

SVAlBARD PACKING CHECKLIST FOR ALL SEASONS



Packing for a Svalbard adventure means preparing for some of the Arctic's most unpredictable and beautiful conditions. From frozen polar nights in winter to cool, wind-swept days in summer, the key is smart layering, warmth, and protection from wind and moisture. Use this all-seasons packing list by Svalbard Experts to ensure you're ready—whether snowmobiling in January or hiking under the midnight sun in July.



CLOTHING LAYERS

Base Layer

- 2–3 thermal tops (merino wool or synthetic)
- 2–3 thermal bottoms (long underwear)
- Lightweight sleeping base layer (optional for indoors)

Mid Layer

- Fleece jacket or pullover
- Lightweight down or synthetic insulated jacket
- Wool or thermal sweater

Outer Shell

- Waterproof, windproof jacket (with hood and sealed seams)
- Waterproof pants or insulated overpants
- One-piece thermal suit (for snowmobile or extended winter outings)

QUICK PACKING TIPS

Layer Smart: Build up from a moisture-wicking base layer to insulated mid and windproof outer layers.

Rent Bulky Gear: Many tours offer warm suits and boots—ask in advance to save luggage space.

Be Arctic-Ready: Polar bear safety, sudden weather shifts, and freezing gear are real risks — this list helps keep you ready.

Balance Adventure & Comfort: Pack for heated indoor spaces as well—warm socks, loungewear, and indoor shoes matter too.



COLD-WEATHER ACCESSORIES

Head & Neck

- Insulated beanie or wool hat
- Balaclava or full-face mask
- Neck gaiter or wool scarf

Hands

- Thin liner gloves (touchscreen compatible)
- Insulated mittens (waterproof or windproof)
- Spare pair of gloves

Feet

- Insulated winter boots (-30 to -40 °C rated)
- Removable boot liners (if separate)
- 3-4 pairs thermal socks (wool or synthetic)
- Sock liners (optional for extra warmth)
- Gaiters (to keep out snow)



SPECIALTY GEAR & SAFETY

Mobility & Traction

- Ice cleats or microspikes
- Hiking or trekking poles (adjustable)

Warmth Enhancers

- Hand warmers (chemical or rechargeable)
- Foot warmers
- Insulated thermos bottle

Polar Bear Safety (on guided tours or remote trips)

- Flare gun with flares (provided or rented by tour guides)
- Signal mirror or whistle
- Satellite phone or emergency GPS
- Flashlight or headlamp (winter)
- Spare batteries (keep warm in inner pocket)



EYE & SUN PROTECTION

- Sunglasses (polarized for snow/ice glare)
- Ski goggles (for wind/snow or snowmobile rides)
- High SPF sunscreen
- Lip balm with SPF



ELECTRONICS & PHOTOGRAPHY

- Camera (DSLR, mirrorless, or compact)
- Extra memory cards
- 2–3 spare batteries (keep close to body)
- Waterproof/dustproof camera case
- Universal travel adapter
- Power bank (cold-rated, high-capacity)
- Charging cables (USB-C, micro-USB, etc.)



BAGS & TRAVEL EXTRAS

- Waterproof daypack (20–30L)
- Dry bags or compression sacks
- Luggage tags and locks
- Packable tote (for groceries or gear)



INDOOR & COMFORT WEAR

- Indoor shoes or slippers (shoes off indoors)
- Comfortable loungewear
- Pajamas or thermal sleepwear
- Swimsuit (some lodges have saunas)



HEALTH & ESSENTIALS

- Medications (with extras and prescriptions)
- First-aid kit (basic: band-aids, antiseptic, ibuprofen)
- Toiletries (travel-sized, Svalbard shops are limited)
- Moisturizer and lip balm (air is dry)
- Hand sanitizer and tissues



DOCUMENTS & TRAVEL

- Passport
- Printed flight tickets / confirmations
- Travel insurance (required for many tours)
- Emergency contact list
- Local currency or credit card (most use cards)

I am completely ready for the journey!

