

Arctic cold

At this time of the year we experience the cold for real. For long periods the temperature is ten degrees below zero (Celcius). If simultaneously the cold wind from the north is blowing, the feeling of cold, the chill factor, is reaching far below twenty minus degrees.

The tourists who for the first time arrive in Greenland in the Atlantic airport in Kangerlussuaq in the winter are often getting a surprise, because the temperature often is twenty degrees below zero or more. The tourists leave the warm cabin and go to the aircraft exit. If they take hold of the railing on the stairs down from the Airbus, they may experience the fingers freeze on to the metal with few seconds. The short walk over to the airport building can be a cold experience if they do not cover the skin on the

face and the hands.

Several years ago a storm delayed my travel from Kangerlussuaq. The airport hotel was crowded with guests, because the traffic to the towns on the west coast came to a standstill for several days. I had to stay overnight in rooms on the other side of the airport. Along with a fellow traveller, I chose to take a fresh walk over to the main building of the airport. It is a walk of perhaps half an hour. On the short walk I got a frost-bite in the face.

In Nuuk is the walk from the bus stop to the apartment often quite a challenge when the cold and the north wind set in. We are chilled to the marrow, and the wind makes the loose snow to drift intensely. The Arctic climate is no laughing matter in these last months of the winter.



Nuuk, March 2013

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