



## Forord

Kujalleq, Sydgrønland, er et overflødheds-horn af sanseindtryk – grønne dale med blomster i mange farver, høje, grønne fjelde og is i alle afskygninger; bræer, storis og isfjelde. Historiens aftryk findes overalt, fra inuits bopladser til nordboernes gårdanlæg. Igennem årtusinder har denne del af Grønland været mødested for forskellige kulturer.

Kujalleq er begunstiget af lune somre og milde vintre, der giver de bedste betingelser for landbrug, og ikke uden grund kaldes kommunen for Grønlands spisekammer. Landbrug, fåreavl og friske fisk fra havet forsyner hele landet med lækre produkter.

Nye, spændende tider venter forude med minedrift og øget turisme, alt sammen initiativer der vil forstærke fokus på dette dejlige område.

*Ole G. Jensen*

## Preview

Kujalleq, South Greenland, is a cornucopia of visual sensations – the lush valleys with flowers of many colors, tall greenish mountains, and ice in all shapes and forms; glaciers, ocean ice, and icebergs. The mark of history is everywhere, from Inuit settlements to the Norsemen's farms. Throughout thousands of years, this part of Greenland has been a meeting place of diverse cultures.

Kujalleq is favoured by warm summers and mild winters providing the best of conditions for agriculture and is known as the bread-basket of Greenland. Farming, sheep breeding, and fish from the sea supply the whole country with delicious products.

New and exciting times await with mining, and an increase in tourism, initiatives that will reinforce the focus and highlight this beautiful region.

*Ole G. Jensen*







## Et kort historisk rids

### Inuit

For cirka 1000 år siden indvandrede et nyt folk til Grønland fra Canada. Det var de nuværende grønlænderes forfædre – inuit. I de følgende århundreder spredte de sig langs kysterne og tilpassede sig de lokale muligheder med en fangst- og nomadekultur, der var vendt mod havets ressourcer.

### Nordboerne

Samtidig med inuits ankomst i Nordvestgrønland etablerede et europæisk folkefærd sig i Sydvestgrønland. Det var vikingen Erik den Røde, der sejlede mod vest fra Island og nåede Grønlands sydspids i slutningen af 900-tallet. Efter tre år i det sydgrønlandske vendte han tilbage til Island og fortalte vidt og bredt om det dejlige, frodige land, han havde fundet vestpå.

Det nyopdagede land kaldte han Grønland, i håb om med dette indbydende navn at lokke flere til at følge sig vestpå.

Det lykkedes tilsyneladende, for få år efter stævnede han igen mod Grønland, denne gang fulgt af en flåde på 25 skibe med i alt 700 mænd, kvinder og børn samt husdyr og forsyninger til starten på det nye liv. Kun 14 skibe nåede frem til de sydgrønlandske fjorde.

## A brief historic outline

### The Inuit

A thousand years ago a new group of people wandered into Greenland from Canada. They were the Inuit – the forefathers of the present day Greenlanders. During the following centuries, they spread out to the coastal areas and thoroughly adapted to the local conditions. A nomadic hunting culture, their focus was firmly fixed toward the resources found at sea.

### The Norsemen

Around the same time the Inuit immigrants arrived in Northwestern Greenland, a group of European people settled in the Southwestern part of Greenland. First among them was a Viking, Eric the Red. Towards the end of the 10th century, he travelled west from Iceland and reached the southernmost tip of Greenland in 982 AD. After spending three years in Southern Greenland, he returned to Iceland and spread the word about the beautiful lush country he had found towards the west. He called this newly discovered country Greenland in the hopes that the enticing name would lure others to follow westwards.

His endeavours obviously successful, he set out again a few years later towards Greenland. This time accompanied by a fleet of 25 ships

Efter menneskehedens fælles oprindelse på det afrikanske kontinent, havde den nu spredt sig hele Jorden rundt, og ved mødet i de sydgrønlandske fjorde mellem nordboerne fra øst og inuit fra vest var ringen sluttet.

### Nordboernes forsvinden

Nordboernes ophold i Grønland varede i 4-500 år, hvorefter de forsvandt.

Klimaændringer, der ødelagde grundlaget for deres landbrugskultur, ændrede politiske forhold i Europa og pirateri er nogle af de årsager, der resulterede i deres forsvinden.

For selv om nordboerne udnyttede ressourcerne i havet, formåede de ikke at omstille sig fra deres nedarvede landbrugskultur til udelukkende at leve af fiskeri og jagt på havpattedyr – her var inuit dem langt overlegne og formåede at tilpasse sig et koldere klima.

Nordboerne satte dog deres spor i landskabet – spor som man stadig kan se i dag.

Ruiner af kirker, gårde, stalde, forrådsrum og indhegninger viser, at der har eksisteret et stort, velfungerende samfund i de sydvestgrønlandske fjorde.

Der har således boet mennesker i Kujalleq i mange hundrede år, og rundt omkring finder man resterne af eskimoiske bopladser og gravpladser sammen med nordboernes ruiner.

carrying a total of seven hundred men, women, and children, their livestock and belongings ready to start a new life. However, only 14 ships managed to make the crossing safely reaching the fiords of South Greenland.

Originating on the African continent, and spreading out around the world, the human race had now come full circle on the planet with a chance meeting in a South Greenlandic fiord between the Norsemen, arriving from the east, and the Inuit from the west.

### The disappearance of the Norsemen

The Norsemen remained in Greenland for about four to five centuries, and then they vanished.

Climate changes that wrecked havoc on their agricultural civilization, changing political relations with Europe, and piracy are some of the reasons for their society's untimely demise and disappearance. Although the Norsemen did utilize the resources found at sea, they were not able to readjust their inherited agricultural ways and subsist exclusively on fishing, and hunting sea mammals. In this, the Inuit were far superior to them as they better managed to adapt to an increasingly colder climate.

However, the Norsemen left plenty of traces





Inuits nomadiske livsform har dog efterladt mindre synlige aftryk i landet end nordboernes fastboende landbrugskultur.

## Sydgrønland i dag

### Klima

Hele Grønland ligger i den polare klimazone. Det sydlige Grønland er den mildeste del af landet begunstiget af Golfstrømmen og Polarstrømmen, som sender lune strømme mod Sydgrønland, hvor gennemsnitstemperaturen om sommeren kan nå helt op på 20°C inde i fjordene.

### Fra sælfangst til fåreavl

Det moderne Sydgrønland er stadig grønt, og i de mange dybe fjorde har grønlandske jordbrugere slået sig ned på de samme steder, hvor nordboerne engang havde deres gårde og marker. Her er klima og jordbund passende til forskellige former for landbrug. Husdyrholdet er nu til dags domineret af får og heste samt køer på forsøgsbasis – med henblik på at starte en kød- og mælkeproduktion. Fåreavlen gjorde et seriøst indtog i starten af 1900-tallet, og i 1920 tog den første grønlænder, Otto Frederiksen, springet til at blive fuldtidsfåreholder. Han slog sig ned i Qassiarsuk, samme sted som Erik den Røde gjorde knap

in the landscape, traces which are fully visible even today. Ruins of church buildings, farms, stables, warehouses and fences testify to a large functioning community that once thrived in the southwestern Greenlandic fiords. People have been living in Kujalleq for centuries, and all around remnants of Inuit settlements and burial grounds are found next to those left by the Norsemen. However, the footprint left behind in the landscape by the nomadic Inuit is less extensive than that of the Norsemen with their settled agricultural society.

## South Greenland today

### Climate

All of Greenland is located within the polar Arctic climate zone. The southern part of Greenland has the mildest climate as it is favoured by the Gulf Stream and the icy Arctic current, sending warm currents towards Southern Greenland. Average summer temperatures in the fiords can easily reach up to 20 degrees Celsius (app. 60 degrees Fahrenheit).

### From seal hunting to breeding sheep

Modern Greenland is still lush and green today, and in many of the deep fiords, Greenlandic farmers have farms and fields in the same places that once belonged to the Norsemen.



1000 år tidligere. Igennem årene er antallet af fåreholdere vokset, så der i dag produceres omkring 22.000 lam om året. De sejles til slagteriet i Narsaq.

Ud over fåre- og kvægavlen dyrkes også store områder med kartofler og grøntsager. Det hele sendes rundt til de grønlandske byer, som dermed forsynes med friske produkter.

I nærheden af Narsaq er der rensdyravl, hvor tusinder af dyr kan ses i terrænet. Flere hundrede slagtes hvert år, enten på selve farmen eller på slagteriet i Narsaq.

#### **Andre erhverv**

Fiskeriet har stadig stor betydning, og der er i alle byer en fiskefabrik, som periodevis har åbent for behandling af fangsten, afhængigt af mængden af råvarer og fangstkvoter. Guldminen ved Nanortalik er desværre nedlagt, men det forventes at flere miner åbner i kommunen i de kommende år. Der er blandt andet store forekomster af mineraler af sjældne jordarter. Mineralerne er meget eftertragtede i elektronikindustrien, og Grønland besidder nogle af de største koncentrationer i verden.

In the fiords, the climate and the soil provide excellent venues for various types of agriculture.

Livestock farming today is dominated by sheep, horses, and some cattle on a trial basis with an eye to producing both milk and meat. Sheep farming began in earnest in the early 1900s, and in 1920, Otto Frederiksen took the leap of becoming the first Greenlander to engage full time in sheep farming. He settled in Qassiarsuk, in the same place that Erik the Red had settled a thousand years earlier. Today the number of sheep farmers has risen, and they produce around 22.000 lambs a year. The lamb is transported by boat to the abattoir in Narsaq.

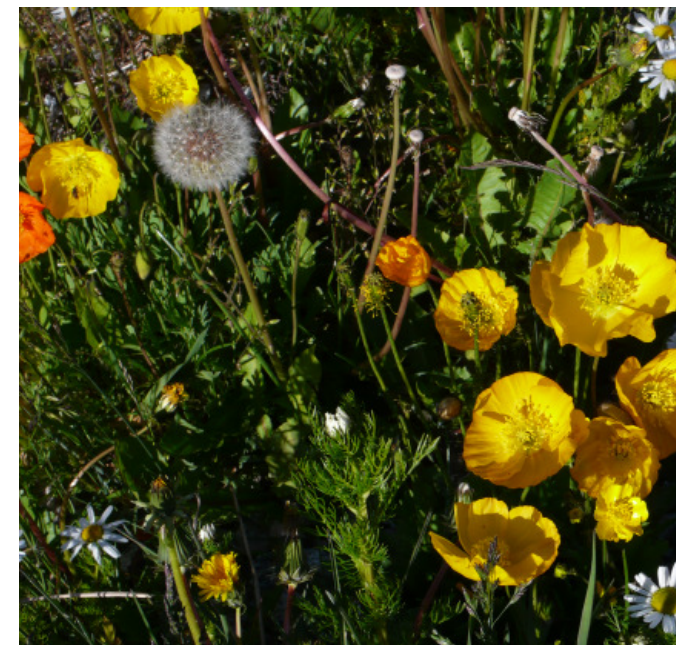
Besides sheep farming and cattle ranching, large areas are used to grow potatoes and vegetables.

All of it is shipped to the Greenlandic towns ensuring these towns receive fresh supplies of produce.

Close to the town of Narsaq, a farm is involved in reindeer herding. There are thousands of animals out in the countryside. Every year, several hundred are butchered either on the farm itself or transported to the abattoir in Narsaq.

#### **Uddannelse i Sydgrønland**

Kujalleq er også et vigtigt uddannelsesområde. Der er levnedsmiddelskolen Inuili i Narsaq, Campus Kujalleq med mange uddannelsesmuligheder for unge og voksne og Arbejderhøjskolen i Qaqortoq. Derudover er der fåreholderuddannelsen i Upernaviarsuk – et lille landbrugsforsøgscenter og gartneri tæt ved Qaqortoq.



#### **Additional types of trade and industry**

Fishing is still of immense importance, and there is a fish processing plant in every town. The plants processing the fish are open for business according to the amount of fish delivered to the plant and the size of the quotas. Unfortunately the gold mine Nanortalik has been discontinued. However, new mines are expected to open up during the coming years. Huge quantities of rare earth minerals have been discovered.

These minerals are much-coveted by the electronics industry, and Greenland is in possession of some of the largest concentrations of these minerals in the world.

#### **Education in Southern Greenland**

Kujalleq is an important region of education. The Food College of Greenland, Inuili in Narsaq, Campus Kujalleq, and Sulisartut Højskoliat in Qaqortoq offer many educational opportunities for young people as well as adults. The education for sheep herders is located in Upernaviarsuk in a small agricultural research center and garden close to Qaqortoq.





I bygden Igaliku ses stadig mange ruiner fra nordboernes storhedstid, blandt andet domkirke og bispegård. De manglende sten fra disse bygninger er sikkert genanvendt i fåreholdernes smukke, små stenhuse.

Many ruins can still be found today in the village of Igaliku that date from the time of the Norsemen, including the cathedral and the bishop's palace. The stones missing from these buildings have most likely been recycled and used in the beautiful small stone houses owned by the sheep farmers.

## Narsarsuaq – porten til Sydgrønland

Narsarsuaq er indfaldsporten til Sydgrønland. Navnet betyder den store slette. Her passerer al flytrafik til Kujalleq igennem, både direkte fra Danmark og Island samt fra resten af Grønland. Det er Air Greenlands helikoptere og turistaktørernes hurtiggående turistbåde, der sørger for transporten i området.

Lufthavnen blev anlagt i 1941 af amerikanske soldater. Den hed Bluie West One og var mellemstation for de tusinder af fly, der skulle til Europa under Anden Verdenskrig.

Narsarsuaqs spændende historie og smukke omegn gør det absolut værd at tilbringe et par dage i disse historiske omgivelser. Et lille museum, indrettet i en af de gamle militærbaracker, fortæller om basens historie og amerikanernes tilstedeværelse.

Få minutters gang fra lufthavnen ligger et af de få skovområder i Grønland, Det grønlandske Arboret, hvor der på forsøgsbasis siden 1970'erne er plantet mere end 100 arter af træer og buske fra forskellige skovgrænseområder i verden. Arboretet omfatter 150 hektar og regnes for et af de største skovgrænsearbejdet i verden.

Narsarsuaq var også førhen porten til Sydgrønland og lå centralt i nordboernes bosættelser

## Narsarsuaq – The Gate to Southern Greenland

Narsarsuaq is the main gateway into Southern Greenland. The name means “the large plain”. All air travel to Kujalleq passes through here, including direct flights to Denmark, Iceland and the rest of Greenland. Air Greenland's helicopters, as well as boats owned by local tour operators, handle all the transportation needs of the region.

The airport itself was founded in 1941 by American soldiers. It was called Bluie West One and was a transit stop for thousands of aircraft going to Europe during the second world war.

Narsarsuaq's exciting history and beautiful surrounding countryside make it worth a visit spending a couple of days in this historic region. One of the old army barracks has been converted into a small museum detailing the history of the airbase and the American presence in the region.

A few minutes hike from the airport lies one of the few woodland areas in Greenland, the Greenlandic Arboretum. During the 1970s, more than a hundred different kinds of trees and scrub from various tree line areas around the world were planted here. The Arboretum covers 150 acres of land and is considered



i Grønland. Man kan blandt andet se mange ruiner fra nordboernes tid i den lille bygd Qassiarsuk, som ligger lige overfor lufthavnen. I bygden er der siden hen opført en flot kopi af Thjodhildes kirke og et langhus fra samme periode.

Vil man se flere ruiner kan man tage til en anden nærliggende bygd, Igaliku. Efter en kort sejltur fra havnen i Narsarsuaq til Itilleq og en kort tur over fjeldet ad en grusvej ser man den maleriske bygd brede sig fra det grøntbevoksede fjeld ud mod den dybblå fjord. Et bjergtagende syn. Det norrøne romersk-katolske bispesæde, Gardar, var beliggende her. Bispesædet blev oprettet i 1121, og der blev opført en domkirke, bisperesidens og bispegård.

one of the largest tree line arboretums in the world.

Narsarsuaq was early on the gateway to Southern Greenland and was located right in the centre of the Norsemen settlements in Greenland.

Many ruins from the time of the Norsemen are visible in the small settlement at Qassiarsuk, which is just across the bay from the airport area. A beautiful copy of Thjodhilde's church and a longhouse from the same period, have been erected in the settlement.

If you wish to see more ruins, there are plenty in the nearby settlement of Igaliku. After a short boat ride from the harbour in Narsarsuaq to Itilleq, a short hike over the mountain on a gravel road and the picturesque settlement lies there before your eyes, stretching from the green clad mountain to the deep blue fiord, a breathtaking sight.

The Norse Roman Catholic diocese, Gardar was situated in Igaliku. The Diocese, established in 1121, built a cathedral, a residence for the bishop and a farm.

