

**Nattilik Heritage Centre**

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**Nattilik Heritage Centre fact sheet****Mission**

The Nattilik Heritage Centre in Gjoa Haven presents an account of the Nattilik people through stories, images, local Inuit art and craft. The heritage centre plays an important role in strengthening culture and language at the community level and provide visitors with a better understanding of the unique world of the Nattilik people.

The Centre is owned and operated by the Nattilik Heritage Society. The Society has a mandate to preserve and promote the culture and heritage of Nattilingmiut. It is also to lead initiatives which generate social, cultural and economic benefit in the community.

**STORY**

The Nattilik Heritage Centre in Gjoa Haven, Nunavut, opened in 2013. Inside the protective musk ox circle of the building the Nattilik people present themselves through stories, images, local Inuit art and craft. Here you can experience the northern lights over Back River, informative interpretive displays on local wildlife, objects from the Roald Amundsen collection repatriated to Gjoa Haven for the opening of the Heritage Centre and so much more.

Ullulaq Inuit Arts Gallery is housed in the centre. The art gallery has a wide range of local arts and crafts on display. Carvings and wall hangings by local Nattilik Inuit artists are prominent. Ullulaq Inuit Arts sells and ships artwork to buyers all over the world.

**General Information**

The Nattilik (Netsilik) Inuit live in the central Canadian arctic. The Nattilik culture evolved over a 500 year era in a land pronounced with sweeping horizons that span ocean, tundra and protrusions of Canadian shield. A demanding environment offering little in conveniences other than could be crafted from fur, stone and bone molded a people who were rigorously resourceful and highly creative. The very sustenance of life and the ability to survive in this harsh environment was reliant on the animals, fish and sea mammals that lived around them. The procurement of clothing, tools, utility items, weapons, summer homes, transportation and food

was solely dependent on the gifts that the land and sea provided - and so developed within Nattilingmiut a great respect for and attachment to the natural world.

It was 1971 before the last of the Nattilik people abandoned their traditional nomadic lifestyle to adopt modern-day living. The remoteness of Nattilik land resulted in a late onset of the contact period in this part of the Arctic. Preserving culture and language is a strong value in modern day Gjoa Haven.

Information from Nattilik Heritage Centre Facebook page, originally cut from presentation written for Ullulaq Inuit Arts web page.