

Not just another ordinary week in the office

As an official of the Greenland Home Rule, I visited The Nalunaq Gold Mine in October 2006. The Nalunaq Gold mine is located in Kirkespirdalen (The church steeple valley) in the southern part of Greenland.

The Greenlandic name Nalunaq means 'the place that is hard to find'. The mining company had chartered a helicopter to transport us from the Atlantic airport in Narsarsuaq to the mine camp hundred located one hundred kilometres from the airport.

Today, numerous of gold deposits are discovered at several locations in Greenland. The Nalunaq Gold Mine is the first gold mine in Greenland. The deposits were discovered in 1992 and the production started in 2004. In the underground mine the company used explosives and heavy machinery to mine an ore, which on average has about twenty grams of gold per tonne ore.

When I visited The Nalunaq Gold Mine, the mine had approx. a hundred employees. The employees came from Canada, Greenland , Denmark and several other countries.

The mine camp consisting of a red hutment, tents and containers, was my home for six days. It was a visit to a world that seemed very strange to me. Feeling at home in an office in Nuuk, it was a big change to stay at a camp in the wilderness.

Almost all the employees were men. The common language was English. The working day was 11 hours, and they worked every day except Sunday. The employers lived up to six weeks at a time in the camp, before they had three weeks off.



*The Nalunaq Gold Mine,
October 2006*