Svalbard Reading List

Take some time to read some of the books below to add to your enjoyment of your upcoming expedition. There will be field guides and history books available onboard if you’d like to save valuable packing space and weight. Longitude Books carries many of these titles and we’ve put a package deal together for those with an “*” below (reading.longitudebooks.com/CE1893). You may also look for eBooks or phone apps to reduce your luggage weight.

Field Guides

**Spitsbergen Svalbard: A Complete Guide Around the Arctic Archipelago** • Rolf Stange • 2012 • PAPER • 512 PAGES • HIGHLY RECOMMENDED • This book has comprehensive information on many fields of interest and has many color images illustrating wildlife and flower species plus landscapes and places from all over the archipelago. Available at www.spitsbergen-svalbard.com.

*The Arctic, A Guide to Coastal Wildlife* • Tony Soper • FIELD GUIDE • 2012 • PAPER • 160 PAGES • An essential handbook for the ship-based traveler, this compact guide to the plants, marine mammals, and birds of the Circumpolar North features handsome watercolor illustrations and lively text. This new edition includes a section on the Bering Sea.

*Bradt Guide Svalbard* • Andreas Umbreit • GUIDEBOOK • 2013 • PAPER • 246 PAGES • This excellent introduction to Spitsbergen, Franz Josef Land and Jan Mayen Island includes an overview of history, wildlife and nature, color photographs, and maps.

*Spitsbergen Explorer Map* • Ocean Explorer Maps • MAP • 2011 • A detailed map of Svalbard for the traveler, at a scale of 1:1,000,000, with illustrated biographies of 27 explorers and a guide to wildlife on the reverse.

NOTE: The following three books are part of the Norwegian Polar Institute's Polar Handbook series. You can order them online on their website (www.npolar.no/en/publications/polar-handbooks). These guides are also available for purchase in Longyearbyen at the museum.

**Birds and Mammals of Svalbard** • Kit M. Kovacs • Christian Lydersen • GUIDE BOOK • 2005 • HARD COVER • 203 PAGES • The comprehensive short field guide to birds and mammals in Svalbard, illustrated with photographs.

**Cruise Handbook for Svalbard** • Bjorn Fossli JohansenKit • Kristin Prestvold • Oystein Overrein • GUIDE BOOK • 2011 • HARD COVER • 252 PAGES • This book presents handy information on wildlife, plants, geology, and cultural heritage.

**The Flora of Svalbard** • Olaf I Rønning • GUIDE BOOK • 1996 • HARD COVER • 184 PAGES • The comprehensive short field guide to flora in Svalbard, illustrated with photographs.
Natural History

*Arctic Dreams* • Barry Lopez • NATURAL HISTORY • 2001 • PAPER • 417 PAGES • A dazzling meditation on the Arctic, breathtaking in scope. Lopez draws on his travels throughout the North, including Baffin Island, the Chukchi and Bering Seas, Alaska, the Yukon and Greenland, interweaving natural history, accounts of early exploration, anecdote, and lore into an indelible portrait of place.

A Complete Guide to Arctic Wildlife • Richard Sale • NATURAL HISTORY • 2006 • PAPER • 464 PAGES • Featuring 400 lively color photographs of Arctic peoples, wildlife, and landscapes, this handsomely illustrated book is both a primer on the circumpolar north and a guide to Arctic birds and mammals. With hundreds of spectacular color photographs, color range maps and descriptions of 200 species of birds and 77 kinds of mammals.

Polar Bears • Ian Stirling • NATURAL HISTORY • 2011 • PAPER • 232 PAGES • A tribute to the polar bear by preeminent researcher Ian Stirling and intrepid photographer Dan Guravich, featuring 160 color photographs. It’s an excellent combination of outstanding color photography, solid information on natural history, and Inuit lore. With chapters on polar bear biology, distribution and abundance, behavior, the polar bears of Churchill, environmental concerns, and the conflicts between people and bears.

Polar Exploration

The Farthest North: The Incredible Three-Year Voyage to the Frozen Latitudes of the North • Fridtjof Nansen • EXPLORATION • 1999 • PAPER • 544 PAGES • The great Norwegian explorer Fridtjof Nansen recounts his adventures in the Arctic in this classic memoir, originally published in 1897. He describes the design and building of his ingenious ship, The Fram, his drift across the icy wasteland, his six-month-long sledge journey with Johansen, and his final dash across the ice floes to Franz Joseph Land, where they overwintered before being picked up by a passing British expedition.

The Ice Ship • Charles W Johnson • HISTORY • 2014 • HARD COVER • 336 PAGES • A captivating look at the extraordinary ship The Fram and its captains, including the famed explorer Roald Amundsen. Johnson narrates the story of the ship from its conception through twenty years and three epic expeditions aimed at discovering two unknown landmasses.

The Last Viking, The Life of Roald Amundsen • Stephen R Brown • BIOGRAPHY • 2013 • PAPER • 356 PAGES • Brown plumbs the New York Times, Amundsen's own writing, and other contemporaneous accounts to tell the tale of the unusual, adventurous, and entertaining Amundsen, his celebrity and, his amazing feats, not just his hop-skip-and-a-jump to the South Pole, but also his conquest of the Northeast and Northwest Passages, pioneering flights across the polar basin, and other grails of early 20th century exploration.

The Ice Museum, In Search of the Lost Land of Thule • Joanna Kavenna • SCIENCE • 2007 • PAPER • 304 PAGES • Kavenna combines travel, history, and anecdote in this enchanting account of travels throughout the North.

By Airship to the North Pole, An Archaeology of Human Exploration • P.J. Capelotti • ARCHEOLOGY • 1999 • HARD COVER • 209 PAGES • A history of Salomon Andree, Charles Wellman, and the first attempts to reach the North Pole by airship. This book includes a detailed archaeological analysis of the aerial polar base camps in Spitsbergen.