



Ny-Ålesund
Research Station
Norway

Ny-Ålesund Research Station

A brief introduction

Norwegian Polar Institute and Kings Bay AS
22nd January 2026

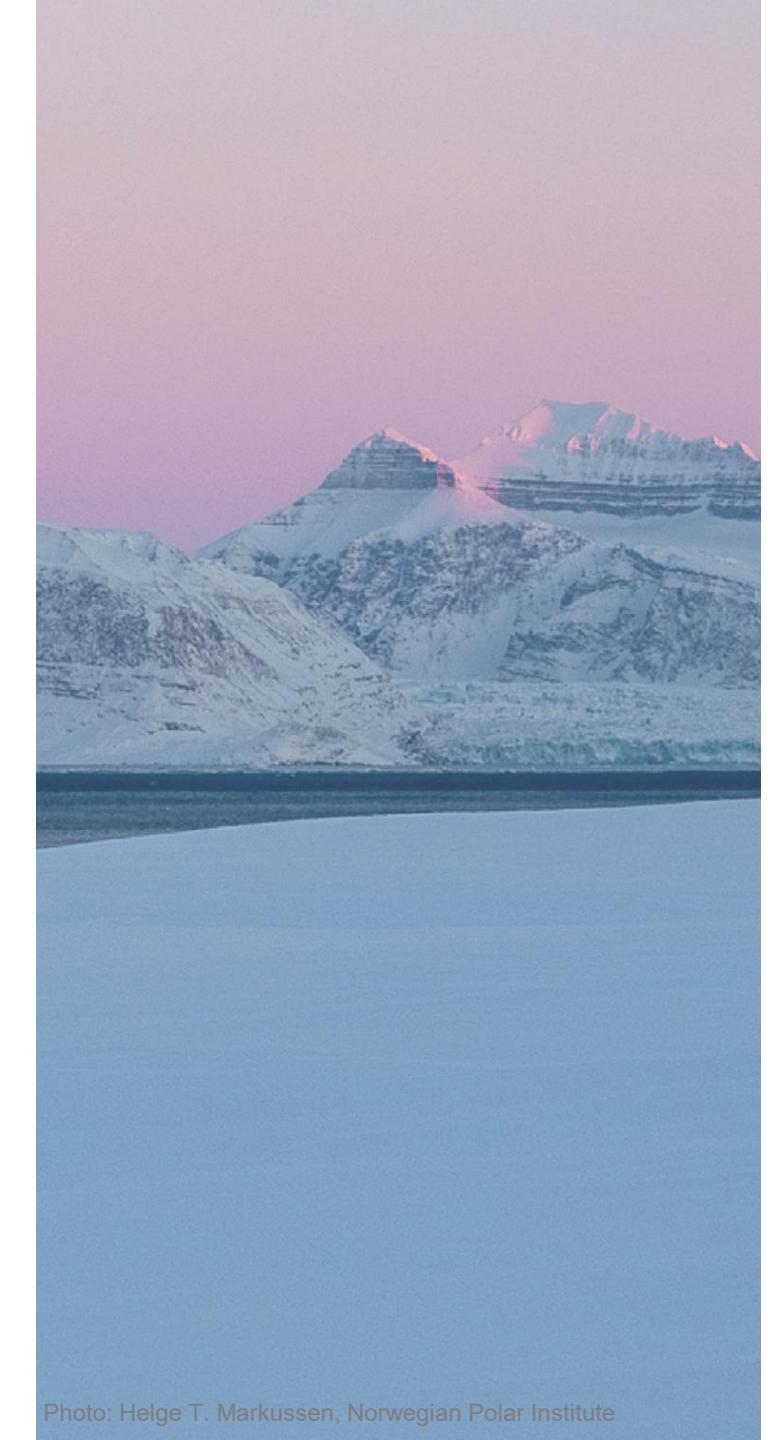


Photo: Helge T. Markussen, Norwegian Polar Institute

Introduction programme

Information about the research station, and what you as a researcher working in/from Ny-Ålesund need to know

Target group: Researchers working in Ny-Ålesund, primarily those of you who are new in Ny-Ålesund, but also for those who might want a refresher

Digital meeting twice a year

Duration: 60 min + questions



**Ny-Ålesund
Research Station
Norway**



Photo: Trine Lise Ssvigum Helgerud/NPI

Webpage: <https://nyalesundresearch.no>



Who we are



Norwegian Polar Institute

- Instructed by the Norwegian government to:
 - Lead the research station
 - Implement the research strategy
 - Act as local host
 - Coordinate research



Kings Bay AS

- Land owner and planning responsible for Ny-Ålesund
- Responsible for community operation, maintenance, and development of the research station
- Provides research infrastructure and logistics support
- Tasked with preserving the cultural heritage

Agenda

1. Ny-Ålesund Research Station
2. The Ny-Ålesund Flagship Programmes
3. Essential Systems and Tools
4. Research Infrastructure and Facilities in Ny-Ålesund
5. Preparations, Permits, etc. (What you need to do before arrival)
6. What to Expect when in Ny-Ålesund
7. Safety

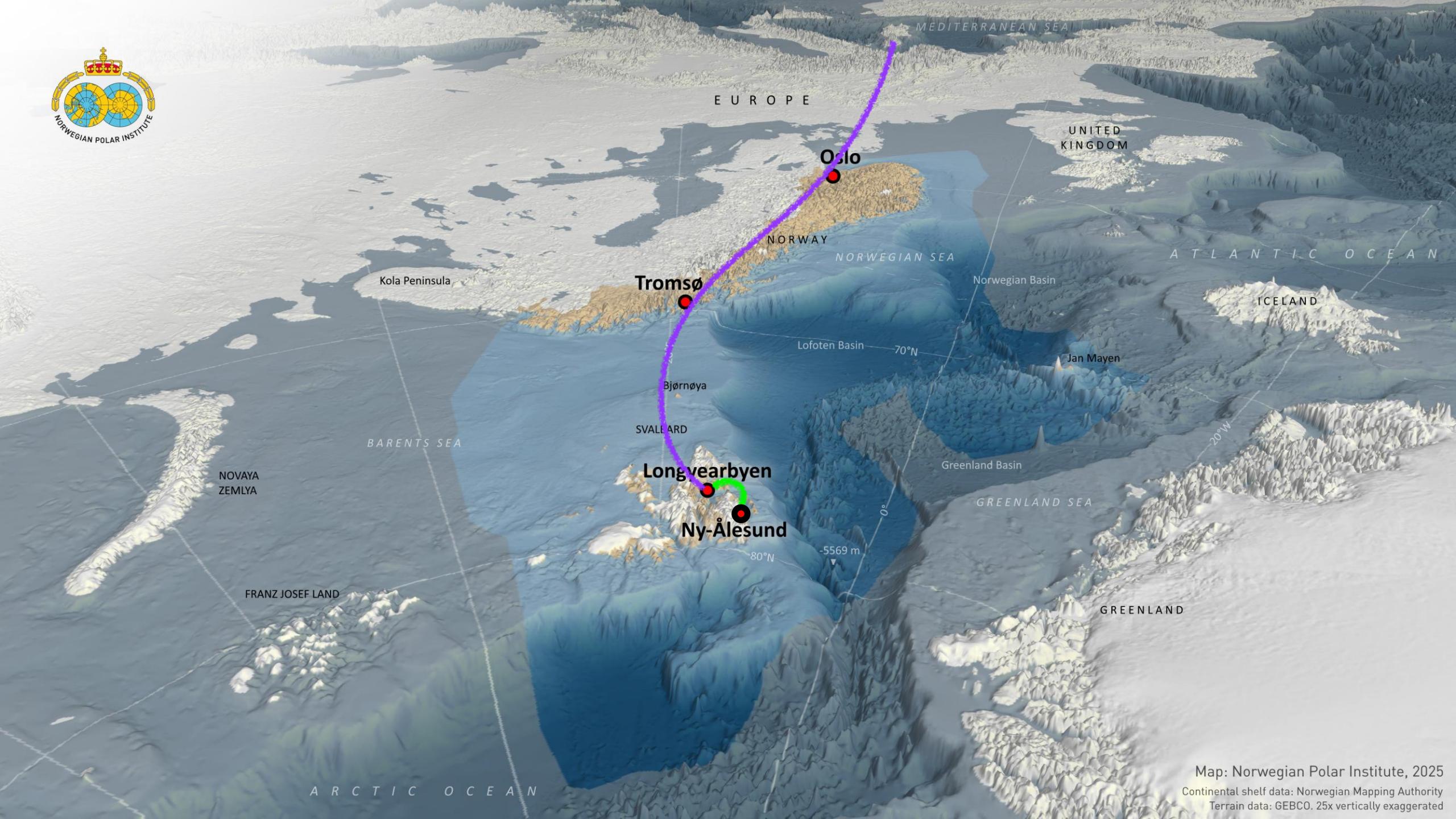
- Questions & Answers





Part I

Ny-Ålesund Research Station

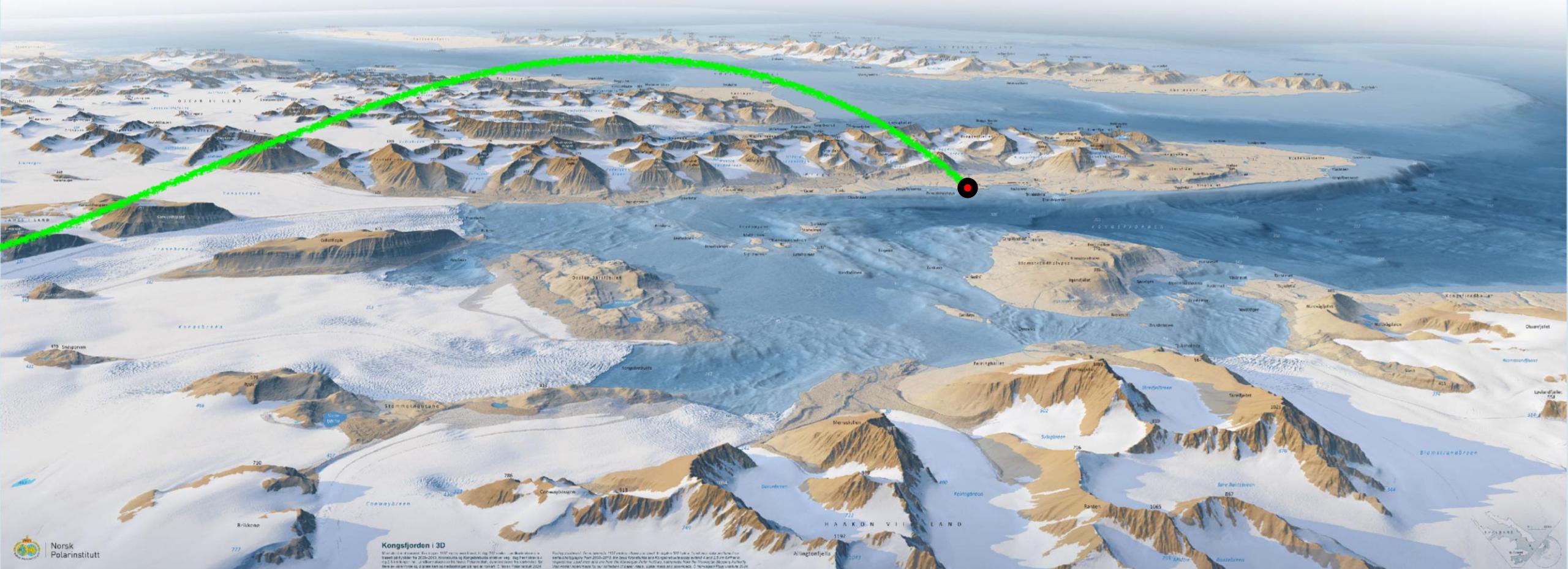


Map: Norwegian Polar Institute, 2025

Continental shelf data: Norwegian Mapping Authority

Terrain data: GEBCO, 25x vertically exaggerated

Ny-Ålesund Research Station



Ny-Ålesund Research Station

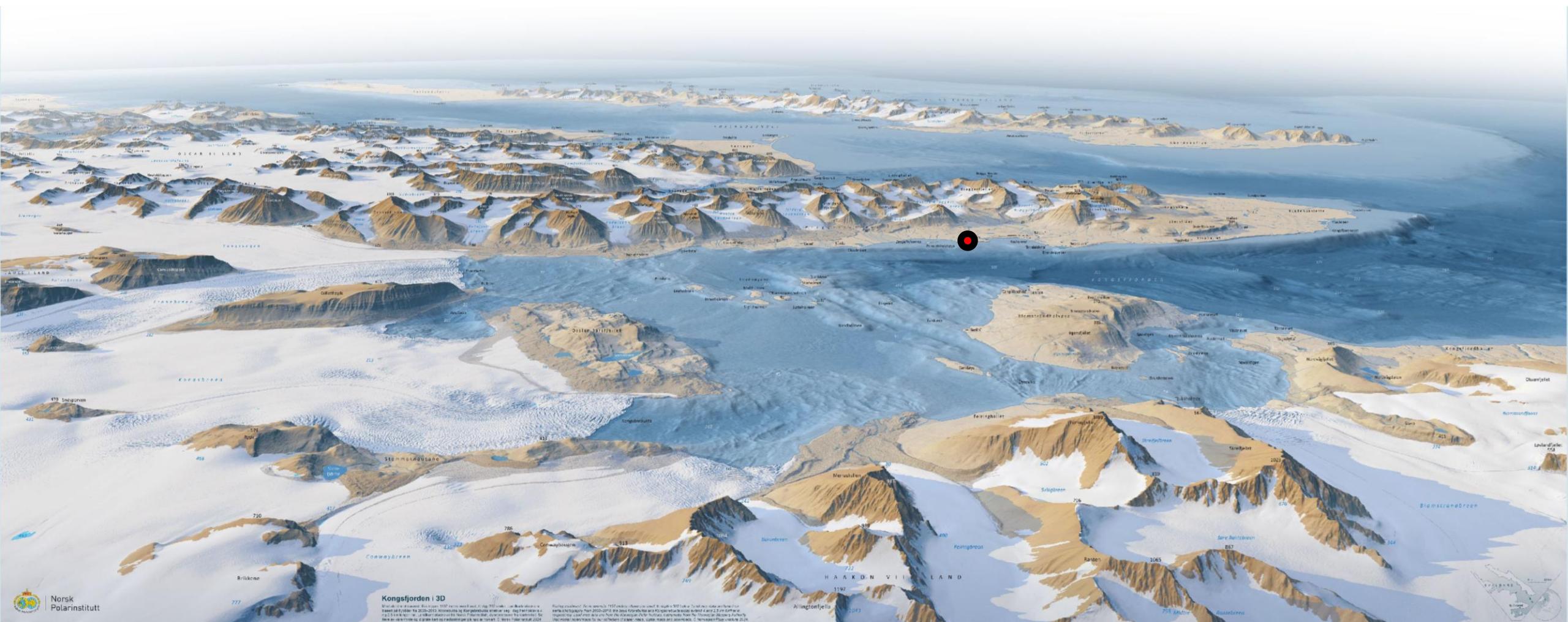
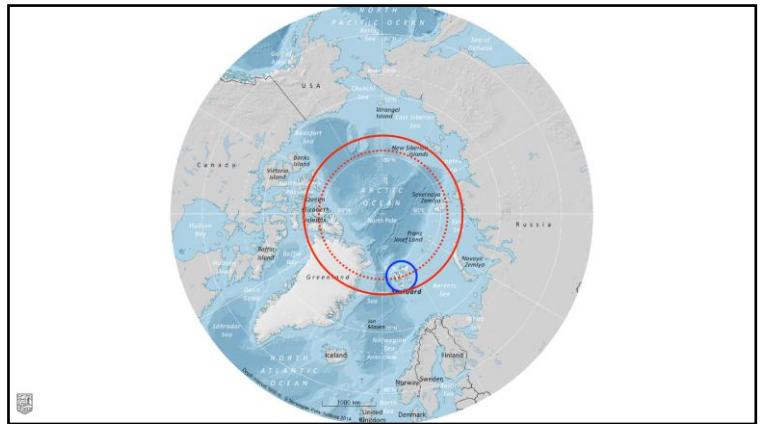




Photo: Geir Gotaas, Norwegian Polar Institute

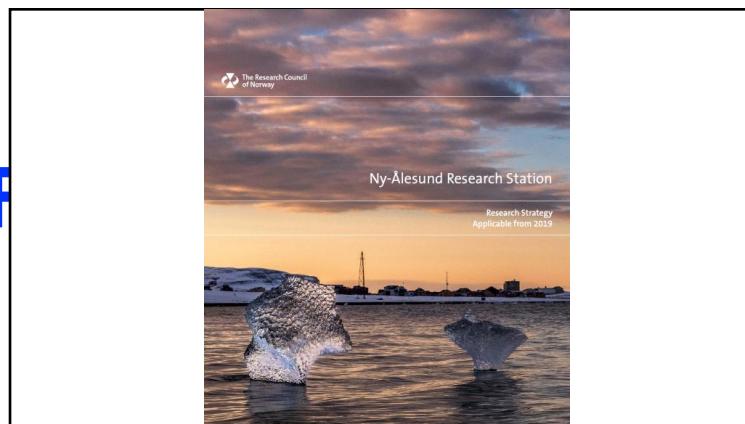
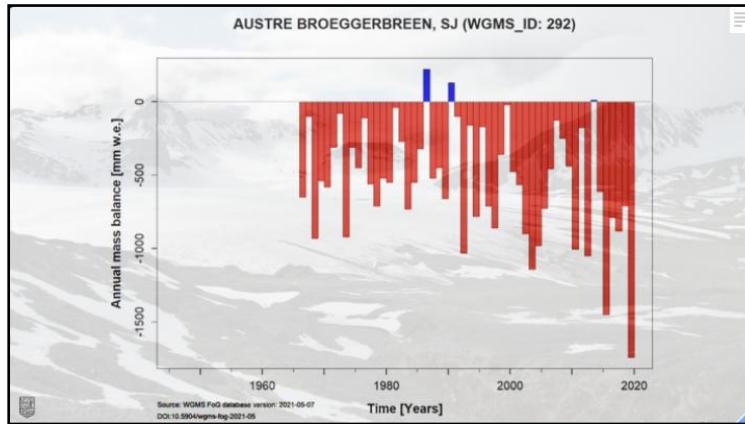




Input
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Norwegian Ministry
of Justice and Public Security

Meld. St. 32 (2015–2016) Report to the Storting (white paper)

Svalbard



Norwegian Ministries

Strategy

Strategy for research and higher education in Svalbard

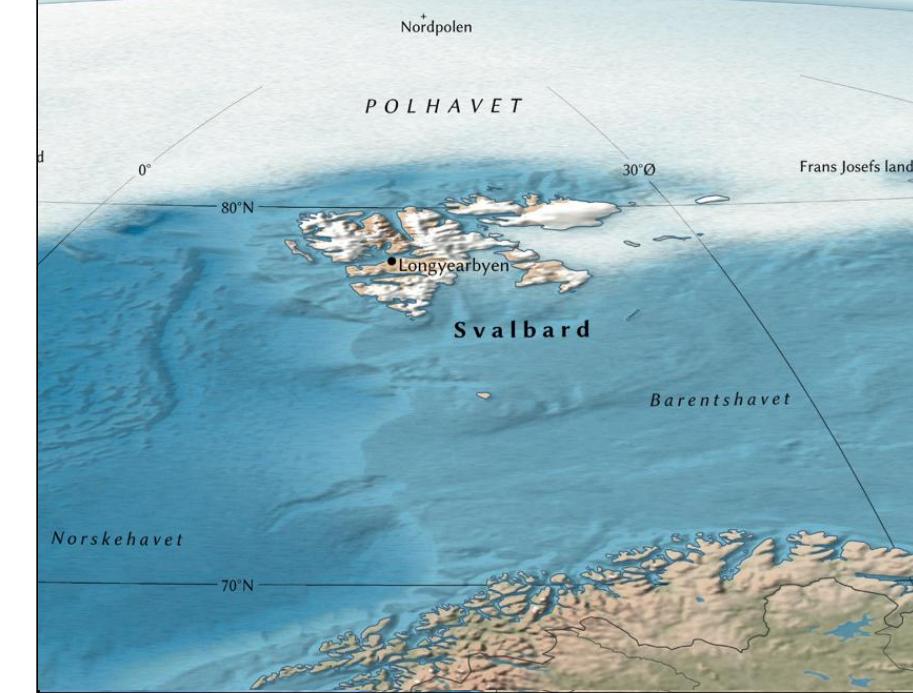
Svalbard – top of the world for knowledge of global significance



Norwegian Ministry
of Justice and Public Security

Meld. St. 26 (2023–2024) Report to the Storting (white paper)

Svalbard



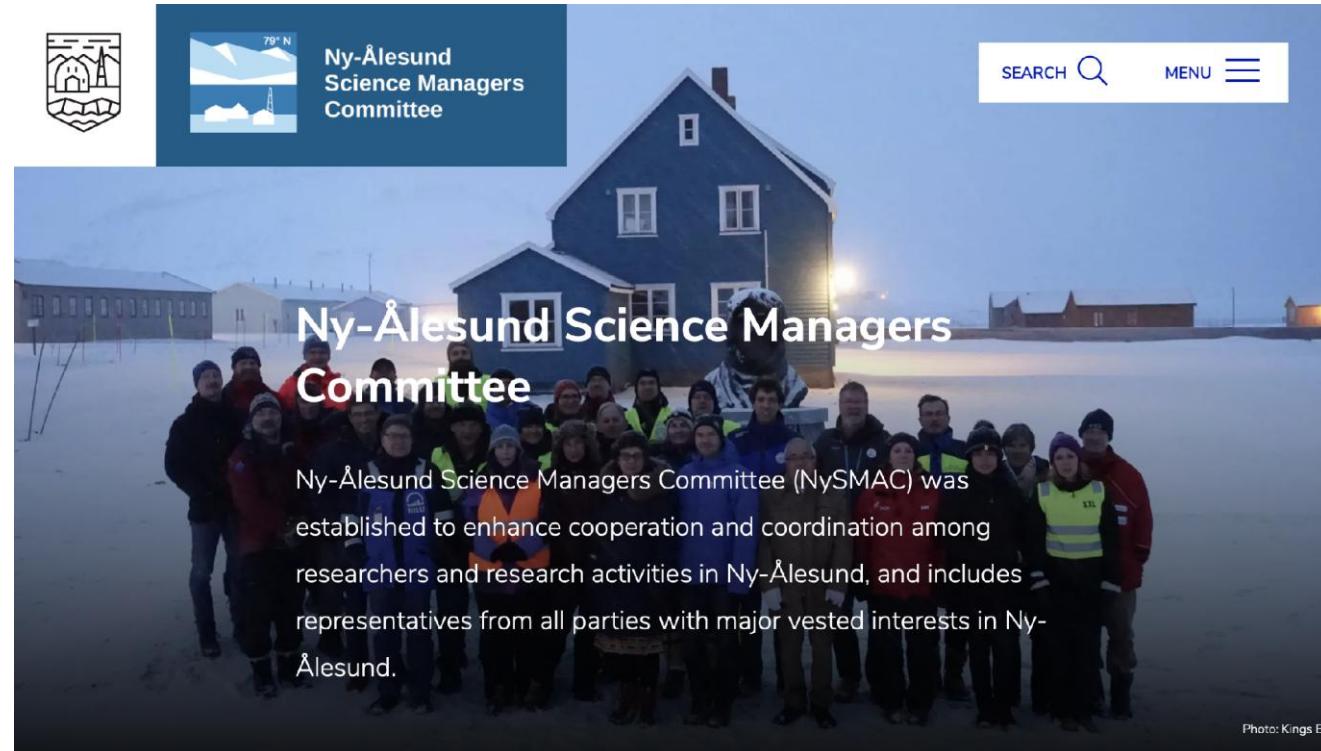


- World class **Arctic natural science**
- Make use of **Ny-Ålesund's unique qualities** as a pristine natural science laboratory
- Research activity should have the **lowest possible environmental impact**
- Further develop the research infrastructure so that it is even more **thematically based** than today, and promotes even more extensive cooperation
- Norwegian Polar Institute in close collaboration and dialogue with **NySMAC**, SIOS, SSF and Kings Bay AS



Ny-Ålesund Science Managers' Committee - NySMAC

- Established in 1994
- Cooperation between institutions engaged in research and monitoring
- 18 members, 4 observers
- Secretariat hosted by the Norwegian Polar Institute



A wide-angle aerial photograph of the research station Ny-Ålesund on the island of Spitsbergen. The foreground shows a mix of dark, rocky terrain and patches of snow. In the middle ground, the station's buildings and infrastructure are visible, including a large white dome and several smaller structures. The background features a vast, dark blue fjord leading to a range of mountains covered in snow and ice under a clear sky.

Part II

The Ny-Ålesund

Flagship Programmes

Ny-Ålesund flagship programmes

- Network open for all
- Annual meeting places to share information
- Collaboration and coordination
- Give advice on infrastructure development

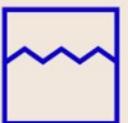
More information on flagships:
<https://nyalesundresearch.no/research-and-monitoring/>

Sign up to the newsletter
<https://nyalesundresearch.no/newsletter/>

Atmosphere



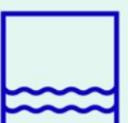
Terrestrial Ecosystems



Glaciology



Kongsfjorden System



Part III

Essential Systems and Tools



The Research in Svalbard Portal

Online portal where you:

- Register your projects
- Apply for permissions from the Governor on Svalbard
- Book your stay in Ny-Ålesund
- Serves as a tool for information about other projects

<https://researchinsvalbard.no>

The screenshot shows the Research in Svalbard Portal interface. At the top, there is a header with a user profile (Ingrid Kjerstad) and a search bar. Below the header, the project details for 'Seabird Populations Monitoring (SEAPOP)' are displayed. The project is identified by RIS ID 361 and is marked as 'Active'. A 'SELECT ACTION' dropdown is present. Below the project title, there are three tabs: 'PROJECT INFO' (which is highlighted with a red oval), 'APPLICATIONS & REPORTS', and 'BOOKING REQUESTS'. The 'PROJECT INFO' tab shows the 'Project Period' as '01 Jan 2005 - 31 Aug 2030'. The 'Funding & Affiliations' section lists 'Arctic Field Grant (AFG)' and 'Field work'. The 'Discipline' section lists 'Marine biology' and 'Terrestrial biology'. The 'Project Keywords' section lists 'Biosphere', 'Ecological dynamics', and 'Community dynamics'. The 'Objectives' section contains a detailed description of the SEAPOP programme, mentioning its establishment in 2005, its purpose as a new initiative for monitoring and mapping Norwegian seabirds, and its improved management of the marine environment. A 'Show More' link is available for the objectives. The 'Associated Projects' section lists 'RIS ID 1158: Population monitoring of seabirds i...'. The 'Collaborating Projects' section lists 'RIS ID 1855: Ecotoxicological research on arctic foxes (Vulpes lagopus) in Svalbard'. The 'Collaboration Opportunities' section lists 'RIS ID 10296: Terrestrial biology bachelor courses summer/autumn 2016 (AB-201/206)' and 'RIS ID 10341: Permafrost Biogeochemistry in Central Svalbard'. The 'Projects Nearby' section lists 'RIS ID 1855: Ecotoxicological research on arctic foxes (Vulpes lagopus) in Svalbard', 'RIS ID 10296: Terrestrial biology bachelor courses summer/autumn 2016 (AB-201/206)', and 'RIS ID 10341: Permafrost Biogeochemistry in Central Svalbard'.

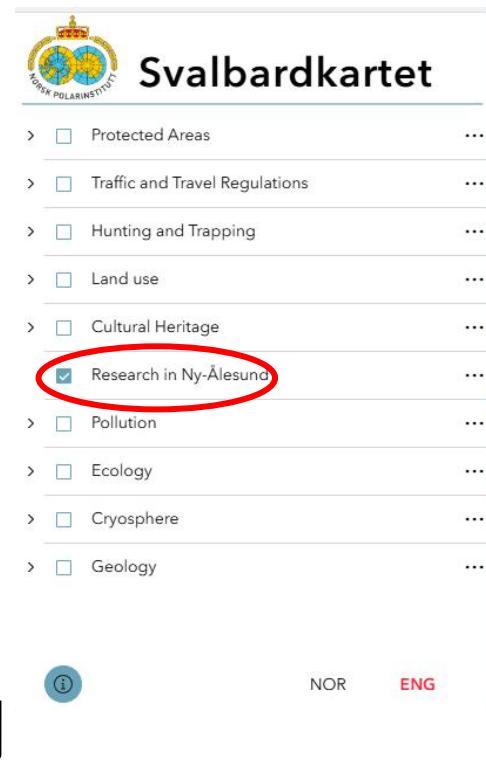


Maps – 1

Interactive themed atlas – Svalbardkartet

<https://svalbardkartet.npolar.no>

- Rich dataset of environmental data
- Dedicated layer showing Ny-Ålesund Research Objects (GiS-system)

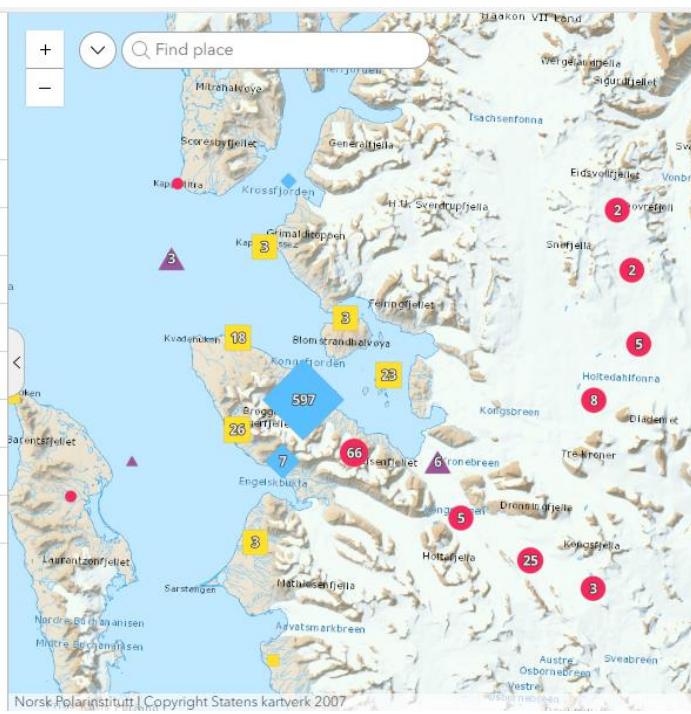


Svalbardkartet

- Protected Areas
- Traffic and Travel Regulations
- Hunting and Trapping
- Land use
- Cultural Heritage
- Research in Ny-Ålesund** (checked and circled in red)
- Pollution
- Ecology
- Cryosphere
- Geology

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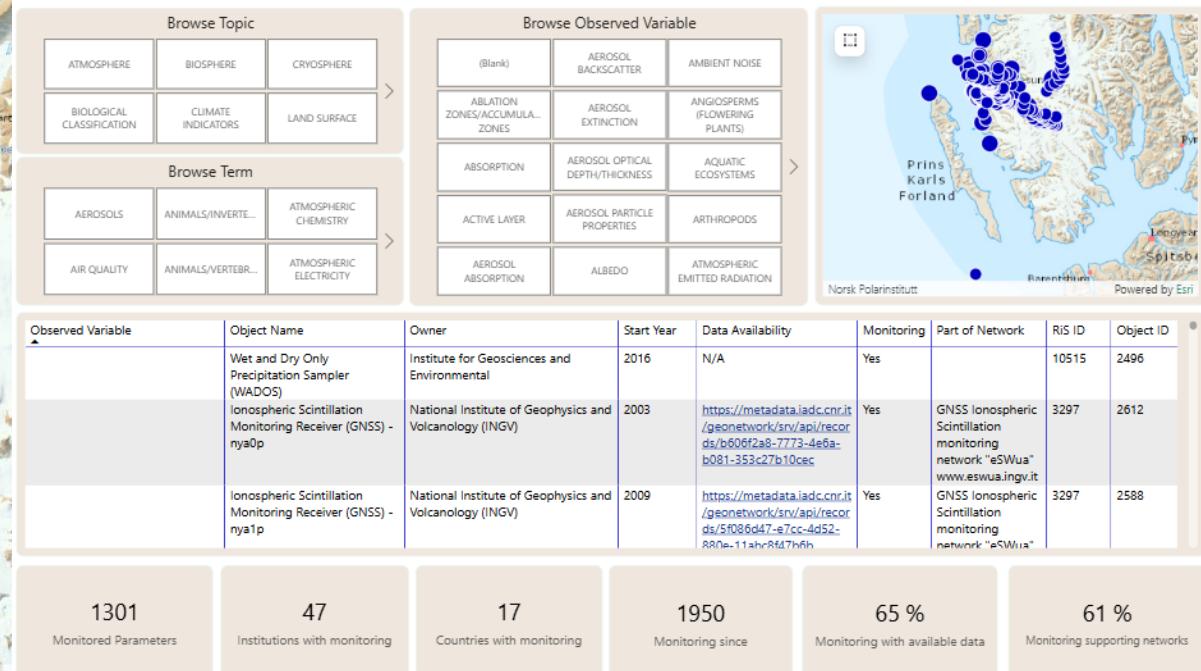
Norsk Polarinstitutt Copyright Statens kartverk 2007



New visualisation via

<https://nyalesundresearch.no/monitoring-at-ny-alesund-research-station-new/>

- Sort per topic, terms and variables



Maps – 2

- Topographical map of Svalbard –
Topo Svalbard
<https://toposvalbard.npolar.no>
- Offline map of Svalbard that works
on mobile, tablet and PC

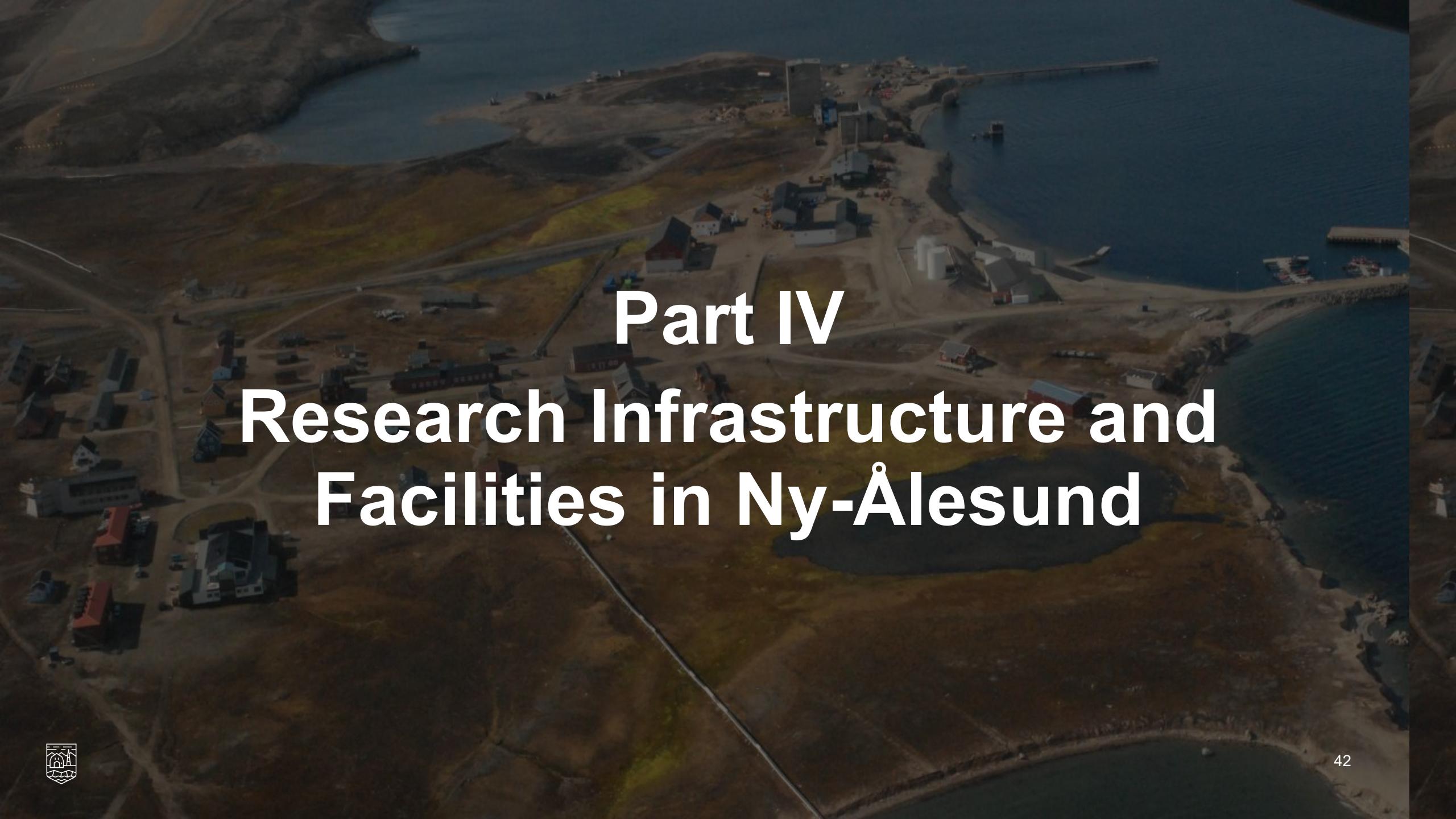


Web cameras

- Web cameras (view of Ny-Ålesund from the Zeppelin observatory and from the airport)
 - See <https://nyalesundresearch.no/infrastructures/tools/>

Open data: <https://nyalesundresearch.no/research-and-monitoring/making-research-data-openly-accessible/>





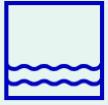
Part IV

Research Infrastructure and

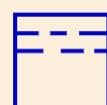
Facilities in Ny-Ålesund

Common thematic research infrastructure

Kongsfjorden
system



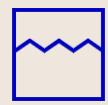
Atmosphere



Glaciology



Terrestrial
ecosystems



Atmospheric research

- Gruvebadet (KB)
- Light sensitive cabin (KB)
- Zeppelin (NPI)
- Climate Change Tower (CCT) (CNR)
- Not booked through RiS → see attachment for detailed instructions on booking process



Kongsfjorden system

- Marine Laboratory (KB)
- Research vessel R/V Teisten with captain (KB)
- Polar Circle with captain (NPI)



Marine Laboratory

- Booked through RiS. Generally closed in November due to general maintenance and renovation.
- Contact Kings Bay if you are planning activities in the marine lab.



- Sea water system
- Temperature controlled rooms (range: 0-15°C)
- Dry- and Wet labs with fume hood
- Non-chemical laboratory
- C-class laboratory for working with radioactive isotopes
- Outdoor platform with possibility for system sea water
- Dive locker and decompression chamber



Access to the Fjord

R/V Teisten:

- Small scale scientific operations and surveys in Kongsfjorden and Krossfjorden
- Winter operation (15th October – 31st of March)
 - Contact Kings Bay
- Weather dependent. Plan for extra days in Ny-Ålesund in case of delays
 - Not available Easter 2026 (week 14)



Polarcirkel boat:

- Transport in Kongsfjorden area
- Operation period: May-October
- Special permissions and insurances needed for some areas



Terrestrial Ecosystem and Glaciology

The Terrestrial Laboratory (Veksthuset) (KB)

Booked through RiS

1 Dry laboratory with fume hood

- Microscopes

• Muffle furnace

1 Semi-wet laboratory

- Laminar flow hood (LAF)

• MilliQ water

- **No chemicals**

Campaign year 2026!

Free use for terrestrial and
glaciological researchers



Logistics services and other support from KB

- **Operational/Technical Support**
(e.g., moving heavy equipment, assistance from electrician, carpenter, plumber, or other operational staff),
- submit a request to Kings Bay:
operations@kingsbay.no
- Operational staff will assist as time allows, alongside their regular duties. Extra charges apply.



Logistics services and other support from KB (Contd.)

- Chemical and gas orders, are booked through the Research in Svalbard (**RiS**) portal
- **Book Early!** Services are first-come, first-serve basis, and shipping of equipment, chemicals, and gases takes time!



Cargo and Freight

- Transport from LYR to NyA: Limited air cargo capacity (20 kg) and restrictions on what can be brought in the plane
- Research-related cargo should be sent by **cargo ship**
 - Ship early. Cargo ship about every 6 weeks
- Plan how to ship your equipment and samples back after your stay



A wide-angle photograph of a mountainous landscape. In the foreground, a frozen lake is dotted with numerous small icebergs of various shapes. The middle ground is dominated by a range of mountains with dark, rocky peaks and patches of snow. The sky is a clear, pale blue.

Part V

Preparations, Permissions, etc.

(What you need to do before arrival)

Permissions for field activity in Ny-Ålesund

- As a rule, most field activities will require permission from The Governor of Svalbard
- Applications must be submitted through RiS
- Deadlines are:
 - 15 January for fieldwork in March, April, and May.
 - 1 March for fieldwork in June, July, and August.
 - 1 July for fieldwork in September, October, and November.
 - 1 October for fieldwork December, January, and February.
- The Governor has guidelines – available on their webpage
<https://www.sysselmesteren.no/contentassets/61617fb2660044048f9b76e56874c688/guidelines-for-researchers-in-svalbard-2025.pdf>
- Several new environmental regulations entered into force the 1st of January 2026.



Photo: Ingrid Kjerstad/NPI

Instruments and installations in the field

All instrument and installations need...

- ...a permission from the Governor
- ... approval from Kings Bay if within the land-use plan of Ny-Ålesund land-use-plan area. Write to adviser@kingsbay.no
 - Provide correct information about environmental intervention/size/location/coordinates
- ...to be marked when set up in the field
- ...to be registered in the Ny-Ålesund GIS-system. Write to research.nya@npolar.no when installing an instrument in the field.
- ... to have a plan for removal.



Permission to borrow/carry firearms on Svalbard

- You need polar bear protection on Svalbard – in Ny-Ålesund this is a rifle and a flare gun.
- You need a permit from the police to borrow and carry firearms in Norway
 - International researchers can apply through the Governor: <https://www.sysselmesteren.no/en/weapon/>
 - Residents of Norway must apply through their local police administration office.
 - Required documentation: criminal records and proof of gun/rifle handling/training: UNIS, Kings Bay, AWI training.
- The various host institutions in Ny-Ålesund have different guidelines.



Photo:
COAT/NPI

Radio frequency restrictions in Ny-Ålesund

- By law **you cannot utilize frequencies** within this range: 2-32 GHz
- This includes the use of **Wi-Fi** and **Bluetooth**
- The regulations are in place to protect measurements carried out by the Norwegian Mapping Authority



Radio frequency restrictions in Ny-Ålesund

- This means: No Bluetooth, No Wi-Fi, No microwave ovens.
- Besides phones and laptops, check your earbuds, watches, cameras, tooth brushes, ..., ..., ..., ...,
- You can use your 4G on your phone, but NO hotspot, NO Wi-Fi, NO Bluetooth.
- 900m around NMA observatory: phone must be in flight mode.
- See details on
<https://nyalesundresearch.no>



Permissions to use drones in Ny-Ålesund

- The Norwegian Civil Aviation Authority administers the provisions on drones. Familiarize yourself with and follow the rules for drone flying.
- Coordinate flying with the Kings Bay airport personnel within 5 km of the airport
- Due to frequency limitations drones can come into conflict with each other – **please check our calendar** to schedule and coordinate with other projects.
- <https://nyalesundresearch.no/research-and-monitoring/researchers-guide/using-air-space/>



Photo: Trine Lise Svingum-Helgerud/NPI



Other permissions from Norwegian authorities

- The responsibility lies with the researcher to familiarize themselves with the applicable legislation.
- See overview of other agencies from The Svalbard Science Forum, consult with the Governor

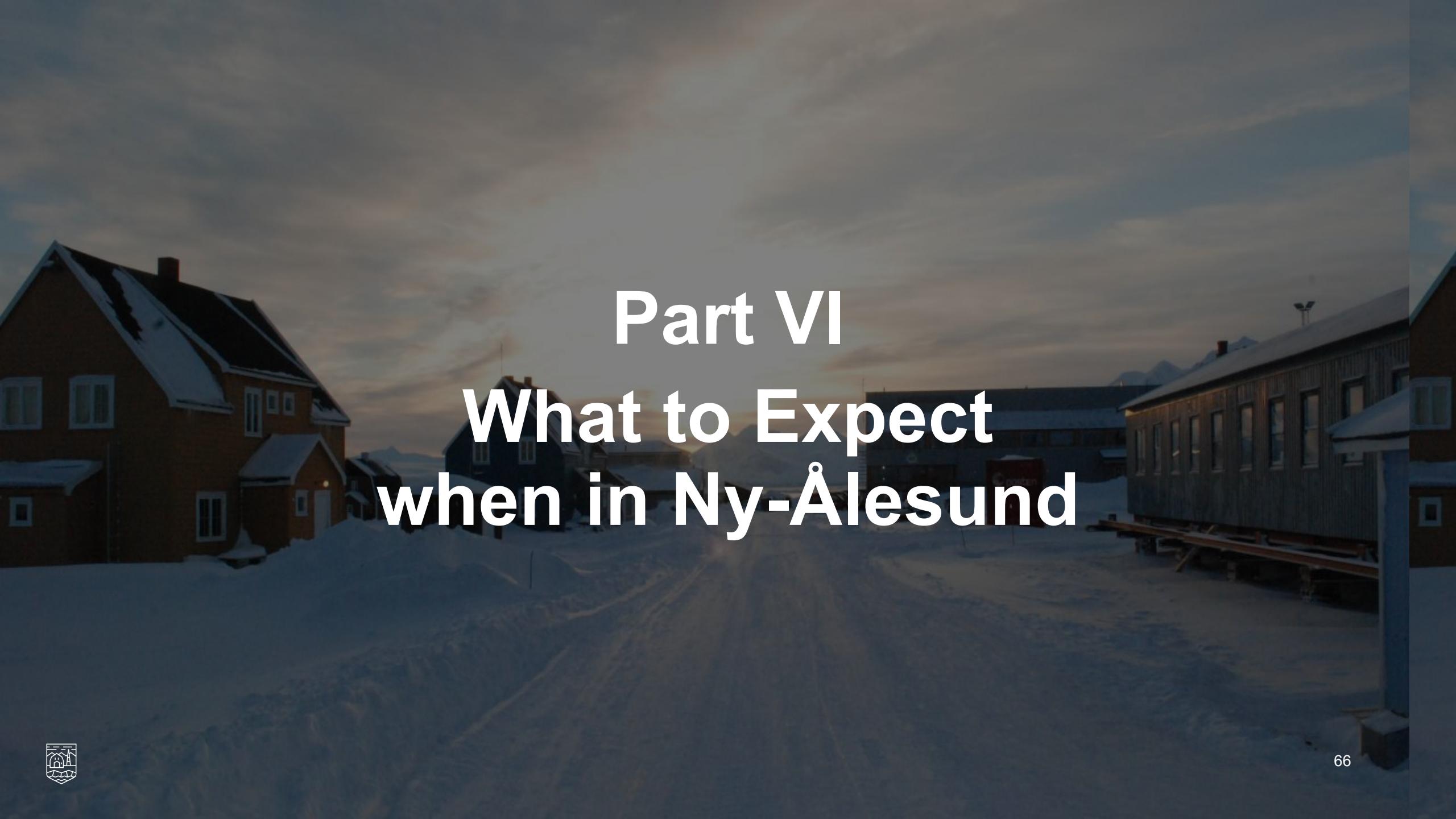
Experience from Ny-Å RS:

- You might need permission from The Norwegian Food Safety Authority (animal experiments, handling, sampling etc.)
- The Norwegian Coastal Administration (set up of instruments in the fjord)
- +++



Photo: Ingrid Kjerstad/NPI





Part VI

What to Expect when in Ny-Ålesund

Arrival in Ny-Ålesund

- Information in the reception upon arrival
- Detailed in-brief by your host including practical information regarding daily life and activity in Ny-Ålesund, such as mealtimes, gym etc.
- <https://nyalesundresearch.no>



When in Ny-Ålesund

- Note that there will be limited support available during weekends and holidays
- KB staff operate Monday-Friday 08:00-16:00
- Kings Bay staff on weekend duty – reduced support or more expensive
- *Plan ahead for any assistance or services you might need*

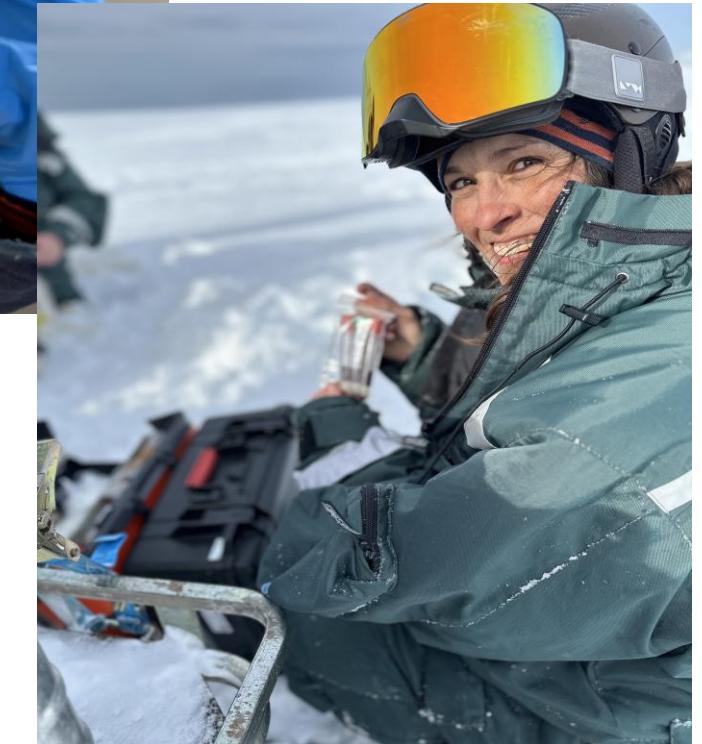
Public holidays Norway 2026

- Easter: Week 14 (29.03 & 02.04 - 06.04)
- 01.05 – Labour Day
- 14.05 – Ascension Day
- 17.05 – Norwegian Constitution Day
- 24.05 – Pentecost
- 25.05 – Pentecost
- Christmas: week 52 (24.12 - 26.12)



Contribute with a science talk when in Ny-Ålesund

- Share your project and your plans!
- Organized every week after dinner
- Participate in discussions
- Good opportunity to get to know other projects in Ny-Ålesund!





Part VI Safety

Safety in Ny-Ålesund

24/7 Watchman on Duty

- First point of contact for emergencies or urgent assistance outside regular working hours.



Medical Assistance:

- **Nurse** on-site. Handles non-critical medical needs.
- Limited selection of mostly non-prescription medication.



Field Safety

- The Governor is responsible for planning, leading and coordinating the rescue service for Svalbard
- If you have an emergency in field the Governor is the point of contact.
- **All field teams are responsible for their own safety in the field if not otherwise is planned with your hosting institution.**



Photo: Svalbard Folkehøyskole

Field Safety

- A documented risk assessment is mandatory for all participants going out in the field.
- Be aware of insurance requirements in some areas for your fieldwork.
- **All field teams are responsible for their own safety in the field if not otherwise is planned with your hosting institution.**



Photo: Svalbard Folkehøyskole



Questions?

Thank you for your participation!

This presentation with relevant links will be sent out to participants after this meeting.

Stay in touch with Ny-Ålesund Research Station in the following ways:

- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/ny-alesund-research-station/>
- Sign up for our newsletters: <https://nyalesundresearch.no/newsletter/>
- <https://nyalesundresearch.no>

