

Kangerlussuaq, Western Greenland, Greenland

Deep inside a 190 km fjord, Kangerlussuaq is one of the only places on Earth where you can drive to the Greenland Ice Sheet. Former Cold War air base, now Greenland's main airport — and a wildlife-rich tundra unlike any other Arctic port.

Tender (anchor in fjord)

Typical call: 6-8 hrs

Danish Krone (DKK) — cards widely accepted

Greenlandic & Danish

10,000 musk ox on the tundra

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____ Arrive: _____ All aboard: _____

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender / Zodiac — ships anchor in Kangerlussuaq Fjord; small expedition vessels may use the Royal Arctic Line supply quay

Best For: Ice sheet access, musk ox safaris, glacier walks, Arctic wildlife photography

Walk to center: Settlement is ~1 km from tender landing; all main excursions require transport (25 km to glacier)

Don't Miss: Russell Glacier (25 km, drive-to ice wall) and Point 660 — walk on the Greenland Ice Sheet itself

Getting around: Taxi 290–430 DKK

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Russell Glacier & Ice Wall** — Drive 25 km across tundra and river valleys to stand below a 60-meter vertical ice wall.
- Walk on the Greenland Ice Sheet (Point 660)** — Drive to Point 660 and step onto the world's second-largest ice sheet.
- Musk Ox Tundra Safari** — Around 10,000 musk oxen roam the Kangerlussuaq tundra — one of the highest densities anywhere.
- Kangerlussuaq Museum & Airbase History** — The small local museum traces the US Air Force Sondrestrom Air Base era (WWII through Cold War) with artifacts, photos, and displays on the base's...
- Hiking: Lake Ferguson & Sugarloaf Mountain** — Self-guided or guided hikes from the settlement.

BEST WALKS

- Settlement Stroll: Pier to Museum** 1.5 km | Easy | 20-30 min — Walk from the tender landing along the main road through the former airbase settlement, past the hotel and supermarket, to the Kangerlussuaq Museum.
- Lake Ferguson Walk** ~8 km round trip | Moderate | 2.5-3 hrs — Follow the trail from the settlement out to Lake Ferguson — a glacially-fed lake on the tundra.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr	28°	15°	4d	
Jun	57°	43°	9d	
Aug	58°	44°	10d	
Sep	44°	33°	8d	
Oct	30°	19°	6d	

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 6:36AM–10:11PM · Aug 5:53AM–10:57PM · Sep 7:42AM–8:51PM · Oct 9:24AM–6:51PM

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Bugs in summer: June–August, mosquitoes and blackflies can be ferocious inland. Pack a head net and strong insect repellent — this is not optional.
- Dress in layers: Kangerlussuaq is warmer than coastal Greenland (up to 20°C in summer), but temperatures near the ice sheet can drop sharply. Waterproof outer layers are essential.
- Book excursions early: Vehicle capacity is very limited. Russell Glacier and ice sheet tours sell out fast — pre-book through your cruise line or a local operator before you arrive.
- Cards accepted: The hotel, supermarket, and souvenir shop all take Visa/Mastercard. Keep a small amount of DKK cash for smaller vendors.
- No roaming: Greenland is outside EU roaming zones. Mobile data is very expensive. Grab limited Wi-Fi at the airport terminal for basic messaging only.
- Musk ox safety: These animals are wild and can be aggressive. Stay at least 50 meters away on foot — guides know how to read their behavior.

Kangerlussuaq, Western 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

Sugar Loaf Mountain

A distinctive peak overlooking Kangerlussuaq popular for its hiking trail and views over the fjord and airport.
- 2

Kangerlussuaq Museum

A small local museum documenting the settlement's history as a former US air base (Blue West Eight-8) and Cold War site.
- P

Cruise port / terminal