

Foot on the world

The mountains are characteristic of one's home region. The mountains are symbols of the city. Most people only experience the Greenlandic mountains at a distance. They are often impassable for ordinary people. You are watching them from a distance, sailing directly underneath them, or flying over the mountains.

When I hike in the mountains and reach the altitude of four to five hundred meters above sea something magical happens. I find myself in a gigantic landscape where large areas are completely naked of vegetation. Only smooth and weathered rocks and stones in every direction. The colours of rocks along with lichen are the only colours seen.

The most famous mountains around Nuuk are Sermitsiaq, Hjortetakken (Kingittorsuaq) and Lille and Store Malene (Quassussuaq and Ukkussissat). This weekend we went to the top of Ukkussissat. On a beautiful sunny day in September, it seems easy and safe. But every year there are accidents on Ukkussissat when inexperienced choose wrong paths or are surprised by bad weather.

At the top of a mountain I get a full view to the fiords and the surrounding mountains. I have never been on an aircraft carrier, but I often think that this must be like to go on the deck of a large aircraft carrier. On all sides it goes steeply down toward the surface of the sea or other lower peaks.

Whether it is the thin air or the heavy way up the mountain, or reaching the goal that I set out this morning is uncertain, but the mood here at the top overlooking the wilderness on all sides, are always welcomed, and my fellow hiker put on a happy face. We are trying to master the experience of having foot on the world.



Ukussissat, August 2003