

The atmosphere of winter

The month of February in the capital of Greenland, Nuuk. It is Saturday. There is hectic activity in the town centre. Many are doing some shopping. It is extremely cold. The temperature has crept down to 18 degrees Celsius below zero. The biting cold north wind rules between the tall buildings in the centre. This winter day in late February the wind brings snow showers one after the other into the town. And the north wind makes the snow to drift.

Everyone seems focused on going somewhere. There is no opportunity to stop and take a chat with friends and acquaintances. All are wrapped in warm clothes, but it is still too cold to stand still. If someone needs a cosy little chat, they must get inside to the

small café in the super market.

Many take the car or bus to the centre. The bulldozers continuously try to keep the roads clear of snow drifts, and the studded tires on the cars make the traffic reasonably safe, even if the weather is treacherous and unsettled.

At home the warm living room is waiting. There is football on TV or maybe the family and friends come on a visit, a Greenlandic kaffemik. And several others have probably found their way to the warm water in the public swimming baths. Especially young people defy the weather and perform acrobatics on the piste at the city's trail at the ski lift.



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