TOPAS TRAVEL
Adventurous since 1973

Late Summer North of the Arctic Circle





Experience the warm light of late summer and the magnificent scenery of Disko Bay as we hike in the Arctic mountains among berries and herbs, fish between icebergs, and enjoy good food and Greenlandic hospitality in the atmospheric towns.

Duration: 8 days	Price from: DKK 27 970	Difficulty: 1-2

Late summer in **Greenland** is something special. After the bustle of the high season, a calm settles over the landscape. The vegetation turns to warm autumn colours, the air is clear and crisp, and the mountains are brimming with mushrooms and berries. The mosquitoes are gone, but the whales and icebergs are still here – and perhaps we will be lucky enough to see the northern lights dance across the sky.

In Ilulissat we are welcomed to Greenland by our local guide, who will show us the town late in the day before we enjoy a relaxed welcome dinner.

We then sail to **Disko Island** and the colourful town of **Qeqertarsuaq**, ringed by dramatic, rust-red basalt mountains. Here we hike along the coast to homothermal springs and the sculptural rock formations of **Kuannit**. The journey then continues around Disko Bay to **Qasigiannguit** – a charming town with fewer tourists but plenty to experience. Two good hiking days await here, along with the chance of a cold-water swim and of picking wild herbs and berries. We may even spot whales straight from the hotel terrace.

We end the trip back in **Ilulissat**, home to the spectacular **Kangia Icefjord**, where enormous icebergs drift out to sea. Here we go on a fishing trip in the bay, surrounded by icebergs and with a good chance of catching cod. We also lace up our hiking boots for one of the area's most beautiful routes – the walk out to the icefjord via the old Inuit settlement of **Sermermiut**. Along the way we experience both cultural history and the magnificent Arctic landscape.

Key facts



- 8-day trip
- 4 days of hiking
- Difficulty – Grade 2
- Max. 12 participants
- Base camp trip with 3 location
- Departure from Copenhagen

Highlights

- • Hikes in **Greenland's wild nature** – dressed in the golden autumn colours of late summer
  • Gathering wild herbs and berries in the mountains along the way
  • Sailing among the majestic icebergs of **the Icefjord**
  • The chance to see late summer's whales in the bay
  • **A fishing** trip in **Disko Bay**, where you can haul in cod
  • Everyday life and culture in three very different Greenlandic towns
  • Local guides who bring Greenland's nature, history and society to life
  • Flavourful meals made with Greenlandic produce
  • A hike to **Sermermiut** and the chance to visit **the Icefjord Centre** in **Ilulissat**

Included

- • Group tour with local destination guides and guided hikes
  • Return flights Copenhagen – Greenland
  • Domestic flights
  • All boat trips in connection with the tour
  • Guided town tours in Qeqertarsuaq, Qasigiannguit and Ilulissat
  • Guided hike on Disko Island to beautiful basalt columns and waterfalls
  • Guided hikes near Qasigiannguit to Salmon Bay (Laksebugten) and Paradise Bay (Paradisbugten)
  • Guided hike near Ilulissat to the Icefjord
  • Fishing trip and local traditions in Disko Bay
  • Luggage transfers (Disko Island and Qasigiannguit)
  • Transfers in Ilulissat (airport, hotel, harbour)
  • All accommodation (see the separate section on accommodation)
  • Meals as described in the day-by-day programme – excluding drinks
  • Welcome and farewell dinners – excluding drinks
  • Contribution to the Danish Travel Guarantee Fund

Trustpilot

Program

Day 1: Arrival in Ilulissat – welcome and guided town tour
Flight from Copenhagen via Nuuk to Ilulissat. After checking in, we gather for a short introduction to the trip before setting off on an exciting guided tour of the town. In the evening we meet for a relaxed welcome dinner, where we enjoy good food and look ahead to the great experiences that await.

Day 2: Sailing to Disko Island and town tour
We sail to Disko Island, and after checking in we go on a town walk to experience Qeqertarsuaq. Along the way we gain an insight into the town's cultural history, its beautiful setting between mountains and sea, and everyday life for the roughly 850 inhabitants, who live closely connected to nature and the rhythm of the seasons.

Day 3: Hiking on Disko Island – Kuannit and arts and crafts
Today we explore the beautiful hinterland of Qeqertarsuaq on a hike from the town to the scenic area of Kuannit. If the local craftswoman is at home, we visit her cosy café and gallery in the evening, where we gain an insight into Greenlandic arts and crafts and life on Disko Island.

Day 4: Sailing to Qasigiannguit – hike to Salmon Bay
We sail south to Qasigiannguit, where it is time to experience a new Greenlandic town and the beautiful hinterland on the hike out along the lake Flyversøen to Salmon Bay. In late summer the area is brimming with berries and herbs. If you feel like it, there is also time to visit the town's museum.

Day 5: Town walk – hike to Paradise Bay and perhaps a cold dip
The local guide will take you to the captivating Paradise Bay, where you can take a (winter) swim in the clear water. On the way we hear about the Greenlandic sled dog and pass Brewery Bay (Bryghusbugten), where the town was originally founded.

Day 6: Qasigiannguit to Ilulissat – the giant icebergs of the Icefjord
We sail north towards Ilulissat through ice-filled waters and pass the mouth of the icefjord, where the largest icebergs lie grounded. After checking in, our local guide takes us on a hike past the old settlement of Sermermiut and on to Kællingekløften gorge, with a magnificent view over Kangia Icefjord. Along the way we pass the beautiful Icefjord Centre, where you have the chance to explore the exhibition and enjoy the view from the roof terrace.

Day 7: Fishing trip in Disko Bay and farewell dinner
We set out on an authentic Greenlandic experience where nature, fishing, cooking and local traditions go hand in hand. Together with local fishermen we try our hand at catching cod among icebergs and fantastic scenery, after which we prepare the fish the traditional way out in nature. In the evening we round off the trip with a relaxed farewell dinner, where we enjoy Greenlandic produce and share the experiences of the tour.

Day 8: Journey home – flight to Copenhagen
Farewell to Greenland for this time after an eventful week in Disko Bay – filled with hikes, fishing among icebergs, tastes of Greenlandic produce and engaging stories about the country's nature, culture and history. We fly from Ilulissat towards Copenhagen.
Please note that the programme is weather-dependent and therefore indicative. The local guide at the destination may as a result choose to swap activities around or introduce alternative plans.

See the detailed itinerary here

Not included

- Pocket money and the cost of drinks

- The cost of meals not included; allow DKK 250–400 per meal
- Admission to museums in Qasigiannguit, Qeqertarsuaq and Ilulissat
- Travel insurance and, if wanted, cancellation insurance
- Single room supplement DKK 4,600
- Upgrade to a Deluxe Explorer room at Hotel Icefiord, DKK 1,800 per room. Upgrades must be requested by email at info@topas.dk and are possible as long as rooms are available.
- Admission to the UNESCO World Heritage Site Ilulissat Icefjord, which can be bought online here.

Important information for this trip

Maximum number of participants on the journey: 12 people.

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

- Accommodation
- Activities and difficulty
- Travelling with local destination guides
- Hotels in Disko Bay
- Safety guarantee for trips to Greenland

Itinerary

Day 1. Arrival in Ilulissat – welcome and guided city walk

The adventure begins with a flight from Copenhagen to Ilulissat – the capital of icebergs. On arrival we are met by our local guide and driven to the atmospheric Hotel Icefiord, which sits right on Disko Bay with a view of drifting icebergs.

Highlights of the day

- After checking in, we gather for a short introduction to the trip and then set out to explore Ilulissat on a **guided city walk**.
- Here we experience both historic sites and the pulsing everyday life of the town, where fishing for Greenland halibut and prawns fills the harbour with life and activity.
- Along the way the guide shares stories of the town's proud polar history and shows us small shops selling local arts and crafts, as well as interesting museums that are worth a later visit.
- We walk in the footsteps of polar explorers such as **Knud Rasmussen** and Jørgen Brønlund – and get our first taste of Greenlandic culture and atmosphere.

Included meals: – / – / Dinner



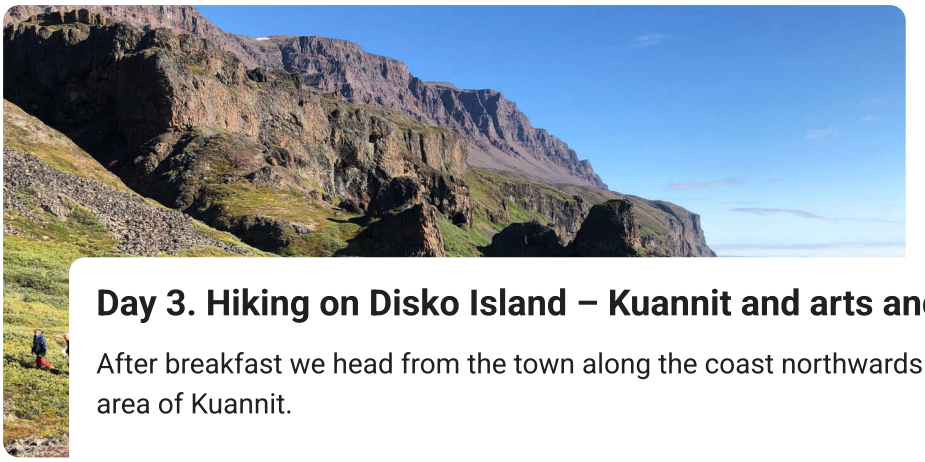
Day 2. Sailing to Disko Island and town tour

Today we sail towards Disko Island. On the way, the icebergs immediately catch the eye – tall and jagged, bluish or chalk-white – while the dark basalt mountains of Disko Island slowly rise on the horizon.

Highlights of the day

- We dock at the King's Bridge (Kongebroen) in **Qeqertarsuaq**, where the colourful houses welcome us. The local guide meets us, and while our luggage is driven, we walk the short distance to the hotel.
- After checking in and a little time to settle, we go on a **city walk of Qeqertarsuaq**. The town is beautifully situated between mountains and sea and is home to around 850 inhabitants, who live closely connected to nature and the rhythm of the seasons.
- Along the way the guide tells vivid stories of the town's history and everyday life as we pass the church, the school and the small, colourful houses that climb the mountainside.
- Fancy a little extra pampering and wellbeing this evening? Then ask your guide when the sauna on the Black Beach (Sorte Strand) is hot. It is often possible to buy an hour of sauna time directly at the hotel – perfectly combined with a refreshing dip among the icebergs.

Included meals: Breakfast / Lunch / –



Day 3. Hiking on Disko Island – Kuannit and arts and crafts

After breakfast we head from the town along the coast northwards towards the scenic area of Kuannit.

Highlights of the day

- On the way we pass **the Arctic Station** – a historic research station now run by the University of Copenhagen – as well as some of the island's many homothermal springs, where lush vegetation and mosses create surprisingly green contrasts to the dark basalt landscape.
- The path to **Kuannit** is easy to walk, and along the way we are rewarded with a magnificent view over the deep-blue sea, drifting icebergs and the characteristic mountains of Disko Island. The flora is rich and varied; in late summer we can find berries and herbs, and the landscape glows in golden and reddish autumn colours.
- At Kuannit we reach the impressive columnar rock formations – a fascinating testament to the island's volcanic origin.
- Here we take a break, with time to enjoy the peace, the view and perhaps our packed lunch, before following the same path back towards the town.
- The rest of the afternoon offers time to relax – or perhaps a session in the sauna on **the Black Beach** will tempt you today.
- We round off the day with a visit to **a local craftswoman**, where – if she is at home – we have the chance to see her cosy shop and creative workshop, filled with art inspired by life and nature on Disko Island.

Todays hike: Approx. 10.5 km (approx. 5 hours)
Elevation: Approx. +280 meters (up) and -280 meters (down)
Included meals: Breakfast / Lunch / –



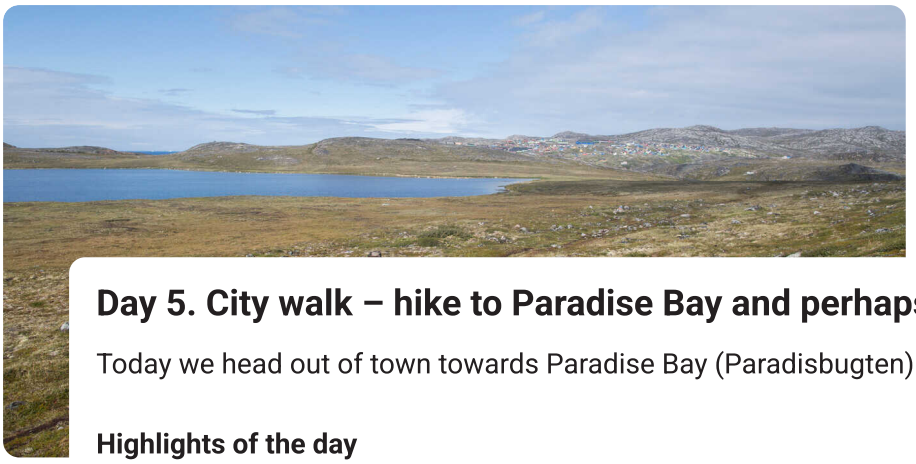
Day 4. Sailing to Qasigiannguit – hike to Salmon Bay

After breakfast we set course south for Qasigiannguit – a historic town founded in 1734 and formerly the centre of Greenland's thriving prawn fishery.

Highlights of the day

- On the quay in **Qasigiannguit** we are met by the local guide. Our luggage is driven while we walk the short stretch to the town's hotel, which is beautifully located with a view over Disko Bay, right at the entrance to the town's harbour.
- On arrival we have the chance to explore the town, which today is home to around 1,000 inhabitants and stands as a living example of a medium-sized Greenlandic town.
- After the town tour we lace up our hiking boots and follow the yellow route north towards **Strømstedet (Eqalunnguit)**, where the lake **Tasersuaq** flows out into **Salmon Bay (Laksebugten)**. The hike is relatively easy and follows the lake through a magnificent landscape dressed in the warm colours of late summer.
- Late summer in Disko Bay also means berry season, so remember to bring a bag or two – the chef is always happy to receive fresh produce. Along the way we can forage in nature's larder: bog bilberry with its sweet Greenlandic blueberries, the tasty black berries of the crowberry, and perhaps lingonberries hidden in the low scrub. It is not unusual to meet locals with their heads in the bushes and their bottoms in the air.
- At **Strømstedet** we take a break and enjoy the view over **Salmon Bay** before turning for home. The route along the lake takes us up over the mountain and offers sweeping panoramas.
- A day of fresh sea air, local culture, Arctic landscape and the taste of Greenland's late summer – straight from nature.

Todays hike: Approx. 12 km (approx. 5 hours)
Elevation: Approx. +250 meters (up) and -250 meters (down)
Included meals: Breakfast / Lunch / –



Day 5. City walk – hike to Paradise Bay and perhaps a cold dip

Today we head out of town towards Paradise Bay (Paradisbugten).

Highlights of the day

- We pass both **the town's museum** – housed in Greenland's oldest preserved wooden houses – and Qasigiannguit's largest dog yard. The Greenlandic sled dog still plays an important role in local life. We also pass Brewery Bay (Bryghusbugten), where the town was founded in the 18th century.
- From here we wind our way out into the scenic hinterland on a hike to **Kangerluluk** – better known as **Paradise Bay**. A hidden sandy beach awaits here, surrounded by rocks, mountains and calm fjord water. We follow an undulating path through moss-covered terrain and up through a small pass, from where the view opens up dramatically towards the bay and the sea.
- Before we reach the beach, we make a short stop at **Bing's Cave (Bings Hule)** – a geological curiosity where banded gneiss and white-pink quartz create a beautiful pattern in the rock.
- At the bay we have time to relax, explore the area – and perhaps pluck up the courage to jump into the cold, clear water. Remember swimwear and a towel if you want to try a true Arctic dip!
- The area around Qasigiannguit is also home to **the musk ox** – or umimmak, "the long-bearded one". The animals originate from North-East Greenland but have been introduced to the area in recent times. Perhaps we will be lucky enough to spot one – or find tracks in the landscape.
- We walk the same way back to town, and the rest of the day is at your leisure. Among other things, you can visit the local museum, which is housed in **Poul Egede's old shop building** from 1734. The museum holds, among other things, a unique collection from the Saqqaq culture – Greenland's first settlers, around 2000 BC.

Todays hike: Approx. 12 km (approx. 5 hours)
Elevation: Approx. +250 meters (up) and -250 meters (down)
Included meals: Breakfast / Lunch / –



Day 6. Qasigiannguit to Ilulissat – the giant icebergs of the Icefjord

We sail north from Qasigiannguit towards Ilulissat.

Highlights of the day

- We sail through ice-filled waters and pass the mouth of the world-famous **Kangia Icefjord**, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. Here gigantic icebergs lie grounded on the Iceberg Bank (Isfjeldsbanken), where the ice creaks, topples and melts in a dramatic, ever-changing spectacle.
- On arrival in **Ilulissat**, Greenland's third-largest town with around 5,000 inhabitants, we check in once again at Hotel Icefiord, with its captivating view over the icefjord and the dark basalt mountains of Disko Island.
- In the afternoon our local guide takes us on a hike, crossing the town and passing the former heliport and the dog yard before we reach the beautiful **Icefjord Centre**. After the hike you can explore its exhibitions on the significance of the ice, the nature and culture of Ilulissat and climate change in the Arctic, and enjoy the view from the centre's roof terrace.
- The hike continues to **Sermermiut**, an old settlement with traces of habitation going back up to 5,000 years, and on to Nakkaavik – also known as Kællingekløften – where we enjoy a magnificent panoramic view over Kangia Icefjord, with icebergs and growlers in constant motion.
- We end the hike at **Seqinniarfik (Holms Bakke)**, where we eat our packed lunch with a view over the mountains, before you choose either to walk back to town or to follow the yellow-marked path along the Icefjord back to the hotel.

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



Day 7. Fishing trip, traditions and farewell dinner

Today an **authentic Greenlandic experience** awaits, as we go on a fishing trip in the beautiful waters around Ilulissat. We sail out to some of the good fishing grounds, where we try our luck at catching cod – an important part of Greenlandic cuisine and a staple of life along the coast. But the experience is about much more than the fishing itself. We take the day's catch to a traditional Greenlandic hunter's cabin, where we prepare the fish together and gain an insight into **local food traditions and old customs.**

Highlights of the day

- We board the boat and sail out to try our hand at **cod fishing**. We fish until we have caught enough for lunch – and preferably a little extra, so the dogs can have fresh fish too. Remember to dress warmly for the chilly weather.
- Once the day's catch is secured, we sail on to a traditional **Greenlandic hunter's cabin**, where we will prepare and enjoy our own catch.
- We get to taste cod prepared in different ways and see how it features in Greenlandic cuisine. It is a relaxed and authentic experience, where **local food traditions and stories** are a natural part of the day.
- We also gain a small insight into a special Greenlandic tradition as we take a closer look at **the cod's ear stone** (otolith) – a hard, calcareous structure from the fish's head that many Greenlanders use as a gemstone in jewellery.
- After a pleasant time at the hunter's cabin with good food, beautiful surroundings and perhaps a couple of **good fishing stories**, we sail back to Ilulissat.
- In the evening we gather for a relaxed farewell dinner in the hotel restaurant, where we enjoy Greenlandic produce and share memories and experiences from our days in Greenland.
- After dinner there is one last chance to hope for **a glimpse of the northern lights** – and perhaps to enjoy a warm Greenlandic coffee in the restaurant, where northern lights in the glass, at least, are guaranteed.

Included meals: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner

Day 8. Journey home – flight to Copenhagen

Farewell to Greenland for this time after an eventful week in Disko Bay – filled with hikes, fishing among icebergs, tastes of Greenlandic produce and engaging stories about the country's nature, culture and history. We fly to Nuuk and on from there towards Copenhagen.

Included meals: Breakfast / – / –



Greenland by Topas

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