

# Trak Kayak Trip log.

**Greenland 12<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> September**

**- The first Trak Kayak circumnavigation of Immikeertikajik –**

Kayak Kayak team:

Adam Burke

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## **13/09/2022 – Our journey begins**

The Trak kayakers all met this morning to gather kit and talk about the kayaks. The sea had a little swell, but we battled the motion of the ship and headed down to deck 3 to unpack our kayaks.

For some of us it was the first time seeing a Trak kayak and Zac and Adam went through the procedures to construct our skin on frame kayaks. The start of our adventure had begun, building our own boats in preparation to head out into the waters around Greenland.

## **14/09/2022 Vikingbukta – 4km**



Our first glimpse of Vikingbukta was the sunrise shining red on the mountainous valley walls. We were the first group out this morning and after breakfast we dressed warmly and pulled on our dry suits. The water in the fjord was flat calm and the wind was but a whisper. The ice sat calm in the bay and we could see small patches of ice forming on the surface. The geology of the cliffs was magnificent as we paddled passed the basalt columns and spectacular rocky outcroppings.

We found a beautiful iceberg which sat in the shallows, glinting in the sunlight, as we watched a loud

crack was heard, moments later this huge chunk of ice broke in two and the sections began to roll, a spectacular sight from where we were.



As we left behind the remnants of this iceberg we headed towards the center of the bay, the glacier a magnificent backdrop, here we encountered more sea ice forming, the crystals easy to see as this ice started to combine and become a covering across the surface. We were able to punch through this ice with the kayaks, the sound of the ice crunching rung through the calm air and the feeling of the ice could be felt as the boat broke through each section of forming ice. All with the backdrop of a huge glacier at the end of the fjord.



An incredible morning out on the Trak kayaks, beautiful ice sculptures, massive scenery, blue skies and sunshine, an incredible start to our Greenland kayaking.

### 15/09/2022 Røde Ø – 6km

Our morning started with the glowing red rocks of the mountainside as the sun rose and cast its light over the beautiful geology of the area. We loaded the zodiac and headed out towards the island of Røde Ø, this island lay surrounded by massive icebergs. These huge chunks of ice lay stranded in this shallower area of the sound, occasionally letting their presence known by loud cracks and booms.



As we got into our kayaks and headed to the island we found peace in the calm waters and still air that hung around these sleeping giants. Until on awakening one of the icebergs cracked and shook, cascading into the water and causing a wave of water to spill into the bay. A careful reminder of the sheer power held within. We continued to paddle around the icebergs and through the remnants of icebergs broken and cast into the bay, these equally amazing chunks of ice glistened in the morning sunlight.



We then followed the shoreline to the South to make our way back to the ship. The sun now high in the late morning sky, illuminated the icebergs, revealing fissures and cracks of blue from within. We sadly had to leave this wonderful place behind but the waters around Røde Ø will be hard to forget.



## 16/09/2022 Immikeertikajik – 10km

After our morning onboard we were ready to get out kayaking once the ship had got to its destination at Sydcaap.



The weather was a little different this morning with the wind increasing slightly to 14knots, from the calm we had the previous days. The area we landed had a little bit of swell and we were excited to get out and paddle in some more challenging conditions.

To our south was the Island of Immikeertikajik, a perfect island for us to circumnavigate. We got our zodiac taxi over to the shelter of the rocks by the island and got into our kayaks.

The island was a beautiful mix of geology and vegetation and as we made our way west along its northern shores we were getting used to the boats in the swell.



We rounded the northwest corner where we could see Tula tent rings, a remnant of the times they lived on these shores and set up hide tents for their summer houses, it was a privilege to be kayaking in a skin on frame kayak similar in design to the Inuit kayaks of that time. The connection with this place was felt through the sheer beautiful vista that was in front of us heading to the south. Huge icebergs littered the bay these hulking monsters watching over our every move.

Once again we turned around onto the south coast where we were met by two curious Musk Ox that watched us as we silently paddled on our way. They ran a little from us before turning to view us from further up the hillside. The next beach held host to more Tula remains, in the form of winter houses, all that was left was the depressions in the earth where these structures would have stood.



Battling the wind and waves we headed up the east coast, this more exposed side tested our paddling until we reached the same spot we left from. Our circumnavigation of Immikeertikajik was complete. The first circumnavigation of Trak kayaks of this spectacular island.

From here we paddled against the wind all the way back to the ship to conclude an absolutely epic and exciting day on the water.

### 17/09/2022 Hurry Inlet – 9km

Upon arriving at the position in Hurry inlet the wind decreased and we headed out onto the water. Our zodiac took us to the shallows and we clambered aboard our kayaks and headed north up the inlet towards constable point. The sun rose slowly over the mountains on our left and as the wind blew its cold breeze from the north, a much cooler morning hovering at the -1 degree Celsius mark. We headed north up this fantastic landscape for 4.5km. The clouds started to develop and a beautiful mackerel sky developed with the sun shining through the wavelike patterns in the clouds. Iridescent light could be seen in the wispy clouds around the sun, the rainbow hues glowing in the morning light. At this point we decided to turn around and head back to the ship, the way back was much quicker with the wind firmly behind us and a slack tide meant we moved quickly. Our new background was the mountains on the south of the sound which gave a perfect backdrop to the ship.



The mountains to the west of us rose quickly from the water to around 900 meters, and then up again to the plateau at 1400 meters. On the east the hills rose to 200 meters but up the valleys we could see glaciers and the clouds spilling over the tops.



Once again a very different environment in which we paddled and a beautiful morning on the water.





## 18/09/2022 Romer Fjord – 12km

The ship arrived in Romer fjord after leaving Scorsbysund the previous night. We joined forces with some of the tandem kayakers and headed off into the fjord for a day of paddling. The fjord was bordered by huge mountains towering above, with fresh snow covering the tops. Clouds hung low in the overcast sky but the wind was minimal and the surface of the water calm.



Our first sight of land was a small hunter's cabin and as we rounded the point we could see steam rising from the ground. The steam rose from hot springs and ran down the shoreline to the mix with the cool arctic waters, the hot spring was a wonderful temperature to warm our hands. From here we crossed the fjord to a couple of small islands, on the way we had to break through freshly forming sea ice with our kayaks, the sound similar to that of breaking glass echoed around us. On the far side we could see huge waterfalls cascading down the mountain side.

We heard a radio call about bears so it was decided that we would leave the kayaks where we were and use the zodiacs to head back across the fjord to view these magnificent creatures. We saw two bears on the land walking around and getting on with life. Then we found a walrus lazing on an ice flow which we managed to view for a little while. We continued in the zodiac around the next corner and to our amazement found three more bears where we stayed and observed for a little while.

We were due to paddle all day so had taken our lunch, so rafting our zodiacs we decided to eat and indulge in a hot chocolate to warm ourselves. After eating we headed back to our kayaks via another viewing of the walrus and two of the bears. Once at our kayak site we discovered our kayaks had been moved. Thankfully they were quickly returned to us by the staff member who had tried to help and

returned them to the ship. This respite gave us time to explore a small island in the middle of the fjord before our entering our returned kayaks and continuing homewards.



On the way back we saw the hot springs again but this time another bear had come along and wandered the shoreline. An incredible set of encounters that we were not expecting and will indeed cherish. From here we headed slowly back to the ship, as no one wanted to leave the water.

All in all a varied and amazing week of incredible views, scenery, geology, ice and wildlife. Coupled with a fantastic group of people and some wonderful kayaking in incredible conditions with the perfect weather. Thank you Greenland.