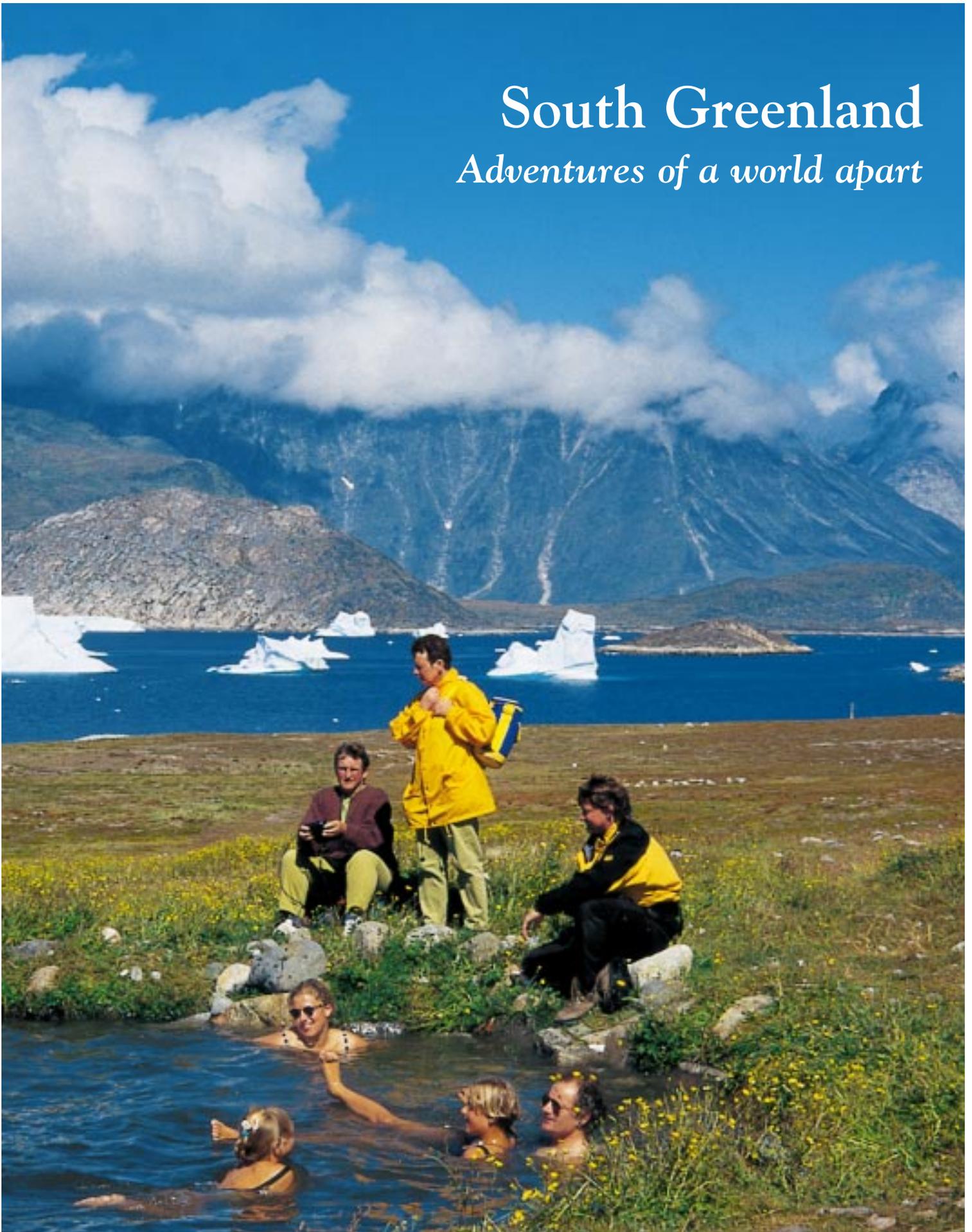
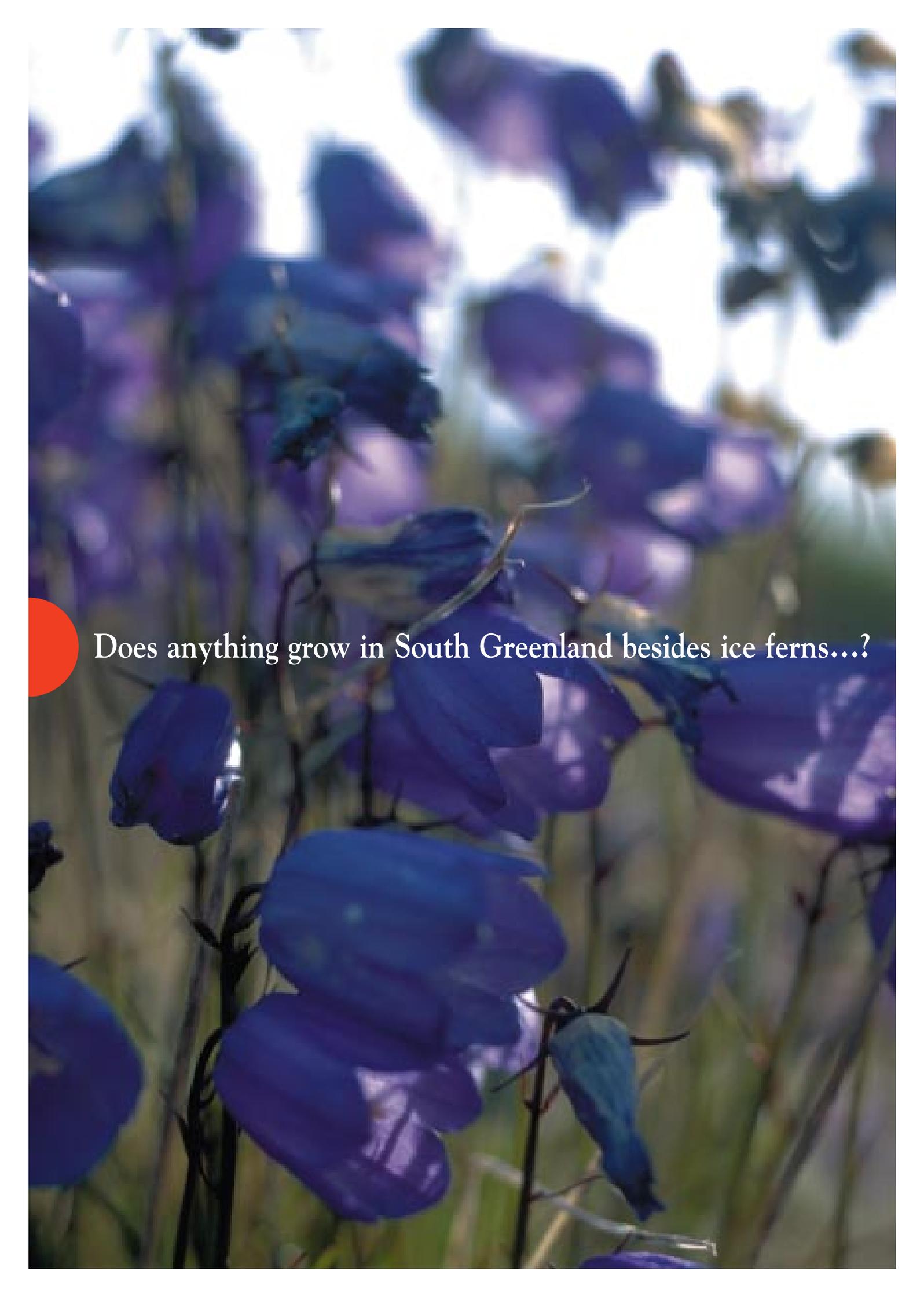


South Greenland

Adventures of a world apart



A close-up photograph of a field of purple bell-shaped flowers, likely Campanula. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with some fully open and others as buds. The background is a soft-focus field of similar flowers. A solid red circle is positioned on the left side of the image, partially overlapping the text.

Does anything grow in South Greenland besides ice ferns...?

Welcome to South Greenland

The South Greenland summer is brief and intense. In a jumble of colours you can experience around 350 of the some 500 different plant species that grow in Greenland.



Live hard, die young. That could be the motto for Arctic flowers in South Greenland that blossom for only a brief while. When they do, however, it is with such vigour and in such a variety of rich colours that anyone expecting a cold, barren landscape will be thoroughly astonished.

The flowers are very symbolic of South Greenland which is an amazingly colourful, astounding and varied region.

Take the night sky, for example. As early as August when the darkness slowly returns, the effervescent northern lights softly play across the large dark canvas. Or contemplate the

icebergs carved by wind and weather into floating sculptures with highly imaginative shapes and refinements. Or listen to the silence and your own inner peace – an unparalleled experience not found anywhere else in the world. Take an excursion, and you will invariably be astounded. You will experience how the journeys to and from your destination are just as thrilling as the attraction itself. Not because the attractions are uninspiring, but because the South Greenland

Yes... In summer South Greenland is lilac, red, yellow and blue

landscape is so profoundly beautiful.

The towns will surprise you, too. The houses are painted in bright, cheerful colours that make you feel welcome before you have even spoken with the inhabitants – who are very hospitable for that matter. The main trades in South Greenland are sheep farming, seal hunting and fishing. Yet handicrafts, like finely worked skin products and figurines carved out of soapstone and bone, are also characteristic of South Greenland.

This brochure gives you a little foretaste of the abundant offers in South Greenland. No matter how much you read before you arrive, however, South Greenland will probably still overwhelm you when you find yourself standing there in person. Welcome to adventures of a world apart.

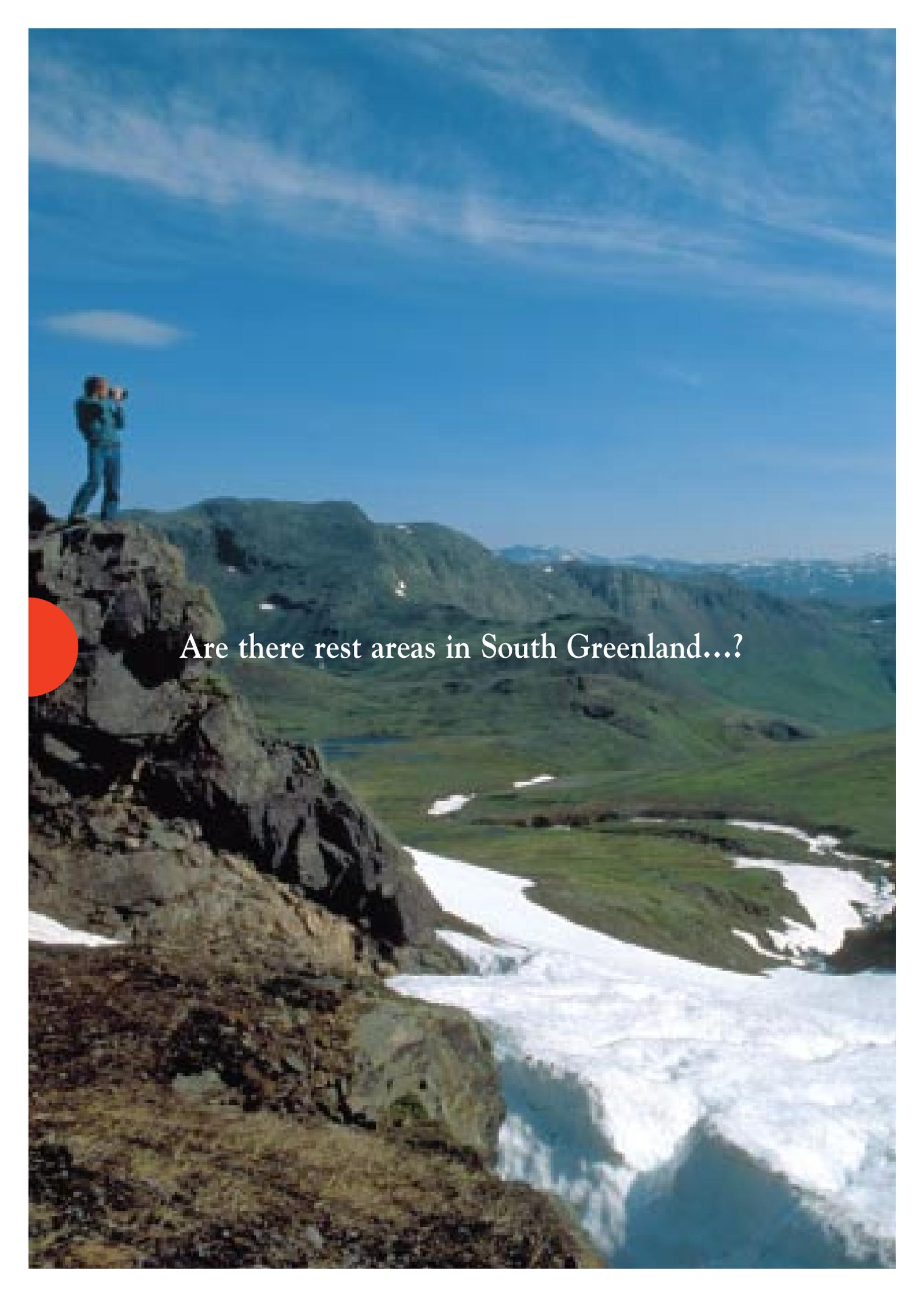
A unique feature enjoyed by many visitors are the hot springs of South Greenland. The hot water, 36° C, gushes up from the underground to create a natural pool. Lying in the water, you enjoy the sight of icebergs floating past in the sea.



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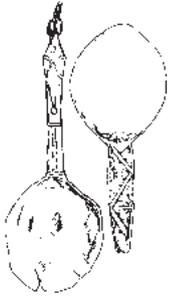


A person in a dark jacket and pants stands on a dark, rocky outcrop on the left side of the frame, looking out over a vast, green valley. The valley is filled with patches of snow and snowmelt, and is surrounded by rolling green hills. The sky is a clear, bright blue with some light, wispy clouds. A red circle is partially visible on the left edge of the image.

Are there rest areas in South Greenland...?

Hiking

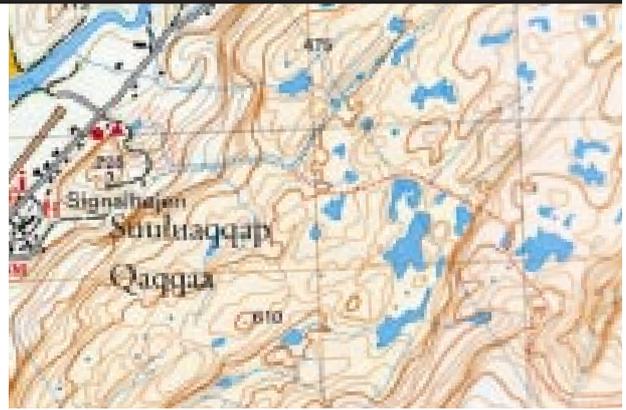
Hiking maps of South Greenland can be purchased at tourist offices. The routes are marked according to difficulty, but you can also choose to blaze your own trails.



A gigantic pedestrian precinct. That is one way to describe South Greenland where vehicles, with few exceptions, are only found in towns. The absence of cars and roads is one of the reasons that South Greenland is a rambler's paradise.

Another reason is the beautiful, varied landscape. From standing in the middle of a towns, it takes you less than thirty minutes before you are standing in the middle of wild scenery. With the proper gear on your back and a hiking map in hand, South Greenland lies at your feet. Even if you are not a seasoned footslogger.

That's because South Greenland offers terrain for toughened and novice hikers alike.



A unique feature of Greenland is that you can usually put up your tent wherever you like. If you find a particularly beautiful spot – and there are many to choose from – it can be transformed into a camping site right then and there. Modern facilities will hardly be missed. Clean water is found in the nearest river, where you can also catch char for dinner.

If you want a roof over your head all the same, there are sheep farms throughout most of South Greenland that rent out small inexpensive cabins. Here you can be supplied with

Yes... but there are no cars

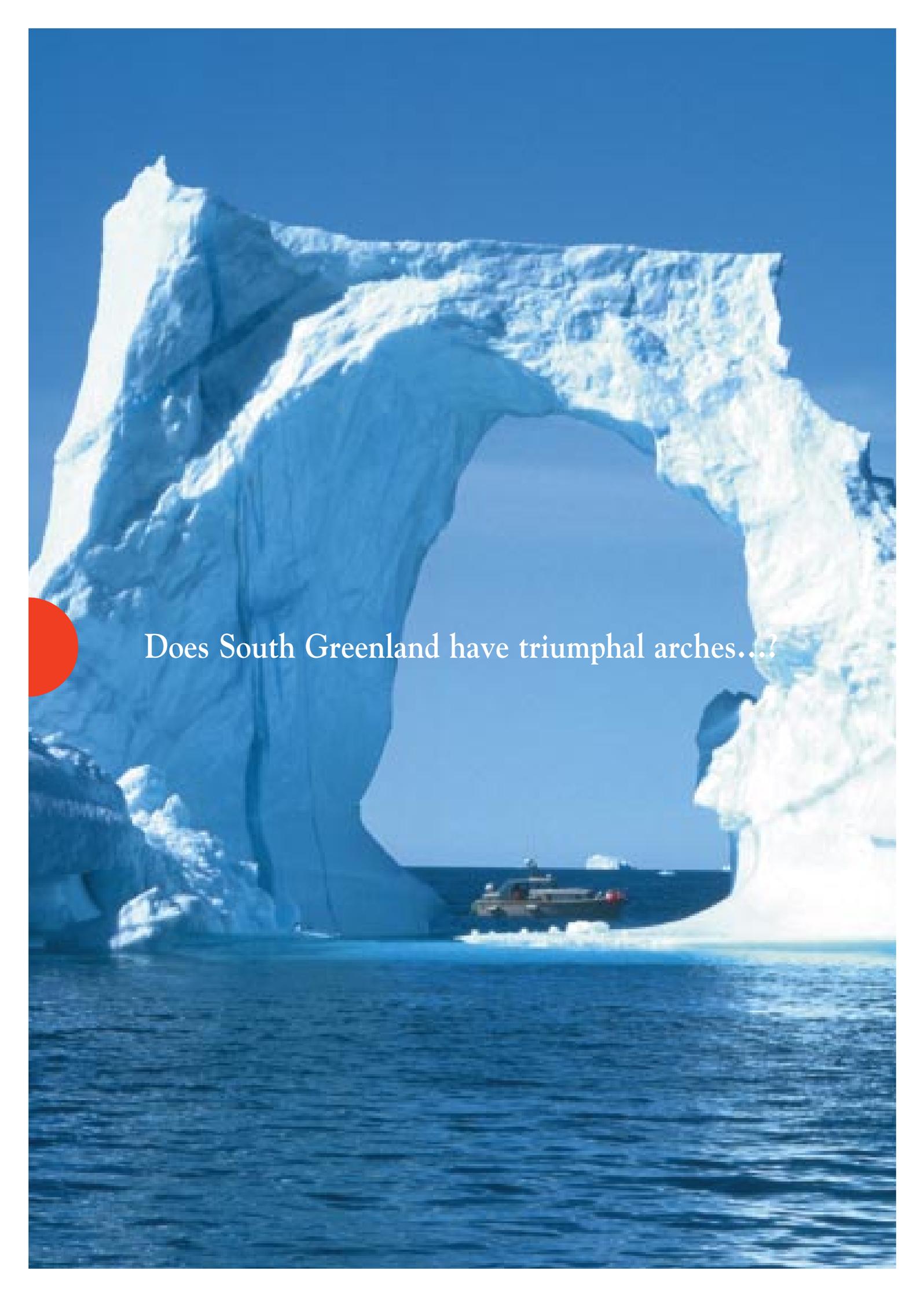


You decide where to set up camp in South Greenland.

vegetables and Greenlandic lamb, a great delicacy. Modern farming actually occurs on the very same fields cultivated by the Norse. At the same time you have an opportunity to experience a totally different way of living and maybe even a nice chat as well. It is also nice to know that wherever there are sheep, there are no mosquitoes. But naturally, your primary encounter will be with the great outdoors that generously offers everything from the inland ice cap to fertile valleys, from tumultuous waterfalls to peaceful lakes, from narrow clefts to endless expanses. An impassable universe for motorists, but a true paradise for hikers.

Camping in Greenland is allowed all over, with three exceptions: You are not permitted to put up your tent on private fields, tenting sites must be at least 50 metres from ruins and tenting is not permitted near water reservoirs. For longer hikes, it is important to take along waterproof clothing and sturdy hiking boots. Also remember to bring a mosquito net and first-aid kit, and always tell someone where you are going and how long you expect to be gone.

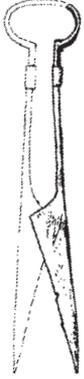


A large, white iceberg floats in a deep blue ocean under a clear sky. The iceberg has a prominent, irregular archway in its center. Through the arch, a small boat is visible on the water. The water in the foreground is dark blue with some white foam from the boat's wake. A red circle is partially visible on the left side of the image.

Does South Greenland have triumphal arches...?

The Ice

As you walk through the landscapes, you can experience how the greenest, most luxuriant areas are suddenly replaced by shiny white tongues of snow.



A visit to South Greenland will inevitably improve your sense of ice. You will discover that frozen water can be one of the most impressive sights in the world. And that the South Greenland landscape offers more varieties than a well-stocked Italian ice cream parlour.

The South Greenland icebergs are nothing short of gigantic works of art created by nature in the most fantastic shapes and colours. This natural art museum can be reached from most towns and settlements by boat. If you are lucky, you will see whales playing on the surface along the way.



Field ice is totally different. It consists of large saltwater floes formed in the Arctic Ocean north of Greenland. From here the ice drifts with the current more than 3000 kilometres down along the east coast around Cape Farewell and up along the west coast. Occasionally the ice packs are so dense that sea traffic is discontinued and supplies must be flown in by helicopter. The advent of the field ice tells the hunters that the hunt for hooded seal can begin.

Lastly, there is the inland ice cap that resembles a giant sea of ice covering most of Greenland. You can both sail and hike up to it and see how

Yes... but they keep melting

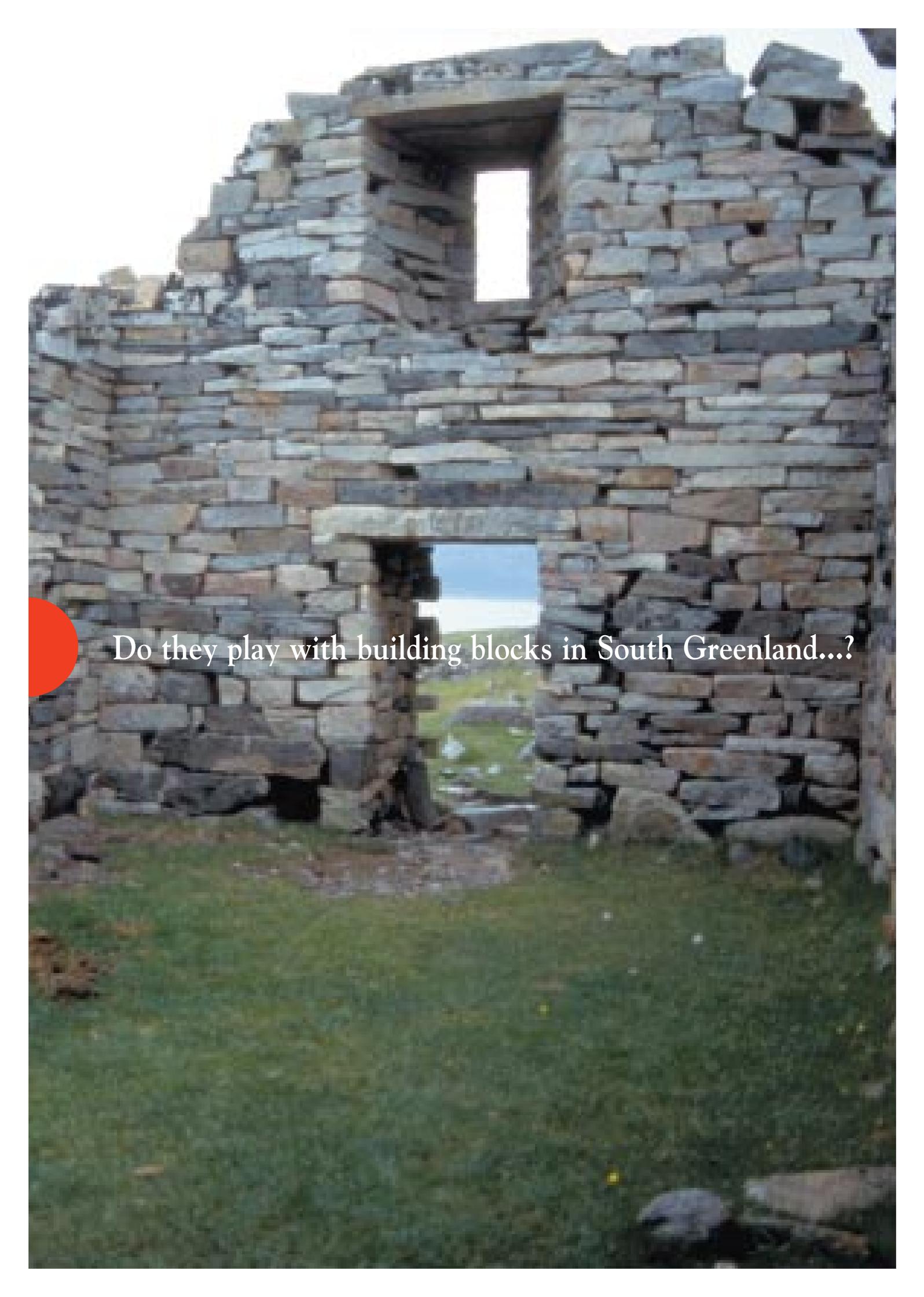
the green turf is abruptly replaced by a gigantic ice-covered landscape with deep glacial clefts, huge caves and a chalk-white horizon shining as brightly as the sun. A scene of incomprehensible splendour.

The silence is perhaps the most overwhelming aspect of the ice, however. A quietness that delves deep into your soul and gives you an indescribable feeling of inner peace. People who love Greenland appreciate this fusion with nature more than anything else. The tranquillity beckons them back to Greenland. Again and again.

On boat trips to the icebergs you might be lucky to experience the whales. The most common whale in Greenland is the lesser rorqual which can grow to a length of ten metres.



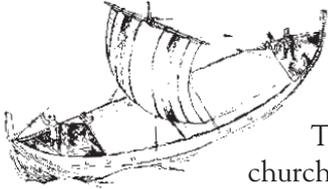
Like the sky and sea, the blue colour derives from the reflecting light. The colour's shade is determined by the amount of air contained in the ice. A high air content makes the ice appear opaque and white, while a low air content gives the ice a bright blue colour.



Do they play with building blocks in South Greenland...?

The Norse

Reconstructions of farms and the first church in Greenland have been built beside the ruins of Erik the Red's farmstead. Here you can experience how the Norse lived 1000 years ago.



The remains of the farms and churches of the Norse are found throughout South Greenland. The large granite and sandstone blocks at the ruins have many good stories to tell. The oldest is about Erik the Red who was banished from Iceland in 982. His flight from Iceland brought him to the largest island in the world. He liked it here, and after serving his sentence, he convinced his Icelandic friends and acquaintances to accompany him to "Greenland" and settle there.

You will understand why Erik called this country Greenland as you stand beside his farmstead in the settlement of Qassiarsuk. The green hills



undulate along the blue fjord as far as the eye can see. Erik chose his view with care!

The farmstead itself was nothing to turn your nose up at either. It was high-ceilinged and very spacious. See for yourself as you wander about the reconstruction built to commemorate the millenary for Leif Eriksson's discovery of Vinland. Beside the farmstead is the reconstruction of the church that Erik's wife, Tjodhildur, convinced

Yes... and they have for the past 1000 years

him to build.

Back then, the climate was milder than it is today. All the same, the life of a Norse was harsh. You will shiver as you stand in front of the cold walls in one of the more than 1000 ruins scattered across South Greenland, some of them in very desolate regions. The Norse were not totally isolated, however. They engaged in lively trade with Iceland and Norway. The Norse typically bought wood, metal, salt and flour which they paid for with ivory from the narwhal and walrus. Our knowledge of the Norse comes from the ruins and archaeological finds, as well as from the Icelandic sagas. We are not certain why the Norse disappeared. By around year 1500 they were gone. Yet their history lives on throughout South Greenland.

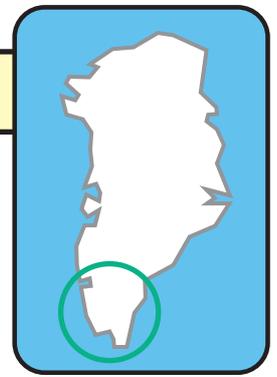


Most of the numerous Norse ruins in South Greenland are freely accessible.

Around year 1000, a ship sailed from Norway for Greenland, but was blown off course. These erring sailors returned and told about Vinland, which was later renamed New Foundland. Finds unearthed in the 1960s have shown that Erik the Red's son, Leif Eriksson, was the first European to reach the American continent some 500 years before Columbus.



Travelling to South Greenland



A helicopter trip to the inland ice cap is an unrivalled experience.

How to get here:

There are flights to Narsarsuaq Airport from Copenhagen, Iceland and the rest of Greenland. The flying time from Copenhagen on Green-



landair is almost five hours, while it takes three hours on Air Iceland from Iceland. Transport from Narsarsuaq to the towns and settlements of South Greenland is by helicopter or boat. With the exception of cruise ships,

there are no boat connections from Europe or Iceland to South Greenland.

Clothing:

Whether it is winter, spring or summer, you are recommended to bring clothing that follows the layer-on-layer principle. The outermost layer should be wind and waterproof. Since the sea temperature in summer is only a few degrees Celsius, it is a good idea to bring along gloves and cap for sea travel. Proper footgear is crucial in both winter and summer, i.e. waterproof shoes or hiking boots with thickly treaded soles.

Climate:

Greenland's mildest climate is found in South Greenland where summer temperatures at the upper end of the fjords can get up to 15 to 20 degrees

Celsius. The temperature feels different and warmer than in Europe, however, since the air in Greenland is very dry.

Health Services:

The towns of South Greenland have well-functioning hospitals and dental clinics, while nurse stations are located in Narsarsuaq and the settlements. In the event of acute illness or accidents, the medical assistance provided is usually free of charge. You are advised to bring your own medicine or other medicaments for regular use, since special products are not always available.

Currency:

Danish currency is a valid means of payment, and there are no import or export restrictions on cash. The post office provides banking services in the towns and settlements of South Greenland without banks. Credit cards are accepted at fair-sized shops and at hotels and restaurants.

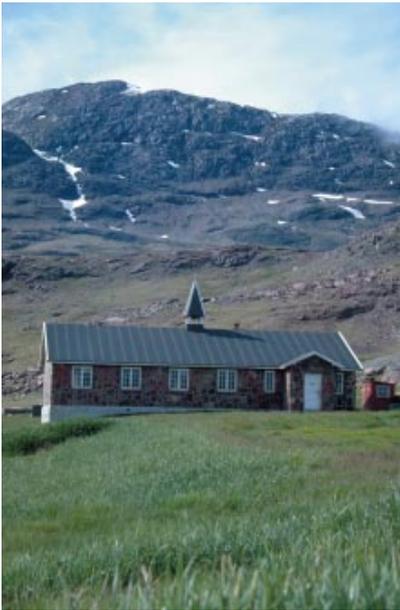


Does anything taste better on the grill than a char that has just fattened itself in the fjords of South Greenland?



Since the weather in South Greenland can change very quickly, it is always wise to be informed on the weather situation at the tourist office before setting out on your own.

Settlements of South Greenland



Life in the South Greenland settlements has its very own pace. If you are looking for peace and quiet, sail on a passenger boat to a settlement and stay for a day or two. The settlements usually have a small shop that is supplied twice a week with goods from the nearest town, and the shop also functions as a post office. For bigger purchases,

just head back to the “big city”.

Naturally, there is also a church, and in a few places the schoolroom is located in one end of the church. The catechist performs the church service on Sunday and teaches the children on weekdays. Later, the children move to a boarding house for school children in the nearest town and finish their schooling there. Transport to and from the settlement is made by the family’s motor boats.

The small power plant hums quietly in the background, because electricity is an obvious necessity in order for inhabitants to keep up with life outside the settlement via TV and radio. Since the modern

world has made its entry into the settlements, electricity also powers the children’s PlayStations. A settlement may have street lights, or it may not, because the smallest settlements often have only one street.

In the fjord settlements where the climate is warmer, sheep farming and farming are common while fishing and seal hunting dominate life in the outermost settlements along the coast. This is where guests come closest to what is commonly known as the “real Greenland” where you are totally dependent on what nature has to offer.

The settlements vary in size from less than forty inhabitants in Igaliku, to around 500 in Alluitsup Paa, which also has a pretty little hotel.

Accommodation in the other settlements consists of youth hostels, cabins and, in some cases, school camps. Inquire at the local tourist office about opportunities for settlement holidays and opportunities for getting close to tranquillity and silence.



Tasiussaq Sheep Farm confirms that South Greenland is more than just snow and ice – and is actually quite green.

The numerous South Greenland settlements are the primary suppliers of the some 20,000 lambs processed at the slaughterhouse in Narsaq. Since this production covers only what is consumed in Greenland each year, you must come to Greenland if you want to taste the lamb that originates from a free-range life in the hills.



Narsarsuaq



Sitting here, you will discover a peace and tranquillity you have never known before.



Since Narsarsuaq means “great plain”, it stands to reason that South Greenland’s international airport is located here. It was built back in 1941 by the US and was initially a military base. It did not change over to civil traffic until 1959. Narsarsuaq is the junction for air traffic in and out of South Greenland. In summer, there are several weekly flights to Denmark and Iceland, while helicopters and boats handle the further transport to towns and settlements. Around 160 people live in the airport area, which also includes a hotel, youth hostel, grocery shop, café and nurse station.

The mountains surrounding the “great plain” rise up to a height of 400 or 500 metres. The inland ice cap is some 9 kilometres away - 3 or 4 hours on foot - and is a beautiful hike that also passes through the lush “flower valley”. The ice can also be experienced by sailing to Qooroq Fjord where the boat sails very close to the glacier, which occasionally “discards” gigantic icebergs into the water.

The harbour, some two kilometres from the airport, offers fine opportunities for trying out your angling skills and hopefully landing a silvery



char for dinner.

Narsarsuaq offers a beautiful view of the Qassiarsuk sheep farms on the other side of the fjord. The green fields and slopes explain why Erik the Red chose the name Greenland. He settled at this very spot in Qassiarsuk with his family in 985 and named the site Brattahlid. To this very day the ruins from the Norse Era are clearly visible, as are the elegant reconstructions of Erik’s farmstead and Tjodhildur’s church.

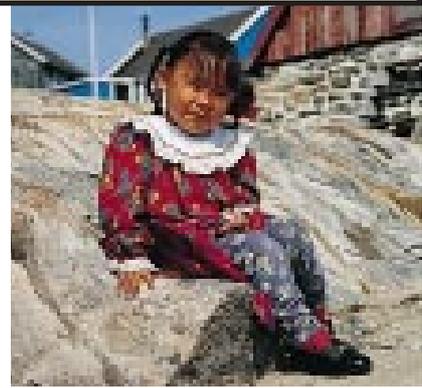
Gravel roads connect Qassiarsuk with the sheep farms in the area which also offer overnight accommodation. Many stay at them during hiking trips, horseback rides and angling trips in the area.

Itilleq is one hour by boat from Narsarsuaq to the south-east. From here it is a six-kilometre walk or drive to the settlement of Igaliku. The locality was named Gardar by the Norse, and an episcopal residence was founded here in 1126. The ruins of the cathedral and bishop’s palace have been renovated in recent years, and today constitute a beautiful memorial to Greenland’s Norse Era.



Founded in 1941 as a US military base. Population: 160.
Travel routes: By aeroplane from Iceland, Copenhagen and the rest of Greenland.

Narsaq



Narsaq means “plain”. The town spreads out over a large flat area that ends abruptly at the large mountains. It is a relatively young town that was first incorporated in 1959. Since 1830 the locality had functioned as a trading post under the name

“Nordprøven”. Today, some 1,700 people live in the town proper and some 370 are dispersed in the surrounding settlements and sheep farms.

Narsaq is the site of Greenland’s only slaughterhouse where all Greenlandic lamb and reindeer are slaughtered. Eskimo Pels, Greenland’s oldest fur-making workshop, is located in Narsaq. The company sews a wide variety of sealskin products from mittens to furs. Greenland Ice Cap Productions, which crushes inland ice into ice cubes is also located in Narsaq. The raw materials are right outside the door. The business and industry community also consists of a fish factory, sheep farming, a wool processing workshop, a potter’s workshop and several outfitters serving the tourist trade.

A varied selection of accommodation are available in Narsaq. Hotel Inuili offers small hotel flats and a view to the inland ice cap. Hotel Perlen is a

small, charming hotel, that also has a view of the inland ice. Cosy lodging is also available at Hotel Niviarsiaq, a small guest house. There are two youth hostels – Narsaq Vandrehjem in the middle of the town with a splendid view and Narsaq Farm House, on the town outskirts.

Narsaq is the starting point for many excursions and activities. Since the town is located close to the inland ice cap, it is a good place of departure for boat trips to see the glaciers. The valley near

Narsaq is somewhat of an eldorado for geology enthusiasts due to the large concentration of rare stones and minerals. As a matter of fact it is the only place in the world where many of them are found.

The landscapes around Narsaq are very attractive to hikers. There are abundant opportunities for both short and long hikes. In and around Narsaq, there many particularly well-preserved historical memorials from the Norse and Eskimo cultures to be experienced along the way.



The kayak is still part of the South Greenland culture.

Founded in 1830 as a trading post under the authority of the Julianehåb Colony (today Qaqortoq)
Population: 2,000 in the district
Getting there: By helicopter or boat from the surrounding towns or the Narsarsuaq Airport.



Qaqortoq



Qaqortoq means “the white”. It was founded in 1775 and is today the largest town in South Greenland with more than 3,500 inhabitants. Of this number, 3,200 live in the town itself, while the rest live in the three surrounding settlements, on

two reindeer farms and at 13 sheep farms.

The town has several fair-sized companies. The town’s shipyards build small fibreglass cutters. Great Greenland purchases sealskins which it tans and sews into some of the world’s most coveted furs. And Royal Greenland keeps supermarket freezers stocked with shrimp.

The town square with

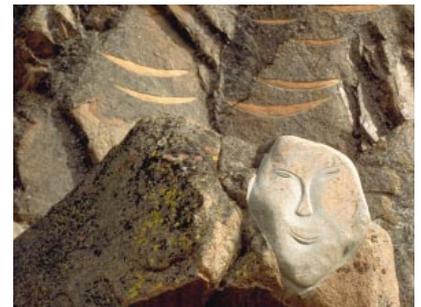
Greenland’s oldest fountain is situated close to the harbour where the fishermen arrive every day with the day’s catch on board. The square is encircled by some of the most well-preserved buildings from the colonial era, the oldest of which were built more than 200 years ago. Several of these buildings still play an important role in the town’s daily life where old and new prosper side by side.

Throughout Qaqortoq you meet examples of the unique Scandinavian art project “Stone and People”. Twenty-four Scandinavian sculptors have contributed pieces of art chiselled in granite that transform the town into one big sculpture park.

Hotel Qaqortoq is the town’s only hotel, but you can also spend the night at the Seamen’s Home, the folk high school or the youth hostel, and dine at restaurants, cafeterias and other establishments.

Many different excursions can originate in Qaqortoq. You can sail to the hot springs to the south where you can bathe without feeling cold, even though you are at the 61° parallel. You can also sail to the glaciers north-west of Narsaq, to the Upernaviarsuk agricultural research station or to the well-preserved Hvalsø church ruin from the 14th century.

Lastly, the beautiful area surrounding Qaqortoq abounds with hiking tours, both long and short in duration.



Founded as the Julianehåb Colony in 1775 and named after Juliane, the Queen Mother at the time.
Population: 3,500 in the district
Getting there: By helicopter or boat from the surrounding towns or the Narsarsuaq Airport.

Nanortalik



Nanortalik means “place of bears”. It is Greenland’s southernmost town with a district border extending all the way to the east coast. Fishing and seal hunting are the primary occupations for the 2,700 inhabitants in the area, which besides the main



town includes five settlements and many sheep farms.

The most renowned feature is the Nanortalik area with its “skyscrapers” - the steep peaks and sheer mountain sides lining

Tasermiut Fjord. Place names like Ketilfeld or Ulamertorsuaq are well known to most of the world’s rock and mountain climbers. The mountains of this area are just as challenging as the most rugged Alps and are for experienced climbers only. Although many mountain climbers challenge them every year, many of the peaks are still unconquered.

It is somewhat easier to capture the town’s two small-sized hotels, of which one is located in the charming neighbourhood near the old harbour. This is also the site of the town’s youth hostel and museum alongside old wooden buildings from the colonial era.

Among other items, the museum has replicas of

16th century Norse clothing found during excavations at Herjolfsnaes. The clothing lay in permafrost for several centuries and was therefore in exceedingly good condition.

In general, the area abounds with historic memorials. The Norse ruins are thickly clustered in the landscape, and you can see the remains of farmsteads and convents. Later, the German Hernnhut Mission arrived and left its mark on the district. Today, there is a church and several well-kept buildings from this period at Alluitsoq/Lichtenau.

Many excursions are possible around Nanortalik.

One of them is a magnificent tour in which you first sail, and then hike to the lush Qinngua Valley. Here you will find Greenland’s only natural forest. The seal hunters move to the outermost islands in spring and autumn to hunt seals, because the migratory route of the hooded seals passes right by. In spite of the place name, bears seldom appear, but occasionally they float by on ice floes from the east coast in early summer.



Founded in 1799 as a trading post under the authority of the Julianehåb Colony (today Qaqortoq)
Population: 2,700 in the district
Getting there: By boat or helicopter from the Narsarsuaq Airport via Qaqortoq.





Make your dreams come true...

Contact the local tourist office
or start the adventures
already today at
www.visitgreenland.com



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