

GREENLAND



TREKKING UNDER NORTHERN LIGHTS IN THE LAND OF TUNU: EAST COAST OF GREENLAND

DATES: 21th AUGUST TO 1th SEPTEMBER 2023

CODE: XPGR03

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INTRODUCTION

The Ammassalimmiut, on the east coast of Greenland, formed part of the last Inuit group that had contact with the «white man». It happened when the Danish explorer, Gustav Holm, found them in 1884. This is about the last direct descendants of the Dorset and Thule arctic cultures. Its relative isolation and strong ties with the past have led to an enormous maintenance of their cultural and survival traditions: even their dialect is archaic compared to the greater part of Greenland's population. Our goal will be to get submerged in this unique Inuit culture, learn from their skills, and be first-hand witnesses to their adaptation to the environment. The name «Tunu» means: «the opposite side, back, back side», since it is precisely the largest human concentration that is found in the other part of the island, on the West Coast. And so, this region constitutes «the other face of life, the other face of Greenland». During this trekking tour will also visit traditional populations while enjoying the spectacular views of the fjords, glaciers and icebergs of this wonderful Greenlandic region. The possibility to observe seals, whales (basically sei and narwhals whales), polar bears and arctic foxes, and also of the majestic Northern Lights. Our aim will be to explore the land of the Ammassalimiut, on foot and by boat. In addition, this trekking in Greenland expedition will give us the opportunity to see a beautiful area of remote valleys of the Arctic, mountains and fjords huge, full of icebergs. And we can also see the layer of ice that covers more than 80% of the island.

TRAVEL MAP



ITINERARY

DAY 1: FLIGHT REYKJAVIK (ICELAND) - KULUSUK (GREENLAND).

Arrival to Kulusuk, traditional town located, on an island that has the same name. Luggage pick up and transfer to the guest house. Free afternoon to take a first impression and do some contact with this majestic Greenlandic region and its residents. Lunch and dinner cooked by ourselves. Accommodation in a guest house with shared bedrooms (sleeping bag).

DAY 2: KULUSUK – KÂRALE FIORD

After breakfast, we will depart by boat from Ittimiini towards the Karale fjord. We sail for about 2 hours to one of the most mind-blowing campsites in the world, surrounded by vertical peaks and huge glaciers. This astonishing place will be our basecamp for the next 3 nights. Hike in the afternoon. Lunch and dinner at camp. Accommodation in tents.

DAY 3: KÂRALE GLACIER

After breakfast, we will begin a wonderful trekking that will take us through areas of tundra and flowers, moraines, glacial rivers and the impressive Karale glacier. At the end of the tour, breathtaking views from the rugged Sermiligaq Fjord awaits us. Duration of trekking 6-8 hours. Picnic en route. Breakfast and dinner at camp. Accommodation in tents.

DAY 4: KÂRALE FIORD

After breakfast, we continue our route along the huge Kârale Fjord, and we will be able to see a gathering of giant glaciers, which nourishes its waters with ice. We will continue with our journey land inwards gaining height to be able to get a panoramic view of the this astonishing and unique landscape. Duration of hiking: 6-7 hours. Picnic en route. Breakfast and dinner at camp. Accommodation in tents.

DAY 5: KÂRALE FIORD – TASIILAQ FIORD

We will wake up wrapped with the sound of millions of tons of ice breaking between the ocean currents in the mouth of the fjords. Our inuit friends will pick us up and bring us to the Tasiilaq fjord, where we will set our camp. Duration of sailing: 2 hours. Picnic en route. Breakfast and dinner at camp. Accommodation in tents.

DAY 6: TASIILAQ FIORD – TASIILAQ MOUNTAIN HUT

After breakfast, we will leave our camp and walk towards the Tasiilaq Kua valley, provided with our sleeping bag and food for two days, heading up to the Tasiilaq Mountain Hut, located at 730m. The climb up flows the glacier moraine and goes finally straight and steep up to the hut. Breakfast at camp and dinner at hut. Sleep in hut.

DAY 7: EXPLORE

Enjoying the breath taking views of the surrounding vertical peaks with altitudes up to 2000m we enjoy our breakfast before gearing up to ascend one of the surrounding peaks. Breakfast and dinner at hut. Sleep in hut

DAY 8: TASIILAQ MOUNTAIN HUT - TASIILAQ FIORD

After breakfast and after packing our camp and pack our luggage, we will begin our descend back to the Tasilaq Fjord. Breakfast in hut and dinner at camp. Accomodation in tents.

DAY 9: TASIILAQ FIORD - KUUMMIUT

After this first amazing taste of fjord travel, we reach the Inuit village of Kuummiut, which is situated at the end of a rocky peninsula. Here, we carry our luggage and the group's communal gear and food from the harbour up to our simple village house accommodation. Afternoon hike and visit village. Breakfast at camp an dinner at local house. Sleep in local house.

DAY 10: KUUMMIUT MOUNTAIN

Today we will set out to climb Kuummiut Mountain (1000m), the rocky prominence that dominates the village. The altitude is modest, but we have to start from the sea level, making this a good day's hike. Higher up, there is a small remnant glacier on our right side and probably one or two snow patches to cross. 7 -8 hours walk. Breakfast and dinner at local house. Sleep in local house.

DAY 11: KUUMMIUT - KULUSUK

After breakfast, we will get on the boat again and will arrive to the traditional town of Kulusuk after a 2 hours boat drive. We will have spare time to visit this settlement and enjoy the hospitality of its residents. Dinner and breakfast will be cooked by ourselves. Accommodation in a guest house with shared rooms.

DAY 12: FLIGHT KULUSUK – REYKJAVIK

After breakfast, we will be transferred to the airport. Return to Reykjavik (Iceland).

PLACE TO VISIT

Kulusuk

Population: 241 (2019)

Kulusuk area was, previously, the most populated area in Ammassalik due to the good conditions for fishing and hunting. Kulusuk is located in a small rocky island surrounded by steep mountains and wide fiords and frequently icebergs and a crystalline ice sea.

In 1930, 165 people were living in Kulusuk settlement, compare with the 112 people living in Tasiilaq. Nowadays the almost 300 people living in Kulusuk make this settlement the biggest in the region behind Kuummiut and Tasiilaq. The main source of income in Kulusuk still is the hunting and the fishing.

Besides, it is an important local handmade place mainly because the manufacturing of 'tupilaat' and masks.

Kuummiut

Population: 258 (2019)

It is the second largest settlement in the Ammassalik region and is located 40 kilometers north of Tasiilaq, deep within the Ammassalik Fjord. From the settlement you can enjoy incredible views ranging from the fjord to the Strait of Denmark. Kuummiut was established as a mission in 1915. In this town there is a salting factory, the only fish factory in the district. The famous East Greenland artist and teacher Kârale Andreassen was born in Kuummiut in 1890, as well as the son of the Inuit spiritual leader, the shaman Mitsivarnianga. The Kârale Glacier is one of the most important glaciers in the north of Kuummiut, and there are glaciers of all kinds of sizes and characteristics, as well as countless peaks that rise above them.

NOTES

The program in its order and content may vary depending on the weather, sea and drift ice conditions, the presence of animals and the decisions of the Inuit skippers / hunters and X-plore guides at that time. We will adapt the route and its content according to the conditions and options that are offered to us at all times. The guide will adapt the program and activities according to the group.

No cook will travel on this expedition, so preparing the meal will be a team effort. Most of the breakfasts and dinners will be freeze-dried food and picnic lunches due to the lack of infrastructure in this area, or also due to the activities being carried out at that time. European food will be mixed with local food, prepared by the group.

All Along the expedition the cooperation of all the participants will be crucial.

PRICES

Per person:

- Group of 5 pax: **3.852 €**
- Group of 6 pax: **3.525 €**
- Group of 7 pax: **3.300 €**
- Group of 8 pax: **3.120 €**
- Individual supplement: **150 €**

Included

- Flights Reykjavik - Kulusuk- Reykjavik
- Airport transfers
- Accommodation in a guest house (shared room) and a mountain hut.
- Tented camps during trekking (2 person tents)
- Full board in Greenland
- X-plore specialist guide
- Activities mentioned in the program
- Boat trips
- Local boat patterns and / or hunters
- Arctic safety equipment
- SAT Phone, Spot and solar charger
- Permits
- First-Aid kit
- Advises on preparation and training
- Tents and cooking utensils

Excluded

- Flights to/from Iceland
- Airport taxes (200 Euros)
- Personal expenses, such as drinks, museum entrances, phone calls, etc.
- Travel insurance
- Excess luggage
- Clothing/individual equipment, backpacks, clothing, etc. (contact us for advice)
- Any service in Iceland
- Satellite phone calls (2 € per minute)
- All the services that were not specified in the «included» section

PHOTOS

