



# Svalbard

POP 2481 / HIGHEST ELEV 1713M

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## Best Places to Stay

- » Basecamp Spitsbergen (p350)
- » Spitsbergen Guesthouse (p351)
- » Mary-Ann's Polarrigg (p351)
- » Radisson SAS Polar Hotel (p351)

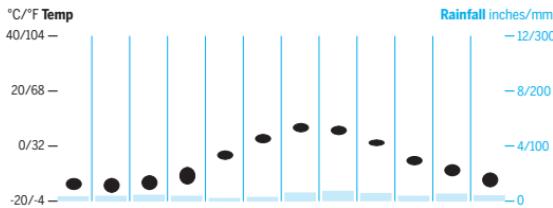
## Why Go?

Svalbard is the Arctic North as you always dreamed it existed. This wondrous archipelago is a land of dramatic snow-drowned peaks and glaciers, of vast icefields and forbidding icebergs, an elemental place where the seemingly endless Arctic night and the perpetual sunlight of summer carry a deeper kind of magic. One of Europe's last great wildernesses, this is also the domain of more polar bears than people, a terrain rich in epic legends of polar exploration.

Svalbard's main settlement and entry point, Longyearbyen, is merely a taste of what lies beyond and the possibilities for exploring further are endless: boat trips, glacier hikes and expeditions by snowmobile or led by a team of huskies. Whichever you choose, coming here is like crossing some remote frontier of the mind: Svalbard is as close as most mortals can get to the North Pole and still capture its spirit.

## When to Go

### Longyearbyen



**December & January** A jazz festival and deep immersion in the polar night.

**March & April** The light returns with week-long festivities.

**July & August** Days without end and an array of activities in the summer light.

0 100 km  
0 60 miles



## Svalbard Highlights

- ➊ Explore the Arctic wilderness by **hiking** (p350) under the midnight sun
- ➋ Travel into the fjords of inner Svalbard with a boat trip to **Pyramiden** (p355) and the Nordenskjöldbreen glacier
- ➌ Experience the polar silence like the explorers of old on a winter **dog-sledding expedition** (p350)
- ➍ Listen to the echo of the Soviet Union on a day trip to the Russian settlement of **Barentsburg** (p354)
- ➎ Feel the exhilaration of racing through the icy wastes on a winter **snowmobiling expedition** (p350)
- ➏ Spend a sunny morning surrounded by the brilliant glaciers and turquoise waters of **Magdalenefjord** (p356)
- ➐ Immerse yourself in the natural and human history of Svalbard at the **Svalbard Museum** (p347) and **Spitsbergen Airship Museum** (p348)

To Bjørnøya  
(280km, see Inset)