

Moffen Island, Svalbard, Norway

A flat gravel ring at the edge of the world — where the 80th parallel runs through a walrus colony hundreds strong. No shore, no pier, just pure Arctic wilderness viewed from the rail.

 Scenic cruising only (no landing)

 Typical call: 1-2 hrs at anchor

 Norwegian sovereign territory

 No local population

 Wildlife viewing destination

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: Arrive: All aboard:

Excursion: Notes:

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: No pier, no tender — scenic cruising outside 300 m exclusion zone

Best For: Walrus watching, 80th parallel crossing, Arctic photography

Don't Miss: The walrus haul-out on the gravel spit — bring binoculars

Key Rule: Vessels must stay 300 m from shore May 15 – Sept 15 by law

 Getting around:

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Walrus Colony Viewing** — The main event: dozens to hundreds of Atlantic walrus haul out on the gravel spit.
- 80th Parallel Crossing** — Crossing 80° North is a milestone for Arctic travelers.
- Seabird Watching** — Moffen is a nesting site for Sabine's Gulls, Arctic Terns, and Common Eiders.

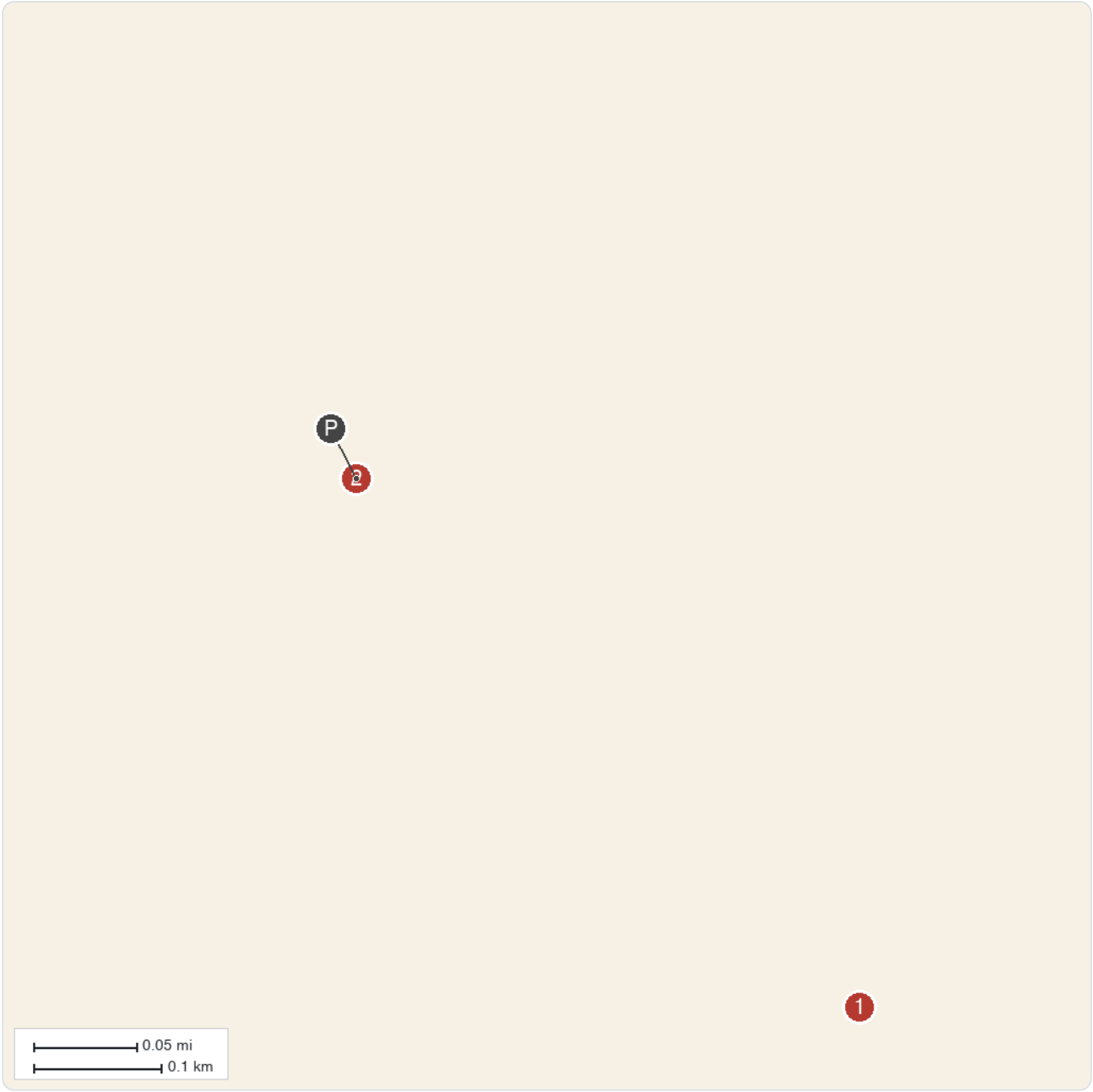
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Bring serious binoculars. 8×42 or 10×42 minimum — at 300+ m the walrus look like brown blobs to the naked eye. A 300–600 mm camera lens is ideal for photography.
- Dress for brutal wind chill. Temperatures near the 80th parallel hover around 0–5°C even in July, and wind off the ice water makes it feel colder. Ear coverage is non-negotiable.
- Keep quiet on deck. Sound carries far over Arctic water. Sudden noise can spook the walrus colony, triggering a stampede that can injure calves. Whisper-volume on the outer rails.
- Fog is common. Arctic sea fog can shroud the island entirely. This is part of the experience — listen to your expedition leader's updates and stay patient.
- No drones. Drones are banned in all Svalbard nature reserves. Enforcement is taken seriously and fines are high.
- Watch for Fata Morgana. Temperature inversions near the 80th parallel produce surreal optical mirages — Moffen Island may appear to float above the water surface. A genuine Arctic magic trick.

Moffen 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.



- 1

Moffen Island Nature Reserve

Low sandy ring island protected as a walrus sanctuary; ships must stay 300m offshore during the May-September breeding season.
- 2

Walrus Haul-Out Beach

The island's shallow lagoon beaches host large resting herds of Atlantic walrus, viewable by binoculars from ship or Zodiac.
- P

Cruise port / terminal