

UNESCO sites 5 days

In 2017 five core areas in South Greenland were inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List. They represent a unique landscape and arctic farming history, dating from the Norse settlement to the present day Greenlandic sheep farmers. On this tour, you can visit Hvalsey, Igaliku and Qassiarsuk - 3 of the UNESCO sites - together with South Greenland's colourful town Qaqortoq. In addition we will take you on an unforgettable boat ride into the Qooroq Ice Fjord.

Detailed itinerary

Day 1

Arrival in Narsarsuaq and boat transfer to Qassiarsuk. Qassiarsuk is also known as Brattahlid, the place where Eric the Red settled in 982. The Norse ruins are well preserved and the open-air museum (Brattahlid) can be visited on your own (admission fee is not included). The approx. 40 inhabitants earn their livelihoods from sheep farming, but the village also has a school, a shop and a church. After a couple of hours, you take the boat to Itilleq, followed by a 4 km hike along a picturesque unpaved country road to Igaliku, one of the most beautiful villages in Greenland! The colourful houses are situated on lush grassland next to a milky-blue fjord. On the other side of the fjord the landmark Illerfissalik (Burfjeld) Mountain towers over a rough and desolate landscape.

Accommodation in Igaliku for 2 nights.

Day 2

Igaliku was the Episcopal seat (named Gardar) for a period of about 300 years (1100-1400) during the Norse era, and the ruins from that time are very impressive. In 1782 Anders Olsen and his Greenlandic wife Tuperna established themselves as farmers and that was the beginning of Igaliku's more recent history. Today, Igaliku and its surroundings have some of the best hiking opportunities in South Greenland.

One optional day hike (17 km) goes to the plateau, which offers a superb view of the Qooroq ice fjord, the stranded icebergs on the underwater moraine at the entrance to the fjord and the enormous glacier at the head of the fjord. It is the perfect place for a picnic! On the way back, you may be lucky enough to find minerals and stones, like the shining "moon stone" (Labradorit). The "waterfall hike" (about 15 km) is another popular day trip. A set of beautiful waterfalls tumble like pearls on a string down towards Tunulliarfik Fjord. This hike can be combined with the summit of Nuuluk Mountain (823 m), which lies south of Igaliku (20-22 km).

Day 3

Before leaving Itilleq (Igaliku) you join a boat trip to the Qooroq Ice Fjord - a trip among icebergs of all colours, sizes and shapes. When the glacier is in view, the boat engine is stopped, so you can enjoy the absolute silence and a drink chilled with glacier ice – more than 1000 years old! In the afternoon boat transfer to Qaqortoq (duration about 1½ hours).

Accommodation in Qaqortoq for 2 nights.

Day 4

Qaqortoq is the largest town in South Greenland with about 3,300 inhabitants. It is the main centre of education in South Greenland with an upper secondary school, a business school, a vocational school adults and a school for tourism management and guide training. Furthermore, the town has several fair-

sized companies such as Great Greenland, with its tannery and sewing facilities for creating beautiful sealskin clothes. The town is well known for the project "Stone and Man", which consists of more than 30 sculptures that are carved into the granite bedrock by various artists. This permanent exhibition makes a stroll around the city a very special experience. Finally, Greenland's oldest fountain is situated at the town square next to the harbour. Here you can sit and watch the hunters and fishermen selling the catch of the day at the nearby fish market.

From Qaqortoq a visit to the famous Hvalsey Church is included. Hvalsey Church ruin is located on a lush green meadow, only 30 minutes by boat from Qaqortoq. It is one of the most well-preserved medieval ruins in South Greenland, with thick walls up to 6 m high. On the tour, you will have plenty of time to walk around the historic site and explore the ruins and the peaceful countryside before returning to Qaqortoq.

Day 5

Boat transfer from Qaqortoq to Narsarsuaq. You can spend the rest of your stay enjoying a cup of coffee at the cosy Blue Ice Café and/or visiting the museum in Narsarsuaq.

Departure Narsarsuaq.

Meals

Breakfast included

Dinner and lunch packets can be ordered at the hotels

Difficulty

No special requirements on this trip

Price includes

All accommodations incl. breakfast

All boat transfers

Transport of luggage

Boat trip to Hvalsey

Boat trip to the Qooroq Ice Fjord