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The founder of Blue Ice Explorer in Narsarsuaq retires after 24 years at the post.

After more than two decades in the tourist company Blue Ice Explorer in Narsarsuaq, general manager, Jacky Simoud, has decided to retire from the end of 2019. Blue Ice Explorer will still continue the good work of promoting tourism in South Greenland with a team of experienced employees behind the helm.

Blue Ice Explorer is a locally based tourist company in Narsarsuaq, which specializes in tailor-made package tours for guests who want to experience the nature and culture of South Greenland. The company was founded in 1996 by Jacky Simoud, who since then has been the general manager of the place and responsible for the development of tourism in large parts of the region of South Greenland. Blue Ice Explorer started as a one-man business in 1996, when Jacky Simoud sailed tourists around with his charming wooden boat Puttut. Over the years, the company has been through a rapid development and today, numerous staff members are employed throughout the tourist season. In addition to this the selection of package tours has increased as well. Blue Ice explorer has 8 passenger boats for trips and transfers, operates the youth hostel in Narsarsuaq and Igaliku as well as the hotel building in Igaliku.

The Greenland Tourism Award 2018

Jacky Simoud's work on promoting tourism in South Greenland has not gone unnoticed. In 2018, Blue Ice Explorer and Jacky Simoud received "The Greenland Tourism Award", which is awarded by Visit Greenland and Air Greenland. Blue Ice Explorer received the award for the company's long-standing and significant contribution to the development of tourism in Greenland with a focus on adventure tourism, sustainability, quality, safety and service. The Nomination Committee stated among other things to:

"Blue Ice Explorer has had a massive influence on the construction and accessibility of attractions such as angling, hiking, northern boroughs, settlements and farm tourism in South Greenland - and especially the close cooperation with sheep farmers has helped to develop the destination significantly."

On the way to the next decade

Blue Ice explorer has since 2003 worked closely with Topas Travel in Denmark with a 50/50 ownership distribution. On January 1, 2017, Jacky Simoud sold his 50% share to Topas and at the same time entered into a 3-year contract with the last working day 31.12.2019.

It is a growing company with many new ideas on the program, Jacky Simoud now hands over the management. The ambition for the future is to continue the positive development of sustainable tourism throughout the region. An ambition that is well proceeding after five selected areas in South Greenland was enrolled on UNESCO's World Heritage List in 2017. In collaboration with Blue Ice Explorer, Topas Travel has composed a team of experienced employees who will continue to develop tourism in South Greenland with a focus on presenting the unique cultural landscape and an arctic agricultural history that stretches from the settlements of the Norse to the present-day South Greenlandic sheep farmers.

From January 1th 2020 it will be Claus Pedersen (Manager) and Sten Munk Svendsen (Product Manager) who will bring Blue Ice Explorer safely further. Claus Pedersen has been employed by Blue Ice Explorer since 2003 and Sten Munk Svendsen, who is employed on June 1, 2019, comes from a position as Product manager in Denmark.

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