

Local Tourism Network Calls for Urgent Action to Secure Accessibility of the Ammassalik Region



Tourism operators from the Ammassalik region in East Greenland have published a joint statement calling for urgent political action following Icelandair's decision to further reduce its operations between Iceland and Kulusuk from 2027. The decision means that the region in East Greenland will have direct international air access for only around 3.5 months each year. Just two years ago, the region had year-round international connectivity. According to the signatories, the consequences extend far beyond tourism. Reduced accessibility affects residents' ability to travel for healthcare, education, work, and family matters, while undermining the foundation for local businesses, investment, employment, and regional development.



"This is not about a single airline or a single route. It is about whether East Greenland will continue to have the conditions necessary to create jobs, attract investment and contribute to Greenland's future development," says Anna Burdenski, Tourism Coordinator East Greenland at Kommuneqarfik Sermersooq, representing the regional DMO Visit East Greenland.

The statement warns that continued reductions in international access could lead to fewer jobs, higher travel costs, weakened supply security, loss of investment, increased outmigration and growing pressure on East Greenland's unique dog sledding culture and tourism industry. The signatories emphasise that they fully support Greenland's ambitions for sustainable tourism, stronger communities and balanced regional development. Their concern is that East Greenland risks being left behind unless long-term access to the region is secured. Rather than asking for special treatment, the statement calls for equal opportunities to contribute to Greenland's future development and urges Naalakkersuisut and relevant authorities to work with the industry on practical, long-term solutions.

The full joint statement outlines the expected consequences in detail and presents a number of concrete recommendations to strengthen East Greenland's international accessibility and support sustainable regional development.

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Photo: Anna Burdenski, Visit East Greenland*

About Visit East Greenland

Visit East Greenland is the official destination brand for East Greenland, promoting and marketing the region to international visitors and media.

The initiative is managed by the Tourism & Destination department within the Business, Facilities and Procurement division of Kommuneqarfik Sermersooq. The organisation works to showcase the region's nature, culture, and Arctic heritage to international visitors while ensuring tourism benefits local residents.

Guided by the destination's vision *"Disconnect to Reconnect,"* Visit East Greenland works to position the region as a unique Arctic destination where visitors can disconnect from everyday



life and reconnect with nature, culture, and local communities. In close collaboration with tourism operators, local communities, and industry partners, the organisation supports the sustainable development of tourism while showcasing the distinctive landscapes and cultural heritage of East Greenland.