

# Ilulissat, Greenland

July 7 - 11, 2024

Blue Dot Travel



**\$4,200 pp**

Twin-share

Excludes flights

Single supp. \$725



## 4 NIGHTS IN ILULISSAT, GREENLAND

The Nordic settler Eric the Red gave Greenland this misleading description of it being green, in a bid to attract more settlers. However, it is far from being green and is in effect the world's largest island and almost entirely covered in ice. It also has the lowest population density of any country/state. The scenery could only be described as stunning but words don't do it justice.

For around 4,500 years, Eskimo pioneers and adventurers have been drawn here, summoned by the northern lights, and to do battle with ice crevasses and polar bears. These days it's more about enjoyment: deep sea fishing, whale-watching (20 species of whale - notably fin, humpback and minke), Arctic cruising, dog-sledding, mountaineering, bird-watching (especially white-tailed eagles with wingspans of 2.5 metres), and marauding herds of musk ox. Sadly, we can't guarantee you will spot them all, but looking is half the fun.

Blue Dot Travel's Greenland tour with 4 nights in Ilulissat is planned to run in conjunction with our June 2024 Arctic expedition cruise. This town was selected as the single best place to stay to get the complete Greenland experience all in the one place.



 **Day 1, Sunday, 7th July**  
**COPENHAGEN TO ILULISSAT & ICE FJORD CRUISE**

Your flight into Ilulissat will arrive around 2.00 pm after a change of aircraft in Kangerlussuaq. We'll drop our luggage off at the hotel on arrival and take a tour around Ilulissat before returning to the hotel for dinner. If anyone is interested in doing some light hiking on their own, there's the town's "Yellow Route", which is marked very well and, on the route, you will have the most beautiful view over the ice fjord. Later, we'll rug up for our stunning midnight ice fjord cruise in the evening. The cruise departs around 21.30 hrs and ends around midnight. From the end of May to the end of July, the sun doesn't set, which makes for a unique and wonderful experience. Ice looks hauntingly beautiful during 'golden hour', which happens late into the evening in the land of the midnight sun. We'll enjoy the extraordinary panorama and see how the icebergs change from white & blue to shades of orange and red when kissed by the sun's rays. Dinner tonight is at the hotel's lovely restaurant. **D**

 **Day 2, Monday, 8th July**  
**EQI GLACIER**

Today we'll take a day tour to the calving glacier Eqi (approx. 6 hours). We'll transfer in a small boat, which will take app. 2 hours to reach the glacier. We will bring picnic boxes, water and snacks, which we will eat while enjoying a full view of the glacier. Hopefully, we will see some calving and enjoy the beautiful scenery in the area for around two hours. Sometimes we see whales and seals on the way to Eqi so we'll keep a lookout. Dinner at the hotel. **B/L/D**

 **Day 3, Tuesday, 9th July**  
**OQAATSUT SETTLEMENT**

After breakfast, a tour of the settlement Oqaatsut and H8 Explorer (app. 6 hours). Depending on the vessel and weather, we will board the shuttle, which takes 45 - 60 minutes. The modern name of the settlement is Kalaallisut

for "Cormorants". The settlement first operated as Rodebay (or Rodebaai), a trading post for 18th-century Dutch whalers. The original blubber house, cooperage, and storehouse are still in use. When the fish processing plant of Royal Greenland, employing the majority of families, was closed, Oqaatsut found itself on the verge of depopulation. In 2000, the local fishermen founded a new fishing company, ensuring the settlement's survival. There are approx. thirty inhabitants, so don't expect a lot of "action" - this is a calm and beautiful place where you can hear the sledge dogs barking and the fishermen's boats coming in and out of the settlement. We'll have lunch at H8 restaurant in Oqaatsut, then return to Ilulissat. Dinner is at Hotel Hive Falk, a 15-minute walk from our hotel. **B/L/D**

 **Day 4, Wednesday 10th July**  
**SERMERMIUT GLACIER WALK**

After breakfast, at around 10.45, we'll embark on a light, two-hour trek over undulating terrain to the former settlement of Sermermiut to reach the Ice fjord and the glacier. The Ilulissat Ice fjord is a sight to behold, with icebergs being calved continuously from the vast Sermeq Kujalleq ice sheet. Sermeq Kujalleq flows directly from the Arctic Ice Cap, producing 10% of all icebergs in Greenland. The Ilulissat Ice fjord was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2004. Most of the hike is on wooden board, and it's only the last bit that's a bit rocky, but our guides can help where needed. The hike is app. 3 km long and of moderate difficulty. After a lunch break, we'll meet at 3.00 pm to spend a few hours walking about the ice fjord in the afternoon. Dinner is at the Brasserie IceCap, a 15-minute walk into town. **B/D**

**Day 5, Thursday 11th July**  
**DEPARTURE**

Flights from Ilulissat depart around 9 am – 10 am (to be confirmed), so after breakfast, we'll make the short transfer to the airstrip and begin the journey home or to our next destination. **B**