



**B-3**

### Assistant Residence

The assistant residence from 1948 was built to house working scientists affiliated with the Meteorological Institute. Despite the significant challenges of obtaining building materials in the remote and harsh climate, the residence was constructed as

a solid and functional building. It served as an important base for researchers working on weather observations and climate studies in the area.



**B-6**

### Geophysical Laboratory

The building from 1927 is worthy of preservation and stands out from the surrounding structures with its distinctive gabled dormer. It blends beautifully into the cityscape.

Later, the first floor was used by local TV, while the ground floor was occupied by the social services department.



**B-160**

### Ionosphere Station

The first ionosphere station was established in 1951 and was located in the town. After a fire, a new station with residential facilities was built in 1956, approximately 2 km east of the town near Røde Elv. Jørgen Taagholt, born in 1934, was a researcher and head of the Ionosphere Laboratory at the Meteorological Institute from 1965 to 1983, as well as the Danish Scientific Liaison Officer for Greenland from 1967 to 2001. He was also a board member of the Arctic Institute from 1983 to 2010. The former Ionosphere station is now privately owned.



The magnetic observatory in Greenland was established to understand Earth's magnetic variations. La Cour chose Qeqertarsuaq due to the town's status as the capital of North Greenland and its radio station. The observatory was founded in 1926, and state meteorologist Johannes Olsen arrived the same year aboard M/S Hans Egede to take over from the Swedish magnetician Dr. Gustav Ljungdahl. Johannes worked alone during the first few months, although typically three people were required. Later, he was assisted by 17-year-old Ole Mølgaard, who would change the photographic paper in the observatory daily at 8:01 AM. From 1926 to 1975, the observatory operated in the town, until it became necessary to relocate to a new building due to the town's growth.

**B-488**

### Magnetic Observatory

In 1924, the director of the Danish Meteorological Institute, D. la Cour, was encouraged at an international conference in Madrid to establish a magnetic observatory.



**B-276**

### Cosmic Observatory

The building was constructed in 1938. Cosmic radiation differs from wave radiation, such as light and radio waves, as it consists of rapidly moving atoms and atomic fragments.

These particles travel at such high speeds that they often penetrate the atmosphere in just one or a few thousandths of a second. The observatory in Qeqertarsuaq was established as part of Greenland's magnetic observation program and played an important role during the International Geophysical Year.



### THE KING'S BRIDGE & THE GATEWAY TO THE WORLD

The King's Bridge, marked at the landfall by a whale jawbone gate, was erected for King Christian X's visit on July 14, 1921. Over time, the King's

Bridge has been visited by several members of the royal family. King Frederik IX and Queen Ingrid visited Qeqertarsuaq in 1952. The former Queen Margrethe and then Crown Prince Frederik also visited the bridge. In 2024, King Frederik X and Queen Mary arrived in Qeqertarsuaq via the King's Bridge during their official visit to Greenland. The King's Bridge is used daily in the summer by sailors arriving and departing from Qeqertarsuaq. The whale jawbone gate, erected in 1973 as part of the city's 200th anniversary, is known as the "Gateway to the World." It marks the harbor where sailors have been welcomed to and from the town over the years. The gate stands as a symbol of the town's history, which began in 1773 as a whaling station.



**B-1**

### Arctic Station

The building was constructed in 1906 and completed in 1907. The Arctic Station, also known as the Arctic Research Center, affiliated with the University of Copenhagen, serves as a base for research and education focused on the Arctic environment. Topics such as climate change, Arctic nature, geology, and environmental science are studied here. The station offers a unique opportunity for interdisciplinary research in the Arctic.

**B-348**

### New Arctic Station

The building, constructed in 1965, was designed by architects Eva and Niels Koppel. The building is notable for its architectural design. It features a high basement level, which serves as a natural stone foundation, and above it, there is a cantilevered wooden structure with a canopy.



**QAQQALIAA**

The building is shaped like the jaw of a Greenland whale. Qaqqaliaa has existed since the late 1700s and is located a short walk south of the town of Qeqertarsuaq. In the past, the locals used Qaqqaliaa to spot whales from the coast. When someone spotted a whale from here, the news quickly spread throughout the town, and the hunters would sail out to attempt to catch the whales. During the colonial era, whale blubber was particularly valuable, as it was used as fuel for oil lamps in the growing European cities. The building housed a whale spotter, and there were many signatures inside that testified to its history. In 1965, however, the building was destroyed by a storm, but fortunately, we now have a new building that closely resembles the original.



## HISTORICAL HOUSES IN QEERTARSUAQ SELF GUIDED TOUR

PLEASE RESPECT PRIVATE HOUSES

See our community guidelines on our website:  
[www.diskobay.gl](http://www.diskobay.gl)

There are many historic houses in Qeqertarsuaq, ranging from old colonial houses to research facilities and private homes. A brochure has been designed to provide the best city experience and insights into the town's historical buildings.

"B-number" is a house number. This activity can be done individually or in groups at your own pace.

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**DESTINATION**  
**DISKOBAY**



B-4

The Provincial Council Building  
Built in 1913, the building served as the meeting place for the Provincial Council of North Greenland until 1947. Over the years, it has also functioned as a printing house and a school.

The seven bay building features a bay window on the north facade with a continuous gabled dormer over the central bays. Its stately architecture is unusual in Greenlandic conditions.



B-13

### The Chief Merchant's Residence

Designed by architect Helge Bojsen-Møller in 1923, the Chief Merchant's Residence features projections at the pilasters on both facades, accentuated by details include two chimneys and a small lookout window on the south gable. Later modifications include the addition of a dormer on the west-facing roof and architectural well-proportioned, the building plays a prominent role in the townscape. In front of the building, the town's flag battery faces the harbor.



B-5

### Inspector and County Governor's Residence

Built around 1840 and extended to the south in 1850, the building stands on a natural stone foundation with a shingle-covered roof and shutters on the windows of the north facade. The double entrance door features a profiled transom and a balcony with stairs. Today, the building serves as a museum, but it was once the state's most important representative building in North Greenland. Two outbuildings and "The King's Bridge" with the whale jawbone gate contribute to the overall setting.



B-208

### The Stone House Archive

The archive, constructed with local materials in 1912-13, has also served as a workshop. The building is made of roughly hewn natural stone. A porch and round windows in the gable corners provide a unique architectural detail. The house is covered by low, flat roofs clad with felt, emphasizing the use of available materials and the adaptation of craftsmanship to local conditions.



B-16

### Carpenter's workshop

Built in 1902 as part of several divisions under Kongelige Grønlandske Handel (KGH), the carpentry workshop has likely been expanded over time.

Today, the building's facades are clad with plywood panels. It is now owned by the Hunter and Fishermen's Association.



B-15

The Old KGH Store  
The building, originally serving as a store for Den Kongelige Grønlandske Handel (KGH), was constructed in 1939. It was expanded in 1967, and in 1985, a separate building was added to the east. The structure is built as timber framed construction, reflecting the traditional architectural style of the period.

KGH was a Danish state run trading company that held a monopoly on all trade with Greenland from 1776 to 1950. The company operated stores like this one, where goods were sold to the local population, and trading activities were managed. KGH played a central role in Greenland's economic and social development and left a lasting mark on many buildings and infrastructures in the region.



B-33

### Blubber House

Built in 1852 as a blubber house, and later used as a warehouse, the building is a timber-framed structure with an exterior staircase on the east gable. Today, the building stands unused.

In its time, the building served as a store for KGH, where whale and seal blubber was purchased. At one point, production of candles, perfume, soap, and other products.



B-12

### The Bakery

Opført omkring 1935 og udvidet i 1967. I 1930'erne var bagerier stældene i Grønland, og de fleste bagte selv. Rugbrød og skikskiks var populære for deres holdbarhed, mens hvedebrød var en luksusimporterede mel og bagte forsyninger, i større byer. KGH's handelsstationer ofte med små bagerier tilknyttet i byerne.



B-183

### The Warehouse

Built in 1880, once featured the marking "J2" in yellow on its roof, though these markings are now less visible. The "J2" sign was used as a navigation reference for pilots, helping them identify their location. These warehouses were central to trade, where KGH purchased goods and exported them, particularly to Europe. The warehouses were not just storage facilities, but vital links between Greenland's hunting culture and international trade.



B-34

### The Warehouse Building

Built in 1950, the building was originally used as a storage house for vegetables. Some locals call it "The potato house," it is a simple wooden construction, with the outer walls made of turf, which was a practical material for insulation in the Arctic climate. The building's straightforward design reflects the functional needs it had in its original use.



B-23

This stone building with a wooden roof, constructed in 1873, was originally designed as a storage facility for gunpowder. The solid stone walls and wooden roof were chosen to minimize the risk of explosions and protect the surrounding area. The purpose was to create a safe and stable place to store gunpowder and ammunition, ensuring that any accidents would not cause harm.



B-69

### The Priest House

Designed by P.A. Cortzen and built in 1909, it has since been expanded with a separate annex. The main building stands out with its characteristic stepped shape, elegant roof structure, and fine decorative elements.



B-84

### Radiostations/Masters

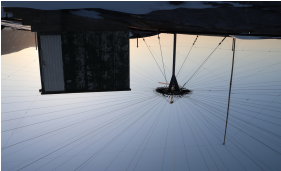
In 1924, the Greenland Administration worked on a project to establish radio stations in Qeqertarsuaq, Nuuk, Ammassalik, and Qaqortoq, with Professor P.O. Pedersen as a consultant. The first stations opened in 1925, which significantly changed communication, as letters previously could take up to a year each way. The Qeqertarsuaq and Nuuk stations were equipped with 0.5 kW tube transmitters, covering distances of up to 800 km. Among the radio station buildings in Qeqertarsuaq, some of the green buildings and masts still stand, serving as a testament to the station's importance.



B-163

The very first telegram sent from Denmark was dispatched on September 6th at 14:23, 1925, from this small building. The content of the telegram was as follows:

"Today, we have opened the Radio Telegraph Station in Godhavn for operation - sending the first telegram to the King with respectful greetings from the Danes and Greenlanders here, all is well - Hauges, Minister of the Interior." On September 8th, the King replied from Skagen. The reply telegram was received on September 10th: "Thanks with reciprocal greetings - expressing best wishes for the new connection between Denmark and Greenland - Christian."



B-67 & B-68

### The Church & The Mortuary Chapel

Designed by architect Helge Bojsen Møller and built in 1913 by carpenter P. Vedsted. The church's pagoda like style and octagonal wooden ship rest on a whitewashed stone foundation. The red building has been nicknamed "The Lord's Ink House", in 1975, the church was expanded with the addition of three new bays to the western side of the building, as overseen by architect Ole Nielsen. The mortuary chapel is a timber-framed construction from 1915, relocated to its current location in 1975.