

SEJLADS I ØDEMARKEN
SAILING IN THE WILDERNESS

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Sejlads i vildmarken

Vi skal sejle fra Grønlands hovedstad Nuuk til den lille by Maniitsoq længere oppe af vestkysten mod nord. Det er en sejltur på 145 kilometer.

Vi tager af sted, selv om vi allerede ved afsejlingen fra Nuuk bemærker, at tågen dækker kystens skarpe klipper.

Langt størstedelen af sejladsen foregår indenskærs på en rute, der er sparsomt opmærket med sømærker. Ruten forekommer vidt forskellig hver gang, der gennemføres en sejlads her. Tidevandsforskellen kan være fire meter i løbet af et døgn, så hvad der er farbart vand det ene øjeblik på ruten, kan på næste sejlads dagen efter på et andet tidspunkt i døgnet være farligt vand med undervandsskær, der i løbet af splitsekunder kan knuse en lille jolle.

Nogle tager ruten alene og uden nogen form for redningsudstyr og med gamle, slidte påhængsmotorer og både i ringe stand. Mange forsvinder sporløst undervejs og kun rester af den iturevne glasfiberjolle fortæller de pårørende, hvad der er sket.

Mange familier har ikke andre valg end at sejle i jollen. Den offentlige transport med kystfærge eller med fly kan være for dyre at

benytte for en stor børnefamilie. Samtidigt er det også ofte en tradition at gøre besøg hos familie ved at sejle i sin egen jolle.

De fornuftige har sikkerhedsudstyret i orden. Samtidigt aftales sejladsen med mindst en anden jolle, så flere joller kan følges ad.

Undervejs kan der sejles i naturlige nødhavne mellem de små klippeøer, og ruten går forbi to små bygder undervejs. Her kan der også anmodes om hjælp, hvis noget uventet opstår.

Der kan være heftige dønninger langs kysten, selv om der er næsten vindstille. Det skyldes, at en storm har passeret forbi ude i Davis Strædet. Stormen kan lang tid efter sende store bølger mod land. Det er vanskeligt at holde sig fast og navigere præcist, når en lille jolle skal passere de store dønninger.

Denne gang går det efter planen. Turen tager præcist fire timer. Ved ankomsten til Maniitsoq er den lille by fortsat omgivet af havgus og ligger stille hen. Byen ligger i sig selv i ødemarken. Der er under tre tusinde indbyggere, og ud over et par små bosætninger ligger den nærmeste bosætning 179 kilometer længere mod nord.

Sailing in the wilderness

We have planned to sail from the capital of Greenland, Nuuk, to the small town Maniitsoq further up the west coast to the north. It is a sailing trip of 145 kilometres.

We start up, even though we already at departure from Nuuk observe that the fog covers the rocky cliffs of the coast.

The major part of the trip is carried out on a route that is only sparingly marked by navigation marks. The route appears very different each time a trip is carried out here. The range of the tide can be four metres within 24 hours, so what is passable water one moment on the route can be dangerous water with sunken rocks, which in no time can crush a small dinghy.

Some people take the route alone and without any safety equipment and with old, run-down outboard motors and a boat in poor condition. Many vanish without leaving a trace and only remnants of the torn glass fibreglass dinghy tell the relatives what has happened.

A lot of families have no choice but to sail in the dinghy. The public transport by coastal ferry or by air can be too expensive to choose for a large family with young children. At the same time, often it is a tradition to make

family visits by sailing in your own boat.

A man of reason has the safety equipment in order. At the same time, the sailing is arranged with at least one other boat, so more boats can go together.

Along the route you can put into a natural port of refuge between the small rocky islands, and along the way the coastal route passes two small settlements. Here you can also request help if something unexpected occurs.

Heavy swell can be running along the coast, even though the weather is calm. This occurs, when a storm has passed through out in the Davis Strait. Long after, the storm causes large waves breaking against the shore. It is difficult to stay stuck and navigate accurately when a small dinghy must pass the big waves.

This time it goes according to plan. The journey takes exactly four hours. On arrival at Maniitsoq, the small town is still surrounded by the sea fog and everything seems quietly. The settlement is a lonely spot in the wilderness. Maniitsoq has less than three thousand inhabitants, and in addition to a few small settlements at the coast, the nearest settlement is 179 kilometres further north.



Kyststrækningen mellem Nuuk og Maniitsoq, august 2006

The coast between Nuuk and Maniitsoq, August 2006



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KOLOFON

*Ugens foto: Sejlads i ødemarken
Af Keld Jensen*

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COLOPHON

*Photo of the week: Sailing in the wilderness
By Keld Jensen*

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