

- The Arctic Region of Disko -

# Walks near Qasigiannnguit



by

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Mountain Environment

## Magnetic Deviation & Walking Times

The magnetic deviation for Qasigiannuit (68°49' N, 51°11' W) is 33° west in 2012, decreasing by 0.5° pr. annum. Compass directions given in these walk descriptions are magnetic compass directions. On the 1:100.000 map, the geographical north grid lines are black and there are blue magnetic north lines valid for the year 1998 (41° west), spaced at 4km intervals. It is worth practising setting the map in clear conditions to avoid mishaps in poor visibility. The map excerpts shown are from the Greenland Tourism 1:100,000 Qasigiannuit map (ISBN 87-90677-08-0). The excerpts here are not reproduced to scale. The walking times indicated are realistic journey times without stops over the actual terrain. A good rule of thumb is to add a further 10 minutes per hour to these times for stops – so a route of 6 hours walking time becomes a 7 hour outing.

## Safety & Communications

Although the walks close to the town have good coverage from the mobile phone transmitters in Qasigiannuit, there are some black spots and you don't have to wander far to get out of line of sight thus out of reach of a signal or indeed any form for human contact at all. Therefore, it is routine to communicate your plans to someone else before setting out and be properly equipped for your outing. Should you plan to wander further into the hills than the shorter day walks described here then this routine is vital. Should you be expecting on doing any of the multi-day walks or spending time trekking in any part of Greenland, then some form of satellite communication is a very wise investment – products like the *Spot Connect* are an ideal and cheaper alternative to a satellite phone (though always check the coverage of a particular device, especially for the northern arctic, as above approximately 70°N there are few coverage options). Should the need arise then the police are the point of contact in case you need assistance on Greenland. In Qasigiannuit they can be contacted on +299 911222.

## Climate & When to Visit

Qasigiannuit is renowned for its mild and dry climate during the summer months, especially July and August. Typical walking kit for a UK climate will then be suitable. The time to visit however can easily be considered to be from the start of June into the beginning of September - when night frosts and unsettled weather tends to set in. Mosquitoes are unfortunately at their worst in July and August. The midnight sun is seen here from the 27<sup>th</sup> of May to the 18<sup>th</sup> of July. Generally the climate is very dry with plenty of sunshine. In an average August, only 26mm of rain falls over 9 days and the average daily high is 10°C. However, temperatures regularly reach over 20°C and can be as high as 27°C in the sun. High quality sunglasses are essential pieces of kit at the sun's rays are much stronger here than you will be used to. For weather forecasts, the Danish Meteorological Office ([www.dmi.dk](http://www.dmi.dk)) provide good daily forecasts for Qasigiannuit - look under *Grønland* and *Byvej*.

## Transport & Accommodation

For travel to and from Qasigiannuit, you will need to visit the Air Greenland and Diskoline websites ([www.airgreenland.gl](http://www.airgreenland.gl) and [www.diskoline.gl](http://www.diskoline.gl) respectively). Surprisingly, there are a couple of taxis operating in Qasigiannuit although they can't go anywhere other than run people around in town. Hotel Disko Bay ([www.hoteldiskobay.com](http://www.hoteldiskobay.com)) is situated on the left just after you leave the newer harbour area on Quilik. If you have booked a room then they often meet you at the ferry when it arrives.

## Tide Times

In the arctic, the tides are marginal. In Disko Bay, the low to high water variation is typically between 0.8 and 2.0m only. For tide tables consult the Danish Meteorological Office website and look under *Grønland*, *Havudsigter* and *Tidevandstabeller*. Refer to the table for Ilulissat (tide times in Qasigiannuit, which is a secondary harbour, are 5 minutes behind those in Ilulissat). During summertime, 1 hour needs to be added to the times given, so high tide at 1pm in the table is actually 2pm. This information may on first thought seem irrelevant, however should you wish to cross the outflow at Eqalunnguit, the tide should be not be much above 2.0m to ensure that the stepping stones remain proud of the waterline. Also, should you wish to arrange boat transport to the end of the fjords, such as Orpissooq to the south, it is optimal to do so around high tide.

## Geology

Greenland represents one of the oldest landmasses on Earth - a landmass that has experienced an impressive journey, driven by plate tectonics, from the tropics to the arctic. The bedrock in southern Greenland, particularly in the vicinity of Isua near Nuuk, was formed at the start of the Archean geological era approximately 3.8 billion years ago (when the Earth was only one fifth of its present age). This 500km wide band of earliest bedrock is bounded to the south and north by slightly younger Precambrian rock of between 2.5 and 1.6 billion years old - an area that includes the rocks of the west coast of Greenland at Disko. Grey gneiss dominates the region with amphibole and deposits of mica schist and bands of quartz. Disko Island itself is very young compared to the surrounding mainland. Its tertiary basalts were formed by intense volcanic activity as Greenland and Canada drifted apart between 60 and 20 million years ago. Interestingly, Greenland only became covered by the current ice sheet about 1 million years ago. During the long prehistory, before glaciation and before the landmass drifted too far north, most of the land was forested in larch, spruce and birch, with higher areas covered by heath. The watershed lie to the east and drainage formed rivers that flowed to the lower lying north and west, eroding valleys in the landscape. A large part of central Greenland drained into Disko Bay. During the onset of climatic cooling, glaciers formed over Greenland and continued to modify the river valleys. This explains why the flow of ice into Disko Bay from the vast Sermeq Kujalleq glacier is so prolific - the inland ice has greatly accentuated an already major route of drainage. Incredibly, the roughly 8km wide Icefjord Kangia has been ground to a depth of 1500m compared to the relatively shallow 200-400m of Disko Bay itself. At the point of greatest ice extent, the ice sheet over Greenland extended into Disko Bay, however towards the end of the last ice age, the ice began to retreat and the bedrock beneath rose tens of metres due to uplift, thus presenting the current coastline. The landscape one observes along the coast today is post glacial with smooth ice-scoured bedrock, erratic boulders (pictured) and moraines. Closer to the inland ice, there are areas of naked rock that have only recently become ice-free and thus are not vegetated as yet.



## Flora

The area around Qasigianguit is dominated by arctic tundra with growth generally limited to only a few tens of centimetres. The flora is dominated by a handful of species notably **Dwarf Birch** (Avaalaqiaq - *Betula nana*), **Northern Willow** (Orpigaq/Sersoq/Seeq - *Salix glauca*), **Northern Labrador-tea** (Qajaasaq - *Ledum palustre*) and the berry bearing **Crowberry** (Paarnaqutit - *Empetrum hermaphroditum*) and **Cowberry** (Kimmernat - *Vaccinium vitis-idaea*) and finally the mushroom known as 'penny buns' (Sulluaralik - *Boletus edulis*). Of course there are many other species of mosses, lichens and flowering plants too numerous to mention here. For a complete description of Greenlandic flora then the book "Wild Flowers of Greenland" by Flemming Rune can be highly recommended - in fact it is one of the best books on flora that I have owned.



Dwarf Birch



Crowberry

## Fauna

Although the tundra appears bare you will often stumble upon wild animals - and usually when your camera is in your rucksack. Typically in the town you will see flocks of Greenland Arctic Redpoll (*Carduelis hornemanni* - pictured) dancing and never being still, and the sounds of the town are regularly pierced by the call of the crow. Once out in the open, alone and away from civilisation, it is likely that you will see Rock Ptarmigan (*Lagopus muta*) and Arctic Hare (*Lepus arcticus* - pictured) and regular evidence of the presence of Arctic Fox (*Vulpes lagopus*). Further inland the presence of Reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus*) and Muskox (*Ovibos moschatus*) may be noted if you are lucky - keep an eye out for tracks in the moss and their droppings. Muskox has been successfully introduced to parts of the west coast of Greenland (including the area south of Qasigiannuit) and careful legislation means their numbers are increasing. If you are fortunate enough to see muskox, then keep your distance as they can be aggressive.



## Route Overview

The table below lists key figures for the walk routes described:

Route	Name	Distance (km)	Ascent & Descent (m)	Walking Time (hours)
1	Nuussuaq Peninsula	6½	180	2
2	Egalunnguit	10	100	2½
3	Salliup Tasia	18	200	5½
4	Illukut Tasiat	9	400	3½
5	Kangerluluk	6 (8)	150 (200)	2 (2¾)
6	Qaqqarsuaq	10	600	4¼
7	Niisat Qaqqaa	22	600	8½
8	Qerrulik	16 (20)	600 (800)	6½ (8)

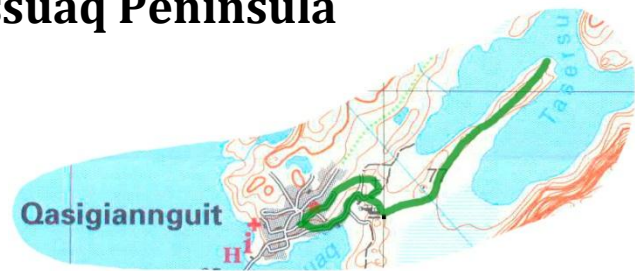
## Photographs

All photographs by the author. Front page: Looking south across the harbour from Qasigiannuit to the original settlement site by Igdlukut. Below: Two of the museum buildings in Qasigiannuit. The right hand building dates from 1734.



## Route 1 - Nuussuaq Peninsula

Start	Qasigiannuit
Finish	Qasigiannuit
Distance	6½km (4 miles)
Walking Time	2 hours
Ascent & Descent	180m (600ft)
Map	Qasigiannuit



This is a delightful walk for a short day out. The head of the peninsula is a perfect spot for a picnic and to simply enjoy the tranquillity even though you are only a stone's throw from civilisation. If you choose to camp in the vicinity of Tasersuaq, then it is worth noting that the water is brackish - sea water flows into the lake at high tide through the channel at Eqalunnguit. The slight salinity is not a problem though for cooking.

From the eastern side of the white church with its iron plated roof and two bells in the centre of Qasigiannuit, descend a footpath through a grassy meadow to the tarmac road below and follow this past the museum and harbour. Continue, passing wooden drying racks on your left and the heliport on your right, to where the tarmac ends. Turn right here on a gravel track and pass the football pitch. You will see the stone and peat built "little house" **Illunguaq** directly in front of you on the hillside. The house is part of the museum and shows how a modern Greenlandic family lived before 1940. It is possible to see inside and use the house by arrangement with the museum. From the house, aim eastwards and pick up the obvious gravel track which soon ends and becomes a footpath skirting south of spot height 77. Soon the waters of **Tasersuaq** "the great lake" come into view and the path trends around and upwards until you are on the broad ridge of the peninsula proper with the lake to either side. After a slight ascent and brief descent, the path rises towards the final summit with milky quartz underfoot. The top is a fine viewpoint and although the path ends here, the outward leg of the walk is not complete until you have descended to the very end of the peninsula.



Continue easily downhill finding your own way over the soft vegetation until you reach the very end of **Nuussuaq** "the great peninsula" or "nose". To return follow the same path although when reaching the football pitch head past the graveyard with its white fence, crosses and artificial flowers decorating the graves. Continue, keeping the heliport windsock on your left and follow a path uphill towards the coloured houses. Join and follow the tarmac road, passing the old red painted wooden church dating from 1889 with its small bell tower and boarded windows until you reach the new church and starting point.

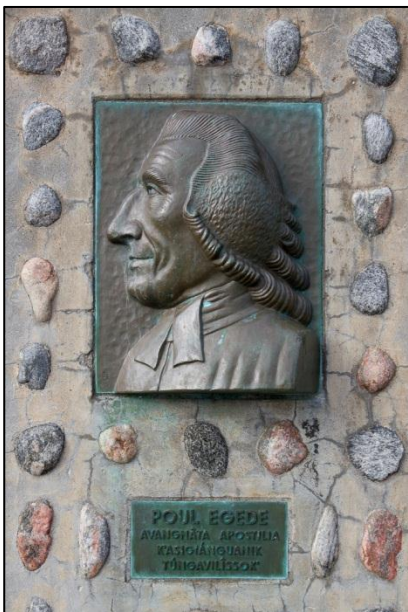
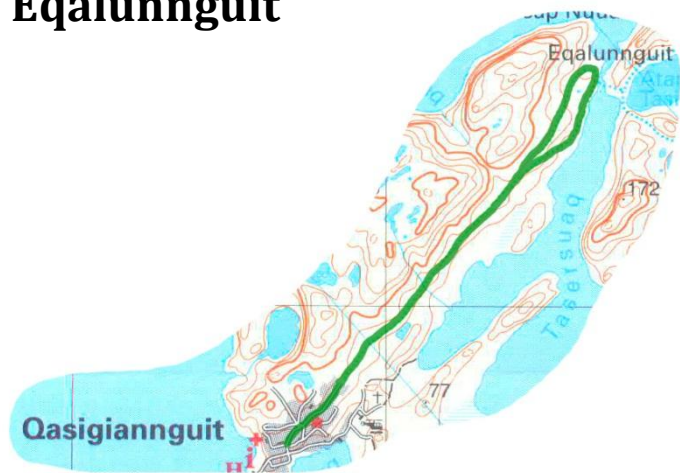


Photographs: The peat and stone house Illunguaq outside (top) and in (centre) and the view along the peninsula back towards Qasigiannuit.

## Route 2 - Eqalunnguit

Start	Qasigiannugit
Finish	Qasigiannugit
Distance	10km (6¼ miles)
Walking Time	2½ hours
Ascent & Descent	100m (330ft)
Map	Qasigiannugit

This is an easy linear walk on a good footpath giving expansive views of Tasersuaq and the walls of Qaqqarsuaq behind. The route visits the shallow waters at **Eqalunnguit** “the place of the small trout”, where the brackish waters of the lake meets the salt water of the Eqluit fjord.



Begin from the small grassy meadow in the town centre with the statue of Villads Villadsen standing by his kayak and the plaque commemorating the missionary work of **Poul Egede** in the town during the years 1734-40. Follow the road **Skivevej** uphill and eastwards passing the coloured wooden houses until the tarmac ends. From here follow the clear trail marked with yellow painted stones. The path traverses the hillside and little effort is required for efficient progress. After 4 kilometres, the path passes below a narrow gorge in the hillside above and the ground is often wet here. The route then ascends easily over a several rocky steps and continues for a few hundred meters before dividing into two. Either route can be taken as they both arrive at **Eqalunnguit**. The upper route though, tends to be dryer underfoot. Eqalunnguit is a wonderful spot where the river flows among strewn boulders between the two bodies of water. At high tide, many of the boulders become submerged. As the name suggests, this has always been a popular fishing spot, as too are the lakes beyond. Return by the same route. In late summer many local people will be seen picking berries along the path.



The plaque commemorating the missionary work of Poul Egede (top) and a view from halfway along the trail to Eqalunnguit.

## Route 3 – Salliup Tasia

Start	Qasigiannuguit
Finish	Qasigiannuguit
Distance	18km (11¼ miles)
Walking Time	5½ hours
Ascent & Descent	200m (660ft)
Map	Qasigiannuguit

This is a walk that leads you into more remote and quiet surroundings. The route crosses the stepping stones over the shallow waters at Eqalunnguit and continues across open tundra to the **waterfalls** above Qorlortup Qalliup Tasia and finally to the edge of the large lake Salliup Tasia.



It is advisable to check the tide tables before setting out although it is not often that Eqalunnguit is impassable. Remember that you need to cross on the return journey too. Late in the season after rainfall, the quantity of water flowing out of Tasersuaq can also prevent a dry footed crossing. Follow route 2 to Eqalunnguit (1¼ hours) and cross the channel over the stepping stones. Continue southwards on the path along the shore and across the narrow strip of land between two lakes before making a short steep ascent to reach a flat tundra plateau which is crossed before a gentle descent south eastwards passing the edge of **Qorlortup Qalliup Tasia** “the upper lake by the waterfall”. This lake provides the town with drinking water which is piped along the bed of Tasersuaq. As you approach the lake shore, you pass a small sheltered ravine filled with northern willow growing to waist height. Continue on the intermittent path occasionally hugging the rocks on your left, finding the driest route possible to the waterfall which is directly ahead. Pause to enjoy the surroundings, especially the view from the top of the slope beside the waterfall. Follow the river upstream to the outflow of Saliup Tasia passing several waterfalls on the way. Upon passing Qorlortup Qalliup Tasia on return, be sure to continue in a northwest direction in order to follow the same route back to Eqalunnguit.



The view over Eqalunnguit (top), the lower waterfall (centre) and an autumn view over Qorlortup Qalliup Tasia with the waterfall visible.

## Route 4 - Illukut Tasiat

Start	Qasigiannuit
Finish	Qasigiannuit
Distance	9km (5½ miles)
Walking Time	3½ hours
Ascent & Descent	400m (1300ft)
Map	Qasigiannuit

A straight forward circular route close to civilisation that affords superb views of the coastline, the open waters of Disko Bay and the distant profile of Disko Island some 80 km away. The route invites you to wander - exploring the various summits, rocky outcrops, lakes and hidden inlets which can be visited *en route*.



From the museum, follow the road downhill passing the old harbour and derelict shrimp factory. Shortly afterwards turn right at a junction along the gravel road, following it past the groups of sled dogs and finally four wooden houses, where the trail proper begins. Initially the route is marked with blue painted stones. Follow these past the newer explosives store on your left before reaching the small inlet **Igdlukut**. It was here where the town was originally located and traces of old house foundations can still be seen. Cross the stream, where it is possible to fill water bottles, and then head rightwards trending up the hillside to the town's disused **gunpowder store**. The wooden hut stands prominently overlooking the boats in the harbour and the town. Should you be in need of primitive accommodation for a night, then the hut offers bunk space for 4. Sleeping mats and bags, cooking equipment and provisions will be necessary. Continuing from the hut, ascend gently to the first cairned summit before progressing along the highest ground to the westernmost prominent hilltop. The rolling terrain invites you to wander freely, though numerous standing stones mark a route initially. Just short of the westernmost top, the route drops into a narrow ravine in the ridge. Here you will pass an old **stone fox trap**. When set, these traps are baited with meat, which is tied with string to a flat stone that balances over the entrance. Any disturbance causes the stone to fall and block the exit. From the summit beyond the ravine, turn south and follow easy ground to the summit on the southern corner of the peninsula before turning east for the return leg, following the northern edge of **Kangerluluk** "the little fjord". The route descends easily passing a cove with rocky shore to your right before ascending and allowing you to gain the ridge above the head of Kangerluluk. From here it is possible to double back and ascend the obvious rounded hilltop with its two tall cairns. The short ascent is rewarded with extensive views. Descend the same way and continue along the ridge over a final hilltop before re-joining the trail with the blue stones which passes the lake Illukut Tasiat and leads you back to Qasigiannuit.



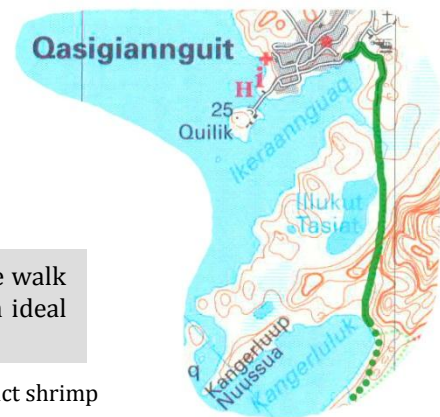
The disused gunpowder store (top), the stone fox trap (centre) and the view out over the islands at the end of the peninsula.



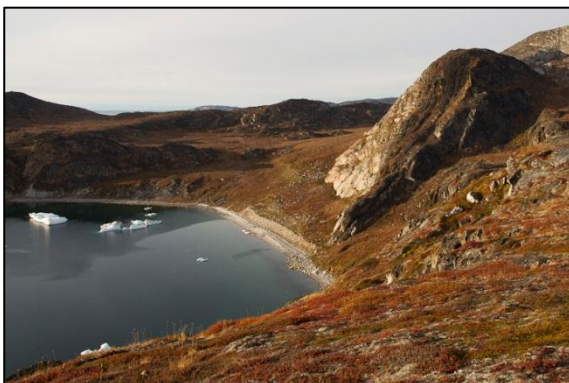
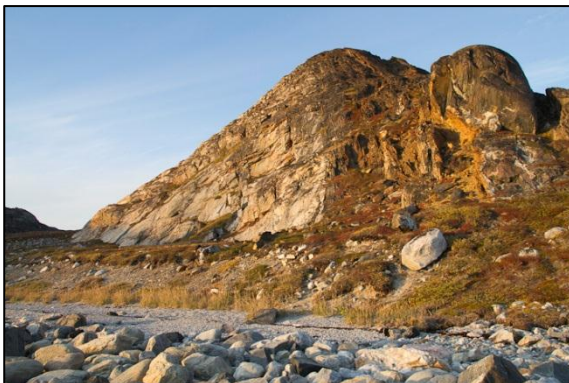
## Route 5 - Kangerluluk

Start	Qasigiannuit
Finish	Qasigiannuit
Distance	6km (3¾ miles) optionally 8km (5 miles)
Walking Time	2 hours optionally 2¾ hours
Ascent & Descent	150m (500ft) optionally 200m (660ft)
Map	Qasigiannuit

This is a delightful linear route visiting several points of interest. The walk brings you to the head of **Kangerluluk** “the little fjord” which is an ideal spot for a picnic. There are often icebergs stranded close to shore.



From the museum, follow the road downhill passing the old harbour and derelict shrimp factory. Shortly afterwards turn right at a junction along the gravel road, following it past the groups of sled dogs and finally four wooden houses, where the trail proper begins. The route is marked with blue painted stones. Follow these past the newer explosives store on your left before reaching the small inlet **Igdulukut**. It was on these slopes that the town was originally established by Jakob Severin, with the first house being consecrated by Poul Egede on the 25<sup>th</sup> of July 1734. The following years proved though that the site Severin had selected was in-fact most unsuitable due to springtime flooding and frequent gale force katabatic winds, called Saqqarsarneq, that were channelled through the site by

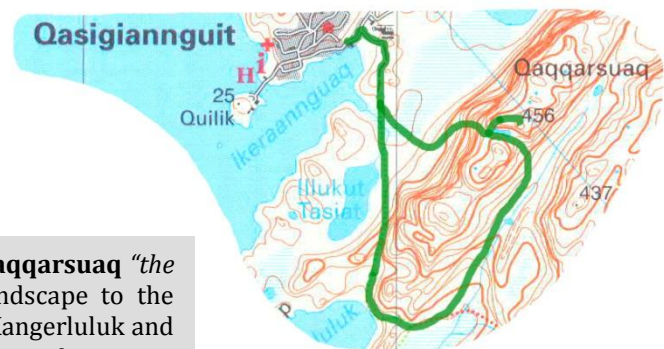


the surrounding topography. However, it was not until 30 years or so later, that the buildings were moved to the current location centred around the current museum on the northern shore of the bay, directly opposite the original site (incidentally this was actually the intended location of the colony after the original survey by Mitzel and Fersleff). Continue by crossing the stream, where it is possible to fill water bottles, and follow the path trending leftwards gently uphill where you cross the beck from **Illukut Tasiat** again. The trail rises to a pass before gently descending towards the waters of Kangerluluk. A hundred metres or so after the top of the pass, you reach Bings' Cave in the rocks on your left. The cave is worth investigating, although it is often rather damp. The cave is named after **Andreas Bing** who was a missionary in Qasigiannuit in 1734 to 1735 with Poul Egede. Apparently, Bing had bad nerves and was constantly worrying that the supplies in the town would run out, thus he often sought refuge in the cave. It is reputed that Inuit shamans used the cave in times before the colony was established. Continue downhill from the cave arriving quickly at Kangerluluk. The fjord is known in Danish as “Paradisbugten” – *Paradise Bay*. The spot is visited regularly during the summer by people from Qasigiannuit who sail here. A nice extension to this walk is to continue following the blue stones diagonally up the hillside on the south side of the bay. Steeply at first, the path soon eases and you emerge onto a flat plateau where you soon reach a stream that flows impressively down a rocky canyon with picturesque waterfalls - a beautiful spot with wonderful views. Add 2km and 45 minutes to the walk.

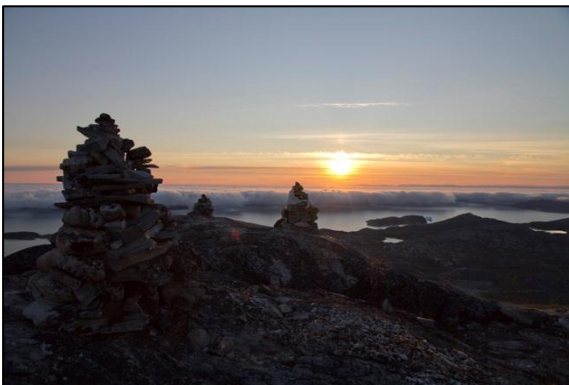
The entrance to Bing's Cave (top), the rocky scenery by the beach at Kangerluluk (centre) and the view over Kangerluluk from the extension.

## Route 6 - Qaqqarsuaq

Start	Qasigiannugit
Finish	Qasigiannugit
Distance	10km (6¼ miles)
Walking Time	4¼ hours
Ascent & Descent	600m (2000ft)
Map	Qasigiannugit



This is rewarding circular walk with an ascent of **Qaqqarsuaq** “*the great mountain*” giving superb views over the landscape to the northwest. The route also passes the beautiful bay Kangerluluk and Bing’s Cave. The direction of the walk can also be reversed.



From the museum, follow the road downhill passing the old harbour and derelict shrimp factory. Shortly afterwards turn right at a junction along the gravel road, following it past the groups of sled dogs and finally four wooden houses, where the trail proper begins. The route is marked with blue painted stones. Before the trail descends to the small bay, turn southwards and cross the open tundra towards a broad flat terrace on the lower reaches of the north face of Qaqqarsuaq directly in front. It is likely to be boggy underfoot here. Gain the terrace easily and turn immediately eastwards and follow a rounded rising ridge with ice-scoured rock.

Here a path becomes obvious, weaving its way up the hillside. The path is steep in places and hands will be needed to assist in the ascent. After almost 300m of ascent, the gradient eases off and you arrive at a small lake on the main ridge. Continue over easy ground to the summit. Several prominent cairns overlook the town and the view from here is extensive – of Tasersuaq and Qasigiannugit directly below, of Disko Bay, the Icefjord Kangia, and the southern coast of Disko Island 80km away. From the summit, return to the small lake and descend by easier slopes southwards into the broad open valley on the opposite side of the mountain. Follow the valley floor and stream westwards. Keeping to the right hand side and slightly above the tundra floor makes the going easier. As you approach the widest part of the valley, you reach a flat grassy pass to your right. Follow this to a view to the northwest over the waters of **Kangerluluk** lying below. Descend to the water’s edge before following the marked trail of blue stones uphill on the return leg of the walk. Soon **Bing’s Cave** comes into view in the rocks just to the right of the path (see route 3). Continue easily over the pass and follow the clear trail back to Qasigiannugit.



The view from Qaqqarsuaq at sunset in August with low cloud enveloping Disko Bay (top) and Qasigiannugit with Qaqqarsuaq behind.

## Route 7 - Niisat Qaqqaa

Start	Qasigiannuit
Finish	Qasigiannuit
Distance	22km (14 miles)
Walking Time	8½ hours
Ascent & Descent	600m (2000ft)
Map	Qasigiannuit

This is an excellent **2 day walk** for a first night away from civilisation in a remote setting. There many places of interest along the walk together with excellent views to the south over Kangersuneq and Orpissooq fjords, to Akulliit and to the icecap some 40km distant.

Follow the description for route 5 to Kangerluluk then continue from the stony beach, following the blue stones diagonally up the hillside on the south side of the bay.

Steeply at first, the path soon eases and you emerge onto a flat plateau. After only a hundred meters or so, you reach a stream that flows impressively

down a rocky canyon with picturesque waterfalls. This is an excellent camp spot, albeit after only 4km. From here the route follows the

open flat ground by skirting the flank of Niisat Qaqqaa to the

small bay of **Niisat Kangerluat**. Approximately 800m short of reaching the bay (where the route crosses the 25m

contour), you arrive above a short descent beside a stream. This area also provides a suitable campsite.

When descending from here to the bay, it is worth trending rightwards and descending farther to the west to avoid boggy ground below. The bright orange

loose slopes above the small bay are known for small **almandine garnets** - the bay is indeed known as

“Granatbugten” in Danish (*Garnet Bay*). Return to where the route crossed the 25m contour and an area of orange limonite gravel and begin ascending the shoulder in an easterly

direction. Keep to the right side of the shoulder allowing increasingly extensive views to the south. You pass another area of limonite gravel, this time interestingly arranged in polygons due to thousands of years of freeze thaw cycles at the surface

above permafrost. This action has created channels of larger stones with areas of smaller stones, gravel and sand in between. Following a short descent you reach a stream flowing from a small lake and a large area of almost alien rocks in powerful

orange ore oxide. Cross the stream and turn northwards briefly before picking up a broad sloping ledge on your right atop a prominent cliff that was blocking the original direction. Follow this ledge all the way to flatter ground and the summit of

**Niisat Qaqqaa** or “porpoise hill” – Niisa is the Greenlandic for harbour porpoise whale (*Phocoena phocoena*). For the descent, aim eastwards passing many erratic boulders strewn about the landscape to the top of an obvious grassy ravine that cuts the

hillside to the northeast. Follow the ravine downhill along the left side of the stream. Cross the stream just after descending a rocky gully and continue, passing the lake along its southern bank before

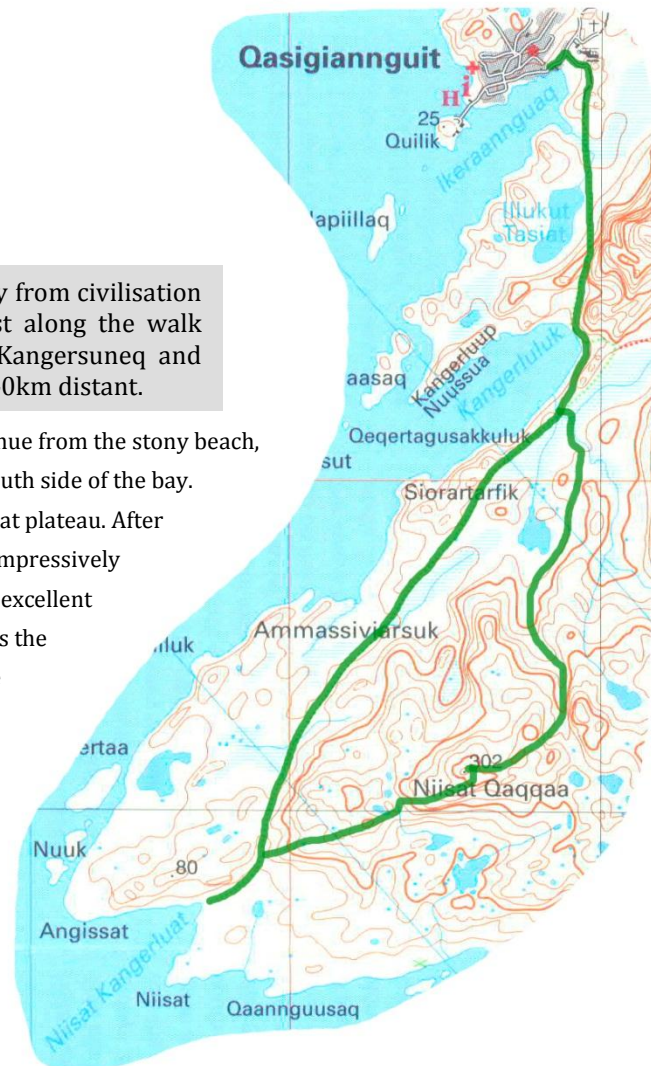
picking up a stream with waterfalls over open rocks. Follow the stream to a junction, where it is easy to step over and then re-join the outward route. An alternative to walking this route over 2 days

is to arrange boat travel from Qasigiannuit to Niisat Kangerluat. This short sea journey allows one to walk either leg of the walk

(11km) back to town with a walking time of about 4 hours.

The brightly coloured mineral rich rocky slopes above Niisat Kangerlout

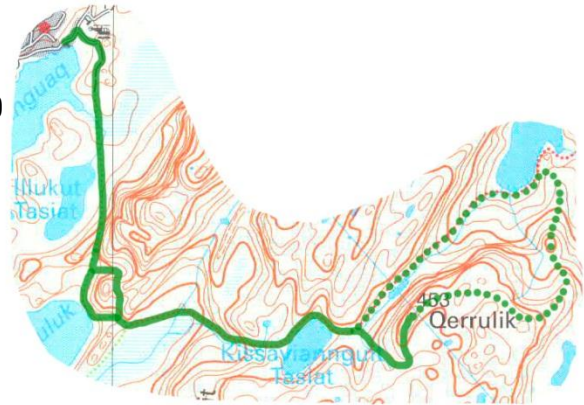
The brightly coloured mineral rich rocky slopes above Niisat Kangerlout



## Route 8 - Qerrulik

Start	Qasigiannuit
Finish	Qasigiannuit
Distance	16km (10 miles) optionally 20km (12½ miles)
Walking Time	6½ hours optionally 8 hours
Ascent & Descent	600m (2000ft) optionally 800m (2600ft)
Map	Qasigiannuit

This is a walk with a shorter option that can be completed easily in one day or extended and walked over **2 days** with a camp by Kissaviannuit Tasiat or by the wonderfully isolated farthest lake **Qeqertalik**.



Follow the description for route 5 to Bing's Cave. Shortly after passing the cave, leave the marked footpath and ascend the grassy slopes south eastwards to a col that appears on your right. The views are extensive. Descend easily on the other side over terraces trending southwards until you reach the wide open tundra valley. Turn eastwards and follow the contours of the valley staying slightly above the valley floor to make the going easier. As you approach the stream on the valley floor turn southwards again crossing the stream and ascending slopes beside the stream that flows from Kissaviannuit Tasiat. The slope soon eases and you reach the lake. Follow the shore and shortly after leaving the water's edge you reach the watershed. Ascend the hillside in a southerly direction along the beck. Follow the easiest ground to the summit of **Qerrulik**. Follow the outward route for the return; however a visit to Kangerluluk can be made by descending to the shore rather than ascending and crossing the col used on the outward journey.

Should you intend to complete the walk over two days then a camp can be made by Kissaviannuit Tasiat allowing for the loop over Qerrulik to be walked with a light rucksack and the camp to be collected on the return. Alternatively, make a camp by the shore of **Qeqertalik** "the place of the island" (there is an island in the lake). For the loop, descend from the summit of Qeqertalik south eastwards and pick up the ridge that leads from the summit plateau all the way to the lake. Despite its quite remote location, this large lake is only slightly over 100m above sea level. Upon leaving the shore, gain the beautiful valley leading westwards below Qerrulik's steep north face. The route up the valley ascends approximately 150m, passing a small tarn *en route* before regaining the watershed and the outward route.



Kissaviannuit Tasiat and Qerrulik behind with the first snows of winter in late September