



FOXFONNA HIKING TRIP WITH GREEN DOG

This hiking trip takes you across Breinosa Mountain, where you have a great view of Adventdalen and Isfjorden! The trip is a total of roughly 11 km and takes about 6 hours.

BREINOSA/FOXFONNA GLACIER

The Breinosa Mountain (English: Broad nose mountain), 818 m at its highest point, is located on the southern side of Adventdalen, west of Foxdalen in Nordenskiöld Land. It was ascended by A. Koller and assistants of the Hoel and Staxrud expedition on August 13, 1914 for geographical surveying. The Foxfonna glacier is a snowfield between Bolterskaret and Foxdalen, on the Breinosa Mountain. The "fox" in Foxfonna refers to the Arctic fox, the only species of fox on Svalbard. The KJELL HENRIKSEN northern lights observatory is located on Breinosa Mountain, just behind mine number 7.

ADVENTDALEN

Adventdalen is a 30-kilometre long valley. The valley originates from the mountains Slottet and Tronfjellet, under the glaciers Hellefonna and Drønbreen. It runs westward towards Adventfjord. Looking clockwise starting in the northwest, the branch valleys are: Mälardalen, Helvetiadalen, Eskerdalen, Janssodalen, Foxdalen, Bolterdalen, Todalen and Endalen. The valley is large and open and covered mainly in wetlands, which make great summer homes for waterfowl. The vegetation provides grazing area for the Svalbard reindeer, and Svalbard ptarmigan are also common in the valleys. Through the valley runs Adventdalselva, the Advent Valley River. On the south side of the

valley are several closed mines, and there is a road to these. Mine 7 still is still in operation, 15 kilometres from Longyearbyen.

FLORA IN ADVENTDALEN

There are more than 160 species of vascular plants on Spitsbergen, some of which are quite common, for example some saxifrages and buttercup species. There are no trees that you would recognise as such, even though the three willow species are trees, at least botanically. The flowery tundra in Adventdalen counts many different species; below is a short description of some of the most common plants & mushrooms.

DWARF BIRCH

(NO: Dverg birk): A species of birch found mainly in the tundra of the Arctic region. It is a monoecious shrub growing up to 1-1.2 m high outside of Svalbard. The bark is non-peeling and shiny red-copper coloured.

ALPINE BROOK SAXIFRAGE

(NO: Bekkesildre): A white-flowered herb found on northern hemisphere mountain summits and arctic regions. It prefers moist to wet rocky habitat, and substrates rich in nitrogen and organic material, such as bird rocks and mossy peat flats.

MOUNTAIN SORREL

(NO: Fjell syre): On the coast of Norway, the pollen of this plant has been found in peat bogs that are 12,600 years old, indicating that it must have been one of the first plants to colonize the

area after the retreating ice age glaciers. The leaves of mountain sorrel have a fresh acidic taste and are rich in vitamin C. They were used by the Inuit to prevent and cure scurvy, and can be eaten in salads. The aboveground parts of the plant are edible when cooked. The plant is important for both insects and larger animals that feed on it in the arctic and alpine regions where it occurs.

MOSS CAMPION OR CUSHION PINK

(NO: fjellsmelle): A small mountain-dwelling wildflower that is common all over the high arctic and tundra. With the cushions it produces its own, warmer climate with high temperatures inside, when the sun shines.

PURPLE SAXIFRAGE

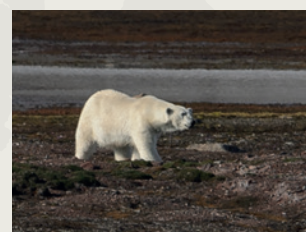
(NO: rødsildre): A species of edible plant that is very common all over the high Arctic. It is even known to grow on Kaffeklubben Island in north Greenland, at 83°40'N, the northernmost location where plants can grow in the world!

FJELLRIDDERHATT / LEPISTA MULTIFORMIS

A brown/meat-coloured edible mushroom that has been served as a delicacy at restaurants in Longyearbyen.

VÅRMUNKEHATT / MELANOLEUCA COGNATA

A big, yellow-brown mushroom that grows alone or in small groups. Also edible.



COMMON BIRDS & WILDLIFE IN ADVENTDALEN

REINDEER

The Svalbard reindeer is the smallest subspecies of reindeer. Males average 65–90 kg in weight, females 53–70 kg. The subspecies is endemic to the Svalbard islands, where it has lived for at least 5,000 years, and become well-adapted to the harsh climate; it is found on nearly all non-glaciated areas of the archipelago. These reindeer remain short-legged and have relatively small, rounded heads. Their fur is also lighter in colour and thicker during winter.

THE ARCTIC FOX

The Arctic fox is a small fox native to the Arctic regions of the northern hemisphere and common throughout the Arctic tundra biome. It is well adapted to living in cold environments. It has a deep thick fur which is brown in summer and white in winter. Its body length ranges from 46 to 68 cm. The Arctic fox preys on any small creatures it can find, including lemmings, voles, ringed seal pups, fish, waterfowl, and seabirds. It will also eat carrion, berries, seaweed, insects, and other small invertebrates. Arctic

foxes form monogamous pairs during the breeding season and they will stay together to raise their young in complex underground dens. Occasionally, other family members may assist in raising their young.

PTARMIGAN

Ptarmigan are small, chicken-like birds that live year round in the arctic lands and are found most commonly on tundra, hiding in rocks or bushes. They have two different colours of plumage depending upon the season. They are brown with dark stripes in summer, but completely white in winter. These changes in appearance are so they can hide when they eat. In summer, they blend into the tundra plants and look like shadows; in winter, they look like the snowy ground they walk on. Because Snowy Owls are camouflaged in the same way, Ptarmigan have to be careful when they move around to eat. If they aren't, the owls will catch them! Ptarmigan can fly, but they usually like to walk slowly and eat berries and leaves from the tundra plants.



PINK-FOOTED GOOSE

(NO: Kortnebb gås): The first geese arrive in the first half of May. Adventdalen is a very important

gathering area for pink-footed geese during spring. Several thousand settle here every year for the last half of May. Up to almost 10,000



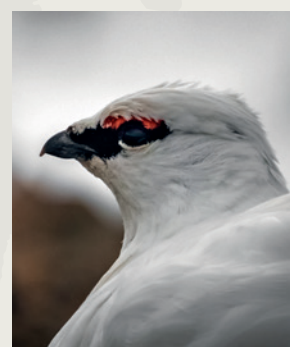
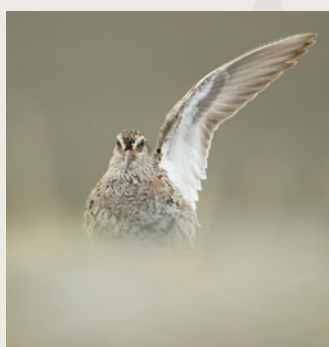
individuals been seen simultaneously. The species started nesting in the lower parts of Adventdalen around 1990. Far fewer stay here through autumn. The last flocks leave around September 20th.

BARNACLE GOOSE


(NO: kvitkinn gås): The first individuals arrive in the first half of May. Hundreds stay in the area through spring, mostly in Adventdalen. The species began to nest in the area at the end of the 1990s. Today several hundred pairs nest here, and parts of Adventdalen are a very important area for the species; about 1,500 moulting geese were recorded here in 2004. Far fewer stay in the area throughout autumn. The last flocks generally depart between 20 and 25th of September.

PURPLE SANDPIPER

(NO: Fjæreplytt): Clearly the most abundant and widespread species of shorebird in Adventdalen and throughout Svalbard. They typically begin arriving in mid-May to start the breeding season, although individuals have arrived somewhat earlier in recent years. The Adventdal delta is clearly the most important foraging area for this species during both spring and autumn migration. Over 2,000 individuals have been counted in early June and nearly 1,000 individuals seen at the end of September. During the autumn migration in September and early October, it is common to see over 400 individuals. Some individuals may remain in the area until the end of October or, more rarely, into November.



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SVALBARD 78° NORTH
**GREEN
DOG**
HAPPY TAILS ON ARCTIC TRAILS

