

## The long shadows of winter

In the months around the turn of the year the shadows are long in the Arctic winter landscape. The shadows create lengthened shapes in the snowy mountains. Even the gravel of the roads forms long shadows when it is hit by the low sun. Entire mountain slopes are swathed in darkness behind the high mountains.

The Greenlandic airline Air Greenland has in recent years replaced their Dash-7 aircrafts with Dash-8 aircrafts on many routes. The new aircrafts are flying at a higher altitude over the beautiful landscapes than the older aircrafts.

This winter day in late November I choose to place myself in the right side of the passenger cabin to experience the morning light fall on the surface of the huge Greenlandic ice sheet. Even up here from the plane the ice sheet reaches all around the horizon and its surface is only broken by the lengthened, undulating surfaces the glacier tongues create down to the west coast fiords.

We fly from Narsarsuaq to the north to Nuuk. The plane follows the edge of the ice cap. In the middle of the large, plane surface of the ice sheet a few nunataqs show up. A nunataq means in the Inuit language a peak. The nunataqs have previously been important landmarks for the Inuits when they hunted the reindeers on the edge of the ice cap.

Today the navigation is using modern electronic instruments. The role of the nunataqs as major landmarks is no longer necessary. Now they are just another outstanding, beautifully element of the nature in the vast Greenlandic wilderness.



Two nunataqs at the ice sheet, South Greenland. november 2014