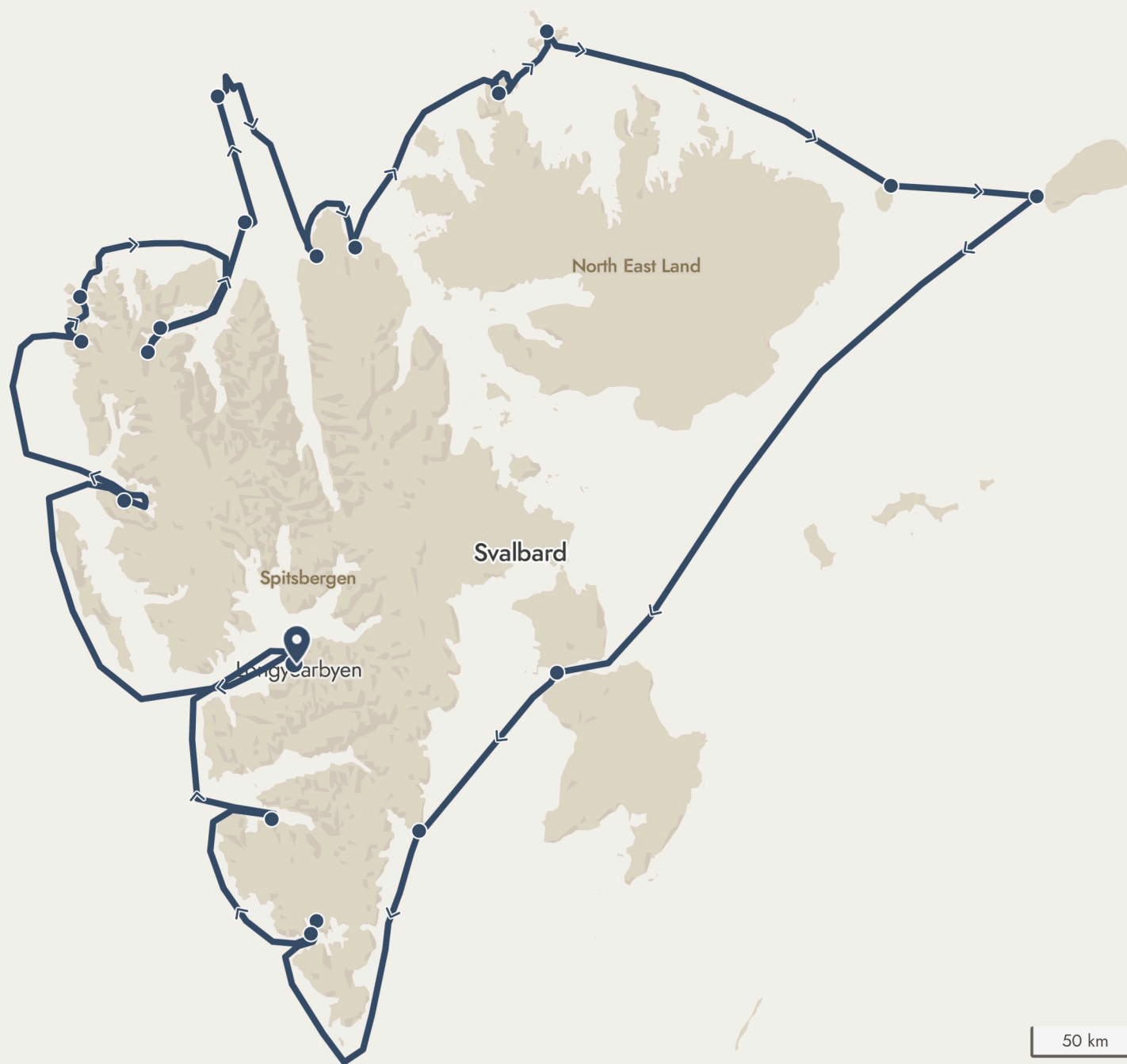




Circumnavigating Svalbard – The Ultimate Expedition

MS Fram, 30 June – 12 July 2026



Legend

— HX Expedition

50 km | © Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Longyearbyen - Embarkation Day

Our circumnavigation of Svalbard began in Longyearbyen, where guests were welcomed aboard and introduced to their home for the coming days. After settling into their cabins, guests collected expedition jackets and fitted their rubber boots, preparing for Arctic exploration. The afternoon included introductions from the Expedition

Leader and Hotel Manager, who outlined the journey ahead and shared essential information about life on board. The ship came alive as guests met fellow travellers, explored the vessel, and set their sights on the High Arctic ahead.



Ny-Ålesund

The day began with essential expedition briefings, including AECO guidelines and kayaking procedures. Before reaching Ny-Alesund, wildlife sightings included beluga whales, puffins, minke whales, and a polar bear swimming offshore. In the afternoon, guests explored the

world's northernmost permanent civilian settlement, learning about its history of exploration and science. The evening concluded with the Captain's Welcome, where guests met the Ship's Officers and Expedition Team.



Magdalenefjorden

A morning of low fog and drizzle settled over Magdalenefjorden, lending the fjord a stillness that felt wholly Arctic. Guests walked the shoreline, taking in the ice formations and the muted grandeur of the

surrounding peaks. An expedition boat outing offered a closer perspective on the fjord.



Smeerenburg

The afternoon brought a landing at Smeerenburg, where walrus
rested on the shore and moved between land and water with
unhurried ease. Despite steady rain, guests explored the remains of

the former Dutch whaling settlement — a place where the scale of the
17th-century industry still registers in the bones of the landscape.



Monacobreen

The morning brought the expedition boats out in front of Monacobreen and Seligerbreen, where the full height of the glacier faces came into view from the water. Towers of blue-white ice rose well above the boats, their surfaces fractured and veined where the pressure had been working for centuries. The fjord carried the sound

of it all — a deep, structural crack, then the rush and collapse of calving ice hitting the water, the echo rolling back from the valley walls. Kittiwakes and fulmars circled the debris line where the ice met the sea. The cold radiated off the face even at distance.



Texas Bar

The afternoon landing at Texas Bar revealed a hillside thick with Arctic wildflowers set against sweeping glacier views. An expedition boat excursion extended the exploration further. As the ship got under way,

a gathering of feeding minke whales came into view — a fine close to a full day.





Ice Edge - 80 degrees North

The ship worked the ice edge through the day, and it gave generously. Guests observed harp seals, Brünnich's guillemots, black guillemots, fulmars, and black-legged kittiwakes among the sea ice.

Later, blows rose on the horizon, drawing the ship into a feeding aggregation of seabirds, minke whales, fin whales, and two blue whales that surfaced alongside.



Mosselbukta

Mosselbukta opened into a wide, unhurried bay, the tundra rolling back from the shore in shades of rust and green. Guests made their way to a Pomor cabin — a remnant of the Russian overwintering culture that once reached this far north, where hunters from the White Sea coast spent months in near-total darkness, trapping to survive

long enough to return home. The cabin still stands, low against the landscape, built to endure rather than to comfort. From there, a tundra trail led to a viewpoint where the full sweep of the bay came into view — the water still, the far shore hazy, the silence broken only by the wind.



Crozierpynten

Crozierpynten met the afternoon with sunshine, and it transformed the plateau entirely. The tundra was thick with Arctic flowers — yellows, whites, the occasional flush of purple where the saxifrage had taken hold. Reindeer moved slowly across the hillside, unhurried. The rock

ptarmigans were harder to find, their summer plumage almost exactly matching the lichen and stone, so that you were often a metre away before one moved and gave itself away.



Chermsideøya

The morning landing at Chermsideøya began on the beach — boulders bearing the inscribed names of whalers and hunters, the oldest worn close to smooth by weather. Then the radio crackled, and the evacuation was swift: a polar bear nearby, close enough that the Expedition Team brought everyone back aboard without delay. From

the ship, the bear came into full view — settled on a snow patch above the landing site, broad and unhurried, with the ease of something that had been watching the whole time. It stayed long enough for everyone to see it well.



Phippsøya - Isflakbukta

The afternoon landing at Phippsøya began with a find that sharpened attention immediately — Arctic fox tracks near the shore, and further along, the broad impressions of a polar bear. Recent enough to matter. Then the fog arrived with the decisive speed Arctic weather

reserves for moments like this, and the second evacuation of the day was called. Everyone was back aboard before conditions closed in fully.



Storøya

Overcast skies sat low over Storøya as the expedition boats circled the island. Walrus lay hauled out along the shore in loose groups, motionless in the unhurried way of animals with little reason to move.

Others rolled and surfaced in the shallows, occasionally lifting their heads toward the boats before moving on. The smell reached us before we were close.



Kvitøya

Kvitøya sits at the far edge of the archipelago, and it felt like it. Cold, wet, and under low cloud, the island offered little in the way of welcome — which is what makes it compelling. Almost the entire landmass lies beneath a permanent ice cap, the glacier dropping

straight into dark water at the sea's edge. This is also where the Andrée expedition ended in 1897 — three men, a downed balloon, and thirty-three years of silence. The conditions on the day felt entirely in keeping with it.



Sundneset

After the 130th-anniversary celebration with cake and sparkling wine, the Expedition Team spotted the third polar bear of the voyage. Guests later landed at Sundneset, where lush tundra vegetation,

colourful wildflowers, and grazing reindeer lay across the hillside. Some guests joined a 6.5-kilometre hike to explore the area in greater detail.



Boltodden

Despite a moderate swell, guests landed at Boltodden and explored historic huts, grassy tundra, and geological features that included dinosaur footprints. Highlights included polar bear bones, nesting

red-throated divers, and Arctic skuas. The afternoon featured lectures, workshops, and the HX Foundation Charity Auction hosted on board.



Burgerbukta

A clearing sky opened the morning as the expedition boats headed into Burgerbukta, the glacier at the far end coming into focus as the weather lifted. Arctic terns were nesting along the shoreline and made their presence known — diving low and fast at any guest who

came too close, pulling up at the last moment with unhurried precision. Guests moved carefully among them. Beyond the colony, the glacier filled the head of the bay, its surface a deep, fractured blue where the ice had compressed over decades.



Gnålodden

The afternoon landing at Gnåladden brought the expedition to a stretch of coast lined with seabird colonies and the cabin once used by Wanny Woldstad, one of Norway's first women to overwinter and

trap independently on Svalbard. A pair of Arctic foxes moved along the shoreline with evident curiosity, rounding off the visit on a vivid note.



Bamsebu

Bamsebu brought the expedition to a close in weather that felt true to the place: rain, wind, and drifting fog setting a dramatic tone across southern Svalbard's open coast. Along the shoreline, beluga whale bones lay scattered — a quiet record of the region's history of whaling — while the nearby cabin stood as evidence of the lives once

lived here in real isolation. Reindeer moved steadily across the tundra, and an Arctic fox appeared briefly at the edge of the landing site. Back aboard, guests gathered for the final presentations and the Captain's Farewell, closing the voyage with the photographer slideshow and the company of those who had shared it.





Longyearbyen - Disembarkation

After nearly two weeks of exploration, wildlife encounters, and landscapes that do not easily leave you, the expedition concluded in Longyearbyen. Guests bid farewell to the crew, Expedition Team, and

fellow travellers — each carrying something of Svalbard with them. We hope to welcome them back on another voyage.





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