

= Svalbard Airport , Longyear =

Svalbard Airport , Longyear (IATA : LYR , ICAO : ENSB ; Norwegian : Svalbard lufthavn , Longyear) is the main airport serving Svalbard in Norway . It is located 1 @. @ 6 nautical miles (3 km) northwest of Longyearbyen , and it is the northernmost airport in the world with public scheduled flights . The first airport near Longyearbyen was constructed during World War II . In 1959 , it was first taken into use for occasional flights , but could only be used a few months a year . Construction of the new airport at Hotellneset started in 1973 , and the airport was opened on 2 September 1975 . It is owned and operated by state @-@ owned Avinor .

In 2014 , the airport had 154 @, @ 261 passengers . Scandinavian Airlines operates daily flights to Tromsø and Oslo in mainland Norway . Lufttransport provides services to the two other airports on Svalbard : Ny @-@ Ålesund and Svea , using Dornier Do 228 turboprop aircraft . There are also regular charter flights .

= = History = =

= = = Adventdalen = = =

The first air strip on Svalbard was constructed in Adventdalen , near Longyearbyen , by the Luftwaffe during World War II . This was not used after the war ; during the summer the archipelago was served by ships , but was completely isolated from November to May . In the early 1950s , the Norwegian Air Force started postal flights using a Catalina aircraft that departed from Tromsø and dropped postal parcels at Bear Island and at Longyearbyen . However , these aircraft never landed until 9 February 1959 , when a resident had become seriously ill , and needed to be flown to mainland Norway for treatment . The mining company Store Norske Spitsbergen Kulkompani cleared the runway at Adventsdalen and the 14 @-@ hour flight and landing was successful . A second landing , this time for delivery of post , was made on 11 March .

While the Catalina was suitable for postal flights , it was not suitable for a permanent solution for transporting passengers and freight , mainly due to its small size . Store Norske contacted the domestic airline Braathens SAFE for a regular service . The first trial flight was made on 2 April 1959 with a Douglas DC @-@ 4 with 54 passengers from Bardufoss Airport . Store Norske cleared a 1 @, @ 800 by 40 metres (5 @, @ 910 by 130 ft) runway for the aircraft . The next flight was done in 1962 , followed by one in 1963 and two in 1964 . Due to lack of runway lights , flights could only be done during daylight , thus hindering flights during parts of December and January , when the sun never rises . By April , the runway could melt , and no flights could be done during summer . Navigation was conducted using radio signals from Bear Island and Isfjord .

The first night landing was made on 8 December 1965 . The DC @-@ 4 took off from the new Tromsø Airport and dropped mail at Bear Island before continuing to Longyearbyen . The runway was lit up using paraffin lamps and lights from cars parked along the runway . A radio transmitter was also installed at Hotellneset . During the 1965 ? 66 season , Braathens SAFE made 16 flights to Svalbard . The following two seasons , the contract was awarded to Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS) , but after that they reverted to Braathens SAFE . Fred . Olsen Airtransport made its first flight to Svalbard in 1966 . By 1969 , a total of 50 flights had been made to Svalbard , and by 1972 , the 100th was made . By then , Braathens SAFE had started using Douglas DC @-@ 6B aircraft . During these years , Store Norske also installed permanent lights . The first jet plane , to land in Adventdalen was a Fred Olsen Flyselskap Dassault Falcon 20 , LN @-@ FOI . The landing was in 1971 , and the aircraft brought in 1700 lbs of mail and passengers , picking up a geological survey party . A Fokker F @-@ 28 , landed on 29 April 1972 . From 1974 , Boeing 737 @-@ 200C aircraft were taken into use . It had a side cargo door , allowing easy loading of cargo into the main cabin . Braathens SAFE built a small depot with spare parts and up to 90 @, @ 000 litres (20 @, @ 000 imp gal ; 24 @, @ 000 US gal) fuel . Aeroflot started flights to Adventdalen in 1973 to serve the neighboring Russian community of Barentsburg .

== Hotellneset ==

The Svalbard Treaty specifies that no military installations are permitted on the archipelago . The Soviet authorities were concerned that a permanent civilian airport could also be used by Norwegian and NATO forces . But the Soviets also needed an airport to serve their settlements at Barentsburg and Pyramiden , and by the early 1970s , an understanding was reached between the two countries .

Construction started in 1973 . The airport needed to be built on permafrost . The runway is insulated against the ground , so it will not melt during the summer . The hangar is frozen into the ground , with the pillars being melted into place and then being frozen stuck . The runway was plagued with frost heave due to an incorrect construction method , forcing the airport to regularly re @-@ asphalt the runway . In 1989 , parts of the runway were re @-@ insulated , giving these areas that previously had been the worst an acceptable solution . In 2006 , this measure was conducted on the remaining parts of the runway . An upgrade to the terminal building to allow larger capacity was completed in 2007 .

== Services ==

Both Braathens SAFE and SAS applied for the concession to fly from the mainland to Norway . This was granted to SAS , who would have one weekly service . From the airport was taken into use until the official opening , Braathens SAFE continued to fly charter flights for Store Norske . The first landing at the new airport was made on 14 September 1974 with a Fokker F @-@ 28 , and Braathens SAFE continued to fly until 1 September 1975 . Russian authorities granted a concession for a semi @-@ weekly service by Aeroflot from Murmansk Airport . The first attempt to officially open the airport was made with a SAS Douglas DC @-@ 9 on 14 August 1975 . Among the guests on board was King Olav V , but thick fog at Longyearbyen forced the airplane to return . On 1 September , a Fokker F @-@ 27 from Braathens SAFE was used to calibrate the runways ; on board were pilots from SAS and Aeroflot to learn about the landing conditions . The following day , the second attempt to open the airport was successful . In addition to the scheduled services , Store Norske chartered cargo flights from Fred Olsen Air Transport .

Lufttransport has been at the airport since 1976 . In 1984 , two Bell 212 helicopters were stationed at the airport on contract with the Governor of Svalbard . The company signed an agreement with the Norwegian Coast Guard to have a Partenavia Spartacus planes stationed at Longyearbyen for fishery surveillance . Since 1994 , the company has had a Dornier Do 228 stationed at the airport , and two since 2001 .

On 14 August 1987 , Braathens SAFE re @-@ entered the market , flying in parallel with SAS to Tromsø and Oslo . For the first time , the scheduled flights to Oslo were offered as day flights instead of the night flights offered by SAS . In 2002 , after SAS bought Braathens , the subsidiary took over all flights to Longyearbyen for the group . From May 2004 , they merged to SAS Braathens , that again became SAS from 1 June 2007 . From 1 April to 1 November 2004 , Norwegian Air Shuttle introduced three weekly services to Longyearbyen to Tromsø and Oslo , using Boeing 737 @-@ 300 aircraft , but the service was terminated due to low loads . A new service was started on 27 March 2008 , with two direct services to Oslo , using larger Boeing 737 @-@ 800 aircraft. but again the route was terminated later the same year . As of 2014 , Norwegian is again flying to Svalbard from Oslo . Finnair announced to begin flights from Helsinki in summer 2016 , but Norwegian authorities did not allow this route as it was not in bilateral agreement on air traffic between Finland and Norway .

== Facilities ==

The airport is located 1 @.@ 6 nautical miles (3 @.@ 0 km ; 1 @.@ 8 mi) northwest of Longyearbyen , the largest settlement on Svalbard . The airport also serves the nearby Russian

settlement of Barentsburg . The mainland Norway is part of the Schengen Area , but Svalbard is excluded , so from 2011 there is passport control at the airport . A passport , a national ID card indicating nationality , or a Norwegian ID card is needed .

There are 200 free outdoor parking spaces at the airport . There are taxis , rental cars and airport coaches available at the airport (a shuttle bus operates to hotels and guesthouses in Longyearbyen and Nybyen) . Scandinavian Airlines provides handling services through SAS Ground Services .

The runway is 2 @, @ 483 metres (8 @, @ 146 ft) long and aligned 10 / 28 (roughly east ? west) , equipped with instrument landing system , but there are no taxiways . The 45 metres (148 ft) wide runway has two culverts that allow water from the mountain Platåberget to drain under it . About one third of the runway is dug into the terrain , while about two @-@ thirds is built on an embankment . A layer of frost @-@ stable fill , varying from 1 to 4 metres (3 ft 3 in to 13 ft 1 in) is under the runway to hinder the soil from unfreezing during summer .

= = Airlines and destinations = =

= = = Passenger = = =

= = = Cargo = = =

Lufttransport has a base at Svalbard Airport with two 19 @-@ seat Dornier Do 228 @-@ 202K aircraft and 15 employees . The airline flies daily trips to Ny @-@ Ålesund Airport , Hamnerabben on behalf of Kings Bay with research personnel and about thirty trips per week to Svea Airport on behalf of Store Norske Spitsbergen Kulkompani with mining personnel . These routes involve transport of 21 @, @ 000 passengers and 500 tonnes of cargo per year . On behalf of the Norwegian Coast Guard , Lufttransport flies about 400 hours annual of aerial surveillance . Scandinavian Airlines flies six times a week to Tromsø Airport and onwards to Oslo Airport , Gardermoen . The Barentsburg mine has a Mi @-@ 8 helicopter used for travel to and from the Longyearbyen airport and more . The Svalbard Global Seed Vault is located a few miles south of the airport .

= = Accidents and incidents = =

On 10 October 1986 , a Cessna 185 from Antarctax crashed immediately after leaving Svalbard Airport en route to Ny @-@ Ålesund , killing all six on board .

On 29 August 1996 , Vnukovo Airlines Flight 2801 from Vnukovo Airport , Moscow , crashed into a mountain about 14 kilometres (8 @. @ 7 mi) from the airport . All 141 people on board the Tupolev Tu @-@ 154M died . It is the worst air crash in Norwegian history .