

February

It is of rare occurrence that there will be no white Christmas in the capital of Greenland, Nuuk. In early September, the first snow falls on the over one kilometre high mountain peaks around Nuuk. Around 1 November the roads and paths in the town are usually white with snow.

But there are often setbacks. Large low depressions sends storms and rain along the west coast and also the foehn wind that forms over the ice sheet may cause degrees above freezing-point and rain in the otherwise cold month of December. Winds of this type are called "snow-eaters" for their ability to make snow melt rapidly.

Not before January and often even in not before February we can expect so much snow, so the snow is suitable for skiing and for driving with snow scooters. This year the big ski lift on the mountain Lille Malene has first opened here in mid-February. It is a great day – the ski runs are lovely playgrounds for children as well as

adults.

The southerners can feel that the arctic cities seem empty. The climate does not provide the necessary basis for tree growth and in the Arctic you will not find hedges around gardens as elsewhere in the world. Often, the houses stands alone, visible bolted on the underlying rock with sporadically low vegetation here and there among the rocks.

But here in February, the snow has fallen, and the colourful houses shine in competition with the whitest snow. There is considerable traffic between the buildings, but at short intervals the drifting snow again wipes the tracks out and the beautiful white surfaces are again left untouched.

This photo of the week is from the part of the town named Nuussuaq. While the buildings and the snow is bathed in the low sun shine, the clouds of another snowstorm give the sky a black tint behind the town.



A housing sector in Nuussuaq, February 2013