

LONGYEARBYEN COMMUNITY GUIDELINES

Follow Local Safety Precautions and Regulations

- For your own safety: never leave the settlement without a local guide who has the knowledge and training to keep you safe and provide polar bear protection.
- Drone use is prohibited within a 5 km radius of Longyearbyen Airport, covering the entire Longyearbyen area.
- You are welcome to stroll around Longyearbyen. Please walk on the left-hand side of the road if there is no sidewalk.
- During the Polar Night (October–January), it is dark 24/7, and the low visibility makes it hard for drivers and others to spot pedestrians. Stay safe by always wearing a reflector or high-visibility clothing when venturing outside.



Respect People, Property and Culture

- Feel free to chat with locals but always ask before taking photos. Respect privacy and never photograph children.
- Svalbard's cultural heritage is protected by law. Help us to protect our history and leave all cultural relics alone.
- You may photograph parked snowmobiles, but please do not touch them.
- We encourage you to buy locally made products, but remember, bargaining is not part of our culture.



Admire Wildlife, Dogs and Flowers – from a distance

- Enjoy Svalbard's unique wildlife from a safe distance. Do not disturb animals or birds.
- Dogs are a common sight in Longyearbyen. Please do not feed, touch, or disturb them, and do not approach them for taking photos. Whether they are in a dog yard or in town. In commercial dog yards, close contact is part of the experience.
- Svalbard's vulnerable flora is protected by law. We have many beautiful flowers in and around town. Enjoy them but do not pick them up.

Protect our Environment

- Help us keep Svalbard clean. Please use rubbish bins and leave nothing behind, not even small items like cigarette butts.
- In toilets: only flush natural waste and toilet paper – this helps protect our fjords from untreated sewage.
- Leave no trace from your visit – do not build cairns, move stones, or carve names on rocks or buildings.



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 join organised tours when leaving the settlement. Local guides ensure your safety and share incredible stories – a combination that creates the best experiences!

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!



Visit
Svalbard

AECO



Association of
Arctic Expedition
Cruise Operators

N78
E15
PORT OF
LONGYEARBYEN



Bærekraftig
Reisemål