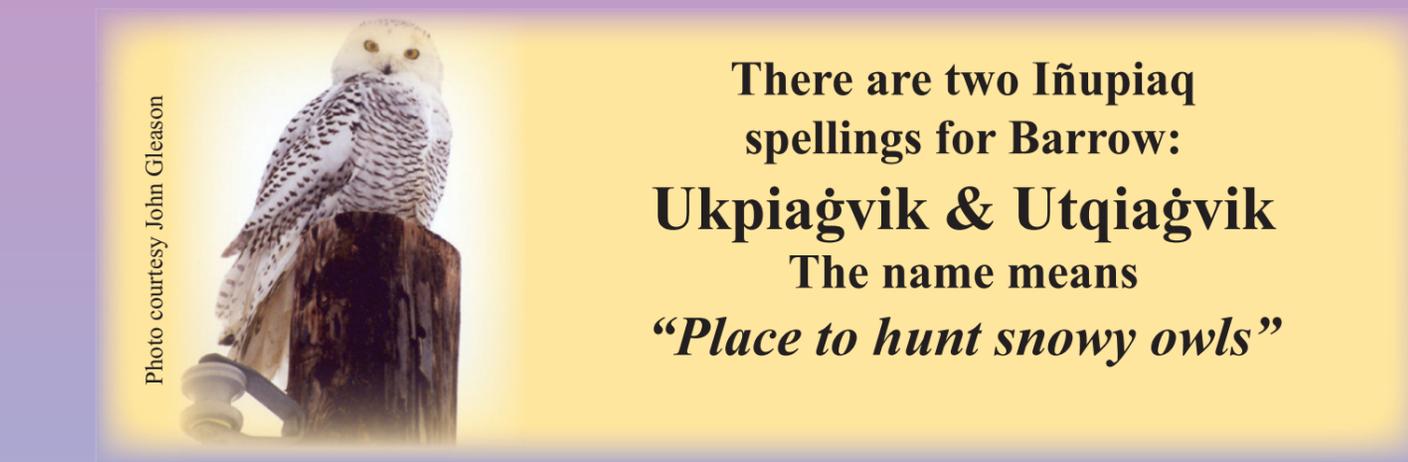


Photo courtesy John Gleason

There are two Iñupiaq spellings for Barrow: Ukpiagvik & Utqiaḡvik The name means "Place to hunt snowy owls"

plans in case of emergency. The weather up here can change very quickly. Ask about checking out a personal locator beacon. If traveling on 4-wheelers or on snow machines, be sure to take extra gasoline.

◆ Iḡisaḡvik Campus, BASC, and Arctic Science Facilities, Shooting Station & Point Barrow:

Another strenuous, full-day hike is the trek to famous Point Barrow, the most northern point in the United States and the site of the old village of Nuvuk (26.) The old Naval Arctic Research Laboratory (NARL) underwent renovation in 1994 and became the home of Iḡisaḡvik – a college (24) for North Slope residents complete with dormitories. Often still referred to as NARL, the complex is also home to Barrow Arctic Science Consortium (BASC) and other science facilities. There is a cafeteria and a bookstore in the main building. As you continue along the ocean road, you will pass a subsistence-hunting summer campsite known as Shooting Station or Piḡniq (26.) Families have camped in this area over the centuries, hunting waterfowl, seals and other wildlife. Adventurers will continue past the end of the road on the narrowing landscape until it ends at the Point. Please do not disturb archaeological materials. When ice is near shore during any season, watch for polar bears. If you see one, leave the area immediately. These wild animals are *extremely dangerous*. For tours and information about traveling on UIC lands, contact AAA Tours (907) 852-3800 or visit www.ukpik.com.

◆ Cakeater Road:

In the spring and into summer, skies increasingly brighten until the sun hovers above the horizon for 84 days in a row. Hikers and birders can see snowy owls, swans, snow buntings, ducks, arctic terns and many other birds nesting on the wide open tundra. At least 185 species of birds migrate to the Barrow area. Cakeater Road (44) is also known as Gas Well Road because of the natural-gas wells that provide energy to Barrow. Cakeater Road begins just east of the Browerville (east) side of Barrow. Many local residents enjoy riding snow

machines, all-terrain vehicles or bicycles along this road, which like most other roads in Barrow is unpaved. Bring binoculars and look for caribou and arctic fox. In summer, enjoy the beauty of "arctic cotton" and tiny wildflowers. In spring, the tundra is lush and sparkling wet, so hikers should wear waterproof boots. Remember: When hiking away from Barrow, be sure to let someone in town know your destination and estimated time of return. Mosquitoes are rarely a problem in town because ocean breezes keep them away. However, be sure to bring plenty of bug spray to protect your self against pesky mosquitoes – jokingly referred to as Alaska's state bird! Discover the wild beauty of the arctic on these hikes, all of which take half a day or longer.

NORTH SLOPE TRIVIA

- Eight villages dot the landscape of Alaska's arctic including Anaktuvuk Pass, Atqasuk, Barrow, Nuiqsut, Kaktovik, Point Hope, Point Lay and Wainwright.
- Barrow is the seat of government for the North Slope Borough, the largest municipality in the world, covering 89,000 square miles of arctic territory.
- The North Slope Borough has a population of just over 7,500. Of that number, approximately 4,700 live in Barrow.
- Residents and non-residents alike also work year-round at Umiat and at the oil industry facilities in Prudhoe Bay and along the James Dalton Highway (formerly called the Haul Road.)



Photo courtesy John Gleason

- People of all races and backgrounds live in Barrow, but the population is approximately 65% Iñupiat (as of the 2000 census.)
- Barrow is 1200 miles from the North Pole.

◆ ATTENTION PILOTS: For information about Barrow's Wiley Post-Will Rogers Memorial Airport, visit www.alaska.faa.gov.

IÑUPIAQ VOCABULARY LESSON

- Aḡviq [ahgh-vickh] – bowhead whale

- Aiviq [aye-veeckh] – walrus

- Nanuq [nan'-ook] – polar bear

- Niḡliq [niḡ'lickh] - goose

- Siḡiḡniq [sickh-in-ickh'] – sun



Photo courtesy John Gleason

Touch Alaska Interactive Media, Inc. is proud to present another edition of the *Barrow Visitor's Guide*

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Quyanaqqak!
"Thank you very much!"



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Polar bear - Teri Andreason • Welcome sign - Touch Alaska
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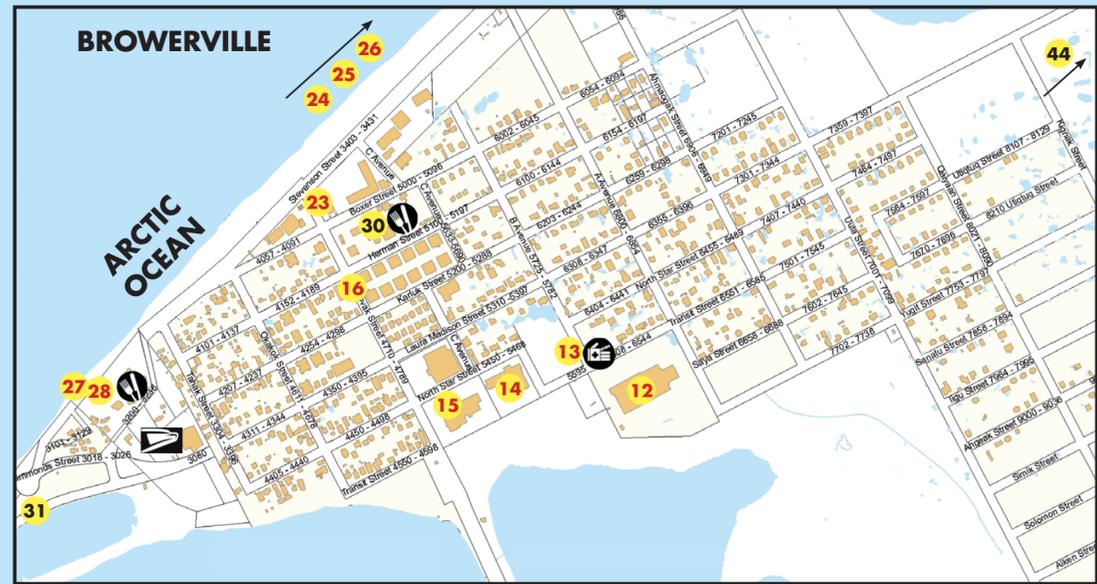
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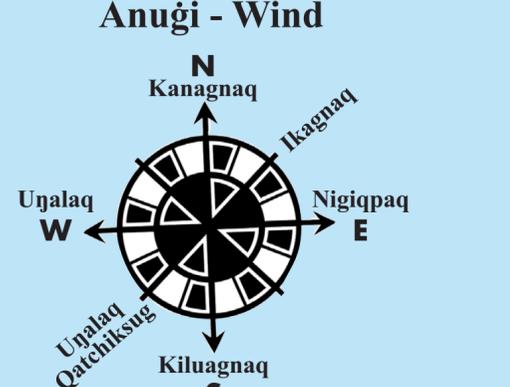
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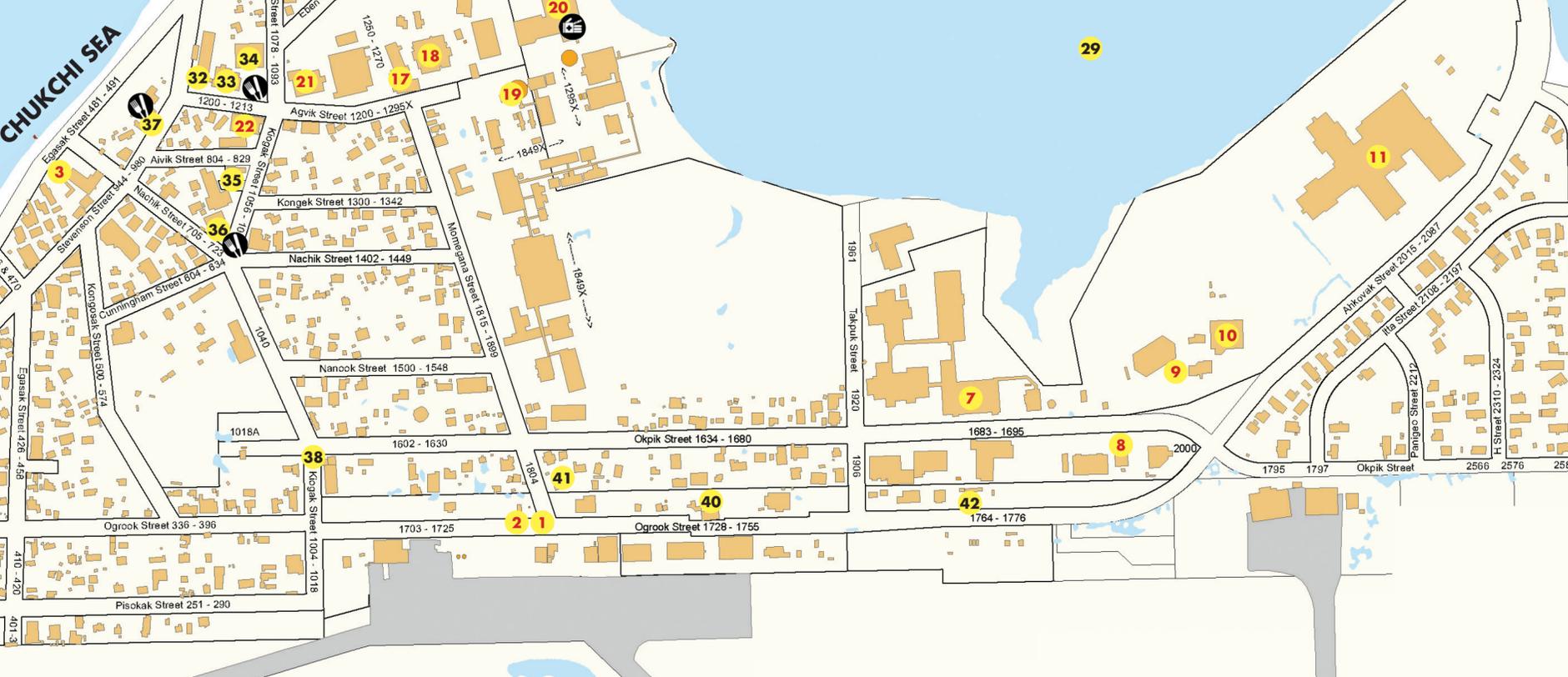
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- Original settlement • Sod house mounds
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- Barrow City Hall • Tuptiqaq "Big Tent" hockey rink
- Piuraagvik "Place to Play" athletic center
- Ipaloq Elementary School
- Hopson Middle School

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- Inupiat Heritage Center • IHLIC Office
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- Barrow Utilities & Electric Cooperative (BEUCI)
- Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital
- Arctic Slope Regional Corporation
- NSB Police Department
- Gas station
- Ilisagvik College • Barrow Arctic Science Consortium

- Dew Line • U.S. advanced radar warning system
- Pigniq "Shooting Station", Old village site of Nuvuk & famous Point Barrow • The Point is approximately 11 miles from far west side of town
- Whale Bone Arch
- Brower's Restaurant • Historic whaling station, also site of launch of 1st International Polar Year, 1881
- Isatqaq "Middle Lagoon" • Site of Piuraagviaqta
- Northern Lights Restaurant
- Nalukataq site • Blanket toss whaling festivals
- Top of the World Hotel / Tundra Tours
- Pepe's North of the Border Restaurant • Birding station

- Wells Fargo Bank
- NSB School District Admin. Bldg.
- Sam & Lee's Restaurant
- Osaka Restaurant
- National Weather Service Station
- Arctic Pizza
- King Eider Inn
- Airport Inn
- UIC Car Rentals & AAA Tours
- Will Rogers/Wiley Post crash site & "Hollywood"
- Cakeater Road • Bird watching & Barrow Environmental Observatory

1-28 Bus Tour Route



A Note about Transportation:
When calling one of the many cab companies in Barrow, you don't need to know street names, only house numbers or the name of the business/organization you are traveling to. No tips are expected. Cab fare prices are set by the City of Barrow Taxi Commission.

Useful Telephone Numbers:
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