



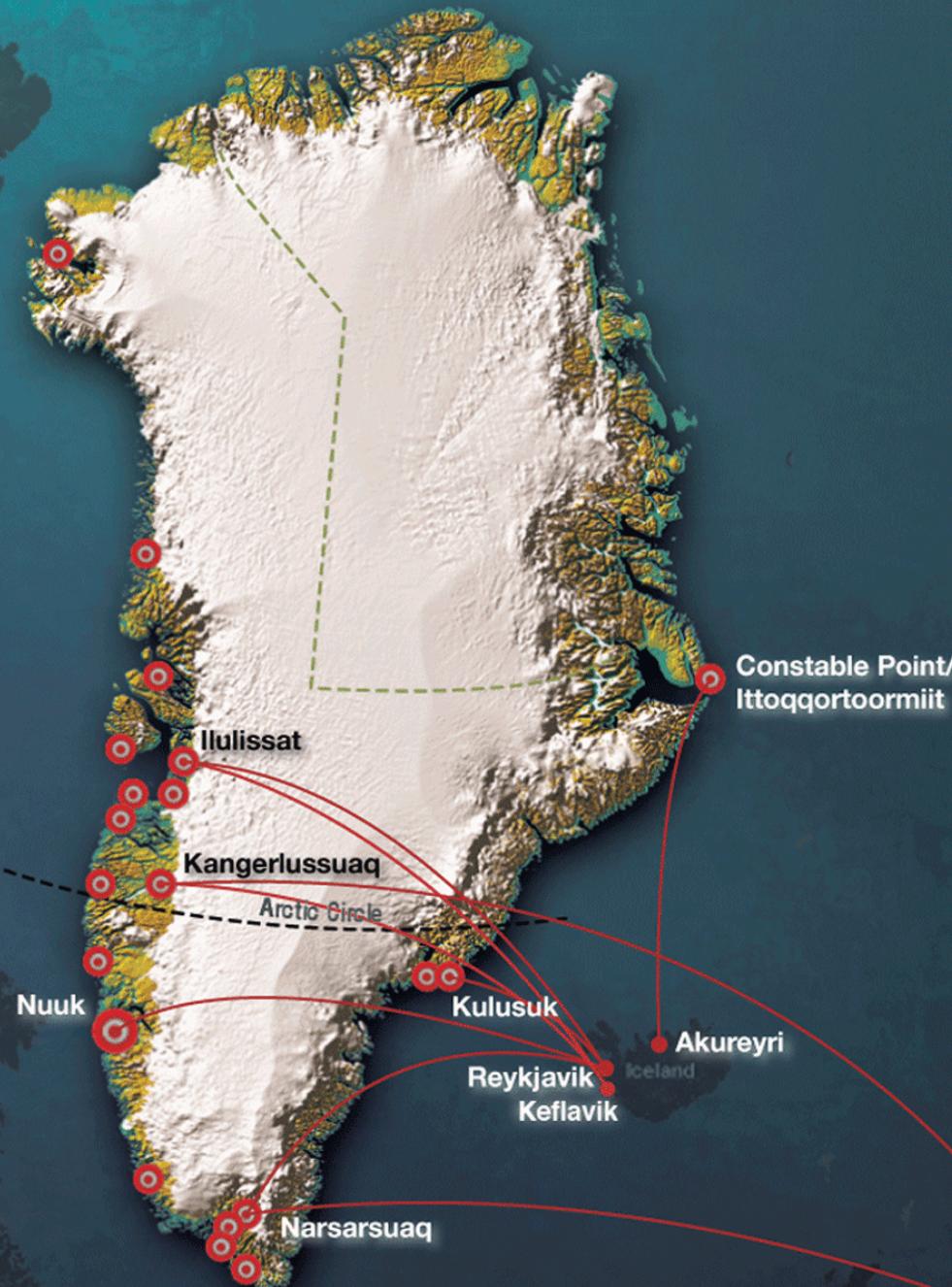
TRAVEL STORIES



NARSARSAUQ
GREENLAND



THE REMOTE PATH



Canada

Hudson
Bay

North Sea
United
Kingdom

Danmark
Denmark

Copenhagen

Ireland

Polska
Poland

Deutschland

Беларусь
Belarus

Svalbard

Suomi
Finland

Norge
Norway

Sverige
Sweden

Polska
Poland

Беларусь
Belarus



THE LAND



AUGUST
2019

Upon introduction to the world's largest island, it immediately becomes a spectacle. It is genuinely like no place I have ever travelled before. Instantly it feels like a true artic world, different to the Tundra of Iceland or Alaska.

Usually ones first glimpse of Greenland is on the arriving flight, from Iceland this is a short 3hr connection, with flights only operating on Wednesdays and Saturdays during the summer months. This is still a relatively new place for the outside world to explore, with adventure travel tourists filling most seats on our connecting flight.

Rarely do I pre-purchase my seats on an aircraft, however in this case, an exception was made when securing my flights – a decision I would advise all who intend to visit here to absolutely do. A window seat on this flight is a must and begins my journey to Greenland in an awe-inspiring fashion.

As land first comes into view - following 2.5 hours of nothing but ocean - it's the elevation of the coastal mountains that surprises me, but nothing can prepare me for the Glaciers this country is famous for. They are vast. Literally running for hundreds of miles, where they eventually meet the country's ice cap.

Greenland is still 90% ice. Even in modern times with the pressures of climate change this country remains snow and ice covered all year round. At its deepest point the ice in Greenland is over 10,000ft (3,300m) thick, and is second only in size to Antarctica.

Huge icebergs pepper the coastal lagoons, and little can be seen other than the low-lying, green vegetation that carpets the mountains and gives this country its name. The east coast is notoriously more hostile throughout the year, with the glaciers here still dumping directly into the ocean – meaning much less river access. The west coast is hit with warmer temperatures in the summer – forcing glacial retreats further inland. It is this coast which is most famous for its rivers and lakes stuffed full of Artic Char.

My journey takes me to the southern tip of Greenland to Narsarsuaq, where the ice melt is more akin to the harsh east coast, than the milder west coast. With local mountains free of ice, the adjacent ranges are in total contrast - full marvel-mode - with their year-round winter coats still present, providing majestic views of a polar ice sheet that was formed around a million years ago.

Once on the ground, local transportation switches to watercraft - all commuting is achieved by small boats dodging huge icebergs in varying hues of blue. Our guide explains; the 'bluer' an iceberg the older it is, as it comes from the base of the glacier - the sheer weight of the ice above compresses all oxygen bubbles from it. Making it totally clear, absorbing the ocean colouration in which it swims.



THE ANCIENT ICEBERGS OF GREENLAND



PRODUCT OF THE GREENLAND GLACIERS



THE PORT OF NASAQ



THE LAX-A GREENLAND CAMP



THE RUGGED LANDSCAPE OF GREENLAND

THE KIT-LIST

FLY ROD:

T&T EXOCETT 9' #7

FLY REEL:

HARDY MTX 7000

FLY LINE:

RIO SINGLE HAND SPEY #7

LEADER:

RIO POWERFLEX 9' 12lb

FLY:

FULLING MILL JW NYMPH

PACK:

PATAGONIA STORMFRONT



WADERS:

SIMMS G4Z

BOOTS:

SIMMS G3 GUIDE

JACKET:

PATAGONIA RIVER SALT

LAYER #1:

PATAGONIA NANO PUFF

LAYER #2:

PATAGONIA UPRISAL HOODY

LAYER #3:

SIMMS ULTRA-WOOL CORE

AUGUST
2019



ANGLER SELECTING HIS QUARRY



ESTUARY FISHING FOR ARTIC CHAR



DOUBLE-HAUL FOR GLORY



THE SPAWNING HOME OF ARTIC CHAR



WANDERING THE GLACIAL LAKES OF GREENLAND



THE GAME



AUGUST
2019

Our camp takes around 3 hours by boat to reach, passing and stopping by a small Eskimo Inuit town along the way - an artic hub and shipping port known as Nasaq - where we stop to wander for a leg-stretch whilst the captain refuels our ride.

As we circle the final small island we reach an inlet where, in the shadow of the mountain sits our lodge. The Lax-á Greenland camp was the first permanent fishing and hunt lodge in Greenland, built in 2012. The cabins here are very accommodating and homely, whilst the staff are very warm and friendly – making for a ‘home away from home’ experience on this magnificent wilderness expedition.

Our homewater, like most of the water we are to fish over the next 3 days consists of glacial lakes around 50m elevation that spew tundra melt into the ocean from early summer into autumn - before it freezes solid over the long, harsh winter. The run-off forms small rivers, around 250m long before they breach the saltwater estuary where Artic Char sit and patiently wait all summer, growing in numbers day by day.

The rivers here are less like the famous rivers in the West, and simply form a short migration route between the salt and the freshwater spawning lakes of the Artic Char. Meaning fish can be found in abundance in two areas; either the estuary prior to their migration, or, the head and tail of the lakes in which they spawn.

The sheer populations of fish in some of these small lakes has to be seen to be believed. The stamp of fish is a constant - between 2-7lbs - but do not let this size fool you! Backing line (at least 100 yards!) is absolutely required, and if you visit here expect to see it on any fish you hook over 3lb. These fish burn drag systems too - so make sure your reel is up to the task at hand - along with your tippet (12lb minimum!). I was snapped off more times than I can remember on this trip - which is not something I like to boast.

Making the Artic Char, pound for pound, the strongest anadromous fish I have caught in freshwater - I statement I do NOT make lightly - nor one I ever thought I would make. Rather incredibly, placing these fish ahead of my beloved Steelhead, Atlantic Salmon and Chinook (in that order!). In summary, this fish has immediately taken the mantel of the number one fish I intend to target with a Spey rod next year. A very, worthy accolade & prize!

These are the words of Paul Richardson, of RISE CREATIVE STUDIO – a fly-fishing specific design consultancy that has worked on projects for some of the biggest and best brands in the industry. He joins the Fin and Game team as a content contributor - during his travels around the globe testing the tackle we all later purchase and use.

Please follow us on our TRAVEL STORIES around the world - fishing some of the most majestic of waters our fantastic sport takes us all to!

NARSARSAUQ GREENLAND



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