

# Svalbard Islands, Spitsbergen, Norway

Halfway between mainland Norway and the North Pole, Svalbard is where polar bears outnumber people and glaciers tumble into fjords of impossible blue. This is expedition cruising at its most raw.

-  Pier (Longyearbyen) or tender — varies by ship size
-  Typical call: 6–10 hrs
-  Norwegian Krone (NOK) — nearly cashless; cards everywhere
-  Norwegian / English fluent
-  Polar bear country — guided hikes only outside town

## 🚢 MY DAY IN PORT

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

## GETTING ASHORE

**Docking:** Larger ships dock at Bykaia pier (~1.5 km from town); smaller expedition vessels tender to central pontoon or anchor at remote bays

**Best For:** Polar bear & wildlife spotting, glacier excursions, Arctic history, duty-free shopping

**Walk to Center:** ~20 min flat walk from Bykaia pier; shuttle buses often provided. Tender passengers land near the Tourist Info building

**Don't Miss:** Svalbard Museum, the North Pole Expedition Museum, and a boat tour to Pyramiden or a glacier front

 Getting around:  **Taxi**  NOK 150–250 (~\$15–26 USD) ·  **Rideshare**  not available

## TOP THINGS TO DO

- Polar Bear & Wildlife Safari by Boat** — Board a small expedition vessel or RIB to patrol fjords and coastline for polar bears, walruses, reindeer, and Arctic...
- Glacier Boat Tour — Nordenskiöldbreen or Esmarkbreen** — Cruise deep into Billefjorden or Ymerbukta to drift in front of towering tidewater glacier walls.
- Pyramiden — Soviet Ghost Town** — Boat trip to the abandoned Soviet coal-mining settlement, abruptly evacuated in 1998 and left frozen in time.
- Guided Arctic Hike — Platåfjellet or Sarkofagen** — All wilderness hikes require an armed guide.
- Svalbard Museum & North Pole Expedition Museum** — Two excellent museums walkable from the pier.

## BEST WALKS

- Bykaia Pier to Longyearbyen Town Center** 1.5 km · 20–25 min · Flat & paved — Walk from the cruise pier along the fjord road into town.
- Town Centre Loop — Museums & Church** ~2 km loop · 30–45 min · Easy — From Gågata, walk up to the Svalbard Science Centre (housing the Svalbard Museum), continue to the North Pole Expedition Museum, then...

## WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

 **CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)**

| Mon | High | Low | Rain |
|-----|------|-----|------|
| Apr | 21°  | 9°  | 2d   |
| Jun | 41°  | 33° | 3d   |
| Aug | 43°  | 36° | 3d   |
| Sep | 36°  | 28° | 2d   |
| Oct | 25°  | 15° | 2d   |

 **DAYLIGHT &  MONEY**

Sep 5:39AM–8:01PM · Oct 9:28AM–3:54PM

## KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

# Svalbard Islands, Spitsbergen, Norway — Port Map

[cruiseports.org](https://cruiseports.org)

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



- |                                       |                                                                  |                                 |                                                            |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b> North Pole Expedition Museum | Museum showcasing historic North Pole expeditions and explorers. | <b>2</b> Gruve 3                | Historic coal mine offering guided tours into its tunnels. |
| <b>3</b> Svalbard Husky AS            | Husky kennel offering dog sledding and puppy visits.             | <b>4</b> Svalbard Kirke         | The world's northernmost church, open to all visitors.     |
| <b>5</b> Polar Bear Sign              | Iconic sign warning visitors about polar bear danger.            | <b>P</b> Cruise port / terminal |                                                            |