

Skjoldungen Island, Southeast Greenland, Greenland

One of the world's most remote expedition landings — an abandoned Arctic settlement ringed by 6,000-foot peaks, calving glaciers, and icebergs washing ashore like crystal sculptures.

⚓ Tender / Zodiac only (no pier)

🕒 Typical call: 6-9 hrs

🏠 No local economy — ship-only expenses

🇩🇰 Danish / Greenlandic (no locals on island)

🐻 Polar bear territory — guided landings only

🔪 MY DAY IN PORT

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

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Zodiac wet landing — calf-high rubber boots required

Walk to center: Landing site is the destination — 0.5–4 mi hikes from shore

Best For: Expedition photography, glaciers, Arctic silence, history

Don't Miss: The wooden church of the abandoned Skjoldungen settlement

🚗 Getting around: 🚗 Rideshare ❌ not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Abandoned Settlement of Skjoldungen** — Walk to the ruins of the village abandoned in 1965 when Denmark relocated its residents.
- **Tundra & Glacier Viewpoint Hike** — Expedition-flagged hiking routes lead up rocky slopes to panoramic viewpoints above the fjord, with views of calving glaciers and the Thrym ice...
- **Zodiac Safari Among Icebergs** — Cruise the fjord by Zodiac at water level, weaving between icebergs and glacier fronts.
- **Sea Kayaking in the Fjord** — Paddle between growlers and bergy bits in one of Greenland's most spectacular fjord systems.

BEST WALKS

- **Settlement Ruins & Church Walk** 0.5 mi / Easy / 30–45 min — From the Zodiac landing beach, walk north across spongy tundra to the remnants of Skjoldungen village.
- **Shoreline Iceberg Walk** 0.3 mi / Easy / 20–30 min — Walk the pebble shoreline where small icebergs (growlers) have grounded on the dark rocks, creating surreal ice sculptures.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

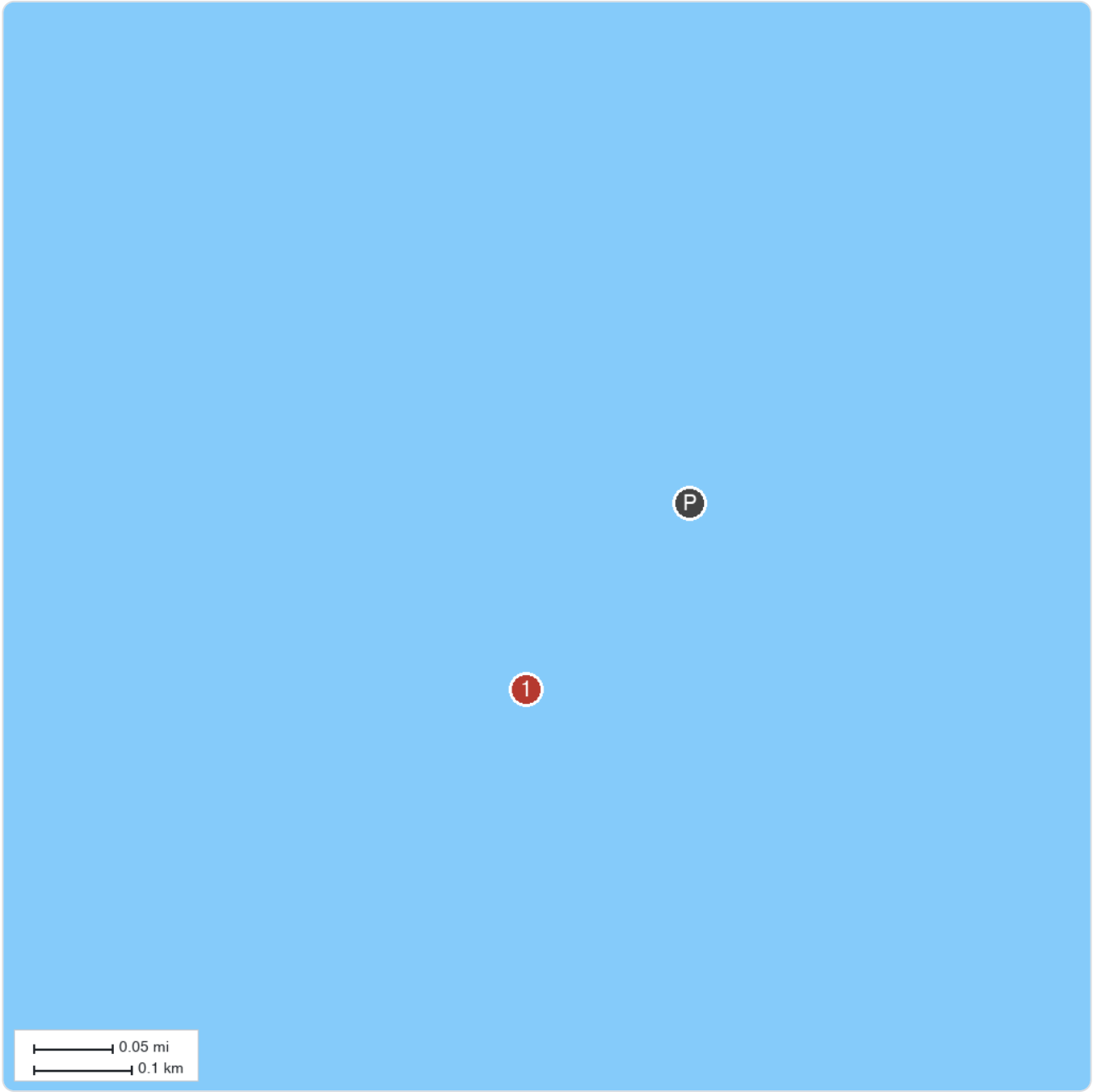
- Rubber boots are non-negotiable. Mid-calf waterproof boots are essential for wet landings. Most expedition ships provide them — confirm before packing.
- Polar bear country. Armed guards patrol the perimeter. Stay within flagged zones at all times — this is serious wilderness, not a photo-op background.
- Layer aggressively. Temperature can swing 15°C in minutes with fog or wind. Merino base, fleece mid, and a waterproof windshell as minimum. Gloves even in August.
- Protect your camera. Seal it in a dry bag for the Zodiac ride — salt spray is brutal. A 200mm+ telephoto lens rewards you with distant glacier and wildlife shots.
- No food ashore — ever. AECO (Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators) prohibits bringing food off the ship in polar bear habitat. Eat a big breakfast on board.
- Blackflies in summer. July and August can bring heavy insect swarms on the tundra. Pack a fine-mesh head net and DEET repellent — they're relentless.

Skjoldungen Island, Southeast Greenland, Greenland — Port

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Map

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



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Abandoned Inuit Settlement Ruins

Stone foundations of a small hunting settlement abandoned in the 20th century, scattered along the fjord shore.
- P

Cruise port / terminal