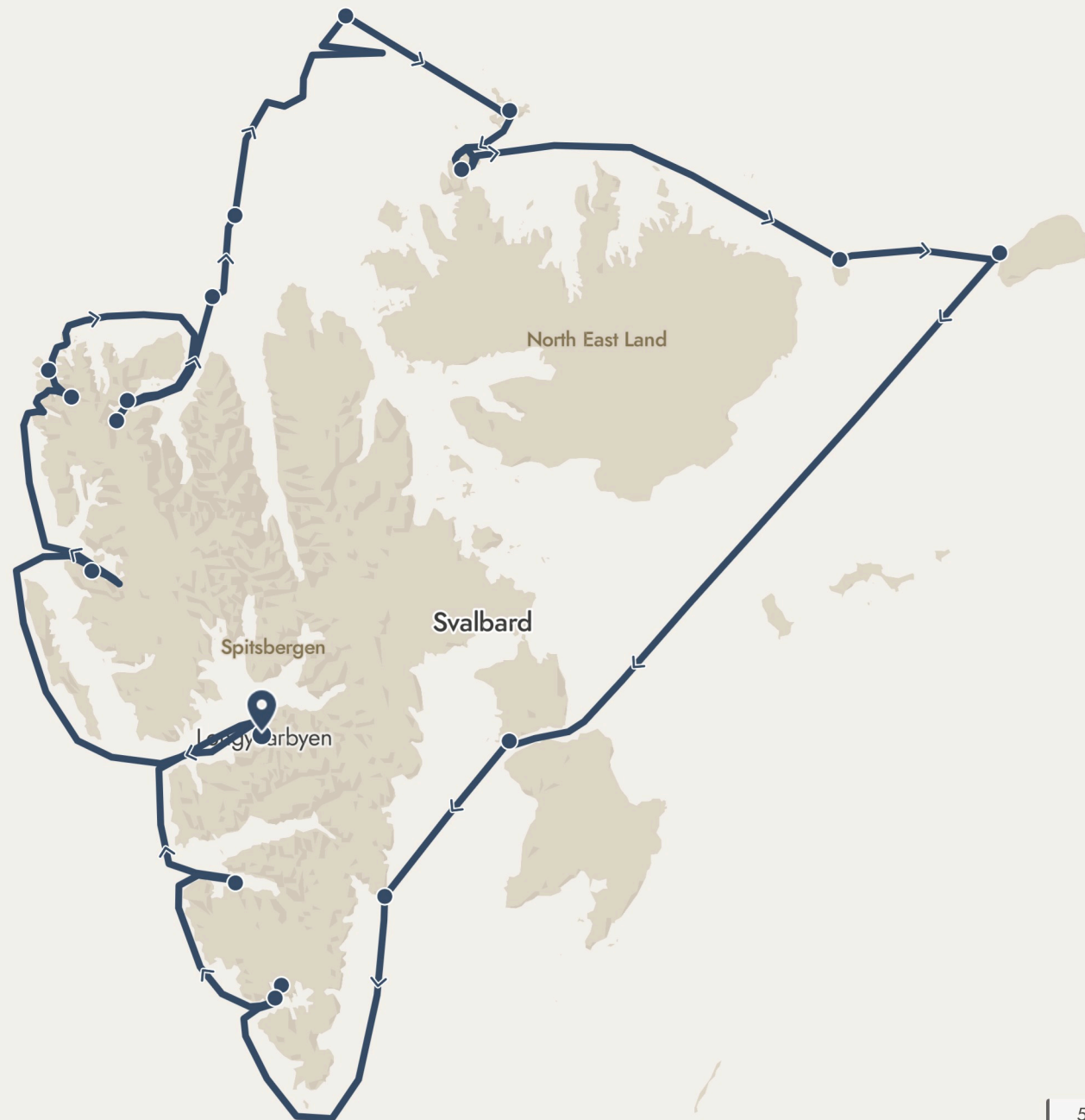




Circumnavigating Svalbard – The Ultimate Expedition

MS Fram, 21 July – 2 August 2026



Legend

HX Expedition

Day 1 – Longyearbyen (Embarkation)

Guests boarded MS Fram in Longyearbyen to begin our circumnavigation of Svalbard. Once they had settled into their cabins, they collected expedition jackets and fitted their boots for the days 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 found their way around the ship and met their fellow travellers, our thoughts turned to the High Arctic and the days awaiting us.



Day 2 – Ny-Ålesund

The day began with essential expedition briefings, including AECO guidelines and kayaking procedures. The afternoon was spent in Ny-Ålesund, the world's northernmost permanent civilian settlement, where guests walked through with a member of the Expedition Team,

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



Day 3 – Bjørnafjorden (AM)

An early morning polar bear encounter led us to cancel our planned landing at Magdalenefjorden and redirect the entire day. We embarked on an expedition boat cruise through Bjørnafjorden

instead, navigating carefully past the retreating glaciers and the fast ice at water level.



Day 3 – Smeerenburg (PM)

In the afternoon, we proceeded to Smeerenburg for our scheduled landing, where guests observed a substantial herd of walrus resting on the rocky shoreline. The Expedition Team shared

the settlement's maritime history — how the Dutch whaling enterprise flourished there, and the serious challenges of such demanding work amid the harsh Arctic conditions.



Day 4 – Monacobreen (AM)

In the morning, we set out on an expedition boat cruise near Monacobreen, scanning the fjord for marine life and navigating close

to the glacier front. Some guests ventured on a sea kayak adventure, paddling among the ice and exploring the coastal waters.



Day 4 — Texas Bar (PM)

After a midday break aboard, we moved to Texas Bar in the afternoon for a landing operation. Those who wished hiked the moraine terrain and tundra inland, while others explored the shoreline and collected

observations. A group joined the science boat session, conducting fieldwork in the bay waters. We returned to MS Fram as the light lingered across the Arctic landscape.



Moffen, Svalbard and Jan Mayen - Jul 24, 2026

Sea Ice Day 1 - Jul 25, 2026

Day 5 – Sailing in the Sea ice

We spent the day cruising toward and along the ice edge, watching for polar bears, whales, and seabirds in the marginal ice zone. The morning brought a wildlife watch from the outer decks, where some guests spotted activity among the floes. A lecture on the history of Svalbard traced centuries of exploration, whaling, and settlement

across the archipelago. A later talk explored sea ice formation and its response to climate change. Some guests joined a citizen science project, identifying clouds and collecting data for NASA. Others tried creative pursuits in the art corner. The midnight sun painted the ice in silver tones.



Day 6 – 81° North

The afternoon took us to the sea ice at 81° North, under bright skies and calm water. Expedition boats carried guests out among the floes, and everyone was given the chance both to cruise between them and, at a separate time, to step out onto the ice itself. Standing on a floe, you could feel the surface move gently beneath your boots, held

together by nothing but frozen water and time. Around us, the pack stretched in every direction, shifting with the current, and the light held steady over it all afternoon. The silence stayed with us long after we returned aboard.



Day 7 – Phippsøya (AM)

Fog lay heavy over Phippsøya through the morning, too thick for anyone to go ashore safely, so we cancelled the planned landing and hike. We scheduled an expedition boat cruise instead, taking us

around the bay, where we passed the small cabin built in 1936 as a shelter for castaways and shipwrecked crews.



Day 7 – Chermsideøya (PM)

In the afternoon at Chermsideøya, three polar bears were sighted near the intended landing site. We called off the landing and manoeuvred MS Fram instead toward the shallows where the bears

had been seen — a slow approach, but one that gave us a long view from the deck.



Day 8 — Størøya (AM)

We spent the morning cruising the northern side of Størøya, where hundreds of walrus lay hauled out along the beach or rested in the shallow water just offshore. We drifted at a distance and listened to

the herd, watching the great bodies shift and settle against one another on the shore.



Day 8 — Kvitøya (PM)

Later, as we approached Kvitøya, a polar bear met us at the island's edge. We repositioned the ship closer to the ice cap, and from the

expedition boats we followed the line where the ice met the sea at Andreeneset, tracing its edge for as long as the afternoon allowed.



Day 9 – Sundneset

We spent the morning scanning the coastline for wildlife and joining onboard sessions on the glaciers of Svalbard, driftwood carried across the Arctic by ocean currents, and the basics of maritime knots. In the afternoon, we landed at Sundneset, where some guests set off on a demanding hike across uneven ground, climbing steadily

through rocky terrain with wide views over the fjord. Others stayed closer to the landing site, taking in the tundra and coastline at a slower pace. We returned to MS Fram in the evening, reflecting on a day that combined onboard learning with exploration ashore.



Day 10 — Boltodden

We landed at Boltodden in the morning, where some guests joined a demanding hike across rocky and uneven ground, climbing steadily to take in wide views over the surrounding coastline. Others explored closer to the landing site, looking for the dinosaur footprints along the

shore. In the afternoon, we turned to a series of onboard sessions covering Svalbard's geological history, the basics of species evolution, and the birds that migrate to the archipelago each summer. We spent the evening looking ahead to the days still to come.



Day 11 – Burgerbukta (AM)

We began the day at Burgerbukta, where some guests set out by kayak along the shoreline, others joined a science boat session

offshore, and a few tested the cold Arctic water at the landing site with a polar plunge.



Day 11 – Gnålodden (PM)

In the afternoon, we moved to Gnålodden, landing in staggered groups to explore the surrounding cliffs and tundra. On board, guests heard about daily life at a research station in Svalbard and about a

kayaking expedition through the Canadian Arctic, before gathering to review the results of the morning's science work. Just after dinner, three polar bears appeared along the shore.



Day 12 – Bamsebu

We landed at Bamsebu in the morning, walking past the remains of a beluga whaling station, with whale bones still scattered along the beach and a small wooden cabin still standing above the shore, while some harbour seals and reindeer showed up near us. In the afternoon, we gathered on deck to search for wildlife along the

coastline. Later, we joined the Captain and Officers for a question and answer session, before looking back together at the sightings and science carried out across the circumnavigation of Svalbard. We closed the voyage with a slideshow of images gathered from across the journey.

Day 13 – Longyearbyen (Disembarkation)

After nearly two weeks 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 13 polar bears moving through their kingdom, of walrus hauled out along the shore, and

of landings on beaches where history lingers in weathered timber and bone. We exchanged farewells with the crew, the Expedition Team, and the fellow travellers who had shared it all — and left hoping our paths might cross the archipelago, and each other, again.



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