

Forlandet Island, Svalbard, Norway

A raw, roadless Arctic national park where walrus haul out on gravel beaches and polar bears roam the tundra — reachable only by Zodiac, accessible only to small expedition ships.

Zodiac (wet landing, no pier)

Typical call: 4–6 hrs

Norwegian Krone (NOK)

Norwegian

Expedition ships only (max 200 guests)

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: Arrive: All aboard:

Excursion: Notes:

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Zodiac wet landing — step into shallow Arctic water to reach shore

Best For: Walrus watching, polar bear spotting, seabird cliffs, Arctic wilderness photography

Walk to centre: No town; walks are 1–3 km guided hikes on open tundra and gravel beach

Don't Miss: Poolepynten walrus haul-out — hundreds of walrus packed on the gravel spit

Getting around: Rideshare not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Poolepynten Walrus Colony** — The island's most iconic landing.
 - Fuglehuken Bird Cliffs & Historic Cape** — The island's northernmost point is a towering seabird colony with thousands of Brünnich's guillemots, kittiwakes, and glaucous gulls.
 - Zodiac Cruise Along the Coast** — When landing conditions are poor, the expedition team runs Zodiac cruises along the island's dramatic
- coastline — scanning for polar bears on ice...

 - Polar Plunge** — A beloved expedition tradition — brave passengers strip to swimwear and plunge into near-freezing Arctic waters under the watch of guides.
 - Trapper Cabins & Whaling Ruins** — The coastline is dotted with 17th-century whaling station ruins and preserved trapper cabins from the era of Norwegian Arctic hunters.

BEST WALKS

- Poolepynten Beach Walk** ~1.5 km | Easy | Flat gravel beach — A slow, guided walk along the gravel spit to observe the walrus colony.
- Fuglehuken Tundra Walk** ~2–3 km | Moderate | Tundra and rocky ground — A guided hike across open Arctic tundra to the bird cliffs and historic Barentsz cape at the island's northern tip.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		23°	16°	11d
Jun		38°	35°	6d
Aug		44°	40°	10d
Sep		38°	34°	14d
Oct		31°	25°	12d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Sep 5:47AM–8:09PM · Oct 9:37AM–4:03PM

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Rubber boots are essential. Wet landings mean stepping into icy Arctic water. Most expedition lines loan knee-high rubber (muck) boots — confirm with your cruise line before embarkation, or bring your own.
- Never wander from your guide. Polar bears are present on the island. Guides carry rifles and establish a safety perimeter before every landing. Leaving the group is not permitted and is genuinely dangerous.
- Layer up even in summer. Arctic wind off the Grampianfjella peaks cuts through quickly. Thermal base layers + fleece + windproof waterproof outer jacket. Add hat and gloves — the Zodiac ride amplifies the cold.
- Protect your camera. Sea spray on the Zodiac is inevitable. Pack your gear in a dry bag or waterproof backpack. A telephoto lens (200mm+) lets you photograph walrus and birds from a respectful distance.
- No food or drink ashore — at all. Norwegian environmental law prohibits bringing food onto Svalbard national park shores to avoid attracting polar bears. Eat on the ship before you go. Only a sealed water bottle is allowed.
- Small ships only since 2025. Norwegian regulations now bar cruise ships carrying more than 200 guests from landing in Svalbard national parks. Only genuine expedition vessels visit Forlandet Island.

Forlandet 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 Poolepynten, Prins Karls Forland

Sandy spit on the island's east coast, a reliable walrus haul-out site.

P Cruise port / terminal