TOPAS TRAVEL
Adventurous since 1973

Whale safari and dog sled on Disko Island

Experience Greenland's spectacular winter landscape on Disko Island with whale safari, dog sledding and a snowmobile excursion to the Lyngmarks Glacier, high above Disko Bay.

Duration: 8 days	Price from: DKK 26 970	Difficulty: 1

Join us on an unforgettable journey to the heart of North Greenland, where spectacular scenery, authentic experiences and true Arctic magic await. Disko Bay, Disko Island and its majestic mountain landscapes provide the stunning backdrop for this adventure. One of the unique highlights of this tour is the opportunity to experience both whale watching and dog sledding. You can also look forward to snowmobile excursions, towering icebergs and endless snowy landscapes.

You will spend three nights at the cosy Hotel Disko Island in Qeqertarsuaq and enjoy one truly special night in a unique cabin on the Lyngmarks Glacier – Disko Island's own ice cap – where you will literally sleep surrounded by eternal snow and ice. The journey begins and ends at the beautifully located Hotel Icefiord in Ilulissat, where panoramic views of Disko Bay and its drifting icebergs complete the experience.

One of the highlights of the tour is the chance to encounter the impressive bowhead whales, which spend the winter in the waters south of Disko Island. These majestic giants can weigh up to 100 tonnes and live for more than 200 years, offering a rare opportunity to see some of the world's oldest and largest

animals up close in their natural habitat.

Important: Please read the "Please note" section under "Practical info". Here you will find important information that applies specifically to this tour.

Key facts

- 8-day trip
- 1day of hiking
- Difficulty level – Grade1
- Max. 22 participants
- Base camp trip with 3 location
- Departure from Copenhagen

Highlights

- **Basalt mountains and spectacular scenery** on Greenland's largest island, Disko Island
- **Historic Ilulissat** – the birthplace of Knud Rasmussen and a cultural centre
- Magical boat trip among icebergs at the UNESCO-listed **Ilulissat Icefjord**
- Unique **overnight stay in a wilderness cabin** on the Lyngmarks Glacier
- **Spectacular dog sledding** on Disko Island's ice cap
- **Snowmobile adventure** up Lyngmarks Mountain
- Whale watching with the chance to spot the **magnificent bowhead whale**
- **The very best of the Arctic in one journey:** whales, dog sledding, ice, snow and vast wilderness
- Experience North Greenland's dramatic **transition from winter to spring**

Included

- Group tour with a destination guide
- Return flights from Copenhagen to Greenland
- Boat transfer between Ilulissat and Disko Island, including an Icefjord cruise
- Whale watching as described in the itinerary
- Dog sledding through the winter landscape
- Snowmobile excursions as described in the itinerary
- Visit to a local dog sled musher, hike to Udkiggen and a cultural presentation in Qeqertarsuaq
- Guided town tour and Sermermiut hike in Ilulissat
- All accommodation as described in the itinerary
- Meals as specified in the itinerary – excluding beverages
- Contribution to the Danish Travel Guarantee Fund

Trustpilot

Program

Day 1: Arrival in Ilulissat – Guided Tour of the Arctic Town
We fly north to Ilulissat in the beautiful Disko Bay. Upon arrival, we check in at Hotel Icefiord before joining our local guide for a guided tour of the town to learn about its history and culture.

Day 2: Sailing to Disko Island – Whales and Icebergs Ahead
An exciting day on the water as we sail through iceberg-filled waters to Disko Island, hoping for an encounter with the mighty bowhead whale, Arfivik. Upon arrival, we check in at Hotel Disko Island.

Day 3: Hiking and Adventure – The Glacier or Local Life
In the morning, we hike to the old whale lookout point, Udkiggen. In the afternoon, the group is divided:
• One half enjoys an unforgettable dog sledding excursion before continuing by snowmobile/UTV to the Lyngmarks Glacier, Disko Island's own ice cap, where they spend the night in a wilderness cabin with spectacular views.
• The other half explores everyday life in Qeqertarsuaq: visiting a local dog sled musher and later meeting a local resident who shares insights into life and winter on this remote island.

Day 4: The Groups Swap – More Dog Sledding and Greenlandic Stories
Today the groups switch activities, ensuring everyone enjoys the full experience: dog sledding and an overnight stay on the glacier for one group, while the other experiences daily life in town and spends the evening enjoying Greenlandic stories about the island's culture and way of life.

Day 5: Whale Watching and Time in Qeqertarsuaq
Once the final group has returned from the glacier, everyone reunites in the afternoon for a whale watching excursion in search of the majestic bowhead whale.

Day 6: Return to Ilulissat – World-Class Icefjord Cruise
We sail back to Ilulissat and enjoy another breathtaking day on the water. The journey brings us close to the Iceberg Bank at the mouth of the UNESCO-listed Ilulissat Icefjord, where gigantic icebergs rise majestically from the sea. We spend the night once again at Hotel Icefiord.

Day 7: Sermermiut and Free Time in Ilulissat
Guided hike to the ancient settlement of Sermermiut, beautifully located on the edge of the Icefjord. The rest of the day is yours to explore the town at your own pace or visit the impressive Icefjord Centre.

Day 8: Return to Denmark
We bid farewell to Greenland and fly home with unforgettable memories of whales, sled dogs, icebergs and spectacular Arctic landscapes. In clear weather, we may catch one last glimpse of Disko Island's dramatic basalt mountains.

See the detailed itinerary here

Not included

- Pocket money and expenses for beverages
- Expenses for meals not included in the itinerary, estimated at DKK 150-400 per meal
- Entrance fees to museums and similar attractions
- Travel insurance and possible cancellation insurance
- Single room supplement, DKK 3,600
  Single accommodation in the cabin on the Lyngmarks Glacier is not possible
- Upgrade to a Deluxe Explorer room (balcony and skylight) at Hotel Icefiord, DKK 1,200 per room.
  Upgrade must be requested by email at: info@topas.dk. Upgrade is subject to availability.

Important information for this trip

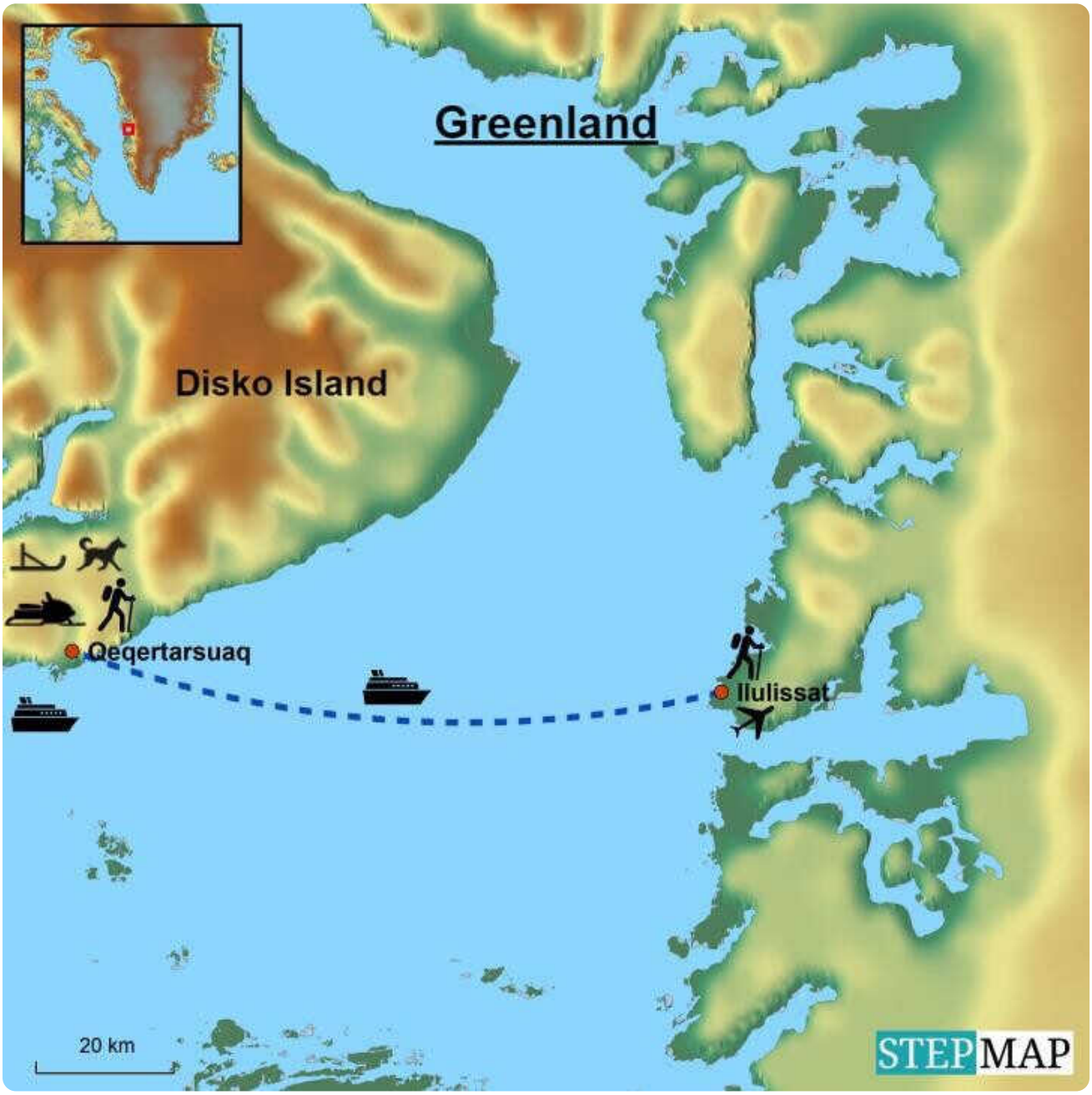
Maximum number of participants on the journey: 22 people.

Read more under the Practical info tab about, among other things:

- Accommodation

- Activities
- Climate in Greenland
- Safety guarantee for travel to Greenland

Map



Itinerary

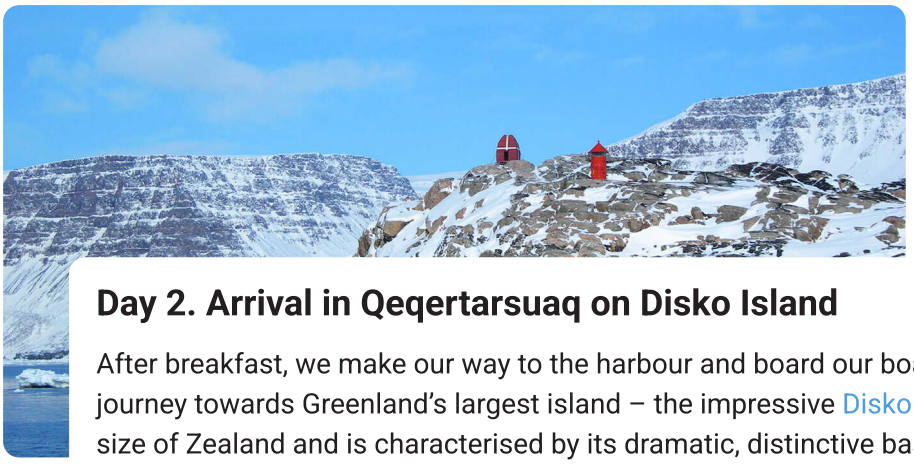
Day 1. Arrival in Ilulissat – guided town tour in the Arctic capital

We fly north to Ilulissat, beautifully located in Disko Bay – one of Greenland's most iconic towns.

Highlights

- Upon arrival, we are transferred to Hotel Icefiord, where we check in and enjoy the view of icebergs right outside our window.
- Our local guide then takes us on a **guided city walk** and introduces us to the town's history, culture and way of life. If time allows, you can visit the museum, shop for Greenlandic handicraft souvenirs or relax in the bar at Hotel Icefiord with a "Greenlandic coffee", which guarantees the Northern Lights.
- In the evening, we gather for a cosy welcome dinner and raise a glass to the many adventures awaiting us.

Included meals: – / – / Dinner



Day 2. Arrival in Qeqertarsuaq on Disko Island

After breakfast, we make our way to the harbour and board our boat for an adventurous journey towards Greenland's largest island – the impressive Disko Island. The island is the size of Zealand and is characterised by its dramatic, distinctive basalt mountains rising up to 1,000 metres just outside the town.

Highlights

- The sailing takes us through ice-filled waters, and depending on the progress of spring, we may experience how the experienced captain navigates the harsh Arctic seas and perhaps even have the opportunity to try breaking through the ice ourselves under safe conditions.
- The closer we get to Disko Island, the greater the chances of spotting the mighty bowhead whale, Arfivik, which migrates to the area at this time of year from Arctic Canada.
- Upon arrival in Qeqertarsuaq – the only town on Disko Island – we check in at the charming Hotel Disko Island, consisting of small houses centrally located in town.
- The rest of the day is reserved for relaxation after a spectacular sailing journey that only few people experience.

Included meals: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner

Day 3. Dog sledding and ice cap adventure or insight into Greenlandic everyday life

We begin the day with a beautiful hike through the snow-covered landscape to the old whale lookout point, Udkiggen, where we enjoy the views and gain an impression of the area's historical importance. The hike also takes us through parts of Qeqertarsuaq, giving us a good impression of the local community.

After lunch, the group splits up:
• The first half sets out on an unforgettable dog sledding adventure, gliding through the Arctic snow-covered landscape accompanied only by the sound of the dogs' breathing and the gentle scraping of the sled. Afterwards, a spectacular snowmobile trip awaits, taking us up to Lyngmarksbræen, located approximately 900 metres above sea level. Lyngmarksbræen is Disko Island's own ice cap, where you are captivated by the silence and the views across Disko Bay and perhaps all the way to Kangia Icefjord. We spend the night on the ice cap in a cosy wilderness cabin, heated by a paraffin stove, creating an atmosphere found nowhere else.

• The second half remains in Qeqertarsuaq and gains unique insight into everyday life on the isolated island. We visit a local sled dog driver and end the day with an intimate and personal evening, where a local resident shares stories about life, traditions and the harsh winter on Disko Island. Overnight stay at Hotel Disko Island.

Included meals: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner

Day 4. The groups swap – dog sledding adventure and Arctic stories

The morning sun colours the snow golden on Lyngmarksbræen, where **the first group** wakes up in the warm wooden cabin. With a cup of coffee in hand, the sunrise can be enjoyed in silence – either from the warmth of the cabin or outside in the crisp, frosty air. The morning offers time to relax and take in the spectacular glacier landscape, where, on clear days, the view stretches all the way to Kangia Icefjord near Ilulissat and down towards the town of Qeqertarsuaq.

During the morning, the journey continues by snowmobile/UTV back to town, where the afternoon is dedicated to cultural experiences. We visit a local sled dog driver before ending the day with Greenlandic stories about winter, isolation and strong community spirit.

Meanwhile, **the second group** sets out on another unique dog sledding adventure and a spectacular ascent through the Arctic landscape towards Lyngmarksbræen, where they spend the night in the wilderness cabin – warmed by the stove and surrounded by views of ice, mountains and fjords.

Included meals: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner

Day 5. Whale safari – meeting the majestic ‘Arfivik’

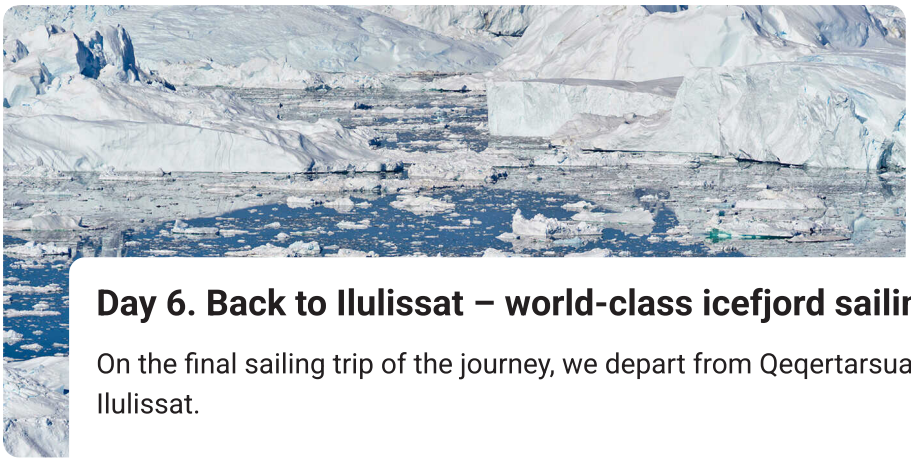
After an unforgettable morning on Lyngmarksbræen, where the second group enjoys the sunrise over the beautiful, frost-covered glacier, they are transported back to Qeqertarsuaq by snowmobile/UTV. At the same time, the group that spent the night in town has time to enjoy a peaceful morning and explore Qeqertarsuaq at their own pace.

When we are all gathered again, we set out for an exciting afternoon on the water. We sail into Disko Bay hoping for a close encounter with the impressive bowhead whale, Arfivik.

About the bowhead Whale
This majestic whale, which can live for up to 200 years, grow up to 20 metres long and weigh up to 100 tonnes, is characterised by its distinctive round, “barrel-shaped” body – and in Greenlandic, Arfivik means precisely “the barrel-shaped one”.

The bowhead whale moves slowly and calmly, making it possible to get relatively close. Although the species was once close to extinction due to international whaling, it is now protected through regulated quotas limiting the number of annual hunts. At this time of year, the whales spend the winter in the waters around Disko Island, where we hope to have the rare opportunity to experience their majestic presence as they often rest at the surface of the sea.

Included meals: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner



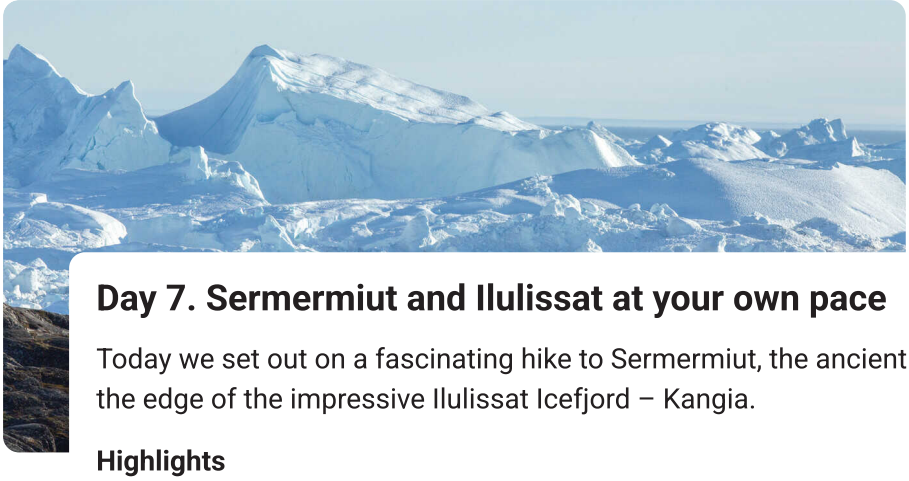
Day 6. Back to Ilulissat – world-class icefjord sailing

On the final sailing trip of the journey, we depart from Qeqertarsuaq and set course for Ilulissat.

Highlights

- We dedicate the day to crossing the impressive Disko Bay and approaching the Iceberg Bank at the mouth of the UNESCO-protected Ilulissat Icefjord.
- Here we encounter gigantic icebergs rising majestically from the sea – a sight that takes everyone's breath away.
- Along the way, we may spot small boats fishing with longlines for the highly sought-after Greenland halibut.
- Our guide shares knowledge about life by the icefjord, hunting and fishing, as well as the climatic changes affecting the melting of the ice. It is a unique opportunity to understand the natural world around us and how it is changing.
- Upon arrival in Ilulissat, we say goodbye to the ship and crew and are transferred to Hotel Icefiord, where we check in and enjoy a well-deserved night's rest.

Included meals: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner



Day 7. Sermermiut and Ilulissat at your own pace

Today we set out on a fascinating hike to Sermermiut, the ancient settlement located at the edge of the impressive Ilulissat Icefjord – Kangia.

Highlights

- Along the way, we gain insight into the groundbreaking excavations carried out by the National Museums of Denmark and Greenland, which revealed both the presence and disappearance of early cultures due to climate changes, diseases and other factors.
- Today, few traces of the peat houses remain, but the site provides a strong impression of the conditions people lived under in this challenging part of the world.
- From “Kællingekløften”, we enjoy a spectacular view of the icefjord and the majestic icebergs, making this a truly magnificent natural experience.
- After the hike, you have time to explore Ilulissat independently, visit the impressive Icefjord Centre or simply enjoy the atmosphere of the town. A perfect ending to an unforgettable journey!

About Sermermiut
Sermermiut, together with Kangia, is part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site and was home to the Paleo-Inuit people for approximately 4,500 years. Here, three major cultures – Saqqaq, Dorset and Thule – lived and adapted to the harsh Arctic climate.

Todays hike: Approx. 6 km (Approx. 3 hours)
Elevation: Approx. +200 meters (up) and -200 meters (down)
Included meals: Breakfast / – / Dinner

Day 8. Return journey to Denmark

The journey in Greenland is coming to an end. We say goodbye to the magnificent Arctic landscape and fly home filled with memories of majestic whales, dog sledding, icebergs and unforgettable natural experiences. In clear weather, we may catch one final glimpse of Disko Island’s dramatic basalt mountains, marking the end of an adventurous journey through the wonders of Greenland.

Included meals: Breakfast / – / –

Greenland by Topas

Learn more about the trip
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