

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN GJOA HAVEN, NUNAVUT AND AROUND THE WRECKS OF THE HMS EREBUS AND HMS TERROR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

COMMUNITY REPORT GJOA HAVEN, NUNAVUT 2021

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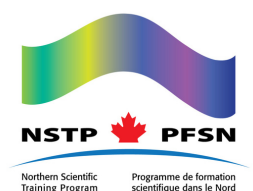


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Important Note: This research was conducted from February 27, 2020 to March 17, 2020, prior to COVID-19 related restrictions.

Terminology: While we recognize that through oral history the community of Gjoa Haven knew the location of the two Franklin ship wrecks, in this report we use the term “discovery of the Franklin Wrecks” to refer to the dates (September 2, 2014 and September 3, 2016) when the two shipwrecks exact locations were documented and the events that followed.

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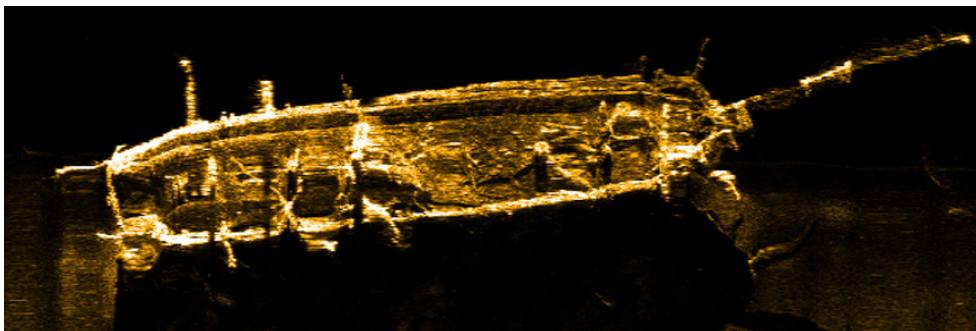
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“Cause when they [the Franklin Wrecks] were discovered it put Gjoa Haven on the map. Gjoa Haven was associated with Amundsen when he came through but the fact that the ships had been missing for 150 years or more and then all the sudden they’re found right by Gjoa Haven. That should definitely, if that can be marketed right, hopefully it can increase tourism in the community”

RESEARCH PARTICIPANT



Side-scan sonar image of HMS *Terror* taken by Parks Canada. This image shows the wreck is in excellent condition.

Photo Credit: Parks Canada.

Executive Summary

Tourism is a growing industry within Inuit Nunangat and an important part of Nunavut's economy. The discovery of the Franklin Wrecks, on September 2, 2014 and September 3, 2016, is expected to generate tourism demand and related tourism development opportunities. However, what is unclear is 1) what the potential visitor experience could look like; and 2) the feasibility of developing a visitor experience. The purpose of this research project was to document community knowledge and perspectives on tourism development to assist in tourism planning, management and development at the Franklin Wrecks sites. This report reflects the knowledge and opinions gathered through interviews with community members in Gjoa Haven who were identified as key knowledge holders and/or experts.

The specific project objectives were to...

1. Identify community perspectives and recommendations for tourism development;
2. Document community perspectives on the Wrecks of the HMS Erebus and HMS Terror National Historic Site as a tourist destination; and
3. Determine how the Franklin Wrecks will influence tourism development in Gjoa Haven.

Key findings of the project are...

- The community of Gjoa Haven would welcome tourism and would like to see the number of tourists coming into the community increase;
- For tourism to increase in Gjoa Haven and around the Franklin Wrecks sites, key infrastructure and facilities are needed (e.g. expanded airstrip, harbours, larger community spaces (i.e. buildings) and cabins at the Franklin Wrecks sites); and
- The potential for economic development related to the discovery of the Franklin Wrecks is known to the community. The demand is there and the community needs to be prepared in order to maximize the benefits of it.

Community-identified recommendations include...

- Build infrastructure for tourism that will also have residual benefits to the community;
- Market and share information about Gjoa Haven to the outside world;
- Develop tourism attractions and elements of the visitor experience;
- Create more transportation options;
- Increase search and rescue capabilities; and
- Prepare the community for tourism.

Introduction

Tourism is an important and growing industry within Nunavut. On September 2, 2014 and September 3, 2016, the use of state-of-the-art technology, Inuit Knowledge and oral testimony led to the discoveries of the Franklin Wrecks (HMS Erebus and HMS Terror), which were part of the Franklin Expedition (1845) in search of the Northwest Passage. The shipwrecks have been designated as a National Historic Site (NHS) and are located in the Northwest Passage, near the community of Gjoa Haven (Uqsuqtuuq), Nunavut. The community played a critical role in the discovery of the shipwrecks and will co-manage the site with Parks Canada. The discovery of the Franklin Wrecks is expected to stimulate significant tourism demand and development opportunities considering the international curiosity, mystery, and intrigue surrounding the ill-fated expedition. However, what is unclear is 1) what the potential visitor experience could look like and 2) the feasibility of developing a visitor experience at the Franklin Wrecks. The purpose of this research was to document community knowledge and perspectives on tourism development to assist in tourism planning, management and development at the Franklin Wrecks sites. This report reflects knowledge and opinions gathered through interviews with community members who were identified as key knowledge holders and/or experts.



Figure 1: Location of the Franklin Wrecks Sites and Gjoa Haven (Uqsuqtuuq), Nunavut.

Methods

In February and March 2020, community researchers (Gibson Porter, Naomi Nahalolik, and Barbara Okpik), and uOttawa PhD Candidate (Melissa Weber) co-facilitated individual interviews alongside Simon Okpakok who provided Inuktitut and English interpreting. The community researchers led the recruitment of participants and promoted the project within the community through local radio and Facebook. Seventeen identified experts who are Gjoa Haven residents (see Acknowledgements) were interviewed in the language of their choice (Inuktitut or English). They were asked to describe tourism in Gjoa Haven, discuss what tourism around the Wrecks of the HMS Erebus and HMS Terror National Historic Site could be like, and provide recommendations for tourism development. Results were analyzed using conventional content analysis and were verified by participants.

Participants' knowledge and perspectives are presented below.



Tourism in Gjoa Haven

- Most tourists arrive by cruise ship.
- Tourism has increased since the discovery of the Franklin Wrecks in 2014 and 2016.
- Tourism is good for the community economically and provides employment opportunities.
- It would be nice to see more tourists coming to Gjoa Haven, especially by plane.

“We as a community are open to the world, we will welcome any tourists coming into the community because tourism is very important to us and our community.”

RESEARCH PARTICIPANT

Table 1: The following table lists tourists as described by research participants.

TOURISTS	WHEN THEY ARRIVE
Arrive by Airplane	Year Round
Travel for Business	Year Round
Arrive by Cruise Ship	August to September
Arrive by Pleasure Craft (Sailboat)	August to September
Travel to Visit Family and/or Friends	Year Round

“Cruise ships are a good thing but if the people can fly in, anytime of year, that would help the economy.”

RESEARCH PARTICIPANT

Tourism Attractions in Gjoa Haven

Table 2: The following table lists the tourism attractions in Gjoa Haven as described by research participants.

ATTRACTION	DESCRIPTION
Roald Amundsen	The History of Amundsen, he spent two years in the community of Gjoa Haven; and the harbour was named after one of his ships (Gjøa).
Roald Amundsen Carine	Carine (keel) at the top of the hill has historical information.
Roald Amundsen Statue	A statue of Amundsen is located in the Hamlet Office lobby.
Carving and Sewing Centre	Recently opened space for artisans to work.
Community Feast	When the cruise ships arrive there is a country food* feast.
Culture	Performance and Traditional Games.
Events	Annual festivals (e.g. Umiyaqtutt Festival).
Greenhouse	Off-the-Grid Greenhouse is a rare sight in the Arctic.
Guardians	They have camps near the Franklin Wrecks and watch over them.
Hamlet Building	Statue of Amundsen and artwork.
History	Gjoa Haven's history includes mystery with great stories.
Interpretive Material	Plaques around town with information.
Nattilik Heritage Centre	It has displays about the Franklin Wrecks and Inuit culture; a board-room for events; and a gift shop.
Northwest Passage	History and allure of the Northwest Passage; and any ships using the Northwest Passage will encounter King William Island because it is right on the route.
Old Graves	Old grave sites.
The Land	King William Island and the tundra.
The Franklin Wrecks	The public discovery of the HMS Erebus and HMS Terror has generated a lot of attention and it is considered a main attraction for the community.

*Country food is a term that describes traditional Inuit food

The Franklin Wrecks

Since the discovery of the Franklin Wrecks tourism has increased in Gjoa Haven. “The whole world wants to visit the community of Gjoa Haven”, said one research participant. Research participants described that they had mixed-emotions when the Franklin Wrecks were discovered and some community members were happy, while other community members were not happy. Some community members expressed that they were surprised and felt relief for the families of the Franklin’s crew in England, while others were nervous and felt they should not be disturbed.

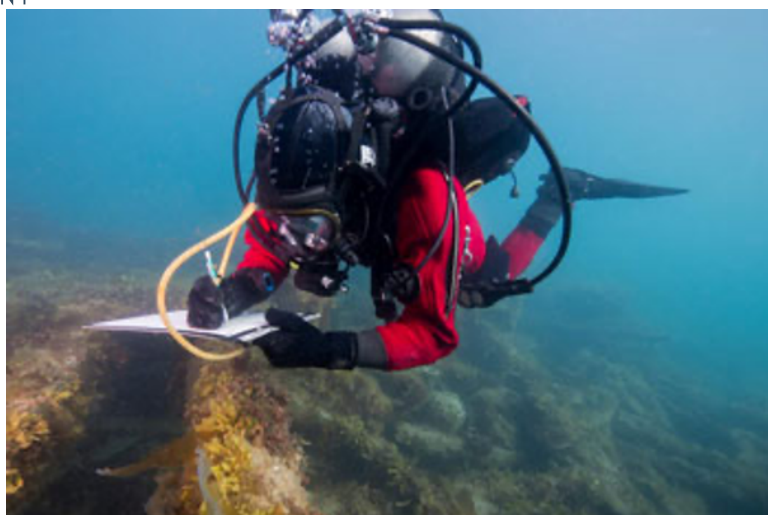
“Some were excited because they’ve been searching for one hundred years or more and some were hesitant because they were brought up to not disturb anything. You never know what could come out of it good or bad”

RESEARCH PARTICIPANT

The finding of the Franklin Wrecks makes Gjoa Haven a very attractive place for tourists. There are a lot of potential tourists phoning the community and there is a lot of interest of people wanting to see the Franklin Wrecks. There are also a lot of people who are interested in finding Franklin’s grave. If Franklin’s grave were to be found it would generate a high tourist attraction, meaning more tourists.

“The market is already there sitting and waiting to exploit. We need to be ready for it”

RESEARCH PARTICIPANT



Parks Canada diver above the HMS *Erebus*

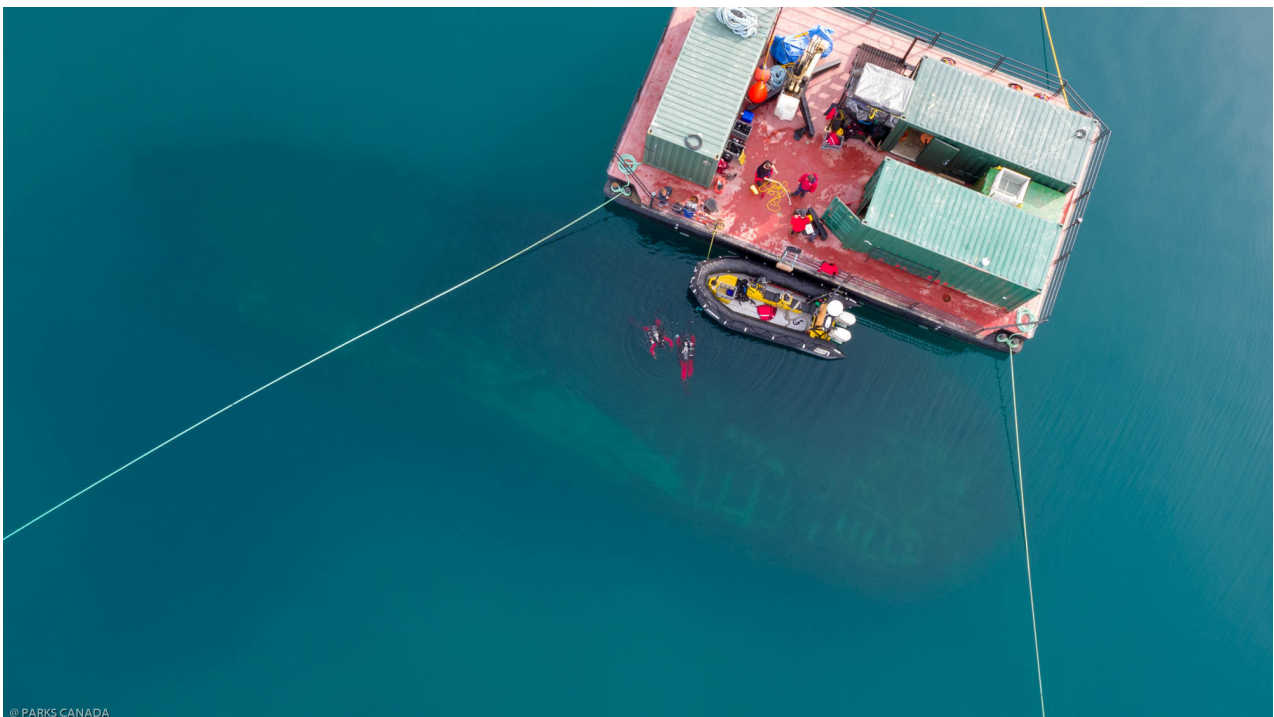
Photo Credit: Parks Canada

Tourism at the Franklin Wrecks

Research participants expressed that it is hard to think about what tourism at the Franklin Wrecks could look like right now because the sites are still restricted by Parks Canada (i.e. you need a permit to visit) and there is nothing available in those areas. There is not much to see right now and there are no facilities or infrastructure to support tourism. The ships aren't very visible because they are underwater but you would have that proximity of being near the Franklin Wrecks.

“It [tourism at the Franklin Wrecks] doesn’t bother me, if it doesn’t bother the community”

RESEARCH PARTICIPANT



Above the HMS Erebus
Photo Credit: Parks Canada

“I think there’s people all over the world, who would pay the money to come here if we had something to offer”

RESEARCH PARTICIPANT

Transportation to the Franklin Wrecks

Research participants noted that a difficult part of tourism development would be accessing the Franklin Wrecks with tourists. When you are out on the land, there is very little support and you are on your own. Right now there is no real access aside from using a big boat after sea ice breakup. The HMS Terror would be easier to access because you could go by land from Gjoa Haven across King William Island or by boat. However, there is no trail or road. The HMS Terror is easier to access since it is located in Terror Bay, which can be accessed by land. Whereas, the HMS Erebus is only accessible by boat.



Table 3: The following table lists the transportation options for tourism as described by research participants.

TRANSPORTATION	DESCRIPTION
All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV)	You could take an ATV to Terror Bay (location of HMS Terror). It is really rough [bumpy] on an ATV and King William Island is a killer for ATVs because of sharp rocks and soft land.
Boat	You would need a big boat to go to the HMS Erebus or HMS Terror. You would be subject to sea ice conditions, wind and fog. It is difficult to navigate around the HMS Erebus because there are a lot of shallow spots, small islands, subject to wind and strong currents.
Snowmobile/snow machine	You could take a snowmobile in spring when there is still snow on the ground and the weather is nicer than in the winter. Similar to an ATV, it is rough [bumpy]. One research participant said "It is hard on the back."

Opportunities

Table 4: During the interviews, research participants described opportunities that have emerged from tourism and the discovery of the Franklin Wrecks.

OPPORTUNITY	DESCRIPTION
Business	There is an opportunity to open businesses related to outfitting, including sport hunting and fishing.
Cultural Exchange	Tourists can experience Inuit culture; cruise ships give youth an opportunity to interact with others; youth can learn from the tourists about the world they live in and may be inspired to want to explore the world.
Economic Benefits	Tourism has a high potential of providing revenue for the community; more tourists coming into the community would provide opportunities for youth and the people who do not have paid employment in the community.
Education and Learning	Tourism is giving more people something to do and learn. One research participant said "some people don't understand their own culture but once the tourists start coming in they start learning new things from other people in the community." It is also important to tourists to learn about Gjoa Haven and how the community memberse live.
Employment	Employment opportunities include: Guardians Program, Certificate in Archaeology; Tour Guides; Outfitting Opportunities; Artists and Seamstresses; Carvers; Parks Canada; Translating/Interpreting; Performers (e.g. throat singer, drum dancer, and square dancer).
Franklin's Grave	People are interested in looking for Franklin's grave. If Franklin's grave is found, it would generate a lot of interest.
Protection of the Wrecks	One research participant said "I think it's nice that we have that opportunity to protect our grounds."
Residual Benefit	Investment in the community of Gjoa Haven for tourism will have some sort of residual benefit for the community. One research participant said "the best thing for that would be some sort of infrastructure."
Sport Fishing and Hunting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big game hunting (i.e. Muskox, polar bear, grizzly bear); • Muskox on King William Island are bigger than Victoria Island Muskox; • Healthy population of Muskox on King William Island; and • August and September the Char are running in the ocean.

"I do believe that if there is more tourism coming into the community it would provide economic benefits for our younger people and the people who don't have work in the community"

RESEARCH PARTICIPANT

Concerns

Table 5: Participants described concerns they have related to tourism and the discovery of the Franklin Wrecks.

CONCERNS	DESCRIPTION
Buying and Exporting Wildlife	Sometimes foreigners aren't able to bring artwork or carvings back to their country because of import restrictions. Passengers are not knowledgeable about export permits for wildlife. Cruise ship crew advised passengers not to buy anything to avoid the hassle of permits. Some permits need to be issued ahead of time (not at the time of purchase), while others can be issued in Gjoa Haven at the time of sale.
Camping Grounds	Community members, including Elders have concerns for their camping grounds near the Wrecks. There are old camps out on the land that should not be touched.
Local Hunters	Hunting grounds and animals could be disturbed by tourism related development and tourists.
Looting	Bounty hunters, treasure hunters or looters could take artifacts and sell them; if people are guided on the land, they may come across something and tamper with it or take it.
No Attraction	There is nothing really set up to motivate tourists to visit regularly.
No Tourism Committee	There is no committee in place in the community that would oversee the potential for creating more tourism in the community. They would also be looking after problems that might occur because of tourism.
Other Communities Capitalizing on the Wrecks	"It's whether we do it or another community [does] it, but we have the advantage of having the Franklin Ships; it's a huge advantage compared to some of the other communities cause you can kind of have that draw" – Research Participant. There is concern that Cambridge Bay will become the stopping point for Franklin. It would be nice to have insurance that Gjoa Haven becomes the stopping point for Franklin.
Photographs	Tourists take photographs of everything, sometimes without permission.
Sailboats	When sailboats are in town, the community is concerned about young kids going down to the bay and being invited onto the sailboats.
Taking Advantage	Artisans could be taken advantage of if offered other currencies for payment (i.e. Euros) due to lack of knowledge about current exchange rates.
Virus	There is concern about illnesses being brought into the community. The virus (COVID-19) could be very dangerous to Inuit.

"When the ship doesn't come a lot of our local people have no income the carvers, the performers and the guides. And our stores locally get affected too because a lot of the tourists buy some carvings and will get some supplies, shampoo and what not...So when there's no ship, there's no income for some local people...."

RESEARCH PARTICIPANT

Factors Influencing Tourism Development

Table 6: Research participants described the factors that may help tourism develop and the factors that are keeping (stopping) tourism from developing.

FACTOR	DESCRIPTION
Access	There is only one flight to and from Gjoa Haven per day because of the airline merger (prior to the merger there were two flights per day).
Accommodations	There are not enough accommodations for tourists coming in. There is only one hotel and one bed and breakfast that fill up with contract workers in the spring/summer.
Capacity	There are no facilities large enough to accommodate the number of people who come in on the cruise ships. The hall and gym are always booked. The existing facilities are too small, even for the growing community.
Cost of Airfare	It is very expensive to fly to Gjoa Haven.
Getting to the Franklin Wrecks	Getting to the Franklin Wrecks with tourists right now is difficult. There are no roads, trails or infrastructure set up.
Ice Conditions	The route that the cruise ships take is always full of ice making it more difficult for them to reach the community. "One year there was quite a bit of excitement and preparation for some cruise ships but the condition of the ice stopped them from coming close so it just depends on the ice condition and the weather" –Research Participant.
Infrastructure	The airport is too small. The airstrip is not long enough to land jets. There are no camp, cabins or lodge at the Franklin Wrecks to provide shelter or washroom facilities to tourists. Community centre and hall are not large enough to accommodate the community and cruise ships when they arrive. There are no sidewalks for tourists.
Remoteness	The remoteness of Gjoa Haven itself but also the remoteness of the Franklin Wrecks in relation to the community (the wrecks are approximately 120 km from the community).
Restrictions for Visiting the Wrecks	One research participant noted "there's a lot of potential of tourists wanting to see the wrecks but right now with the restriction from Parks Canada makes it difficult for tourists to come in."
Restaurant	There is only one restaurant at the hotel that is open to the public for lunch.
Seasonal	Summers are short and so is the window for cruise ships to come. There are about 8 or 9 days during the summer when cruise ships come here and they are only here for four or five hours.
Transportation	There is a lack of accessible transportation. There is no bus or van to take tourists around town and they have to walk everywhere.

Recommendations

Table 7: Research participants provided recommendations for tourism development.

TOPIC	DESCRIPTION AND RECOMMENDATION
INFRASTRUCTURE	
Accommodation	Build more hotels to welcome and accommodate tourists.
Airport	Expand the airport.
Airstrip	Expand the airstrip so it is longer and can land jets. The current airstrip is 400 feet shy of being long enough for a jet to land.
Cabins or Lodge at the Franklin Wrecks Sites	There needs to be cabins, camps, a lodge or house built at the Franklin Wrecks Sites for shelter for tourists or even for them to stay overnight; some sort of infrastructure that is insulated for all seasons and has washroom facilities.
Deep Sea Harbour	Developing a deep sea harbour would allow ships to dock and get serviced and resupplied (i.e. fuel, food, and other supplies). Servicing the ship is just as economically important as servicing the customers (i.e. tourists) on the ship.
Trail to Terror Bay	Develop a trail to Terror Bay to make it easier to take tourists to the Franklin Wrecks.
Garbage Disposal	Put garbage disposal facilities at the Franklin Wrecks sites.
Harbour at the Franklin Wrecks	Develop a harbour that boats can dock at and shelter in bad weather.
More Facilities and Venues	Build a bigger community hall or venue that can accommodate more people. These buildings are getting small for the community. The community hall and gym are always booked and are not big enough to accommodate the community and tourists.
Restaurant	Open more restaurants in Gjoa Haven for dining.
Roads	Build roads to make parts of King William Island more accessible, such as from Gjoa Haven to Terror Bay.
Shops	Have a shop at the Franklin Wrecks sites where tourists could buy trinkets, crafts, carvings and artists' work.
Sidewalks	People are walking on the road. It would be nice to have sidewalks for tourists and the community.
Tent	Get a big tent for when the cruise ship tourists arrive, one that could be set up in the summer and stored away in the winter.
Visitor Centre/Tourism Office	Build something large enough to host tourists that come into the community. It can be somewhere tourists go to get information and see what they can do in the community. This could be open seasonally during normal business hours.
Washroom Facilities	Build washroom facilities at the Franklin Wrecks sites.

Recommendations Continued

TOPIC	DESCRIPTION AND RECOMMENDATION
MARKETING	
Tourism Information	Create a magazine with information about Gjoa Haven. Information needs to be created, marketed and shared with the outside world.
TOURISM ATTRACTIONS AND VISITOR EXPERIENCE	
Display of Ships	Have duplicate/replica of the HMS Erebus, HMS Terror and the Gjøa. If the Franklin Wrecks are removed from the seabed, have them displayed here in Gjoa Haven.
Dog Sledding	Create an excursion for tourists.
Carving and Sewing Centre	Hire at least one person for those centres who can provide information and tell stories to tourists.
Culture	We need stronger tourism programs around culture. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share with tourists Inuit culture and way of life; • Share oral history and stories; • Have a meal or tea with Elders.
Environment	Show tourists what it is like to live in the north in a cold and harsh climate and how Inuit survive.
Guided Dive Tours	Create guided dive excursions/tours around the Franklin Wrecks.
Hiking	Train guides/outfitters to take hikers who want to walk in Franklin/Franklin's crew footsteps.
Interpretive Material	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and post signage for Franklin and the Wrecks; • Create a sign at the Franklin Wrecks that says for example "Site of HMS Terror located at latitude/longitude"; • Host presentations for tourists to attend; • Add more plaques around town with historical information; and • Develop marked trails and walkways.
Inukshuk*	Create an Inukshuk for tourists to go to and take photos.
Market Area	Set up a market area where Inuit artisans can have booths/stalls to sell carvings, wall hangings, art, and other clothing or accessories.
Monuments and Statues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build monuments representing the Franklin Wrecks; • Create statues of community members who encountered explorers; • Create statues of other arctic explorers; and • Develop a statue or monument for the Northwest Passage.
Nattilik Heritage Centre	Expand centre to hold more artifacts and put large pictures of the two wrecks. An expansion would allow more tourists to visit, when the cruise ship arrives they cannot all fit inside the centre.
Outfitting	Create outfitting businesses within the community.

*Inukshuk is a structure made of stones piled on top of each other traditionally built by Inuit.

Recommendations Continued

TOPIC	DESCRIPTION AND RECOMMENDATION
TOURISM ATTRACTIONS AND VISITOR EXPERIENCE	
Parks Canada Ward	Hire a ward/officer for the Franklin Wrecks site.
Something Iconic	Develop and establish a focal point or centre piece within the community to put on marketing material. Need to create photo opportunities within the community because we have nothing. Everyone wants to have a selfie with something.
Sport Fishing and Hunting	Organize and establish big game hunting (i.e. Muskox, polar bear, grizzly bear) and sport fishing (Char) within the community.
Tour Guides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train tour guides; • If tourists are permitted to go the Franklin Wrecks sites then tour guides should accompany them; • Provide cruise ship tourists with guides; • Guides could also take tourists to different parts of King William Island that they are interested in seeing; and • Guides could provide tourists with information and tell stories.
Tourism Committee	Create a steering committee that could collect all the ideas within the community and organize events. The committee would take the responsibility of creating points of interest to attract tourists. They would also be responsible for looking after problems that might occur with tourism.
Tourism Packages	Work with airlines to develop packages for tourists to come. Have a range of packages depending on interest level (i.e. historical, culture and adventure).
Tourism Season	Expand the tourism season from summer/fall to year-round.
Training	Creating training opportunities. It's important to get community members trained properly to be able to provide the type of products and services tourists are looking for and expect. For example, organize training on how to start a business, how to run organizations and businesses (i.e. book keeping) and how to apply for funding for more tourism opportunities.
TRANSPORTATION	
Glass Bottom Boat	Have a glass bottom boat for taking tourists to the Franklin Wrecks sites.
Hot Air Balloon	Have a hot air balloon for transportation purposes and as an attraction.
Hovercraft	Have a hovercraft as a mode of transportation to take tourists to the Franklin Wrecks. It could be used from May to October.
Van or Bus	It would be nice to have a big van or bus to take tourists around Gjoa Haven and outside the community. Right now there are no transportation options for tourists, unless you go on an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) but you cannot take all of them on the ATV.

Recommendations Continued

TOPIC	DESCRIPTION AND RECOMMENDATION
OTHER	
Allow alcohol*	Allowing alcohol in the community could benefit tourism, as one research participant said “after a hard days work people from outside like to sit down and have a glass”.
Capacity Building	Involve more people in tourism where they can develop more skills and learn new things.
Clean up the Community	Clean up the community to make it a bit more attractive to tourists.
The Land	Tourism is okay as long as the land is not disturbed.
Garbage	Make sure tourists do not leave garbage on the land.
Graves at Terror Bay	Make sure family graves near the Wrecks are not touched.
Develop a Plan	Develop and have a plan in place before any tourists start coming in. Right now, Gjoa Haven is not ready and nothing is prepared.
Develop Park and/or Protected Area	There are parts of King William Island that could be developed into a park or protected area.
Increase Search & Rescue	If there are going to be expeditions led from Gjoa Haven to the Franklin Wrecks something more formalized is needed. Coordination between the Coast Guard, emergency management with the Government of Nunavut and search and rescue committee in town is needed. “Right now if something like that happened, something went wrong, there’s not really anything in place, I mean there is but it’s not the most organized...If something did go wrong, especially at the Franklin Wrecks sites, it would probably be a search rather than a rescue realistically” – Research Participant.
Insure that the Franklin Wrecks Belong to Gjoa Haven	It would be nice to have insurance that the ownership/management of the Franklin Wrecks will be Gjoa Haven because other communities may want capitalize on the opportunity. If this happens, it will create less opportunities for the community of Gjoa Haven.
Partnerships	We need more partnerships. We need to partner with other communities or other companies who have the skills to be able to teach the community members so that we can operate on our own.
Record Oral History	Our oral history is not written. It needs to be put into print for our community and tourists.

*Purchasing, selling, transporting and possessing liquor is prohibited within 20km of the Gjoa Haven Hamlet Office.

Recommendations Continued

TOPIC	DESCRIPTION AND RECOMMENDATION
OTHER	
Residual Benefit	There should be some sort of residual benefit for the community of Gjoa Haven. For example, building a road to the Franklin Wrecks, which could be used to take tourists there and the community could use it to go sealing (seal hunting) or a large building to host tourists could also be used by the community for events.
Secure funding from Parks Canada and develop partnerships with Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KIA)	Parks Canada and KIA could set up an application or formal process for local businesses to submit proposals for Franklin Wrecks related tourism development ideas.



Nattilik Heritage Centre
Photo Credit: Stephanie Potter

“Gjoa Haven became very small with our small hotel...and other facilities in the community had become very small...even our community hall is small for the community because of small access of funding from the government. So everything became so small, no room for anyone to come in”

RESEARCH PARTICIPANT

Conclusion

The community of Gjoa Haven is welcome to tourism and would like to see the number of tourists coming to Gjoa Haven increase. For tourism development to increase and the number of tourists to increase, a number of steps are needed to improve infrastructure and attractions, while also building capacity within the community. It is important that tourism related development has residual benefits to the community of Gjoa Haven, meaning the benefits to Gjoa Haven will still remain if tourism were to stop.



“Snow comes down slowly and lands on the ground, and then develops snow on the ground. And this is how the money will be flowing into the community, it will gather, even as slow as it may be it will gather in the community. We as a community need to have a development plan in creating a better access to the community because of potential high interest of tourists coming in. We need to make a plan to develop the community so it can be more accessible to the tourists that will be coming in. We know that everything is always slow in development and it will be a very slow development but in time it will become a reality in the community”

RESEARCH PARTICIPANT

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