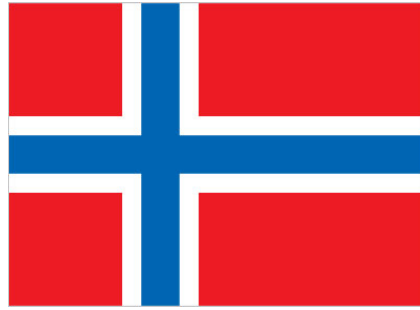




SVALBARD



INTRODUCTION

The archipelago may have been first discovered by Norse explorers in the 12th century; the islands served as an international whaling base during the 17th and 18th centuries. Norway's sovereignty was internationally recognized by treaty in 1920, and five years later it officially took over the territory.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

King HARALD V of Norway

Head of Government

Governor Lars FAUSE

Government Type

non-self-governing territory of Norway

Capital

Longyearbyen

Legislature

unicameral Longyearbyen Community Council
(15 seats)

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 62,045 sq km

Land: 62,045 sq km

Water: 0 sq km

Climate

arctic, tempered by warm North Atlantic Current; cool summers, cold winters; North Atlantic Current flows along west and north coasts of Spitsbergen, keeping water open and navigable most of the year

Natural Resources

coal, iron ore, copper, zinc, phosphate, wildlife, fish

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

high-income Norwegian island economy; major coal mining, tourism, and research sectors; recently established northernmost brewery; key whaling and fishing base; home to the Global Seed Vault

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)

Based on Norway

Industries - NA

Agricultural products - NA

Exports NA

Imports NA

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

2,926 (January 2021 est.)

Population Growth

-0.03% (2019 est.)

Ethnicity

Norwegian 61.1%, foreign population 38.9% (consists primarily of Russians, Thais, Swedes, Filipinos, and Ukrainians) (2021 est.)

note: foreigners account for almost one third of the population of the Norwegian settlements, Longyearbyen and Ny-Alesund (where the majority of Svalbard's resident population lives), as of mid-2021

Language

Norwegian, Russian