

Hiking in the mountains

We are set out for the mountain pass. The fiord has disappeared out of sight. Our small boat is down there at anchor somewhere far below us. We still have a few hundred meters steep hiking upwards before we reach the top of the pass and can look for a horizontal plane place to our tent. It is the object for our efforts before darkness of night sets in.

The hikes in the mountains always seem exciting here in South Greenland. Often I get the feeling we are the first people who walk exact at this place in this great wilderness. I also reflect on how our ancestors walked here on their eternal hunt for food. They may also have followed the trails of the reindeers up here in the mountains.

Present we may be in the altitude of almost 1,000 metres above sea level. Up here we always had to be aware of the risk for snow and ice. Suddenly, a fine layer of snow can be covering the landscape. Worse is the situation, if the rocks get covered with an almost invisible layer of ice. It can make the walk up to the pass almost impossible because it is difficult to get a foothold.

The tracks trodden by the wild animals often follow the big rivers. Several places the river

forms several metres high gushes, where the water thunders over the edge of a cliff. Often we must jump over small brooks that bring even more water to the river. The brooks trickle out between the rocks and form the basis for large cushions of moss, rushes and grasses. The water is clear and tastes deliciously when we short of breath take a break and get a mouthful of fresh, cold water.

The last weather forecast said we will get stable weather. But in front of us a mass of cloud is pressed in the pass from seaward. Perhaps it is sea fog, and we must expect that it makes our hike even more difficult. Small drops of condensed water from the clouds already cover all my clothes and my rucksack.

The air is beginning to feel considerably colder. But we are determined to reach our goal. Tomorrow we must size up our situation again.

It is very tough, and I am starting to look forward to the hot soup, the tent and my sleeping bag. Even though these hikes in the difficult mountain terrain and under difficult weather conditions are fantastic: Here in the mountains I feel happy.



South Greenland, November 2014

Hiking in the mountains

[Quit](#)

[Go to the Text](#)