



MS Fram

2025.07.27 - 2025.08.05



Embarkation Day

Embarkation day in Longyearbyen began with us variously exploring the town and even going on some excursions. Once on board MS Fram, we settled in to our cabins and afternoon program includes collecting expedition jackets in the Science Center and our 'muck'

boots in the Lecture Hall. All guests attend a mandatory safety drill in the Explorer Lounge, ensuring everyone is familiar with onboard procedures and then relaxed with dinner in the restaurant and an insight into our plans for the next day.





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Ny-Ålesund

Our day began with briefings on AECO guidelines and polar bear safety, which were required for our landings in Svalbard. We also had options to join a wildlife watch, or learn about the onboard citizen science program. In the afternoon, we reached Ny-Ålesund, where we participated in guided walks to learn about the history of this

fascinating ex-coal mine, now a multinational research settlement. The day continued with scenic sailing in Kongsfjorden. We concluded the evening with the Captain's welcome, where we met the officers and crew.



Fuglefjorden & Alicehamna

Our first small boat cruising and our first hiking venture for this voyage was near the beautiful Svitjodbreen glacier and wraparound mountain views in the Fuglefjorden. At Alicehamna on the shores of Raudfjorden, we visited Sven 'Stockholm Sven' Olsen's hunting and

trapping cabin (Raudfjordhytta) built in 1927. We also saw the historic graves, one of a whaling Captain Erik Mattilas who died of scurvy in 1908 and an unknown whaler's graves.





○ Smeerenburg, Norway - Jul 29, 2025

○ Alicehamna, Norway - Jul 29, 2025



Monacobreen, Texas Bar & Moffen

We spent the morning cruising or kayaking in front of the incredible Monacobreen (glacier) named after Prince Albert of Monaco who sponsored a number of famous Arctic expeditions in the early 20th century. We sailed to a different area of the bay known as Leifdefjorden (Love Fjord) for our landing at Texas Bar where hot chocolate was served in the Trappers Hut. Although the hut was stocked with an interesting collection of alcoholic drinks from around

the world, we weren't tempted and left them for posterity, as part of the story of the place. Stunning wild flowers were abundant whether taking a stroll to viewpoints or going further with the hike. Quite a number took the Polar Plunge from the beach before heading back on board. By late evening we reached the island of Moffen where we stopped for half an hour to enjoy watching the charismatic walrus





Moffen - Jul 30, 2025

Pack Ice - Jul 31, 2025

Sea Ice Day!

The sea ice met us with the chance of zodiac cruising and kayaking in some great conditions. We were so close to 81 degrees latitude and were hopeful of making it with the ship. Sure enough, the Captain pointed the bow Northwards and we were able to achieve 81 degrees, 002 minutes north before the ice stopped us and we turned south. However later that evening we experienced the stuff of which

dreams are made. A female polar bear with two cubs had spotted our very slow progression and in no time they had crossed the ice to examine this strange object. Many of us were in tears as we watched these magnificent animals exhibit their natural behaviour of complete calm and relaxation.



Alkefjellet & Torellneset

The sea delivered some lively water this morning with swell which made a few of us feel a little wobbly. However the superb expedition team driver delivered a brilliant small boat cruise along the bird cliffs which teemed with kittiwakes and Brunnich guillemots as well as

puffins. We'd hoped for walrus at Torellneset, but fog enveloped the landing site so we had an afternoon of relaxation and onboard talks and activities.





Nature Reser

North

Alkefjellet

Torellneset

Legend

HX Expedition

Torellneset, Norway - Aug 1, 2025

Kapp Lee, Norway - Aug 2, 2025

Kapp Lee, Sundneset & Boltodden

Our morning arrival at Kapp Lee was to an early clear skies and then the fog descended so the Expedition Team quickly implemented plan B and we sailed across Freemandsundet to Sundneset. However a polar bear, close enough for all to see was near our landing which meant Plan C had to be brought into play. We enjoyed an onboard programme of talks and activities as we sailed across the huge Storfjorden to a landing called Boltodden. We had fun searching for

elusive (for most of us) dinosaur fossil footprints on an interesting landing which even included a rescue helicopter fuel depot. After dinner, at the HX Charitable Foundation auction, people's competitive spirits were aroused and it was well supported. After this, Sea Sick, the genius name for the crew band and their music had us on the dance floor or at least tapping our feet along.

Sundneset, Norway - Aug 2, 2025





Samarinvågen & Burgerbukta

Passing the sharp peaks of Hornsund in the early hours, by the time we reached Samarinvågen the reflections of the Glacier and mountains on the mirror glass water were truly jaw-dropping. The sight of the glacier quietly calving in the brilliant sunlight was one of those moments when a gasp of wonder and a deep breath of contentment escaped the mouths of most of us. In the afternoon we

cruised gently to Burgerbukta where again, the sun shone brightly and as we stood next to the ancient rock faces pushed up by the immense forces of nature, we were able to look closely at Kvalfangerbreen with the sun shining into the blue depths of the glacier.







Hemsedalen

Spitsbergen

Nordre Isfjorden
National Park

Sassen - Bünsö
Land National Park

Longyearbyen

Barentsburg

Legend



— HX Expedition

10 km

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Hemsedalen

Our final day of exploration brought us into Ekmanfjorden, a branch from the mighty Isfjorden where Longyearbyen is situated. We enjoyed either a hike or a walk to the bottom of our first arctic waterfall at Hemsedalen. The weather was glorious and we were able to fully enjoy the spectacular rock formations on the other side of the fjord. Later our historian gave us an informal historical voyage recap

and the Science Team reminded us of our discoveries during this trip. In the early evening with the sun shining in the fjord, we watched the wonderful compilation of videos and imagery compiled by our photographer. The Captain bid us all a fond farewell and because of our arrival time in Longyearbyen, we had the opportunity to visit the town to collect some final souvenirs.





Disembarkation Day

Alongside in Longyearbyen, our time together on MS Fram drew to a close. Our morning disembarkation ended a journey shaped by exploration, learning, and shared experiences in the unique Arctic environment. As we step ashore, we take with us memories of

spectacular and diverse landscapes, extraordinary wildlife encounters, and friendships made with fellow travelers and crew. Whether our first or for some, a repeat voyage, every one of us left with a sense of inner joy and warmth.





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