

PILOTAGE

Greenland, west coast – Nanortalik to Sisimiut

Suggestions and corrections for the supplement to the Arctic and Northern Waters
Pilot RCC Pilotage Foundation, Imrays

Some suggestions and corrections!

Nanortalik

Water by hose was not available at the fuel station (2015), only in your own containers

The Tourist Office continues friendly and helpful (the manager's daughter lives in Inverness, Scotland!), and seems the most convenient and economical for Wi-Fi (2015)

Qagssit**60° 09N 45° 10W**

This circular fjord just north east of Nanortalik gives pleasant secluded anchorages 'out of town'

Tasermiut Fjord

A fjord of dramatic scenery.

Two useful bolt holes on the way north if needed:

Jacobinerhuen**60° 06N 45° 04W**

On the east side going north
Choose your anchorage according to wind direction

Niaqornoq**60° 09N 45° 07W**

On the west side. Anchor at the end in the pool after the rocks that cover. Can still be windy (katabatic over the col) from the west in here but good holding in mud

The narrow entrance to Tasuissarssuk 60° 11N 45° 04W proved too shallow and rocky for entry

Quvnerssuaq**60° 12N 44° 54W**

A pleasant inlet on the north shore giving shelter from most winds. A walk over the hills from Tasuissarssuk to here can be rewarding

Tasuissoq**60° 12N 44° 48W**

Anchorage around the shores of this wide fjord with its majestic panorama of surrounding mountains. Some of the old Norse farm sites seem now to be modern farms
Deeper water to port (north) on the settlement side for entry. Plenty of depth within

Zacharias Havn

Perhaps add The intrigue leading marks inside appear either to guide small boats into the small inlet here missing the two rocks that cover guarding the entrance, or indicate that anchoring anywhere along that line is safe. The red mooring bollards remain a mystery.

Hvalsey Church

60° 49N 45° 06W

Anchor opposite the church in mud

If strong southerly winds should make this a lee shore, shelter can be found in coves on the south shore of the inlet beyond the sheep farm (60° 49N 45 45W), the second (east) of the two together having less underwater rocks. Or go further in (but watch the high tension lines overhead). Care required on approach – rocks that cover

Or across the fjord in a sheltered cove (60° 48N 45° 47W)

Qaqortoq

Berthing

Advisable to moor at the end of the jetty as in the picture, but beware of the big tidal range and if a Danish Naval Vessel comes in you are liable to be asked to move

Facilities

The Seamen's Mission has now closed down.

Showers, clothes washing, and Wi-Fi are available in the high school/hostel at the far side of town. Maps at the Tourist Office.

Fuel at the floating pontoon on the west side of harbour, but access can be narrow, restricted by nearby moored local boats Water by hose on the third pontoon from the west shore of the small boat harbour (*suggest you cut out 'probably the most convenient...etc', especially as Paamiut, Nuuk, Maniitsoq, Sisimiut, and Sondre Upernavik all now have hoses to boats!*)

Propane from Polaroil

Nunarssuit (Kap Desolation)

An oft-neglected cruising area as people tend to hurry past going west or east, with interesting pilotage, scenically impressive peaks, reindeer herds, sea eagles, and good hiking and dramatic climbing

But a lot of bergs and ice floes can get grounded here, and careful pilotage with the rocks around is necessary

Anchorage

Many inlets and possible anchorages. A sample would include:

Kap Thorvaldsen

60° 40N 47° 54W

A rather unique anchorage, protected except perhaps from the east, in the channel between the cliff of Kap Thorvaldsen and the line of islands at its foot.

The entrance on the east side is wider. Beware rocks to the north side when entering. Anchor in the NW corner of the channel. Possible to take lines ashore. Any ice within moves west on the flooding tide, east on the ebb. But usually less icebergs inside here.

On the east side of the unnamed large fjord going north

60° 41N 47° 55W

Possible to find shelter in the north east corner in north winds

60° 42N 47° 54W

A pleasant cove, protected except from the north west

Saningardlak East - at the northern end

60° 42N 47° 53W

Another pleasant anchorage on the way to the far end of this fjord

At the far eastern end

Anchorage can be found in a cove on west side (60° 42N 47° 52W) and on the east side (60° 42N 47° 50W)

It is possible to get inside the island via the channel on the east side but depths are shallow inside

Saningardlak West

60° 42N 47° 56W

Anchorage opening up the more hospitable open interior of the island, but careful pilotage required to reach them!

A pleasant anchorage behind (north of) the northern island on the west side. The inner pool proved too shallow

(Dodo's Delight 1998, checked 2015)

60° 42N 47° 57W

Possible to anchor at far west end of the fjord but rather open

Long John Fjord

60° 41N 48° 00W

Coming south down the west side of the fjord

A long fjord, surprisingly ice free (2015). Anchor at the far end just before the final narrows (too shallow within) or in an inlet just after the first narrows (60° 41N 49° 59W) on the north side

The Zawn of the Thumb

60° 41N 48° 01W

The inlet to the north of the prominent spire shaped peak on the shoreline here (the Thumb). Anchoring at the end is possible and protected but often subject to ice (2015)

Kangerdluluk

60° 41N 48° 03W

Convenient when approaching from the north or west. Anchorages can be found in bays and slots especially on the north side beyond the mid-island and the rock which covers

Hvibdjørnens Havn

60° 44N 48° 06W

A sheltered anchorage can be made in the channel between the island and mainland on the north side, preferably with lines ashore. The harbour to the north here can be prone to big icebergs. The zawn on the southern side opposite might be possible but looked unfriendly

Eagles' Lair

60° 44N 48° 05W

A pleasant anchorage further in past dramatic rock scenery in the fjord to the east of the proper Kap Desolation, on the northern side between the two islands. Anchor at the start of the channel. A reef bars entry into the inner pool. Lines ashore can be rigged. Eagles, reindeer (2015).

The 6 metre sounding on the chart in the main fjord appeared to be mythical. The fjord can be guarded by big icebergs (2015)

The longer narrow channel on the north side at the end of the fjord was investigated but is not recommended! Shallow, rocks

34 Paamiut

Facilities

Convenient diesel hose from fuel station to boats. Free map of town at the diesel station
Wi-Fi in hotel (closed July 2015), and at Cafe Paamiut but 100 DKK for four hours and nothing less allowed.

Anchorage

Ikerasak Great Cod Beach

61° 54'N 49° 26'W

Open roadstead but a convenient anchorage by two pebble beaches on the western shore near the start of the inner channel to the south and east of Paamiut, a little before the narrows leading to or from Kuanersoq (Kvanerfjord)

Ikergsasarssuk

61° 55N 49° 25W

A short fjord with a right angled off-shoot giving an intriguing hurricane hole with protection from all winds, just west of the narrows marking the start of the inner passage here leading from or to Kuanersoq (Kvanerfjord), south and east of Paamiut.

Anchor in the east inlet or pool, or in the south cove – beware of a rock which covers on east side. Possible to pass either side of the rock island here

Qeqertaussarssuaq

Marraq

63° 26N 51° 11W

Approach from the south is fairly straightforward, from the north and west requires careful pilotage through rocks and islands

Two fine bays can be found north or south of the peninsular, anchoring in sand, with the shore a unique feature of huge sand dunes obviously the remains of some ancient outflow. Highly recommended

48 Nuuk

Qasigianguit

64° 11N 51° 43W

A well protected anchorage just to the north of the town, useful for escaping from the hurly burly of the city. A favoured fishing cove for the locals. Good holding

Qeqertaq

64° 20N 51° 43W

Anchorage can be found for every wind direction around these dual islands, and even in the inner channel between. (*Dodo's Delight* rode out strong southerly winds anchored in sand/silt in the north bay 2015)

Qarasuk

64° 22N 51° 22W

Site of an old settlement

Anchor inside the line of the two rock islands, choosing your cove according to wind direction.
Good holding. .

Itissoq

64° 15N 51° 14W and Ikatut to the north

Two fjords giving pleasant anchorages at their heads in clear water – choose your fish before catching it. Good streams for filling with water to save trying to find it in Nuuk

49 Qooqut

A pleasant anchorage in favourable winds is also possible in the tuck of the coastline on the southern shore (Tingmianguit). Saves going the extra 2.5M to the end of the fjord. Several local holiday homes ashore

53 Qornoq

(suggest the wording in the Pilot is confusing here – Suilven agrees!)

It is possible to anchor either side of the main island. The bay on the southern side has the settlement of summer residences, where a big fete

Two pleasant coves across the fjord to the ENE (64° 32.4'N 51° 02.2'W; 64° 32.6N 51° 01.3W) give protection and good fishing.....

All anchorages here can be subject to ice streaming down from the glaciers to the north east

Alanqua

Ikerasak

65° 11N 52° 16W

Site of an old settlement.

Best approach is to the east of the island guarding the bay. A well protected anchorage can be found inside on the western side.

The next bay to the east is shallow and has a rock that covers in the middle. Not recommended

Kangia Fjord

Niaqornaq

65° 15N 52° 08W

A well protected bay, except to the north, south of the prominent ridge of Finnefjeld across the fjord

Akuliaruseq

The slots to the east and west at the head of the fjord give anchorages, that on the eastern side (65° 18N 51° 59) being better protected

56 Maniitsoq

Berth

The pontoons are now administered by the Maniitsoq Hotel and there is a charge (150 DKK per night, 2015). The gate tends to be locked but key available from the hotel with a deposit (if you can get out!).

Facilities

The Seamens' Home is now a small hotel. Wi-fi at Maniitsoq Hotel

Kin of Sal

An island off SW side of Maniitsoq, strangely with an English name. Inuit name means 'Great Heart'. Gunk-holing through the islands and channels on south west side of Maniitsoq Island can be rewarding; but probably best at low water as it is uncharted and there are rocks that cover. A good echosounder required

Shark's Fin Anchorage

65° 26N 53° 04W

The channel immediately to the south of the Shark's Fin (alias the Kin of Sal) gives a surprisingly well protected anchorage in most winds. Anchor deep, in mid-channel. Dramatic rock climbing.

Hamborgersund

57 Appamiut

Ref the chartlet, we actually found there is deeper water to the east of the middle island, and we didn't find it that deep (5) on the west side!

Evighedsfjord

Tassiussaq

(additions or corrections!)

A Tilman anchorage

2. *add* The channel to the south of the islands gives access to the inner bay where there are even more possible anchorages

3. Anchor in any depth (*why 5 metres?!*) in the small bay NE of the hammer-head peninsular. Beware reef which covers in NW corner

Kangiussaq

65° 50N 52° 18W

Anchor at head of the fjord just before the silt bank from the moraines. Probably best to use two anchors to prevent being blown onto the silt bank when the wind changes

63 Kangerlussuaq

Approach

Cruncher Island

66° 01N 53° 34W

A useful anchorage at the start of the long fjord. Follow the leading beacons in and either turn at the eastern end of the island (beware outlying rock), or cut through the obvious gap to port (north) on approach, keeping over to the east side to avoid rocks. Least depth 5 metres. Then select best bay on north side of the inlet.

Using this anchorage also allows access to the fjord, and waiting if necessary, without the complicated pilotage entering via Kangaamiut to the south

66 Sisimiut

The small boatyard in the south west corner of the harbour is friendly and helpful. It is possible to winter ashore here at a reasonable price (*Dodo's Delight* 2014/5). Director: Bent Lyberth
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