



## Circumnavigating Spitsbergen - In the Realm of the Polar Bear

21 June – 30 June 2026



Legend

— HX Expedition

## Embarkation - Longyearbyen

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Guests boarded MS Fram at Longyearbyen, and the expedition began. The ship's comfort was immediately apparent — warm cabins, a welcoming crew already at their posts. Rubber boots were distributed, and the afternoon opened with the first onboard session:

the Expedition Leader and Hotel Manager introduced guests to life aboard and what lay ahead. By evening, anticipation had settled into quiet readiness.



## Ny-Ålesund

The morning opened with essential Arctic briefings — AECO rules for our planned destinations, followed by Lara's kayak introduction for those signed up. Before lunch, the first polar bear of the voyage appeared: distant, but unmistakable against the shore. The sighting drew every pair of eyes to the rails. After lunch, the Expedition Team led guests ashore at Ny-Ålesund, the northernmost permanent

settlement in the world. Overcast skies and a clean Arctic wind accompanied the guided tour. The day closed with the Captain's Welcome, where guests were formally received by the Captain, her officers, and the Expedition Team — the official start of the voyage together.



## Smeerenburg

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Our first nature landing was remarkable. Guests had their first encounter with Arctic wildlife beyond the birdlife at Ny-Ålesund: walrus, resting on the beach. The remains of an old Dutch blubber oven from the 16th century stood on the far side of the beach, and

Luciano, our Historian, gave guests an introduction to Svalbard's whaling history and the ill-fated Swedish Arctic Expedition led by Salomon August Andrée — and the hydrogen balloon that carried him north in 1897.



## Ytre Norskøy

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The afternoon landing was cancelled: a polar bear had been sighted at the landing site. Guests watched from deck while the Expedition

Team ran the onboard lecture programme.



Ship Cruising Raudfjorden, Svalbard and Jan Mayen - Jun 23, 2026

Monacobreen, Svalbard and Jan Mayen - Jun 24, 2026

## Monacobreen

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The day brought two excursions. During the morning, the Expedition Team navigated the expedition boats through deep-blue glaciers — the main glacier stretched approximately 7 km wide and 40 km in

length, and guests were brought as close as conditions safely allowed. Several guests witnessed calving at close range.



## Texas Bar

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During the afternoon, guests landed at Texas Bar, a cabin built by the Petterson brothers, which even today does justice to the name, since

it has plenty of bottles that make one say "Maybe spending a winter here would not be such a bad idea after all".



Moffen, Svalbard and Jan Mayen - Jun 24, 2026

Ice Edge - Jun 25, 2026

## Ice Edge, 80°N

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The decision to push north to the sea ice edge proved to be the right one. Two expedition boats found themselves held fast in the ice; MS Fram manoeuvred in to open a passage — a reminder of how quickly conditions in these waters can shift. While the ship worked to free a path, the other boats and the kayaks had an encounter of a different

order: a blue whale surfaced alongside them, immense and unhurried. Then came the polar bear: a lone figure on the sea ice in the distance. Every guest came on deck. Few days in the Arctic arrive this fully formed.





## Torellneset

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Our morning greeted us with vast Arctic peace: after days among the mountains, the open Arctic flatlands offered a different kind of

stillness. The waters reflected the skies as a perfect mirror, and many guests took the opportunity for an extended hike into the interior.



## Bråsvellbreen

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After lunch we spotted a polar bear on the sea ice, positioned close to a seal, and then the ship set course for the longest glacial front in

the Northern Hemisphere: 120 km of glacier face — a floating platform of ice, whose waterfalls were otherworldly.



Sundneset, Svalbard and Jan Mayen - Jun 27, 2026

## Foggy Day

The Expedition Team strive, always, to open the wilderness of Svalbard to guests — but sometimes the weather, or the presence of a

polar bear, determines otherwise. Today was such a day: one to remain aboard, rest, and take in lectures from the Expedition Team.

Kapp Lee, Svalbard and Jan Mayen - Jun 27, 2026



## Burgerbukta

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The morning landing delivered, once again, landscapes of striking scale. The mountains rose almost vertically from the fjord to the cloud

base, and the weather was mild for the latitude.



## Gnålodden

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During the afternoon, the landing site could accommodate no more than 39 guests at a time, which made the experience far more exclusive. The jagged peaks did full justice to the name 'Spitzbergen', and the bird cliffs rose in dense, noisy columns above. The hut

associated with the first female trapper in Svalbard was also worth the visit. The vivid ground cover added an unexpected brightness to the landscape.



## Bamsebu

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During the morning, guests visited the hut which has witnessed some of the most significant moments in Svalbard's recorded history: from the trappers and the miners, to the first two female scientists to overwinter in this place, whose work focused on climate science. After lunch, the final onboard programme brought activities such as

'What We Saw During this Voyage', the Q&A with the Captain and her officers, the deeply moving recap video by Jan, our photographer and videographer on board, and the Captain's Farewell ceremony. It was time to pack.





## Disembarkation - Longyearbyen

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The final morning arrived. Bags were packed, cabins cleared, and the gangway opened onto Longyearbyen once more. Guests had carried something back that would not fit into any luggage: the memory of ice and open water, of polar bears on the horizon and glaciers

calving in the stillness. The Expedition Team and crew said their farewells at the gangway. MS Fram held its position at the dock, patient and solid, as it had been throughout. The voyage was complete.





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