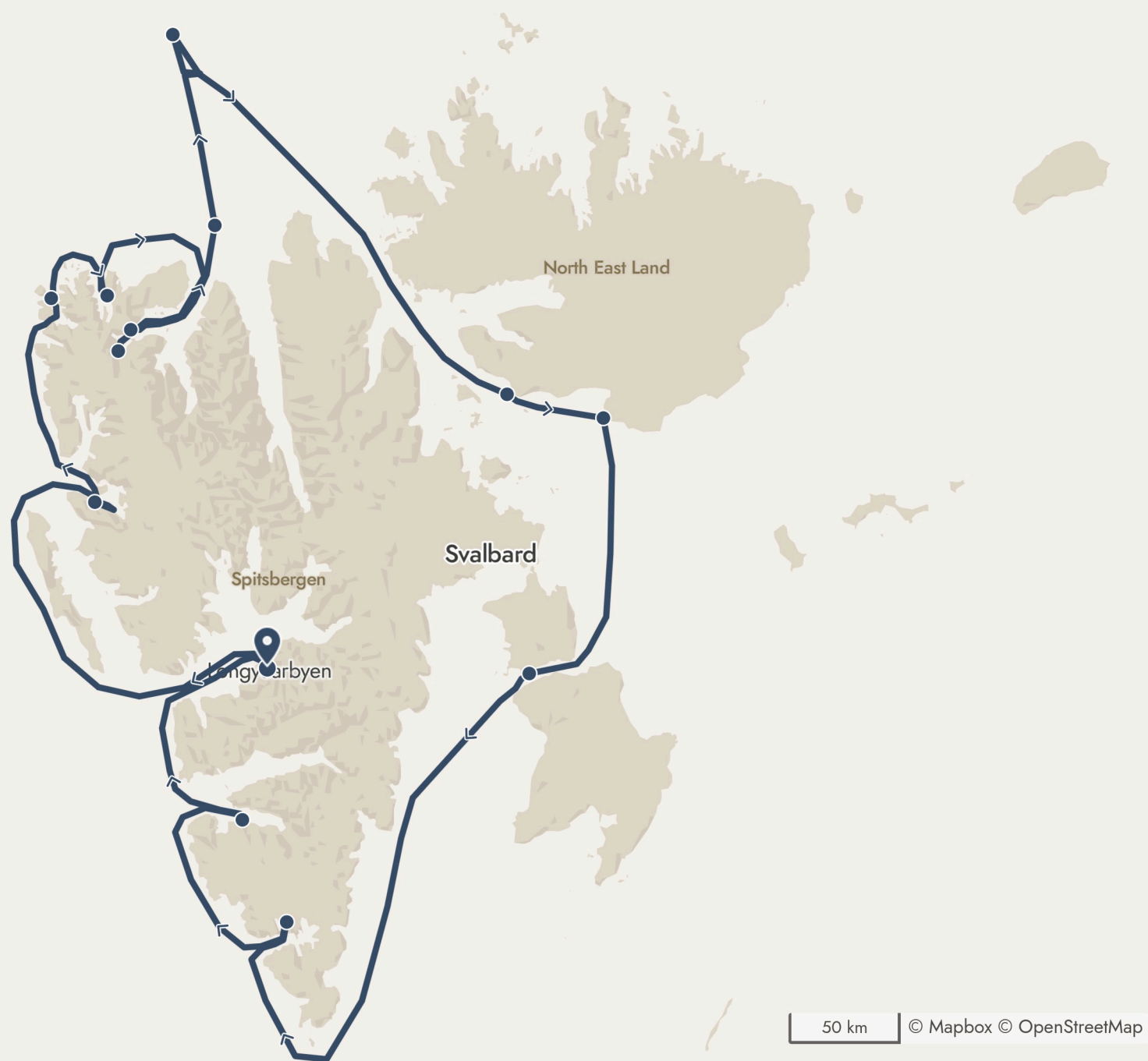




Circumnavigating Spitsbergen – In the Realm of the Polar Bear

MS Fram, 12 – 21 July 2026

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Day 1 - Embarkation Day

The voyage began in Longyearbyen, where guests arrived aboard and were welcomed into their home for the coming days. Once they had settled into their cabins, we distributed expedition jackets and fitted everyone with expedition boots in preparation for what lay ahead. In the afternoon, the Expedition Leader and Hotel Manager outlined the

journey to come and shared practical information about life on board. As guests met their fellow travellers and found their way around the ship, all thoughts turned toward the High Arctic and the days awaiting.



Day 2 - Ny-Ålesund

The day began with essential expedition briefings, including AECO guidelines and kayaking procedures. Before reaching Ny-Ålesund, we spotted a polar bear walking along the coast. Ny-Ålesund is the world's northernmost permanent civilian settlement, and we led guests

through it, sharing its history of exploration and science. The evening concluded with the Captain's Welcome, where guests were introduced to the Ship's Officers and Expedition Team.



Day 3 - Smeerenburg (AM)

We spent the morning at Smeerenburg, landing near the remains of the old Dutch whaling station, where we shared the site's history with guests. Afterwards, we walked the shoreline and watched a herd of

walrus resting on the sandy beach, with a few more spotted in the water.



Day 3 - Alicehamna (PM)

In the afternoon we relocated to Alicehamna for a second landing, climbing the rocky hill for a view over Raudfjord. The Expedition Team led a hike across uneven terrain with steep sections, while some

guests braved the polar plunge, briefly testing themselves against the Arctic water before returning aboard.



Day 5 - Monacobreen (AM)

We began the day in Liefdefjorden, where expedition boats cruised along the front of Monacobreen, the glacier's blue-white wall rising above us as ice cracked and shifted in the stillness. Our kayakers

paddled the fjord at their own pace, moving quietly through water that reflected the ice above.



Day 5 - Texas Bar (PM)

In the afternoon, we landed at Texas Bar, the historic trapper's hut built by Hilmar Nøis and Martin Pettersen in 1927 — a solitary structure that speaks quietly of the winters endured here. Some guests

took a longer hike across the moraine, while others joined the science boat before coming ashore, the surrounding landscape of stone and ice lending the whole scene a particular stillness.



Day 5 - Moffen (PM)

In the evening, we sailed past Gråhuken, recalling Christiane Ritter's overwintering in Svalbard during the 1930s — a stretch of coast that once meant true solitude. Before long, we gathered on deck near

Moffen Island, where a haul-out of walrus lay along the shore, their low breathing carrying clearly across the still water.



Day 6 - Edge of the Sea Ice

The morning took us by expedition boat along the edge of the sea ice, where open water gave way to a shifting expanse of floes. From the boats, we watched the ice up close, with black guillemots and kittiwakes for company along the way. The afternoon on board offered

lectures on the history of Svalbard and on sea ice in a warming world, along with a citizen science session observing clouds for NASA. We gathered later in the Science Centre to review the sightings of the past two days.



Day 7 - Torellneset (AM)

After a foggy start delayed our landing by a few hours, conditions gradually improved and we went ashore at Torellneset on the low coastal plains of Nordaustlandet. Here, we explored a stark Arctic

landscape of raised beaches, tundra, and glacial deposits, while watching walrus haul out on the shore and swimming in the icy waters of the bay.



Day 7 - Bråsvellbreen (PM)

Back on board, the afternoon featured wildlife watching, citizen science activities, and lectures on polar bears and Arctic ecology. Later, we cruised by the towering ice cliffs of Bråsvellbreen, where

countless meltwater waterfalls cascaded into the sea as we followed the glacier front by expedition boat.



Day 8 - Sundneset

The morning passed at sea, with lectures on Svalbard's glaciers and the changing geopolitics of the Arctic while we kept watch for wildlife from the outer decks. As we entered Freemansund, the narrow strait separating Barentsøya from Edgeøya, we spotted three polar bears — a fine start to the day. In the afternoon, we went ashore at Sundneset,

on Barentsøya, where some set out on a longer hike across the island's open tundra, gaining some 300 metres of elevation, while others wandered the terrain closer to the landing site and the wide horizons of eastern Svalbard.



Day 9 - Burgerbukta

The morning unfolded on board: we gathered in the Science Centre to review findings from the science boat, stepped out to the outer decks with Expedition Team members in search of wildlife, and heard what everyday life is like at a research station in Svalbard. In the afternoon, we turned our attention to Burgerbukta, a branching bay

on the northern side of Hornsund, where we went ashore beneath steep surrounding peaks, with glacier fronts visible at the inner arms of the fjord. Kayakers took to the water alongside us, while the science boats collected samples before joining us at the landing site.



Day 10 - Bamsebu

Our final landing of the voyage brought us ashore at Bamsebu, a small cabin on the shore of Van Keulenfjorden that once served as a base for beluga hunting; the whale bones piled along the beach still bear witness to that chapter of Svalbard's history. Some guests set out on a four-kilometre hike from Ingebrigtsenbukta to Fleur de Lyshamna

while others roamed the area around the landing site, and a few braved a polar plunge. Later, the day turned toward farewells: guests returned their boots and put their questions to the Captain and Officers as we looked back together on the sightings and science of the past days.





Disembarkation Day

After nine days among the fjords, glaciers, and tundra of Svalbard, our voyage drew to a close in Longyearbyen, where it had begun. Guests stepped ashore carrying more than their luggage: memories of ice stretching to the horizon, of four polar bears moving through their kingdom, of walruses hauled out along the shore, of landings on

beaches where history lingers in weathered timber and bone. Guests exchanged farewells with the crew and the Expedition Team, and with the fellow travellers who had shared it all — and left hoping their paths might lead back to the archipelago, and to each other, again.





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