

The weather in Greenland

There's a difference between typical weather in the north, south, east and west of Greenland respectively. Greenland is an island which stretches approximately 2000 km from north to south and approximately 1000 km from east to west. However, it's difficult to specify general guidelines as to what the weather will be like in different areas. Although it would normally be expected to be warmer in the south of Greenland than in the north, the situation can be reversed. There's also a big difference depending on whether you're inland or out at sea, or whether you're on the coast or high up in the fells, or indeed if you're in a sheltered spot or exposed to the wind.



Greenland has an arctic climate with average temperatures that do not exceed 10° C (50° F) in the warmest summer months. In the southern part of the country and the innermost parts of the long fjords, the temperature can, however, rise to more than 20° C in June, July or August.









The air is generally very dry in Greenland in relation to many other countries, and because of this low humidity the low temperatures do not feel as cold as you might expect. On the other hand, the dry air means that you must drink more water than normal.





Summer

By June, most of the sea ice has broken and the snow has retreated to the summits leaving the fjords clear for memorable boat trips with the Inuit hunters. The short summer nights are still chilly and temperatures drop rapidly as the sun lingers on the horizon before finally sinking in a blazing sunset. Such conditions usually continue though to the end of August.



Winter

Winter in Greenland is a magical time. In the south daylight hours are limited and the sun rises above the horizon for just a few hours each day, casting beautiful shadows and colours across the snowy land. Further north above the Arctic Circle, darkness prevails and the sun remains hidden. This reveals a dazzling display of starlight and Aurora. Temperatures are very low and sea ice forms extensively - this is the time when the hunters can begin travelling great distances with their dogs. This is the best time to visit to see the Northern Lights.

