# JD Vance's first visit to Greenland raises concerns over US influence



JD Vance, the United States Vice President, and his wife Usha are scheduled to visit Greenland on Friday, marking his first trip to the territory, which is a semi-autonomous region of Denmark. This visit comes in the wake of heightened attention from U.S. officials following remarks made by former President Donald Trump about purchasing the mineral-rich territory, which has spurred debates about its strategic importance amid ongoing global geopolitical tensions.

Ahead of the trip, Vance asserted that the Danish government has been insufficient in its defence support for Greenland, claiming that this neglect poses risks not only to the territory but to global security. In an online video, he stated, "Speaking for President Trump, we want to reinvigorate the security of the people of Greenland because we think it's important to protecting the security of the entire world." He also expressed concern that leaders in both the U.S. and Denmark had ignored Greenland for too long, adding, "That’s been bad for Greenland, it’s also been bad for the security of the entire world."

President Trump has faced criticism for his earlier comments suggesting that the U.S. should exert some form of control over Greenland, prompting Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen to label such remarks as "unacceptable pressure." As the Vice President’s trip approaches, Frederiksen reiterated her discontent, stating, "It is unacceptable pressure being placed on Greenland and Denmark in this situation. And it is pressure that we will resist." She added that Vance's visit is "clearly not a visit that is about what Greenland needs or wants."

Greenland has emerged as a crucial bead in the geopolitical chess game due to its location and resources, particularly as nations like China and Russia show interest in the region's access routes and natural wealth. The Vice President's visit to the U.S. military base, Pituffik, in northern Greenland is intended to align with military interests without stepping on diplomatic toes, especially given the region's complex relationships.

Vance’s trip was initially slated to include Usha Vance attending a popular dog-sled race; however, his unexpected participation has shifted the focus to matters of national security. His office highlighted plans for the Vice President to meet with U.S. military personnel and assess the strategic landscape firsthand, claiming it is necessary to recognise the threats posed to Greenland from various international actors.

Local sentiments regarding the visit appear mixed; Greenland’s Prime Minister Mute B. Egede expressed frustration upon learning of the high-profile visits, emphasising the awkwardness of simultaneous American delegations. In a statement to local media, Egede described the situation as "unacceptable pressure." Meanwhile, Denmark's Foreign Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen has welcomed the adjustment to the itinerary, acknowledging that visiting the U.S. base is more politically prudent than mingling with Greenlandic society amid these tensions.

Tensions were further exacerbated when it was revealed that Trump's national security adviser, Mike Waltz, had earlier been included in communications detailing sensitive military operations, leading to concerns regarding potential security breaches. The discussions, involving key officials, were reportedly mishandled on a messaging platform, raising questions about the administration’s operational protocols.

As the backdrop of Vance's visit looms, the Greenland and Danish governments have been increasingly vocal about their distaste for what they perceive as U.S. overreach. Many in Greenland are wary of the implications of U.S. interest and assert that their needs should be prioritized over foreign military concerns.

In the context of military engagements and geopolitical claims, the trip may underscore existing fractures in U.S.-European relations, particularly as Vance has been critical of European nations, accusing them of relying too heavily on American military support. His visit to Pituffik, while reaffirming U.S. military commitment to the region, points to the complexities inherent in international diplomacy concerning Greenland and its future.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/03/25/jd-vance-greenland-trip-027758> - Corroborates JD Vance's trip to Greenland, including his intentions to visit a U.S. Space Force base and assess security there. It highlights the tension surrounding American interest in Greenland amidst the Danish government's opposition to U.S. control.
* <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/jd-vance-greenland-denmark-trip-b2721716.html> - Supports the narrative of JD Vance's controversial visit to Greenland, emphasizing its geopolitical implications and tensions with Denmark, while also highlighting concerns over security and U.S. influence in the region.
* <https://www.politico.com/news/2023/09/14/trump-greenland-purchase-00076188> - Although not directly about JD Vance, this article provides context on Donald Trump's long-standing interest in acquiring Greenland, which underpins the current tensions and Vance's trip.
* <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/nov/07/greenland-strategic-importance-climate-change-china-russia> - Discusses Greenland's strategic importance due to its location and resources, explaining why it is a focal point for nations like China and Russia, thereby validating the geopolitical significance mentioned in the article.
* <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/12/2/denmark-rejects-trumps-offer-to-buy-greenland-again> - Illustrates Denmark's consistent opposition to U.S. interests in Greenland, highlighting historical tensions and current sentiments expressed by Danish officials like Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen.
* <https://www.euractiv.com/section/energy-environment/news/greenlands-energy-needs-and-renewable-ambitions-at-center-of-new-sustainability-plan/> - Although not directly linked to JD Vance's visit, this article underscores Greenland's current focus on its own needs and ambitions, contrasting with external pressures from countries like the U.S.