

The flying giants

Fully grown, the *nattoralik*, the Greenlandic white-tailed eagle, has a wing span the size of a door in a house.

This sea eagle is a great hunter. We see often the eagle hunting seagulls down in the harbour in our town, Qaqortoq, during the winter. The seagulls should not feel secure a chilly winter morning if a pair of eagles are foraging above the harbour.

The sea eagle is an exemplary flyer. Just as big and clumsy it looks when it trudges around on top of a rock, just as majestically the bird glides through the air close to the surface of the sea, or in a spiral high above the city, helped along by warm air currents.

This day we sail from Narsaq to Qaqortoq in South Greenland. We already once have tried to approach a sea eagle further into the fiord, but it flew off before we came close. But closer to the town Qaqortoq we are lucky. Our boat glides slowly forward. Closer and closer to the two sea eagles, which we have spotted on the top of an iced floe.

We came very close before the two giants lazily took off and flew away.



Two white-tailed eagles at the top of an ice floe between Narsaq and Qaqortoq, South Greenland, September 2017