

Amsterdam Island (Amsterdamøya), Svalbard, Norway

Off the northwest tip of Spitsbergen, Amsterdamøya is a high-Arctic expedition stop best known for Smeerenburg — "Blubber Town" — the ruins of a 17th-century Dutch whaling station, with walrus haul-outs and stark polar scenery.

Zodiac/tender landing only

Typical call: 2-4 hrs

Norwegian krone (no shops)

Norwegian (no settlement)

Historic whaling site

MY DAY IN PORT

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

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Zodiac expedition landing — no pier; ships anchor off and tender ashore, conditions permitting

Best For: Expedition cruisers interested in Arctic history and wildlife; the Smeerenburg whaling ruins and walrus haul-outs are the highlights

Don't Miss: The circular blubber-oven foundations of Smeerenburg and the walrus haul-out on the beach

Infrastructure: No shops, no services, no permanent population — an uninhabited protected site in Nordvest-Spitsbergen National Park

Getting around: Rideshare not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Smeerenburg Whaling Station Walk** — Smeerenburg — "Blubber Town" — was a Dutch whaling station founded around 1619 on the south shore of Amsterdamøya.
 - Walrus Haul-Out Viewing** — The beaches around Amsterdamøya and neighbouring Smeerenburgfjorden are popular walrus haul-out sites.
 - Smeerenburgfjorden Zodiac Cruise** — Weather and ice permitting, Zodiac cruises explore the waters around
- Amsterdamøya and into Smeerenburgfjorden, with...

 - Arctic Birdlife and Reindeer** — Amsterdamøya and the surrounding shores host nesting seabirds such as common eider and Arctic terns, while Svalbard...
 - Northwest Spitsbergen Scenic Cruising** — Amsterdamøya sits at the dramatic northwest corner of Spitsbergen, within Nordvest-Spitsbergen National Park.

BEST WALKS

- Smeerenburg Ruins Loop** 1.5 km · 1.5 hrs · Easy — From the landing beach, follow your expedition guide on a gentle loop past the foundations of the blubber ovens and around the...
- Walrus Beach Walk** 1 km · 45 min · Easy — A short guided walk along the shoreline to a safe viewing distance from any walrus haul-out.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr	21°	9°	11d
Jun	38°	31°	9d
Aug	43°	35°	12d
Sep	36°	28°	14d
Oct	28°	18°	16d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Sep 5:49AM–8:04PM · Oct 9:24AM–4:12PM