



MS Fram

2025.05.26 - 2025.06.08



Greenland

Greenland
Sea

Svalbard

Barents
Sea

Iceland

Sweden

Finland

Norway

Estonia

Legend

— HX Expedition

300 km

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Reykjavik - Day 1

Guests arrived in Iceland and were warmly welcomed by the Expedition Team at the hotel. With the day free to explore, many wandered through Reykjavík's charming streets, visited the iconic Hallgrímskirkja church, strolled along the scenic waterfront, and admired local landmarks and sculptures. In the evening, everyone gathered for a welcome dinner at the hotel, enjoying their first taste of

Icelandic hospitality. Afterward, guests were invited to a briefing where the Expedition Team introduced themselves and outlined the adventures ahead. Spirits were high as the evening concluded with a sweet send-off—complimentary Icelandic chocolate and liquorice to take on the excursions around Iceland.

Reykjavik - Day 2

Day two began with a warm treat—guests were offered freshly baked cinnamon buns and chocolate chip cookies from a popular local bakery before heading out on their first excursions. Many embarked on the renowned Golden Circle tour, exploring the dramatic landscapes of Þingvellir National Park, witnessing the erupting Strokkur geyser, enjoying lunch en route, and taking in the majesty of

Gullfoss waterfall. Others stayed closer to Reykjavík, joining the Expedition Team on a guided nature walk to learn about local plants, birds, and geology, while engaging in Citizen Science. In the evening, everyone reunited for a delicious buffet dinner at Jörgensen Kitchen and Bar.

Reykjavik - Day 3

Day three began with a delicious send-off of warm cheese buns and chocolate chip cookies before guests set out to explore the stunning Snæfellsnes Peninsula. The day's highlights included the dramatic black-pebble beach of Djúpalónssandur, the informative Malarrið Visitor Centre, the coastal cliffs and sea arches of Arnarstapi, and the chance to spot seals at Ytri Tunga. That evening, guests gathered for a

special dinner at Harpa, Reykjavík's stunning glass concert hall. Excitement buzzed through the room—MS Fram had finally arrived in port and was visible from the restaurant, a thrilling sight after days of anticipation. Spirits soared as the journey to Jan Mayen and Svalbard drew near.

Reykjavik - Embarkation

After an exhilarating land adventure in Reykjavik, Iceland's lively capital, we embarked on MS Fram, eager to begin our Arctic odyssey. The rugged Icelandic coastline faded behind us as we set sail toward Jan Mayen and Svalbard, spirits high with the thrill of departure. Today was filled with anticipation and unity, as fellow

explorers gathered for insightful presentations from the Expedition Team and a thorough introduction to ship life. With the promise of untamed northern landscapes ahead and a sense of camaraderie taking root, we are now fully prepared to embrace the extraordinary journey that lies before us









Húsavík

Húsavík greeted us with its signature blend of wild beauty and scientific curiosity. The day unfolded with opportunities to delve into the rich marine life at the Whale Museum and join a whale watching excursion across Skjálfandi Bay, renowned for its abundance of cetaceans. Adventurers hiked the slopes of Husavikurfjall, rewarded with sweeping vistas of the bay and distant mountains. Onboard, the

spirit of exploration thrived through engaging lectures on Arctic photography, cloud observation, and citizen science projects. As we sailed northward, camaraderie deepened, and the promise of crossing the Arctic Circle drew us ever closer to the heart of the polar wilderness



At sea

A full day at sea brought a sense of anticipation as we sailed north, leaving Iceland's shores behind and crossing into the Arctic Circle. The day was rich with discovery: guests gathered on deck for wildlife watching and participated in the eBird citizen science project, contributing to real-time research. Mandatory AECO briefings and

biosecurity procedures prepared us for future landings, while lectures on North Atlantic seabirds deepened our knowledge of the region's unique fauna. The highlight was the lively Arctic Circle crossing ceremony, marking a symbolic milestone on our voyage to Jan Mayen and Svalbard, and uniting everyone in shared adventure



Jan Mayen

On a spectacular day, Jan Mayen revealed itself as a remote volcanic sentinel in the Arctic, dominated by the snow-capped Beerenberg. Perfect conditions allowed for a rare landing on this seldom-visited island, where black lava fields, moss, and hardy flowers created a striking landscape. Seabirds—puffins, northern fulmars, little auks, and Brünnich's guillemots—filled the cliffs and slopes as we explored

in the gentle morning weather. Once back aboard, clear skies offered breathtaking views of Beerenberg. The day continued with engaging lectures on Arctic geopolitics and whale biology, plus hands-on citizen science and workshops, deepening our connection to this unique environment.



On our way to Svalbard

A serene day at sea offered a perfect interlude as MS Fram ventured further into Arctic waters. Guests embraced the spirit of discovery, joining wildlife watches on deck and contributing to global research through citizen science projects like eBird and NASA GLOBE Cloud Observer. Thought-provoking lectures, including an exploration of glaciers as “Earth’s Rivers of Ice,” enriched our understanding of the

polar world. Informal gatherings in the Science Centre allowed for reflection on our wildlife encounters so far, while the mandatory polar bear briefing heightened anticipation for Svalbard. The sense of shared purpose and adventure continued to grow among all on board.





Burgerbukta

A day of Arctic exploration unfolded in Burgerbukta, where guests had the chance to land on the shores of this dramatic Svalbard fjord—weather permitting. Early risers joined a wildlife watch on the bow, scanning for seabirds and marine mammals against a backdrop of glaciers and rugged peaks. The program offered a range of enriching activities: a lecture on Svalbard's history, hands-on citizen science in

the Science Centre, and travel inspiration with a special Antarctica presentation. For the adventurous, kayaking excursions provided an up-close encounter with the icy waters. The day concluded with briefings on tomorrow's plans, fueling excitement for what lies ahead¹.



Bamsebu & Vårsolbukta

A day of true Arctic immersion unfolded as we explored both Bamsebu and Vårsolbukta on Svalbard. Early morning landings at Bamsebu offered a rare glimpse into the island's whaling history and stark wilderness, while afternoon excursions at Vårsolbukta revealed sweeping tundra and dramatic coastal scenery. Adventurous guests took to the icy waters for a Polar Plunge and joined guided kayak

outings, deepening their connection to this remote environment. Science Boat sessions provided hands-on learning about the region's unique ecosystem. Onboard, a travel inspiration lecture and evening briefings fueled anticipation for the journey ahead, rounding out a day rich with exploration and discovery.





Ny-Ålesund & Lilliehöökreen

Today's journey took us to two remarkable sites in Kongsfjorden, Spitsbergen. The morning began with a guided walk through Ny-Ålesund, where participants explored the town's scientific legacy and visited local museums, all while adhering to environmental guidelines to protect nesting birds and research activities. Onboard, a lecture on avalanche safety offered practical insights into Arctic

conditions. In the afternoon, guests engaged in a hands-on Science Center session, analyzing water samples from Svalbard's unique ecosystem. The day concluded with a zodiac cruise along the Lilliehöökreen glacier, providing close views of ice formations and the surrounding landscape.





Moffen & Smeerenburg

The day started with scenic cruising around Moffen Island, where guests observed walrus from the ship's decks, taking in the significance of this protected area for the species' recovery. Morning activities included wildlife watching and participation in citizen science projects such as eBird and NASA GLOBE Cloud Observer, supporting ongoing research efforts. A lecture on Arctic whales and

dolphins provided additional context about the region's marine life. In the afternoon, after an unsuccessful attempt to approach the icepack border, conditions allowed for a landing at Smeerenburg, where small groups explored the historical site and its landscape in rotation. The day closed with briefings on upcoming plans and live music onboard.



On the Ice Edge - Jun 6, 2025

Smeerenburg, Norway - Jun 6, 2025



Alkhornet & Isfjorden

The day started with a landing at Alkhornet, where guests explored the tundra beneath cliffs frequented by bird colonies and grazing reindeer. Small groups rotated ashore, observing the landscape and wildlife while adhering to established guidelines. Onboard, preparations for the end of the cruise included a disembarkation talk,

a science recap lecture, and brief Arctic-themed presentations by the expedition team. Afternoon scenic cruising in Isfjorden provided additional opportunities for observation from the decks. The day concluded with the captain's farewell, a charity auction, and a slideshow reviewing key moments from the voyage





Longyearbyen - Disembarkation

In the quiet light of polar day, our time together in Longyearbyen draws to a close. Early morning disembarkation marks the end of a journey shaped by exploration, learning, and shared experiences in the Arctic's unique environment. As we step ashore, we take with us memories of diverse landscapes, notable wildlife encounters, and the

connections formed with fellow travelers and crew. Though our voyage ends, the sense of curiosity and respect for the Arctic's delicate beauty endures. Wishing everyone safe onward travels, with the hope that the insights and moments from this expedition continue to resonate beyond Svalbard.





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