

Tourism Statistics Report Greenland 2020



Contents



Executive Summary/Indledning

Executive summary page 2

Flight passenger statistics - national

Flight passenger statistics page 4

Accommodation statistics – national

Number of overnights 2020 vs. 2019 page 5

Number of guests 2020 vs. 2019 page 6

Staycation in Greenland 2020

Number of overnights for GL residents in the summer of 2020 page 7

Passengers on Sarfaq Ittuk page 8

Most popular routes with Sarfaq Ittuk page 9

Surveys among GL residents and GL tourism operators

Resident attitudes towards tourists 2021 vs. 2019 page 10

Resident attitudes towards tourists (during Covid-19) page 11

Consequences of the COVID-19 crisis for GL tourism operators page 12

Feedback to the Government and to the industry from GL tourism operators page 13

Regional data

Intro to the regional data page 14

Flight passengers out of Ilulissat airport page 15

Flight passengers out of Kangerlussuaq airport page 16

Flight passengers out of Nuuk airport page 17

Flight passengers out of Narsarsuaq airport page 18

Flight passengers out of Kulusuk airport page 19

Flight passengers out of Nerlerit Inaat airport page 20

Accommodation statistics – regions

Number of overnights and guests in Avannaata / Qeqertalik 2020 vs. 2019 page 21

Number of overnights and guests in Arctic Circle Region 2020 vs. 2019 page 22

Number of overnights and guests in Capital Region 2020 vs. 2019 page 23

Number of overnights and guests in South Greenland 2020 vs. 2019 page 24

Number of overnights and guests in East Greenland 2020 vs 2019 page 25

Summary

Summary page 26

Executive Summary / Introduction

The global COVID-19 pandemic resulted in approximately 70% fewer land-based tourists in Greenland in 2020 - and no cruise ship calls at all.

All the tourism operators in Greenland have been seriously affected, and we can only hope that as many as possible survive the crisis.

During 2020, Visit Greenland conducted two surveys among Greenlandic tourism operators - one in April and one in December. The first, which can be read at vg.gl/cov_GL_op_2020, showed that more than half of the 37 respondents, at the time of taking the survey, had already lost more than 1 million Danish Kroner of the season's revenue due to cancelled bookings.

The second survey, from December, showed that 25 of the 100 respondents had had to lay off permanent employees, and that 55 of them had lost more than half of their expected annual revenue.

In February 2021, Visit Greenland conducted its second survey among Greenlandic residents about their attitudes towards tourists in their country. The first, which was conducted in November 2019, showed that the population in general has a very positive perception of tourists in the country. The second, in February 2021, showed - somewhat surprisingly - that attitudes had generally become more positive, despite the fact that it was conducted at a time when access to Greenland from abroad was limited to 'authority flights' (meaning that only Greenlandic residents and critical workers could fly to Greenland).

The surveys show not only that there is substantial support for the tourism industry, but also that most people trust that tourists comply with the current COVID-19 restrictions. The slight increase in support is probably a sign that the population has become more aware of the local tourism industry during the COVID-19 crisis - and of its economic significance for Greenlandic society.

It does not make sense to structure this report in the same way as previous years' versions, as 2020 has been an extraordinary tourist season.

This report provides a brief overview of the key figures for the year, but will include 'staycation' (i.e. Greenlanders holidaying in their own country) as a topic for the first time. One of Visit Greenland's tasks is to market the country to tourists coming from abroad, but as was the case for almost all countries in the world in 2020, most of the tourism in this year was limited to staycation tourism.

In 2020, almost all national tourism organisations had to launch staycation campaigns as something completely new, in order to at least try to stimulate the sale of tourism products to residents of their own countries. This - as well as various governmental support packages - has contributed to saving countless tourism companies from bankruptcy.

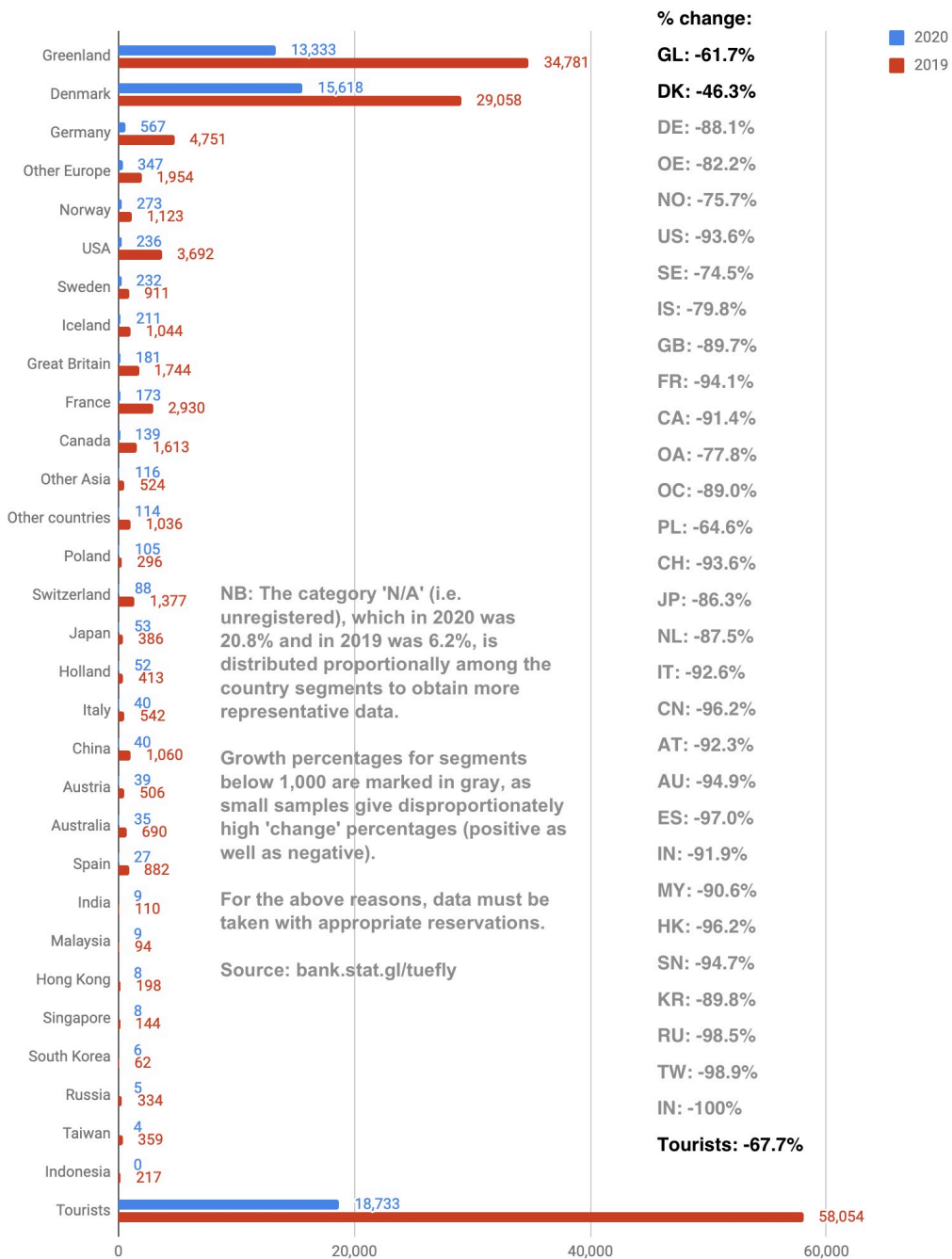
In April 2020, Visit Greenland launched the staycation campaign 'Nunarput Nuan' ('our lovely country' in Greenlandic) through the website nunarputnuan.gl, on which local operators and travel agencies offered staycation packages and offers.

At the same time, the Greenlandic Government confirmed that Greenlanders could use their employer-paid holidays in Greenland, instead of - as was the case before - only for foreign travel. The Government's support packages for tourism operators came, in some cases, in the form of discounts on staycation products.

Although both the support packages and the staycation campaign have had an effect, we must not underestimate how hard the COVID-19 crisis has hit the Greenlandic tourism industry.

At the time of writing, Greenland has not yet opened up to tourists, but we can hope that in the second half of 2021, when Greenlandic residents are vaccinated, international tourism can get going again.

Plane passengers out of Greenland 2020 vs 2019



Flight passenger statistics

As can be seen from the graph, we estimate the decline in the number of land-based tourists (those leaving Greenland by plane) to be 67.7%. Unfortunately, there is greater statistical uncertainty in 2020 than there has been in previous years, which is due to a breakdown of the router and the iPads that are used to register flight passengers' country of residence. The crash lasted from mid-August to the end of September, and is the reason that 20.8% of passengers in 2020 were not registered.

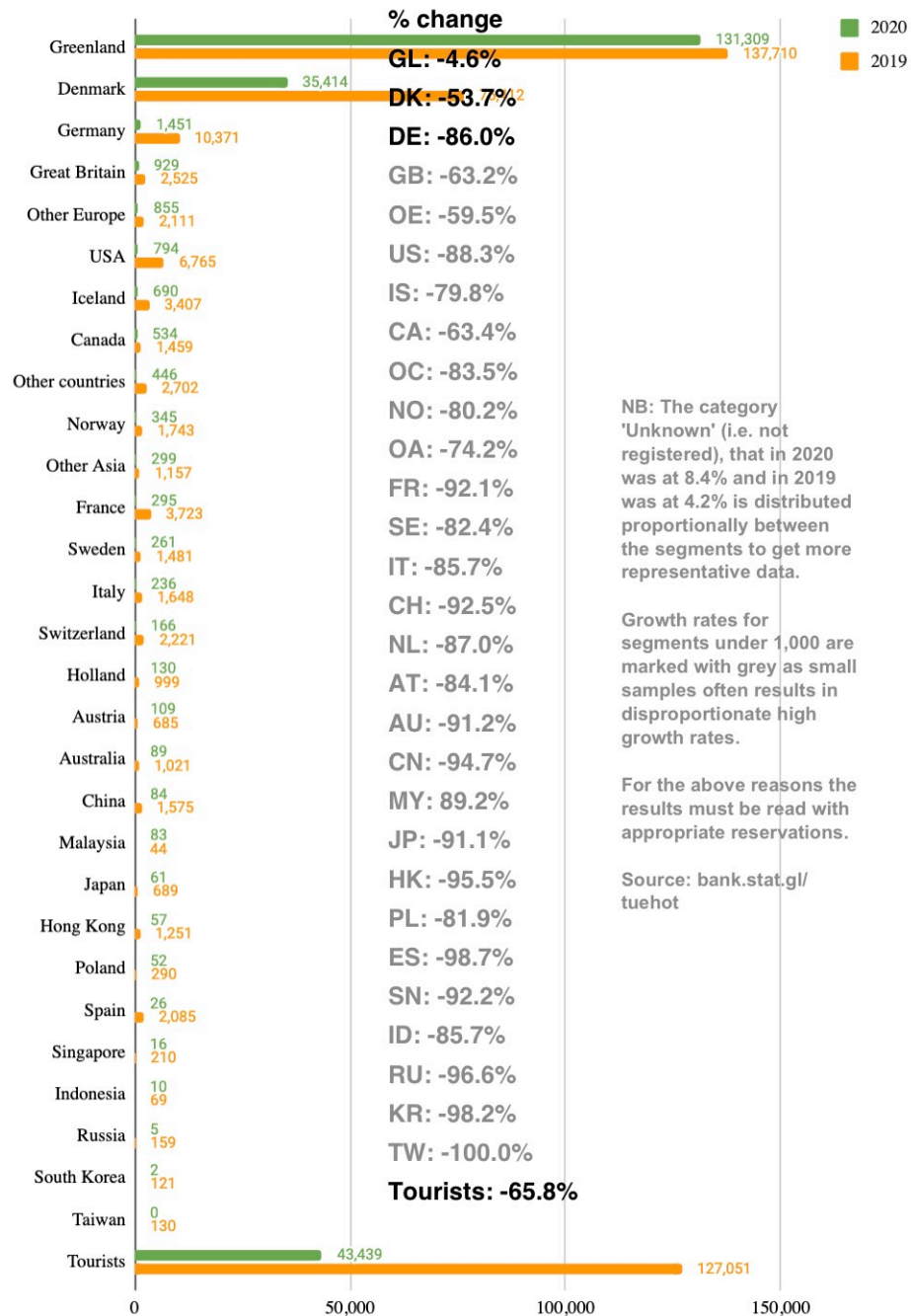
As is clear, international tourism in 2020 consisted almost exclusively of Danish visitors, which is also the segment with the lowest decline (46.3%).

For the other segments, there has been a massive decline, which is understandable, since there were strict entry restrictions for visitors from outside the Kingdom of Denmark during 2020.

[UNWTO data](#) from 21st January 2021 show that in 2020 global tourism fell by 74%. As a comparison, the decline during the financial crisis of 2008-9 was 4%. Between 100 million and 120 million jobs have either been lost or are at risk, and over 1.3 trillion USD dollars in tourism revenue has been lost worldwide.

The Greenlandic Government has announced that the country can be opened up for tourists when all Greenlandic citizens have been vaccinated, which at the time of writing appears to be at some point in the middle of summer, but there are a lot of things that can still delay the reopening process.

No. of overnight stays in accommodations in Greenland 2020 vs 2019



NB: The category 'Unknown' (i.e. not registered), that in 2020 was at 8.4% and in 2019 was at 4.2% is distributed proportionally between the segments to get more representative data.

Growth rates for segments under 1,000 are marked with grey as small samples often results in disproportionate high growth rates.

For the above reasons the results must be read with appropriate reservations.

Source: bank.stat.gl/
tuehot

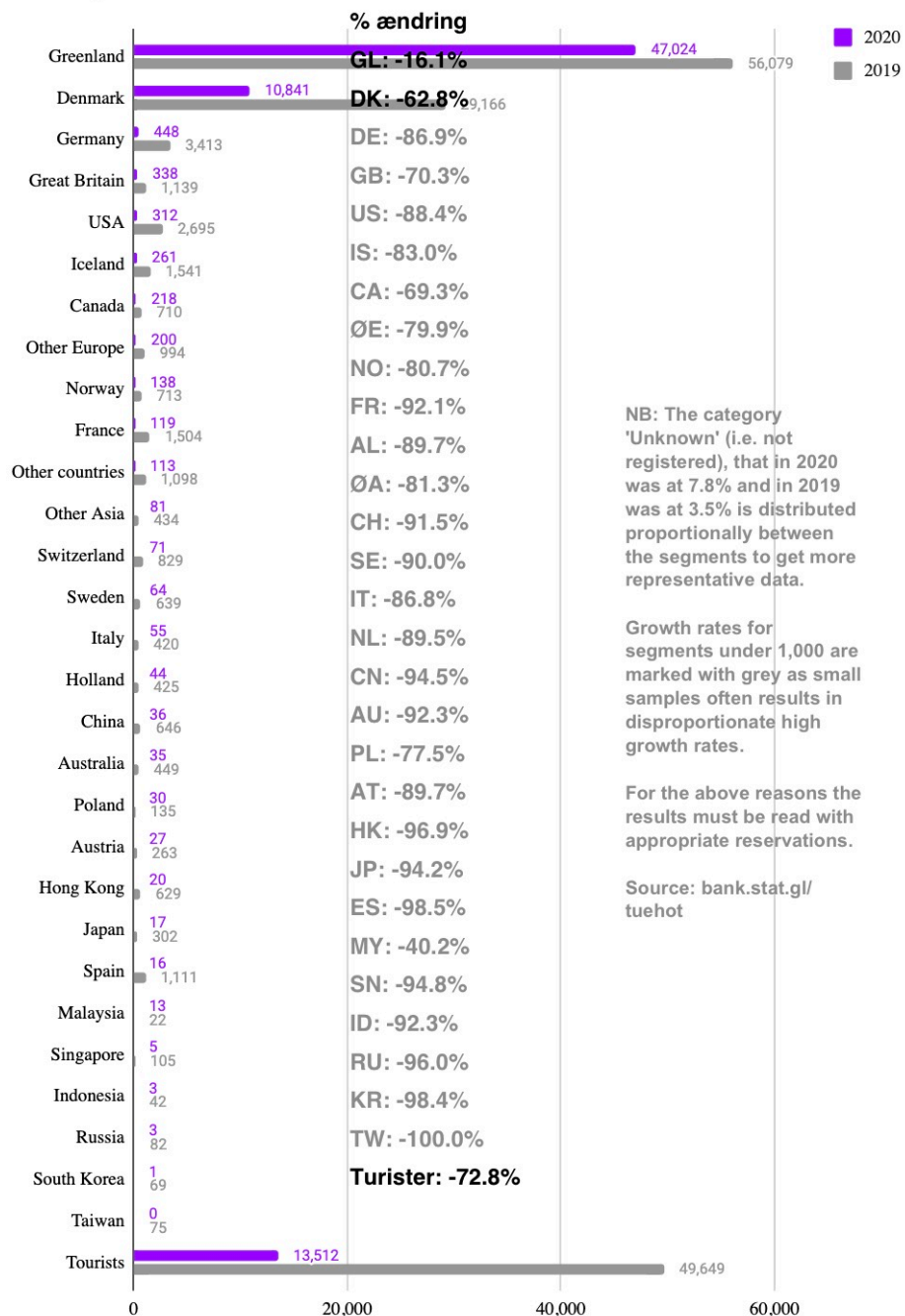
Accommodation statistics - number of nights sold



The trend in the number of overnight stays sold at accommodation providers in Greenland is similar to the trend in the number of air passengers. However, there are some anomalies in relation to 2019 – for example, there is registered an increase of 89.2% in tourists from Malaysia. This is probably because a few Malaysian citizens appear to have been ‘stuck’ in Capital Region and North Greenland- most likely due to COVID-19 related travel restrictions.

There has also been a smaller decline in Brits, Canadians and tourists from the ‘Rest of Europe’ than one might expect - when the accommodation statistics for these are compared with the air passenger statistics for the same segments - but this is probably also because of delays due to the pandemic.

No. of guests in accommodations in Greenland 2020 vs 2019



NB: The category 'Unknown' (i.e. not registered), that in 2020 was at 7.8% and in 2019 was at 3.5% is distributed proportionally between the segments to get more representative data.

Growth rates for segments under 1,000 are marked with grey as small samples often results in disproportionate high growth rates.

For the above reasons the results must be read with appropriate reservations.

Source: bank.stat.gl/tuehot

Accommodation statistics - number of guests

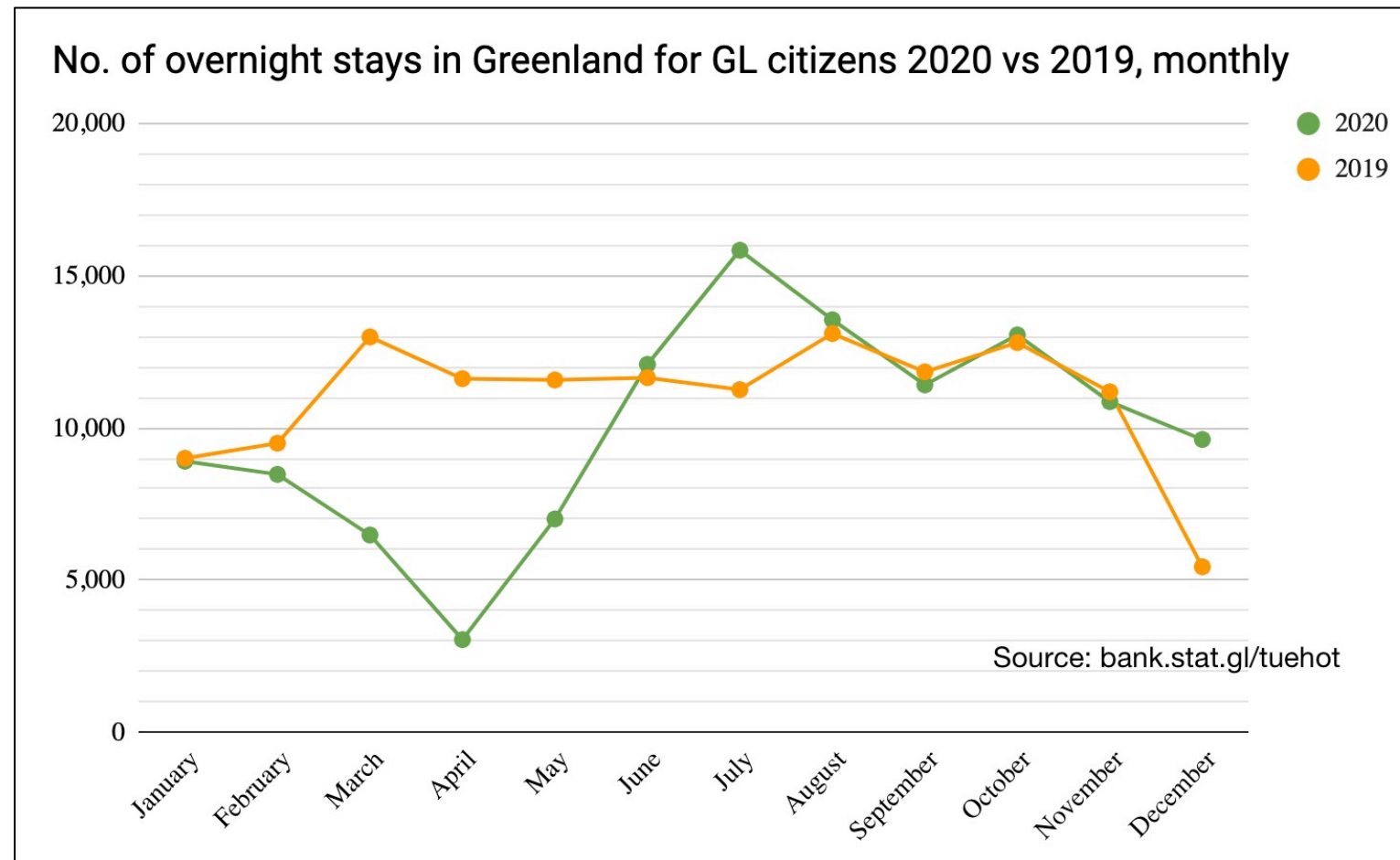
In these data, it can be seen that the decline in the British, Canadian and the 'Rest of Europe' segments is more on a level with the other non-Danish tourists, which confirms the theory that some of these tourists have been 'stuck' in Greenland due to travel restrictions.

One could argue that the data for air passengers and the data for the number of guests at accommodation providers should be very similar, but there is always a certain proportion of tourists who stay at accommodation providers which do not register their guests, who stay in private homes - or who simply camp in the wilderness.

It is important to look at these growth percentages with very large reservations, as, for the vast majority of nationalities, these are very small numbers of tourists. This will always give less statistical validity, as well as a risk of disproportionate percentage fluctuations from one year to the next.

Staycation tourists - Greenlandic guests at accommodation providers

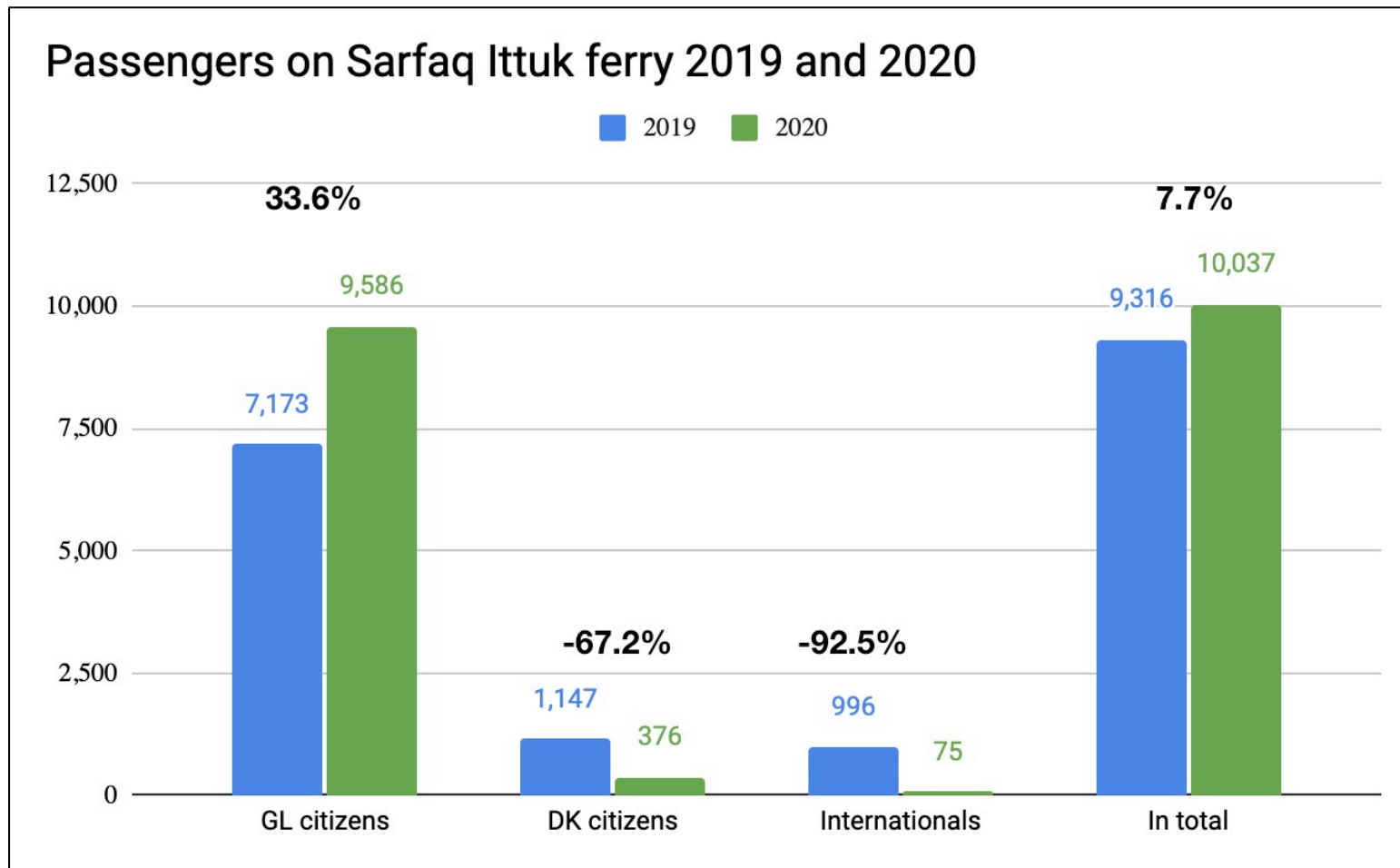
When you look at the number of overnight stays for Greenlandic guests during 2020, you see a clear pattern: up to and including May, there is a fall of 38% compared to 2019, which fits with more or less complete closure of society that occurred during this period due to the risk of COVID-19 infection. From June onwards, there is an overall increase of 11.8%, which illustrates the increased staycation trend over the summer high season.



What you unfortunately cannot see in these data is which Greenlandic guests were on a staycation holiday, and which, if any, were business travellers, but in general there is less business travel activity in the summer months - especially in July - so it is reasonable to attribute the majority of growth in overnight stays for Greenlandic guests during this period to staycation tourists.

Staycation tourists - passengers on Sarfaq Ittuk

For the Sarfaq Ittuk ferry, which sails along the west coast of Greenland, from Narsaq in the South to Ilulissat in the North, we also have passenger data which we can compare between 2019 and 2020. The increase of as much as 33.6% for Greenlandic residents clearly indicates a greatly increased demand for staycation holiday travel between Greenlandic destinations.



On the other hand, a correspondingly significant decrease is seen in the number of Danish and international tourists, which is consistent with the data we have for flight passengers and overnight stays.

Staycation tourists - passengers on Sarfaq Ittuk

Below is the ticket data from Arctic Umiaq Line for Greenlandic residents. In the boxes is noted the number of passengers (pax) who have bought tickets for which routes.

The most popular sections are marked in green: Nuuk-Qaqortoq (492), Sisimiut-Nuuk (466), Qaqortoq-Nuuk (443) and Nuuk-Sisimiut (424).

The second most popular sections are marked in yellow: Paamiut-Nuuk (375), Aasiaat-Sisimiut 360), Sisimiut-Aasiaat (351), Nuuk-Aasiaat (330), Nuuk-Paamiut (308) and Aasiaa-Nuuk (305).

The third most popular sections are marked in blue: Ilulissat-Sisimiut (289), Ilulissat-Aasiaat (288), Sisimiut-Ilulissat (287), Maniitsoq-Nuuk (264), Sisimiut-Maniitsoq (217) and Nuuk-Ilulissat (210).

2020		To	To	To	To	To	To	To	To	To	To	To	TOTAL	
	LOKAL	NUUK	ILULISSAT	AASIAAT	PAAMIUT	QEQERTARSUAQ	SISIMIUT	QAQORTOQ	NARSAQ	ARSUK	MANIITSOQ	QEQERTARSUATSIAAT	KANGAAMIUT	
From	NUUK		210	330	308	125	424	492	109	72	173	177	65	2,485
From	ILULISSAT	180		288	19		289	80	14		109		10	989
From	AASIAAT	305	130		9	55	360	51	13		90	9	11	1,033
From	PAAMIUT	375	16	12		6	29	121	35	36	13	12	2	657
From	QEQERTARSUAQ	121	49	69	7		73	18	1		30	4	4	376
From	SISIMIUT	466	287	351	40	55		74	10	2	217		66	1,568
From	QAQORTOQ	443	87	55	127	15	70		30	26	41	10	8	912
From	NARSAQ	146	9	16	34	4	16			10	2			237
From	ARSUK	57			30			30	7		2			126
From	MANIITSOQ	264	89	81	18	19	149	38	3			5	43	709
From	QEQERTARSUATSIAAT	189		1	25	4		8		1	2			230
From	KANGAAMIUT	81	10	13	3	3	64	14			76			264
		2,627	887	1,216	620	286	1,474	926	222	147	755	217	209	9,586

400-500 pax

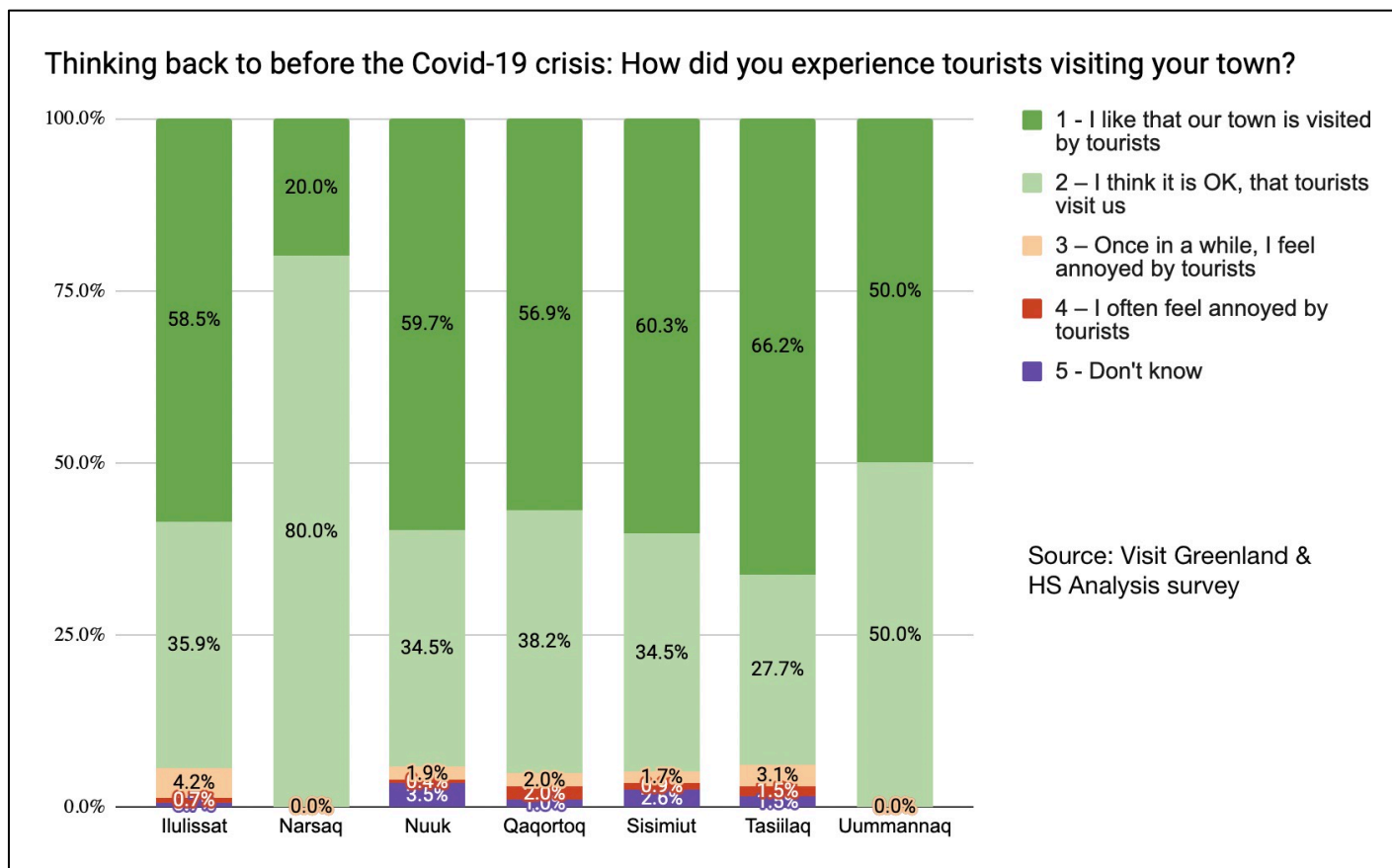
300-400 pax

200-300 pax

Resident attitudes towards tourists

In November 2019, Visit Greenland conducted the first of two surveys among Greenlandic residents about their attitudes to, and perceptions about, tourists in their country. The first showed that, on average, 91.5% of respondents had a positive attitude towards tourists, if you exclude the "Do not know" and "Neither agree nor disagree" answers. The most recent survey was conducted in February 2021, i.e. in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic; from 1st January 2021 until 2nd May 2021, only Greenlandic residents or people with critical work functions could fly to Greenland.

The results can be read in a report which is available at vg.gl/bef_holdn_tur2021 (Danish).



8 out of the 15 questions concerning attitudes towards tourists were repeated in both surveys and can therefore be compared 1:1. The rest of the questions were either demographic or specifically related to Covid-19.

The February 2021 survey showed that the population's attitudes to tourists in general had become a bit more positive since the November 2019 survey.

On average, 93.4% of respondents were positive about tourists, if you exclude the "Do not know" and "Neither agree nor disagree" answers. This is 1.9 percentage points higher than in November 2019.

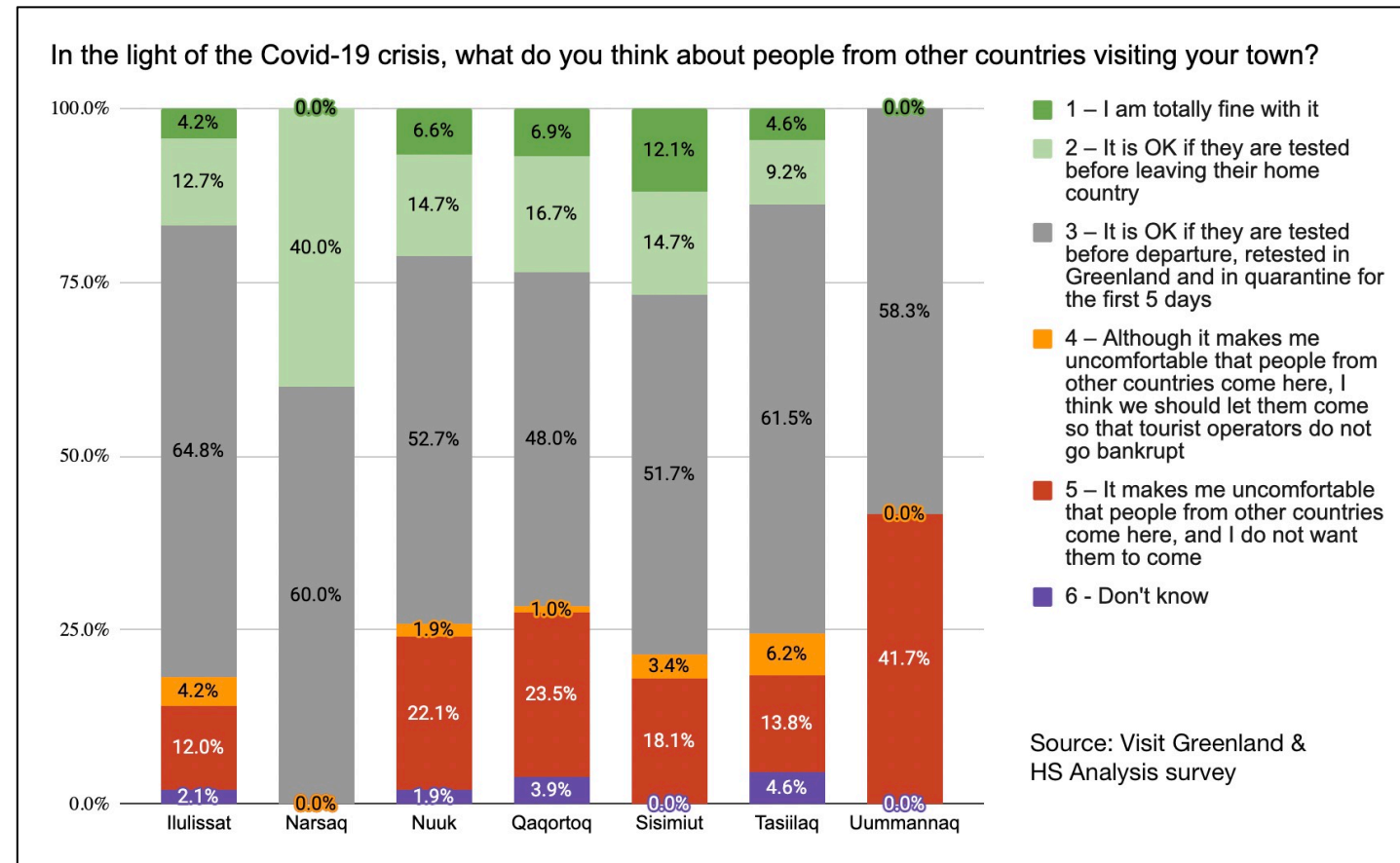
These more positive attitudes towards tourism may be a sign that the population - also as a result of the COVID-19 crisis - have realised how many locals actually make a living from tourism, and were missing the life that tourism brings to the towns and settlements.

The development of sustainable tourism will ensure that resident support for tourism will be preserved in the future.

Resident attitudes towards tourists - in light of the corona pandemic

One of the most important questions that specifically related to the corona pandemic was the question of what people thought about tourists visiting their town or settlement during the pandemic. Only 19% of respondents were directly against people from other countries coming to visit their town/settlement (“It makes me uncomfortable that people come from other countries and I do not want them to come”).

6.7% answered “I’m fine with it”. 14% answered “It is OK if they are tested before leaving their home country”. 55.3% answered “It is OK if they get a test before departure, quarantine for the first 5 days in Greenland and then get retested”. 2.9% answered “Although it makes me uncomfortable that people come from other countries, I think we should let them come so that tourist operators do not go out of business”. 2.1% answered “Do not know”.



Approximately the same amount of residents (about 20%) that had responded that they do not want visits from people from other countries, answered that they did not trust that tourists complied with the restrictions the health authorities had put in place.

The vast majority (about 80%) had confidence that tourists complied with the restrictions.

On the question of whether the Government has handled the COVID-19 crisis in a reasonable way, 88% agreed or predominantly agreed, if you exclude the “Do not know” and “Neither agree nor disagree” responses.

In both studies, a question was also asked on whether the local municipality does a good job of promoting tourism. In November 2019, 69.7% agreed or predominantly agreed, when excluding the “Do not know” and “Neither agree nor disagree” answers.

In February 2021, 75.3% agreed or predominantly agreed, when the “Do not know” and “Neither agree nor disagree” answers are excluded.

Consequences of the COVID-19 crisis for Greenlandic tourism operators

Visit Greenland has also conducted two surveys among Greenlandic tourism operators about the negative consequences of the COVID-19 crisis. The first was carried out in April 2020, one month after Greenland was 'shut down' to tourists. 37 respondents participated. It transpired that over half of the tourism operators surveyed, at the time of questioning, had already lost more than 1 million Danish Kroner of the season's turnover due to cancellations, which corresponded to more than 50% of their bookings. The report can be read at vg.gl/cov_GL_op_2020 (Danish).

As most people know, Greenland only opened up slightly for tourism during the summer and early autumn, but with strict entry restrictions most of the time, including quarantine and re-testing on the 5th day - and most of the time it was only possible for residents of the Kingdom of Denmark and the Nordic countries to enter.

Consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic for Greenlandic tourism operators

The lockdown has inevitably severely impacted the Greenlandic tourism industry:

- 25% have had to dismiss permanent employees
- 55% lost between 50% and 99% of the year's revenue
- 45% adapted their products to the new situation
 - Of these, 59% are keeping these changes for the 2021 season
- 52% offered staycation products
- 42% applied for support through one or more of the Government's aid packages
 - 46% responded that this helped 'very little'
 - 12% responded that this helped 'a little'
 - 13% responded that this helped 'somewhat'
 - 17% responded that this helped 'a lot'
 - 12% responded that this was an 'indispensable' help
- 28% have changed/adapted their marketing for the 2021 season

The second survey among Greenlandic tourism operators was conducted in February 2021, with 100 respondents. The results can be read at vg.gl/lessons-learnt2020 (Danish).

To the left is a summary of the most important results.

As it transpired, 'staycation' products came to play a crucial role, as the sales of products to Greenlandic residents mitigated the worst consequences of the pandemic-related lockdowns.

It is also clear that the crisis has made 'business as usual' - at least temporarily - irrelevant. Over half of the operators have offered staycation products, tailored their products to better fit the crisis situation, and almost a third of the operators have changed/adapted their marketing for the 2021 season.

Consequences of the COVID-19 crisis for Greenlandic tourism operators

Feedback to the Government

The survey in February 2021 also asked for feedback from Greenlandic tourism operators to the Government, which can be summarised as follows:

1. it should have been easier - especially for smaller operators - to apply for help
2. the operators should have been involved in the design of the aid packages
3. the operators call for the aid packages to continue into the first half of 2021
4. you should consider obligatory 'vaccine passports' for tourists

Feedback to the tourism industry itself

Visit Greenland also asked the operators to provide suggestions, feedback and recommendations to the industry itself, which can be summarised as follows:

1. the Nunarput Nuan staycation campaign was a great help in mitigating losses
2. urge to collaborate with other operators to develop staycation offers - both for Greenlandic residents and for international tourists
3. urge to develop 'quarantine products' - which can be conducted with tourists who are in quarantine
4. urge Air Greenland to provide staycation offers in 2021 (domestic discounts)

Data from the 5 regions in Greenland

As mentioned in the introduction, no individual reports will be made for 2020 for the 5 regions that appear on bank.stat.gl, as in normal years, as this does not make sense when there were very few tourists, or in some cases no tourists at all.

Therefore, the following section briefly reviews the basic data for the 5 regions:

- 1. North Greenland (the two municipalities/regions Avannaata and Qeqertalik still appear as one region in the Statistics Greenland database for reasons of consistency)**
- 2. Arctic Circle Region**
- 3. Capital Region**
- 4. South Greenland**
- 5. East Greenland**

We will not draw too many conclusions, as the data largely speak for themselves, but where relevant, comments are made or theses are outlined about why particular patterns may appear.

Flight passengers out of Ilulissat airport

Plane passengers out of Ilulissat	2019	2020	2019	2020	% change
Greenland	72	1	96	2	-98.3%
Other countries	48		64	0	-100.0%
Australia	76	6	101	10	-90.3%
Canada	97	2	129	3	-97.5%
Denmark	50	3	66	5	-92.6%
France	169	7	224	11	-94.9%
Holland	25	1	33	2	-95.1%
Hong Kong	57		76	0	-100.0%
India	20		27	0	-100.0%
Indonesia	95		126	0	-100.0%
Iceland	80	17	106	28	-73.8%
Italy	22		29	0	-100.0%
Japan	54		72	0	-100.0%
China	268		356	0	-100.0%
Malaysia	11		15	0	-100.0%
Norway	6		8	0	-100.0%
Austria	35		46	0	-100.0%
Other Asia	24	1	32	2	-94.9%
Other Europe	147	1	195	2	-99.2%
Poland	8		11	0	-100.0%
Russia	26		34	0	-100.0%
Switzerland	107		142	0	-100.0%
Singapore	43		57	0	-100.0%
Spain	9		12	0	-100.0%
Great Britain	123	4	163	7	-96.0%
Sweden	11		15	0	-100.0%
South Korea	4		5	0	-100.0%
Taiwan	20		27	0	-100.0%
Germany	219	3	291	5	-98.3%
USA	423	9	561	15	-97.4%
N/A	767	35			
Total	3,116	90	3,116	90	-97.1%
Total without N/A	2,349	55			
N/A share	24.6%	38.9%			
Tourists			3,020	88	-97.1%

Icelandair timeline (Reykjavik-Ilulissat)

Only 4 scheduled flights were operated in 2020 on the Reykjavik-Ilulissat route. They flew in the first two weeks of March, in which there were 2 flights weekly, until all flights were stopped after the last flight on 15th March.

Air Greenland timeline

Air Greenland has no route between Ilulissat and Iceland.

This year, we have decided to show the raw data we receive from Statistics Greenland, which - in contrast to the data at bank.stat.gl/TUDFLY, which only contains data on 16 countries of residence - contains data for 26 countries of residence, as well as the category 'Undisclosed' (country of residence not registered).

The blue data is raw data, and, in the green cells, the 'Undisclosed' category is distributed proportionally between the available countries of residence, so that there is a more practical comparison between the two years.

The 90 passengers that flew out of Ilulissat airport in total in 2020 were divided into 35 in January and 55 in March.

There are usually no scheduled flights (Icelandair's Ilulissat-Reykjavik route) outside the summer high season (from June to September), so the 90 passengers in January and March must represent extraordinary flights (i.e. either chartered or private flights).

Flight passengers out of Kangerlussuaq airport

Plane passengers out of Kangerlussuaq	2019	2020	2019	2020	% change
Greenland	28,926	10,138	30,000	12,267	-59.1%
Other countries	708	87	734	105	-85.7%
Australia	471	13	488	16	-96.8%
Canada	891	89	924	108	-88.3%
Denmark	25,089	12,196	26,021	14,758	-43.3%
France	2,088	122	2,166	148	-93.2%
Holland	233	22	242	27	-89.0%
Hong Kong	116	6	120	7	-94.0%
India	51	3	53	4	-93.1%
Indonesia	36	0	37	0	-100.0%
Iceland	122	50	127	61	-52.2%
Italy	227	31	235	38	-84.1%
Japan	237	41	246	50	-79.8%
China	636	24	660	29	-95.6%
Malaysia	57	2	59	2	-95.9%
Norway	835	203	866	246	-71.6%
Austria	331	27	343	33	-90.5%
Other Asia	379	88	393	106	-72.9%
Other Europe	1,144	266	1,186	322	-72.9%
Poland	184	65	191	79	-58.8%
Russia	129	4	134	5	-96.4%
Switzerland	861	64	893	77	-91.3%
Singapore	78	6	81	7	-91.0%
Spain	152	19	158	23	-85.4%
Great Britain	867	122	899	148	-83.6%
Sweden	747	177	775	214	-72.4%
South Korea	30	2	31	2	-92.2%
Taiwan	162	3	168	4	-97.8%
Germany	3,433	411	3,560	497	-86.0%
USA	1,736	138	1,800	167	-90.7%
N/A	2,635	5,129			
Total	73,591	29,548	73,591	29,548	-59.8%
Total without N/A	70,956	24,419			
N/A share	3.6%	17.4%			
Tourists			43,591	17,281	-60.4%

Icelandair timeline

In 2020, Icelandair had no route between Kangerlussuaq and Iceland.

Air Greenland timeline

In 2020, Air Greenland had no route between Kangerlussuaq and Iceland.

Although Kangerlussuaq Airport is located in Arctic Circle Region, it should not be assumed that the number of passengers departing Greenland through Kangerlussuaq represents the number of tourists in this region, as (as most people know) the majority of the passengers here are in transit from other regions - especially Capital Region (and most frequently, of course, Nuuk).

Nevertheless, the transit period for tourists in Kangerlussuaq will represent an opportunity to buy tourism-related products in the airport area, such as souvenirs – and even short trips, where there is several hours’ transit time. Some tourists even choose to spend a day or two in Kangerlussuaq, in order to get inland and see the ice sheet, or to take a musk ox safari (with, for example, Air Zafari).

As a result, the numbers in the table to the left must, of course, be interpreted with appropriate reservations.

Since Kangerlussuaq is already the most popular access point into Greenland, and was also the airport that was most ‘open’ during 2020, it is clearly the airport that has experienced the smallest decrease in the number of passengers in 2020 compared to Greenland's other international airports.

As can be seen in the table, there was - due to an internet router outage for a month and a half in the autumn of 2020 – unfortunately a period in which no country of residence was registered for the passengers. The category ‘Undisclosed’, therefore, is as large as 17.4%. This means that the data is not as valid as it tends to be. In recent years, the proportion of ‘Undisclosed’ in Kangerlussuaq has been around 3-4%, which is acceptable.

Flight passengers out of Nuuk airport

Plane passengers out of Nuuk	2019	2020	2019	2020	% change
Greenland	1,353	264	1,901	768	-59.6%
Other countries	46	3	65	9	-86.5%
Australia	35	6	49	17	-64.5%
Canada	308	16	433	47	-89.2%
Denmark	386	61	542	178	-67.3%
France	64	4	90	12	-87.1%
Holland	23	1	32	3	-91.0%
Hong Kong	4		6	0	-100.0%
India	3	4	4	12	176.2%
Indonesia	4		6	0	-100.0%
Iceland	297	88	417	256	-38.6%
Italy	32		45	0	-100.0%
Japan	18	1	25	3	-88.5%
China	61	8	86	23	-72.8%
Malaysia	2	5	3	15	417.9%
Norway	64	3	90	9	-90.3%
Austria	17	1	24	3	-87.8%
Other Asia	49	3	69	9	-87.3%
Other Europe	161	4	226	12	-94.9%
Poland	30	17	42	49	17.4%
Russia	12		17	0	-100.0%
Switzerland	27	3	38	9	-77.0%
Singapore	6		8	0	-100.0%
Spain	17	2	24	6	-75.6%
Great Britain	117	11	164	32	-80.5%
Sweden	20	6	28	17	-37.8%
South Korea	10	3	14	9	-37.8%
Taiwan	5		7	0	-100.0%
Germany	74	9	104	26	-74.8%
USA	340	27	478	79	-83.5%
N/A	1,452	1,051			
Total	5,037	1,601	5,037	1,601	-68.2%
Total without N/A	3,585	550			
N/A share	28.8%	65.6%			
Tourists			3,136	833	-73.5%

Icelandair timeline (Reykjavik-Nuuk)

2 flights per week until 17th March, which was the last flight before the COVID-19 lockdown. From 1st July, Icelandair's route resumed, with one weekly flight. In November and December, however, it was only possible to fly freight to Nuuk, while passengers could fly the other way.

Air Greenland timeline (Nuuk-Keflavik)

The last flight before the COVID-19 lockdown was on 5th March. The first flight to Keflavik after the reopening was 17th June. The last flight before the second lockdown was 7th November.

Nuuk Airport also experienced a sharp decline under the COVID-19 restrictions and the lockdown, which lasted from mid-March to 1st July.

There were 102 commercial departures on Air Greenland's route between Nuuk and Keflavik in 2020, 14 of which stopped over in Kulusuk. This was in order to make better use of capacity, since, due to entry restrictions, there were not many tourists on departures during 2020.

There were also authority flights (also called emergency flights), with a Dash-8 that was equipped with an extra fuel tank, so that it could fly directly between Nuuk and Copenhagen. However, those flights are not counted in the statistics. Normal commercial passengers have not been able to book seats on authority flights; only necessary freight and people serving critical functions have been able to.

All of the converted figures (in green) must be taken with reservations, as the proportion of 'Undisclosed' (country of residence unregistered) was 28.8% in 2019 and 65.6% in 2020, giving invalid data.

Flight passengers out of Narsarsuaq airport

Plane passengers out of Narsarsuaq	2019	2020
Greenland	1,411	0
Denmark	1,202	0
Spain	612	0
Iceland	253	0
USA	224	0
Other Europe	191	0
Germany	181	0
France	133	0
Great Britain	127	0
Italy	113	0
Switzerland	76	0
Norway	58	0
Sweden	53	0
Canada	45	0
Holland	38	0
Other Asia	28	0
Other countries	17	0
Austria	14	0
South Korea	13	0
Australia	12	0
Poland	11	0
Russia	10	0
China	4	0
India	3	0
Japan	3	0
Hong Kong	2	0
Indonesia	1	0
Singapore	1	0
Taiwan	1	0
Malaysia	0	0
Tourists	3,426	?
N/A (unregistered)		242
Total	4837	242

Icelandair timeline (Reykjavik-Narsarsuaq)

There were no regular scheduled flights on the summer route between Reykjavik and Narsarsuaq, but Icelandair flew some chartered flights. The 242 passengers' countries of residence were not registered, but it is likely that most of these passengers were tourists.

Air Greenland timeline (Copenhagen-Narsarsuaq)

The summer route between Copenhagen and Narsarsuaq was cancelled throughout 2020 due to COVID-19.

There were only 242 passengers on flights out of Greenland from Narsarsuaq Airport in 2020 - none of which were scheduled flights, but all of which were charter or private flights. No countries of residence were registered for the whole of 2020.

Before the scheduled flights between Narsarsuaq and Iceland and Denmark are resumed, we will make sure that passenger registration can again run as normal, as no passengers' countries of residence were registered throughout 2020. This is probably because Mittarfeqarfiit's security personnel, who are the ones that register countries of residence, did not consider it relevant to register the passengers on the few charter or cargo flights there were in 2020.

Flight passengers out of Kulusuk airport

Icelandair timeline (Reykjavik-Kulusuk)

2 flights weekly until COVID-19 lockdown. The last flight was 18th March. During the rest of 2020, Icelandair had only a few freight and charter flights, on which it was allowed to include passengers travelling from Greenland to Iceland, but not the other way.

There were only 291 passengers in total on Kulusuk-Reykjavik departures during 2020.

The reason that East Greenland has been more or less completely closed off to the outside world is primarily due to its isolated geographical location and the very limited hospital capacity in Tasiilaq and Ittoqqortoormiit, which makes the region particularly vulnerable to outbreaks of COVID-19.

Fortunately, the strategy has proven to work so far - albeit at the expense of tourism.

Plane passengers out of Kulusuk	2019	2020	2019	2020	% change
Greenland	636	40	640	57	-91.1%
Other countries	152		153	0	-100.0%
Australia	54	2	54	3	-94.7%
Canada	174	3	175	4	-97.6%
Denmark	453	74	456	106	-76.8%
France	231	1	232	1	-99.4%
Holland	67	17	67	24	-64.0%
Hong Kong	7		7	0	-100.0%
India	24		24	0	-100.0%
Indonesia	68		68	0	-100.0%
Iceland	207	7	208	10	-95.2%
Italy	114	1	115	1	-98.8%
Japan	22		22	0	-100.0%
China	26		26	0	-100.0%
Malaysia	18		18	0	-100.0%
Norway	85	5	85	7	-91.7%
Austria	76	3	76	4	-94.4%
Other Asia	12		12	0	-100.0%
Other Europe	192	4	193	6	-97.0%
Poland	44		44	0	-100.0%
Russia	36		36	0	-100.0%
Switzerland	218	3	219	4	-98.0%
Singapore	7		7	0	-100.0%
Spain	45		45	0	-100.0%
Great Britain	280	6	282	9	-97.0%
Sweden	24	1	24	1	-94.1%
South Korea			0	0	
Taiwan	149		150	0	-100.0%
Germany	525	24	528	34	-93.5%
USA	738	13	742	19	-97.5%
N/A	26	87			
Total	4,710	291	4,710	291	-93.8%
Total without N/A	4,684	204			
N/A share	0.6%	29.9%			
Tourists			4,070	234	-94.3%

Flight passengers out of Constable Point airport

Plane passengers out of Constable Point	2019	2020	2019	2020	% change
Greenland	259	118	522	202	-61.4%
Other countries	1		2	0	-100.0%
Australia		1	0	2	
Canada			0	0	
Denmark	104	37	210	63	-69.8%
France	67	3	135	5	-96.2%
Holland	2		4	0	-100.0%
Hong Kong			0	0	
India	2		4	0	-100.0%
Indonesia			0	0	
Iceland	24	5	48	9	-82.3%
Italy	2		4	0	-100.0%
Japan	28		56	0	-100.0%
China			0	0	
Malaysia			0	0	
Norway	7	5	14	9	-39.4%
Austria	2		4	0	-100.0%
Other Asia			0	0	
Other Europe	1		2	0	-100.0%
Poland	1	1	2	2	-15.2%
Russia	100		202	0	-100.0%
Switzerland	4		8	0	-100.0%
Singapore			0	0	
Spain			0	0	
Great Britain	124		250	0	-100.0%
Sweden	1		2	0	-100.0%
South Korea	1		2	0	-100.0%
Taiwan			0	0	
Germany	29	2	58	3	-94.2%
USA	7		14	0	-100.0%
N/A	778	122			
Total	1,544	294	1,544	294	-81.0%
Total without N/A	766	172			
N/A share	50.4%	41.5%			
Tourists			1,022	92	-91.0%

Icelandair/Norlandair timeline (Akureyri-Nerlerit Inaat)

Two flights weekly until the COVID-19 lockdown in mid-March. For the rest of 2020, there were only a few freight and charter flights, on which it was allowed to carry passengers from Nerlerit Inaat to Akureyri, but not the other way.

As can be seen, the proportion of unregistered passengers (category 'Undisclosed') was quite high both in 2019 (50.4%) and 2020 (41.5%), which means that the converted data (the 'Undisclosed' passengers distributed proportionally among the country segments) must be interpreted with reservations.

Number of overnights and guests in North Greenland

Overnight stays North Greenland	2019	2020	2019	2020	% change
Greenland	41,968	36,331	42,501	37,467	-11.8%
Denmark	35,153	15,947	35,599	16,446	-53.8%
Germany	3,880	686	3,929	707	-82.0%
Other Europe	718	397	727	409	-43.7%
Great Britain	767	326	777	336	-56.7%
USA	1,753	323	1,775	333	-81.2%
Iceland	1,772	226	1,795	233	-87.0%
France	1,490	157	1,509	162	-89.3%
Other countries	1,480	137	1,499	141	-90.6%
Other Asia	552	81	559	84	-85.1%
Switzerland	1,015	68	1,028	70	-93.2%
China	1,104	66	1,118	68	-93.9%
Canada	380	65	385	67	-82.6%
Italy	392	62	397	64	-83.9%
Holland	390	57	395	59	-85.1%
Sweden	663	52	671	54	-92.0%
Australia	513	48	520	50	-90.5%
Norway	458	38	464	39	-91.6%
Austria	223	26	226	27	-88.1%
Hong Kong	1,102	25	1,116	26	-97.7%
Poland	176	21	178	22	-87.8%
Japan	427	19	432	20	-95.5%
Malaysia	30	12	30	12	-59.3%
Spain	234	7	237	7	-97.0%
Indonesia	24	0	24	0	-100.0%
Russia	61	0	62	0	-100.0%
Singapore	64	0	65	0	-100.0%
South Korea	36	0	36	0	-100.0%
Taiwan	96	0	97	0	-100.0%
N/A	1,231	1,725			
Total excl. N/A	96,921	55,177			
Total	98,152	56,902			
Tourists			55,651	19,435	-65.1%
N/A share	1.3%	3.0%			

The decline in North Greenland in 2020 is in line with the national numbers both in terms of number of overnights and number of guests.

In terms of the number of overnight stays, the decline for Denmark, Great Britain and the rest of Europe is not nearly as drastic as for the other country segments.

In terms of the number of guests, Denmark accounts for the smallest decline of all country segments, with a decline of 63.8%.

Guests North Greenland	2019	2020	2019	2020	% change
Greenland	17,206	13,840	17,275	14,012	-18.9%
Denmark	13,593	4,880	13,647	4,941	-63.8%
Germany	1,574	178	1,580	180	-88.6%
USA	801	115	804	116	-85.5%
Great Britain	363	95	364	96	-73.6%
Iceland	688	82	691	83	-88.0%
France	683	64	686	65	-90.6%
Other countries	573	39	575	39	-93.1%
Other Asia	241	29	242	29	-87.9%
Italy	166	28	167	28	-83.0%
Other Europe	303	28	304	28	-90.7%
Switzerland	399	27	401	27	-93.2%
China	443	24	445	24	-94.5%
Canada	143	16	144	16	-88.7%
Australia	219	15	220	15	-93.1%
Holland	195	13	196	13	-93.3%
Norway	131	13	132	13	-90.0%
Sweden	273	13	274	13	-95.2%
Austria	81	8	81	8	-90.0%
Hong Kong	548	6	550	6	-98.9%
Japan	175	5	176	5	-97.1%
Poland	76	5	76	5	-93.4%
Spain	97	5	97	5	-94.8%
Malaysia	12	2	12	2	-83.2%
Indonesia	10	0	10	0	-100.0%
Russia	33	0	33	0	-100.0%
Singapore	33	0	33	0	-100.0%
South Korea	12	0	12	0	-100.0%
Taiwan	47	0	47	0	-100.0%
N/A	156	243			
Total excl. N/A	39,118	19,530			
Total	39,274	19,773			
Tourists			21,999	5,761	-73.8%
N/A share	0.4%	1.2%			

Number of overnights and guests in Arctic Circle Region

Overnight stays Arctic Circle Region	2019	2020	2019	2020	% change
Greenland	29,927	20,489	29,927	22,548	-24.7%
Denmark	15,733	5,320	15,733	5,854	-62.8%
Germany	1,741	400	1,741	440	-74.7%
Other Europe	668	352	668	387	-42.0%
Other Asia	388	178	388	196	-49.5%
Great Britain	842	153	842	168	-80.0%
Other countries	77	126	77	139	80.1%
USA	2,769	108	2,769	119	-95.7%
Canada	375	97	375	107	-71.5%
Iceland	384	68	384	75	-80.5%
Norway	365	62	365	68	-81.3%
Austria	86	58	86	64	-25.8%
France	656	57	656	63	-90.4%
Holland	244	47	244	52	-78.8%
Sweden	246	42	246	46	-81.2%
Japan	198	34	198	37	-81.1%
Switzerland	413	34	413	37	-90.9%
Poland	83	17	83	19	-77.5%
Singapore	96	15	96	17	-82.8%
Italy	139	12	139	13	-90.5%
Indonesia	23	9	23	10	-56.9%
Spain	46	8	46	9	-80.9%
Australia	169	6	169	7	-96.1%
Hong Kong	30	6	30	7	-78.0%
Malaysia	6	6	6	7	10.0%
Russia	67	5	67	6	-91.8%
China	94	1	94	1	-98.8%
South Korea	44	0	44	0	-100.0%
Taiwan	23	0	23	0	-100.0%
N/A	0	2,784			
Total excl. N/A	55,932	27,710			
Total	55,932	30,494			
Tourists			26,005	7,946	-69.4%
N/A share	0.0%	9.1%			

Also in Arctic Circle Region, the decline in 2020 is in line with the national numbers, both in terms of overnights and number of guests.

In terms of the number of overnights, the decline for the rest of Europe, the rest of Asia and Austria is smaller than the decline in the other country segments.

In terms of number of guests, the decline for the rest of Europe and Other Countries is smaller than the other country segments.

Malaysia is notable, as there is a 10% increase in number of overnights and a 70.3% increase in number of guests, but when there are so few individuals (7 in 2020 and 4 in 2019), it is difficult to derive anything meaningful from a statistical perspective.

Guests Arctic Circle Region	2019	2020	2019	2020	% change
Greenland	15229	9560	15,229	10,855	-28.7%
Denmark	7803	2356	7,803	2,675	-65.7%
Germany	901	182	901	207	-77.1%
Other Europe	351	140	351	159	-54.7%
Great Britain	438	100	438	114	-74.1%
USA	988	73	988	83	-91.6%
Canada	257	71	257	81	-68.6%
Iceland	273	43	273	49	-82.1%
Other Asia	157	42	157	48	-69.6%
Norway	223	32	223	36	-83.7%
France	277	25	277	28	-89.8%
Holland	99	22	99	25	-74.8%
Switzerland	210	20	210	23	-89.2%
Other countries	39	19	39	22	-44.7%
Poland	47	17	47	19	-58.9%
Japan	97	9	97	10	-89.5%
Sweden	155	9	155	10	-93.4%
Austria	62	9	62	10	-83.5%
Italy	47	7	47	8	-83.1%
Malaysia	4	6	4	7	70.3%
Spain	19	6	19	7	-64.1%
Australia	83	5	83	6	-93.2%
Singapore	55	5	55	6	-89.7%
Hong Kong	23	4	23	5	-80.3%
Indonesia	14	3	14	3	-75.7%
Russia	32	3	32	3	-89.4%
China	50	1	50	1	-97.7%
South Korea	32	0	32	0	-100.0%
Taiwan	23	0	23	0	-100.0%
N/A	0	1730			
Total excl. N/A	27,988	12,769			
Total	27,988	14,499			
Tourists			12,759	3,644	-71.4%
N/A share	0.0%	11.9%			

Number of overnights and guests in Capital Region

Overnight stays Capital Region	2019	2020	% change
Greenland	38,050	41,803	9.9%
Denmark	17,492	9,845	-43.7%
Great Britain	251	347	38.2%
Iceland	480	310	-35.4%
Canada	458	290	-36.7%
USA	1,113	271	-75.7%
Norway	564	212	-62.4%
Sweden	420	132	-68.6%
Other countries	336	110	-67.3%
Malaysia	2	58	2800.0%
Germany	284	51	-82.0%
France	170	44	-74.1%
Switzerland	75	40	-46.7%
Australia	93	27	-71.0%
Holland	61	15	-75.4%
Italy	45	15	-66.7%
Other Asia	57	15	-73.7%
Other Europe	260	14	-94.6%
Poland	7	10	42.9%
Spain	24	7	-70.8%
China	159	6	-96.2%
Austria	19	4	-78.9%
South Korea	6	2	-66.7%
Hong Kong	6	1	-83.3%
Japan	28	1	-96.4%
Indonesia	17	0	-100.0%
Russia	13	0	-100.0%
Singapore	39	0	-100.0%
Total	60,529	53,630	-11.4%
Tourists	22,479	11,827	-47.4%

In Capital Region, in 2019 and 2020, there were no unregistered overnights/guests (i.e. undisclosed country of residence).

It is initially a great surprise to note an increase in the numbers of overnight stays for the UK, Malaysia and Poland, but this is most likely due to guests being stranded in Nuuk due to COVID-19 travel restrictions.

If you look at the same 3 country segments in relation to the number of guests, the UK shows a 3.5% decline, Poland shows an increase of 500% (6 guests in 2020 and 1 in 2019), and Malaysia shows a 100% increase (4 in 2020 and 2 in 2019).

Again, when it comes to such small samples, the results can be counterintuitive on a purely statistical level, so we must take appropriate reservations.

Guests Capital Region	2019	2020	% change
Greenland	12,711	11,981	-5.7%
Denmark	4,664	2,308	-50.5%
Great Britain	114	110	-3.5%
Iceland	211	105	-50.2%
Canada	223	103	-53.8%
USA	494	88	-82.2%
Norway	224	81	-63.8%
Sweden	128	35	-72.7%
Other countries	168	34	-79.8%
Germany	118	24	-79.7%
France	81	15	-81.5%
Switzerland	32	12	-62.5%
Australia	36	11	-69.4%
Italy	19	10	-47.4%
Other Europe	107	8	-92.5%
Holland	28	6	-78.6%
China	85	6	-92.9%
Poland	1	6	500.0%
Malaysia	2	4	100.0%
Other Asia	3	4	33.3%
Spain	14	3	-78.6%
Austria	12	2	-83.3%
Hong Kong	2	1	-50.0%
South Korea	4	1	-75.0%
Indonesia	15	0	-100.0%
Japan	14	0	-100.0%
Russia	5	0	-100.0%
Singapore	12	0	-100.0%
Total	19,527	14,958	-23.4%
Tourists	6,816	2,977	-56.3%

Number of overnights and guests in South Greenland

Overnight stays South Greenland	2019	2020	2019	2020	% change
Greenland	20,711	20,937	20,712	22,784	10.0%
Denmark	4,572	1,265	4,572	1,377	-69.9%
Canada	35	37	35	40	15.0%
Other countries	434	36	434	39	-91.0%
Iceland	493	28	493	30	-93.8%
Great Britain	242	21	242	23	-90.6%
USA	504	21	504	23	-95.5%
Other Europe	305	21	305	23	-92.5%
Hong Kong	60	20	60	22	-63.7%
Germany	579	20	579	22	-96.2%
Sweden	90	13	90	14	-84.3%
France	478	12	478	13	-97.3%
Switzerland	161	10	161	11	-93.2%
Austria	146	7	146	8	-94.8%
China	107	4	107	4	-95.9%
Norway	144	4	144	4	-97.0%
Japan	7	2	7	2	-68.9%
Australia	150	1	150	1	-99.3%
Holland	176	0	176	0	-100.0%
Indonesia	2	0	2	0	-100.0%
Italy	205	0	205	0	-100.0%
Malaysia	3	0	3	0	-100.0%
Poland	12	0	12	0	-100.0%
Russia	9	0	9	0	-100.0%
Singapore	2	0	2	0	-100.0%
Spain	1,619	0	1,619	0	-100.0%
South Korea	30	0	30	0	-100.0%
Other Asia	112	0	112	0	-100.0%
N/A	2	1,981			
Total excl. N/A	31,388	22,459			
Total	31,390	24,440			
Tourists			10,678	1,656	-84.5%
N/A share	0.0%	8.1%			

The decline in South Greenland is much larger than the national average in terms of both number of overnights and number of guests.

It is worth noting that there is a 10% increase in the number of overnight stays for Greenlanders, which is consistent with other data on staycation tourism in 2020.

The only other region that has an increase in the number of overnight stays for Greenlanders is Sermersooq West, but it is just as likely that this is due to more business travellers to Nuuk.

Also in terms of number of overnights, it is notable that the Canada segment shows an increase of 15%. However, the same segment accounts for a decrease of 52.5% in terms of number of guests, so this is most likely because of stranded guests due to COVID-19.

Guests South Greenland	2019	2020	2019	2020	% change
Greenland	8,779	7,871	8,780	8,500	-3.2%
Denmark	2,025	445	2,025	481	-76.3%
Other countries	234	12	234	13	-94.5%
Canada	25	11	25	12	-52.5%
Iceland	263	11	263	12	-95.5%
USA	242	11	242	12	-95.1%
Germany	314	10	314	11	-96.6%
Other Europe	179	8	179	9	-95.2%
Hong Kong	33	7	33	8	-77.1%
France	253	6	253	6	-97.4%
Switzerland	95	6	95	6	-93.2%
Great Britain	137	5	137	5	-96.1%
Austria	76	5	76	5	-92.9%
Japan	5	2	5	2	-56.8%
China	36	2	36	2	-94.0%
Sweden	61	2	61	2	-96.5%
Australia	84	1	84	1	-98.7%
Norway	77	1	77	1	-98.6%
Holland	79	0	79	0	-100.0%
Indonesia	2	0	2	0	-100.0%
Italy	91	0	91	0	-100.0%
Malaysia	2	0	2	0	-100.0%
Poland	6	0	6	0	-100.0%
Russia	7	0	7	0	-100.0%
Singapore	1	0	1	0	-100.0%
Spain	930	0	930	0	-100.0%
South Korea	19	0	19	0	-100.0%
Other Asia	18	0	18	0	-100.0%
N/A	1	673			
Total excl. N/A	14,073	8,416			
Total	14,074	9,089			
Tourists			5,294	589	-88.9%
N/A share	0.0%	7.4%			

Number of overnights and guests in East Greenland

Overnight stays East Greenland	2019	2020	% change
Greenland	1,307	784	-40.0%
Germany	3,454	173	-95.0%
Italy	798	127	-84.1%
Denmark	273	80	-70.7%
USA	344	5	-98.5%
Austria	182	5	-97.3%
Great Britain	318	4	-98.7%
Spain	75	2	-97.3%
Other countries	262	0	-100.0%
Australia	53	0	-100.0%
Canada	150	0	-100.0%
France	774	0	-100.0%
Holland	86	0	-100.0%
Hong Kong	1	0	-100.0%
Iceland	136	0	-100.0%
China	45	0	-100.0%
Malaysia	1	0	-100.0%
Norway	139	0	-100.0%
Russia	2	0	-100.0%
Switzerland	464	0	-100.0%
Taiwan	6	0	-100.0%
Other Europe	72	0	-100.0%
N/A	9,816	8,102	
Total excl. N/A	8,942	1,180	
Total	18,758	9,282	
Tourists % share	85.4%	33.6%	
N/A % share	52.3%	87.3%	
Rough estimate no. of tourists	16,016	3,115	-80.6%

There has unfortunately been a low proportion of registered overnights/guests in Sermersooq East for many years, and the country segment data is, therefore, not statistically valid. We have, therefore, only been able to come up with a very rough estimate of the number of overnights and guests for each tourist segment.

Thus, 52.3% of overnight stays in 2019 were not registered according to nationality (category 'Undisclosed'), and in 2020, 87.3% were not registered.

In terms of the number of guests, 73.2% were not registered in 2019 and as much as 94.0% were not registered in 2020.

East Greenland was shut off from the outside world due to COVID-19 in March 2020. The last departure to Iceland with Icelandair was on 18th March. Since then, there have only been a few charter and freight flights via Iceland. It has not been allowed for non-Greenlandic residents to visit the region, and this restriction will be maintained at least until 2nd May 2021 (at the time of writing).

Guests East Greenland	2019	2020	% change
Greenland	182	99	-45.6%
Germany	386	19	-95.1%
Italy	82	6	-92.7%
Denmark	55	5	-90.9%
Great Britain	47	2	-95.7%
Spain	12	1	-91.7%
USA	75	1	-98.7%
Austria	23	1	-95.7%
Other countries	45	0	-100.0%
Australia	11	0	-100.0%
Canada	37	0	-100.0%
France	157	0	-100.0%
Holland	9	0	-100.0%
Hong Kong	1	0	-100.0%
Iceland	52	0	-100.0%
China	9	0	-100.0%
Malaysia	1	0	-100.0%
Norway	33	0	-100.0%
Russia	2	0	-100.0%
Switzerland	64	0	-100.0%
Taiwan	2	0	-100.0%
Other Europe	19	0	-100.0%
N/A	3,561	2,083	
Total excl. N/A	1,304	134	
Total	4,865	2,217	
Tourists % share	86.0%	26.1%	
N/A % share	73.2%	94.0%	
Rough estimate no. of tourists	4,186	579	-86.2%

Summary

As mentioned, this report is structured quite differently to other years' reports (since the 2015 season), since the COVID-19 crisis made the 2020 season extraordinary.

A decrease of approximately 70% in land-based tourism and a 100% decrease in cruise tourism has left deep impacts, and at the time of writing there are no prospects of significant improvement in 2021, and we should probably prepare ourselves for a decline in 2021 that will be at approximately the same level as in 2020.

The Government has announced that the aid packages for the tourism industry will be extended tentatively through to June 2021, and the Nunarput Nuan campaign will continue into 2021.

These two things can help to save the most vulnerable tourism operators from having to close down, but one should not underestimate how hard hit the tourism industry in Greenland is, and there is a need for the whole of society to support the restart of tourism.

Fortunately, the population's attitudes towards tourism have not turned in a negative direction in the wake of the crisis - on the contrary.

Unfortunately, we do not currently have solid data on how many Greenlandic tourism operators have had to close up shop because of the crisis, but we will prepare a report on this and publish it.

It is still too early to analyse the full consequences of the COVID-19 crisis, since at the time of writing, it is not over. It is already clear that the first 4 months of 2021 have started even worse than in 2020.

We will, after all travel restrictions have been lifted, conduct another survey among Greenlandic tourism operators, in order to get a full overview of the negative effects of the crisis in the Greenlandic tourism industry.

Our new director, Hjörtur Smarason, has announced that Visit Greenland, together with the industry, will launch initiatives to restore the demand for Greenland as an adventure destination, and will aim to reach 100,000 tourists to Greenland already in 2022.

If this is to succeed, we must all pull together. Finally, we wish everyone the best possible 2021 season!

