

Day 8 August 1, Nanortalik Utilities – Scenic Cruising in Prins Christian Sund:

Nanortalik Utilities: In the blog entry for Day 7 in Nanortalik, Greenland there was a nerdy observation regarding supply of utilities to houses that Orlin wanted to make but neglected to mention in yesterday's write-up. We will take this opportunity to make the comment in today's blog.

Most of the residential housing in Nanortalik was of a very modest type set on small lots close to the street. The soil under the town is very thin in most places with bare solid rock showing in almost every yard. We noticed that there were no electrical supply wires strung between utility poles, probably because of the severe winter wind and snow. Instead, insulated electric cable is encased in steel conduit tubes that frequently can be seen snaking over bare rock between houses. While shallow burial or bare rock exposure works for the electricity supply year round it doesn't work for household plumbing that would freeze solid in the winter time. One has to wonder how the water and sewer facilities are provided for each house. Our research on the subject was admittedly superficial in our 3 hour walk. How they handle toilet sewage is still a mystery but supply of fresh water and grey waste water removal was explained by the photos below, at least for many of the houses.



Apparently fresh water is supplied by way of a 2 inch diameter black plastic tube that is laid above ground between houses. In this case the black plastic line is laid in the gutter off the street and take-off lines carry water to each house. The black tubing can be seen leaving the gutter and being attached to the house plumbing system about half way up the

side of the wall near a white framed window. Of course, the water would freeze solid in the winter but this probably works fine in the warm summer and it is more convenient than whatever they do for fresh water in the winter.

One summer time solution for disposal of grey water from the kitchen sink and bath tub was illustrated in the photo below.

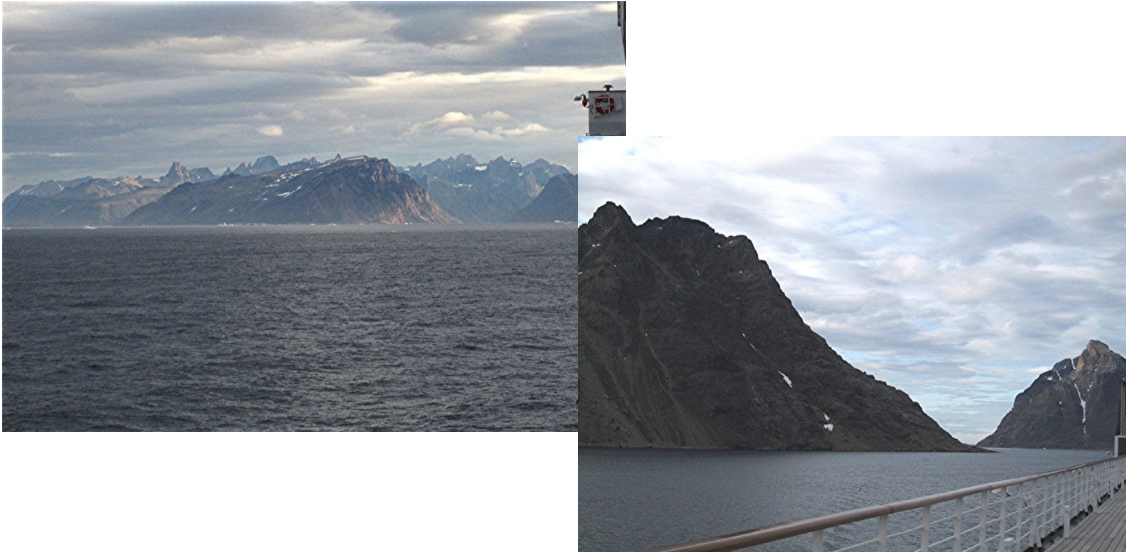


A drain pipe can be seen coming out of the house below the middle white framed window, probably the kitchen sink location. That drain pipe was connected to a larger yellow pipe that dumped the waste water into the gutter along the street. A black plastic fresh water supply line can be seen on the left coming out of the gutter and leading up the wall about half way where it enters the house. Neither one of these water utility set-ups would work well in freezing weather so what the inhabitants do for fresh water supply and waste water disposal in the winter will have to be the subject of more research.

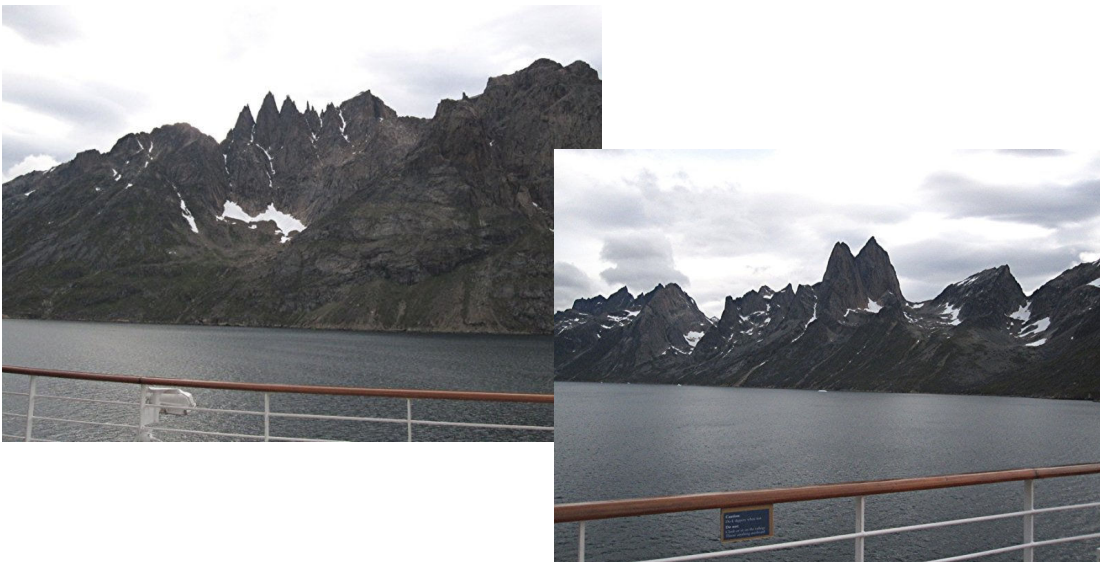
A Scenic cruise through Prins Christian Sund: This morning we woke to smooth seas and occasional sunshine breaking through the overcast. We had cruised southeast along the coast of Greenland all night and were entering Prins Christian Sund which is a deep narrow strip of water through the mountainous southern tip of Greenland. Prins Christian Sund is famous for its rugged beauty and people have been known to take this Voyage of the Vikings cruise several times just for the opportunity to make this passage. Some cruises that have been scheduled earlier in the season have been blocked by excessive ice in the channel but this morning we were in luck. The path through the ice was clear enough for the Maasdam and we went through. Barbara Haenni, the Maasdam travel guide, got on the public address system and gave a running commentary about the

wonderful scenery we were passing through. We took a ton of pictures with our little camera and without much further verbiage will just show some of our better photos that give an idea of what we saw today. Our friend, Jeff, has a serious camera and skill to go with it so he was probably also busy today taking pictures. For those interested in this scenery, a check of Jeff's blog covering the Prins Christian Sund would probably be worthwhile <http://amazingvoyages.blogspot.com> .

These initial photos show the mountains at the entrance to the channel with the promise of bigger heights to com.



Once inside the fjord the scenery just got better:





According to travel guide, Barbara, this brightly colored and completely isolated village shown below is home to seal hunters.



The blue color of the iceberg on the left is caused by diffraction of light in the ice that has been compressed to unusually high density by intense pressure when it was part of a glacier. When it melts it produces clear water (not blue) just like any other water from ice.



On our verandah it was cool but comfortable in along sleeved shirt.



During passage through the fjord people in their staterooms could view the scene on their TV while travel guide Barbara gave the commentary.





Near the end of the passage we passed a French cruise ship that was smaller than the Maasdam and appeared to be nearly touching the foot of a glacier, as shown below.



After nearly 4 hours of magnificent scenery of the Prins Christian Sund we came to the end and passed out into the open ocean. After exiting the fjord, the Maasdam took a northeasterly heading towards our next port of call.

After dinner we retreated to the Rembrandt Lounge where we were treated to a lively show called “Club Nevada” put on by the Maasdam Singers and Dancers. The replacement “light board” that got rushed to the ship in Red Bay is still controlling the artistic stage lighting very well.

We have another day at sea tomorrow and then on Monday we will visit the town of Isafjordur on the northwest corner of Iceland.

