

Tradition and reality

Many young Greenlanders travel abroad to get education, jobs and travel as tourists. They are just as globalized as all other young people in the world.

Travel and life abroad inspire the young people, and many come back home with new inspiration and even values that are not the same, as they had in their luggage when they left their country of birth.

The tourism industry, the Greenlandic educational system and the cultural sector in Greenland are based on the traditional values of Inuit: The natural faith, the drum dance, the sledge dogs, the sealskin coat and the traditional hunt.

I have met many young Inuits, who are a bit fed up of being put in a role as this indigenous people, who continue to live in the past. As if their key role in this world is to be the museum of something that was once.

Young people communicate with friends abroad using their iPhone. They watch foreign movies and series on television, and many have only a few times been hunting for seals, ptarmigans or mountain hares. The fewest have not seen other polar bears alive than those, they may have watched in the foreign zoos or on television.

The outside world grasps the exciting tale of the traditional life of Inuit in this fantastic country. Unfortunately, it means that young people may feel that they are over-fed with their people's history, and they feel that they are being put in the role as past remnants, while they would rather create rap music or play computer games.

One of the traditions that has survived globalisation is the use of the Greenlandic kayak. We find the kayak in use or on their racks in all settlements along the long Greenlandic coast. It is still a popular sport among the young.



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