

EN SPADSERETUR I BYEN
A WALK IN THE TOWN

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En spadseretur i byen

Jeg besøgte Nanortalik for første gang i oktober 2006. Jeg ankom med en mindre båd inde fra en minelejr, der ligger 30 kilometer nordøst for Nanortalik. Under mit arbejdsophold i guldminen Nalunaq skulle to minearbejdere transporteres ind til Nanortalik for akut at blive tilset af en læge. Jeg benyttede lejligheden til at tage den lange sejltur til Nanortalik for samtidigt at få afholdt et par møder med lokale embedsfolk.

Nanortalik er Grønlands sydligste by. By er måske så meget sagt. Det er en lille bosætning med cirka 1.100 indbyggere, men i Grønland har Nanortalik officielt betegnelse som by.

Nanortalik er et sted, der på mange måder er helt unik. Jeg kan ikke forklare det: På den ene side viser statistikken, at der er mange lokale, der har et svært liv:

Selv mord blandt unge, omfattende alkoholmisbrug med medfølgende simpel vold, vanskelige vilkår på arbejdsmarkedet og vanskelig adgang til opkvalificering og uddannelse. På den anden side har jeg gennem årene oplevet, at der i dette isolerede lille samfund eksisterer nogle værdier, der skaber stærke mennesker.

Det, der skaber det svære liv skabes af de strukturelle problemer, som generelt eksisterer i Grønland, og som de grønlandske politikere i årtier har forsøgt at mindske eller fjerne.

I oktober 2006 fik jeg lejlighed til en gåtur rundt i den lille bosætning. Mange havde brug for en snak – og det havde jeg egentligt også.

A walk in the town

For the first time I visited Nanortalik in October 2006. I arrived from a mining camp located 30 kilometres northeast of Nanortalik by a small boat. During my work in the gold mine Nalunaq, two miners had to be transported to Nanortalik to be attended by a doctor. I took advantage of the opportunity to take the long trip by boat to Nanortalik. I arranged a few meetings with local officials in the town.

Nanortalik is Greenland's southernmost town. 'Town' – maybe that is putting it a bit strong. It is a small settlement with approximately 1,100 inhabitants, but in Greenland Nanortalik officially is named as a town.

Nanortalik is a place that in many ways is unique. I cannot explain it: On the one hand, the statistics show that there are many locals who have a difficult life: Suicide

among young people, widespread alcohol abuse resulting in violence, difficult conditions in the labour market and difficult access to upskilling and education. On the other hand, through the years I have experienced that in this isolated small community there are values, which create strong people.

The cause of the difficult life is created by the structural problems, which generally exist in Greenland and which for decades Greenlandic politicians have been trying to reduce or eliminate.

During my stay in Nanortalik in October 2006 I got a good opportunity for a walk around in the small settlement. A lot of people needed a talk – and really - so did I.



Nanortalik, Sydgrønland, oktober 2006

Nanortalik, South Greenland, October 2006



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KOLOFON

*Ugens foto: En spadseretur i byen
Af Keld Jensen*

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COLOPHON

*Photo of the week: A walk in the town
By Keld Jensen*

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