

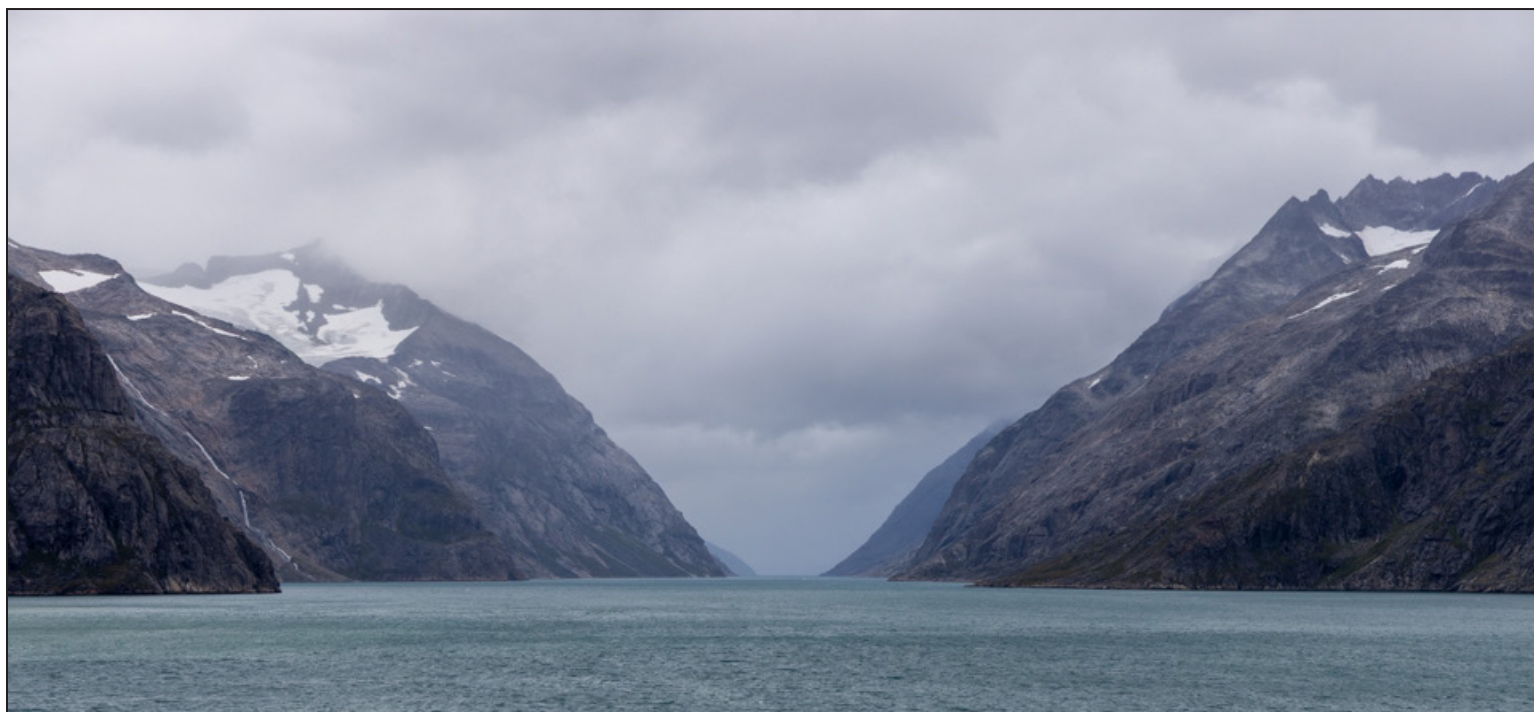
GREENLAND, 2026

Our cruise made a couple stops on the southern tip of Greenland. A rather limited experience when one considers the whole of Greenland, but we can say we visited Greenland, had walks in a couple towns and cruised through an amazing channel (sound) providing us with great landscape / seascape views. A visit that only makes us want to go back to Greenland and see more.

Arriving in Greenland our ship took a route through the Prince Christian Sound (Prins Christian Sund). The Prince Christian Sound is a waterway that separates the mainland from the island of islands of Cape Farewell. The Prince Christian Sound connects the Labrador Sea with the Irminger Sea. It is around 60 miles (100km) long and it is narrow, sometimes only 1,600 feet (500 Meters) wide. The only settlement along this sound is Aappilattoq. The long fjord system is mostly surrounded by steep mountains and with many glaciers.



Prince Christian Sound



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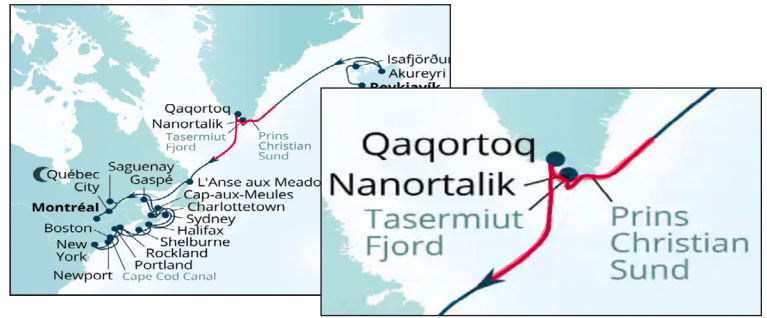
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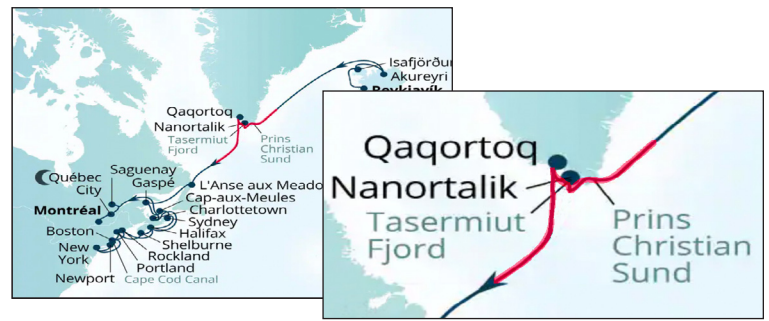
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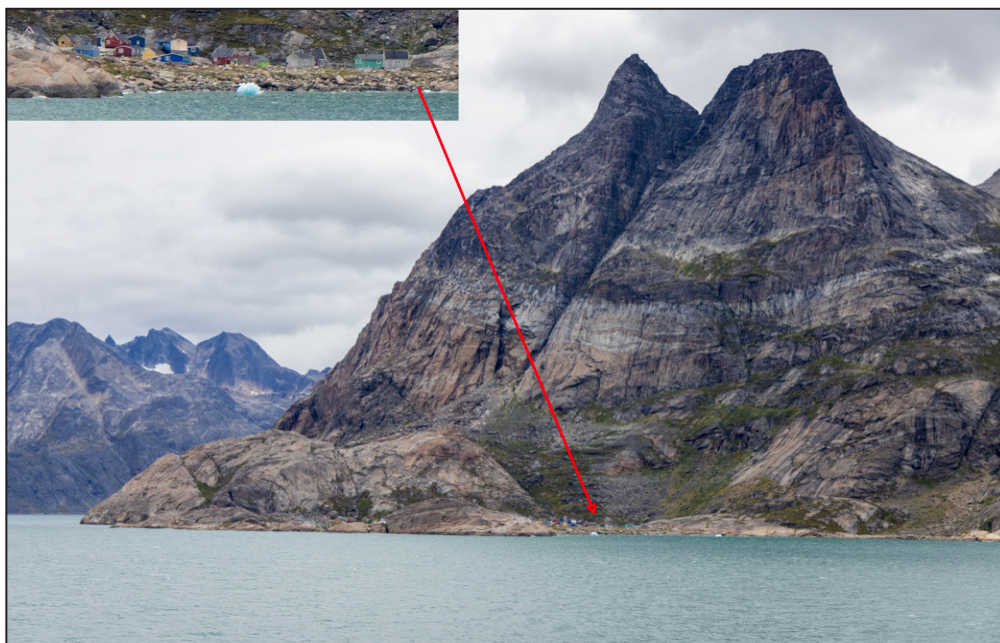


Prince Christian Sound

The only settlement along Prince Christian Sound is this small place called Aappilattoq. Aappilattoq means “the red thing” and is a reference to the geology of the large mountain whose foot the settlement rests at. Aappilattoq is dwarfed by the landscape around it, making it seem like a small ornamental gnome village in some yard. Aappilattoq had 86 inhabitants in 2025 and is practically inaccessible via land due to its remote location and the surrounding mountain region. Every summer a few cruise ships like us going through Prince Christian Sound pass by Aappilattoq. I read that some cruise ships do stop and visit but we did not. The settlement is mostly serviced with cargo helicopter flights.

As we passed by I thought I saw climbers going up the side of “the red thing”. Checking a couple time with my binoculars and finding them each time, common sense still made me question what I was seeing. Wendy couldn't get eyes on them with her binoculars... so... I may not have seen them after all...

I did see the these peculiar rock paintings as well and DID get proof they really were there. The anchor on the one rock gives some credence to the idea they are some sort of nautical navigation aid.



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The weather the next day as we arrived at Nanortalik was clear and sunny, a big change from the wind and rain the day before in the Prince Christian Sound.

Nanortalik, located on a small island also named Nanortalik, is 10 times larger than Aappilattoq with a population of just over 1,000 as of 2024. It is the eleventh-largest town in Greenland. The name Nanortalik means "Place of Polar Bears" or "Place Where the Polar Bears Go", but despite the allusion to polar bears in its name, they are rare sights in Nanortalik. Occasionally they come in on drifting sea ice from East Greenland (January to June), but we saw no polar bears here or even their sea ice transportation.

Crab fishing, hunting for hooded seals, and fishing from small boats are the main sources of income for the area's inhabitants with income also some from tourism .



We walked over to the Nanortalik Museum, Greenland's largest outdoor museum. The museum consists of several historical buildings with interesting displays and artifacts in them.



We had no tooth issues that needed immediate attention so the dentistry artifacts stayed artifacts.

GREENLAND, 2026

The harsh Greenland climate provided some great texture studies among the brightly colored buildings, some needing a bit more paint than others.



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During our walk through the outdoor museum we checked out an Airbnb listing of a sod house for an authentic and historic Greenland experience. While we like to think we travel as '*close to the earth*' as possible, we felt this one was a little too '*close to the earth*'. Maybe in our younger days?... Nope...



We saw a few birds, a couple species were lifer's for Wendy. The King Eiders Wendy still searches for were long gone by the time we arrived.

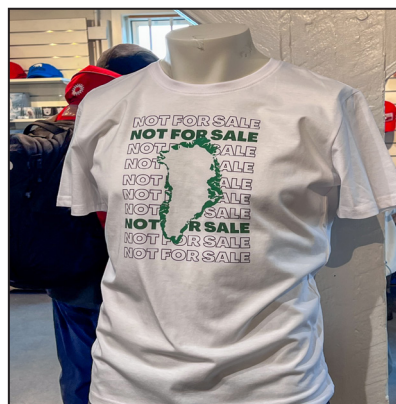


During our walk, off in the distance we saw what the local iceberg tours were like during this time of year. There were only a couple icebergs still hanging out in the area. The serious iceberg territories during this time of the year are much further north.



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We did get an idea of how the Greenland population feels about becoming part of the USA. Local street graffiti reflected the same feeling but usually in a bit stronger language.



The next day we ported at Qaqortoq. With a population of 3,069 in 2025, it is the fourth most populous town in Greenland. The ship had changed our itinerary and swapped port days with our previous stop at Nanortalik. Most of Qaqortoq were unaware of this and many of tourist spots like museums and such were not open or prepared for any visitors. Still, there was enough open and outdoor things to see to make our walk interesting and enjoyable.

The area around Qaqortoq has been inhabited since prehistoric times. Beginning with the Saqqaq culture roughly 4,300 years ago, the area has had a continuous human presence.

As is true of all populated places in Greenland, Qaqortoq is not connected to any other place via roads. Fairly well trodden hiking trails lead north and west from the town, but for any motorized transportation all terrain vehicles are needed. During winter, snowmobiles become the transport of choice. Boats have always been the main mode of transport in Greenland.

Qaqortoq is a seaport and the centre of South Greenland. Fish processing, tourism, tanning, fur production, and ship maintenance and repair are important activities, but the economy is based primarily on educational and administrative services. Qaqortoq is located in one of the most mineral rich areas in the world, South Greenland having a wide range of mineral deposits. These minerals are thought to be one of the underlying reasons some want Greenland to become part of the USA.

Tourism is a significant contributor to the economy of the town. The main foundation for tourism in town is the cruise tourism, Qaqortoq being the main cruise destination in Greenland with more than 35 cruise ship calls per season with more than 30,000 cruise visitors.



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Qaqortoq is a town of artists and talented craftsmen. From 1993 to 1994 Qaqortoq artist Aka Høegh and other 18 Nordic artists presided over the Stone & Man project, designed to transform the town into an open air art gallery. Eighteen artists from Finland, Sweden, Norway, Iceland and Greenland carved 24 sculptures into the rock faces and boulders in the town. Today there are over 40 sculptures in the town, all part of the Stone & Man exhibit.



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We checked out a couple places for sale, one had too many stairs and the other needed more work than I was willing to take on.



GREENLAND, 2026



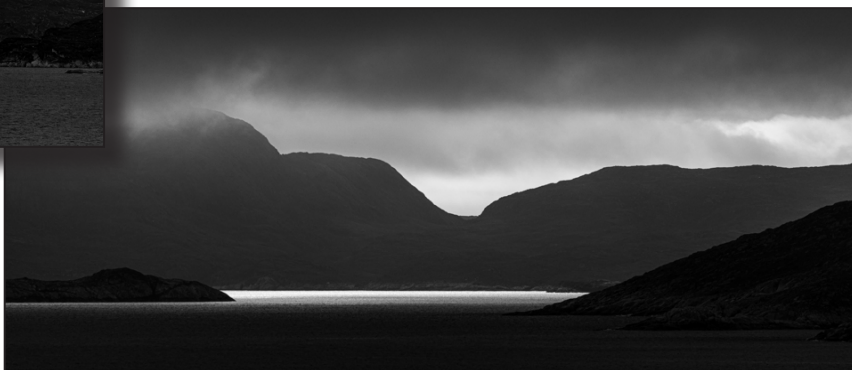
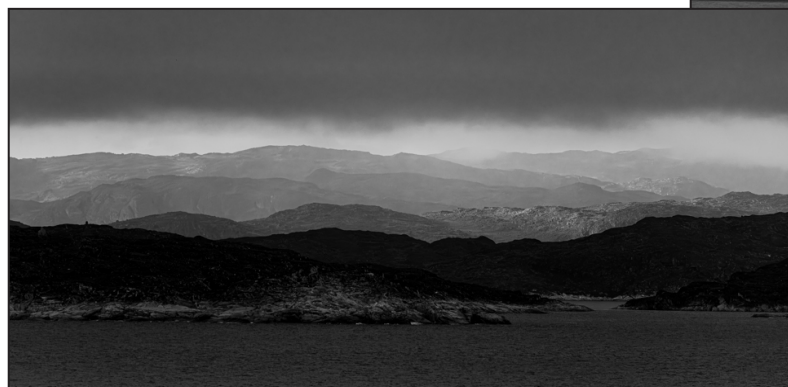
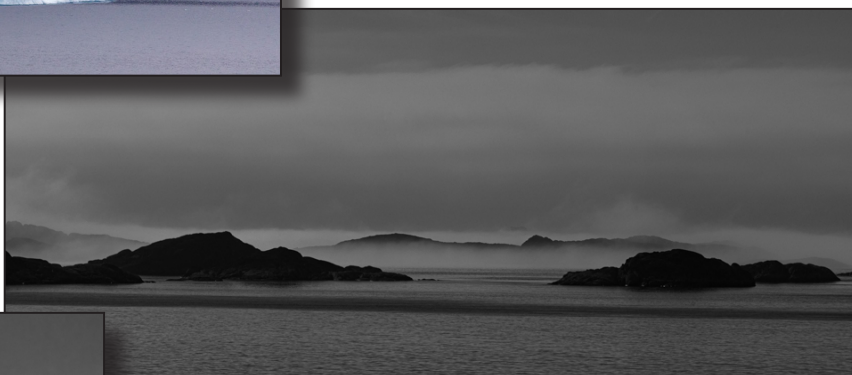
Back on the ship after our walk in Qaqortoq we passed the free sunscreen display at a bar on the outside deck near our room. It had been out there every day so far. Their optimism finally succumbed to reality a couple days after this, in the middle of the north Atlantic, and was disappeared... never to reappear for the duration of our voyage.



We headed out into the north Atlantic, passing one of the last surviving Qaqortoq icebergs.



As we exited Greenland the last bits of land and atmosphere offered some monochromatic photographic opportunities.



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