



# SvalbardGuideOpplæringen SGO

## Svalbard Guide Training Course

### -course plan-

Visit  
Svalbard



Revised October 2023

### INTRODUCTION

*The purpose of protecting the nature in Svalbard is to preserve a virtually untouched environment with respect to continuous areas of wilderness, landscape, flora, fauna and cultural heritage. Within this framework, the Act allows for environmentally sound settlement, research and commercial activities. (Svalbard Environmental Protection Act, 2001)*

*The purpose of the Regulations relating to tourism, field operations and other travel in Svalbard is to provide for the safety of tourists and other travellers and ensure that field operations and travel programmes do not impair the virtually untouched environment of Svalbard with regard to continuous areas of wilderness, landscape, flora, fauna, and cultural heritage. (Regulations relating to tourism, field operations and other travel in Svalbard, 1991)*

This forms the basis of the tourism industry in Svalbard, which bases its existence on the archipelago's unique natural and cultural heritage. For this reason, the tourism industry has a fundamental interest in and an obligation to protect the unique natural environment and cultural heritage in Svalbard, and convey values about the protection of untouched nature and traces of earlier human activity.

### PURPOSE

The purpose of SvalbardGuideOpplæringen / SvalbardGuideTraining (SGO) is to serve as an introduction to the guide profession in Svalbard. The training shall meet the fundamental requirements the Svalbard nature, tourism industry and the authorities make concerning the Svalbard guide's general knowledge about the archipelago and competences in the field safety. SGO is owned by Svalbard Reiselivsråd (Svalbard Tourist Board) and the course is administered by the destination company Visit Svalbard AS.

SGO has the following objectives:

1. **Safety** - prevent injuries and incident accidents when travelling and staying in the Svalbard nature. SGO, the authorization and guidelines shall form a safety standard for the tourism activities in Svalbard.
2. **Taking care of Svalbard's unique natural environment and cultural heritage**
  - a. Through the principles of travel that "leaves no trace" on each individual tour, and
  - b. Through imparting of knowledge and attitudes about the natural environment and cultural heritage. In this way, the Svalbard guide will contribute to the tourists appreciating the value of looking after the natural environment and cultural heritage.
3. **Quality of the tourism activities in Svalbard.** The Svalbard guide shall give the guests meaningful experiences and create opportunities for learning in the nature.
4. **Raise the status of the profession of Svalbard guide.**

## ORGANISATION

SGO will primarily be available in English, but part of the training (self-study and lectures) may be implemented in Norwegian. The training is modular, with a web-based self-study followed by a week of theory and practical exercises related to the guide's role in Svalbard. A prerequisite for participating in the practical part of the training is passing the test after the self-study. The modules must be taken in sequence from 1 upwards. SGO will, in combination with relevant practice, lead to the authorization as a Svalbard guide at various levels.

## PARTNERS

Visit Svalbard collaborates on the course arrangements and the implementation of SGO with tourism operators, the University Centre in Svalbard (UNIS), Arctic Nature Guide, Sysselmannen (the Governor of Svalbard) and the Red Cross. A dedicated SGO Committee is responsible for ensuring that the series of courses are kept updated and are developed in line with the needs of the tourism industry. Visit Svalbard assesses the practice and authorizes guides via an authorization committee.

## STRUCTURE

Module level	Course	Duration
<b>Module 1 – Basic course Svalbard guide</b>  This course forms the basis for further training, but also constitutes an independent course for <i>Longyearbyen – town guide</i>	Web-based self-study followed by multiple choice test, which must be passed in order to take the course (all modules)	
	The local environment and meetings with the Governor of Svalbard and the search and rescue service	1 day
	Environment (nature, ecosystem, climate) and the guide's role	1 day
<b>Module 2 – Safety course</b>	Safety course, including rifle range and first aid	2 days
<b>Module 3 – Svalbard field guide</b>	Day trip – summer Field – summer	3 days
	Day trip – winter Field – winter	4 days
<b>Module 4 – Svalbard glacier guide</b>	Svalbard glacier guide; not a separate course, but equivalent to Norsk Fjellsportsforum (NF) certification	6 days

NB: Module 1 and 2 must be completed before taking module 3, which must be completed and approved before taking module 4, glacier guide.

Summer is defined as 1 June – 30 September and winter as 1 October – 31 May.

Permanent structures, such as cabins, boats, etc. are not counted as overnight stays in the field (field nights). Tents, snow caves and other forms of accommodation where the guide must attend to the safety of the tour group are regarded as field in this context.

### **Authorization and safety requirements**

SGO shall be available to everyone, but priority will be given to applicants from member companies of the Tourist Board and thereafter tourism companies with activity in Svalbard. In order to ensure the status and quality of the authorized Svalbard guide, strict requirements will apply for the practice. The requirements concerning the practice will reflect SGO's focus on the basic elements and the importance of learning through practice while working as an assistant guide or guide's assistant.

Svalbard and the Arctic nature make huge demands on human activity. Consequently, ambitious but also realistic demands have been set for guides and tour operators. Common to all the Svalbard guides will be the requirements concerning safety measures for the group in respect of polar bears and general first aid in the field. In addition, for guides in the field during the winter, there will be a common requirement concerning knowledge about glaciers, avalanches and sea ice.

If an accident occurred on an organized excursion in Svalbard, it would be detrimental to the entire tourism industry. As a consequence, general requirements must be set concerning the guide's competence in line with applicable laws and regulations.

Organized travel in untouched Arctic nature represents a potential for destruction of natural and cultural heritage. In order to avoid this, it is appropriate to ensure that everyone engaging in organized travel in Svalbard performs these activities within environmentally acceptable guidelines and using guides with safety competence.

The SGO authorization at various levels will be a measure of the individual guide's competence. In this way, SGO, the authorization system and the guidelines will provide a basis for the individual tourism company's internal controls, procedures and formal safety documentation.

**In this context, it is important to emphasize that SGO alone will not provide adequate formal qualifications within the various activities offered in Svalbard. For special activities such as sea kayaking, steep off-piste skiing or driving of RIB boats, the individual guide and tour operator also require the relevant qualifications in accordance with national and international standards.**

Visit Svalbard wishes, by quality improvement and destination development through ambitious guidelines, relevant guide training and authorization of Svalbard guides emerge as a model for organizing of safe travel that "leaves no trace" in the natural and cultural environment in Svalbard. This will ensure that in the future Svalbard can offer quality products, good nature-based experiences and create an awareness among our guests about conservation and travel on the nature and culture heritage's terms.

## Levels of authorization for SGO

Level	Authorization	Course requirement	Practice requirement in Svalbard	Field of work
Longyearbyen guide	Longyearbyen town guide	Module 1	20 hours of guiding in the town, where it's the main activity	Longyearbyen
Svalbard guide level 1	Summer – day trip	Module 3 – summer	15 day trips in the summer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Day trips</li> <li>All types of boat guide</li> </ul>
	Winter – day trip	Module 3 – winter	15 day trips in the winter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Day trips</li> </ul>
Svalbard guide level 2	Field – summer	Module 3 – summer	15 field nights in the summer, of which min. 1/3 are on ground that is not snow-covered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trips with overnight stays in the field</li> </ul>
	Field – winter	Module 3 – winter	15 field nights in the winter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trips with overnight stays in the field</li> </ul>
Svalbard guide level 3	Svalbard glacier guide	Course equivalent to Norsk Fjellsportsforum (NF) certification	15 day trips on blue ice (snow-covered glacier covered by field – winter)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trips involving glacier crossings with potential for cracking and penetration</li> </ul>

## MODULE 1: BASIC SVALBARD GUIDE / LONGYEARBYEN – TOWN GUIDE

### OBJECTIVE

Through theoretical self-study and a two-day basic course in Longyearbyen, the participants will acquire knowledge about Svalbard's nature, cultural heritage and history, as well as becoming familiar with local regulations and becoming conscious of the various aspects of the role of a guide and host. This forms the basis of the other modules in SGO, but module 1 is also an independent course, which along with relevant practice, qualifies for authorization as a *Longyearbyen - town guide*.

### CONTENT

Course	Duration	Themes
Web-based basis study  Multiple choice test based on self-study		Knowledge of nature Svalbard's history and the society today Dissemination and basic guiding techniques Regulation and administration in Svalbard  NB: Pass / fail
The local environment and administration	1 day	Longyearbyen and the local environment Meetings with the Governor of Svalbard and the search and rescue service
Environment and the guide's role. Nature and environment	1 day	The guide as a host in the production of experiences Safe travel/stay that "leaves no trace" Professional competence and dissemination Balanced consciousness-raising and learning about climate challenges and local culture Nature, environment and climate

NB: The content of the two days of the basis course may vary or spread over both days depending on various factors, including availability of the lecturers.

### Web-based basis study

Web-based self-study of theoretical background material followed by a written course, which must be passed in order to continue the course.

#### *Learning outcomes: Nature, environment and climate*

The participants shall:

- Be able to determine the species of Svalbard's flora and fauna
- Understand the relationship between the habitat of plants and the local natural resource base
- Know about the animals, birds and marine life; their behaviour and basis of existence
- Understand how the natural landscape of Svalbard has been formed, the formation of different rock layers and the geology of the key parts of the archipelago
- Understand the development of coal and other minerals in Svalbard
- Be familiar with different types of fossils, the period they originate from and how they were formed
- Understand how a glacier is formed, different types of glaciers, how glaciers move/flow and the characteristics of Svalbard's surging glaciers
- Be familiar with meteorological concepts and typical weather systems for Svalbard

- Know about the ecology – the interactions among organisms and their environment – in Svalbard and how human intervention can affect this interaction
- Understand how the Svalbard nature in particular and the Arctic nature in general is affected by global environmental change

*Learning outcomes: Svalbard's history and the society today*

The participants shall:

- Know about the main features of Svalbard's history and the archipelago's role throughout its history
- Know about the development of the main industries in Svalbard
- Know about the establishment and development of key settlements, trapping stations, industrial facilities and research stations in Svalbard
- Be able to explain the development of the Svalbard Treaty and what the treaty entails
- Have insight into how you can read traces of human activity in the landscape
- Become conscious of the significance of the landscape and historic context when experiencing cultural heritage structures and sites

*Learning outcomes: Dissemination and basic guiding techniques*

The participants shall:

- Know about different presentation techniques
- Know about different forms of guiding
- Know about different dissemination techniques and forms of storytelling
- Become conscious of their role when meeting the guest and the person they shall guide

*Learning outcomes: Regulation and administration in Svalbard*

The participants shall:

- Have a basic insight into key laws and regulations
- Have a basic understanding of the administration in Svalbard concerning:
  - Nature
  - Cultural heritage structures and sites
  - Tourism
- Be familiar with the different guidelines for travel in Svalbard

**Day 1: Environment and the guide's role. The local environment.**

The day will be divided into two themes. Part of the day will be used to impart knowledge about Longyearbyen's local cultural history and key social institutions. The rest of the day will be spent on the guide's role. To supplement the self-study, the training will impart knowledge about the local Svalbard context and create consciousness of the guide's role in giving our guests a unique natural and cultural experience, which will provide favourable conditions for a stronger commitment to the environment and environmental awareness.

*Learning outcomes: The local environment*

The participants shall:

- Know about the cultural history of Longyearbyen
- Be able to answer questions concerning history and the cultural component of the self-study
- Be familiar with the community development in Longyearbyen
- Know about the key cultural heritage structures and sites in Longyearbyen
- Go on a guided tour at Svalbard Museum and the North Pole Expedition Museum

*Learning outcomes: Environment and the guide's role*

The participants shall:

- Be conscious of the guide's role in safe travel/stay that "leaves no trace"
- Be conscious of the significance of professional competence and dissemination in

the guide's role

- Be able to view the guide's role as a stage in the production of experiences
- Develop their understanding of how the guide can contribute to providing meaningful experiences and creating learning in the nature
- Be able to see the connection between the local natural conditions and cultural heritage structures and sites from earlier activity in a wider global environmental perspective
- Develop their understanding of the guide's role in Svalbard
- Be conscious of their role in giving the guests a balanced impression of local/global nature, culture and society with respect for other cultures and other bases of existence

## **Day 2: The local environment and meeting with the Governor of Svalbard**

We meet representatives from the Governor of Svalbard. Good dialogue and knowledge between the tourism industry and the Governor of Svalbard is important for both the administration and the tourism industry's framework. The participants will have contact with those who work in tourism, field safety and natural and cultural heritage administration in Svalbard.

*Learning outcomes: Meeting with the Governor of Svalbard*

The participants shall:

- Be aware of accident prevention in relation to violations of the law and actual accidents
- Know about the key issues in the relationship between the administration and the tourism industry; environment, cultural heritage, tourism, safety, etc.
- Gain a practical approach to the regulations through examples of what these entail for a Svalbard guide
- Meet the search and rescue service
- Participate in creating favourable conditions for a good relationship between the tourism industry and the administration
- Be motivated to work as guides and, in so doing, function as a tool in the management of Svalbard's natural and cultural environment

## **ASSESSMENT AND AUTHORIZATION OF MODULE 1**

The web-based basis study concludes with a written exam that participants must pass in order to continue the course.

After successfully completing module 1 participants with sufficient practice can qualify for authorization as a *Longyearbyen town guide*.

The practice requirement for this authorization is: 20 hours of work as a guide in Longyearbyen for organised groups of tourists, as well as a reference from their employer. In order to qualify, this guiding must be the main objective/activity, not guiding on the way out of/into the town as part of another activity or information disseminated from a counter at, for instance, a hotel reception or tourist information office. The main focus shall be on dissemination of information and knowledge about the town, the people who live here and the historic context.

## MODULE 2: SVALBARD SAFETY COURSE

### OBJECTIVE

In practice, the participants shall learn to demonstrate that they master the special safety requirements the Svalbard nature demands in relation to safety measures in respect of polar bears, first aid and incident management.

### PREREQUISITE KNOWLEDGE

Two-day first aid course during the past two years (desirable)

### CONTENT

Svalbard safety course	2 days	Polar bear safety Firearms/pyrotechnic devices Incident management and first aid
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*Learning outcomes: Safety measures in respect of polar bears*

The participants shall

- Know key facts about the polar bear
- Know preventive safety measures in respect of polar bears and precautionary routines in connection with travel and stays in Svalbard
- Know the method for killing a polar bear in self-defence
- Know general safety rules for the use of firearms
- Be able to handle firearms
- Know about the (day-to-day) maintenance of firearms in the field
- Through practical shooting exercises, train in the killing of polar bears in self-defence
- Be able to use pyrotechnic aids:
  - Signal gun
  - Signal pen
  - Trip flare
  - Sound grenade
- Implement shooting practice on the rifle range

*Learning outcomes: Arctic incident management*

The participants shall:

- Know about notification routines in the event of an incident in Svalbard
- Know about the use of emergency communication
- Know about the course of action in rescue operations

*Learning outcomes: Arctic first aid*

The participants shall:

- Be able to perform a patient examination
- Be able to treat and prevent head, back and fracture injuries
- Be able to treat and prevent frostbite and hypothermia
- Be able to perform CPR
- Review what is in a first aid kit. They should know what is in the first aid kit and how to use it

### ASSESSMENT AND AUTHORIZATION OF MODULE 2

Participants must show that they are fit to handle firearms and demonstrate an understanding of the importance of being able to perform first aid and incident management. This knowledge is drawn into module 3 (the field courses) and will be the subject of an overall assessment there.



## MODULE 3: SVALBARD GUIDE: FIELD – SUMMER AND WINTER

### OBJECTIVE

The participants will develop their prerequisites for guiding and organizing a group of tourists during various forms of passage and field stays in the Svalbard nature in a safe and prudent manner, and demonstrate in practice that they master the tasks demanded of a guide in Svalbard. Depending on the type of practice, participants will gain authorization for level 1 (day trips) or level 2 (field).

### CONTENT

Course	Duration	Themes	Responsibility
Web-based self-study: Day trip and field - <b>summer</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Navigation</li> <li>Glacier travel</li> <li>Travelling and staying in the tundra</li> </ul>	
Field course: Day trip and field - <b>summer</b>	3 days / 2 overnight stays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning of trips</li> <li>Travel on the fjord in an open, lightweight boat</li> <li>Camping routines</li> <li>Navigation</li> <li>Practical nature and culture dissemination</li> <li>The guide's role during travel in Svalbard in the summer</li> <li>Safety measures in respect of polar bears</li> <li>First aid in the field</li> </ul>	
Web-based self-study: Day trip and field - <b>winter</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Glacier travel</li> <li>Avalanches and snow knowledge</li> <li>Sea ice</li> <li>Navigation</li> </ul>	
Field course: Day trip and field - <b>winter</b>	4 days / 3 overnight stays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning of trips</li> <li>Camping routines</li> <li>Navigation</li> <li>Practical nature and culture dissemination</li> <li>The guide's role during travel in Svalbard in the winter</li> <li>Travel on snow-covered glaciers</li> <li>Avalanches and snow knowledge</li> <li>Sea ice</li> <li>Safety measures in respect of polar bears</li> <li>First aid in the field</li> </ul>	

### WEB-BASED SELF-STUDY – FIELD SUMMER

Pre-knowledge and web-based self-study of theoretical background material

*Learning outcomes: Navigation*

The participants shall:

- Be familiar with the different maps of Svalbard and the information they provide
- Be able to use UTM and GRID map references
- Understand the structure and function of a GPS
- Be able to use GPS for safe and appropriate navigation

*Learning outcomes: Glacier travel (mainly on snow-covered glaciers in winter; for blue ice in summer, module 4, Norsk Fjellsportsforum (NF)-approved glacier course, applies):*

The participants shall:

- Know about the glacier's movement
- Know about the process concerning the formation of glacier cracks
- Know about different forms of snow bridges

*Learning outcomes: Travelling and staying in the tundra*

The participants shall:

- Know about the consequences permafrost has for travel in the Svalbard tundra

## **FIELD - SUMMER**

In the course of these three days, the participants shall receive basic practical training in the main theme of safe travelling and camping in Svalbard during summer. The focus will be on the guide's role in the implementation of safe travel and preventive incident management. This is achieved through planning and risk assessment of the trip in advance, and good routines for travel, conscious route choice and a continuous risk assessment during the trip, as well as improvised rescue in the event of an accident.

The course will mainly focus on the risk factors in the Svalbard nature that are applicable to all forms of travel in the summer (i.e. not any particular form of travel).

*Learning outcomes: Planning of trips*

The participants shall:

- Know about good routines for planning of trips before meeting the guests and in cooperation with the guests during the trip
- Know about the role of planning of trips in the safe implementation of organized trips
- Be able to perform a basic risk assessment in conjunction with your planning of the trip
- Know about basic first aid and notification routines in the field

*Learning outcomes: Travel on the fjord in an open, lightweight boat*

The participants shall have knowledge of:

- Emergency and safety equipment on board in an open, lightweight boat and the use of it
- Appropriate clothing when travelling by boat
- Navigation and use of navigational charts for fjord traffic
- Local risks of encountering drift timber and icebergs
- Communication while travelling on the fjord
- Safety routines in the event of encountering walrus

*Learning outcomes: Camping routines*

The participants shall:

- Know the key facts one needs to consider when establishing a campsite on ground that is not snow-covered
- Be able to establish a campsite taking into account considerations to the animal and bird life and vegetation and cultural heritage structures
- Be able to organize the campsite in such a way that it takes into account the social function of the campsite
- Be able to establish a campsite in Svalbard
  - In relation to the terrain in relation to potential polar bear danger and safety measures in respect of polar bears
  - Establishment of the campsite
  - Routines in the campsite

*Learning outcomes: Alpine risks*

The participants shall:

- Know that there are sedimentary rocks and the danger of rock fall this entails
- Be able to organize the group safely when walking in steep terrain

*Learning outcomes: Glacier travel (mainly on snow-covered glaciers in winter; for blue ice in summer, module 4, Norsk Fjellsportsforum (NF)-approved glacier course, applies):*

The participants shall:

- Know how moraines are formed
- Know where a landslide can occur
- Know the risks that meltwater channels represent for travel
- Know the risk of travelling in front of glacier termini
- Know about binding of a rope team when travelling on glaciers with blue ice. NB: a separate NF-approved course is required for any travel on such glaciers requiring securing (see module 4).

*Learning outcomes: Navigation*

The participants shall:

- Be able to find map references
- Be able to find compass course and cruising direction
- Know about the map's magnetic declination
- Know about inaccuracy of the maps in Svalbard – glacier termini, etc.
- Be able to perform cross bearing
- Be informed about the use of GPS in the summer

*Learning outcomes: Practical nature and culture dissemination (the recurrent theme on the entire tour – orienteering goals – will be measured in relation to the matrix they are familiar with)*

The participants shall be able to make a summer trip comprehensive in terms of learning and experiences through acquiring an awareness of:

- Where to stop along the way
- What to say – what is exciting to experience on the route
- How the dissemination should be arranged

*Learning outcomes: The guide's role during travel in Svalbard in the summer (the recurrent theme on the entire tour – orienteering goals – will be measured in relation to the matrix they are familiar with)*

The participants shall:

- Be able to lead the guests on a safe and comprehensive travel in the Svalbard nature on foot and across glaciers
- Be conscious of the guide's role during the various forms of travel/traffic
- Know what the notion "Ferd etter evne" (Journey according to your capabilities) entails

**Implementation:**

A hike involving two overnight stays. The course starts the evening before with joint planning of the trip and personal packing. We set off by boat in the morning. We will establish the campsite, and the participants will become conscious of the objectives and themes of the course along the way.

More detailed (the route may vary from course to course):

- Transport to Vimanddalen, and walk from there to Adventfjorden
- Start the hike with fossil hunting and geology in the scree behind Hatten
- Bird cliff at Diabas
- Down Hannaskogdalen moraines, glacial stream, tundra
- Nice mountain peaks
- Cultural heritage sites at Hjorthamn/Advent City

## **WEB-BASED SELF-STUDY – FIELD WINTER**

Web-based self-study of theoretical background material. Participants must read this before the course, and it is taken for granted that they understand the theory during the practical implementation of the winter field course.

### *Learning outcomes: Glacier travel*

The participants shall:

- Learn general knowledge about glaciers

### *Learning outcomes: Avalanches and snow knowledge*

The participants shall:

- Know about the various snow transformation processes
- Know about various types of avalanche
- Know about how snow cover that represents a danger of avalanches develops
- Know about signs of avalanche risk

### *Learning outcomes: Sea ice and travel*

The participants shall:

- Know about the structure of sea ice
- Know about important facts when evaluating sea ice
- Know about conditions that affect the sea ice

### *Learning outcomes: Navigation*

The participants shall:

- Be familiar with the different maps of Svalbard and the information they provide
- Be able to use different map references
- Understand the structure and function of a GPS
- Be able to use the basic functions of GPS for navigation

## **FIELD - WINTER**

During this course, the participants shall receive basic practical training in the main theme of safe travelling and camping in Svalbard during winter. The focus will be on the guide's role in the implementation of safe travel and preventive incident management. This is achieved through planning and risk assessment of the trip in advance, and good routines for travel, conscious route choice and a continuous risk assessment during the trip, as well as improvised rescue in the event of an accident.

The course will mainly focus on the risk factors in the Svalbard nature that are applicable to all forms of travel in the winter, and not any particular form of travel.

Snowmobile driving will form part of the course because this is a form of travel that the majority of winter guides in Svalbard need to be familiar with. For most people with good background knowledge about outdoor recreation, snowmobiles will be a mode of travel that they know little about.

### *Learning outcomes: Planning of trips*

The participants shall:

- Know about good routines for planning of trips before meeting the guests and in cooperation with the guests during the trip
- Know about the role of planning of trips in the safe implementation of organized trips
- Be able to perform a basic risk assessment in conjunction with your planning of the trip
- Know about basic first aid and notification routines in the field

### *Learning outcomes: Camping routines*

The participants shall:

- Know the key facts one needs to consider when establishing a campsite
- Be able to establish a campsite taking into account considerations to the animal and bird life and the prevailing snow conditions
- Be able to organize the campsite in such a way that it takes into account the social function of the campsite
- Know about routines for a safe and comfortable camping life in the winter
- Know about notification systems for polar bears
- Be able to make an emergency bivouac in the snow

*Learning outcomes: Navigation*

The participants shall:

- Be able to use a map effectively
- Be able to find map references
- Be able to find compass course and cruising direction
- Know about the map's magnetic declination
- Be able to perform cross bearing
- Drive safely on routes and tracks
- Put in waypoints and tracks along the way

*Learning outcomes: Organisation of travel in the winter*

The participants shall:

- Be able to give info to the guests before departure and along the way
- Know about the challenges of guiding and travelling in bad weather
- Know about the routines for travelling in poor visibility and strong wind
- Know the procedures to follow when we lose a guest in bad weather

*Learning outcomes: Practical nature and culture dissemination*

The participants shall be able to make a winter trip comprehensive in terms of learning and experiences through acquiring an awareness of:

- Where to stop along the way
- What to say – what is exciting to experience on the route
- How the dissemination should be arranged

*Learning outcomes: Sea ice – basic route choice and companion rescue*

The participants shall:

- Be able to evaluate ice conditions based on the weather
- Be able to evaluate ice conditions locally
- Know how to safeguard routines for travel with guests on sea ice
- Know about the procedures in the event of surface water and incidents

*Learning outcomes: Avalanches – basic route choice and companion rescue*

The participants shall:

- Be able to evaluate route choices in avalanche terrain
- Have snow knowledge – snow transformation processes
- Be able to evaluate the steepness of a slope
- Be familiar with the runout zone of an avalanche
- Know the different signs of avalanche danger and avalanche weather in Svalbard
- Know about the human factor in evaluating avalanche danger
- Be able to implement a companion search
- Be able to perform a search using a transceiver
- Be able to perform first aid in the event of an avalanche disaster

*Learning outcomes: Snow-covered glacier – basic route choice and companion rescue*

The participants shall:

- Be able to evaluate route choices on a map
- Be able to evaluate route choices outside
- Know about basic theory of glaciers
- Know routines for stopping on a glacier

- Know routines for glacier travel
- Be able to perform a simple method for companion rescue on glaciers
- The participants shall know the basic knots and rope work:
  - Equipment
  - Knots
  - Binding
  - Securing and routines for rope teams

*Learning outcomes: Practical snowmobile guiding*

The participants shall:

- Know about route choice in relation to terrain and long line of snowmobiles behind, steep slopes up/down
- Know how to get out snowmobiles that are stuck in snow or surface water
- Be able to pack a sled
- Know about basic maintenance and use of snowmobiles

**Implementation:**

A three-day/two-night trip with practical learning out in the field. The course starts the evening before with joint planning of the trip and personal packing. The participants will be given guiding assignments along the way and as such become conscious of the learning outcomes related to planning the trip, navigation, organisation of travel and dissemination. We will sum up experiences from the trip at a debriefing after the trip.

Tentative programme (may vary from course to course):

- Depart by snowmobile on the first morning
- The first day is arranged as a snowmobile safari to Tempelfjorden during which we will see Svalbard glaciers and sea ice.
- The snowmobiles will be left outside the snowmobile-free zone around the Drønnbreen glacier.
- We will spend the next two days in this area.
- We will camp the first night in tents.
- We will spend the second day in the area on activities related to avalanches, sea ice and glaciers.
- We spend the second night in emergency bivouacs.
- On the third day, we return to the snowmobiles and drive back to Longyearbyen.
- Debriefing and course evaluation back in Longyearbyen

**ASSESSMENT AND AUTHORIZATION: FIELD SUMMER AND WINTER**

After successful completion of modules 1, 2 and 3 and sufficient practice, participants may apply for authorization as a Svalbard guide at level 2 – day trip summer and/or winter. Qualification for this level will be determined by the authorization committee. This committee approves practice, the course holder's evaluation and if necessary interview the applicants.

The practice requirement for authorization as a Svalbard guide level 2 is 15 day trips as a guide for organized groups of tourists in Svalbard and a reference from their employer. For field nights in summer, it is a requirement that a minimum of 1/3 of the campsites are on ground that is not snow-covered.

This authorization to level 2 will offer SGO the best opportunity to quality assure the authorized Svalbard guide. Authorization to the next level will only occur by application.

Once achieving authorization as a Svalbard guide at level 2, participants with sufficient practice may apply for authorization as a Svalbard guide level 3. The practice requirement for this authorization is: 15 field nights as the main guide for organized groups of tourists in Svalbard and a reference from their employer. Field nights have various forms of accommodation in the field (tent, snow cave, etc.) and permanent

structure will not be approved. Field nights implemented in Svalbard before the applicant took the compulsory SGO courses may also be approved.

It is possible to apply directly for authorization as a Svalbard guide at level 3 if the guide has a job that mainly consists of overnight trips with guests in the field in Svalbard. In such cases, authorization will occur through evaluation from the course holder and possibly also an interview with the candidate.

## MODULE 4: SUPPLEMENTARY COURSE SVALBARD GLACIER GUIDE

As of 2016, SGO no longer arranges its own glacier guide courses. Instead, we refer to equivalent courses under the auspices of Norsk Fjellsportsforum (NF).

Glacier travel on snow-covered glaciers in winter is covered by the winter field course, but for travel on blue ice an NF-approved course or equivalent is required.

### OBJECTIVE

After successful completion of the NF-approved course and relevant practice in Svalbard, the participants shall be in a position to guide guests in a safe and secure manner on Svalbard glaciers in summer and winter. During the course and /or practice, the participants shall be familiar with Svalbard glaciers through knowledge about the glaciers, practical exercises and experiences. The participants shall demonstrate that they master the tasks related to glaciology, glacier travel and glacier rescue that are demanded of a guide during glacier travel in Svalbard.

### CONTENT

The content is defined by the current course plan from NF or equivalent. The candidates are required to implement self-study in advance.

Course	Duration	Themes	Responsibility
Self-study		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Glacier book, handbook for glacier walking</li><li>• Svalbard glaciers</li></ul>	
Glacier course	cf. NF	cf. NF	

### ASSESSMENT AND AUTHORIZATION

After successful completion of the NF-approved glacier course or equivalent combined, authorization as a Svalbard guide level 3 (field summer or field winter) and sufficient practice in Svalbard, the guide can qualify for authorization as a Svalbard glacier guide.

The practice requirement for this authorization is 15 trips as the main guide for organized groups of tourists on Svalbard glaciers with blue ice. The candidate requires a reference from their employer to confirm this practice.

NB: An NF-approved course is not required for travel on snow-covered glaciers in winter. This is covered by module 3 (field winter).

Visit Svalbard approves the practice and grants the final authorization.