



Svalbard

POP 2642 / HIGHEST ELEV 1713M

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Best Places to Eat

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Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Basecamp Spitsbergen (p357)
- ➔ Svalbard Hotell (p356)
- ➔ Spitsbergen Guesthouse (p356)
- ➔ Radisson SAS Polar Hotel (p357)

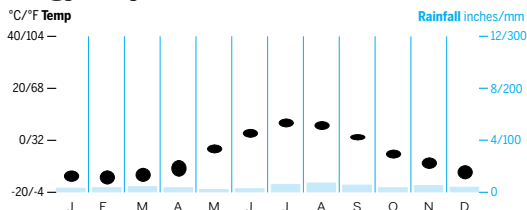
Why Go?

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 many: 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



Dec & Jan A jazz festival and deep immersion in the polar night.

Mar & Apr The light returns with week-long festivities.

Jun-Aug Days without end and an array of activities in the summer light.



To Bjørnøya
(280km, see Inset)

Svalbard Highlights

- 1 Explore the Arctic wilderness by **hiking** (p354) under the midnight sun.
- 2 Travel into the fjords of inner Svalbard with a boat trip to **Pyramiden** (p360) and the Nordenskiöldbreen glacier.
- 3 Experience the polar silence like the explorers of

old on a winter **dog-sledding expedition** (p354).

- 4 Listen to the echo of the Soviet Union on a day trip to the Russian settlement of **Barentsburg** (p359).
- 5 Feel the exhilaration of racing through the icy wastes on a winter **snowmobiling expedition** (p355).

- 6 Spend a sunny morning surrounded by the brilliant glaciers and turquoise waters of **Magdalenefjord** (p361).
- 7 Immerse yourself in the natural and human history of Svalbard at the **Svalbard Museum** (p352) and **Spitsbergen Airship** (p352).