



LONGYEARBYEN COMMUNITY GUIDELINES

- For your own safety, don't leave town without polar bear protection. The "King of the Arctic" is seldom far away.
- Feel free to chat with the locals but always ask before photographing them. Please respect people's privacy and don't take photos of children at kindergartens or school.
- You are welcome to stroll around town, but please walk on the left-hand side of the road if there is no pavement.
- The Svalbard reindeer, grouse and birds can often be spotted around town. Enjoy our wildlife from a safe distance and please don't disturb the animals and birds.
- Dogs in and around dog yards are a common sight. Please don't feed, touch or disturb the dogs. Going close to the dogs for photos is not permitted. However, in commercial dog yards, close-up contact with the dogs is part of the experience.
- We have many beautiful flowers in and around town. Enjoy this sight but don't pick them.
- Please help us respect our cultural heritage. Leave all cultural relics alone. All traces of human settlement from before 1946 are protected by law.
- The use of drones within 5 km of Longyearbyen Airport is prohibited.
- Please help us keep beautiful Svalbard clean. Use the rubbish bins provided and don't leave any traces behind, including small items such as cigarette butts.
- Leave no lasting signs of your visit. Do not engrave on rocks or buildings and do not build cairns, rearrange stones or in any other way leave visible signs of your visit.
- You may photograph parked snowmobiles, but please don't touch them.
- We encourage you to buy locally made products but remember that we don't have a tradition for bargaining.



Welcome to Longyearbyen

Welcome to Longyearbyen, the world's northernmost town. We who live here believe we lead completely ordinary lives. However, visitors may perceive our everyday life as extraordinary. Polar bears are never far away, so it's necessary to carry a weapon every time we head outside the settlement. The weather is harsh and unpredictable. Despite its remote location close to the North Pole, Longyearbyen is a melting pot of offers, experiences and people from all over the world. It's a vibrant place full of warmth and soul in a cold and sometimes inhospitable climate.

As getting to know Longyearbyen takes many years, we have prepared some community guidelines that we kindly ask visitors to follow. By doing so, you will contribute to sustainable tourism, which considers the vulnerable Arctic nature, other guests and not least the local population here in the far north.

Useful tips and tricks

Always go on organised tours when leaving the settlement. Local guides will take care of your safety and share amazing stories with you. This combination creates the best experiences!

The local drinking water is excellent, and you can drink it straight from the tap. However, don't drink from streams or rivers as the water may contain the extremely rare but dangerous tapeworm parasite.

Longyearbyen Church is open 24/7. You are welcome to visit but please respect church services.

Svalbard is exempt from VAT and all goods are tax-free. Please pay by card as there are no banks or ATMs in Svalbard.

Please respect the wildlife, nature and each other.

We wish you a warm welcome!

