

NYT LAND  
NEW LAND

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## *Nyt land*

**H**ele Grønlands midte omfatter klodens største Indlandsis. I flere århundreder har den trukket sig tilbage. For øjeblikket smelter isen relativt hurtigt. Indlandsisen kan trække sig flere hundrede meter tilbage på nogle få uger.

Når isen trækker sig tilbage, efterlader den store strækninger af landskaber uden større bevoksninger. I de første år efter blotlægges ligger grus og klipper helt nøgne. Ingen lav eller andre vækster. Årsagen er ikke kun manglen på muld og grus for planterne til at næring i, men også de enorme ismasser, der ligger relativt tæt på, gør området ekstra koldt her i Arktis.

Senere indvandrer små planter og også dyrelivet i de områder, som isen har blotlagt. En dag vil her måske vokse skove, hvis klimaet fortsat forandrer sig og giver grundlag for trævækst. I dag er det kun pilekrat, enebær-

buske og små birke, der som de første erobrer land ved isranden.

Mellem de golde stenmasser raser smeltevandet afsted i store floder. Når afsmeltingen om sommeren stiger, eller når søer oven på isen pludselig brister, dannes der tsunamier af smeltevand. Det er altid farligt at opholde sig tæt på disse floder. Smeltevandet er i sig selv relativt rent, men river meget store mængder sand og grus med sig, og længere ude mod havet dannes der store landskaber af ler aflejringer omkring floderne.

Langs indlandsisens tidligere områder kan der i iagttages morænebakker så langt øjet rækker. Mange vil måske mene, at dette landskab virker meget monotont, men for mig er netop det monotone det, der gør landskabet ekstra unikt og smukt.

## *New land*

The entire centre of Greenland includes the largest ice sheet on the planet. For centuries it has pulled back. Now, the ice is melting relatively quickly. In few weeks, the ice sheet can disappear several hundred meters.

When the ice is melting away, it leaves large stretches of landscapes with no major vegetation. In the first years after the melt away of the ice, the gravel and rocks lie completely bare. No lichen or other vegetation. The reason is not only the lack of topsoil for the plants to absorb nourishment, but also the huge ice masses that are relatively close, making the area extra cold in the Arctic climate.

Later, the vegetation and the wildlife immigrate the areas laid bare by the ice. One day, forests may grow here, if the climate continues to change and provide the basis for tree growth. Today, only the willow scrub, the

juniper bushes and the small birches are the first to conquer land at the ice front.

Between the barren rock masses, the meltwater rages in large rivers. When the melting in summer increases or when lakes on top of the ice suddenly burst, tsunamis of meltwater are formed. It is always dangerous to stay close to these rivers. The meltwater itself is relatively clean, but exceptionally large amounts of sand and gravel are carried with the water, and further out towards the sea large landscapes of clay deposits are formed around the rivers.

Along the former areas of the ice sheet, the moraine hills can be observed as far as the eye can see. Many may think that this landscape seems very monotonous, but for me that is precisely the monotonous view that makes this landscape extra unique and beautiful.



*Øst for Kangerlussuaq, Vestgrønland, august 2011*

*East of Kangerlussua, West Greenland, August 2011*



*Øst for Kangerlussuaq, Vestgrønland, juli 2010*

*East of Kangerlussuaq, West Greenland, July 2010*



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*Øst for Kangerlussuaq, Vestgrønland, juni 2007*

*East of Kangerlussuaq, West Greenland, June 2007*



*Øst for Kangerlussuaq, Vestgrønland, juni 2007*

*East of Kangerlussuaq, West Greenland, June 2007*

KOLOFON

*Ugens foto: Nyt land  
Af Keld Jensen*

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COLOPHON

*Photo of the week: New land  
By Keld Jensen*

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