

Uummannaq

One of my favourite places in Greenland is the settlement Uummannaq. Uummannaq is located in North Greenland. With only 1,280 inhabitants, Uummannaq is still the third largest settlement in the world's largest municipality, Qaasuitsup Municipality.

Qaasuitsup Municipality covers a total area of 660,000 square kilometres. The municipality covers an area bigger than a country like France. However the Qaasuitsup Municipality has only 17,687 and includes 39 settlements spread along the coast of the Davis Strait.

Uummannaq is located on an island below the characteristic heart-shaped Uummannaq Mountain. The majority of the population is currently engaged in the fishery or in public administration. Uummannaq has previously been home to a zinc- and lead mine. The mine was closed in 1990, but an English mining company is currently in the process of realizing a reopening of the mine.

Uummannaq is only navigable from June to December. In the rest of the year the fiords around the settlement usually are ice-covered and all transportation to and from Uummannaq must be done by helicopter or by dog sledges on the ice of the fiords.

In the period from mid-May to late July the midnight sun shines over the settlement. In the winter, Uummannaq is swathed in darkness with a stunning starry sky and northern lights.

The first time I visited this settlement I went for a walk and looked at the pleasant houses and the people in the settlement. I wondered what young people did in this city. I wonder what they were interested in. A large rock under a house gave me a hint that they care about the same as young people in the rest of Greenland, yes, in the rest of the world. On the rock there was a graffiti with very nice big letters: Pink Floyd.





The settlement below the Uummannaq Mountain, June 2007