

Jan Mayen Island, Arctic Ocean, Norway

Dominated by the world's northernmost active volcano and shrouded in near-perpetual fog, Jan Mayen is one of the rarest and most dramatic stops in all of expedition cruising. Landings are never guaranteed — which makes a successful one unforgettable.

Zodiac/Tender only (no pier)

Typical call: 4-6 hrs (weather permitting)

Currency: NOK (Norwegian Krone)

Language: Norwegian

Expedition cruises only

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: Arrive: All aboard:

Excursion: Notes:

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Zodiac wet landing only — no pier exists. Landings subject to Norwegian authority permission and sea conditions.

Best For: Seabird and whale watching, volcanic landscapes, extreme Arctic remoteness, rare passport stamps

Landing Rate: Roughly 50% of scheduled stops are cancelled due to heavy swells, fog, or swell. A successful landing is a genuine achievement.

Don't Miss: Beerenberg volcano from the sea, Kvalrossbukta's 17th-century whaling ruins, and seabird cliffs packed with puffins and little auks

Getting around: Rideshare not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Kvalrossbukta Landing & Whaling Ruins** — The most common landing site — a sweeping black-sand bay named for the walruses once hunted here.
- Seabird Colony Watch** — Jan Mayen's basalt cliffs host enormous breeding colonies of Atlantic puffins, little auks (dovekies), Brünnich's guillemots, northern fulmars, and...
- Beerenberg Volcano Scenic Cruise** — Even without a landing, cruising beneath Beerenberg is extraordinary.
- Olonkinbyen Station Visit** — If the Station Commander permits, passengers may walk to the small Norwegian military/meteorological station — the island's only settlement...
- Whale & Marine Mammal Watch** — The nutrient-rich waters around Jan Mayen are excellent for cetaceans.

BEST WALKS

- Kvalrossbukta Beach & Whaling Site** 1-2 km | Easy-moderate | 45-90 min — From the Zodiac landing point on Kvalrossbukta's black sand beach, walk east along the shoreline to the remnants of the 17th-century Dutch whaling station.
- Båtvika to Olonkinbyen** 1-2 km each way | Easy-moderate | 1-2 hrs — If landing at Båtvika (the southern landing site), a short walk leads to the Norwegian station at Olonkinbyen.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		38°	23°	9d
Jun		59°	43°	14d
Aug		58°	44°	15d
Sep		52°	39°	13d
Oct		40°	30°	12d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 6:22AM–10:50PM · Jun Midnight sun (24h) · Aug 5:20AM–11:53PM · Sep 7:46AM–9:11PM · Oct 9:54AM–6:45PM

Representative sunrise/sunset — 2025, 15th of each month; local civil time including DST (Europe/Oslo). Source: Astral; not a forecast or climate average.

Currency: NOK (Norwegian Krone)

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Knee-high rubber boots are mandatory. Zodiac landings on Jan Mayen are almost always wet landings — you will step into ankle- to knee-deep surf. If your cruise line provides them, use them. If not, pack Muck Boots or equivalent waterproof Wellington boots.
- Manage your expectations — and be ready to be amazed anyway. Over half of all Jan Mayen landings are cancelled due to swells or fog. If you can't land, the volcanic coastline and Beerenberg at sea are still spectacular. Treat a successful landing as the rare gift it is.
- Dress in full foul-weather gear, always. Even in July, temperatures hover near 0-5°C with biting wind. Waterproof outer layers, thermal mid-layers, gloves, and a warm hat are non-negotiable. Weather on Jan Mayen changes in minutes.
- Bring some Norwegian Krone (NOK) cash. The station shop at Olonkinbyen occasionally opens for cruise visitors selling souvenirs and snacks. Card terminals are unreliable on the island's satellite link — cash is more likely to work.
- Do not remove anything from the island. Taking volcanic rocks, driftwood, whale bones, or artefacts is illegal under Norwegian law and can result in serious fines. Jan Mayen is a protected nature reserve.
- Bring your passport for a stamp.

Jan Mayen Island, Arctic Ocean, Norway — Port Map

cruiseports.org

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



1 Olonkinbyen

The island's only settlement, housing the meteorological and radio station staff on the flatter southern peninsula.

2

Dutch whaling station remains

Weathered ruins of a 17th-century Dutch whaling outpost, a relic of the island's earliest European industry.

P Cruise port / terminal