

West Greenland: Ilulissat 2021



Greenland

Located roughly between Iceland and the Canadian Arctic Archipelago where the Arctic and Atlantic Oceans meet, Greenland is the world's largest island. Forbidding, rugged and hauntingly beautiful, it is one of the planet's last great wilderness areas.

History and culture

Settled about 4,500 years ago the early inhabitants of Greenland named it „Inuit Nunaat”, which translates as „country of people”. Later the name changed to „Kalaallit Nunaat”, meaning “country of Greenlanders”. Much of its forbidding interior lies under an enormous mass of ice that can reach up to 9,800 ft., - almost seven times the Empire State building.

Ilulissat - the Iceberg

One of Greenland's greatest attraction is an area surrounding a small remote town in the Qaasuitsup municipality in western Greenland, about 200 km (120 mi) north of the Arctic Circle. Formerly known as Jakobshavn, this small town is in the native tongue called Ilulissat, the word for “Icebergs”.

Kangia Icefjord and Sermeq Kujalleq Glacier

Just North of Ilulissat the Kangia Icefjord is home to Sermeq Kujalleq Glacier, one of the most productive glaciers in the northern hemisphere. Jam-packed with enormous icebergs from Sermeq Kujalleq, Kangia is considered one of the best places to experience "calving", meaning that massive chunks of ice break off and fall into the sea churning it into a spectacular maelstrom. Many fantastic excursions are available from Ilulissat, by foot, boat, or air.

PRICES PER PERSON PER NIGHT:

Ilulissat 2021	
Hotel Isfjord (Icefjord)	
Room type	JUNE - SEPT 2021
1 night standard + double room	183.700 ISK
Extra night in double room	32.300 ISK
1 night single room	205.600 ISK
Extra night in single room	54.200 ISK
1 night in deluxe double room	191.700 ISK
Extra night in deluxe double room	40.200 ISK
1 night in double room Studio apartment (2 pax occupancy)	170.500 ISK
Extra night in apartment	19.100 ISK

INCLUDED

- Round trip flight to Ilulissat from Reykjavik Domestic Airport
- Drinks on board
- Airport transfers in Ilulissat to/from Hotel
- Accommodation with breakfast and private facilities at Hotel Icefjord

NOT included:

- Transfer from /to Hotel in Reykjavik to domestic airport Reykjavik
- Meals besides breakfast (no breakfast in apartment)
- Activities and tours in Greenland, see from page 3

Availability due to flights:

June: Tue, Wed, Thu, Sat

July & Aug: Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat. NO flights on Sundays

September: Tuesdays and Saturdays

Cancellation terms:

	Cancellation	Modification
8 weeks or more prior to departure	20%	10 %
6 - 8 weeks prior to departure	40%	20 %
4 - 6 weeks prior to departure	60%	30 %
2 – 4 weeks prior to departure	80%	40%
0 - 2 weeks prior to departure	100%	100 %

Grayline Iceland strongly recommends that all our clients take out comprehensive travel insurance to avoid dispute in case of cancellation.

Possible excursions and day tours from Ilulissat: 2021 prices

Please note that some tours in Ilulissat start from 08 June 2021, some later.

Please note that activities must be paid full in order to book them.

BOAT TRIPS	Min Pax	Difficulty (1-5)	Available	Duration	price DKK
J-30 Eqi Glacier Daytrip	8	1	Summer 11.6. - 9.9.	5 - 11 h	2.445 DKK
J-31 Iceberg Sightseeing	8	1	All year	3 h	695 DKK
J-32 Whale Safari	8	1	Summer 24.6. - 9.9.	4 h	1.195 DKK
HELICOPTER					
J-50 Kangia Classic	8	1	Summer 24.6. - 9.9.	2 h	TBA
J-51 Kangia Classic	5	1	Winter	2 h	TBA
HIKES AND WALKS					
J-01 Ilulissat City Walk	4	1	All year	2 h	250 DKK
J-02 Sermermiut Settlement	4	1	All year	2 h	295 DKK
J-04 Meet the dogs	4	1	All year	2 h	250 DKK
Inuit Kalaallisuut	3	1	All year	2 h	345 DKK
ADVENTURE					
I-06 Ilmanaq Glacier Adventure with boat transfer from Ilulissat	4	2	Summer 21.6.–6.9.	9 h	3.485 DKK
J-81 Kayak Experience (min. 2 hours on the water) from Ilulissat	2	2	Summer 24.6. - 15.9.	3,5 h	1.250 DKK
Ilimanaq Lodge					
J-34 Boat transfer to/from Lodge 17 June - 01 September	8	1	Summer 24.6. - 15.9.	1 - 1,5 h	990 DKK
Ilimanaq Lodge Luxury Cabin for double room per night					2.800 DKK
Ilimanaq Lodge Luxury Cabin for single room per night					2.700 DKK
Restaurant Egede: Lunch plate per person					195 DKK
Restaurant Egede: Lunch pack per person					95 DKK
Restaurant Egede: Dinner 2 course menu per person					345 DKK

Accommodation includes: Ilimanaq Settlement walk, Linnen and towels, continental breakfast, electricity, private bathroom, running water

Tours in Ilimanaq					
I-01 Ilimanaq Settlement Walk	4	1	Summer 24.6. - 15.9.	2 h	250 DKK
I-02 Kaffemik - visit a local family	4	1	Summer 24.6. - 15.9.	2h	350 DKK
I-03 Hike to Nordre Huse incl. Pick-up	4	3	Summer 24.6. - 15.9.	6 h	695 DKK
I-04 Ilmanaq Glacier Adventure	2	2	Summer 21.6. – 6.9.	7 h	2.495 DKK



Seasons: All year: January - December · Winter: February - April · Summer: June - September
Levels of difficulty: 1: Easy 2: Moderate 3: Challenging 4: Demanding 5: Strenuous

Please note: prices are in DKK = danish crowns. We will use the up to date exchange rate into ISK when booking for the tours.

Cancellation terms of activities and tours from our partner World of Greenland 1- 7 pax:

Until 14 days prior to the first excursion start, or within 24 hours of booking, it is possible to change or cancel the booked excursions free of charge.

14 days before the commence of an excursion, name change and refund is possible at a fee of 25% of the rate of the excursion. 3 days prior to the first excursion cancellation and refund is no longer possible.

Other special experiences: the possibility for an overnight stay is at Eqi Glacier!

Glacier Lodge Eqi was the first in World of Greenland's unique range of lodges. It is placed at the very spot where the French polar explorer Poul-Emilie Victor started his expeditions in 1948 to 1953. Since that time the glacier has receded somewhat, but the panorama and its sounds are certainly not lacking!

There are a total of 15 huts at Glacier Lodge Eqi, and among these are 3 types: Comfort, Standard, and Budget. In Standard and Comfort huts there is room for up to 4 persons, whereas the Budget huts have space for 2. Most book the huts as a normal double room.

Accommodation at Glacier Lodge Eqi comes with full board, which is served at Café Victor - named after the French polar explorer.

- Comfort huts are placed in the first row with a full panoramic view over the bay, and have electricity and heating supplied by solar panels on the rooves. The flushing toilets draws water from the melted water pools close by, as does the bathroom, which also is heated by means of solar energy.
- Standard Huts are basic huts without toilet or electricity, but which are placed close to the Café's toilets, bathing and café area. All huts have a great view on the glacier.
- The Budget hut is the small, cozy hut, which despite its name haven't been spared anything but the view. The hut is comfortably furnished and well purposed for those who wish to spend their days hiking in the tundra and their nights in a warm bed. The Budget hut has a view on the tundra and partly on the Eqi Glacier. Shared bathrooms and toilets can be found at Café Victor.



ICELAND

Glacier Lodge Eqi	Min Pax	Difficulty (1-5)	Available	Duration	price DKK
J-30 Boat transfer to/from the lodge (obligatory)	8	*	24 June - 08 Sep	6 - 12 h	2.445 DKK
Comfort hut double room per night					4.600 DKK
Comfort hut single room per night					3.800 DKK
Extra person in Comfort hut (max 2) per person per night					2.000 DKK
Standard Hut double room per night					3.400 DKK
Standard Hut single room per night					2.700 DKK
Extra person in Standard hut (max 2) per person per night					1.400 DKK
Wilderness Tent double room per night					3.400 DKK
Wilderness Tent single room per night					2.700 DKK
Comfort hut includes: full board, linen and towels, glacier view hike (4 h), electricity, private bathroom, running water					
Standard hut/Wilderness Tent includes: full board, linen and towels, Glacier view hike (4h), shower toilet/bathroom, private terrace with glacier view.					
* If you are planning an overnight stay in Glacier Lodge Eqi please note that the lodge is situated 100m above sea level. All belongings should be carried in a rucksack (not in a suitcase). The landing is not for the disabled/wheelchairs					
Hiking tours from Eqi	Min Pax	Difficulty (1-5)	Available	Duration	price DKK
E-02 Delta Hike	2	3	Summer	4 h	350 DKK
E-03 Ice Sheet Hike	2	4	Summer	8 h	1.250 DKK

Description of Excursions in Greenland, see more: www.worldofgreenland.com

J-30 Daytour to Eqi glacier - the calving glacier

Only few places in Greenland are as beautiful as the Eqi Glacier, which ends in the fiord 80 kilometres north of Ilulissat. It is possible by boat to get very close to the glacier and experience huge pieces of ice breaking off. The sounds are enormous and the sight of the icebergs, crashing into the water, is breathtaking.

It is possible to combine a boat trip with a stay in Glacier Lodge Eqi.

We sail in modern and convenient boats at the excursion to Eqi. The route goes north along the coast passing Bredebugt, the settlement of Oqaatsut and the big fiord system called Pakitsoq, where whales and seals often are seen. Further on through the Ataa Strait, which is surrounded by steep mountains with bird life and waterfalls. Our ice secured boats lie approximately 2 hours in front of the glacier and wait for the ice to calve, while a delicious lunch is served. An all-day excursion, where you will have a good opportunity to be immersed in the experience and the boat trip in the ice filled water.

Please notice:

The length of the boat trip to and from the glacier can last between 2 - 5 hours each way. It depends on the boat used the given day. The stop in front of the glacier lasts approximately 2 hours.

Upon the return to Ilulissat, we arrange transport to World of Greenland, Hotel Arctic, Hotel Icefiord, Hotel Avannaá, Ilulissat Hostel or Hotel Hvide Falk.



J-31 Iceberg Sightseeing

Almost every visitor in Ilulissat chooses to try this boat trip among the icebergs at least once. During one year, more than 48 km³ of ice flows into the fiord. The result is gigantic icebergs, which can be more than 100 meters on each side and with a height on more than 100 meters above the water surface. These giants strand at the end of the fiord, and that gives us the opportunity to sail among them.

The icebergs are beautiful in every kind of weather; in the sunshine the contrasts are very clear, the blue shades are seen best when it is cloudy and the midnight sun casts a unique glow on the icebergs during the night.

Midnight sun in Ilulissat lasts from May 21st to July 24th. The midnight/evening sun gives the icebergs a unique play of colors that people return to experience again and again. Sailing during the night with the sun still shining is a fantastic and unusual experience; you do not want to be without, while visiting Ilulissat.

Upon return, we arrange transport to World of Greenland, Hotel Arctic, Hotel Avannaá, Hotel Icefiord or Hotel Hvide Falk

Please notice:

Remember warm clothes. It is cold out in the Icefiord both summer and winter. Coffee and tea will be served onboard. The excursion will last about 2½ hours.



J-32 Whale Safari

It surprises most people how great an experience it is to get close to such large animals like whales.

In Greenland waters we see around 15 whale species. Three of these are in Greenland in winter, the beluga whale, narwhal and Greenland whale. The blue whale and orca seen only rarely.

In the summer it is usually the humpback whale, minke whale and the fin whale we see. The humpback whale is despite its up to 18 meters and 30 tons the acrobat among the great whales. It can throw itself out of the water and turn the tail and flippers. It is easily recognized on the humped fin and white back on the tail when it dives. Around the Disko Bay there are good opportunities to watch humpback whale in its hunt for fish, squid and krill.

The whales are swimming in the Disko Bay during the summer, sometimes close to the city, sometimes in the ice fjord or up north at Arveprinsens Ejland. The tour lasts 3½ hour and we are using the fast boat - Targa, so we can cover a larger area.

We are in constant radio contact with the city's fishermen and hunters, this is our source of information about the whales, so we can almost always find them. The humpback whale with its distinctive tail is the one we most frequently encounter.

J-50 Helicopter Kangia Classic Summer

This excursion is the only option to get all the way to the heart of the UNESCO-area. Neither by boat or by foot is it possible to get this close to the gigantic glacier.

Ilulissat Glacier is the most productive glacier, not only in Greenland, but in the northern hemisphere. The glacier is 7 kilometres wide and more than 1 kilometre steep. It produces 43 million tons of ice and moves about 50 metres a day. It is an amazing sight to see this infinite amount of ice and experience the enormous power of nature.

The helicopter takes off from Ilulissat Airport and flies, as low as safety permit, crossing hills, lakes and ice fiords.

We land in the middle of the preserved area, and for half an hour we are going to enjoy the greatness of the wonderful nature surrounding us.

We fly above the edge of the glacier and the icebergs in the icefiord on the ride back to Ilulissat. Some of the biggest icebergs strand on a moraine underneath the water just outside town, and it makes a perfect climax to this excursion.

A helicopter flight is per definition a great experience, and combined with the scenery in these surroundings, the excursion is an absolute classic.

Please notice:

We always fly with the helicopter available by AirGreenland, in summer this is mainly Bell 212 (11 passengers)



J-01 Ilulissat City Walk

People say: "but we can walk around the city on our own." Yes, you can; but on this guided tour, we go deeper than just a walk, our Guided City Walk is an perfect shortcut to good knowledge and funny stories.

The guide will tell you about the history of the city, about Greenlandic culture and modern life 300 kilometers north of the Arctic Circle. We stop several places along the way, among other by the fishermen at the harbor, the hunters at "brættet" and we passes the famous polarexplore Knud Rasmussen's birthplace and the old wooden church Zionchurch.

Ilulissat - Ilulissat was founded in 1741 and is today Greenland's third largest town with over 4500 inhabitants. Ilulissat means "Icebergs".

J-02 Walk to Sermermiut Settlement

Beautiful icebergs are the setting for the old settlement Sermermiut, located one and a half kilometers south of Ilulissat. For 4000 years, different Inuit cultures lived in the settlement and today you can still see many remains that indicate their presence.

A trip to Sermermiut is an absolute must when visiting Ilulissat, hear the guide tell stories about Inuit people's life and traditions before the Europeans came to Greenland. See turf hut ruins and touch the permafrost with your own hands.

An area so special that UNESCO named it World Heritage in 2004. It is estimated that up to 30,000 guests visit Sermermiut every year, for this reason there is a wooden walkway to protect the area against wear. Therefore anyone can go on this trip.

We follow the walkway to the viewpoint at Nakkaavik - "the place to fall" (Old Ladies Gorge), here our guide serves tea or coffee while we enjoy the view, then we return by the same route.



J-04 Meet the sleddogs

In Ilulissat we have six to seven months of winter every year, and wintertime is the same as "sled-time". About 1800 dogs are used for work and recreation. The long-line fishermen use the dogs for transportation of Greenland halibut from the icefiord to Ilulissat. Even today the modern snowscooter can't compete with the 2000 years old Greenlandic way of transportation, the dogsled.

On this excursion we invite you to join the feeding of a dog-team. You can see, feel, touch and most of all hear the howling of up to 20 hungry dogs. The owner will demonstrate the sled, the harness, and the whip and tell about the life as sled-dog in Greenland.

Please notice:

Remember practical clothing. It can be dirty at the dog kennel. Keep distance to the dogs, they are working dog and don't react like European dogs. The dog owner can show you which dogs that are safe to pet.



Inuit Kalaallisut

The local Women's Association invites us into their house where we get the unique experience of learning about the iconic national costume, Kalaallisut, up close.

The Women's Association is active in most towns along the Greenlandic coast and has 800 members nationally. Here local women get together around a cup of coffee and a mutual goal about keeping and taking care of the old Greenlandic traditions and handcraft. Previously they have been an important part of the common education, but nowadays they have become a knowledge mastered of very few. This makes the Women's association an important intermediary of a special cultural heritage.

After being transported to the Association's house in Ilulissat we will be greeted by 1 or 2 members of the local Women's Association. During the next 2 hours there is a demonstration of different techniques for skin treatment as well as a casual show and storytelling about the Greenlandic national costume. Afterwards you will get the chance to inspect the suit and feel the skin and weight of the pearls with your own hands.

There will be served coffee and cake after Greenlandic tradition.

This experience of the unpretentious and casual vibe in company with local enthusiasts gives a different perspective on any stay in Ilulissat. It supports local initiatives and is a great example of the meeting between two worlds.

Please notice: The Women's Association has - like many Greenlandic homes - no sewerage. In need of a restroom an outhouse can be used.



I-06 Ilimanaq Glacier Adventure with boat transfer from Ilulissat

Ilimanaq Glacier Adventure

From south of Ilimanaq, you will set sail for Itilliup Ilua bay, where we arrive at the broad sandy beach and embark as passengers in two large all-terrain vehicles. Fantastic vistas of the mountains and the vast fields unfold as you traverse the tundra, until you find yourself at the Tasiusaq fjord system. For thousands of years, the Tasiusaq fjord was a beloved fishing area, however the great activity of past times has ebbed away. From here you continue your voyage on the water, between icebergs at the bottom of the fjord, likely without coming upon a single human being on your way.

After about an hour's sailing you arrive at the glacier, where the voyage continues on the fjord's western bank. You're closer to the ice now, and you can take in this unique world, where land meets ice. Your guide will describe the region's history and how the ice formed the landscape you see around you.

The walk takes you now along the edge of the enormous glacier, until you find a place, where it is safe enough to set foot upon the ice sheet and perhaps be immortalized within Greenland's nature through the lense of a camera. Along the way, there will be plenty of good opportunities to sit down and take out some lunch, enjoying the sights.

This tour does not demand physical fitness beyond the average

Please notice:

The side-by-side trip can be rough. Do not take this tour if you have serious difficulties with your back, neck, or other body parts.

The tour departs from Ilimanaq at 10 AM and returns there again at 5.15 PM. You will therefore need to book our shuttleboat for both directions if you have accommodation booked in Ilulissat.

The duration of this full-day tour is 9 hours.

Add on options:

Shuttleboat between Ilulissat and Ilimanaq, in case of accommodation arrangements in Ilulissat.

Dinner in the Historic Houses in Ilimanaq

Overnight stay at Ilimanaq Lodge

J-81 Kayak Experience

The Inuit have been traversing the waters of Greenland by kayak for thousands of years, and now we can offer you to come along. Glide soundlessly on the water and experience the massive icebergs around you. The midnight sun illuminates the icebergs, creating a spectacle of color. In cloudy conditions the iceberg's beautiful blue color comes to the fore. With some luck, the quiet will be broken, either by whales blowing air out after the dive, or by the crashing sound of calving icebergs. The icefjord doesn't get any better than by kayak.

"We'll paddle out together along the coast towards the opening of the fjord, where the approximately 50 meter high icebergs lie, awaiting their journey out into Disko Bay. You will be on the water at least 2 hours. We offer a kayak tour with a professional guide, who makes sure that everyone feels safe for the whole time. We equip everyone with a drysuite and an introduction before the tour begins. In order to always guarantee complete safety, there is always an escort boat following at a distance, making sure that all goes well. For that reason, anyone can join the tour, even if you have never been in a kayak before.

All tours take place using doubles, which are very stable in the water. Please be advised that it is not possible to request a single kayak.

If you are an uneven group you might be seated in a kayak with other guests.

The tour can be booked from June to August.

Please note

Height requirement: 150 cm

Everyone can paddle in a kayak, even complete novices.

We can unfortunately not accept participants who have serious back or shoulder pains.

Please bring: A hat for the sun, sun glasses, sunscreen lotion and drinking water.



I-01 Ilimanaq Settlement Walk

Ilimanaq Settlement Walk morning or afternoon

Ilimanaq means 'the area of expectations' since you would expect to get a good catch in the mid 1800s. At that time you would find hundreds of families living on the coast near Ilimanaq. Today, the settlement is home to only 53 inhabitants.

Your guide will tell you all about the culture and history, the way of life, and show you the main attractions in the settlement. The church, the school, the dog area, and the old loghouses, and many other point of interests in the settlement. Join this excursion to get a deeper understanding of your destination. It is included in your stay if you spend the night in Ilimanaq Lodge.

Please notice:

Daily departures from Ilimanaq Lodge

Free of charge for overnight guests, check reception for daily tours

Remember to add-on transportation to and from Ilimanaq if you stay in Ilulissat for the night

Add on options:

Shuttle to and from Ilimanaq

Overnight stay at Ilimanaq Lodge



I-02 "Kaffemik" - visit a local family

The local inhabitants of Ilimanaq are called 'Ilimanarmiuts' and always invites friends to 'kaffemik' which is a get-to-gether where you celebrate special occasions with coffee and cake and local specialities.

We visit one of the families that has lived for many years in the area and has a lot of stories to tell about daily life and cultural traditions.

This excursion is your chance to get up close with the locals and learn more about the interesting people that lives so far away from everything else.

Please notice:

We do not guarantee that you actually like the specialities, but we encourage you to taste it
Join this excursion to contribute to the local community

Remember to add-on transportation to and from Ilimanaq if you stay in Ilulissat for the night

Add on options:

Shuttle to and from Ilimanaq

Overnight stay at Ilimanaq Lodge

I-03 Hike to "Nordre Huse"

Your guide will greet you in front of the reception in Ilimanaq Lodge to take you on this adventurous hike up the coast from Ilimanaq. You will need to bring a good pair of walking boots to accomplish the trip, because there are no marked trails or paved paths in this area.

We will leave the comfortable lodging and head out into the backcountry where we'll find abandoned settlements and cemeteries that will let our thoughts wander off in a multitude of directions. Why are there crosses and skulls here in the middle of nowhere? Your guide will explain everything while you try to comprehend the puzzling experiences.

Reaching the highest point close to the Ilulissat Icefiord you will stand next to the impressive icebergs that are stuck for our convenience. If we hike on a clear day we will be able to see the Ilulissat Glacier 65 kilometers east of our position. After lunch we will get picked up by our boat to sail back to Ilimanaq for more great experiences.

Please notice:

There are no trails here, so bring your best walking boots and physical condition

Bring a small backpack to carry your provided lunchpack and extra clothings

Remember to add-on transportation to and from Ilimanaq if you stay in Ilulissat for the night

Add on options:

Shuttle to and from Ilimanaq

Overnight stay at Ilimanaq Lodge

