

The Whales in Nuup Kangerlua



*by
Keld Jensen*

The whales in Nuup Kangerlua

Even if you countless times have experienced to be near to these huge animals, it remains a powerful experience to stand on a small boat only few meters from these huge whales. I can hear the whales from my apartment. In a summer night, where I have the bedroom window ajar, I can hear their blow out on the fjord.

On the balcony, I often watch the spray rise several feet out of the weather and I can see the shiny black leather surface of their bodies out on the fiord. You wait until the whales decide to dive down into the depths of the fiord. The last you see of the whale is its large tail pointing straight up in the air. The whale is again on the way down into the depths to live and eat.

The fiords surrounding Nuuk is deep and the whale can stay invisible under the water surface. There is plenty of room for the whales in the fiord. Not only is the fiord Nuup Kangerlua deep. It is also one of the world's largest fiord-systems. There are more than enough room for both people and whales and all other creatures, which for centuries have inhabited the fiord and its surroundings.

In Greenland, we eat shrimps, lots of shrimps. Both humans and whales eat shrimps. If you have tried to forget the remnants of shrimps a day in a garbage bag in the kitchen, then you know the smell of the breath of a whale. It is a strong smell when you are close to the whale in a boat. Perhaps the whale signal to the human beings: "Go-away-dog" fumes?

Many different kinds of whales visit Nuup Kangerlua. The most common are the minke whales and the humpback whales.

The largest is the humpback whale. Although the humpback whale may seem small in this vast landscape, it's one of the world's largest whales. When fully grown the humpback whales are 12-15 feet. The weight is 30-35 tons. Humpback whale visits Nuuk Kangerlua from April to November. The whales are typically foraging on the banks off the coast, but they often visit the Nuup Kangerlua fiord.



*A diving whale in front of the
snow-covered mountain
Sermitsiaq, October 2001*



Two whales go together into the fiord, September 2001



The humpback on the humpback whale, August 2008



The humpback whale in the landscape of the fiord, August 2008



The blowholes of the humpback whale, August 2008



A humpback whale on her way back into the water of the fiord, August 2008



A humpback whale just before diving into the fiord, August 2008



A humpback whale curving her back before the dive, August 2008



A humpback whale showing her two blowing holes, August 2008



A humpback whale diving and showing the underside of the tail, August 2008



The water of the fiord drips from the humpback whale's tail, August 2008



A humpback whale showing its flukes before diving into the depths of the fiord, August 2008



A humpback whale breach off the coast, August 2008



A humpback whale lies on its back with the flippers in the sunshine, August 2008



The blowholes and the spray from a humpback whale, August 2008



A humpback whale smashing the flipper into the water, August 2008



The humpback whale waving the flipper, August 2008



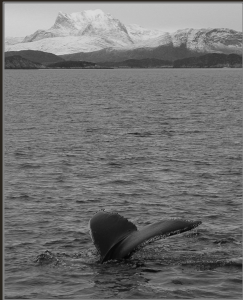
A humpback whale swimming on its back only showing the flippers, August 2008



A whale in the evening sun, July 2010

Thumbnails

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COLOPHON

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