



The Great
Canadian
Travel Group
Inc.

1349 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
Canada R3G 0V7

1-800-661-3830

www.greatcanadiantravel.com

Greenland Practical Information

Greenland– You'll Never Forget it!

Say "Greenland" to a person who has been there and they suddenly get a warm and distant expression in their eyes...then they begin to tell you about it. Nature is Greenland's incomparable attraction. It is so amazing it remains crystal clear in your mind for the rest of your life. Nature is the infinitely beautiful background for a variety of activities, a foreign culture and friendly local Greenlandic people.

General and tourist information about Greenland can be found on the following website:

<https://visitgreenland.com/>



Documentation

Canadian/USA Passports are required for visitors to travel to Greenland and must be valid for at least three months beyond your intended stay. For nationals of other countries please check with us or your nearest Danish consulate. Entry requirements are the same as for Denmark.

Climate & Weather

Greenland has an Arctic climate, although the climate is warmer in parts of Greenland than you would expect, due to the moderating forces of the surrounding water. However, the huge ice cap (the world's largest) does cool down the temperatures of the small strands of habitable land along the coastlines. Summers are cool and can be rather unstable with frequent weather changes. The days are long and the nights short due to the midnight sun. Conversely, during winter daylight hours are short. But, the longer nights and colder temperatures offer spectacular opportunities to see the Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis).

The weather in Greenland changes a lot faster than in other countries. In 10-15 minutes, it can get foggy or a storm can rise. "Foehn" is a dry and warm wind that arises from a high-pressure area on the ice cap.

A sure sign of a coming “Foehn” storm is tall cumulonimbus clouds. The “Foehn” can last 1-2 days and can occur several times during the same month.



Temperature

Because of the massive size of the country it is impossible to give average daily high and low temperatures. For example, in Ilulissat on the west coast, the mean temperatures vary from a summer high of 7.5C to a mid-winter low of -19.6C, whereas in the capital city, Nuuk, the range is a summer high of 6.5C to a mid-winter low of -8C. Climate, weather and temperature information can be found on the following website: <https://www.accuweather.com/en/gl/greenland-weather>

Daylight

North of the Arctic Circle the midnight sun rules the sky from May to July. In Ilulissat, located on the northwest coast on Disko Bay, the sun does not set from May 25th to July 25th. June 21st, the longest day of the year, is celebrated as a National holiday with entertainment, shows and communal outdoor meals. Some visitors find it difficult to sleep when it’s light outside all night – sleeping masks are recommended for those who are sensitive to light. In mid-winter, there will be only four or five hours of daylight each day. Spring and autumn daylight hours are more or less “normal”.



Clothing & Footwear

When travelling in Greenland you should always be prepared for both cold and wet weather year-round, as the weather can be extremely changeable. Bring clothing that layers easily – a light undershirt or tank top, a long-sleeved t-shirt or shirt, a polar fleece or wool sweater or hoody, rainproof coat and sturdy walking shoes. Long underwear is also useful along with a hat, mitts or gloves and a scarf. Even in the summer it can be cold, especially out on the water. See our “How to Dress for Greenland” info sheet.

Language

Three languages are generally spoken in Greenland: Kalaallisut is the Inuit language of the Greenlandic people; Danish is the other main language; English is widely spoken.

Currency

Being part of the Danish Kingdom, the unit of currency is the Danish kroner, abbreviated as DKK. You can pre-purchase kroner at banks in Canada and the US as well as exchange money at banks, airport currency exchange desks and major hotels. Banks are located in most towns and some will offer an ATM. North American bank cards will allow you to withdraw Danish cash from the ATMs.



Credit Cards

Visa and Mastercard are accepted at hotels, major shops and restaurants. Some smaller stores and service providers may not accept credit cards, so it is best to have some kroner cash with you.

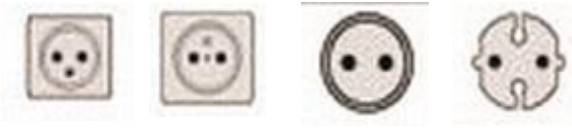
Business and Banking Hours

Most shops are open Monday to Thursday from 10:00am to 5:30pm, Fridays from 10:00am to 6:00pm and Saturdays from 9:00am to 1:00pm. Most stores are closed on Sundays. Banks follow approximately the same hours. This will vary amongst towns and stores.

Electricity

Greenland's electrical standards are European (50Hz, 220 volts) so many North American electrical devices will require electrical converters, and all will require plug adapters. Most laptops, phones, MP3

chargers and some appliances such as hair dryers have dual voltage built in, so you just need a plug adaptor for these. Adaptor sets are available at many department and electronics stores in Canada and the US as well as at airport shops.



Shopping, Tax & Duty Free

You can buy your Duty Free on arrival in this country. Most major airports in this territory have arrivals duty free shopping facilities in the baggage claim area where you can buy tax-free goods before you pass through customs.

In most towns, there are opportunities to buy traditional Greenlandic items such as objects carved from bone and reindeer antler, jewelry and soapstone. Some countries have introduced bans on certain products that you may see for sale such as sealskin and polar bear products, objects made of whale tooth, walrus tusks and so on. Check with your own country's import restrictions before departing on your trip so you will know what you can and can't take home with you. Shops in Greenland can provide export certificates for these items, but such certification does not guarantee that you can import the item into your country. There is no haggling or bargaining over prices here.

Date & Time Zone

Greenland resides in four time zones, but uses only one of them.

The time in Greenland is not split into different time zones for most of Greenland as this would be very impractical in this region. Greenland generally adheres to one time, called Greenland Standard Time. Greenland Standard Time (Winter): GMT -3 Greenland Summer / Daylight Saving Time: GMT -2
GMT = Greenwich Mean Time

Greenland follows the schedule of the European Union regarding the changing of the clocks each spring and fall (last Sunday in March, last Sunday in October).



Medical Facilities and Health Information

Greenland has modern hospitals and well-educated health personnel in most towns. Queen Ingrid's Hospital, the main hospital in Nuuk, offers a full range of medical services, but medical facilities in outlying towns and settlements are very basic. All travellers should take out sufficient health and travel insurance, including emergency evacuation coverage and bring regularly prescribed medicine, as your brand may not be available in Greenland.

Tipping

Service and VAT are included in prices in Greenland and tipping is not required. However, you can give a tip for exceptional service without offending.

Telephone and Emergency

The code to call Greenland from overseas is **+299** plus a 2-digit area code and a 4-digit local number. Most European cell phones work on Greenland's GSM network. North American phones use a different standard and do not work unless they are configured to the European system. Check with your individual provider before leaving home.

The *emergency number for police, ambulance or fire* is **122**. From mobile phones you can also dial **112** for police. Emergency calls from pay phones do not require payment.

Internet cafes and WiFi access are still limited. Some hotels offer their guests use of a computer.

Location and Geography

Greenland is the world's largest island and one of its oldest land masses, dating back about 3.8 billion years. It is situated in the North Atlantic between the east coast of Arctic Canada and the west coast of Iceland. The northernmost tip of Greenland is only 560 miles/740km from the North Pole. It is huge - 2,166,086 km²/836,109 sq miles in size, but over 80% of the land mass is covered by the ice cap. Greenland is unique for a country of its size in that it has no roads or railroads linking its communities. Long haul transportation is by air or sea only.



Population

The approximately 56,000 people that call Greenland home live on the very edges of the country, on strips of land between the ice cap and the sea. About 11% of Greenlanders are European, the rest are of Inuit and/or Inuit mixed with European descent.

People and Culture

Greenland or Kalaallit Nunaat, “Land of the Kalaaliit”, is an autonomous country within the kingdom of Denmark. Home rule was granted in 1979 with further autonomy and self-rule extended in 2009. The original inhabitants of Greenland were Arctic peoples from what is now northern Canada. In the 10th century Norsemen settled and later, in the 13th century, the Inuit arrived. These Inuit people are the Kalaallit. In the 15th century the Norse colonies had all but disappeared and it wasn't until the 18th century that Denmark claimed sovereignty over Greenland. Many Greenlanders have mixed Inuit and European heritage.

Economy

About half of public spending in Greenland is funded by block grants from Denmark. Additional proceeds from the sale of fishing licenses and an annual compensation from the EU represents DKK280 million per year. Greenland's economy is based mainly on the fishing industry, which represents about 90% of its exports. Tourism revenue and mining are rapidly growing and adding to the economic growth.

