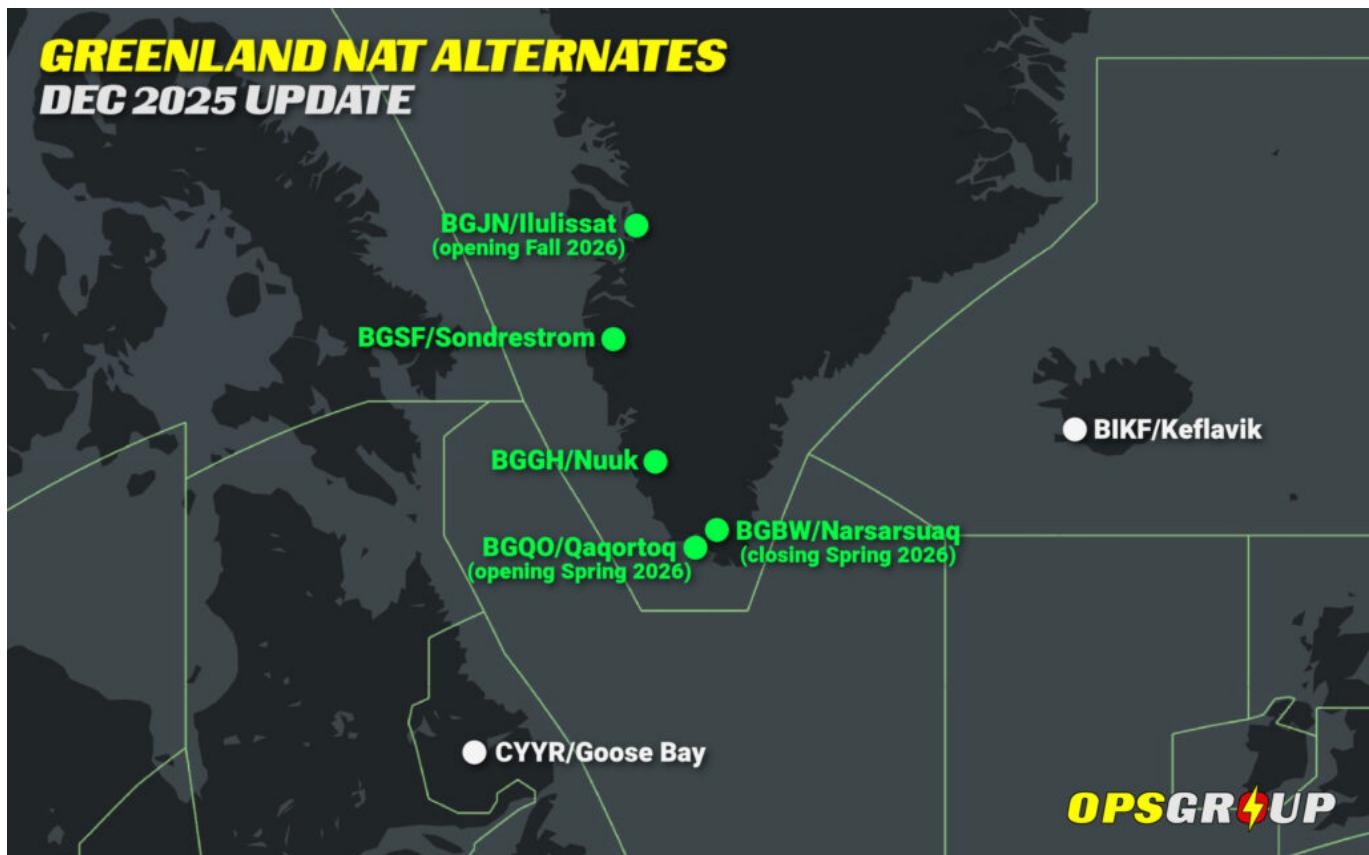


# Greenland NAT Alternates: Dec 2025 Update

Chris Shieff  
8 December, 2025



It has been a busy year of change for Greenland's airports! Here is the current operational picture for the main NAT alternates as of December 2025.



## BGSF/Sondrestrom

Plans to downgrade Sondrestrom from ATC to AFIS have been cancelled. In one of the shortest AICs we've

ever seen, Naviair (Denmark's ANSP) confirmed that BGSF would remain **fully controlled** until further notice.

Word from behind the scenes is that it was recently evaluated that ongoing demand for BGSF was solid enough to warrant **full ATC**.

However, radar service remains unavailable due to equipment issues, with procedural separation expected for the foreseeable future:

A1821/25 NOTAMR A1709/25

Q) BGGL/QCMAS/IV/M /A /000/999/6701N05041W005

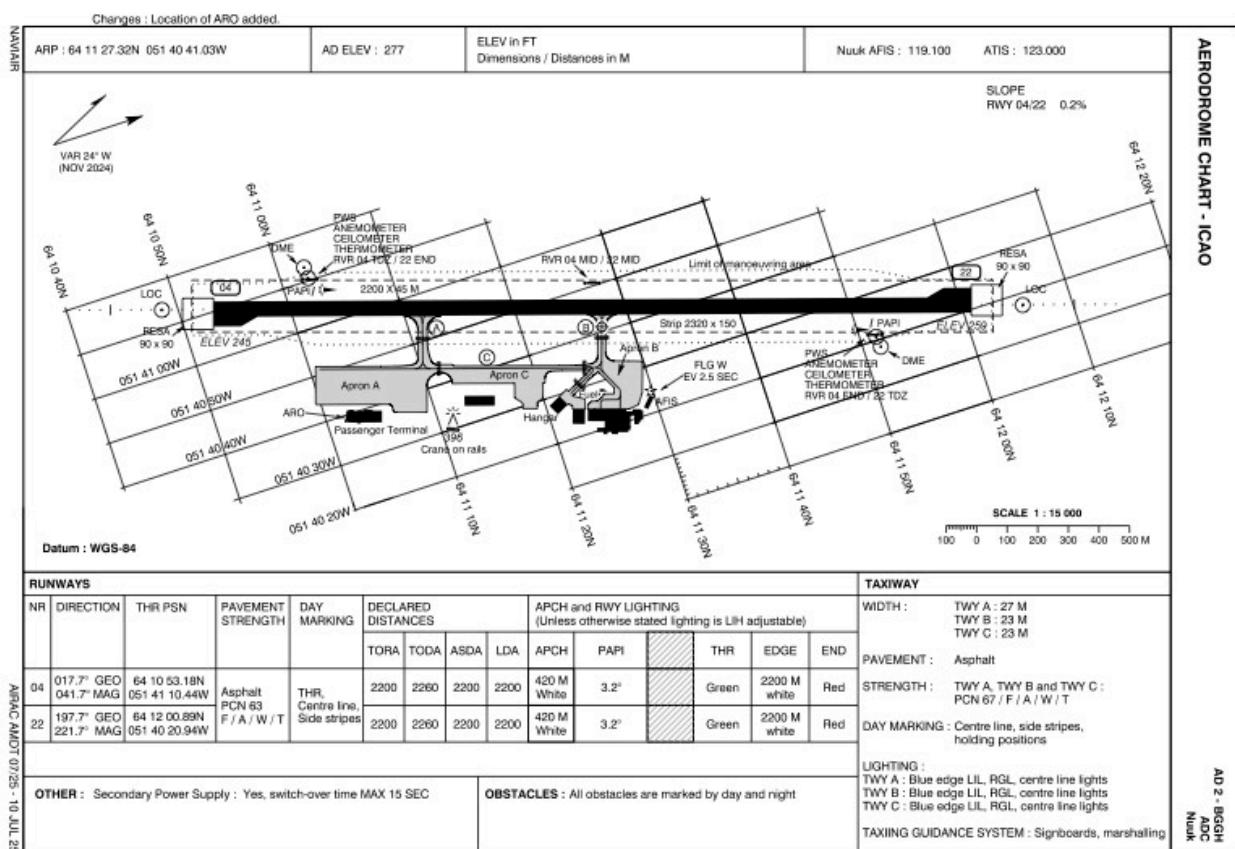
A) BGSF B) 2510271014 C) 2601301700 EST

E) BGSF MSSR U/S. RADAR SERVICE UNAVAILABLE.

Other than that, BGSF continues to be a reliable NAT alternate thanks to its long 2800m runway and generally more stable weather conditions.

## BGGH/Nuuk

Nuuk has been extensively upgraded with a 2200m runway and precision approaches at both ends. It has been receiving heavy jet traffic for some time and is now well-equipped to serve as a NAT alternate.



Nuuk has been significantly expanded to accommodate large jet aircraft.

However, the BGGH Notams put a lump of coal in your stocking. They say that **no PPR or slots will be granted to GA (which GL airports have confirmed includes BizAv)** until at least the end of Jan 2026.

If you want to list BGGH as an alternate, they say you need to apply for PPR. Sounds like NAT flights needing a Greenland stopover should probably use BGSF/Sondrestrom or BGBW/Narsarsuaq instead.

We asked why, and apparently it was a decision made by the Danish CAA due to concerns over traffic. It's not the first time Nuuk has struggled a little with its new-found size! Here's a list of complaints we've received from members about BGGH over the past few months:

- **Slot confusion:** Slots for BGGH must be requested via GCR to scr@airportcoordination.com, but the system is difficult to navigate - one member misread a rejection, flew anyway, and still found only light traffic despite the airport being considered "full."
- **Last minute closures:** Watch out for Notams which are popping up some days closing the airport for 30-min periods to accommodate specific one-off airline flights.
- **August security screening chaos:** International flights were suspended on Aug 27 after Danish authorities halted security screening, citing non-compliant training of local staff. A United flight from Newark turned back mid-route and SAS cancelled services. Screening resumed the following day with certified staff flown in from Denmark.
- **Several other reliability issues:** with members reporting unexpected holding, slow fuelling, and ground handling delays despite recent expansion.

## **BGBW/Narsarsuaq**

Narsarsuaq is still scheduled to close in Spring 2026 and will be downgraded to a heliport. Word on the street is May 1, but this may change.

Operationally, Narsarsuaq remains challenging due to non-precision approaches, frequent poor weather, and a short 1800m runway.



Narsarsuaq will become a heliport only in May 2026.

## New runways at BGQO/Qaqortoq and BGJN/Ilulissat

Both strips are finished, but work continues on lighting and approach systems.

The new **BGQO/Qaqortoq airport is on track to open in Spring 2026** with a 1500m runway. This will replace BGBW/Narsarsuaq as the southern airport option, though only for small to medium jets initially.

The new 2200m runway in **BGJN/Ilulissat is due to open in Fall 2026.**

### A reminder about after-hours fees

Look out for surprise fees if you use **BGBW/Narsarsuaq** or **BGSF/Sondrestrom** as alternates after hours (overnight 20-11z or anytime on Sundays). You will be charged the better part of \$3000 USD to keep standby equipment on watch, and runways clear of snow.

**Some insider advice - advance notice reduces the cost.** If you need one of these cheaper outside of normal operating hours, provide at least 24 hours' notice.

### A special thanks to our agent in the field

Spare a thought for the **unsung hero** of this article. The average low in Greenland at this time of year is 12 deg F (-11 deg C). With wind chill, this can feel like -22 deg F (-30 deg C) or lower.

Apparently, high quality jackets are no joke - as evidenced below. **Thank you** for your help assembling this article!

