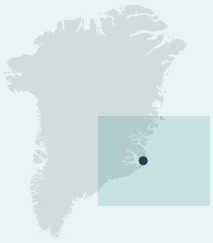


Photos: Magnus Haraldsen, Visit East Greenland

Ittoqqortoormiit

Gateway to the High Arctic

70°29'N 21°58'W



For many visitors, reaching Ittoqqortoormiit is an adventure in itself, a journey to one of the most remote inhabited places in Greenland.

Visiting Ittoqqortoormiit is a journey into one of the most remote and fascinating communities in the Arctic. Surrounded by vast wilderness, sea ice, and towering icebergs near the entrance to Kangertittivaq, also known as Scoresby Sund, the world's largest fjord system, the small town offers expedition travelers an authentic encounter with life in Northeast Greenland.

Here, nature shapes everyday life. Hunting and fishing remain an important part of local culture, and during winter and spring the frozen sea becomes a natural highway used by dog sleds and snowmobiles. Visitors arriving by expedition ship gain a rare insight into traditions that have connected people to the Arctic environment for generations.

The town lies close to the immense Northeast Greenland National Park, the largest national park in the world. This enormous, protected wilderness is home to polar bears, musk oxen, Arctic foxes, seabirds, walrus, and reindeer, with no permanent population apart from the legendary Sirius Dog Sled Patrol.

For cruise and expedition guests, Ittoqqortoormiit offers unforgettable Arctic experiences both on land and at sea. Guided walks through the settlement provide opportunities to learn about East Greenlandic culture, local traditions, and daily life in one of the world's most isolated communities.

During summer, kayaking and boat excursions through iceberg-filled waters reveal dramatic landscapes and abandoned historic settlements such as Cape Tobin and Cape Hope. Wildlife sightings are common, and the silence and scale of the surrounding Arctic environment leave a lasting impression on many visitors.

Cape Tobin, known locally as Uunartoq, is also home to Greenland's warmest hot spring, where water temperatures reach approximately 62°C, a surprising geothermal contrast to the surrounding ice and tundra.

What makes Ittoqqortoormiit truly special is not only its remote location, but its atmosphere: a place where Arctic traditions, community life, and untouched nature continue side by side. For many expedition travelers, a visit here becomes one of the most memorable highlights of their journey through Greenland.



Places to go:

1. Museum
2. Church
3. Memorial: Ejnar Mikaelsen
4. Memorial: Jean-Baptiste Charcot
5. Pilersuisoq - Supermarket
6. Viewpoints and benches

Guidelines

- Weather in Ittoqqortoormiit can change quickly, even during summer. Layered clothing, a windproof jacket, warm fleece or wool layers, gloves, sunglasses, and sturdy waterproof shoes are strongly recommended.
- All streets are gravel roads and can be uneven. Good walking shoes are essential, especially for hikes. Space on main roads is limited, be aware of traffic and make space for passing vehicles.
- East Greenland's environment is fragile and largely untouched. Please avoid leaving litter, and keep a respectful distance from wildlife such as whales, sled dogs, and birds.
- Wi-Fi and mobile service may be slower and less reliable than visitors are used to. East Greenland offers a rare opportunity to disconnect and experience Arctic life at a slower pace.
- People in East Greenland are generally welcoming, but it is required to ask permission before taking close-up photographs of local residents, especially children.
- Sled dogs are an important part of local culture and transportation. They may appear chained in proximity to the town. Visitors should not approach, feed, or touch dogs without permission from the owner.
- There are no ATM machines in Ittoqqortoormiit. Carrying a small amount of Danish kroner (DKK) can be useful for local purchases such as handicrafts. It is not possible to pay with cash in any other currency than Danish kroner. We do not have VAT in Greenland.
- Locally made tupilaks, carvings, beadwork, and sealskin products are authentic East Greenlandic crafts. Buying directly from local artists and workshops helps support the community and preserve cultural traditions.
- Be mindful when shopping at the local supermarket, especially when buying food and other essential products, as there are only two supply ships from Iceland each year.
- Hunting and fishing remain an important part of daily life in East Greenland. Visitors may see drying fish, hunting equipment, or boats used for subsistence activities, all essential elements of local culture and survival.
- Please respect private property and ask permission before touching or using vehicles, equipment, or personal belongings.



