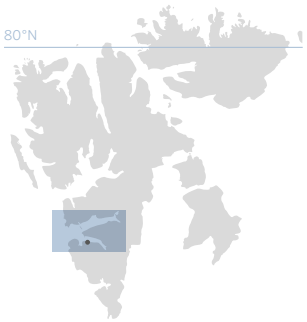

77°33.1'N 014°58.8'E

Ahlstrandhalvøya

Sør-Spitsbergen National Park – Ahlstrandhalvøya is named after the Swedish librarian, Johan August Ahlstrand (1822-96) who was interested in polar exploration.

Access

- Landing area restrictions apply
- Limited roaming area

Photo: Ole Magnus Rapp

When belugas were big business

Large piles of beluga whale bones adorn the beach, the result of hectic and valuable summer-hunting during the interwar years. The beluga blubber as well as the skin was sought after. The beluga whales swam in large groups into the fjords where trappers were waiting with large seine nets to close the mouth of the fjord, trapping and slaughtering the whales. This slaughtering place is a unique cultural remain in Svalbard.

VEGETATION This is one of the most favorable and productive climatic regions for plants at Svalbard. Within the range of a short walk, several of the most typical of Svalbard vegetation types can be observed, including saxifrage heath, wetland, grassland, moss heath, along with exposed ridges of vegetation.

FAUNA The birdlife on this peninsula is relatively rich and varied and Ahlstrandhalvøya is an important feeding area for family groups of barnacle geese and female common eider. Several species of waders, including ruddy turnstone, purple sandpiper, sanderling and grey phalarope are also present in the area. Reindeer are commonly seen grazing on the rich vegetation.

CULTURAL REMAINS The cabin, Bamsebu, in Ingebrigtsenbukta, was built as a beluga whaling station and is the only excellent example of a beluga whaling station remaining in Svalbard. Next to the cabin is the small storage place, Kjeftausa, where a turned boat forms the roof. Three of the seine boats lie on the beach in Fleur de Lyshamna. The names of the bays, beaches and headlands of Ahlstrandhalvøya originated from the cultural heritage environment connected with the hunting of beluga.

Reviewed by the Governor of Svalbard

Copyright © AECO. These guidelines are protected by copyright laws. Use, reproduction and distribution of the guidelines without the written permission of AECO is prohibited.

Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators AECO

MAP SYMBOLS

- Landing area
- Cabin
- 1 Slaughtering place for beluga
- 2 Seine boats
- Vulnerable for trampling
- A Wet area
- B Scattered vegetation on fine substrate
- Important nesting area

GUIDELINES

The slaughtering place and the remains of the belugas are protected cultural remains. Please do not touch.

The small patches of wetland next to the cabin Bamsebu have low trampling tolerance, so please walk outside them.

Avoid landings and traffic in areas with large numbers of eiders and geese.

Approach areas with family groups of eiders and geese carefully. Keep the group of visitors together and walk slowly. Disturbance during breeding and moulting season may cause chicks being separated from the adults, making them easy prey for glaucous gull and Arctic fox.

From late May through July avoid traffic on and around the islets off Fleur de Lyshamna as birds are breeding there.

Please respect the private cabin Bamsebu.

TIP

A four kilometer hike will take you from Ingebrigtsenbukta to Fleur de Lyshamna. If you walk the first part along the beach you will avoid the wet tundra. During the trip you will cross the spectacular tilted folded strata of the Ullaberget series.

Photo: Yan-Ali Tabarnd

The spectacular tilted folded strata are part of the Ullaberget series.

Photo: Trond Haugskott

The charming grey phalarope is relatively common in the area.

Photo: Ole Magnus Rapp

Quite well kept seine boats lie on the beach in Fleur de Lyshamna.

Funded by SVALBARD ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FUND

WWW.AECO.NO

Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators AECO