TOPAS TRAVEL
Adventurous since 1973

Trekking around Disko Bay





Experience almost all of Disko Bay's highlights on this 12-day round trip with your hiking boots on. Our journey by land and sea brings you close to Greenland's fascinating flora and fauna, icebergs and culture – and all the way onto the mighty Greenland Ice Sheet.

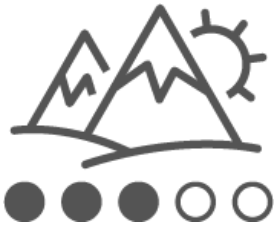
Duration: 12 days	Price from: DKK 43 970	Difficulty: 3

Over 12 days, we experience some of Greenland's greatest highlights in and around Disko Bay. We sail to Qeqertarsuaq, Qasigiannguit, Ilulissat and Eqi, and also visit the idyllic settlement of Ilimanaq. Along the way, spectacular natural experiences await, with ice-filled fjords, enormous icebergs, Arctic tundra and good opportunities to see whales up close.

We hike along coastlines and fjords, through the Arctic backcountry and up to the Greenland Ice Sheet at Eqi. In Ilulissat, we experience the UNESCO-protected Icefjord, while on Disko Island we climb the Lyngmark Glacier and spend the night in a cabin at the summit, with views across Disko Bay.

This trip is for those who enjoy active days in nature and are comfortable hiking for 8–9 hours in hilly but non-technical terrain. Accommodation ranges from tents in the wilderness and a basic cabin to glamping and hotels, giving you a mix of authentic outdoor experiences and comfort along the way. With a maximum of 11 participants and an experienced tour leader, this is an intensive, active and immersive journey that brings you close to Greenland's spectacular nature and culture.

Key facts



- 12-day trip
- 9 days of hiking
- Difficulty level – Grade 3
- Max. 11 participants
- 5 accommodations + wilderness camp day 5-6
- Departure from Copenhagen

Highlights

- Hike onto the **Greenland Ice Sheet** with views across the vast frozen landscape
- Two-day hike through the **Greenland wilderness, camping in tents** under the open sky
- Stay at both the comfortable **Hotel Icefiord** and in glamping tents at **Glacier Lodge Eqi**
- Spend the night in a **cabin with panoramic views** from the top of Lyngmark Glacier
- Sail among **ice floes and icebergs** in the Arctic waters of Disko Bay
- Hike through the spectacular UNESCO area around the **Ilulissat Icefjord**
- Experience the unique **atmosphere and town** life in Qeqertarsuaq, Qasigiannguit and Ilulissat
- Get a glimpse of everyday life in the **beautiful settlement** of Ilimanaq
- Experience **Greenland's rich wildlife** – whales, musk oxen, rock ptarmigans, Arctic hares, Arctic foxes and more
- Discover **Greenlandic culture and prehistory** at the ancient settlement of Sermermiut
- **Hikes of up to 8–9 hours** through hilly Arctic terrain
- Colourful mountain slopes with Arctic **flowers, plants and herbs** across the tundra landscape

Included

- Group trip with a tour leader and guided hikes
- Return flights from Copenhagen to Greenland
- Transfers in Ilulissat from the port and airport to the hotel
- All boat transfers and transfers required during the trip
- Boat trip on the Ilulissat Icefjord at Kangia Icefjord
- All guided activities as described in the programme
- All accommodation during the trip (see separate section on accommodation)
- Meals as described in the daily programme, excluding drinks
- Luggage transport between accommodations
- Contribution to the Danish Travel Guarantee Fund

Trustpilot

Program

Day 1. Arrival in Qeqertarsuaq via Ilulissat

Your adventure begins on arrival day, as we sail from Ilulissat among the icebergs to the town of Qeqertarsuaq on Disko Island. Upon arrival, we check in at Hotel Disko Island.

Days 2–3. Cabin stay on Lyngmark Glacier

We hike up to Lyngmark Glacier, where we walk across the ice cap and spend the night in a cabin with

breathtaking views across Disko Bay. The following day, we hike back down to the town and continue along the coast to beautiful basalt formations and past a nearby waterfall before sailing to Qasigiannguit in the late afternoon.

Day 4. Qasigiannguit with an opportunity for a refreshing swim
In Qasigiannguit, we explore the surrounding landscape on a hike to Qaqqersuaq (456 m). From here, we enjoy exceptional views, and on the way back there is an opportunity for a refreshing dip in Paradise Bay. We spend another night at Hotel Diskobay, where there is a good chance of spotting whales directly from the hotel terrace.

Days 5–6. Hiking from Qasigiannguit to Ilimanaq
Over the next two days, we hike a beautiful but challenging route from Qasigiannguit to the settlement of Ilimanaq, just south of the Icefjord. Along the way, we spend the night in a tent camp, while our luggage is transported separately by boat, so we only need to carry a daypack. Late on Day 6, we are picked up in Ilimanaq and sail to Ilulissat among the impressive icebergs. Hotel Icefiord will be our base for the next three nights.

Days 7–8. Stay in Ilulissat with a hike along the Icefjord
After several demanding days of hiking, we take time to enjoy Ilulissat and explore the hometown of Knud Rasmussen on a guided city tour, with some free time to explore on our own. The following day, we head out into the area around Ilulissat and the UNESCO-protected Icefjord. Along the way, we pass Sermermiut, an ancient settlement with traces of thousands of years of habitation.

Days 9–11. Sailing to Eqi Glacier and hiking to the Greenland Ice Sheet
New adventures await as we sail from Ilulissat to the active Eqi Glacier. Here, we stay in glamping tents with unobstructed views of the glacier and hike both to the terminal moraine and all the way onto the impressive Greenland Ice Sheet. Back in Ilulissat, we gather for a farewell dinner and look back on the many memorable experiences we have shared.

Day 12. Return journey from Ilulissat to Denmark
We fly back to Denmark, enjoying one last spectacular view of Disko Bay and the Greenlandic mountain landscapes.

Not included

- Pocket money and expenses for beverages
- Expenses for meals not included (allow approximately DKK 250–400 per meal)
- Entrance fees to museums and similar attractions (Qasigiannguit, Ilulissat, and Qeqertarsuaq)
- Travel insurance and any cancellation insurance
- Single room supplement of DKK 5,000 (not available in the cabin at Lyngmark Glacier or in the two tent camps)
- Upgrade to a Deluxe Explorer room at Hotel Icefiord DKK 2.000 per person in a shared double room
- Access to the UNESCO World Heritage Site Ilulissat Icefjord, which can be purchased online here.

Important information for this trip

Maximum number of participants on the trip: 11 people.

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

- The difficulty level of the trip
- Climate in Greenland
- Safety guarantee for trips to Greenland

Map


Disko Island
Oqaatsut
Ⓐ Airport
Ilulissat
Qeqertarsuaq
Ilimanaq
Qasigiannguit
Ⓐ
Kangerlussuaq

Itinerary

Day 1. Copenhagen – Greenland. Welcome to Disko Bay

After just under five hours of flying from Denmark, we land in Ilulissat, the capital of icebergs.

Highlights

- Here, our tour leader will meet us and guide us down to the harbour, where we sail across Disko Bay on a beautiful and atmospheric journey. There are often opportunities to spot whales and see icebergs in impressive shapes and sizes.
- Along the way, the distinctive basalt mountains of Disko Island gradually become more prominent on the horizon.
- After approximately two hours of sailing, we arrive at Kongebroen in Qeqertarsuaq, beautifully situated at the southern end of Disko Island, surrounded by mountains, basalt cliffs and coastline.
- Our luggage is transported to reception while we check in at Hotel Disko Island – a charming hotel with small houses scattered around the town and views of nature in every direction.
- We celebrate our arrival with a cosy welcome dinner together.

Included meals: – / – / Dinner



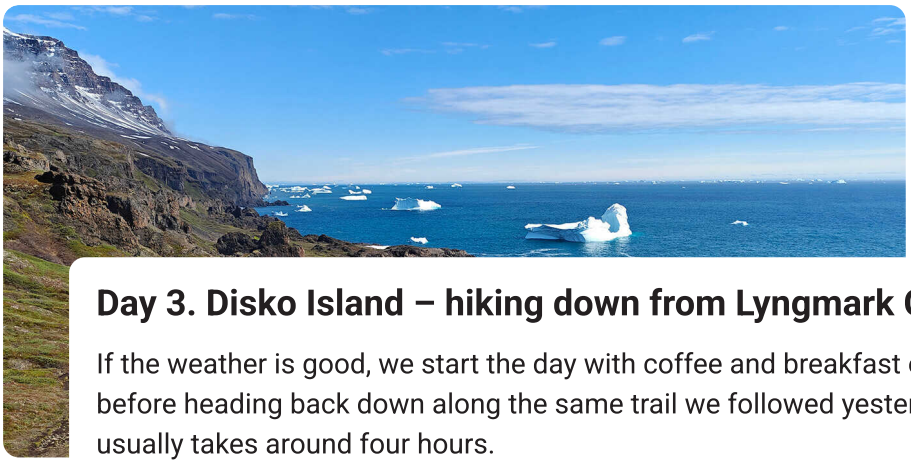
Day 2. Hiking to Lyngmark Glacier and overnight stay in the mountains

Today, we explore Qeqertarsuaq and hike to Lyngmark Glacier, the permanent ice cap.

Highlights of the day

- We start the day with a guided town tour of Qeqertarsuaq, where we learn about the island's unique nature, geology and history. We pass the small church and get a glimpse of everyday life in a town where the rhythm of nature still sets the pace.
- If a ship has recently arrived in the harbour, it is well worth stopping by the well-stocked supermarket – a small cultural experience in itself, where you can find everything from frozen prawns to flat-screen TVs.
- We then prepare for the hike ahead. Today's destination is **Lyngmark Glacier**, the permanent ice cap located on top of Lyngmark Mountain above Qeqertarsuaq.
- We start at sea level and make our way upwards through varied terrain. The hike to the cabin where we will spend the night takes approximately four hours, including breaks, with around 850 metres of ascent.
- Once we reach the cabin, we are rewarded with spectacular views across the whole of Disko Bay. On a clear day, you can see all the way to the mouth of the Icefjord near Ilulissat, almost 100 km away, and follow large parts of the route we will be travelling over the coming days.
- The extent of Lyngmark Glacier varies slightly from year to year, but usually we can reach the ice less than ten minutes' walk from the cabin. We prepare dinner together in the cabin kitchen and enjoy it surrounded by the views and tranquillity of the mountains.

Today's hike: Approx. 6.5 km (approx. 4.5 hours)
Elevation: Approx. +870 meters (up) and -50 metres (down)
Terrain: Steep, with several sections of loose terrain
Included meals: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner



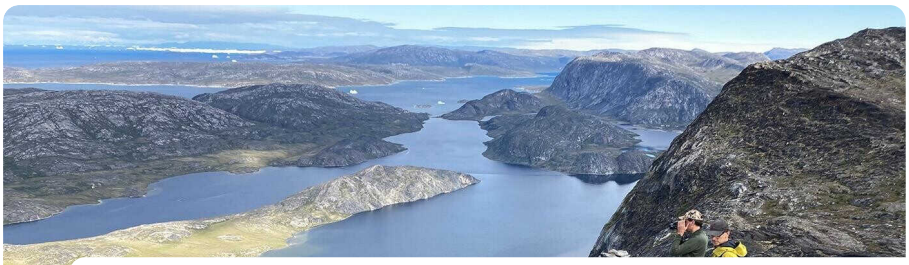
Day 3. Disko Island – hiking down from Lyngmark Glacier to Kuannit

If the weather is good, we start the day with coffee and breakfast on the cabin terrace before heading back down along the same trail we followed yesterday. The descent usually takes around four hours.

Highlights of the day

- Once back down, we continue our hike to **Kuannit**, a beautiful coastal area east of Qeqertarsuaq.
- Kuannit is truly unique, with impressive basalt formations and structures created by flowing lava millions of years ago. At the same time, the area is surprisingly lush, covered in almost neon-green mosses and large angelica plants that thrive around the warm springs.
- On the way back, we pass a beautiful waterfall on the Røde Elv river.
- Late in the day, we sail to the town of **Qasigiannguit**, where we check in at Hotel Diskobay.

Today's hike: Approx. 6.5 km (approx. 4 hours)
Elevation: Approx. +50 meters (up) and -870 meters (down)
Included meals: Breakfast / Lunch / –



Day 4. Qasigiannguit with an opportunity for a refreshing swim

We have the whole day to explore the Qasigiannguit area – and that is a good thing, as there is plenty to see and experience.

Highlights of the day

- Qasigiannguit is surrounded by mountains, tundra plains, green valleys, blue fjords and mountain peaks overlooking Disko Bay and Disko Island. The area is ideal for hiking, and our tour leader will lead a hike to **Qaqqarsuaq (456 m)**, the prominent mountain rising behind the town.
- From the summit, we enjoy beautiful views of the town, Disko Island, the Icefjord and the Greenland Ice Sheet. We may even be lucky enough to spot musk oxen.
- We enjoy our packed lunches in the mountains, and on the way back there is an opportunity for those feeling brave to take a refreshing dip at **the Paradise Bay**.

About Qasigiannguit
With around 1,000 inhabitants, Qasigiannguit is a good example of a medium-sized Greenlandic town. It is significantly larger than the settlements, but also considerably smaller than Greenland's "major cities" of Nuuk, Sisimiut and Ilulissat.

Today's hike: Approx. 17.5 km (approx. 7–8 hours)
Elevation: Approx. +400 meters (up) and -400 meters (down)
Terrain: The terrain can be wet
Included meals: Breakfast / Lunch / -



Day 5. Hiking from Qasigiannguit along Laksebugten – overnight in a wilderness camp

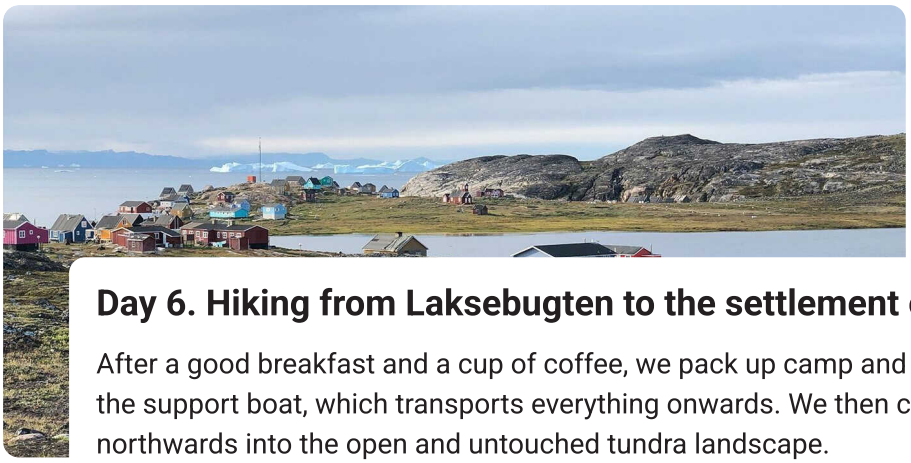
Today, we begin our two-day hike from Qasigiannguit northwards through the beautiful and remote landscape towards the settlement of Ilimanaq.

Our heavier luggage is transported by boat from the hotel to our campsite north of Laksebugten, so we only need to carry our daypacks with a packed lunch and the essentials for the day. This gives us the freedom to enjoy the hike and the surrounding landscape.

Highlights of the day

- The route we follow is rarely used, making the experience all the more special.
- We move through genuine mountain terrain with open tundra, hilly landscapes and varied surfaces. Some sections can be physically demanding, but the route is not technically difficult.
- Silence and the raw Greenlandic landscape surround us throughout the day.
- Our destination is our wilderness camp at the head of Laksebugten, approximately halfway to Ilimanaq. We expect to arrive in the late afternoon, when we help each other put up the tents, set up camp and prepare dinner on gas stoves.
- We spend the evening at camp, enjoying the silence, the company and the views across the open landscape.
- After a day of fresh air and adventure, a well-earned night's sleep awaits us under the canvas, far from the beaten track and close to the rhythms of nature.

Today's hike: Approx. 17.5 km (approx. 8–9 hours)
Elevation: Approx. +350 meters (up) and -350 meters (down)
Terrain: The terrain can be wet. We hike off-trail.
Included meals: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner



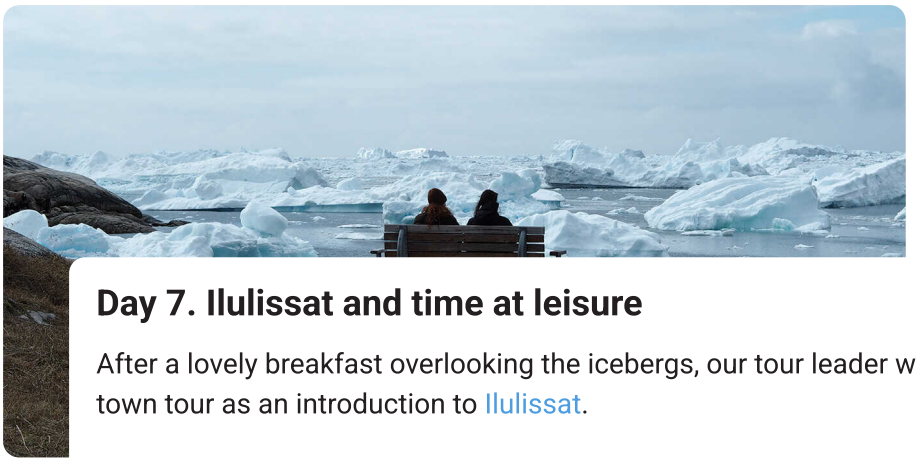
Day 6. Hiking from Laksebugten to the settlement of Ilimanaq

After a good breakfast and a cup of coffee, we pack up camp and carry our gear down to the support boat, which transports everything onwards. We then continue on foot northwards into the open and untouched tundra landscape.

Highlights of the day

- Today's route takes us through an area with a strong population of musk oxen. With a little luck, we may catch a glimpse of these impressive animals moving calmly across the mountains.
- Arctic foxes, Arctic hares and ptarmigans also live here, while birdwatchers can look out for species such as snow buntings, Lapland longspurs and northern wheatears along the way.
- We start the day with a somewhat demanding climb up from Laksebugten, but we take it at a relaxed pace and enjoy the views as they gradually unfold.
- As the day progresses, we move through gently undulating tundra terrain without trails, which requires suitable footwear and equipment, as well as attention and balance.
- Along the way, the landscape opens up with spectacular views across Disko Bay and the branching fjord system of Tasiusaq.
- In the late afternoon, we reach the coast south of Ilimanaq, and it is a special experience to walk into the beautiful settlement, home to around 50 permanent residents. We take some time to look around and learn a little about the history of the place.
- In Ilimanaq, we are picked up by boat, and the journey to Ilulissat is an experience in itself as we cross the mouth of the Icefjord and get close to the enormous icebergs stranded in the shallow waters.
- We arrive at Hotel Icefiord in Ilulissat, where we check in and enjoy some well-deserved comfort.

Today's hike: Approx. 25 km (approx. 9 hours)
Elevation: Approx. +750 meters (up) and -750 meters(down)
Terrain: The terrain can be wet. We hike off-trail.
Included meals: Breakfast / Lunch / –



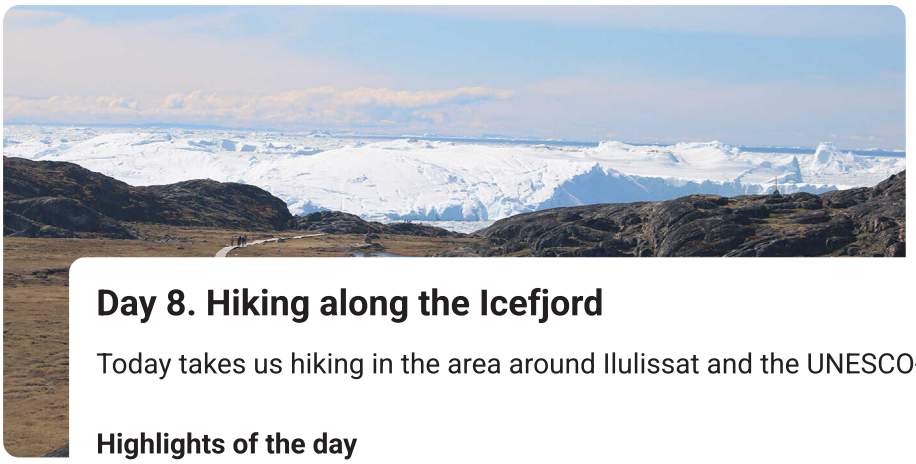
Day 7. Ilulissat and time at leisure

After a lovely breakfast overlooking the icebergs, our tour leader will invite us on a guided town tour as an introduction to Ilulissat.

Highlights of the day

- You will learn about the town's history, harbour, shops, museums and the many sights that make Ilulissat such a special place.
- Afterwards, you can continue exploring the town at your own pace, perhaps shopping for souvenirs, enjoying lunch at one of the local cafés or visiting some of the local museums, such as Knud Rasmussen's birthplace and the art museum.

Included meals: Breakfast / – / –



Day 8. Hiking along the Icefjord

Today takes us hiking in the area around Ilulissat and the UNESCO-protected Icefjord.

Highlights of the day

- From the hotel, we leave town and head towards the Icefjord Centre.
- From here, we continue all the way to the ice via the ancient settlement of Sermermiut, which was one of the largest settlements of both the Paleo-Eskimo and Neo-Eskimo cultures.
- We reach the Icefjord itself, where we can feel the cold from the ice and the fresh Arctic air. The magical sight is enough to take most people's breath away. The silence can be profound, broken only by the creaking of the ice and the occasional calving. We follow the Icefjord eastwards to a suitable spot for lunch before returning towards the award-winning Icefjord Centre.
- Afterwards, there is an opportunity to visit the impressive Icefjord Centre independently, or, if you would like to hike further, you can follow the tour leader along the coast on the so-called Yellow Route, back to the hotel.

About Sermermiut
During the final period of the Thule culture settlement, up to 250 people lived here. There were several periods of settlement in the area, and both the early Saqqaq culture, Dorset culture and later Thule culture are known to have lived in the region around Ilulissat.

Sermermiut
Today's hike: Approx. 6 km (approx. 3 hours)
Elevation: Approx. +200 meters (up) and -200 meters (down)

Yellow Route
Today's hike: Approx. 4 km (approx. 1.5 hours)
Elevation: Approx. +100 meters (up) and -100 meters (down)

Included meals: Breakfast / Lunch / –



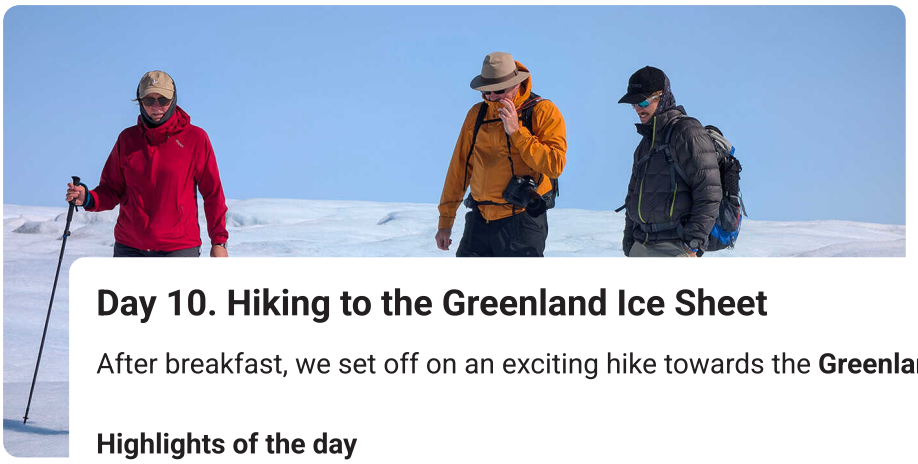
Day 9. Sailing from Ilulissat to Glacier Lodge Eqi

Today, we leave Ilulissat in the morning and sail northwards, following in the footsteps of the great French polar explorer Paul-Émile Victor.

Highlights of the day

- We follow the coast northwards, soon passing Oqaatsut, a small and charming settlement with around 30 inhabitants, before continuing through the Atâ Strait.
- On the port side, we can see the high mountain on Arveprinsen's Island.
- We approach Eqi Glacier, and while enjoying lunch on board, we watch the fascinating sight of chunks of ice breaking off and crashing into the water with a deafening roar – a powerful display of nature at work. In Greenland, this phenomenon is unique to Eqi.
- The ship docks at Glacier Lodge Eqi, specifically at Port Victor, located at a safe distance from the calving glacier.
- From the sea, we carry our luggage a couple of hundred metres up to Glacier Lodge Eqi, where we check into glamping tents, two people per tent.
- If you feel like stretching your legs after the boat trip, you can join the tour leader on a short but beautiful hike to the meltwater delta near the camp.
- Keep an eye out for the enormous white-tailed eagle, as the cliffs by the delta may be home to the northernmost breeding pair of white-tailed eagles.

Today's hike: Approx. 3.5 km (approx. 2 hours)
Elevation: Approx. +100 meters (up) and -100 meters (down)
Included meals: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner



Day 10. Hiking to the Greenland Ice Sheet

After breakfast, we set off on an exciting hike towards the **Greenland Ice Sheet**.

Highlights of the day

- We make our way onto the ice, experiencing the thick ice beneath our boots and seeing some of the other historic remains in the area.
- Paul-Émile Victor used two heavy expedition vehicles to transport equipment onto the ice, which led him to construct an ingenious cable system to overcome the final steep section. The cableway is no longer in use, but much of his equipment remains as a reminder of a bygone era.
- Back on solid ground, we descend once again to sea level and Glacier Lodge Eqi. On the way down to the lodge, we enjoy spectacular views of Eqi Glacier.
- Dinner at Café Victor provides a fitting end to the day.

Today's hike: Approx. 22 km (approx. 9–10 hours)
Elevation: Approx. +800 meters (up) and -800 meters (down)
Included meals: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner



Day 11. Hiking to the terminal moraine at Eqi Glacier

We have breakfast in the café to the sound and sight of the calving glacier. Afterwards, we pack our lunches and walk around a small lagoon to get closer to the glacier front.

Highlights of the day

- The hike takes us up onto the edge of a terminal moraine, a remnant of the glacier's former extent.
- We enjoy our packed lunches with a view of this unique natural landscape before hiking back to Glacier Lodge Eqi and returning to Ilulissat by boat.
- We round off the trip with a cosy farewell dinner, looking back on the many experiences we have shared – with well-worn hiking boots, sun-kissed cheeks and bags full of memories from Greenland's mountains and coastline.

About the terminal moraine at Eqi
The glacier has gradually retreated for more than 100 years, and the old glacier margins are clearly visible in the landscape. Despite its retreat, the glacier front rises almost 200 metres above the water in places. At more than 3 km wide, it is an impressive sight, particularly when the glacier calves chunks of ice into the sea, often several times an hour. The terminal moraine provides a safe opportunity to get remarkably close to this spectacular glacier.

Today's hike: Approx. 12 km (approx. 4–5 hours)
Elevation: Approx. +380 meters (up) and -380 meters (down)
Included meals: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner

Day 12. Return journey from Ilulissat to Denmark

Today, we say goodbye to Greenland and begin our journey home to Denmark.

If the weather permits, we enjoy one final spectacular view of Disko Bay, the Greenland Ice Sheet and the Greenlandic mountain landscapes – a beautiful farewell to the landscapes we have experienced so intensely.

Now it is time to let the many impressions of the journey sink in, with bags full of memories from a Greenland that has left its mark.

Included meals: Breakfast / – / –



Greenland by Topas

Learn more about the trip
Call us (+45) 73 70 93 39

Write to us
greenland@topas.dk

Follow us
facebook.com/topastravel

Follow us
instagram.com/topastravel

We respond to inquiries during the following hours:
Weekdays 09:00-15:00 (CET)