

Narsarsuaq, South Greenland, Greenland

A remote WWII airbase turned gateway to Viking history and Arctic ice — Narsarsuaq delivers raw Greenlandic wilderness without a tourist infrastructure in sight.

Mostly Tender (small pier)

Typical call: 6-8 hrs

Danish Krone (DKK)

Greenlandic & Danish

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: Arrive: All aboard:

Excursion: Notes:

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender for most ships; small pier can berth vessels up to ~118 m

Walk to Center: ~1.2 km (15-20 min) from tender pier to hotel/airport area

Best For: Viking history, iceberg boat tours, Arctic hiking, WWII buffs

Don't Miss: Qassiarsuk (Erik the Red's Norse settlement) across the fjord

Getting around:

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Qassiarsuk — Erik the Red's Viking Settlement** — A 15-minute boat ride across the fjord brings you to Brattahlid, where Norse explorer Erik the Red settled around 982 AD.
 - Qooroq Ice Fjord Boat Tour** — Speed through a maze of massive blue icebergs calved from the Qooroq Glacier, a tongue of the Greenland Ice Sheet.
 - Narsarsuaq Museum & WWII Bluie West One** — Narsarsuaq was built in 1941 as a secret US Army Air Forces base codenamed Bluie
- West One.

 - Valley of Flowers & Glacier Hike** — A strenuous guided hike through a wildflower-filled valley before ascending to a viewpoint of the Narsarsuaq Glacier.
 - Greenland Arboretum Walk** — Visit the unlikely Arboretum Groenlandicum, a 150-hectare planted forest in a land with no native trees.

BEST WALKS

- Pier to Museum & Arboretum Loop** 2-3 km | Easy | ~1 hr — Walk from the tender pier along the main road past Hotel Narsarsuaq to the WWII-era museum, then continue to the edge of the arboretum.
- Hospital Valley Ruins Walk** 3-4 km round trip | Easy-moderate | ~1.5 hrs — Follow the track behind the airport toward the old US military hospital valley.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		37°	27°	10d
Jun		55°	44°	14d
Aug		59°	47°	12d
Sep		49°	38°	13d
Oct		38°	27°	10d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 6:40AM–9:24PM · Aug 6:11AM–9:58PM · Sep 7:29AM–8:22PM · Oct 8:44AM–6:48PM

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Pack insect repellent and a head net. July and August mosquitoes and blackflies in South Greenland are aggressive. A head net is not optional — it's survival gear.
- Book boat tours before you arrive. Qassiarsuk and Qooroq tours have limited capacity. Reserve through your cruise line or operators such as World of Greenland well in advance.
- Bring some Danish Krone cash. Cards work at the hotel, museum, and Pilersuisoq supermarket, but the ATM at the airport is notoriously unreliable.
- Layer up regardless of the forecast. South Greenland weather is volatile — a sunny 15°C afternoon can shift to near-freezing winds off the glacier within the hour. Waterproof jacket and sturdy shoes are essential.
- Expect no connectivity on land. Cell service is minimal and public Wi-Fi is sparse and slow. Enjoy the digital detox — this place earns it.
- Tendering can be cancelled. Fjord conditions sometimes prevent tenders entirely. If your itinerary includes Narsarsuaq, treat it as a bonus — not a guarantee.

Narsarsuaq, South Greenland, Greenland — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



- 1

Greenland Arboretum
Experimental sub-arctic forest of planted trees near the airport, a rare patch of woodland in treeless Greenland.
- 2

Kiatuut Sermiat Glacier
Glacier tongue reachable via a classic day hike through Flower Valley, where visitors can touch the ice edge.
- 3

Brattahlid (Qassarsuk)
Erik the Red's original 985 AD settlement across the fjord, a UNESCO World Heritage site with reconstructed turf longhouse and church.
- P

Cruise port / terminal