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Information from the Governor of Svalbard

Notification of travel plans

- All tour operators in Svalbard shall notify the Governor of Svalbard of their travel plans minimum eight weeks before the scheduled start date.
- This includes tour operators who offer cruises in Svalbard, on vessels of all sizes.
- In 2023 we introduced a separate notification form for overseas cruise ships, i.e. vessels who only have one landing in Svalbard, in Longyearbyen.
- All other commercial vessels, with landings in Svalbard outside Longyearbyen – we call this segment expedition cruise ships, have their own notification form.



Information from the Governor of Svalbard

Notification of travel plans

- Both forms, and other useful information, can be found on our website:
- www.Sysselmesteren.no
- <https://skjema.no/sysselmesteren/Oversjoisk-cruise> overseas cruise ships
- <https://skjema.no/sysselmesteren/Turoperator> expedition cruise ships
- We will provide these and other useful links and information to the Svalbard Cruise Forum, which will be distributed after this meeting.



Information from the Governor of Svalbard

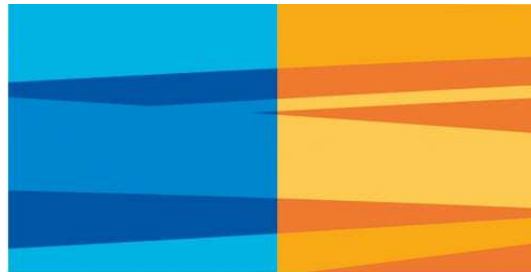
Notification of travel plans

- Within four weeks after the end of the cruise season in Svalbard, tour operators are required to deliver post-visit reports, showing how many people (passengers and crew) that went ashore in the different locations during the cruise in Svalbard.
- If anyone is chartering your vessel (tour operators, research institutions and/or private travellers) during the season, they are responsible for notifying the Governor in due time.
- The responsible for each charter, will also be responsible for meeting the SAR-insurance demand set by the Governor and delivering post-visit reports.
- It is important that you inform all your clients (if any) about this obligation well in advance, while planning your season.



Information from the Governor of Svalbard Svalbard Environmental Protection Fund

- Visitors to Svalbard are obliged to pay an environmental fee to the Svalbard Environmental Protection Fund.
- The fee is 150 NOK per person and is determined by the amount of passengers (not crew) who is leaving Svalbard on your cruise vessel. The fee must be paid for each voyage leaving Svalbard.
- The invoice for this fee will be forwarded to the responsible tour operator or main charterer of each voyage, as stated in the notification form.



SVALBARD ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION FUND



Information from the Governor of Svalbard

Show consideration while exploring

- All human activities in Svalbard's natural environment (photography, filming, hiking, research and close encounters with wildlife) can lead to disturbance of birds and mammals.
- The primary goal of visitors must be to make any potential disturbance as small as possible.
- All access and passage in Svalbard shall take place in a way that does not harm, pollute or in any other way damage the natural environment or cultural heritage, or result in unnecessary disturbance to humans or animals.
- All tour operators, including crew and guests, that visit Svalbard shall show consideration and exercise the caution required to avoid unnecessary damage or disturbance to the natural environment and cultural heritage.
- Concerning polar bears, it is forbidden to lure, pursue or otherwise seek out polar bears in such a way as to disturb them or expose either humans or polar bears to danger.



Information from the Governor of Svalbard

Show consideration while exploring

- While in Longyearbyen, try to stay on the roads and paths, and off the vulnerable tundra.
- Help take care of the biodiversity - do not pick flowers.
- Remember that all wildlife in Svalbard, and especially in and around Longyearbyen, is indeed wild.
- Feel free to take pictures from a distance, but do not force reindeers or geese to move away from where they are eating or resting.
- Do not move close to birds, even if they seem to not be afraid; when common eiders or geese leave their nests because of intruders, the eggs are vulnerable to arctic foxes, glaucous gulls and arctic skuas.
- Walruses can be easily disturbed by boats or by humans on foot. Observe the animals at a distance with binoculars to see if the group is calm before approaching.



Information from the Governor of Svalbard

Show consideration while exploring

- Remember, we are all guests in Svalbard.
- Leave no lasting signs of your visit.
- It is impossible to be an invisible tourist, but we do appreciate that you try.



New regulations

- Polar bears

- Keep at least 300 meters away from bears. In the period from March 1 to June 30, one must keep at least 500 meters away. If one discovers a bear at close range, one is obliged to retreat.
 - Ships and boats are not exempted from the obligation to retreat.
 - It is illegal to approach polar bears from any distance for the purpose of a closer view.

- Walrus

- When travelling at sea, you must keep at least 150 meters from walrus haul-sites. If you drive closer than 300 meters to the haul-sites, you cannot drive faster than 5 knots.
 - Haul-out areas means land where multiple walruses congregate.



New regulations

- Bird cliffs
 - Speed limit of 5 knots applies during the period from April 1 to August 31 if you are closer than 500 meters from land. The bird cliffs to which this applies are shown on a map that is attached to the Motor Traffic Regulations.
- Drones
 - Both the Svalbard Environmental Act and the conservation regulations have new rules regarding the use of drones. From 1 April to 31 August, it is not permitted to fly drones closer than 500 metres from bird cliffs, and in protected areas there is a general ban on the use of drones.



Landing regulation

- A landing regulation has been introduced for tourist activities in all protected areas except for the Nordre Isfjorden and Sassen-Bünsow Land national parks, and protected areas where there is already a traffic ban, such as bird nature reserves.
- The regulation means that landing for tourist activities can only take place at specific, mapped locations with a guide
 - Exemption: National parks on the west coast of Svalbard on snow-covered and frozen ground from 1 January to 25 May of each year.

