

**Report all polar bear observations:
Kings Bay watchmen – press 9**

POLAR BEAR

safety in

Ny-Ålesund



**It is prohibited to lure, pursue
or otherwise seek out polar bears in
such a way as to disturb them or expose
either bears or humans to danger.**

Svalbard Environmental Protection Act



**For more info visit:
www.kingsbay.no/pb-safety**



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Welcome to Ny-Ålesund



You are now in polar bear territory! Successful polar bear conservation requires your cooperation.

In the changing Arctic, the number of interactions between bears and humans is rising. Most of these encounters are harmless. However, the best way to live safely with bears is to avoid contact with them.

When in Ny-Ålesund:

- Educate yourself. Learn about polar bears, and how to respond to a polar bear encounter. Contact local staff for current information. Visit www.kingsbay.no/pb-safety
- Stay vigilant and aware of your surroundings at all times. Be extra cautious early in the morning and late in the evening. Be especially careful in areas where bears can be hidden from sight.
- Carry communication tools and polar bear deterrence.

***Deterrence** is anything that stops a polar bear's unwanted behaviour. Any action should be considered but specialized deterrence tools are essential to ensure everyone's safety.*

Always
carry polar bear deterrence tools
Know how to use them

If you encounter a polar bear in Ny-Ålesund:

- **Ready your deterrent.**
- **Stay calm. Do not run.**
- **Assess the situation.** What is the bear doing? What is the bear's behaviour?

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If a bear doesn't know you are there or seems unconcerned:

- Keep the bear in sight and quietly retreat to a safe place.
- Immediately notify the Kings Bay watchmen.
- Alert any people nearby so they can avoid any potential encounters.
- Stay away from the area until the watchmen says it is safe to return.

If a bear has been surprised at close range or shows signs of being agitated or threatened, (such as huffing, stamping its feet, lowering its head with ears laid back) **then:**

- Stay in a group. Ready your deterrent.
- Stay calm. **DO NOT RUN.**
- Talk in a strong voice. Do not huff, hiss or make sudden movements.
- Back away slowly and towards a safe place (building, vehicle, etc.).
- Be prepared to use any possible deterrence (shovels, ski poles, rocks, blocks of ice, water in a thermos, etc.) and to use your physical size with your voice to push the bear away or fight back.

If a bear charges:

- Use any possible deterrent.
- Stand your ground. Do not turn your back. If in a group, stay together.
- Yell and use aggressive body language to deter the bear (which will also alert others of your situation). Use anything available to make loud noises.
- Prepare to fight back. Using anything within reach (shovel, rocks, gear), focus your attack on its nose and eyes.

Even if you take precautions, you can still encounter a polar bear within Ny-Ålesund. To learn more about polar bears and polar bear research in Svalbard visit:

www.kingsbay.no/pb-safety