

Spitsbergen Island, Svalbard, Norway

Europe's last true wilderness. Spitsbergen delivers tidewater glaciers, polar bears prowling sea ice, walrus colonies, and a sky that never fully darkens in summer — all from the Arctic settlement of Longyearbyen.

Dock or Tender (varies by ship size)

Typical call: 8-12 hrs

Norwegian Krone (NOK)

Norwegian / English widely spoken

Polar bear country — guides required outside town

MY DAY IN PORT

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

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Bykaia pier or tender via Tenderkaia; 1.5 km flat walk to town center

Walk to center: 20 min on foot from Bykaia pier; shuttle buses often provided

Best For: Arctic wildlife, glacier photography, expedition history, midnight sun

Don't Miss: Boat safari to Monaco Glacier or Pyramiden ghost town

Getting around: Taxi NOK 170–180 (~\$16–17) · Rideshare not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Polar Bear & Wildlife Boat Safari** — Zodiac or small-ship safari into Adventfjorden and surrounding waters hunting for polar bears on sea ice, walrus haul-outs, bearded seals, and beluga...
- Pyramiden — Soviet Ghost Town** — A 2.5-hour scenic boat ride to an abandoned Soviet coal-mining town preserved in amber since 1998.
- Glacier Boat Safari — Monaco Glacier** — Cruise deep into the fjords to witness tidewater glaciers calving house-sized icebergs into turquoise water.
- Gruve 3 Coal Mine Tour** — Explore a real historic coal mine just 10 minutes from the harbor.
- Svalbard Museum + Town Walk** — The Svalbard Museum covers polar exploration, Norwegian and Soviet mining history, and Arctic ecology.

BEST WALKS

- Bykaia Pier to Longyearbyen Town Center** 1.5 km • 20 min • Flat • No guide needed — A simple flat walk along the harbor road into the heart of Longyearbyen.
- Town Center Loop — Museum & Church** 2 km • 30-40 min • Easy • Self-guided — From the main street, walk up to the Svalbard Museum, continue to the Svalbard Church (the world's northernmost church, open daily), and loop back past the Global Seed...

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		20°	12°	8d
Jun		40°	36°	7d
Aug		46°	41°	11d
Sep		39°	32°	13d
Oct		29°	22°	10d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Sep 5:39AM–8:01PM · Oct 9:28AM–3:55PM

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Never leave town without a guide. Polar bears are present year-round on Spitsbergen and are faster than they look. Any excursion beyond city limits legally requires a certified guide with a firearm.
- Cards accepted everywhere in Longyearbyen — Norwegian Krone (NOK) is the currency but most shops and restaurants take Visa/Mastercard. ATMs are available in the town center.
- Midnight sun mid-May to late July. The sun never sets — pack an eye mask for sleeping and embrace the 24-hour photography light.
- Dress in layers even in summer. Temperatures average 3-7°C in July; wind and sea spray can make it feel much colder. Waterproof outer layers are essential on any boat excursion.
- Book Pyramiden and glacier boat trips early. Operator capacity is limited and these are the most popular excursions — they sell out well before the ship arrives.
- Binoculars are non-negotiable. Wildlife is often spotted at distance; compact 8x or 10x binoculars transform a distant white dot into a polar bear sighting.

Spitsbergen 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.



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|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|
| 1 North Pole Expedition Museum | Museum dedicated to historic North Pole expeditions and explorers. | 2 Gruve 3 | Historic former coal mine offering guided tours. |
| 3 Svalbard Husky AS | Dog sledding and husky farm experience provider. | 4 Svalbard Kirke | World's northernmost church, open to all visitors. |
| 5 Polar Bear Sign | Iconic warning sign marking polar bear territory. | P Cruise port / terminal | |