

ISENS KRÆFTER
THE POWER OF THE ICE

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Isens kræfter

På mine rundrejser i Grønland har jeg ofte haft ophold i Kangerlussuaq. Lufthavnen i Kangerlussuaq har i årtier været destination for de fly, der flyver over Atlanterhavet til Danmark. Det vigtige trafikknudepunkt blev etableret af det amerikanske militær under 2. Verdenskrig, men i dag er det en civil lufthavn.

Lufthavnen er et godt udgangspunkt for at opleve den storslåede grønlandske natur. På alle sider er lufthavnen omgivet af uendelige strækninger af øde fjeldmarker. I Kangerlussuaq er der kun tredive kilometer ind til Indlandsisen. Strækningen kan køres i bil, men det skal være en erfaren chauffør, fordi vejene ind mod Indlandsisen er meget dårlige.

Denne dag er det godt vejr. Blå himmel og solskin. Det er i august måned, så temperaturen når op på femten graders varme. Det er en drøj tur ind til vores mål, Russell-gletsjeren. Bilen skrumpler afsted, og de mange

stød kan mærkes i ryggen og i nyrerne. Vi kan se ud på et landskab, der består af nøgne, græsbegroede runde bakker. Der er ingen træer at se. Vi befinder os på højde med polarcirklen.

Men strabadserne er det hele værd. Allerede langt fra vores mål kan vi se toppene af isen, som gletsjeren presser ud fra Indlandsisen.

Der er kun en kort afstand at gå over mod skrænten ned mod gletsjerkanten. Sikkerhedsafstanden er stor, fordi isen hele tiden er i bevægelse, og enorme blokke falder ned i floden foran gletsjeren og danner ofte voldsomme bølger.

Foran gletsjeren er klipperne bare. Det er en blanding af undergrundens klipper samt grus og store stenblokke, som isen har ført med sig. Klipperne her foran gletsjeren har fornyeligt set dagens lys for første gang i tusinder af år. Hidtil har de været dækket af et tykt lag is.

The power of the ice

On my travels in Greenland I often have had stopover in Kangerlussuaq. The airport in Kangerlussuaq has for decades been the destination of the planes flying across the Atlantic to Denmark. The important transport hub was established by the US military during World War II, but today it is a civil airport.

The airport is a good starting point to experience the magnificent Greenlandic nature. On all sides, the airport is surrounded by endless stretches of deserted mountain fields. In Kangerlussuaq, the Greenlandic Ice Sheet is only thirty kilometres away. The distance can be driven by car, but it must be an experienced driver, because the roads towards the ice sheet are very bad.

This day is a fine day. Blue sky and sunshine. This is the month of August, so the temperature reaches fifteen degrees of heat. It is a good trip to our place of arrival, the Russell Glacier. The car is bumped, and the shaking

is beginning to hurt the back and the kidneys. We have the view to a landscape consisting of naked, grass-covered round hills. There are no trees to see. We are on the same level as the Arctic Circle.

But the rigours are paying. Even far from our goal, we can see the peaks of the ice, which the glacier transports out of the ice sheet.

There is only a short distance to walk towards the slope down towards the front of the glacier. The safety distance is great because the ice is constantly moving, and huge blocks of ice fall into the river in front of the glacier and often form violent waves.

In front of the glacier the rocks are bare. It is a mixture of the underground rocks as well as gravel and large stone blocks, transported by the ice. In front of the glacier the rocks have just recently been brought to light for the first time in thousands of years. So far, they have been covered with a thick layer of ice.



Russell Gletsjeren, øst for Kangerlussuaq, august 2011

The Russell Glacier, East of Kangerlussuaq, August 2011



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KOLOFON

*Ugens foto: Isens kræfter
Af Keld Jensen*

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COLOPHON

*Photo of the week: The power of the ice
By Keld Jensen*

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