

# DEN LILLE RØDE HELIKOPTER

## THE LITTLE RED CHOPPER

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## Den lille røde helikopter

Det er en tirsdag eftermiddag i november 2014. Et møde i Grønlands hovedstad, Nuuk, gør det nødvendigt med en rejse på mere end fem hundrede kilometer hver vej. Først med helikopter fra hjembyen Qaqortoq til lufthavnen i Narsarsuaq. Herfra videre med fastvinge fly til Nuuk og så returrejse om tre dage.

Vi skal møde op en time før afgang. Det er et godt tegn, at ansatte på heliporten er i gang med at fjerne de beskyttende presenninger fra en helikopter. Regn, slud og nattefrost er hård kost for al elektronik.

Vejret tillader flyvning i dag. Vi har minutiøst fulgt med i vejrudsigten de seneste dage. Tilsyneladende arter vejret sig fint langs den grønlandske vestkyst. Transport i Grønland på denne årstid indbefatter altid risikoen for dårligt vejr, og dermed aflysninger af al

flyvning i flere døgn, eller timevis af ventetid i ventesale i heliport eller lufthavn.

Det hele går efter planen. Helikopteren fra bygden Nanortalik langt mod syd dukker op over fjorden. Den lille røde helikopter bliver under en infam larm sat blidt ned på heliportens asfalt. Så snart den er tømt for passagerer og bagage, bliver vi kaldt ud, mens vores bagage bliver stuvet ind i siden af helikopteren.

Selv med høreværn på, er rotorens støj over vores hoveder voldsom, da vi foretager den bratte opstigning lodret op over den lille heliport. Vi er på vej.

Byen Qaqortoq ligger smukt ved fjorden og med den store sø bag byen. De seneste dages sne har farvet det hele hvidt. De kulørte træhuse tegner sig smukt i den hvide sne.

Byen forsvinder bagude, og i lav højde over fjordens mørke vand flyver vi mod øst. Vi har udsyn til et fantastisk smukt vinterlandskab med sneklædte klipper og frosne elve.

Længere inde er de laveste par hundrede meter ikke dækket af sne. Selv om det er en relativ kort distance på et hundrede kilometer, så kan der være tale om forskellige vejrlig. Vi får øje på fåreholdernes bygninger, veje og indhegninger langs fjorden.

Helikopteren transporterer os til lufthavnen Narsarsuaq – herfra skal vi flyve videre i fastvinge fly til Grønlands Hovedstad Nuuk. Flyet holder allerede og venter.

Nu er helikopterturene mellem Qaqortoq og Narsarsuaq snart slut. En lufthavn til fastvingefly ved Qaqortoq er under etablering.

## *The little red chopper*

It is a Tuesday afternoon in November 2014. A meeting in Greenland's capital, Nuuk, makes it necessary to travel more than five hundred kilometres each way. First by helicopter from the hometown of Qaqortoq to Narsarsuaq Airport. Then proceed by fixed wing flight to Nuuk and then a return trip three days later.

We must appear in the heliport an hour before departure. It is a good sign that employees at the heliport are removing the protective tarpaulins from a helicopter. Rain, sleet and night frost are hard conditions for all types of electronics.

The weather allows flying today. In the latest few days, we have watched the weather forecasts. Apparently, the weather is fine along the west coast of Greenland. At this time of the year transport in Greenland always includes the risk of bad weather, and thus cancellations of all flights for several days, or hours of waiting time in waiting

rooms at the heliport or the airport.

Everything is going according to plan. The helicopter from the village of Nanortalik far to the south appears over the fjord. During an infamous noise the small red helicopter is gently dropped on the asphalt of the heliport. As soon as the passengers has left and the helicopter is emptied for their baggage, we are called out while our baggage is stowed into the side of the helicopter.

Even wearing hearing protectors, the noise of the rotor above our heads is violent, as we take off and experience the abrupt ascent vertically up over the small heliport. We are on our way.

Beautifully, the town of Qaqortoq is located by the fjord and with the large lake behind the town. The recent days snowfall has coloured it all white. Beautifully, the coloured wooden houses stand out in the white snow. The town is left behind, and at low

altitude above the dark waters of the fjord we fly east. We have a view of a stunningly beautiful winter landscape with snowy mountains and frozen rivers.

Further in, the lowest few hundred meters of the mountains are not covered with snow. Although it is a relative short distance of one hundred kilometres, the weather and climate can be different. We spot the sheep farmers' buildings, roads and fields with fences along the fjord.

The little red helicopter transports us to Narsarsuaq airport – from here we will fly on in an ordinary aircraft to the capital of Greenland, Nuuk. The plane is already waiting.

Now, the chopper tours between Qaqortoq and Narsarsuaq are almost at an end. At Qaqortoq an airport for fixed-wing aircraft is being established.





Sydgrønland, november 2014

South Greenland, November 2014





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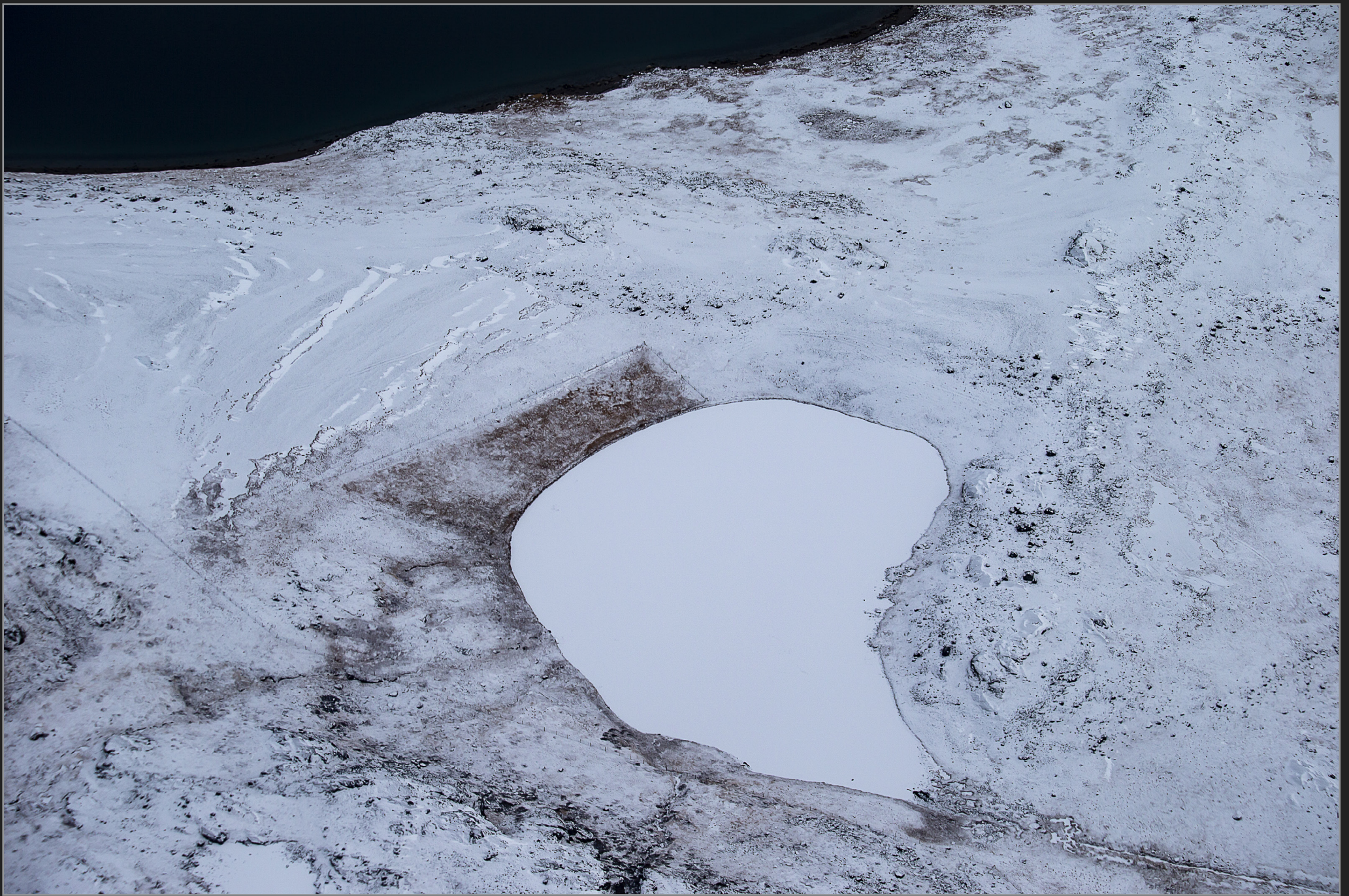




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## KOLOFON

*Ugens foto: Den lille røde helikopter  
Af Keld Jensen*

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## COLOPHON

*Photo of the week: The little red chopper  
By Keld Jensen*

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