

# COMMERCIAL GROUPS ON THE ARCTIC CIRCLE TRAIL



## GUIDELINES FOR OPERATORS



[arcticcircletrail.gl](http://arcticcircletrail.gl)



# Overview



The Arctic Circle Trail is an extremely remote wilderness trek through largely untouched Arctic tundra. The trail is very narrow, is often over vulnerable terrain (bogland), and has no infrastructure beyond 9 basic backcountry huts that operate on a first-come-first-served basis.

It is critical that you and your clients understand the challenges of the hike, including: the roughness of the trail, having to deal with boggy terrain, how quickly weather conditions may change, the numerous river crossings, the likelihood of mosquitoes, and the need to carry everything for the duration of the trek. It is not an easy route and both you and your clients must be well informed and well prepared.

## Official website and contact

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The trail is managed by Destination Arctic Circle (part of Arctic Circle Business) and the huts are owned by Qeqqata Municipality. Please read the [Official Website for the trail](#) carefully before deciding to offer this trek. For further information, contact us on [act@acb.gl](mailto:act@acb.gl)

The following pages provide guidelines for any commercial groups on the ACT. We ask that you adhere to these guidelines to help protect yourself, your clients, and the experience for everyone on the trail.



[arcticcircletrail.gl](http://arcticcircletrail.gl)

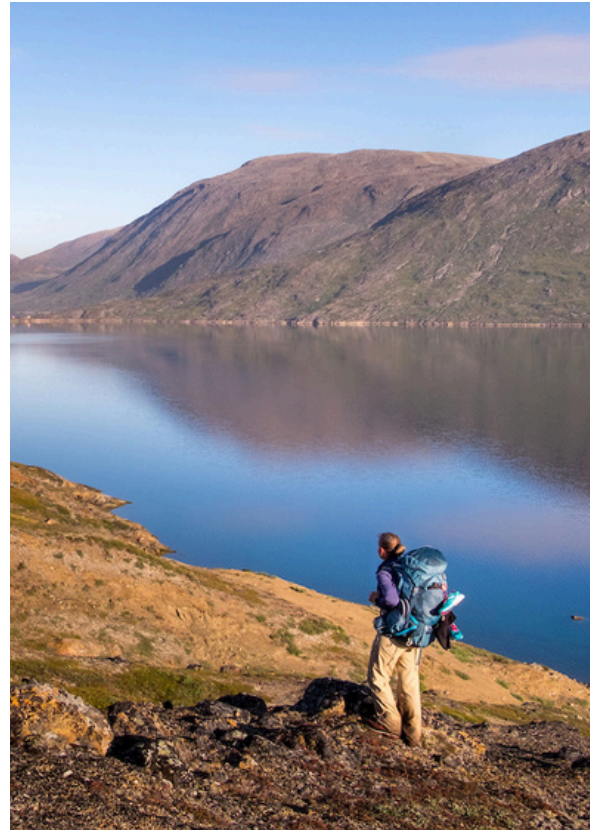


# Trail Guidelines

## 01 Group size

### **A maximum of 10 guests + 2 guides**

The Arctic Circle Trail is a remote wilderness experience and many who undertake the trek do so to find silence and solitude. Limiting the size of groups to 10 clients + 2 guides is both a safety measure and a way to preserve the experience for those hiking the trail independently. If the group has more than 5 clients, it should have 1 lead guide and 1 assistant guide.



## 02 Qualifications

### **Lead Guide must be a qualified Arctic Wilderness Guide and have Wilderness First Aid or equivalent**

Due to the rough and remote nature of the trail, safety is a primary concern. Greenland has limited capacity for SAR events, so guides must be equipped to manage non-emergency issues for themselves. Any assistant guide must have Wilderness First Aid or equivalent and be on one of the above Internationally recognized training pathways.

# Trail Guidelines

## 03 Emergency Measures

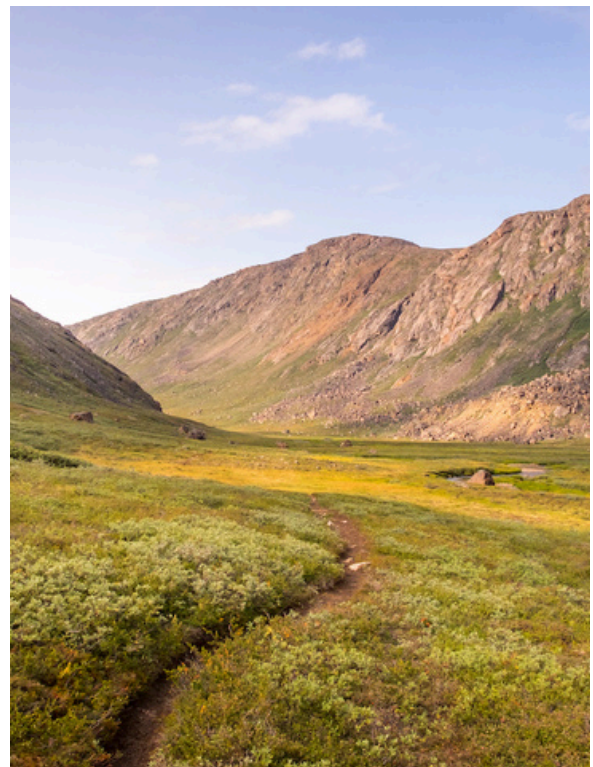
**Each guide must carry a two-way communication device such as an InReach or satellite phone**

There is no phone reception beyond the outskirts of Kangerlussuaq and Sisimiut. Guides must have a way to contact emergency services and to maintain communication with them in the event of a rescue. This will determine if a full SAR rescue is required (Greenland has limited capacity for this), or if an alternate evacuation process is possible. Read more information about [how SAR works in Greenland](#).

## 04 Trail Maintenance

**A 500DKK minimum donation per person (including guides) to the trail**

There is no dedicated budget allocated to the maintenance of the Arctic Circle Trail. This contribution will help address many of the issues that have arisen from the rapid increase in hiker numbers over recent years.



# Trail Guidelines

## 05 Hut use

**No sleeping in huts except in genuine emergencies**

The largest hut on the Arctic Circle Trail sleeps 21 people. Most sleep 6. They are available on a first-come-first-served basis for independent hikers. Planned nights in huts by commercial groups is prohibited. Huts may be used in case of emergency, or for equipment maintenance during the day.



## 06 Leave No Trace - trash

**All trash must be carried out, including used toilet paper**

There is no access to the trail in summer except by foot, so we cannot service the trail to clean or remove trash. Each person must carry all of their own trash out with them, including used toilet paper, leftover food, and all gas cannisters. It is not sufficient to bury toilet paper or leftover food as these may be dug up by wildlife. Cat-holes must be of sufficient depth for human waste and at least 100 metres from water courses. We are in the process of removing the blue bins and barrels from all sites so please do not use them.

# Trail Guidelines

## 07 Leave no trace - being considerate

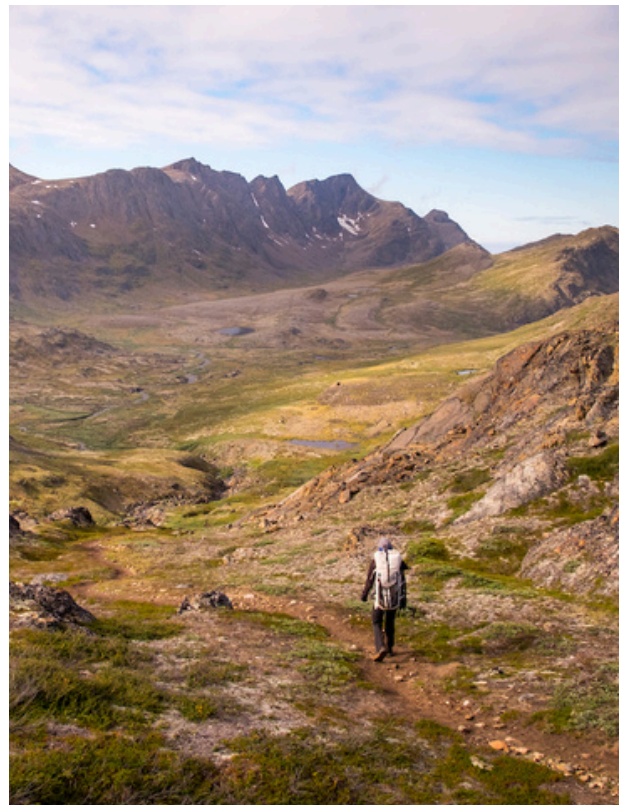
**Limit noise, especially around huts. No audible music on the trail.**

Respect the desire for other hikers to enjoy nature in silence. If a client wishes to listen to music (either on the trail or at camp), they should wear headphones. Limit noise around the huts, especially as people start to go to sleep.

## 08 Leave no trace - durable surfaces

**Adhere to the marked trail at all times**

The Arctic Circle Trail passes through protected areas and hunting areas. By following the marked route you will help us preserve our nature, maintain the safety of the group, and keep wildlife corridors intact. Although the trail can be very wet and boggy, please help us guard against trail creep and walk in the tread wherever possible.



# Trail Guidelines

## 09 No fires

### **Fires are strictly prohibited**

We have had 2 large fires on the Arctic Circle Trail in recent years, including one where hikers had to be evacuated. Once started, these fires can burn for months (often underground) and are very difficult to put out. Use camping stoves only and be very careful with cigarettes.



## 10 Leave things as you find them

### **Not disturb cairns or rocks**

The trail passes through the Aasivissuit – Nipisat UNESCO world heritage listed area. To the untrained eye, the remains of Inuit cultures can often just look like piles of stones. Do not disturb any cairns or rocks, as they may be of archaeological significance. Do not build any cairns, sculptures, ego-towers, fire-pits or any other ‘rock art’ of your own.

# Trail Guidelines

## 11 Canoe use

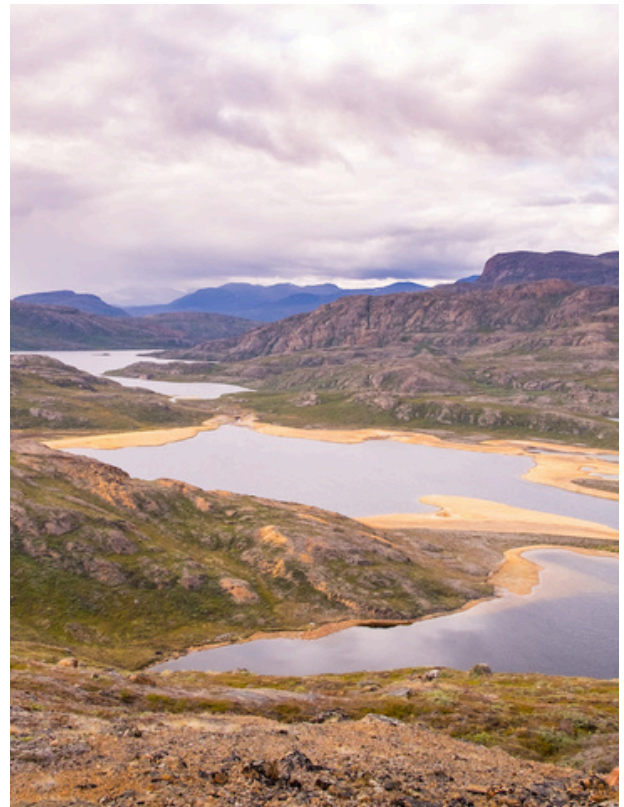
### **Groups do not have priority on the canoes**

One of the unique features of the trail is the opportunity to canoe part of it. However, this is not a guaranteed experience and we recommend that you manage your clients' expectations accordingly. Canoes cannot be reserved by anyone placing equipment in them, they are available to whoever is ready to depart in the moment. If you do use the canoes, they are NOT to be paddled beyond the Canoe Centre. [Read our full instructions for canoe use.](#)

## 12 Feedback survey

### **Encourage clients to fill in the feedback survey**

Most of our feedback about the trail comes in the form of the annual ACT survey. We rely on this data to monitor issues along the trail and identify what work we will schedule for the following year. It is essential that we hear from as many hikers as possible about their experiences on the trail so we have a good understanding of how it was experienced.





# Useful Information

## In case of emergency

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There is no phone connection beyond the outskirts of Kangerlussuaq or Sisimiut. All guides must carry a two-way communication device such as an InReach device or satellite phone for emergencies. Please note: we have limited capacity for emergency rescues in Greenland.

### For non-emergency issues

Kangerlussuaq Police

Kangerlussuaq Nurses Station

Sisimiut Police

Sisimiut Hospital

## Information about Kangerlussuaq and Sisimiut

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We strongly urge all commercial groups to support the local communities around the ACT by spending extra days at the beginning and/or end of the trek.

Information about Kangerlussuaq and Sisimiut (and their local tour operators) is found at the Destination Arctic Circle website:

[destinationarcticcircle.com](http://destinationarcticcircle.com)

### For logistics support

Contact the operators in Kangerlussuaq and Sisimiut.



# CONTACT US



Website: [arcticcircletrail.gl](http://arcticcircletrail.gl)

Email: [act@acb.gl](mailto:act@acb.gl)

