

# Ny-Ålesund Radio Silence

Best Practice to ensure compliance, based on Oceanwide Expeditions.

1. Pre travel information to passengers + onboard white board (info you cannot miss)
2. Onboard obligatory briefing/presentation day 1 (Isfjorden) highlighting strict compliance rules (turn off Wifi and Bluetooth on all ship decks, and all private devices prior to arriving at the 20 km distance line, or better: the evening before arrival)
3. Strictly no phones/laptops and digital smart watches brought onshore (exemption for cameras, but Wi-Fi must be switched off). By simply leaving these items onboard, staff would not need to bother having to check every single phone & watch that is brought ashore.
4. Q & A session and practical assistance on how to check and switch off Wi-Fi and Bluetooth on cameras etc. Drones are forbidden anyway.
5. Consent form to be signed by visitors.
6. Reminder calls on day of landing.
7. Check point shore side (guide(s) checking on pier once again) only to make sure that phones and watches have not been brought ashore.
8. Exclude passengers from landing who do not follow the rules.

## Why is Ny-Ålesund a radio silent location?

The Norwegian Mapping Authority's (NMA) geodetic observatory measures radio signals from distant stars. The measurements in Ny-Ålesund provide important input to an international network of similar observatories, and the aggregated measurements are important for (among other things) calibration of GPS systems.

In other words, they are critical to accurate and safe navigation. The radio signals that are being measured are in the frequency band between 2 and 32 GHz, and to safeguard the sensitive measurements, all use of radio transmitters in this frequency band in Ny-Ålesund is prohibited by law.

Ordinary Wi-Fi and Bluetooth transmitters - such as in mobile phones, smart watches and cameras - operate within the restricted frequency band, and use of such equipment in Ny-Ålesund is damaging to the quality of the NMA measurements. Consequently, Ny-Ålesund is a site where neither Wi-Fi nor Bluetooth is permitted, and all such transmitters must be switched off.