

Rotterdam from Rotterdam the New York City via Greenland. The Rotterdam sailed through beautiful Prins Christian Sund (Prince Christian Sound) and then called at the town of Qaortoq on Greenland's southwest coast.

In southern Greenland there is a network of channels and fjords stretching 450 km. Prins Christian Sund, one of these channels, is navigable only from the middle of summer until late autumn. This remote area offers spectacular scenery. Glaciers, waterfalls, 1400-meter-high granite peaks and icebergs can all be seen. Prins Christian Sund is 58 km long and only 480 meters wide at its narrowest point. By comparison, the length of the Rotterdam is 237 meters.

Qaortoq, the largest town in southern Greenland with a population of 3,600, is situated in the area where Norsemen settled in the tenth century. It is unclear why Norse settlement in Greenland failed by the fifteenth century. However, Norse ruins can still be seen today 15 km from town. A Norwegian trader founded Qaortoq in 1775. The town was originally named Junionehab after Danish Queen Juliana Marie. Junionehab became the largest trading post in southern Greenland, and it maintains that distinction today. The oldest standing house was built in 1797.

As is the case with all towns in Greenland, Qaortoq has no road connections with any other city. Instead, the inhabitants of Qaortoq use ferries and helicopters for public transportation. Because the harbor in Qaortoq is small, the Rotterdam sat at anchor and passengers were taken ashore by the ship's tenders.

Qaortoq is an academic center, with both a vocational school and a commercial college which interestingly, offers a course in tourism. In addition, a nearby agricultural research station trains sheep farmers and operates an experimental farm.

It was interesting to walk in the

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center of Qaortoq where several wooden and stone houses date back to the nineteenth century. A decade ago 18 Scandinavian sculptors created works of art on solid rock faces and on boulders lying around town. Today 24 sculptures exist. Too, Qaortoq boasts Greenland's only fountain. Built in 1928, this sits in a town square. Finally, there is a small museum.

