

## Towns & settlements 8 days

On this trip you experience both the beautifully situated town of Narsaq and the bustling town of Qaqortoq. Narsaq is set among luxuriant hills surrounded by waters filled with icebergs, and Qaqortoq is a mix of charming old colonial houses and young students living a modern life. The four days filled with "urban life" sharply contrast with the delightful calmness, warmth and undisturbed paradise of the village of Igaliku. During the final days of this tour, you will have time to visit the historic site of Brattahlid and take a boat cruise among the amazing blue icebergs of the Qooroq Ice Fjord.

### Detailed itinerary

#### Day 1

Arrival in Narsarsuaq. Info at the airport and boat transfer to Narsaq (duration about 1 hour). Accommodation in Narsaq for 2 nights.

#### Day 2

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 3

Boat transfer from Narsaq to Qaqortoq (duration about 1 hour). Accommodation in Qaqortoq for 2 nights.

#### Day 4

Qaqortoq is the largest town in South Greenland with about 3,300 inhabitants. It is the main centre of education in South Greenland with an upper secondary school, a business school, a vocational school adults and a school for tourism management and guide training. Furthermore, the town has several fair-sized companies such as Great Greenland, with its tannery and sewing facilities for creating beautiful sealskin clothes. The town is well known for the project "Stone and Man", which consists of more than 30 sculptures that are carved into the granite bedrock by various artists. This permanent exhibition makes a stroll around the city a very special experience. Finally, Greenland's oldest fountain is situated at the town square next to the harbour. Here you can sit and watch the hunters and fishermen selling the catch of the day at the nearby fish market. From Qaqortoq you can also visit the famous Hvalsey Church on a short excursion. We recommend that you book the tour in advance.

### **Day 5**

Boat transfer from Qaqortoq 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 2 nights.

### **Day 6**

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).

### **Day 7**

Boat transfer from Itilleq to Qassiarsuk. Qassiarsuk is also known as Brattahlid, the place where Eric the Red settled in 982. The Norse ruins are well preserved and the open-air museum (Brattahlid) can be visited on your own (admission fee is not included). The approx. 40 inhabitants earn their livelihoods from sheep farming, but the village also has a school, a shop and a church. Late afternoon boat transfer to Narsarsuaq.

Accommodation in Narsarsuaq for 1 night.

### **Day 8**

Check out of the room.

Boat trip to the Qooroq Ice Fjord. A boat trip among icebergs of all colours, sizes and shapes. When the glacier is in view, the boat engine is stopped, so you can enjoy the absolute silence and a drink chilled with glacier ice – more than 1,000 years old! You can spend the rest of your stay enjoying a cup of coffee at the cosy Blue Ice Café and/or visiting the museum in Narsarsuaq.

Departure to Reykjavik or Copenhagen (check-in one hour before your flight).

In short

### **Arrivals/Departures in 2017**

From Reykjavik or Copenhagen and departure one week later.

### **Accommodation**

Accommodation at hotel with private or shared facilities.

**Meals**

Breakfast included.

Dinner and lunch packets can be ordered at the hotels.

**Difficulty**

No special requirements on this trip.

**Price**

**Private facilities, cabin with shared facilities in Igaliku**

Double room: EUR 1,141 / DKK 8,275 per person

Single room: EUR 1,594 / DKK 11,555 per person

**Shared facilities**

Double room: EUR 898 / DKK 6,510 per person

Single room: EUR 1,239 / DKK 8,985 per person

25% discount for children 2-11 years

**Price includes**

All accommodations

Transport of luggage

All boat transfers

Boat trip to the Qooroq Ice Fjord

Note! Flights are not included