

Ny-Ålesund Research Station

Request for visit from media

General information

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

In order to preserve the near pristine environment and keep the local human impacts as low as possible, so as not to jeopardize scientific research and monitoring, there are a number of restrictions on visitors to Ny-Ålesund.

The [Norwegian Polar Institute](#) (NPI) is the overall host at Ny-Ålesund Research Station. Requests from media will be handled by the institute from which the media group is coming from. Institutes present in Ny-Ålesund is listed below. The company [Kings Bay](#) is responsible for most logistical services, including flight, lodging, dining, store and postal service.

Assessing the request and local point of contact

All media visits to Ny-Ålesund require an assessment of the request. Norwegian media and media from countries not listed below should send the request to NPI at Visit.Sverdrup@npolar.no. Media from the countries listed below should send their request as follows:

Media from country	Media local host institution	Point of contact
Germany	AWI	stationleader@awipev.eu
France	IPEV	stationleader@awipev.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	poolstation.nl@gmail.com
India	NCAOR	stationleader.india@gmail.com

The media group should not book flights or other transportation to Ny-Ålesund before the request is assessed and approved by the respective institute.

The media group must be aware, because of heavy workload on the personnel and scientists operating in Ny-Ålesund, media groups cannot expect that all scientists or local staff have the time to give an interview. Therefore, media visits should be planned and applied for with a good lead-time.

What to take into consideration

- Ny-Ålesund is a **radio-silent** area in 20 km radius from the town centre. **All radio transmitters** (cell phones, WiFi, Bluetooth, etc.) **have to be turned off completely**. Flight mode in cell phones is OK.
- All users of systems that use radio frequency must adhere to the rules about [radio frequency use \(http://nysmac.npolar.no/practical/\)](http://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 \(http://kingsbay.no/research/unmanned_systems/\)](http://kingsbay.no/research/unmanned_systems/). 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.
- Respect the regulations for **bird sanctuaries** in the period from 15 May to 15 August. They are marked on town map, and there are signs placed in critical spots around town.
- **Wild animals** may appear friendly and curious in Svalbard, but one is not allowed to approach, attract or feed any wildlife. Rabies is present in Svalbard from time to time.
- To **travel outside the settlement**, one must carry a rifle or be escorted. Rifles can be rented from Kings Bay (against a fee), but one needs to attend a safety course before one is allowed to rent a weapon.
- One should always **get permission before filming** or taking pictures of people. Filming and taking pictures in the dining mess is not allowed without special permission from Kings Bay.
- Be aware that this is 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.

Required information when requesting a visit

The following questions must be answered by any media that wants to visit Ny-Ålesund Research Station. Please include this information in the request. This information is also required by NPI, which will keep a complete list of media visits to Ny-Ålesund Research Station, prior to booking of flights and rooms:

- Name of media organisation:
- Time of planned visit to Ny-Ålesund:
- Purpose for the media visit and topics of interest:
- Name, date of birth and role (journalist, photographer, etc) of team members:
- Contact information:
- Which institute have assessed the request and will be the local host for the visit?
- What is the planned travel plans arriving and departing Ny-Ålesund Research Station?
- What is the draft plan for the media work/engagement in Ny-Ålesund?