

Barentsøya Island, Svalbard, Norway

One of Svalbard's most remote and wildlife-rich islands, Barentsøya lies in a protected nature reserve where polar bears outnumber human visitors and nearly half the land is smothered in glacier ice. Expedition ships anchor offshore; Zodiacs do the rest.

Zodiac tender only (no pier)

Typical call: 4–7 hrs

Norwegian Krone (NOK) — no shops ashore

Norwegian (uninhabited island)

Active polar bear habitat

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date:

Arrive:

All aboard:

Excursion:

Notes:

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Anchor & Zodiac only — no pier or dock of any kind

Walk to center: No settlement; all exploration is guided ashore from Zodiacs

Best For: Polar bears, walrus, glacier fronts, and Arctic birdlife

Don't Miss: Barentsjøkulen glacier calving and walrus haul-out beaches

Getting around: Rideshare not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Polar Bear Search & Tundra Hike** — Armed naturalist guides lead small groups across the tundra in search of polar bears, Arctic foxes, and Svalbard reindeer.
- Zodiac Glacier Cruise — Barentsjøkulen Front** — Zodiac boats motor along the calving front of Barentsjøkulen, Barentsøya's massive ice cap.
- Walrus Haul-Out Visit** — The island's west coast beaches host significant walrus colonies during summer.
- Arctic Seabird Colony Observation** — Black-legged kittiwakes, Brünnich's guillemots, little auks, and barnacle geese nest on the island's cliffs and coastal tundra.
- Arctic Kayaking** — Select expedition operators offer sea kayaking among ice floes and along coastal cliffs — a quiet, close-to-the-water perspective unavailable from...

BEST WALKS

- Coastal Tundra Ramble** 1–3 km | Easy–Moderate | Guided only — A short guided walk from the Zodiac landing point across low Arctic tundra.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		12°	4°	8d
Jun		31°	27°	7d
Aug		36°	31°	9d
Sep		31°	25°	12d
Oct		23°	17°	14d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Sep 5:20AM–7:45PM · Oct 9:15AM–3:33PM

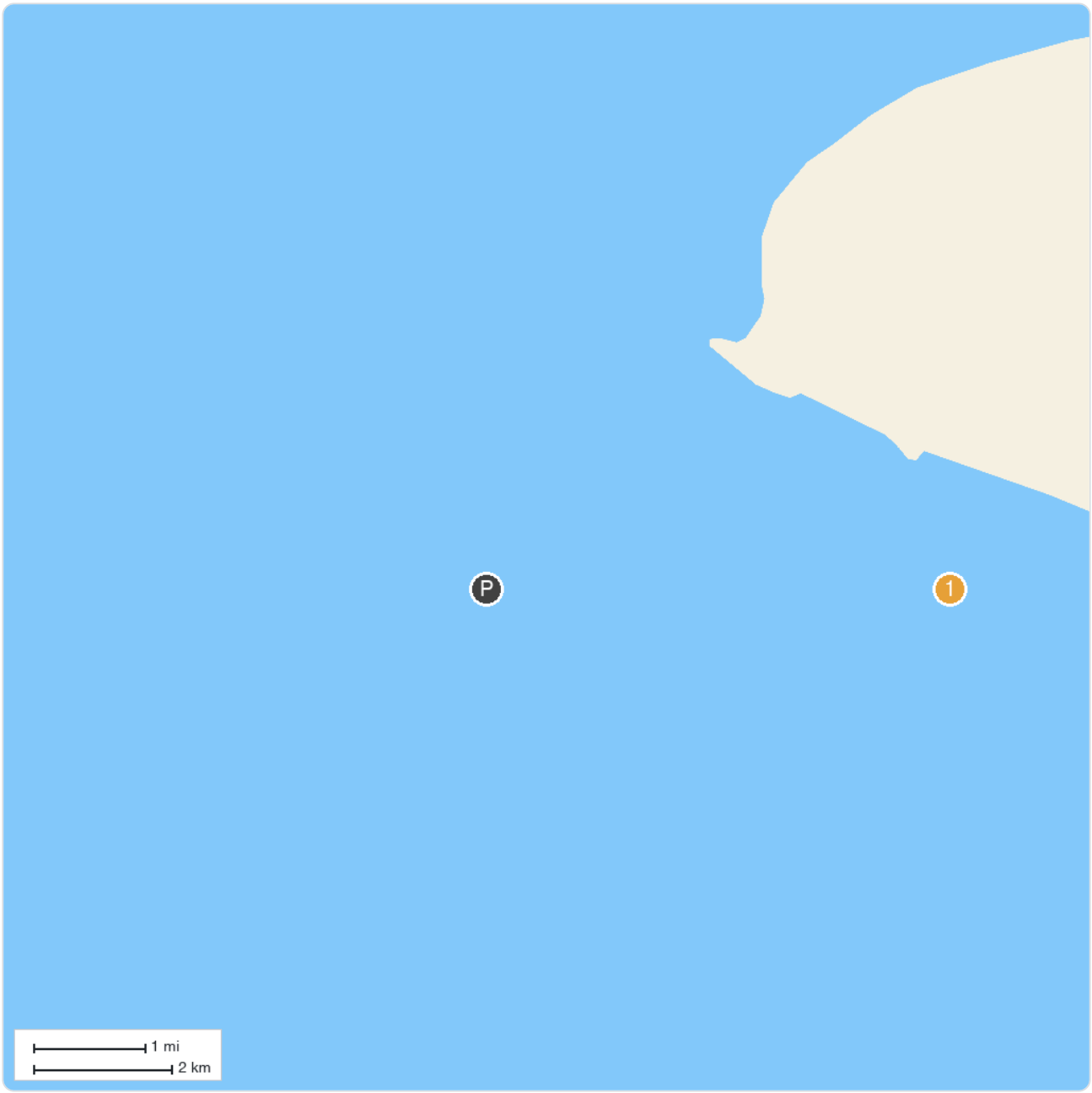
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Polar bear alert:** This island has one of Svalbard's highest polar bear densities. Never wander away from armed guides ashore — not even a few metres.
- Dress for extreme cold:** Even in July, temperatures hover near 0–5°C with wind and possible freezing spray on Zodiacs. Waterproof outer layers and warm base layers are essential.
- Bring nothing, need nothing:** There are zero shops, cafes, or services on the island. All food and drink comes from your ship — fill your flask before boarding the Zodiac.
- Long lens pays off:** Wildlife is approached at safe distances. A 200mm+ zoom lens dramatically improves your polar bear and walrus shots from Zodiac distance.
- Flexibility is the plan:** Ice, weather, or wildlife conditions can reroute or cancel the visit entirely. Pack your bag the night before and have no fixed expectations — improvisation is the spirit of Arctic expeditions.

Barentsøya Island, Svalbard, Norway — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



1 Barentsjøkulen Ice Cap
The dominant ice cap covering much of Barentsøya, feeding outlet glaciers including Freemanbreen and Hübnerbreen toward the coast.

P Cruise port / terminal