

Nordaustlandet Island, Svalbard, Norway

The second-largest island in Svalbard is a polar desert of glaciers, walrus haul-outs, and absolute silence — no towns, no piers, no roads, just raw High Arctic wilderness reached entirely by Zodiac.

Zodiac landings (no pier)

Typical call: 4–8 hrs (weather-dependent)

No shore spending possible

Norwegian (no local population)

Polar bear territory

MY DAY IN PORT

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

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Zodiac (wet landings) — no pier or dock exists

Best For: Polar bears, walrus, glacier fronts, Arctic birding

Don't Miss: Zodiac cruise along Bråsvellbreen glacier face, Torellneset walrus colony

Restrictions: Max 200 passengers per vessel; max 39 ashore at once; no drones

Getting around:

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Torellneset Walrus Colony** — One of Svalbard's most reliable walrus haul-outs, where hundreds of male walruses rest on gravel beaches.
- Bråsvellbreen Glacier Cruise** — A Zodiac cruise along the 190 km face of the Austfonna ice cap, including the Bråsvellbreen section with its dozens of meltwater waterfalls cascading...
- Kinnvika Research Station** — A remarkably well-preserved Cold War-era scientific outpost in Murchisonfjorden, built for the 1957–58 International Geophysical Year by a joint...
- Sjuøyane — The Seven Islands** — The northernmost land in Svalbard (Phippsøya at 80°42'N), just off Nordaustlandet's north coast.
- Polar Plunge** — Many expedition ships offer a voluntary Polar Plunge into the 1–2°C Arctic water from the Zodiac platform or a beach.

BEST WALKS

- Tundra Hike from Beach Landing** Up to 5 km | Guided only | Uneven terrain — Your expedition guides lead short to moderate walks across polar desert tundra — loose gravel, frost polygons, and Arctic wildflowers in season.
- Kinnvika Station Walk** 1–2 km | Easy | Historic buildings — A short guided walk through the Kinnvika research station compound, exploring the preserved huts, equipment, and supply caches left by the 1957–58 international science...

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		9°	0°	8d
Jun		32°	29°	8d
Aug		35°	31°	8d
Sep		31°	25°	10d
Oct		24°	17°	9d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Sep 4:59AM–7:45PM · Oct 9:36AM–2:52PM

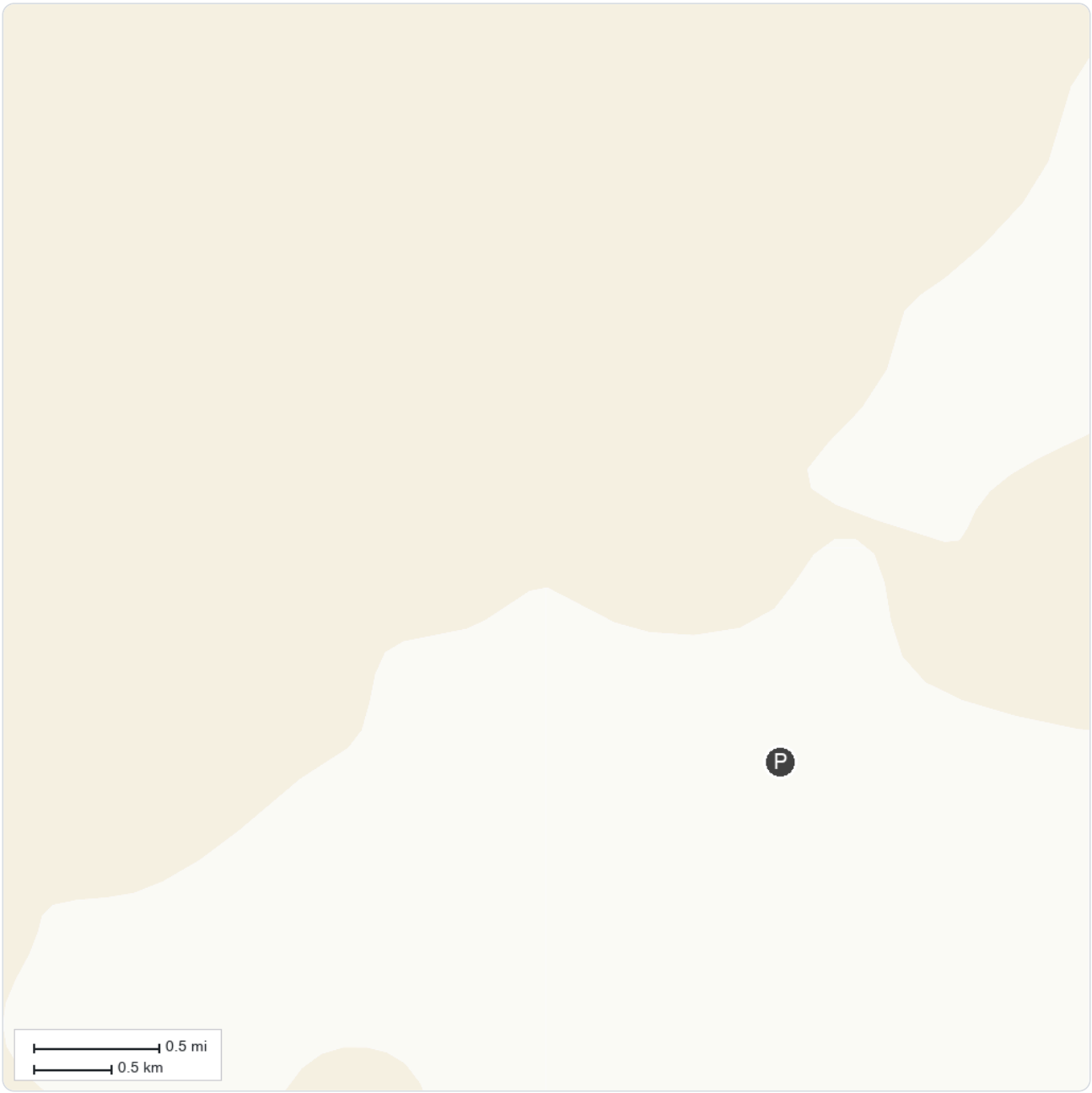
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Polar bear alert is real. This is one of the densest polar bear habitats on Earth. Never leave the guide perimeter. When a guide says move, move immediately — no questions.
- Bring or rent rubber boots. Virtually all landings are wet — you step into icy water. Knee-high insulated rubber boots are non-negotiable. Many expedition ships provide them; confirm before departure.
- Telephoto lens is essential. Wildlife must be kept at distance — polar bears at 300–500 m, walrus at 150 m. A smartphone camera won't cut it. Bring at least a 300–400 mm equivalent lens.
- Protect your electronics. Zodiac rides involve cold sea spray. Use a 100% waterproof dry bag for camera, phone, and binoculars. A wet sensor ends the trip.
- Layer aggressively. Arctic weather changes in minutes. Merino base layer, fleece mid-layer, and waterproof shell — even in July. Wind chill at 80°N is brutal.
- No drones, no food ashore. Drones are prohibited in all Svalbard nature reserves. Bringing food ashore is banned under AECO rules — it attracts polar bears and violates regulations.

Nordautlandet 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.



P Cruise port / terminal