

## The many fantastic locations of Franz Josef Land

Out of the 192 mostly glaciated islands that make up Franz Josef Land, we visit some of the best in terms of scenery, activities, and wildlife. These sites include but are not limited to...

### Cape Norway (Cape Norvegia) on Jackson Island

Not to be confused with the Cape Norvegia of Antarctica, the Cape Norway of Franz Josef Land's Jackson Island was the 1895-96 wintering spot of Norwegian explorers Hjalmar Johansen and Fridtjof Nansen when they left their vessel, Fram, after being unable to reach the North Pole. During our Arctic voyages around Franz Josef Land, we aim to visit their hut, which stands to this day.

### The historic base of Nagurskoye

Nagurskoye is Russia's northernmost base and is located in Alexandra Land. Named after Polish-Russian pilot Jan Nagórski, the base was built in the 1950s as a staging area for US-bound Soviet Long Range Aviation bombers. Nagurskoye is thought to be still in operation.

### Arthur Island's Arctic history

Located north of Zemlya Georga in the Queen Victoria Sea, Arthur Island is one of Franz Josef Land's 192 islands and is almost entirely glaciated. English explorer Frederick George Jackson named Arthur Island after his brother, Arthur Jackson, during the Jackson-Harmsworth Polar Expedition.

### Hooker Island's Rubini Rock

Far from a mere geological spectacle, Rubini Rock is also home to healthy colonies of seabirds. This columnar basalt formation is located on Hooker Island, one of the 192 islands in the Franz Josef Land archipelago, and was discovered by British explorer Benjamin Leigh Smith in 1880. In Tichaia Bay, we can often sail within a close but safe distance to Hooker Island's amazing cliff face.

### Northbrook Island's Cape Flora

Cape Flora lies in one of the few areas of Franz Josef Land's Northbrook Island that is not glaciated, and its historical significance is firmly established. In 1881 Benjamin Leigh Smith, a British explorer and yachtsman, was shipwrecked there. And in 1896, explorers Frederick George Jackson and Fridtjof Nansen encountered each other at Cape Flora while leading separate expeditions.

## The northernmost Russian landmass of Rudolph Island

Serving as a staging point for various expeditions, Rudolph Island is a Russian Arctic island that was named after Rudolf, Crown Prince of Austria, by the Austro-Hungarian North Pole Expedition. The weather station built on Rudolph Island is the northernmost scientific station in the world.

Rudolph Island's location in the sheltered Teplitz Bay has made it a valuable staging point for northbound voyages. Prince Luigi Amedeo's 1899-1900 expedition stopped there, and Anthony Fiala's 1903-1905 expedition established a hut there.

The remainders of American and Italian expeditions can still be seen around the largely glaciated Rudolph Island, the southeastern reaches of which are covered by the Middendorff Glacier. As the northernmost landmass in Russia, Rudolph Island is also the most northerly landmass in all Eurasia.

## Alger Island's Camp Ziegler

Camp Ziegler was one of the camps used by the Fiala-Ziegler Polar Expedition of 1903-1905, which failed in its ultimate objective to reach the North Pole. The party sought refuge at Camp Ziegler after repeated misfortunes troubled their expedition.

The first setback came in November of 1903, when their expedition ship was broken up in severe weather. What little coal and provisions remained were mostly lost in another storm the following January. Though the expedition made further attempts to reach the North Pole, challenges of open water, severe conditions, and low supplies forced them south.

The following spring, the expedition made more attempts to reach the pole by searching for ways east and west. However, conditions were still too severe, open water caused more difficulties, and provisions continued to run low. The expedition was forced to head south until a rescue party arrived, led by William S. Champ on board the *Terra Nova*.

## Bell Island and its namesake mountains

Named in 1880 by British explorer Benjamin Leigh Smith for its bell-shaped mountain, Bell Island lies in the southwest of the Franz Josef Land archipelago. Smith discovered Mabel Island, Cape Flora, Gratton Island, and Nightingale Sound around the same time as Bell Island.

When Smith returned to Bell Island in 1881, he built a wooden lodge in which he could winter while continuing his Arctic expeditions. This lodge remains to this day and was even visited in 1914 by Russia's Brusilov Expedition, all members of which disappeared during their voyage.