

KULTURER UNDER PRES CULTURES UNDER PRESSURE

Keld Jensen

Nr. 26, juni 2020

No. 26, June 2020

Kulturer under pres

Langt mod nord på Grønlands vestkyst ligger Ilulissat. I dag er det en lille by, der er kendt over hele verden. Byen ligger klos op ad et fantastisk naturfænomen i form af en Isfjord. Fjorden er fyldt med kæmpemæssige isbjerge fra en gletsjer inde ved Indlandsisen. Når vi vandrer rundt på byens veje, kan vi se isbjergene bag byen. De kan minde om højhuse i det fjerne.

I disse år forandres afsmeltningen fra Indlandsisen. Mange af verdens politiske ledere har besøgt byen for selv at iagttage konsekvenserne af klimaforandringer.

I 2004 blev området udpeget som UNESCO Verdensarv område, og nu strømmer turisterne til. Det grønlandske landsstyre er i gang med at etablere en udvidelse af byen lufthavn, så den kan tage de store turistfly. Byen rummer flere hoteller. Alene i 2019

blev der registreret 31.000 gæster på byens hoteller, og byen modtog krydstogtskibe med næsten 15.000 passagerer samme år. Disse tal virker groteske, når vi samtidigt ved, at byen kun har 4.670 borgere. Mange turistoperatører markedsfører deres tilbud til turister som bæredygtige. Men som helhed virker det omsonst at kalde turisme i dette omfang for at være bæredygtigt i så lille et samfund.

Flere og flere borgere i byen lever helt eller delvist af indtægter fra turismen. Ved siden af turismen er det fiskerierhvervet, der er det dominerende erhverv. I århundreder har de lokale fiskere og fangere fisket hellefisk fra små joller i det isfyldte farvand umiddelbart ud for byen. I de seneste fem år er der således registreret fangst af 38.000 tons hellefisk af fangere fra byen og de omliggende bygder. Fangsten omfatter også andre fangst dyr, f.eks. sæl, hval, hvalros, isbjørn og fugle.

Mange lever fortsat som fangere med anvendelsen af hundeslæden som transportmiddel over land. Når man bevæger sig rundt i byen, står der hunde i lænker overalt mellem huse, og i byens udkant er der en kæmpe plads med skure til hunde. Ofte lyder det store kor af hunde, der starter en hylekoncert. I 2018 blev der registreret næsten 3.000 slædehunde i distriktet.

Der er to væsentlige årsager til, at turister vælger Grønland som destination for deres ferie. Det ene er den helt unikke natur. Det andet er at opleve det traditionelle Grønland med traditionelle erhverv og kultur. Men både fangsten og antallet af slædehunde er under betydelig tilbagegang. Det traditionelle erhverv presses af nye fiskemetoder, og det er spørgsmålet om få generationer, før fangerhvervet forsvinder helt.

Cultures under pressure

The small town Ilulissat is located far north at the west coast of Greenland. Today, it is a town that is well-known all over the world. The town is located next to The Icefjord. The fjord is filled with huge icebergs from a glacier at the Ice Sheet. As we walk around the roads of the town, we can see the icebergs behind the town. In the distance they may resemble high-rise buildings.

In these years, the melting from the Ice Sheet is changing. Many political leaders of the world have visited Ilulissat to observe the consequences of climate change with their own eyes.

In 2004, the area was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and now the tourists are rushing to the town. The Home Rule Government of Greenland is in the process of establishing an expansion of the Ilulissat Airport. Soon the airport will get the capacity for the large tourist planes. The town

contains several hotels. In 2019 alone, 31,000 guests were registered at the hotels in the town, and the same year the town received cruise ships carrying nearly 15,000 passengers. These figures seem grotesque, when we know, that the town only has 4,670 citizens. Many tourist operators market their offers to tourists as sustainable. But as a whole, it seems futile to term tourism to this extent in such a small society to be sustainable.

More and more citizens in the town are entirely or partly living on the revenues from the tourism. Alongside tourism, it is the fishing industry that is the dominant industry. For centuries, the local fishermen and hunters have fished halibut from small dinghies in the icy waters just in front of the town. In the last five years, 38,000 tonnes of halibut have been recorded as the catch from the town and surrounding settlements. The catch also includes other animals, such as seal, whale, walrus, polar bear and birds.

Many continue to live as hunters, using the dog sled as a means of transport over land. When you walk around in the town, everywhere the dogs stand in chains between the houses, and on the outskirts of the town, there is a huge field with sheds for dogs. Often the large chorus of dogs starts a howling concert. In 2018, nearly 3,000 sled dogs were registered in the district.

There are two main motives, why tourists choose Greenland as the destination for their holiday. One is the unique nature. The second is to see the traditional Greenland including the traditional hunters and the culture. But both the hunt and the number of sled dogs are in significant decline. The traditional profession is being squeezed by new fishing methods, and it is a matter of a few generations before the fishing and hunting completely disappears.



Ilulissat, juni 2002

Ilulissat, June 2002



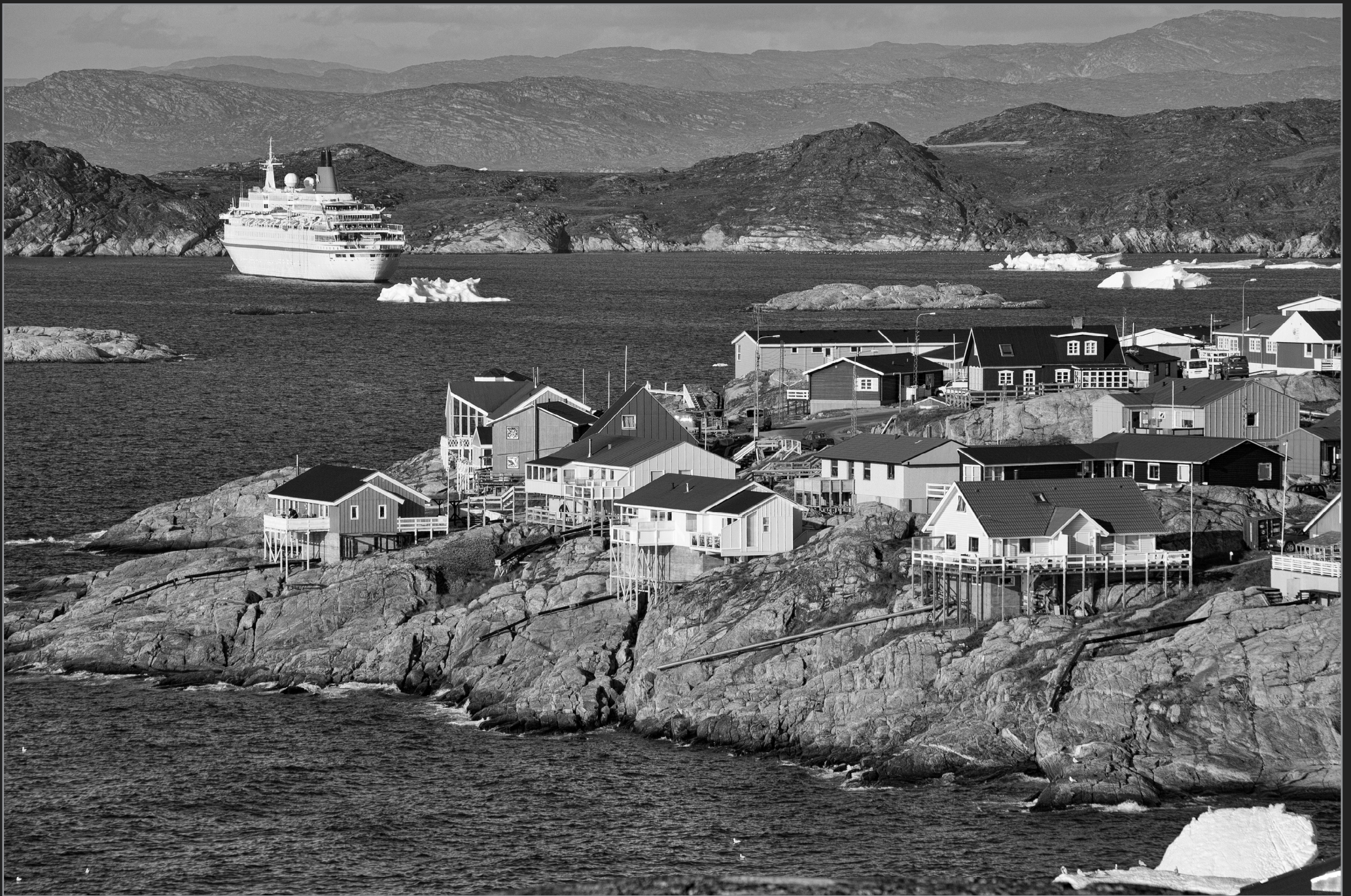
Ilulissat, september 2010

Ilulissat, September 2010



Ilulissat, juni 2002

Ilulissat, June 2002



Ilulissat, september 2010

Ilulissat, September 2010



Ilulissat, juni 2002

Ilulissat, June 2002



Ilulissat, juni 2002

Ilulissat, June 2002



Ilulissat, juni 2002

Ilulissat, June 2002



Ilulissat, februar 2009

Ilulissat, February 2009



Ilulissat, juni 2002

Ilulissat, June 2002



Ilulissat, februar 2009

Ilulissat, February 2009



Ilulissat, september 2010

Ilulissat, September 2010



Ilulissat, juni 2007

Ilulissat, June 2007



Ilulissat, september 2010

Ilulissat, September 2010



Ilulissat, juni 2007

Ilulissat, June 2007

KOLOFON

*Ugens foto: Kulturer under pres
Af Keld Jensen*

*PDF Version 1
Oprindeligt publiceret juni 2020*

Alle billeder og tekst © 2020 Keld Jensen

COLOPHON

*Photo of the week: Cultures under pressure
By Keld Jensen*

*PDF Version 1
Originally Published June 2020*

All images and text © 2020 Keld Jensen