



AECO's Site-Specific Guidelines

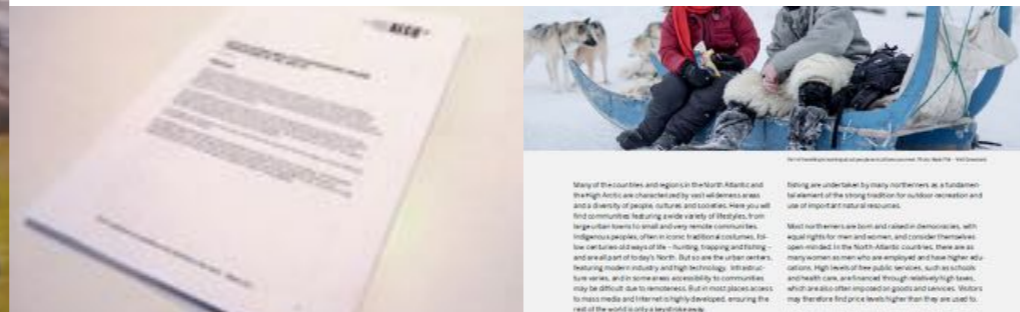
Edda Falk, Communications Manager
Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators





AECO's guidelines

The backbone of the Association's work, available on www.aeco.no/guidelines/





AECO's Site-Specific Guidelines

Preventing disturbance of wildlife, vegetation
and cultural remains during landings

Method

- Site visits by AECO and relevant experts.
- Assessment of site using the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA)'s method for site vulnerability assessment.
- Detailed guidelines to prevent disturbance of wildlife, vegetation, natural features and cultural remains.
- Guidelines are reviewed by the Governor of Svalbard



SVALBARD SITE GUIDELINES **KROSSFJORDEN**

79°7.3'N 011°50.9'E
Fjortende Julibukta
 Nordvest, Spitzbergen National Park
 Named after the National Day of France.




Photo: Torbjørn Olsen

The Hanging Gardens of Svalbard

Very few places near 79° North can offer more opulent vegetation than this very special site. Here you can enjoy the rich diversity and colors of Arctic vegetation and nice smells at close range. The bay close to the glacier offers one of the most beautiful beaches in the Arctic. The water temperature may not be impressive but the view is!

SVALBARD SITE GUIDELINES **FJORTENDE JULIBUKTA**



MAP SYMBOLS

- Landing area
- Recommended for zodiac churning
- ⊙ Hanging gardens
- ▨ Vulnerable for trampling
- Wet area with vegetation
- Nesting area for Brunnich's guillemot, Atlantic puffin and razorbill
- Steep cliff

0 100 500 meters

GUIDELINES

Remember to always approach a landing site calmly and carefully.

Walk around the wetland areas as they have very low-trampling tolerance.

In June and July, stay along the shore to avoid disturbance of breeding and foraging geese. Keep the group of visitors together and walk slowly. Do not approach the if eiders and geese are present on the shore.

Avoid trampling on the loose vegetation on the slope.

The breeding areas for Brunnich's guillemot, Atlantic puffin and razorbill can be observed from the small ridge to the east of it. Avoid walking into the breeding area.

In June and July, we recommend that the breeding area is observed from the water, but beware of shallow waters.

GUIDELINES

Stay on the beach as long as the area is snow-covered and wet in order to avoid unintentional trampling on the cultural heritage remains and damage to the vegetation.

Observe the remains of the blubber ovens and the graves from the perimeter.

The small pieces of blubber concrete are also protected and must not be touched.

The house remains from the whaling station are almost invisible. Watch your step.

Retreat if terns and skuas attack while watching were you step to avoid trampling on eggs and chicks.

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

Approach areas with family groups of eiders and geese carefully. On land, 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.

The polygonal ground behind the plain is muddy, partly very muddy. Walking in the area could cause visible footprints.

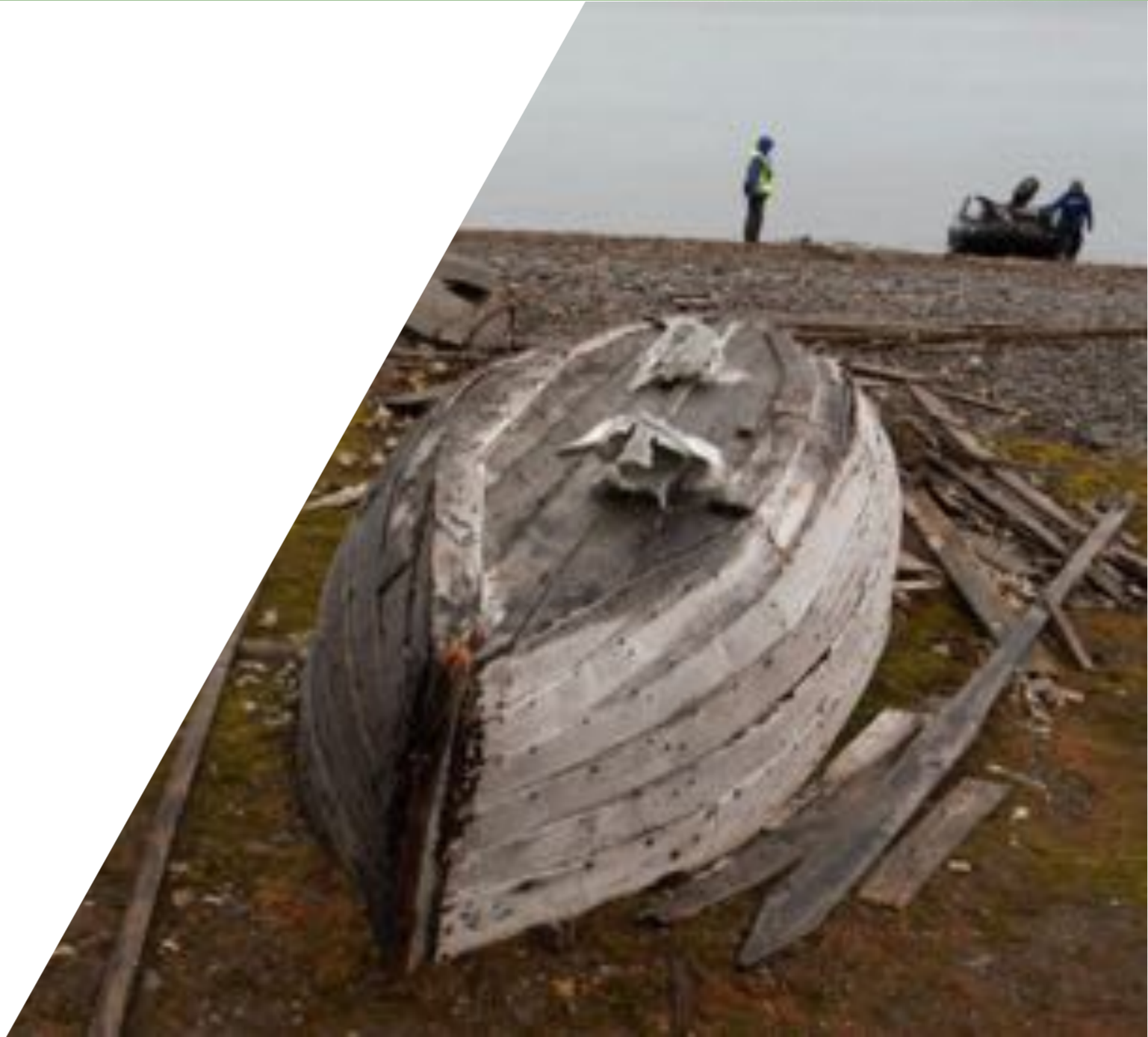
Site-Specific Guidelines in Svalbard



- 2010: The Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA) in dialogue with AECO develops a method for vulnerability assessment of landing sites in Svalbard.
- 2011: AECO develops its first site-specific guidelines.
- 2013: AECO launches eleven additional site-specific guidelines.
- 2017: AECO presents two additional guidelines for Svalbard. AECO now has site guidelines for 21 locations in Svalbard.




Site-Specific Guidelines as a legal requirement

- 2014: New regulations for Eastern Svalbard make site-specific guidelines a legal requirement for cruise ships that wish to make landings in five different sites.
- 2019: New Protection and Management Plan for West-Spitsbergen national parks makes site-specific guidelines mandatory for making landings in nine sites in West-Spitsbergen.



AECO's Site Specific Guidelines for Svalbard



-  Sites where operators are legally required to use site-specific guidelines, and AECO has developed guidelines that have been reviewed by the Governor of Svalbard (12 sites).
-  Sites where operators are legally required to use site-specific guidelines, where AECO has not developed guidelines (two sites).
-  Other sites where AECO has developed guidelines that are mandatory for AECO members (not all sites).

Franz Josef Land



- Developed by Russian Arctic National Park in collaboration with AECO in 2014.
- Mandatory for AECO members.
- Cover 6 sites:
 - Apollonoff Island
 - Cape Norvegia
 - Champ Island
 - Rubini Rock
 - Tikhaya Bay
 - Bell Island

Other geographic areas

- AECO is also active in Arctic Canada, Greenland and Iceland and open to collaborations.
- 2014 feasibility study for site-specific guidelines for Greenland in collaboration with local stakeholders.
- Renewed interest for AECO's site-specific guidelines model.



Community Specific Guidelines



- Supported by NORA – Nordic Atlantic Cooperation
 - Developed by local communities.
 - Detailed instructions on how to carry out considerate visits to settlements.
 - Mandatory for AECO members.
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- Greenland: Nuuk, Paamiut, Ittoqqortoormiit, Tasiilaq, Sisimiut
 - Svalbard: Longyearbyen, Ny-Ålesund
 - Iceland: Seyðisfjörður
 - Coming soon: Canada – Pond Inlet and Grise Fiord



Association of
Arctic Expedition Cruise
Operators **AECO** 

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