

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ORGANISED TOURISM IN SVALBARD

Revised at the spring meeting in 2024

General introduction

The Svalbard Tourism Council (Svalbard Reiselivsråd) wishes to contribute to the tourism industry in Svalbard having good opportunities for product and quality development. Through these guidelines, we wish to lay the foundations for the implementation of the various forms of organised traffic in the Svalbard nature. In this way, the industry will safeguard its own requirements and those imposed by authorities concerning safety and quality, while ensuring the guests get the best possible benefits from their adventure tourism products. These guidelines must be seen in clear context with current laws and regulations.

These general guidelines will form the background for the specific guidelines drawn up by the Svalbard Tourism Council for the following types of traffic:

- Snowmobile safaris
- Dog sledding trips
- Skiing trips
- Hiking trips
- Kayaking trips

Requirements for the tour operator

These guidelines have been drawn up by the Svalbard Tourism Council and member companies are obliged to comply with them. Sanctions for breaching these guidelines can include exclusion from the Svalbard Tourism Council. The person responsible for the company must comply with the current laws and ensure that internal controls are introduced and carried out by their company (the list of probable dangers may be used as a starting point).

The guidelines also apply to sea-based tourism activities, including day trips and all forms of cruises. Tourism traffic by boat, including operations with smaller boats from mother vessels, must comply with requirements from the Norwegian maritime authorities. When disembarking, the guidelines for the mode of transport apply, e.g. hiking or dog walking, the same applies to kayaking directly from the mother vessel.

General requirements concerning the Svalbard guide's competence

As a minimum requirement, the lead guide on multi-day tours must have formal qualifications or prior leading and work experience equivalent to an authorised Svalbard Winter field guide or Summer field guide in accordance with the Svalbard Tourism Council's standard.

On tours where the route crosses glaciers with crevasses, as a minimum, the lead guide must have knowledge of route choice assessment on glaciers and be able to perform basic glacier rescue.

The Svalbard Guide Opplæringen/Svalbard Guide Training (SGO) has the following modules: Module 1: The local environment and administration, environment and the role of the Svalbard guide. Module 2: Safety course. Module 3: Summer and winter field course.

GUIDELINES FOR MEMBER COMPANIES OF SVALBARD TOURISM COUNCIL

Module 4: Glacier course. This is a permanent offer and the guides are encouraged to complete the whole course. Guides are encouraged to repeat module 2 (the safety course) regularly, either internally at the company or through SGO.

Guides should have the following knowledge, even if they have not completed the training:

- be able to use a map/compass/GPS
- be familiar with local conditions (sea ice, glaciers and avalanches), as well as the routes included in the programme
- be familiar with laws, regulations, rules and guidelines for protection, traffic and safety
- have knowledge of how to use emergency beacons and satellite phones, as well as have a plan for notification routines
- know general safety rules for the use of firearms
- know how to behave in encounters with polar bears
- can perform basic first aid

Guidelines and instructions for general safety and environmentally-friendly travel

- The guides should always consider their safety and that of the group, taking into consideration the season, terrain, type of traffic and composition of guests.
- All stops and establishment of camps must be performed taking into consideration potential avalanche risk, existence of polar bears and changing weather conditions.
- The guides must always have full control of the group.
- The guides must be prepared to resolve unforeseen incidents during the tours and, as such, must carry the necessary safety equipment based on the content and length of the tour.
- The guides should be aware of traces left in the terrain. In addition to avoiding littering, any visual destruction of the terrain must be avoided.
- Animals must not be disturbed!
- Cultural heritage sites in Svalbard are automatically protected, and the guide must be familiar with the regulations related to this.
- The guides are responsible for safeguarding environmental considerations and should impart attitude-building efforts on the tours. Through their attitudes, words and actions, the guides should be role models for the guests.
- Apart from photos, the guides and guests should not take anything from the Svalbard nature during the tours.
- The behaviour of the guides is a pattern for the behaviour of the group during the tour.

These guidelines are drawn up by the Svalbard Tourism Council and all member companies are obliged to comply with them.

Longyearbyen 23 June 1998; Revised: October 2007; 31 October 2012, autumn meeting; October 2015, autumn meeting; May 29th 2024, spring meeting.

ORGANISED HIKING TRIPS IN SVALBARD

Requirements concerning the guide's competence

On organised hiking trips, we distinguish between the lead guide and assistant guide. Stricter requirements are placed on the lead guide. On trips where there is only one guide, he/she will be regarded as the lead guide. Furthermore, stricter requirements are placed on guides on multi-day trips than on day trips.

All hiking guides in Svalbard must have experience with hiking in an Arctic summer climate.

On tours that cross blue ice, the lead guide should preferably be an authorised Svalbard glacier guide or have formal qualifications such as a course approved by Norsk Fjellsportsforum (NF) or equivalent. The guide must have prior learning and work experience to be able to lead a rope team and have a command of belaying and rescuing. The guide shall bring all necessary equipment for belaying and glacier rescues.

Standard for implementing hiking trips

The standard of the Svalbard Tourism Council's Svalbard Guide Training must be followed on all organised hiking trips in Svalbard.

Specific guidelines and instructions for implementing hiking trips

- Group size on short day trips (less than 3 hours): 1 – 20 guests per guide
- Group size on day trips (more than 3 hours): 1 – 12 guests per guide
- Group size on overnight trips: 1 – 8 guests per guide
- Group size on glacier walks (in rope team on blue ice): 1 – 6 guests per guide
- The group must be together in complex terrain.
- On longer trips, necessary camping equipment and provisions must be taken based on the length and level of difficulty of the trip. The equipment should be divided evenly among the group, while each person must carry their personal equipment (clothes and sleeping bag, etc.) so he/she has this equipment to seek shelter from the weather/wind in an emergency.

ORGANISERTE SKIING TRIPS IN SVALBARD

Requirements concerning the guide's competence

On organised skiing trips, we distinguish between the lead guide and assistant guide. Stricter requirements are placed on the lead guide. On trips where there is only one guide, he/she will be regarded as the lead guide. Furthermore, stricter requirements are placed on guides on multi-day trips than on day trips.

As a minimum requirement, the lead guide on multi-day tours must have formal qualifications or work experience equivalent to an authorised Svalbard Winter field guide or Summer field guide in accordance with the Svalbard Tourism Council's standard.

On skiing trips where the route crosses glaciers with crevasses, as a minimum, the lead guide must be an authorised Svalbard glacier guide or have relevant formal qualifications or prior learning and work experience to be able to lead a rope team and have a command of belaying and rescuing. The guide shall bring all necessary equipment for belaying and glacier rescues.

All ski guides in Svalbard must have:

- experience from skiing trips in an Arctic winter climate
- especially good knowledge of preventing and treating hypothermia

Standard for implementing skiing trips

The standard of the Svalbard Tourism Council's Svalbard Guide Training must be followed on all organised skiing trips in Svalbard.

Specific guidelines and instructions for implementing skiing trips

- Group size on day trips: 1 – 12 guests per guide
- Group size on overnight trips: 1 – 8 guests per guide
- If skiing on sea ice, the guide must inform the group about how to react if they break through the ice. The guide must ski first with a slightly longer distance to the next guest. The guide must measure the ice thickness regularly.
- Camps should never be established on sea ice.
- The group must be together in complex terrain.
- On ski touring that involves steep off-piste skiing, the route choice must be based on a continual avalanche assessment. The lead guide must have experience in assessing avalanche risk and buddy rescue in avalanche disasters.
- On ski touring that involves steep off-piste skiing, all participants must be equipped with snow shovel and probe. Everyone must use a sender/receiver and have training in the use of this.
- On longer trips, necessary camping equipment and provisions must be taken based on the length and level of difficulty of the trip. The equipment should be divided evenly among the group, while each person must carry their personal equipment (clothes and sleeping bag, etc.) so he/she has this equipment to seek shelter from the weather/wind in an emergency.

ORGANISED KAYAKING TRIPS IN SVALBARD

Requirements concerning the guide's competence

On organised kayaking trips, we distinguish between the lead guide and assistant guide. Stricter requirements are placed on the lead guide. On trips where there is only one guide, he/she will be regarded as the lead guide. Furthermore, stricter requirements are placed on guides on multi-day kayaking trips than on day trips, which do not involve long fjord crossings.

As a minimum requirement, the lead guide on multi-day tours must have formal qualifications or work experience equivalent to an authorised Svalbard Summer field guide in accordance with the Svalbard Tourism Council's standard. All kayaking guides in Svalbard must have:

- experience from sea kayaking in cold areas
- have a good command of rescue methods
- have especially good knowledge of CPR and preventing/treating hypothermia

It is recommended that kayaking guides on multi-day trips have completed the "våttkort" (wet card) and activity leader course for kayaking.

Standard for implementing kayaking trips

Organised kayaking trips must be based on the Norwegian Canoe Federation's standard for sea kayaking.

Specific guidelines and instructions for implementing kayaking trips

- Group size on day trips: 1 – 8 guests per guide,
 - Exception for paddling in Adventfjorden near land and only using double kayaks in fine weather: 1- 12 guests per guide.
- Group size on overnight trips: 1 – 6 guests per guide
- On kayaking trips that involve fjord crossing, there must be a minimum of 3 kayaks in the group to enable rescue in the event of overturning.
- Prior to all kayaking trips, the guide must go through rescue procedures. Prior to overnight trips, training must be implemented with the guests.
- Dry suits and flotation vests should always be used on kayaking trips in Svalbard.
- When kayaking near a calving glacier front, a safe distance must be kept, refer to the guidelines from the Governor of Svalbard, whereby both the calving and the subsequent waves must be taken into consideration.
- When kayaking near icebergs, a safe distance must be kept safe taking into consideration that it may turn and break up.
- Instructions if you encounter a walrus: If a walrus is observed, the group should gather together and paddle ashore.
- Be especially aware of the risk of polar bears if you go ashore by kayak.

GUIDELINES FOR SNOWMOBILE TOURISM IN SVALBARD

The Svalbard Tourism Council wishes to contribute to the snowmobile tourism in Svalbard being operated in a safe and environmentally responsible manner. Through these guidelines, we wish to organise the snowmobile tourism in such a way that safeguards the joint high goals of the industry and the authorities when it comes to protecting the natural environment in Svalbard, while at the same time ensuring the guests gain the best possible benefit from the experience.

There are no roads in the Svalbard archipelago. Snowmobile is primarily a means of transport for being able to experience the nature, environment, cultural heritage and settlements of Svalbard in the wintertime. Snowmobiling with tourists is in principle permitted within the entire Management area 10, except for the areas reserved for non-motorised traffic.

The traffic will primarily take place on defined snowmobile trails. When it comes to Svalbard, the term trail does not refer marked trails, but rather natural routes such as valleys, glaciers, fjords, river rivers, etc.

ROUTES

To ensure the trips are an enjoyable experience for the guests and to safeguard the environment, all guides must endeavour to drive the following routes on all guided trips (NB: This involves attempting to only drive in one direction on these routes):

To Barentsburg:

- Adventdalen - Todalen - Bødalen - Colesdalen - Kapp Laila – Barentsburg

From Barentsburg:

- Grøndalen - Skiferdalen - Colesdalen - Fardalen – Longyearbreen glacier - Longyearbyen

To Tempelfjorden:

- Adventdalen - Eskerdalen - Sassen - Fredheim – Tunabreen glacier

From Tempelfjorden:

- Same route as above.

Return trip to Pyramiden from Tempelfjorden:

- Murdochdalen – Gipsdalen – Nordenskiöldbreen glacier – Adolfbukta - Pyramiden

To Kapp Linné:

- The route to Barentsburg – Kapp Linné

From Kapp Linné:

- Kapp Linné – Barentsburg – Longyearbyen

To the East Coast:

- Adventdalen – Eskerdalen – Sassen – Mohnbukta/Dunérbukta/Agardhbukta (NB: The route over the glacier systems is assessed internally by the companies from year to year)

From the East Coast:

- Mohnbukta/Dunérbukta/Agardhbukta – Sassen – Eskerdalen – Adventdalen (NB: The route over the glacier systems is assessed internally by the companies from year to year)

GUIDELINES FOR MEMBER COMPANIES OF SVALBARD TOURISM COUNCIL

Return trip to Elveneset:

- Adventdalen – Helvetiadalen – Elveneset

To Coles Bay:

- Adventdalen – Todalen – Bødalen – Coles Bay

From Coles Bay:

- Coles Bay – Fardalen – Longyearbyen

These routes must be followed to the extent possible based on the weather and snow conditions. In other words, the guide has the final say when it comes to the choice of route.

PRIVATELY OWNED CABINS

Near cabins and cabin areas, the trails are placed in a way that the snowmobile trips do not pose a nuisance for cabin guests in the area. Moreover, groups must not stop at cabins and in cabin areas.

GROUP SIZES AND INTERVALS

The number of snowmobiles in a group is decisive when it comes to the burden from noise, as well as the burden on the visual environment.

One thing that may reduce the wilderness experience somewhat is meeting many other people on snowmobiles in the terrain. Most people visit Svalbard to experience "untouched nature". To avoid encountering other groups or being passed by other snowmobiles to the extent possible, it is important to follow the defined trails and maintain some distance between the groups.

Groups should endeavour to have an interval of approx. 15 minutes between each group start. The guides/tour leaders should agree on the starting times between them. If it is necessary to pass another group, those passing must keep adequate distance. This applies regardless of whether both groups are moving or whether one group has stopped.

A group should not be larger than 25 snowmobiles. If a group is so large that more than 25 snowmobiles must be used, the group should be divided up. In this way, each participant will feel less like they are driving in the queue, the trip will go smoother and it will be easier to control the group.

The number of snowmobiles per guide must be:

- 1 - 6 snowmobiles minimum 1 guide
- 7 - 15 snowmobiles minimum 2 guider
- 16 - 25 snowmobiles minimum 3 guider
- 26+ snowmobiles see below

If the total number of snowmobiles in a group exceeds 25, the group should be divided up. In such cases, the various groups should follow the guidelines concerning the 15-minute start interval between groups.

The reason why the number of guides is expressed per snowmobile and not per guest is that two guests can sit on each snowmobile without this causing any problem for the guide's ability to maintain an overview and control of snowmobiles. This is also of significance for safety equipment/emergency box that the guide has.

REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING THE GUIDE'S COMPETENCE

The Svalbard Guide Opplæringen/Svalbard Guide Training (SGO) under the auspices of the Svalbard Tourism Council was established in 1998. This guide course has the following

GUIDELINES FOR MEMBER COMPANIES OF SVALBARD TOURISM COUNCIL

modules: basic theoretical knowledge, service, first aid, safety, firearms, field knowledge summer and field knowledge winter. This is a permanent offer and the guides are encouraged to complete the whole course. Guides should have knowledge of these areas, even if they have not completed the training:

Other requirements for the tour leader:

- be able to drive a snowmobile
- be able to perform basic snowmobile repairs
- be able to use a camp/compass/GPS
- be familiar with the routes to be used
- be able to tackle situations that may arise (e.g. bad weather)
- be service-oriented to the guests and have good communication skills
- be familiar with laws, regulations, rules and guidelines for protection, traffic and safety
- have knowledge of how to use emergency beacons and satellite phones

SPEED, MOUNTAINSIDE DRIVING, SAFETY AND THE ENVIRONMENT.

Speed: The Road Traffic Act also applies to the terrain in Svalbard. The speed should never exceed 80 km/h in the terrain or 30 km/h on the road in the settlements (20 km/h in Barentsburg). The speed is also determined by the group's participants and the size of the group. The larger the group, the lower the speed. A group can never drive faster than the speed at which every driver can handle the snowmobile. The person who drives slowest in the group will always determine the group's tempo.

Mountainside driving should never occur. The term mountainside driving means any driving that takes place outside the natural route of the area. This also includes "slalom driving", i.e. driving back and forth from one side of the valley to the other. Such driving will inspire other reckless driving, and any unnecessary tracks created will destroy the visual experience of the next group to visit the area.

Safety: The guide should be prepared for unexpected situations that may arise. The guide should bring a minimum of equipment to provide help when needed. The equipment to be included is listed on the attached "Equipment List – Tour Leader on Snowmobile Trips".

The guide should always consider their safety and that of the group. The guide's driving pattern serves as an example of how the group should behave. The guide should be aware of traces left in the terrain. In addition to avoiding littering, any visual destruction of the terrain must be avoided. Even though snowmobile tracks in the snow do not leave lasting traces, unnecessary tracks in the wintertime also constitute visual destruction.

RELATIONSHIP WITH NON-MOTORISED TRAFFIC/SNOWMOBILE-FREE AREAS

If the group catches up with/meets skiers or sled dog mushers (drivers), they should keep as much distance from skiers/sled dog mushers as possible. The guide must slow down and lead the group in a large arc outside of the non-motorised traffic, even if they are on the snowmobile trail.

This also applies to the passage of animals. **Under no circumstances should animals be disturbed unnecessarily or pursued!**

It is important that snowmobile traffic does not conflict with other types of traffic, and that the snowmobile traffic takes place in accordance with existing rules. This also applies to respecting snowmobile-free areas.

TRANSITION TO NOISELESS SNOWMOBILES

Companies in Svalbard shall endeavour to use environmentally-friendly snowmobiles.

GUIDELINES FOR MEMBER COMPANIES OF SVALBARD TOURISM COUNCIL

GUIDELINES FOR TOUR LEADERS AND PARTICIPANTS

The tour leader must:

- Go through the route with the guests
- Provide an introduction about how to drive a snowmobile
- Always have full control of the group
- Be in the lead (for larger groups, there should also be a tail guide at the back of the group)
- No participants are permitted to drive past the tour leader
- The participants should drive in a line behind the guide – and never beside the guide. In poor weather, other formations may be assessed.
- A three-second gap between snowmobiles should always be maintained.
- The participants must follow the tour leader's instructions. Anyone who breaches this rule may be restricted to be a passenger for the remainder of the trip.

Participants on a guided trip must sign a list of conditions before commencing the trip.

EQUIPMENT LIST – TOUR LEADER ON SNOWMOBILE TRIPS:

- GPS
- Map for the trip and compass
- Nylon rope (approx. 20-25 m)
- Axe
- High calibre rifle
- Signal pen/pistol
- Satellite phone
- Emergency beacons
- First aid kit
- Snow shovel
- Sleeping bag/wind sack, ground pad
- Emergency tent
- Primus, fuel, saucepan
- Extra gloves, snowmobile goggles, clothing
- Emergency provisions
- Extra petrol and oil
- Extra light source (during Polar Night)
- Avalanche probe(s)
- Heaving line

LONGER TRIPS

Additional equipment will be required on longer trips, especially equipment that enables the whole group to seek shelter/stay overnight in the terrain in the event difficult weather conditions or unforeseen situations arise.

ORGANISED DOG SLEDDING TRIPS IN SVALBARD

Requirements concerning the guide's competence

On organised dog sledding, we distinguish between the lead guide and assistant guide. Stricter requirements are placed on the lead guide. On trips where there is only one guide, he/she will be regarded as the lead guide. Furthermore, stricter requirements are placed on guides on multi-day trips than on day trips.

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Other requirements for the tour leader:

- be able to manage the dogs and perform first aid to dogs
- be able to use a camp/compass/GPS
- be familiar with the routes to be used
- be able to tackle situations that may arise (e.g. bad weather)
- be service-oriented to the guests and have good communication skills
- be familiar with laws, regulations, rules and guidelines for protection, traffic and safety
- have knowledge of how to use emergency beacons and satellite phones

Specific guidelines and instructions for implementing dog sledding trips

- Group size on short trips: 6 guest dog teams per guide
- Group size on day trips: 5 guest dog teams per guide
- Group size on overnight trips: 5 guest dog teams per guide
- Special precautions must be taken when passing unfamiliar dog teams. A good rule is that those driving uphill leave the trail while the oncoming dog team passes. The lead dog must be held while the other dog team passes.
- On longer trips, necessary camping equipment and provisions must be taken based on the length and level of difficulty of the trip. The equipment should be divided evenly among the group, while each person must carry their personal equipment (clothes and sleeping bag, etc.) so he/she has this equipment to seek shelter from the weather/wind in an emergency.
- If crossing sea ice, the guide must inform the group about how to react if they break through the ice. The guide must drive first with a slightly longer distance to the next guest. The guide must measure the ice thickness regularly.
- Camps should never be established on sea ice.
- The group must be together in complex terrain.
- The tour leader must always have full control of the group and be in the lead.
- The tour leader must be prepared to resolve unforeseen incidents during the tours (e.g. fighting between the dogs, injuries, encounters with polar bears, etc.)
- The participants must drive in a line behind the tour leader.
- In the interests of safety, a short distance between the dog teams is recommended. The participants must follow the tour leader's instructions. Anyone who breaches this rule may be restricted to be a passenger for the remainder of the trip.
- When dog sledding on wheels, along the road, guests must be offered a helmet. Individual operators can also choose to introduce compulsory helmet use on this type of trip.

APPENDIX: PROBABLE RISKS AND RELATED RISK REDUCTION MEASURES

Probable risks on hiking trips	Risk reduction measures
Encounters with polar bears	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General polar bear precautions • Firearm, signal pen/flare gun and emergency beacon • Guide with adequate training and competence in accordance with Svalbard Guide Training's standards • Proper warning system around the camp • Route choice and camping sites that reduce the possibility of close encounters with polar bears
Lose a guest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organising of the group – walk together • Pay special attention in poor visibility and strong wind
Burn injury from primus and boiling water in the tent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preheat the primus stove outside the tent • Only use the primus stove in the outer tent • Do not use the primus stove when you are sleeping • Paraffin (kerosene) is preferable to purified petrol, which is a far less flammable fuel • Provide each guest with good training and supervision in the safe use of a primus stove and how to boil water • Guest must never hold a thermos being filled with boiling water – use a funnel
Carbon monoxide poisoning from primus stove	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Never use the primus stove in the inner tent with inadequate ventilation • Never use the primus stove when you are sleeping
Large blister	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use correct ski equipment – must be checked before the trip • Focus on blister prevention and use tape as soon as there is a hint of a blister • Check the guests' feet at the camp
Fall into glacier crevasse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know the glaciers you are crossing • Guide with formal qualifications and prior leading and work experience equivalent of glacier travel • Correct use of rope and belaying on the glacier • Organising of the group

Probable risks on skiing trips	Risk reduction measures
Encounters with polar bears	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General polar bear precautions • Firearm, signal pen/flare gun and emergency beacon • Guide with adequate training and competence in accordance with Svalbard Guide Training's standards • Proper warning system around the camp • Route choice and camping sites that reduce the possibility of close encounters with polar bears
Hypothermia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correct equipment • Check of guests' equipment before setting off • Regular supervision of each guest during the ski trip and at the camp • Organising of the group and expert guidance along the way • Stay in the tent if the weather is too cold combined with strong wind
Lose a guest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organising of the group – stay together • Pay special attention in poor visibility and strong wind
Strong wind that damages the bivouac	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Placement of bivouac in the terrain • Good tent, good bracing and correct use of shelter walls • Several tents in the group so the group can manage if one tent is damaged • Always bring a shovel for each guest so a simple emergency bivouac can be established
Go through the sea ice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek information about the relevant sea ice from experienced people with local knowledge and an ice map • Observe the sea ice from a distance, set a good route

GUIDELINES FOR MEMBER COMPANIES OF SVALBARD TOURISM COUNCIL

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Never enter compact sea ice thinner than 10 cm • Check the ice thickness regularly • Always check the ice thickness if you notice changes in the structure of the ice • Bring adequate rescue equipment
Sun exposure – sunburn or snow-blindness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be careful to ensure that all guests use protection • Keep an eye on each guest and encourage them to keep an eye on each other
Burn injury from primus and boiling water in the tent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preheat the primus stove outside the tent • Only use the primus stove in the outer tent • Do not use the primus stove when you are sleeping • Paraffin (kerosene) is preferable to purified petrol, which is a far less flammable fuel • Provide each guest with good training and supervision in the safe use of a primus stove and how to boil water • Guest must never hold a thermos being filled with boiling water – use a funnel
Carbon monoxide poisoning from primus stove	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Never use the primus stove in the inner tent with inadequate ventilation • Never use the primus stove when you are sleeping
Fall injuries from off-piste skiing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good route choice • Remove skis and walk if the technique is too poor
Large blisters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use correct ski equipment – must be checked before the trip • Focus on blister prevention and use tape as soon as there is a hint of a blister • Check the guests’ feet at the camp
Avalanche	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make safe route choices during the ski trip • Know the impact the snow and weather have for the avalanche risk • Never camp near an outlet, estuary, etc. • On ski touring that involves steep off-piste skiing, the guide must have especially good avalanche expertise
Fall into glacier crevasse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know the glaciers you are crossing • Guide with formal qualifications and prior leading and work experience equivalent of glacier travel • Correct use of rope and belaying on the glacier • Organising of the group

Probable risks on kayaking trips	Risk reduction measures
Encounters with polar bears and walrus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General polar bear precautions • Firearm, signal pen/flare gun and emergency beacon • Procedure for encounters with walrus in the water • Guide with adequate training and competence in accordance with Svalbard Guide Training’s standards
Kayak overturns and paddler in the water – drowning and general hypothermia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Base the trip on the guests’ skill level • Continuous assessment of weather and current conditions • Distance from the shore • Routines for fjord crossing • Correct kayak – flotation and rescue equipment • Organising of the group • Paddler in the water drifting away from the group • Training in paddling techniques and buddy rescue
A guest becomes detached from the rest of the group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organising of the group • Correct emergency equipment • Assessment of weather and current conditions, especially drift in fog
Landslide and calving from glaciers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organising of the group • Distance to the glacier
Floating iceberg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organising of the group • Distance to the iceberg