

# Hvalsey, South Greenland, Greenland

Sail into Hvalsey Fjord and step ashore at a hauntingly preserved Norse settlement — stone walls rising from the tundra where the last recorded Norse wedding took place in 1408.

⚓ Tender / Zodiac landing

🕒 Typical call: 3-5 hrs

🚫 No facilities ashore (ship currency only)

👤 No permanent residents

🏛️ UNESCO World Heritage (Kujataa)

## 👉 MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Arrive: \_\_\_\_\_ All aboard: \_\_\_\_\_  
Excursion: \_\_\_\_\_ Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

## GETTING ASHORE

**Docking:** Anchor & Zodiac / tender — no pier, gravel foreshore landing

**Walk to ruins:** 100–300 ft from shore landing to church walls

**Best For:** Norse history, remote landscapes, photography, contemplation

**Don't Miss:** Standing inside Hvalsey Church — site of Greenland's last Norse wedding, 1408

🚗 Getting around: 🚗 Rideshare ❌ not available

## TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Hvalsey Fjord Church & Norse Farmstead** — Self-guided walk among Greenland's finest Norse ruins — the 14th-century church walls still stand 5–6 metres high.
- **Fjord Wildlife Walk** — Scan the fjord for harbour seals, white-tailed sea eagles and the occasional minke whale.
- **Qaqortoq Town Combination** — Many itineraries pair Hvalsey with a visit to Qaqortoq — South Greenland's main town, 11 miles away by water.
- **Hillside Hike Above the Settlement** — For fit passengers, a short climb above the farmstead rewards with panoramic views over Hvalsey Fjord and the surrounding ice-free valleys — a...

## BEST WALKS

- **Norse Ruins Loop** 0.5 km · 30–45 min · Easy — From the Zodiac landing, walk to Hvalsey Fjord Church, circle the banquet hall and longhouse ruins, then return along the shoreline.
- **Foreshore & Fjord Walk** 1–2 km · 45–60 min · Easy — Stroll the natural gravel shore of Hvalsey Fjord away from the ruins.

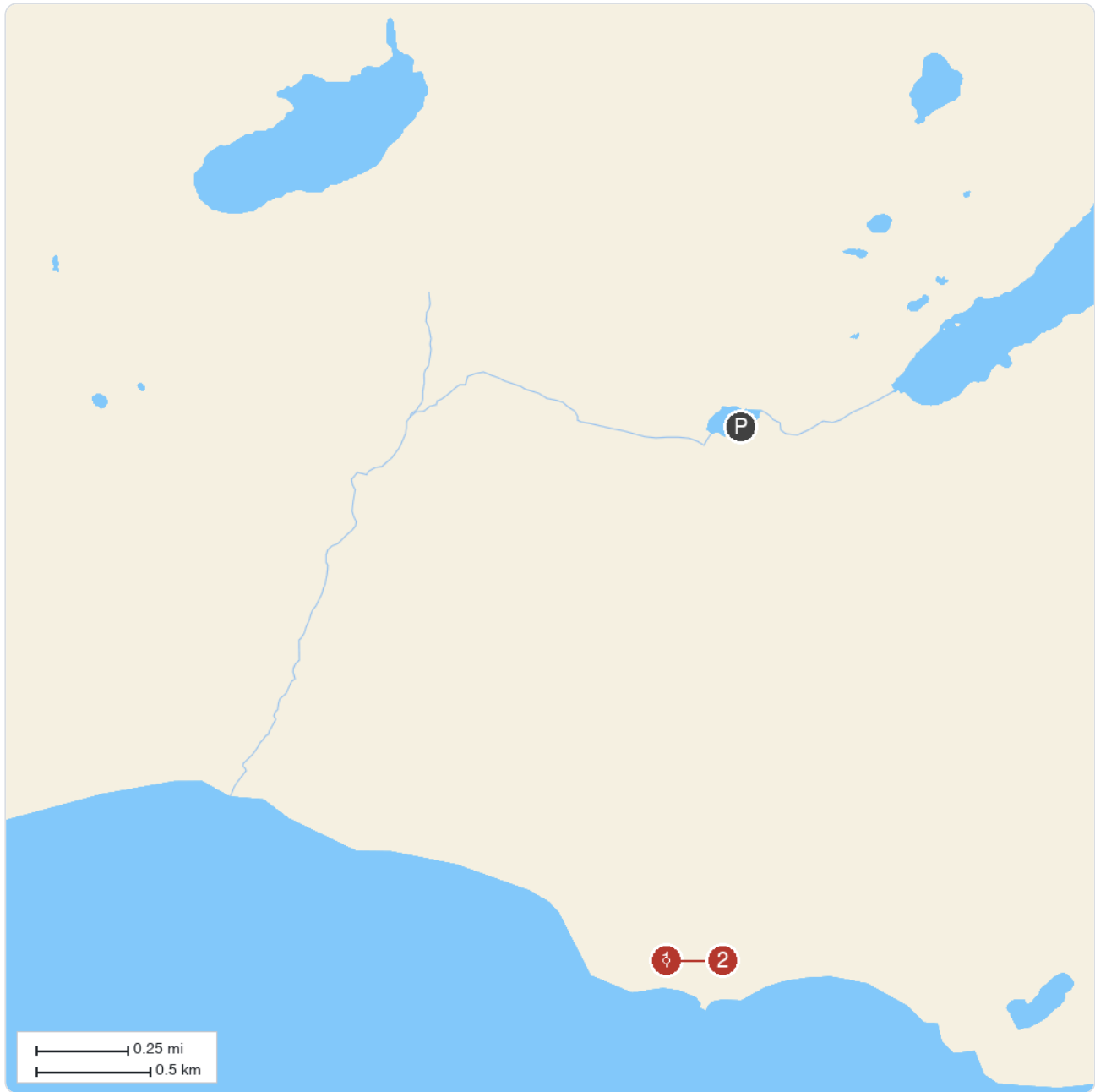
## KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Waterproof hiking boots are essential. The foreshore and tundra grass are frequently wet. Light trainers will leave you with soaked feet within minutes.
- Bring insect repellent and a head net (July–August). Greenlandic mosquitoes and midges are relentless in midsummer. A head net weighs almost nothing and makes a huge difference.
- Do not climb on the church walls. Hvalsey is a UNESCO World Heritage site. Touching, climbing or removing any stone is prohibited and genuinely damages irreplaceable history.
- No facilities exist ashore — plan accordingly. Eat before you land, bring water, and pack out every scrap of rubbish. There are no toilets on site.
- Dress in layers even in summer. South Greenland weather changes fast. A windproof outer layer over fleece handles most conditions; sunshine can give way to cold squalls in minutes.
- Best photos: late afternoon golden light on the church walls. The warm light picks out the texture of the ancient stonework beautifully. If your ship's schedule allows, time your landing accordingly.

## Hvalsey, South Greenland, Greenland — Port Map

cruiseports.org

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



- 1 Church Ruins** Hvalsey The best-preserved Norse ruin in Greenland, a 14th-century stone church where the last written record of the Norse Greenlanders (a 1408 wedding) took place.

- 2 Farmstead Ruins** Hvalsey Stone foundations of the Norse Eastern Settlement farm complex surrounding the church, abandoned around 1450.

**P** Cruise port / terminal