

Bjørnøya, Svalbard, Norway

Halfway between mainland Norway and Spitsbergen, Bear Island is one of the North Atlantic's great seabird kingdoms — a protected wilderness of plunging cliffs, fog-shrouded plateaus, and millions of nesting guillemots.

- ⚓ Expedition Zodiac only (no pier)
- 🕒 Typical call: 3-6 hrs (weather-dependent)
- 🇳🇴 Norwegian Krone (NOK)
- 🇳🇴 Norwegian
- 🦋 Wildlife focus

👉 MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____	Arrive: _____	All aboard: _____
Excursion: _____	Notes: _____	

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Zodiac/tender only — no pier; landings weather-dependent

Location: Barents Sea, 74°N — 178 km² nature reserve

Best For: Seabird cliffs, Arctic wildlife, expedition photography

Don't Miss: The guillemot cliffs of Stappen and Fuglefjella

🚗 Getting around:

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Seabird Cliff Zodiac Cruise** — Zodiac along the dramatic southern cliffs — collectively known as Fuglefjella, including the towering Stappen pillar — where over a million...
- **Kvalrossbukta Whaling Ruins** — Visit the remains of the old whaling and walrus-hunting outpost on the island's coast — a stark reminder of Bear Island's brutal commercial past...
- **Herweghamna Landing & Meteorological Station** — Land at the only inhabited spot on the island — the Norwegian meteorological station, continuously staffed since 1947 (an earlier radio station here...
- **Miseryfjellet Hike** — For fit expedition travellers, hike toward Miseryfjellet (536 m), the island's highest peak, for panoramic views of the Barents Sea and the island's...

BEST WALKS

- **Herweghamna Northern Plain** Easy · 1-3 km · Flat tundra — Wander the boggy Arctic tundra around the met station, with around 1,200 shallow freshwater lakes stretching to the horizon.
- **Southern Cliff Viewpoints** Moderate · variable · Rugged coastal path — If a southern landing is permitted, approach the cliff tops above Fuglefjella to look down on the vast guillemot colonies — an overwhelming sensory experience of noise...

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

🌡️ CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		30°	23°	10d
Jun		41°	37°	8d
Aug		44°	41°	9d
Sep		42°	38°	11d
Oct		37°	33°	10d

🇳🇴 DAYLIGHT & 💰 MONEY

Sep 5:44AM–7:30PM · Oct 8:27AM–4:29PM

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Expect cancellations. Bear Island is notorious for dense fog and sudden swell. Many ships pass without landing. Treat any shore time as a bonus, not a given.
- No polar bears on the island now, but guides carry rifles as a precaution. Do not wander from the group — follow guide instructions at all times.
- Dress for sub-zero wind chill even in summer. August highs average just 4–6°C and wind off the Barents Sea is constant. Waterproof layers and grip boots are essential.
- There is nothing to buy ashore. No shops, no cafés, no facilities — all food and supplies come from your ship. Leave credit cards on board.
- Bring a telephoto lens. Zodiac cruising keeps you close to the cliffs but cliff-nesting birds are densely packed — a 200mm+ lens captures the chaos beautifully.
- Nature reserve rules are strict. Do not pick up rocks, disturb birds, or stray from guides. Everything — including fossils and feathers — must be left in place.

Bjørnøya, 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** Herwigamna Meteorological Station

Only inhabited spot — Norwegian weather station staffed since 1947.

- 2** Miseryfjellet Highest peak on Bear Island (536 m) with island-wide views.

- P** Cruise port / terminal