

The east coast of Greenland

Greenland is far from the beaten track. The small population can hardly be localized more barren and scattered on the island. Greenland can rightly be called the outer periphery or the edge of the earth.

Greenland is part of the Kingdom of Denmark. A journey from Greenland's largest city to the kingdom's capital Copenhagen is long - but also very beautiful, if the weather is favourable.

There are only two airports in Greenland, where the larger aircrafts, which are able to fly across the Atlantic Ocean, can take off and land. The main airport is located in Kangerlussuaq in central Greenland. The other is located in Narsarssuaq in South Greenland. Both of these airports were originally established as U.S. military airports.

The airport in Nuuk is too short for large planes. The transport goes from here with Dash-7 or Dash-8 aircrafts four hundred kilometres toward the north to Kangerlussuaq. The flight allows me to watch a spectacular landscape with some of the world's longest stretches of archipelago on the left side and the world's largest ice sheet on the other side. Over and over again the plane crosses enormous fiords. The fiords end up in glaciers from the ice sheet.

In Kangerlussuaq we switch to the airliner to Copenhagen. The airline Air Greenland owns an Airbus 330-200. After the start the airliner flies over the ice sheet heading the east coast of Greenland. The plane usually flies at an altitude of ten to eleven kilometres. If I am lucky I have got a window seat, and on cloudless days, I can watch the huge rivers and lakes on top of the ice sheet.

The flight goes over the Denmark Strait and round the north of Iceland. The trip to Copenhagen takes four to five hours. The highlight is always when the plane in full march altitude passes over the east coast of Greenland. The east Coast is characterized by high mountain massifs that stick up from the ice sheet. Numerous glaciers are moving out into the vast fiords. The fiords are filled with icebergs and ice floes. This is an amazing view from my seat in the airliner in the altitude of eleven kilometres.



A landscape at the east coast of Greenland, July 2012