

Backpacking & hiking 13 days

A real backpacking trip where you get off the beaten track! You experience life at two different sheep farms, two settlements and the town Narsaq. From all of these places the hiking possibilities are the best you can find in Greenland and the ice is present all the time – glaciers, icebergs and the amazing ice cap on the horizon! The package only includes accommodation and boat transfers, but from Narsaq and Narsarsuaq you can buy extra tours as boat cruises or a day trip to the town Qaqortoq.

Detailed itinerary

Day 1

Arrival in Narsarsuaq. Info at our office at the Blue Ice Café. In the afternoon you can take a little hike to the Signal Hill viewpoint (about 1 hour). From the top you can admire an impressive view of the glacier. Accommodation Narsarsuaq for 2 nights.

Day 2

Day hike to Narsarsuaq Glacier, which is a part of the ice cap and located only 8 km from Narsarsuaq. The hike takes you through the Flower Valley before the trail winds up a 300 m ascent to a plateau that rewards you a magnificent view of the glacier. From here you walk for about half an hour downhill to the glacier, where you can touch the ice. The way back to Narsarsuaq follows the same route.

Day 3

Boat transfer from Narsarsuaq to Qassiarsuk. Hike to the Tasiusaq sheep farm located on Sermilik Fjord. It is a relative easy hike along a gravel road, overlooking an impressive landscape dotted with small, blue lakes. There is a good chance that you can catch a glimpse of white-tailed eagles soaring overhead. Farm accommodation for 2 nights.

Day 4

From Tasiusaq you can hike along the ice-filled bay towards the Ipiutaat viewpoint (22 km return). The grazing sheep keep the vegetation low, so the hike is easy. You cross several small rivers and creeks, which in August will be full of trout swimming upstream. From the viewpoint you can see a large glacier stretching up to the awe-inspiring ice cap on the opposite side of Sermilik Fjord.

Day 5

Hike to the Sillisit farm (about 15 km). From Tasiusaq you walk the first 3 kilometres along a sheep track following the innermost part of the fjord. When you reach Nunataaq, you take the gravel road towards Qassiarsuk. After about 1 km you leave the road and continue through the slightly undulating terrain all the way to Sillisit. If the weather is bad, you may prefer to stick to the gravel road all the way, passing by the Inneruulalik sheep farm, before reaching Sillisit. This is somewhat longer (about 23 km). Accommodation at Sillisit farm for 2 nights. It is possible to buy a local dinner at the farm (not included and must be ordered in advance).

Day 6

There are several hiking possibilities around Sillisit. If the weather is good, you can hike to the top of Naajat (about 590 m). There is a fantastic view from the summit and you can follow sheep tracks most of the way (not marked). An alternative tour is to take the gravel road across the peninsula to Sermilik

Fjord (Kangerlua sheep farm, about 9 km). This is also a spectacular hike, and Sermilik fjord is often filled with icebergs from several active glaciers. Finally, Sillisit is the perfect place to relax and let the impressions from the previous days settle in, or have a walk around the farm and chat with the family living here.

Day 7

Boat transfer from Sillisit to Narsaq. Accommodation in Narsaq for 3 nights.

Dag 8 and 9

Narsaq is a medium-town in South Greenland with about 1,500 inhabitants. It is beautifully situated at the foot of a mountain and next to a sound, which is always filled with icebergs from the surrounding glaciers. In the backcountry are high mountains, including the famous Kvanefjeld, which contains over 200 different minerals (including the beautiful, pink gemstone Tugtupit) and is a Mecca for anyone interested in geology. The museum is housed in the historic colonial houses around the old harbour, and is definitely worth a visit. From Narsaq you can also buy a tour by boat to the ice cap (Twin Glacier). We recommend that you book the tour in advance.

There are several shorter and longer hiking tours around Narsaq: If you want to visit Kvanefjeld, we advise that you take a taxi to the sheep farm in the valley (about 7 km). Otherwise it is quite a long day hike (20-25 km), and you have less time to look for stones! The walks to Dyrnæs and Narsaq Point are also recommended (7-8 km), as well as to the summit of Tasiigaaq (the smaller of the two mountains near the town that serve as a landmark for Narsaq). Ask for more information at the tourist office, near the museum.

Day 10

Boat transfer from Narsaq to Itilleq, followed by a 4 km hike along the "King's Road" (named after the Danish King Frederik 9th's visit in 1952) to Igaliku. Igaliku is one of the most beautiful villages in Greenland! The colourful houses are situated on lush grassland next to a milky-blue fjord. On the other side of the fjord the landmark Illerfissalik (Burfjeld) Mountain towers over a rough and desolate landscape.

Accommodation in Igaliku for 3 nights.

Day 11 and 12

Igaliku was the Episcopal seat (named Gardar) for a period of about 300 years (1100-1400) during the Norse era, and the ruins from that time are very impressive. In 1782 Anders Olsen and his Greenlandic wife Tuperna established themselves as farmers and that was the beginning of Igaliku's more recent history. There is a permanent exhibit in the church that tells this particular story. Today, Igaliku and its surroundings have some of the best hiking opportunities in South Greenland. One optional day hike (17 km) goes to the plateau, which offers a superb view of the Qooroq Ice Fjord, the stranded icebergs on the underwater moraine at the entrance to the fjord and the enormous glacier at the head of the fjord. It is the perfect place for a picnic! On the way back, you may be lucky enough to find minerals and stones, like the shining "moonstone" (labradorite). The "waterfall hike" (about 15 km) is another popular day trip. A set of beautiful waterfalls tumble like pearls on a string down towards Tunulliarfik Fjord. This hike can be combined with the summit of Nuuluk Mountain (823 m), which lies south of Igaliku (20-22 km).

Dag 13

Boat transfer from Itilleq to Narsarsuaq. Departure to Reykjavik or Copenhagen (check-in one hour before your flight).

In short

Arrivals/Departures in 2017

From Thursday to Tuesday

From Saturday to Thursday

Accommodation

Sleeping bag accommodation at farm and hostel in 2-bed and 4-bed rooms. Bring your own sleeping bag.

Meals

No meals included. Cooking facilities available at all places. You can go shopping in Narsarsuaq, Qassiarsuk, Igaliku and Narsaq. There are restaurants in Narsaq, Igaliku and Narsarsuaq. Dinner at Sillisit sheep farm should be ordered in advance.

Difficulty

Hikes between the hostels are over easy terrain or follow gravel roads (the longest is 15-23 km depending on the route). Please note, however, that you have to carry your own luggage!

Price

Sleeping bag accommodation in 2-bed and 4-bed rooms

EUR 715 / DKK 5,185 per person

25% discount for children 2-11 years

Price includes

All accommodations

All boat transfers

Note! Flights are not included