

KANGEQ
- EN NEDLAGT BYGD
KANGEQ
- AN ABANDONED SETTLEMENT

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Kangeq - en nedlagt bygd

Man lægger mærke til stilheden først. Ikke fraværet af lyd – Bølgerne slår stadig mod stenene ved bredden, og mågeskrig høres overalt, som de har gjort i århundreder – men fraværet af de lyde, et sted som dette burde have. Ingen hunde. Ingen børn. Ingen døre, der smækker, ingen stemmer, der kalder hen over husrækken.

Man går mellem tomterne, og det er svært at lade være med at fylde dem ud igen i tanken. Her har der stået en seng. Her et komfur, tøj til tørre på tørresnoren, et par støvler ved døren. Malingen er vasket af mange af husene, og vind og vejr i tres år har fået ydervægge til at bryde sammen.

Kangeq ligger yderst på Nordlandet, ved munden af Nuup Kangerlua – Godthåbsfjorden – et sted, der har været beboet i generationer af mennesker, der levede af havets værdier: Fisk og havfugle, men også sæler og isbjørne.

Kangeqs historie som levende bygd sluttede i løbet af 1960'erne. Bygden blev officielt nedlagt, og beboerne blev fraflyttet til en ny tilværelse inde i den store by. Mange mod deres vilje, men bestemt af politikere, der havde fokus på Grønlands overordnede økonomiske politik.

Jeg besøgte den nedlagte bygd Kangeq i august 2012.

Kangeq

- An Abandoned Settlement

The first thing you notice is the silence. Not the absence of sound — the waves still break against the rocks along the shore, and the cries of seagulls echo everywhere, just as they have for centuries — but the absence of the sounds a place like this ought to have. No dogs. No children. No doors slamming, no voices calling across the row of houses.

You walk among the ruins of houses, and it is difficult not to reconstruct them in your mind. Here there was a bed. Here, a stove; laundry hanging on the clothesline; a pair of boots by the door. The paint has long since been washed from many of the houses, and sixty years of wind and weather have caused their outer walls to collapse.

Kangeq lies at the outer edge of Nordlandet, at the mouth of Nuup Kangerlua — Godthåb Fjord — a place that was inhabited for generations by people who lived from the riches of the sea: fish and seabirds, but also seals and polar bears.

Kangeq's history as a living settlement came to an end during the 1960s. The settlement was officially abandoned, and its residents were relocated to begin new lives in the large town. Many went against their will, following decisions made by politicians whose focus was on Greenland's overall economic policy.

I visited the abandoned settlement of Kangeq in August 2012.



Kangeq, august 2012

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KOLOFON

Ugens foto: Kangeq - en nedlagt bygd
Af Keld Jensen

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COLOPHON

Photo of the week: Kangeq - An Abandoned Settlement
By Keld Jensen

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