

SVALBARD 31. AUGUST – 4. SEPTEMBER



The 3rd day we had signed up for a boat trip to Esmarkbreen and Barentsburg.



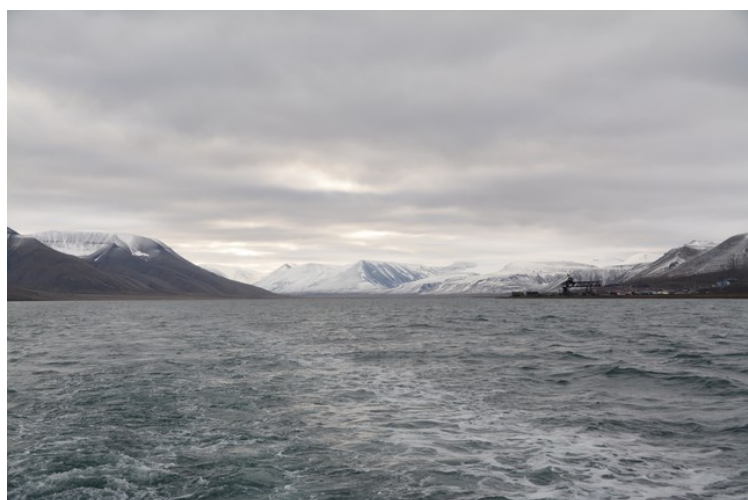
The trip was originally to go with this boat called MS Langøysund.



Because there were so many who had signed up for this trip, the operator had decided to use this boat instead of the one they had planned. This boat is called MS Billefjord.



Just before we start. Longyearbyen in the background.



On our way out [Adventfjorden](#). The coal pier to the right.



Here we are going past the airport.



Here we are past the airport, looking south [Isfjorden](#).



Views north. Then follows some mountain pictures.



Think this is [Borebukta](#) with Borebreen.





Rescue exercise (training).



Crew are lowered to the boat.



Here comes the stretcher.



When the exercise was finished, we were right next to Esmarkbreen.



Here we are arriving to [Ymerbukta](#) where [Esmarkbreen](#) is situated.



Here we see the glacier.



Pieces from the glacier are drifting past.



On the side of the glacier there is a large moraine.



The edge of the glacier.



On the other side of the glacier there are many small floes floating around. Then follows some glacier pictures.







It could be that seals are lying on a floe.



Here we can see the seals.



Ice catching.





The ice is secured.



Whisky on the rocks.



Lunch. Options: «spareribs», whale beef, salmon, salad, pasta and rice.



The first building we come to in [Barentsburg](#). It is the site of [Barentsburg Heliport](#) at [Heerodden](#).



The buildings in Barentsburg.



Views further into [Grøn fjorden](#).



Stock sheds at the pier.



Here we go ashore.



Anne Berit is taking pictures.



She is taking a picture of me.



The guide is collecting the group for some information.



All are here.



Those with walking difficulties or do not want to go all the stairs up to the settlement, can take this bus.



The rest are walking upstairs. Here we look down to the pier.



There are many steps to go.



We are approaching the buildings that are in use.



This house is not in use.



Views north in direction of Esmarkbreen.



Not in use.



Almost up to the first stop.



A memorial for the crew of MS Hercules who went down on the way to Murmansk.



Here used to be a cafeteria. It is closed now.



A few vehicles drove past when we stood there.



More information from the guide.



The road further up.



This is a sports and cultural center.
Was created in 1963.

In the 1600s and 1700s Grønfyorden was widely used as anchoring and hunting ground for whaling, and in the second half of the period also by Russian [pomor](#) hunting teams. [Barentsburg](#) was founded by the Russian Tsar Empire in 1916. In 1920 the plant was sold to a Dutch company, which gave the settlement the name Barentsburg. The Dutch invested much in the plant, but in 1926 business stopped up for lack of funds. In 1932 Barentsburg was acquired by the Soviet company [Arktikugol](#), which yet today runs the place.

During the war, in 1941, the Soviet citizens were evacuated to Arkhangelsk, and in 1943, almost all the houses were set on fire during the German battleship Tirpitz 'raid to Svalbard. After the 2nd World War Barentsburg was rebuilt as a Soviet model outpost, and from the early 1950s the community was fully operational again. In the 1970s it was

mostly over 1,000 residents in Barentsburg. Today there are in excess of 400. 90% are Ukrainians and the rest are Russians.



The [church](#) was built in 1996 to commemorate the 141 people who was killed when a Russian plain crashed into Tempelfjellet.



The views up the main street in Barentsburg. The house to the left, which is being renovated is the [Pomor museum](#) . The statue we see is a monument for the mining industry.



The Pomor museum and the mining monument.



Right beyond is the school located.



The building is decorated outside with paintings of typical Russian architecture.



A sign outside the school.

The kids come from school. There are 20 schoolchildren here.



The whole group is moving forward.

This is the hospital in Barentsburg.



This is the logo for the mining company, [Arktikugol](#), which operates the Russian mining activity on Svalbard.

Some of the transport system for coal.



This is the restaurant for the miners.



[Barentsburg hotel.](#)



We were inside the post office in the hotel. I just had to have a picture of this balalaika.



Here we are on our way back to the boat.



The main street.



Views north in Isfjorden.



Apartments.



The old cafeteria that are not in use anymore.



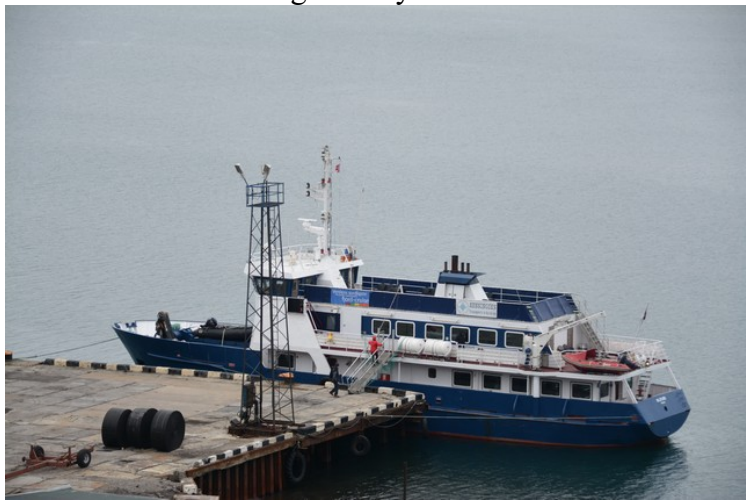
The souvenir shop.



Nature gradually takes over.



It does not seem that this is being used either.



The boat is waiting for us.



Quayside. The nearest house is the port office.



Visiting the captain.



I have a hand on the wheel.



The houses in [Grumant](#). After the war it was up to 1,200 people who worked here. The activity stopped in 1962.



Some mountain pictures on the trip back to Longyearbyen.





Back to Hotellneset.



Back at the hotel. The sun has come back after having been gone almost all day.



We can see the champagne glass from our hotel room.

This was the end of day 3.