









20th August 2022 South of Milne Land

Fonfjord. Arriving to Gaasefjord.

DATE	20 August 2022			
Time	08:00	16:00	20:00	24:00
Position	70° 21.6' N 027° 56.9' W	70° 29.0' N 026° 52.1' W	70° 17.4' N 026° 31.3' W	70° 16.8' N 027° 03.2' W
Wind	Variable Force 1	SW Force 3		SW Force 1-2
Temperature (°C)		7	8	5
Weather	Overcast	Overcast		Partially cloudy
Atmospheric Pressure (hPa)	1014.1		1010	1008.7
Sea state	Slight	Slight		calm
	Anchored at East of Ankervig until 12:15h			23:35h Anchor at Krogen (Gaasefjord)

Along the day Rembrandt will finish the circumnavigation of Milne Land, the major island at the middle of Scoresbysund framed at its northern shores by O Fjord, at its West by Rode Fjord and in the South Fonfjord. All of them interconnecting channels more than consider them as fjords.

At the head of this last one is where Rembrandt lay at anchor overnight, again over steep and deep underwater slopes close to the beach. A typical setup for many coastal areas in Greenland, where good seamanship, skills and imagination are necessary for every day to be a successful treat.

Closeby, the landing site we plan to explore in the morning. A sort of a hidden closed valley amongst mountainous glacial scenery topped by ice caps. At its bottom, a large fluvial plane filled up with sediments that left behind a coastal sort of shallow lagoon.

There, the mountains of mainland, Milne Land and the icebergs scattered everywhere, mirror on its flat calm surface.

The pond seems to be home as well for a couple of Red throated divers.

A couple of hours ashore were followed by a short zodiac cruise around the numerous icebergs drifting along the coast. Some stranded, others drifting, depending on its size and how close to the shoreline they find themselves.

Back on board and when the 6 shakes of Starboard anchor were picked together with the 4 shakes of the Port one, we set an Eastward course along Fonfjord, another of the large, steep and scenic side fjords of Scoresbysund.

Along its approximately 55 nautical miles in length, high rocky cliffs follow spectacular mountain tops and then again. Its waters peppered with icebergs of any kind and size spice up our progress.

At the southern corner of its mouth, rounding cape Gaasepynt show us the way into yet another picturesque and seldom visited area, Gaasefjord. To the opposite coast stands up Sydbræ, a large glacier with a calving front of about 5 km in length. The most picturesque glacial features are imprinted on it, like clear medial and lateral moraines, and following the typical "U" shaped open valley that it has been sculpting itself for thousands of years through a large succession of lava layers and flows. About 50 Million yers ago large volcanic events occurred, covering with those parallel layered eruptions the older gneisses basement rocks.

There, into Gaasefjord we set course, first over open waters that gradually, when Rembrandt sails half way in, become more and more icy. By the time we had dinner, looking straight to the mountains at the head of the fjord in a beautiful sunset light, the ship battles its way amongst sea-ice floes, bergy bits, growlers and larger icebergs, until finally reaching a suitable, though deep, anchorage in the little bay Krogen.















Picture: Christian



21st August 2022 Gaasefjord.

Krogen bay and sailing off the fjord, heading to Vikingbugta

DATE	21 August 2022			
Time	08:00	16:00	20:00	24:00
Position	70° 16.8' N 027° 03.0' W	70° 18.0' N 026° 26.9' W	70° 23.5' N 025° 31.5' W	70° 21.9' N 025° 18.3' W
Wind	SW Force 1	WSW Force 4	SW Force 3-4	
Temperature (°C)	7		8	
Weather	Overcast	Overcast	Cloudy	
Atmospheric Pressure (hPa)	1009.1	1008	1008.4	
Sea state				
	Anchor at Krogen (Gaasefjord) until 13:15h	Variable courses under sail. Sailing 16:00h-17:45h		22:10h Anchor at Vikingbugt overnight

Krogen, the little bay on the northern shores and half way in Gaasefjord was quite a good anchorage overnight. In windless situation, last night we drop anchor at 60 to 70 metres of depth in this inlet virtually free of ice, while the rest of the fjord was pretty packed with icebergs and last remains of the winter sea ice. Here is where we plan our morning activity ashore.

After a good scouting, we all were brought ashore for a fantastic morning up the hills of this area.

Scenery reveals a different history than the landfalls we have done so far. Beneath our feet, we still walk over the old Greenlandic basement rocks, the beautiful and old (about a billion to two billion years old) veined and banded gneisses. But atop of them high in the mountains they are topped by a large sequence of parallel layers.

An intrusion of a large mantel plume went through the earth crust in East-Greenland at about 60 million years. As a result, the Atlantic Ocean started to open and grow in different phases. Volcanic eruptions and outflows of basaltic lava on surface were the consequence of that, piling up layers from one eruption after the other for thickness of about 10 kilometres.

The remains of that shape the geology of all the Southern coast of Scoresby Sund as a tabular plateau, due to the flat lying nature of the lava series.

All this is pretty well represented at Krogen, plus also the present geomorphology carved by the numerous glaciers that Gaasefjord hosts. Atop of them peek larger inland ice caps.

Steep slopes and high peaks surround us, but also a green valley here and there is home for Musk ox herds. On top of the rocky hills

a pond is used by a couple of Red throated divers to raise their chicks.

A great landing in a beautiful scenery followed by heaving anchor and for a couple of hours try to start our way out the fjord through the glaciated waters, zigzagging amongst the icebergs. As soon as we are clear of it hugging the northern coast of Gaasefjord, 15kn of wind blowing on our aft made for setting sail.

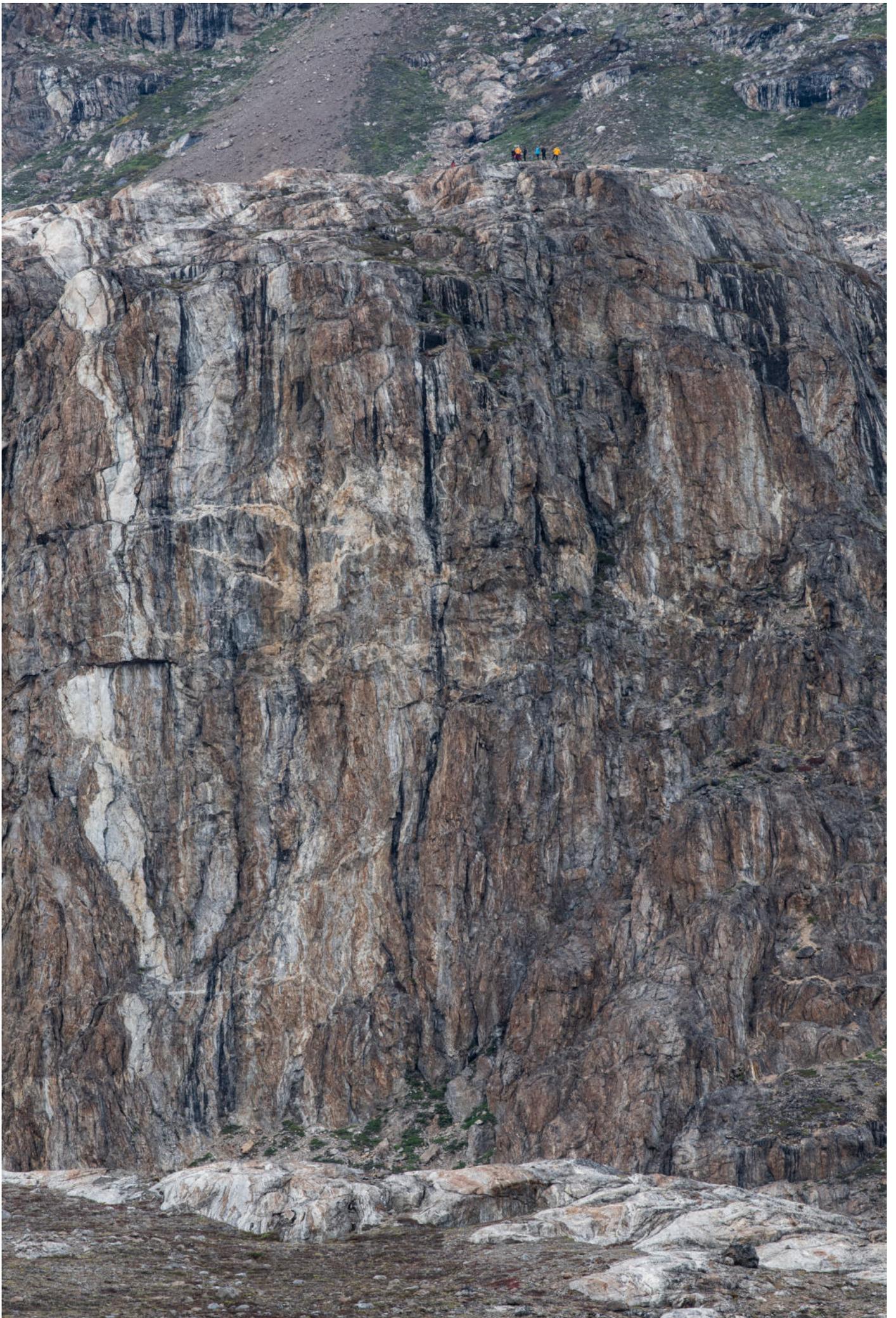
Outer Jib, Staysail and Schooner are hoisted on Starboard tack setting a course that made for gybing and change the sails to the other side after about an hour. Moment to set the Top sail above the Schooner as well. Gradually the wind dies out and an hour more of slow speed sailing ended up with dousing the canvas and furl it, making way from then on under our engines.













Picture: Christian



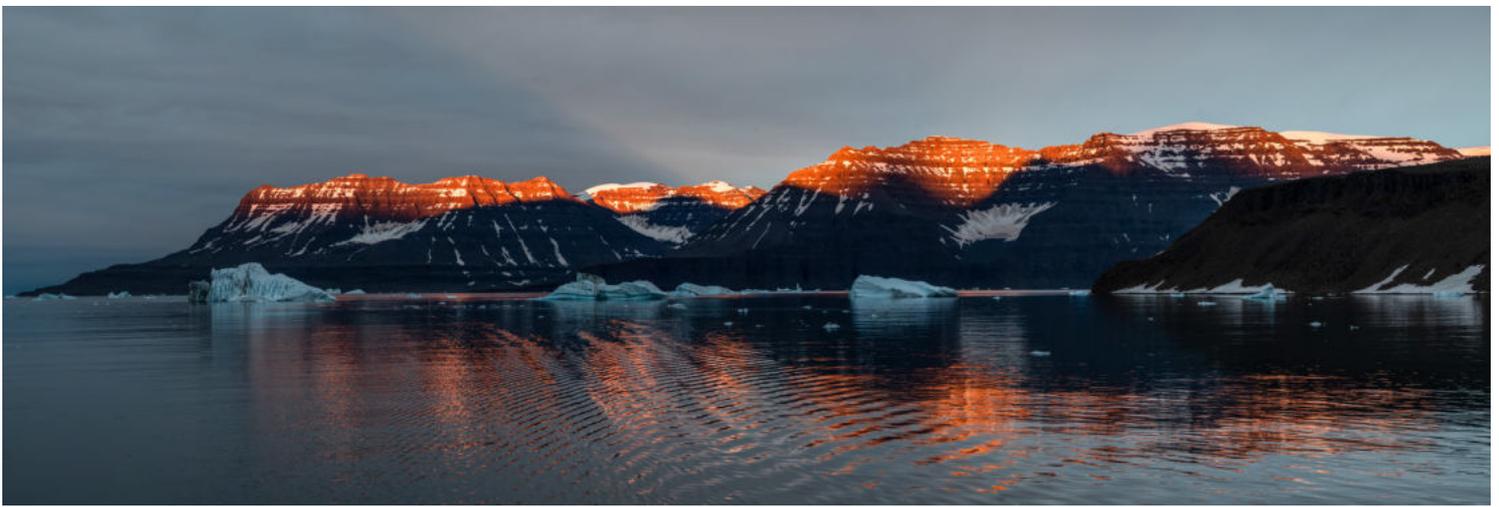
Picture: Christian











**22nd August 2022 SCORESBYSUND
Vikingebugt (Volquart Von Kyst) and making our way across
Scoresbysund to Ittoqqortoormiit.**

DATE	22 August 2022			
Time	08:00	16:00	20:00	24:00
Position	70° 21.9' N 025° 18.3' W	70° 25.9' N 024° 57.9' W	70° 23.5' N 025° 31.5' W	70° 21.9' N 025° 18.3' W
Wind	NE Force 1	Calm	Variable Force 1	Still
Temperature (°C)	5.5		8	6
Weather	Overcast	Overcast	Overcast	Overcast
Atmospheric Pressure (hPa)	1010	1013	1013.1	1012.9
Sea state	Calm	Calm	Calm	Calm
	Heaving anchor 08:40 h Start Vikingebugt ship cruise			
	Variable courses cruising Vikingebugt and Scoresbysund			

Sailing along Laenderne coast during last evening, just the Southhearstern shores of Gaasefjord, we soon rounded Kap Stevenson to get into Vikingebugt, coming across a couple of large icebergs. Sunset caught up with us just before dropping anchor at the small embayment at the Northwest entrance of this large bay. A quiet night was followed by starting the engines again during breakfast to make way along the spectacular rock formations of the East side of Vikingebugt. Together with Gaasefjord, they represent the innermost area of the Southern Scoresbysund, the largest fjord system in the world, first sighted for the Europeans by Volquaart Boon, who reported having being carried into a large fjord by a current at about this latitude in 1761 when sailing on a Dutch boat.

This coast was named after him, while the main body of the fjord takes its name from William Scoresby Jr. in 1822 after his father, who he describes as the original discoverer, and the first navigator

to sail into it. William Scoresby Senior (1760–1829) was the one starting the commercial whaling in Greenland in 1785. Very successfully between 1796 and 1816 he had obtained 2693 tons of oil, the highest return of any whaling master. He also claims to have invented the crow's nest.

Vikingebugt lays between Kap Stevenson and Helgeaes. So named by Laurits Bruhn during the 1931-34 Trearsekspeditionen. Laurits Bruhn was a member of the Geodetic Institute surveying party in 1932 and 1933, when he was mainly at work in Scoresbysund region. He discovered, mapped and named 98 places in East Greenland, amongst them this scenic bay. This expedition was the largest and most comprehensive expedition sent to East Greenland by Denmark. It was to extend over for four summers and three winters, the scientist overwintering specially built stations in several areas. The tasks of the expedition included preparation of topographic maps of the region 72°-76° N, together with geological, zoological, botanical, archaeological and hydrographical studies.

Vikingebugt, is well known by its basaltic picturesque cliffs that have their origin on the surfacing of a magma plume from the depths of the planet about 60 millions of years ago. Instead of an explosive eruption, what we see here is the piling up of outflows of basaltic lava creating an extensive basalt plateau 10 km thick.

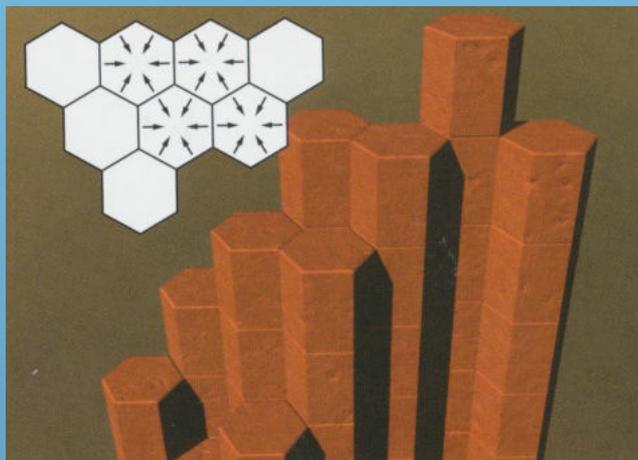
When those lava flows got the proper chemical composition and cooled at the proper rate, break in hexagonal-tending columns, perpendicularly to the ceiling and bottom of the general flow.

At the fjord's head lay the prominent feature of Bredegletcher glacier front and its moraines. And there is where Rembrandt headed afterwards.

Icebergs, bergy bits, brash and remains of the winter sea ice filled waters of the bay. Not an easy navigation through them to get a closer look at the glacier front and to the several Polar bears that just been spotted at the distance close to it.

GEOLOGY OF VIKINGEBUGT

An intrusion of a large mantle plume has invaded the earth crust in East-Greenland at about 60 million years. This plume was moving from the Earth mantle to the lithosphere and later on was reaching the earth's crust and volcanic eruptions and the outflow of basaltic lava on the surface resulted from this event. Deposits of ash related to this enormous volcanic event were also a consequence of these volcanic activities. An enormous lava pile of flat lying plateau basalt up to 10 km thick was formed between 62 and 54 million years ago as a consequence of the opening of the Atlantic Ocean which started from South to North. At about 59 to 54 million years ago the Atlantic Ocean started to open between what is now Greenland and Norway. Two eruption cycles occurred in the Skorebysund area, the first one between 60 and 56 million years, the younger phase between 55 and 54.5 million years ago.



While sailing during the last couple of days we were able to see the large series basaltic lava flows on the Southern side of the Scoresby Sund on the Geikie Plateau. These large series of basaltic lava flows were formed between 60 and 56 million years. The basalts are lying on a crystalline basement, however none of the old Archaean gneiss basement is exposed in the Vikingebugt area. However further to the West on both sides of the Gasefjord this basement is exposed and comprises gneiss of middle Proterozoic age (1600 to 1000 million years old) to Caledonian ages (ca. 430 to 410 million years old).

The landscape of the Southern coast of the Scoresby Sund is tabular because of the flat lying nature of the lava series; and cut through by numerous dykes which are basaltic as well. The lava flows show large lateral continuity over several kilometres and it was apparently possible to trace a single flow over 170 km in the Scoresby Sund area (Henriksen, 2008). The lava flows represent very thick packages of rocks that are forming now mountains up to 2000 meters on the Geikie Plateau. These basaltic flows formed basalts up to 6 km thick and extend now from sea level to the highest mountain of Greenland (Gunneshjorn, 3693m).

Lava flows that can be seen as individual beds of several tens of meter thick that were erupted in intervals of about 3000 years. In other words about every 3000 years a fresh lava flow was erupted and set over an older flow that was erupted earlier and each layer represents an eruption. Between each lava flow there are several meter thick ash layers resulting from the volcanic activity. These volcanic eruptions were of fissure type, with many individual centres, and were not feed by volcanoes as we see for example from the Mt. St. Helen.

These lava flows were shortly after the emplacement intruded by important series of dykes which can form so called dyke swarms when many dykes intruded the same areas. In detail the dyke intruded as a very hot melt the surrounding and cooler rock and because of rapid cooling at the contact of the dyke and the host rock, a chilled margin formed whereas the centre of the dyke shows crystals that were able to form as they had more time for the growing.

It is sometimes possible to see from distance these contacts as slightly bleached a few meter thick zones between the dykes and the host rocks. On our zodiac cruise it was possible to observe a particular feature of the flow basalts; the so called columnar textures. The Vikingebugt is a particular a good place to spot these spectacular columnar basalts that are up to 30 to 50 m high and show almost perfect hexagonal structures. Denis explained during the zodiac cruise how these columnar basalts have formed by slow cooling and contraction of basaltic and plastic rock towards the centre and forming these columnar polygonal structures. Vertical joints were formed during the cooling of the hot magma of each of the horizontal flows and are perpendicular to the cooling magma surfaces (Picture showing an ideal case of columnar basalt with hexagonal structures).

The splendid outcrops of the columnar basalts show also cross-sections and it was possible to observe that not all the structures are perfectly hexagonal (6 corners), but there are also examples of columnar basalt with only 5 corners. It was also possible to see that each hexagonal column showed

a coarse grained centre with some whitish crystals which are probably feldspars and that the margins have darker colours and no crystals are visible. The surfaces of the columnar basalts are of reddish-yellowish colour and are a result of the surface weathering of the iron rich basaltic rock. We could also observe that some of these spectacular columns have vertical orientations and others show horizontal columns. The basalts with vertical columns represent basalt flows that have large lateral extensions. The basalts with vertical columns are either crosscutting dykes that had a more or less vertical orientation, and when the dykes have cooled, the columnar basalts formed with a horizontal orientation. Another explanation is that the columnar basalts with horizontal orientation represent flows that locally showed a dynamic flow during cooling and when the basalt was still plastic. This is also seen from columns with vertical orientations that are slightly bended, and this changes in shape probably has happened when the basalts were not cooled and solidified and were still plastic.

In summary the Volquart Boon Kyst coastline gives plenty of opportunities to study and observe the phenomena of the columnar basalts and beside the geological observations the columns are of course also representing a wonderful landscape with these beautiful geometries that form large parts of the cliffs of the western shore of the Vikingebugt.

Slowly but surely Rembrandt can approach the area and one by one, up to 8 bears could be seen. A mother with two cubs, a mother with a single one and three lone individuals. Two of them of similar small to medium size were spending time together, probably siblings of about 2 to 3 years old. The third one a larger solitary animal. As we arrived there, they seem to spread around a bit more, each one choosing different snow patches to lay down for a rest. A couple of hours were spent in the area having a good look at them, best sight to be through binoculars or telescope as all were up the hills and none was at a short distance from us. With everyone looking up the slopes for the bears, suddenly several small spouts were seen in the shoreline waters. A good look with the binoculars revealed a group of about 5 Narwhales, a bit shy at the beginning, becoming more confident after a while before they decide to dive and disappear from sight.

Greenland holds small populations of them with the main ones in Hudson Strait, Lancaster Sound, Davis Strait and Baffin Bay.

When the luck is at your side and can actually see them, they are easily recognisable by its size of between 4 to 5 meters and their characteristic mottled colour pattern when adults (the calves are more uniformly grey)

Two teeth are embedded in the gums of the upper jaw. In males (rarely females), the left tooth grows protruding through the upper jaw, spiralling to the left as they grow. Used both for jousting battles in mating season and also as a sensory system to detect temperature changes, pressure and other environmental factors that help Narwhal's survival in the harsh Arctic environment.

A characteristic feature of this species that usually is quite difficult to spot, being more common the small blows and the patchy back sightings.

In the medieval times these tusks were marketed as Unicorn horns, for huge monetary value, as it was thought they had magical powers. Myths that persisted for over 400 years, thanks to the rarity of their sightings and the secrecy of the traders. It was Ole Wurm, Danish professor and zoologist of great attainment, who in 1638 exposed the true origins of these legendary horns.

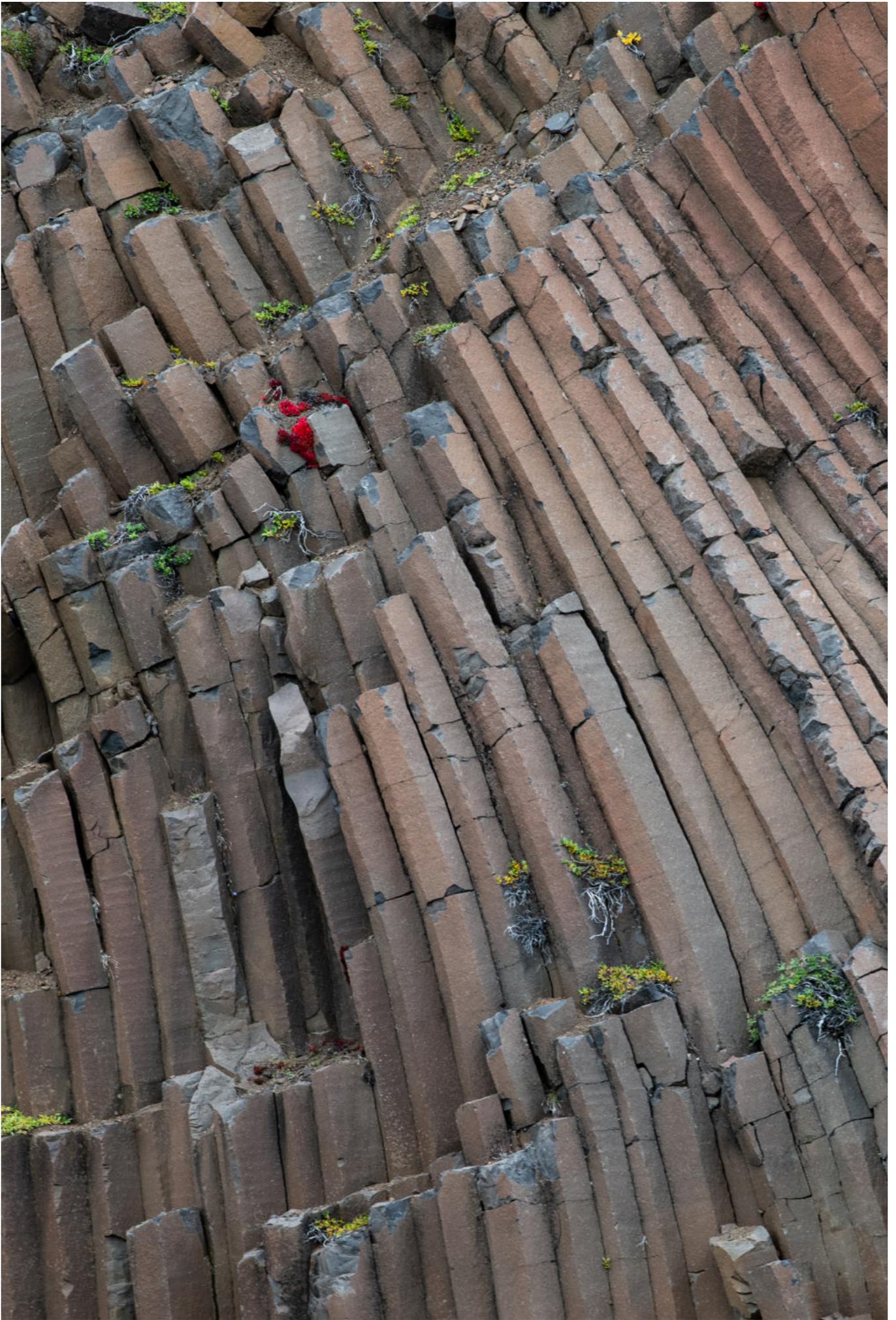
When spotted is usually never for a long time and they don't use to hang around boats or become curious. The pods normally keep going on their business or try to get away from noisy embarkations. After a few moments they vanish into the depths, as they forage during long and deep dives up to 1500 metres, on cod, halibut, squid and shrimp.

A cruise along the large Bredeglacier front followed before starting heading off Vikingebugt. But not all was already said and done. Lunch was served but was interrupted by a Captain's announcement. A large portion of the glacier front was collapsing. Quickly turning the ship around, Rembrandt gets closer to the event, witnessing large pieces still falling and tumbling, while tones of brash ice and bergy bits spread out to the bay. 500 to 800 metres in length of the glacier front have collapsed and in a few minutes all the bits and pieces have drifted and extended about 2 kilometres from the calvings.

It was time then to head into the main body of the extensive fjord system of Scoresbysund on our way to the settlement located near its mouth, Ittoqqortoormiit.



























23th August 2022 ITTOQQORTOORMIIT, and sailing into Hurry Inlet to Constable Pynt

DATE	23 August 2022		
Time	08:00	16:00	20:00
Position	70° 28.3' N 021° 59.3' W	70° 25.5' N 022° 17.7' W	70° 37.3' N 022° 32.5' W
Wind	NE Force 3	E Force 4	E Force 2
Temperature (°C)		5	8
Weather	Partially Cloudy	Clear	Clear
Atmospheric Pressure (hPa)	1012.8	1012	1012.7
Sea state	Slight	Slight	Calm
	Anchor at Ittoqqortoormiit 07:45h	Heaving anchors 13:20h 14:00h All sails set	19:10h all sails down and furled Motoring to Constable Pynt

After a full night motoring along Scoresbysund, including a fantastic sunset with red skies over the majestic icebergs that populate this area, early in the morning we approach the only Greenlandic settlement in Northeast Greenland, Ittoqqortoormiit. Straight away full crew and guides have are available to help on the anchoring operations to bring Rembrandt as close as possible to the small town jetty, and prepare all for the needed re-fuelling operations. In such small facility and shallow waters we cannot actually do our moorings alongside, but just locate the ship closeby. The whole set up of Rembrandt to get ready to take fuel from the tanks brought by tractor to the pier involves skilful manoeuvring and a couple of mooring ropes to be brought ashore to keep the ship as steady in position as possible, with just scarcely a meter of water below the quill. But that's always easier said than done... other sailing and motor vessels anchored in front of the town, plus the numerous small boats from the locals, create a sort of a spider web of anchors and ropes. A difficult job not free from complications, that, when finished, let the ship in good position and ready for us to go ashore and start our visit to one of the most remote settlements in the world,

Due to Covid regulations, we just took a walk on the streets, but preferably not entering any of the buildings. Starting at the Tourist Information Office, Nanu Travel, we all spread around to explore the surroundings. Another way of life on the remoteness of Greenland, where priorities are very different from the ones we are used to. Hunting is one of them, sledge dogs is the other. From a Greenlandic breed, these powerful dogs, now having a summer rest, are one of the main means of transportation in winter, together with the modern snow mobiles. Tradition meets the present here around every corner. Supermarket contrasts with the game hanging here and there ready to be cooked or given to the dogs to feed.

Overlooking the settlement, Ejnar Mikkelsen statue, the founder of Ittoqqortoormiit in 1925, and an important figure on the early exploration of the country.

More populous in the past, nowadays around 250 people live here year round in a mix of mordent and traditional Inuit lifestyle, hunting and fishing. They also receive all ships visiting Scoresby Sound area during summer, becoming isolated later due to the large amount of sea ice and icebergs filling the bay.

The bunkering operations took until lunch time. Once it was over, we heave up our anchor and start our scenic 30nm way towards the proximity of the airport at Constable Pynt.

Not an easy manoeuvre to squeeze between the other boats around, but once we made it out, captain gives the voice to start preparing all our canvas.

By the end of lunch time, Rembrandt already happily makes way under her 7 sails, at a speed of 5 to 6 knots. What an opportunity to drop the zodiacs and take a couple of photo-cruises around her.

All sails set and filled up pulling Rembrandt in a good course, icebergs there and there spice her way.

For about 5 hours we enjoy a good sailing and priceless opportunities to photograph the ship from our rubber boats. Afterwards, during dinner, sails are disused and furled, and motoring we approach our anchorage next to the Constable Pynt airstrip, sure one of the smallest and most peculiar International Airports.

Tomorrow will be our last day of Arctic adventures. The Charter flight that will bring us to Iceland is scheduled for the evening. That also means a last morning of activities ashore. The planned place will be just a handful of miles from the airport, in an area formed by fantastic layers upon layers of sedimentary rock formations dating from the Cretacic and Jurassic periods, also some interesting marine fossils can be found. After that, the last zodiac ride and walk is the only thing left to catch our flight.

Will make way to our homes, after these last eleven days sharing quarters in the ship, hopefully with our minds and hearts soaked with Arctic experiences, from those incredibly amazing corners of the world. Greenland, with its own great character, majestic landscapes, rare wildlife, unique history, and huge glaciers and icebergs. Worlds of hardship, rocks and ice, so different from our own, but yet all part of our diverse planet.

We hope you really enjoyed Northeast Greenland as much as we did, do and will!

Loving all it has to offer and all we can learn and feel about this special polar areas.







ITTOQQORTOORMIIT - EJNAR MIKKELSEN



Ittoqqortoormiit was founded in 1925 by Ejnar Mikkelsen and some 80 Inuit settlers. They were brought here on the ship "Gustav Holm" and settled 400 km south of the last known Inuit settlement in NE Greenland (near of the actual Daneborg).

The settlement was encouraged by the colonial power Denmark which at this time had a growing interest in NE Greenland. At the same time, the colonisation was intended to improve declining living conditions in Tasilaq, from where the settlers were more or less voluntarily transferred. The newcomers soon prospered on the good hunting conditions of the new area, rich on seals, walrus, narwhals, polar bears and Arctic foxes.

Before that, however, the area had been home to a dense population of Inuit in the past, as testified by ruins and other archaeological remains.



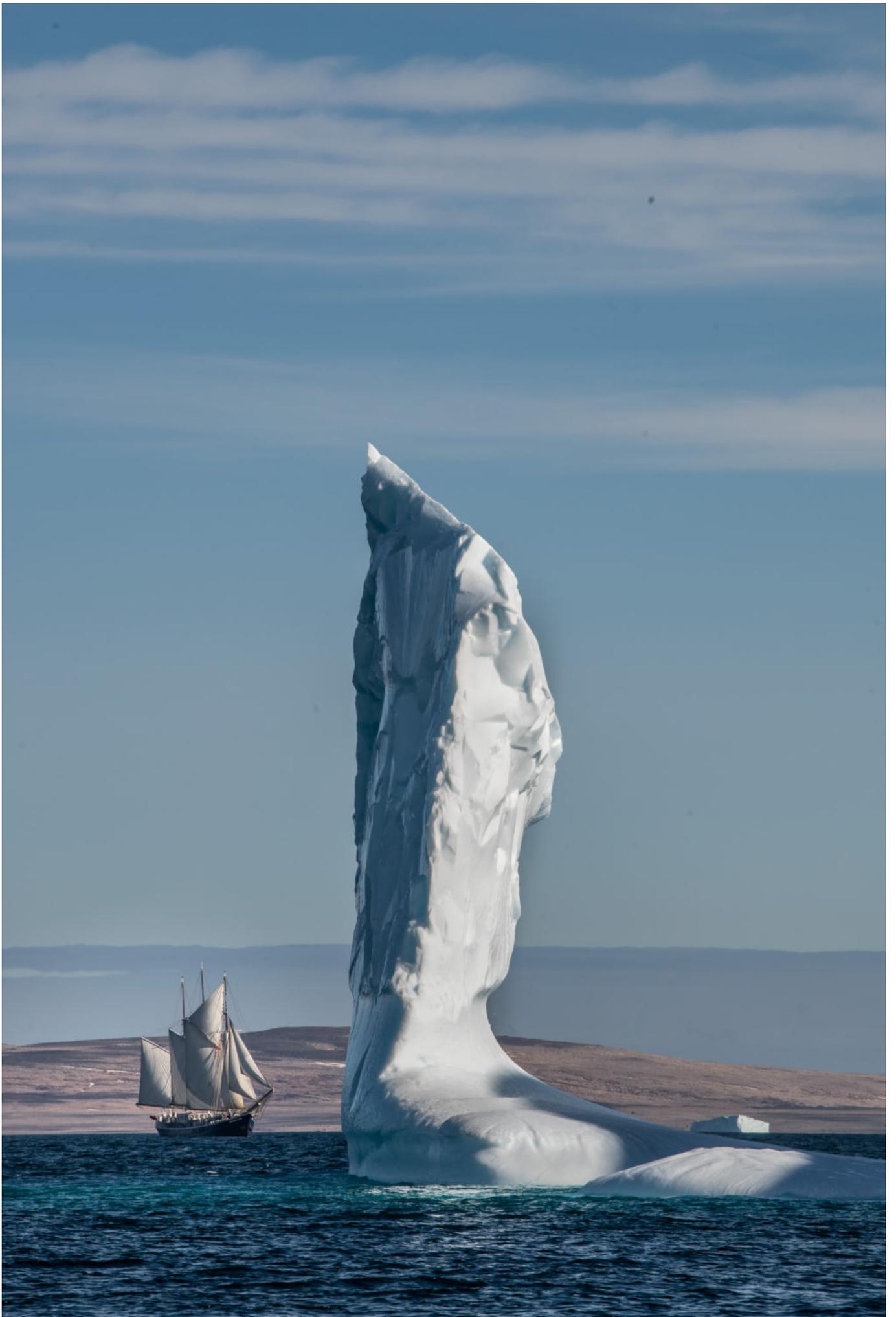




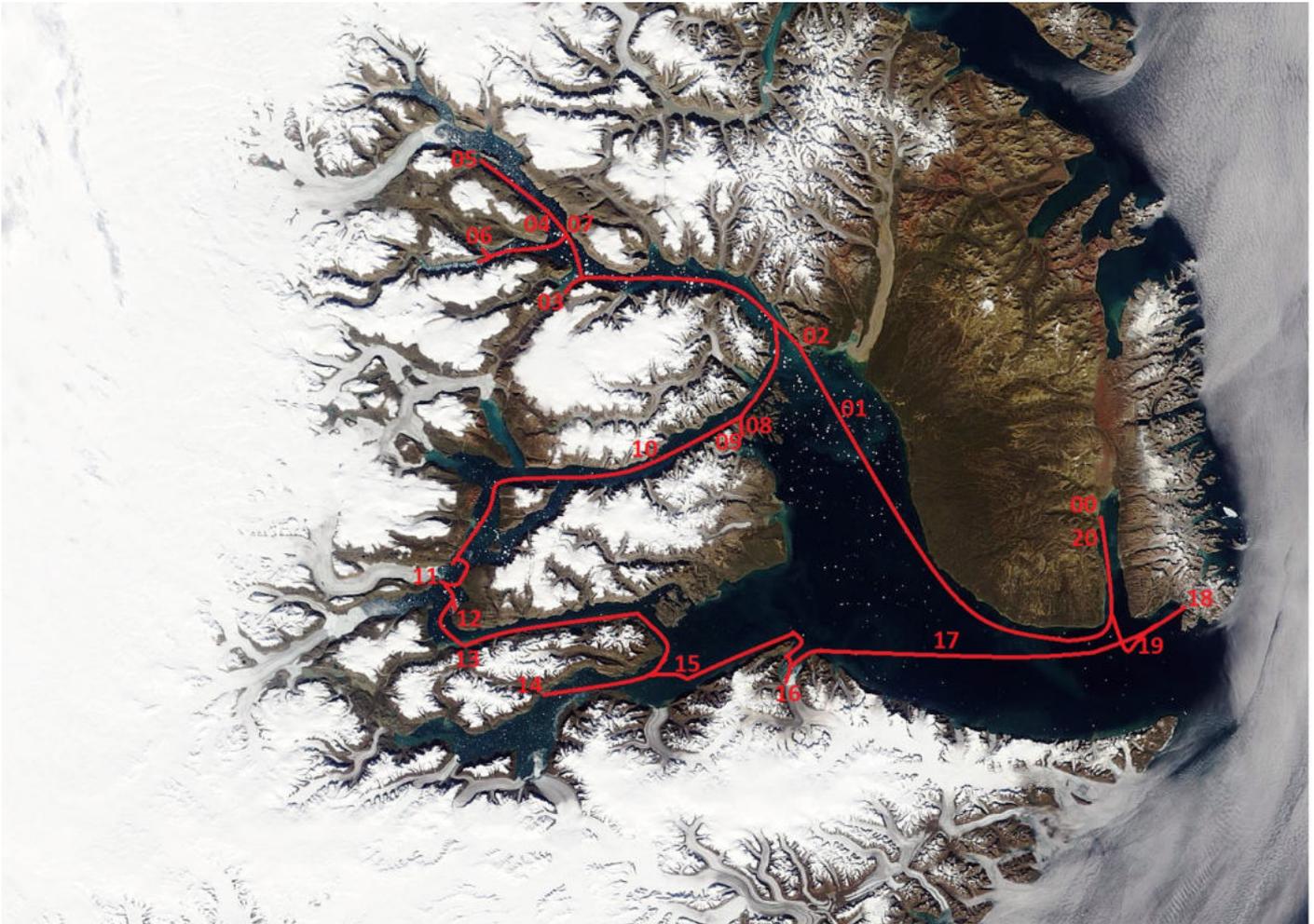








Voyage Map



- 00 Constable Point
- 01 Hall Bredning (erste große Eisberge)
- 02 Sydkap (Moschusochse, Polarhase & Schneehuhn)
- 03 Martin Carlsen Bugt (Moschusochse & Gerfalke)
- 04 Riesiger Tafelberg
- 05 Ingmikartilaq (Daugård-Jensen Gletscher)
- 06 Flyverfjord (Bergwanderung 520m)
- 07 Eskimobugt (Thule-Kultur & Moschusochse)
- 08 Jyttehavn/ Bjørneøer
- 09 Milne Land (Schneehuhn)
- 10 Øfjord & Grundtvigskirken
- 11 Rolige Bræ (Gletscher)
- 12 Røde Ø (Zodiac Cruise & Eisberge)
- 13 Fønfjord (unbenanntes Tal)
- 14 Gåsefjord (Moschusochse)
- 15 Erstes Segeln
- 16 Vikingebukt (8 Eisbären, Narwale & riesen Gletscherkalbung)
- 17 Eisberge im Sonnenuntergang
- 18 Ittoqqoortoormiit
- 19 Unter vollen Segeln (Zodiac Cruise)
- 20 Hurry Inlet (Fossilien)



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*Thanks all for a great Greenland trip (Scoresbysund), full of Arctic experiences!
Covering a total distance of 655 Nautical Miles*

A journey, after all, neither begins in the instant we set out, nor ends when we have reached our doorstep once again. It starts much earlier and is really never over, because the film of memory continues running on inside of us long after we have come to a physical standstill. Indeed, there exist something like a contagion of travel, and the disease is essentially incurable.

*Ryszard Kapuscinski 2007
Travels with Herodotus*