

OM LIDT BLIVER HER STILLE
SOON IT WILL BE QUITE HERE

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Nr. 48, december 2024

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Om lidt bliver her stille

I mere end tres år har lufthavnen i Kangerlussuaq været det centrale knudepunkt i Grønlands infrastruktur. Dette til trods for, at lufthavnen ligger afsides inde i bunden af en lang fjor.

Grønlands største byer ligger ude ved kysten. Den største er hovedstaden Nuuk med næsten tyve tusinde indbyggere, svarende til 35 procent af Grønlands befolkning. Til sammenligning er der nu omkring fem hundrede bosiddende i Kangerlussuaq.

Beslutningen om placeringen af lufthavnen i Kangerlussuaq tager sit udgangspunkt i det amerikanske militærs etablering af en militærbase i området. I og omkring den nu civile lufthavn er der fortsat efterladenskaber fra de militære aktiviteter i området – f.eks. forrevne rester af havarerede fly i bjergene og ældre bygninger omkring landingsbanen.

Lufthavnen i Kangerlussuaq ligger hele tre hundrede kilometer fra Nuuk. Den-

ne vanskelige infrastruktur betød, at Air Greenland i små DASH-8 fly fløj frem og tilbage fra byerne på kysten for at bringe de rejsende til atlantlufthavnen i Kangerlussuaq.

Der eksisterer ikke veje mellem Grønlands byer og bosætninger, så transport skal ske med fly eller med skib. Flytrafikken har i de tres år været indrettet således, at atlantflyet fra Danmark fløj til og fra Kangerlussuaq, og at Air Greenlands flåde af mindre fly har transporteret passagerne til og fra alle bosætningerne langs den tusindvis af kilometer lange kyststrækning.

Nu er der etableret lufthavn til store fly i hovedstaden. Det første fly fra Danmark landede i Nuuks lufthavn den 28. november 2024. Kangerlussuaqs ære som hovedlufthavn er slut.

De fleste, der har rejst i Grønland, har oplevet Kangerlussuaq som et sted, hvor man kunne møde bekendte og familie fra

hele landet. Det var også stedet, hvor man måske ufrivilligt måtte vente i timevis eller i dagevis, når uvejr rullede ind over den grønlandske vestkyst. Normalt var vejret i Kangerlussuaq helt stabilt, men de udsatte lufthavne langs kysten måtte lukke ned på grund af det dårlige vejr. Den længste ventetid, jeg nåede at opleve, var tre dage. Tre dage med hyggelig snak med nye bekendte og erkendelsen af, at man jo nok kom videre på et tidspunkt.

Kangerlussuaq har fortsat meget at byde på, og måske vil stedet overleve som turiststed. Den kolossale og spændende vildmark omkring lufthavns bygden byder på adgang til at besøge gletsjer og Indlandsisen, se og jage rener og moskus og i det hele taget opleve et sted langt borte fra menneskets ellers travle verden.

Soon it will be quite here

For more than sixty years, the airport in Kangerlussuaq has been the central hub of Greenland's infrastructure. This is even though it is located remotely at the end of a long fjord.

Greenland's largest towns are situated along the coast. The largest is the capital, Nuuk, with nearly twenty thousand inhabitants, equivalent to 35 per cent of the country's population. By comparison, there are now about five hundred residents in Kangerlussuaq.

The decision to place the airport in Kangerlussuaq originated from the U.S. military's establishment of a base in the area. In and around what is now a civilian airport, remnants of military activities can still be found—such as jagged wreckage of crashed planes in the mountains and older buildings around the runway.

The airport in Kangerlussuaq is located three hundred kilometres from Nuuk. This challenging infrastructure meant that

Air Greenland operated small DASH-8 aircraft to shuttle travellers between the coastal towns and the transatlantic airport in Kangerlussuaq.

There are no roads between Greenland's towns and settlements, so transportation must be by air or sea. For sixty years, air traffic was organized such that the transatlantic flights from Denmark flew to and from Kangerlussuaq. Air Greenland's fleet of smaller aircraft transported passengers to and from all the settlements along the thousands of kilometres of coastline.

Now, an airport for large aircraft has been established in the capital. The first flight from Denmark landed at Nuuk's airport on November 28, 2024. Kangerlussuaq's era as the main airport has come to an end.

Most people who have travelled in Greenland have experienced Kangerlussuaq as a place where one could meet acquaintances and family from across the country.

It was also the place where one might involuntarily have to wait for hours or even days when bad weather swept across Greenland's west coast. Normally, the weather in Kangerlussuaq was quite stable, but the exposed coastal airports often had to shut down due to poor weather. The longest wait I ever experienced was three days. Three days of pleasant conversations with new acquaintances and the realization that, eventually, you would get where you needed to go.

Kangerlussuaq still has much to offer, and perhaps it will survive as a tourist destination. The vast and fascinating wilderness surrounding the airport settlement offers access to glaciers and the Ice Sheet, opportunities to see and hunt reindeer and musk oxen, and, generally, the chance to experience a place far removed from humanity's otherwise busy world.



Kangerlussuaq, juli 2007

Kangerlussuaq, July 2007



Kangerlussuaq, januar 2016

Kangerlussuaq, January 2016



Kangerlussuaq, januar 2016

Kangerlussuaq, January 2016



Kangerlussuaq, juli 2013

Kangerlussuaq, July 2013



Kangerlussuaq, juli 2013

Kangerlussuaq, July 2013



Kangerlussuaq, juli 2013

Kangerlussuaq, July 2013



Kangerlussuaq, juni 2007

Kangerlussuaq, June 2007



Kangerlussuaq, juli 2007

Kangerlussuaq, July 2007



Kangerlussuaq, juni 2007

Kangerlussuaq, June 2007



Kangerlussuaq, juni 2007

Kangerlussuaq, June 2007



Kangerlussuaq, august 2011

Kangerlussuaq, August 2011



Kangerlussuaq, januar 2002

Kangerlussuaq, January 2002



Kangerlussuaq, august 2011

Kangerlussuaq, August 2011



Kangerlussuaq, august 2011

Kangerlussuaq, August 2011



Kangerlussuaq, august 2011

Kangerlussuaq, August 2011



Kangerlussuaq, juli 2008

Kangerlussuaq, July 2008

KOLOFON

Ugens foto: Om lidt bliver her stille
Af Keld Jensen

PDF Version 1
Oprindeligt publiceret december 2024

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COLOPHON

Photo of the week: Soon it will be quite here
By Keld Jensen

PDF Version 1
Originally Published December 2024

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