



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

The trail description in this leaflet is only approximate and cannot replace backcountry hiking experience and the usual attention to weather and trail conditions.

Also, please note that the map in the leaflet cannot replace an actual topographical map and that the depicted trail is only a rough outline of the route.

Trail markers are put in a few spots along the route in places where the direction of travel might otherwise not be obvious.

It is recommended to bring water and snacks. Also, a mosquito net is usually good to have on the lower parts of the trail. Note that weather can be extremely erratic and all hikers should as a minimum bring a wind- and waterproof jacket.

There is cell phone coverage on parts of the trail especially close to the saddle and near the peak.

Please note that the trail is usually not accessible till some time in June, and that passages with deep snow and slippery surfaces can linger throughout the summer.

Hikers are also advised not to build new cairns on or off the trail.

DIFFICULTY

Hard, with a challenging ascent before the peak.

DURATION

2 - 3 hours going up and 1 - 2 hours coming down.

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NASAASAAQ HARD ROUTE



HARD ROUTE

Nasaasaaq is Sisimiut's landmark and from the 784 m peak the view over town, the mountains, the sea, the Arctic Circle, and the alpine peaks to the south is truly amazing.

The hard route is not suitable for families with small children and for hikers without past experience on steep trails and exposed traverses.

At the end of the main street, Aqqusinersuaq, is the town waterworks in the shape of two big blue buildings. Follow the dirt road leading through a gate and in between the buildings to the right.

The dirt road continues to a bridge over a stream which connects the two lakes that serve as the town drinking water reservoir.

From this point the trail splits into a medium-hard and a hard route to the peak of Nasaasaaq.

From the trail head across the bridge the route heads straight for the small rocky knoll across a boggy area and up a slope to the east before turning south across undulating terrain.

It reaches a narrow, steep gully running in an east-west direction, and you turn left, or east, as you head up the gully.

The trail is generally well defined most of the way to the top and you follow the gully until it levels out in a small pass from where the route turns sharply right, to the south, across a section with mosses and soft patches towards a mountain wall straight ahead.

The path now ascents sharply up the wall, beginning in a couple of zig-zag turns before heading east up a well defined, if at times quite porous and narrow, trail.

The climb soon turns right and flattens slightly as it moves in between jagged rock formations in a southern direction before turning south-west and up, to the right, through a wide valley leading towards the saddle, with the peak itself rising steeply behind sheer rock walls to the left.

Continue the ascent until it becomes more gentle and you reach a plateau below the actual saddle.

From here you continue south, turning left in the direction of travel, until you stand at the top of the saddle and a formidable view opens up to the sea and the archipelago to the south.

In last part of the climb to the saddle the trail can be less clear as many hikers choose different routes across this section, but if you aim south you will inevitably start ascending towards the top of the saddle.

Once up in the saddle the trail heads east in an area with many smaller paths, but in good weather conditions the peak is clearly visible.

At the bottom of the climb to the peak itself the longer, medium-hard route arrives in the saddle right next to a noticeable free-standing boulder, and the two trails now join for the last, challenging push to the top.

Several different trails lead to the peak, some taking zig-zag turns and others climbing directly over exposed rock sections.

As the ascent gets harder you will need to be very careful and pay close attention to your footing, and from the point just past the first rope and the rest of the way the route is not suitable for people with vertigo.

Above the first rope a couple of steep parts and one very exposed section on a narrow but short ridge give way to the second rope which demands more work and focus than the first one.

Once past the second rope the climb is once again slightly more accessible and you are now on the final stretch before the peak, which is marked by cairns and sticks up on the small peak plateau itself.

Once you begin the descent, note that if you choose the shorter, more difficult trail to Sisimiut, you should be careful not to continue too far west down into the saddle as these mountain sides almost all become dead ends on very exposed, steep, and narrow ledges.