



Ny-Ålesund Research Station

Guide for media visits

Summary

- If you are planning to visit Ny-Ålesund Research Station, you must submit a description of what you intend to do, when you wish to visit, etc. to the relevant institution with national coordination responsibilities for Ny-Ålesund Research Station.
- Booking of transportation and/or accommodation should be initiated only when your plan has been assessed and approved by the relevant institution with national coordination responsibilities.
- Booking requests should be sent from the relevant institution hosting the media visit to booking@kingsbay.no, with a copy to visit.nya@npolar.no

General information

Ny-Ålesund Research Station at 79° north is a Norwegian research and monitoring facility hosting national and international natural science research projects and environmental monitoring programmes run by institutions from ten countries. The research station serves both as an observatory, as a laboratory, and as a field base for a range of Arctic natural sciences research projects, spanning from marine geology and oceanography, via terrestrial ecology and glaciology all the way to upper atmospheric research.

Ny-Ålesund's history as a coal mining community and as a starting point for numerous Arctic expeditions is unique and laid the foundation for the research activity that takes place here today. You can learn more about the history in the Ny-Ålesund museum, which is always open and where admission is free.

In order to preserve the near pristine environment which is critical to both the research projects and the environmental monitoring programmes, there are a number of restrictions on what other types of activities are being admitted to Ny-Ålesund. (Please see the section "Things to consider" below.)

Assessment and approval of requests for visit, and points of contact

Media organisations planning to visit Ny-Ålesund Research Station must do so as an approved guest of one of the institutions with a national coordination responsibility and a physical presence in Ny-Ålesund – see list below. This means that e.g. German media organisations should approach AWI to have their plans assessed and approved. Approval must be gained before transportation to/from Ny-Ålesund or accommodation in Ny-Ålesund can be booked.

The [Norwegian Polar Institute](#) (NPI) is the overall host at Ny-Ålesund Research Station. In addition to being contact point for Norwegian media organisations, NPI will also be the point of contact for media organisations from countries without a physical presence in Ny-Ålesund. Request to NPI should be sent to visit.nya@npolar.no.

Media from country	Media local host institution	Point of contact
Germany	AWI	stationleader@awipecv.eu
France	IPEV	stationleader@awipecv.eu
Italy	CNR	stationleader.arctic@cnr.it
UK	NERC	nc@bas.ac.uk
China	PRIC	yellowriver@pric.org.cn
Japan	NIPR	NALYR@nipr.ac.jp
South-Korea	KOPRI	dasan@kopri.re.kr
The Netherlands	University of Groningen	m.j.j.e.loonen@rug.nl
India	NCPOR	stationleader.india@gmail.com

The company [Kings Bay](#) is responsible for logistical services, including flights, lodging, dining, running of the store and postal services. Once a visit has been approved, booking requests for travel to Ny-Ålesund and/or accommodation should be sent from the institution hosting the visit to Kings Bay booking@kingsbay.no. The institution hosting the visit should also send copies of the booking to both visit.nya@npolar.no and the relevant media organisation when contacting Kings Bay AS.

Note that due to the heavy workload on the personnel and scientists working in Ny-Ålesund, media visitors cannot expect that all scientists or local staff will be available for interviews. To ensure that visits are as productive and efficient as possible, it is important to start the planning process well in advance of the actual visit.

Information regarding expenses

When visiting Ny-Ålesund you should plan for the following expenses:

- Transportation. There are regular flights between Ny-Ålesund and Longyearbyen two days a week. Price one way per person is 3 375 NOK. Groups of six or more are required to book their own charter flight; price one way for a charter is 44 900 NOK if it is within regular opening hours
- Room and board. Prices vary depending on the lodging. We have high standard hotel rooms with private bathrooms, but also more basic rooms with shared bathrooms. Price range is between 1 005 – 2 365 NOK per diem, with all regular meals included in this price.
- Other expenses could be for; Safety course, extra meals, or rental of weapons, snowmobiles, cars, meeting rooms or other equipment as required.
- Payment is by debit or credit card. Guests pay when checking out in the reception before leaving Ny-Ålesund.

For more information, please visit the [Kings Bay web site](#).

Things to consider

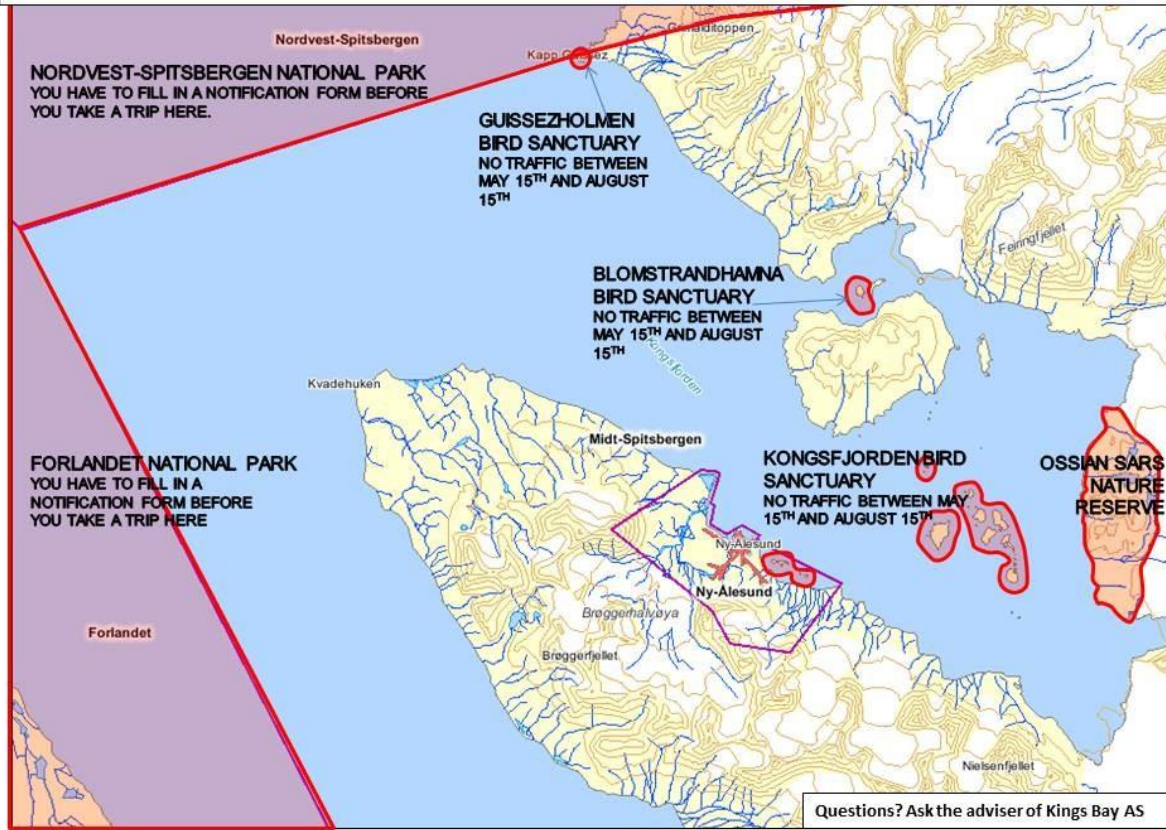
- The area covered by a radius of 20 km from the centre of Ny-Ålesund is a **radio-silent** area. **All radio transmitters** (cell phones, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, etc.) **must be turned off completely**. Flight mode in cell phones is OK. Use of equipment with radio transmitters may interfere with research and monitoring activity and could potentially cause serious damage to some of the very sensitive receiver equipment used for these activities.
- All users of systems that use radio frequency must adhere to the rules about radio frequency use (<https://nysmac.npolar.no/practical/>). All use of frequency within the range 2-32 GHz requires a permission from NKOM.
- The use of UAVs requires a permission. (Please see <https://kingsbay.no/research/unmanned-systems> for additional information.
- In addition to the frequency permission, official applications or notifications to the authorities are compulsory.
- It is illegal to enter any of the **research installation areas** in and around town for unauthorized personnel. Most of these areas are not fenced off but are shown on maps available in town and posted on the information board. (Also available on the last pages of this document.)
- When in Ny-Ålesund, only walk on roads and boardwalks. Respect the regulations for **bird sanctuaries** in the period from 15th of May to 15th of August. They are marked on maps of Ny-Ålesund, and there are signs placed in critical spots around town.
- **Wild animals** may appear friendly and curious in Svalbard, but you are not allowed to approach, attract or feed any wildlife. Rabies is present in Svalbard from time to time.
- To **travel outside the settlement**, you must carry a rifle or be escorted. Rifles can be rented from Kings Bay (against a fee), provided you have completed a safety course. Safety courses are arranged and booked via Kings Bay.
- You must always **get permission before filming** or taking pictures of people. Filming and taking pictures in the dining hall is permitted only with the explicit approval of Kings Bay. You are not allowed to take pictures/video in social settings after 22:00, and never in the bar.
- Remember, we are in the Arctic, and the weather can change quickly. Therefore, flights to and from Ny-Ålesund may be cancelled or postponed resulting in loss of connecting flight in Longyearbyen. It is therefore advisable to **plan for delays** when travelling to and from Ny-Ålesund. Kings Bay is not responsible for extra costs that accrue due to delays and cancellations. You are strongly encouraged to have a valid travel insurance. Passengers on the flights to/from Ny-Ålesund can only bring 20 kg luggage (incl. hand luggage).

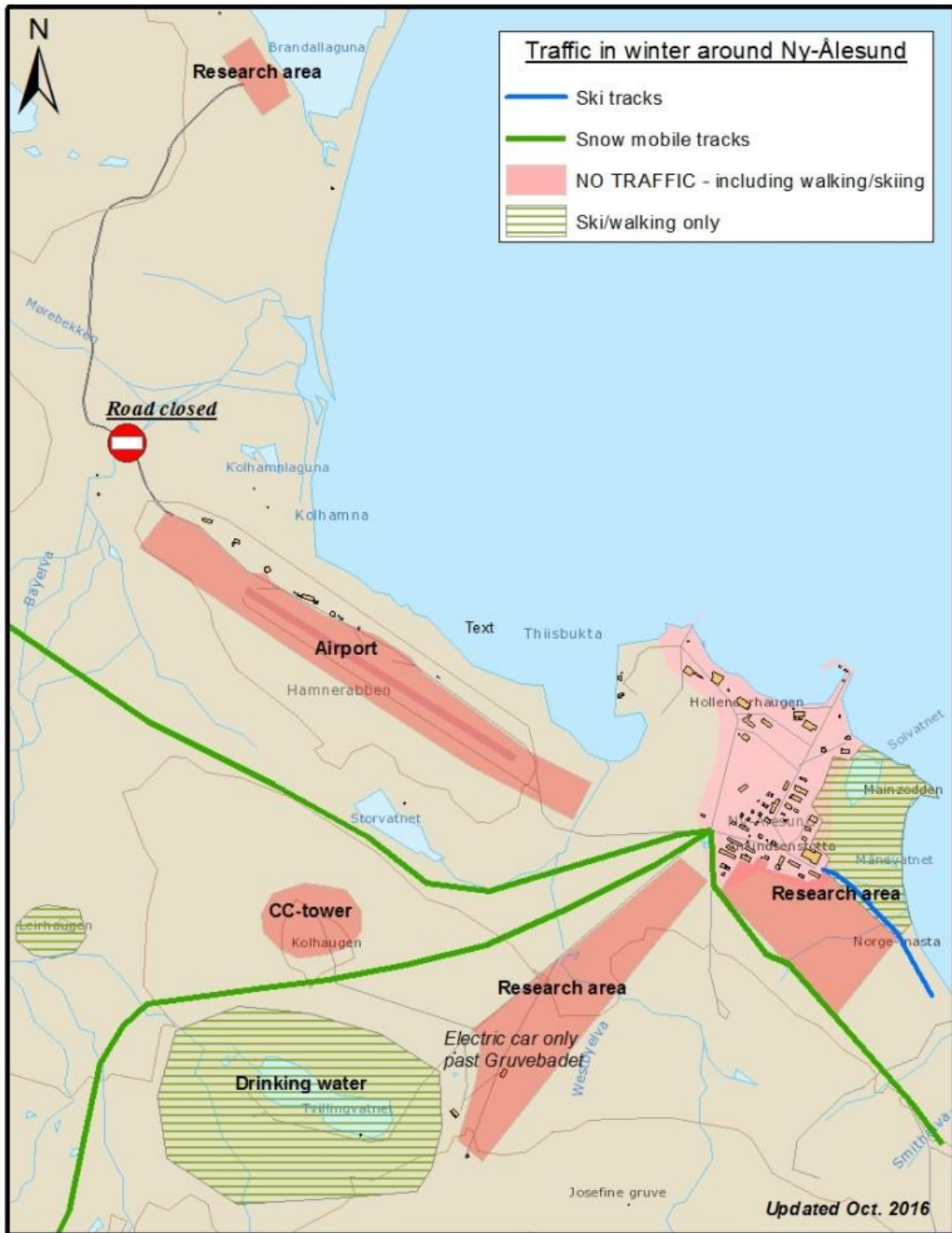
Required information when requesting a visit

The following information must be provided by the media organisation or journalist that wants to visit Ny-Ålesund Research Station. This information should be provided through a separate form *Request for visit by media actors* which has to be sent to the relevant research institution with national coordination responsibilities for assessment. The different institutions should keep NPI informed about requests and the planning process. NPI will keep a complete list of media visits to Ny-Ålesund Research Station. The following information should be given through the *Request for visit by media actors* form.

- Name of media organisation:
- Contact person (name, e-mail and cell phone):
- Institution in Ny-Ålesund that has assessed the request and will be the local host for the media visit
- Purpose of the visit and topics of particular interest:
- Time of planned visit to Ny-Ålesund (start date and time – end date and time):
- Mode of transportation; Regular flight (max 5 people)/charter flight/boat
- Total number of people in the delegation
- Names etc. of members of the delegation: Full name, date of birth, gender and role (journalist, photographer etc.)
- Lodging request through Kings Bay AS (Information about options here)
- List of any allergies or other dietary requirements:
- Invoice information if not paying with credit card (address, reference number, etc.)
- Plan for work to be done in Ny-Ålesund

PROTECTED AREAS IN KONGSFJORDEN





Restricted areas in Ny-Ålesund during summer

