

NUUK, GREENLAND

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Nuuk is the capital of Greenland. Greenland itself is part of the Danish Realm – the Queen of Denmark and her government are in charge. It's home to about 17,000 people and is one of the world's smallest capital cities. Perhaps you can suggest a reason why?



Question time!

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Nuuk is located 64° north of the Equator, and just a couple of degrees south of the Arctic Circle. It has a polar climate.



Inuit houses in the snow, Nuuk

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Image Credit Thinkstock/Getty Images

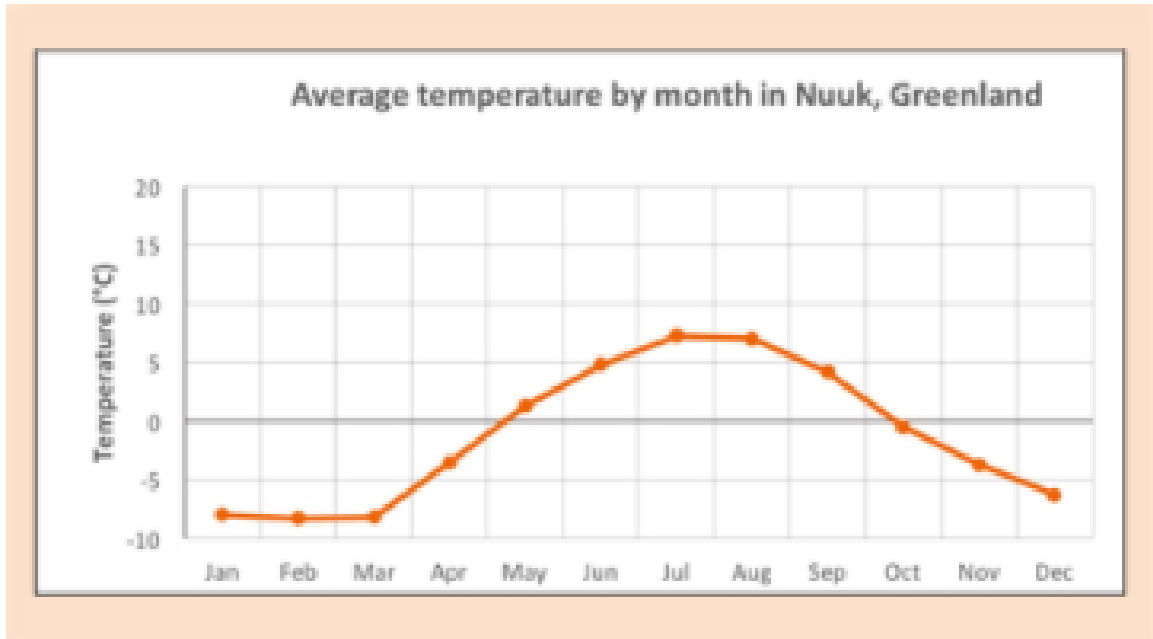
How hot or cold is it?

- In January it is... -8°C, on average.
- In June it is... 4.8°C, on average.

How wet?

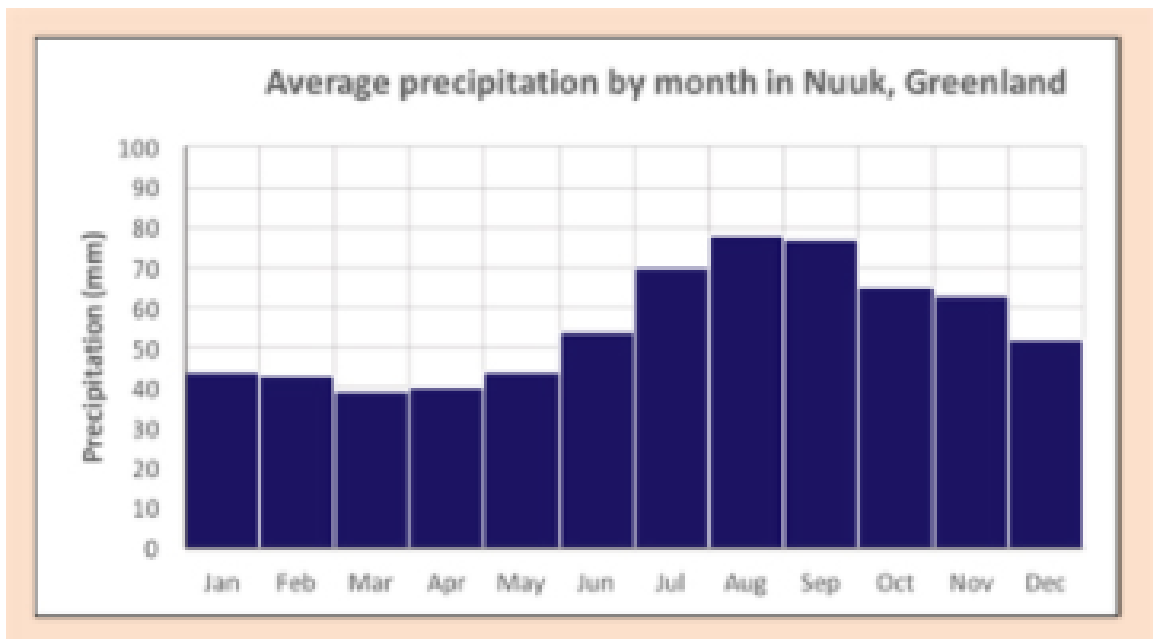
- Total precipitation for the year is 669mm, on average.
- The wettest month is August, with an average of 78mm.
- The driest month is March, with 39mm on average.





Average temperature in Nuuk, Greenland

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Average precipitation in Nuuk, Greenland

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Life in Nuuk

There is no doubt that the harsh climate of Nuuk takes its toll on the people who live there. As a result, it is small, as capital cities go. You would have to multiply the population of Nuuk by five hundred to reach the total number of people who live in Greater London, for example.

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Life on the edge, in Nuuk's extreme environment

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Greenland is also remote in location, making it expensive to live there. It costs a lot of money to ship (or fly) in essential goods to keep the people who live there healthy. Most fresh fruit and vegetables have to be imported. Because of the extreme climate, they can't be grown locally for most of the year.



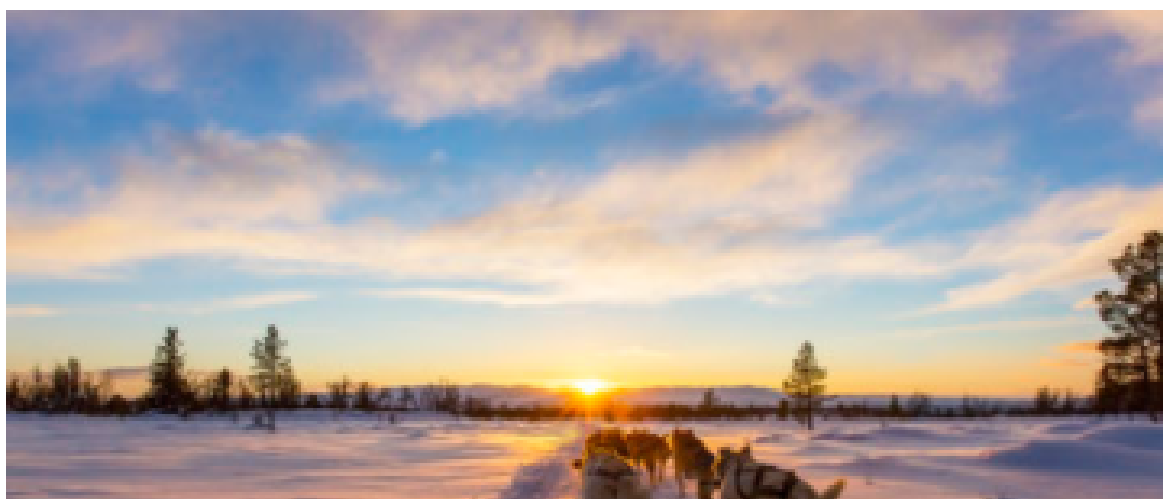
Traditionally, the Inuit people hunted reindeer in Greenland – some still do. In the past, reindeer was what they lived on. The size of the herds was limited by the climate, as cold weather meant that there wasn't a lot of grass to graze. However, climate change is having an impact on Greenland. There have even been reports of success in growing strawberries in recent years!

Nuuk has long, snowy winters, when dogsledding is a popular pastime. If you take a trip there, you might be lucky enough to see the Northern Lights (an amazing natural light display), in winter.



The Northern Lights are a tourist attraction

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Greenland's residents experience cool, bright days across the summer. Of course, the midnight sun is a big attraction for tourists visiting Greenland in this season, which is also a perfect time of year for whale-watching.



Go whale-watching in Greenland

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Tourism creates some jobs here. People travel to Nuuk to find out more about this special, extreme environment. Most come by air, landing at the city's international airport.

Nuuk is also an important seaport: seafood is a major export of the economy of Greenland.

