

SECOND CIRCULAR FOR THE 21ST EAVP ANNUAL MEETING

GENERAL INFORMATION

Dear colleagues,

We have been overwhelmed by the interest in the 21st EAVP in Longyearbyen and the registration cap was reached within 42 hours of opening. Online-only is of course still available and it is possible to add yourself to a waiting list for in-person participation.

(Link here: <https://www.nhm.uio.no/english/research/events/conferences/EAVP2024/>).

EAVP AMG (annual meeting grant). Information about the AMG can be found on the EAVP website at this link (<https://eavp.org/amg-annual-meeting-grant>). Note you must be an EAVP member to apply.

Student awards for best talk and poster

PeerJ has agreed to continue the success of previous EAVP meetings and provide free publication in PeerJ for the best student talk and poster. Thank you PeerJ!



Deadlines

Abstract deadline is extended for April 5th, 2024. Abstracts can now be submitted by email to: eavp2024svalbard@nhm.uio.no

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Please submit abstracts to eavp2024svalbard@nhm.uio.no before the 5th of April. Abstracts should be in Times New Roman, font size 12, 1.5-line distance and a maximum of 400 words. Please do not include references or figures in the abstract. If required, acknowledgements can be added at the end of the abstract. Due a limited number of talk slots, you may be offered a poster presentation instead of a talk. We are working on possible formats for online presentation of research. Please include your surname and talk/poster preference in the email title. See the example provided below:

(Poster/Talk/Online presentation) – Include your preference in brackets here before the abstract title.

(Student/nonstudent) – This information is for the best student talk/poster

This is the title.

Smith, J. *, Doe, J. & Brooks, A.

*j.smith@email.com – presenting author

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PROGRAM INFORMATION

We are delighted to announce that the conference has been funded by the Norwegian Research Council, which reduced the registration fee. This year's EAVP will have a polar-theme, meaning that sessions will be set aside to prioritise submissions using research from Arctic and Antarctic areas (palaeo-latitude included).

The current preliminary EAVP program is as follows:

	Wednesday August 28th	Thursday August 29th	Friday August 30th	Saturday August 31st	Sunday September 1st
MORNING	Pre-conference field trip	Workshops, symposia and roundtables	Scientific Sessions 9:15-17:30	Scientific Sessions 9:15-17:30	Post-conference field trip
	“The Upper Jurassic Slotsmøya Member Lagerstätte” -	Workshops (see details in Event section) 10:00-16:00	Polar Palaeontology <i>Lunch break</i>	Polar Palaeontology <i>Lunch break</i>	“The marine reptile explosion after the end-Permian mass extinction”
AFTERNOON	Janusfjellet All Day		Mixed parallel sessions	Mixed parallel sessions	Ledalen and Flowerdalen All Day
EVENING		Official opening/ Ice Breaker Svalbard Museum 18:30-20:00	Poster session 16:00-17:30	Poster session 16:00-17:30	
			Conference Dinner Gruvelageret 19:00-23:00	EAVP Assembly and Auction 18:00-22:00	

Workshops

1) Best-Practice fieldwork and collections workshop. A. Hellemond proposed to run a workshop which will focus on discussing and forming a “best practice” guide to completing palaeontological fieldwork and collections. This will be aimed particularly for polar regions and use Svalbard as a case study. Svalbard’s fossil localities are recognised as iconic for fossil geoheritage worldwide. Svalbard’s fossil record includes some of the earliest fishes, land plants and ancient marine reptiles, as well as the northernmost occurrence of dinosaur tracks. Many of these localities will be lost in the next 50 years and fossils will only be found in museum collections due to erosion from climatic change. The need to document this vanishing fossil wealth is imminent and immediate. We will invite representatives from Research in Svalbard (RiS) to contribute to the discussion as there is currently no way of knowing where fossils removed from Svalbard end up, and Norway risks losing important geoheritage.

Duration: 3 hrs

2) Outreach workshop. The Spitsbergen Mesozoic Research Group (University of Oslo), has a long history of public outreach, both nationally and internationally. This includes public lectures, documentaries, radio, television appearances, books, websites, and exhibitions. We wish to share our experiences and create a platform for sharing polar research especially targeted at polar communities.

Duration: 3 hrs

3) PAST – Palaeontological data analysis with PAST. Øyvind Hammer, the creator of the program PAST will host a workshop. Past is a user-friendly, free, and widely cited app suitable for all kinds of paleontological data analysis, including general statistics and plotting, morphometrics, paleoecology, biostratigraphy, and systematics. In this workshop, the author of Past will demonstrate it with

examples. Bring your laptop, if you have one! And if you have a data set that we can try, then contact me beforehand (oyvind.hammer@nhm.uio.no)! There will be sweets served, and maybe some PAST merchandise!

Duration: 3 hrs

3) ICARP IV discussion meeting - ICARP IV stands for the Fourth International Conference on Arctic Research Planning. Palaeontology has long been excluded from the proceedings. Here we will have a short discussion on how palaeontology can contribute to the ICARP research aims.

Duration: 1 hr

4) How to digitally open our collections and foster a more inclusive research culture

D. Schwarz, A. Campell and V. Díez Díaz have proposed a workshop on how to make previous colonial collections more accessible for origin countries. The workshop will be centered around the example of the historic German Tendaguru Expedition (1909-1913 to Tanzania), which is subject of the recently started DFG-funded project "Research and Responsibility" with the main topic of combining all data into a virtual research environment. Aspects of this project include 3D digitization of dinosaur bones and best practice, but also inclusion of archive data and metadata for contextualization and transparent representation. Beyond that, we would encourage participants to bring in information and experience from their own collections and scientific research.

Duration: 3hrs

5) Women in Palaeo roundtable

The success of previous meetings continues, with a discussion platform for issues experienced by women in (geo)sciences and palaeontology. The roundtable will be run by F. Holwerda. As always, all genders are of course welcome.

Duration: 1.5 hrs

6) Post-hoc on the Post doc: Survivor stories from the Lawless Borderlands of Academia

EAVP president J. Liston will host a workshop aiming to highlight potential problems of post doc positions. The postdoctoral phase is usually a required phase for a newly minted PhD, either on the road to a secure position or withdrawal. In a science such as vertebrate palaeontology, when a significant number of practitioners are not in full-time positions as palaeontologists, often either palaeo-adjacent or palaeozero, there are strong pressures to take postdoctoral positions that are economically restricted, if not severely challenging. This workshop aims to highlight potential problems that can be anticipated in advance of taking up a position, through careful research of sometimes hidden costs. This will be done using the experiences of the workshop organisers and attendees. The aim of this workshop will be to forearm for those in the job market, so they can make more informed decisions prior to taking up positions that might be gruelling, despite the long-term appeal of the presence on a CV.

Duration: 1- 1.5 hrs

EAVP General Assembly and Auction

On Saturday the 31st, the post-congress evening will include the EAVP General Assembly, with the election of the new EAVP Board, followed by the Annual Auction. This year's AGM will feature elections for the full range of Board positions. Afterwards, the charity auction will take place, which raises funds for the Annual Meeting Grants (AMGs) and EAVP Research Grants (ERGs), so please do bring any fun, useful or idiosyncratic objects that can be donated.

Fieldtrips

The conference fieldtrips were fully booked within a few hours of registration opening. We are unable to increase the capacity of the fieldtrips due to safety and number of boat places. However, we have organised **an additional fieldtrip to the Jurassic Slottsmøya Member locality on the 27th of August.** People on the waiting list for the fieldtrips have been given first priority to book. The remaining spaces will open for booking on **the 5th of March at 10:00am CET**

How to book the trips via Hurtigruten

We have organised several alternative field trips close to Longyearbyen which can be booked via Hurtigruten (<https://www.conferencemanager.dk/eavpkonferanse2024/signup>). Below you will see the different alternatives. Here you can see how you can book your trips without booking a hotel room.

- 1) click on signup and do a registration / then click continue (Due to security reasons: **you still need to sign up again even if you have done this before**)
- 2) then click single or double accommodation (you may register trips for up to two persons) /continue
- 3) then click “no room reservation” / continue
- 4) then choose your trips.

Alternative 1: Eocene fossil plants at the Longyear glacier

“At the head of the valley where Longyearbyen lies, there are two glaciers, Lars glacier (Larsbreen) and Longyearbreen. Over thousands and thousands of years, Longyear glacier (Longyearbreen) has eroded the mountain beds and pushed out rocks and gravel to create a large moraine. In the surrounding mountains, we can find 40-60 million year old plant fossils. The trip starts in Nybyen, and you don't need to take many steps before we have left the town behind and are in the wilderness.

There is no obvious path to follow as we make our way up towards the glacier, over the moraine area which changes from year to year. It is quite stony and uneven terrain, but the tempo kept at an easy level, so that we have plenty of time to look for fossils. Along the hike we will stop for a warm drink and a lovely view over the glacier landscape and village.

This is a walking tour, and you must be able to walk approximately 2km through varied terrain. You must ensure you have warm clothing and shoes.

The plant fossils are found in the Eocene Aspelintoppen Formation, which is exposed in the Central Tertiary Basin of Spitsbergen. The Aspelintoppen Formation sediments represent crevasse splay, backswamp and ephemeral lake deposits in a broad lowland floodplain that was subject to frequent flooding. In the aftermath of PETM these forests grew at a palaeolatitude of 75°N. These trips can be organised for the 26th, 27th, 28th of August and the 1st of September.

Included:

- Transport to and from Sverdrupbyen
- Experienced guides with all necessary safety equipment
- Warm drinks and biscuits»
- Approx 3 hours

Literature:

The Geology of Svalbard: <https://brage.npolar.no/npolar-xmlui/handle/11250/173141>

Clifton, AJ 2012: The Eocene flora of Svalbard and its climatic significance (thesis)

<https://etheses.whiterose.ac.uk/21133/1/589040.pdf>

Helland-Hansen W, Grundvåg S-A. The Svalbard Eocene-Oligocene (?) Central Basin

succession: Sedimentation patterns and controls. Basin Res. 2021; 33: 729–753.

<https://doi.org/10.1111/bre.12492>

Alternative 2: Plant fossils on Platå glacier

Embark on an extraordinary fossil journey to Platåbreen, nestled beneath the majestic Nordenskiöld mountain in Longyearbyen. As you traverse the rugged terrain, following the path from Huset through Tverrdalen towards Platåbreen, prepare to be captivated by the raw beauty of the Arctic landscape. This expedition demands more than just curiosity; it requires a sturdy physical condition and the right gear. With solid footwear and warm attire, you'll navigate the rocky terrain and uncover ancient remnants hidden within the icy depths. Brace yourself for an adventure where every step reveals a story millions of years in the making.

The fossils are plentiful, with less collecting than on the more visited Longyearbreen.

The plant fossils are found in the Eocene Aspelintoppen Formation, which is exposed in the Central Tertiary Basin of Spitsbergen. The Aspelintoppen Formation sediments represent crevasse splay, backswamp and ephemeral lake deposits in a broad lowland floodplain that was subject to frequent flooding. In the aftermath of PETM these forests grew at a palaeolatitude of 75°N.

Included:

- Transportation to and from Huset
- Experienced guides with all necessary safety equipment
- Dry tech lunch, warm drinks and biscuits
- Approx 6 hours”

Literature:

The Geology of Svalbard: <https://brage.npolar.no/npolar-xmlui/handle/11250/173141>

Clifton, AJ 2012: The Eocene flora of Svalbard and its climatic significance (thesis)

<https://etheses.whiterose.ac.uk/21133/1/589040.pdf>

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Alternative 3: Visit to the old coal mine (28th Aug)

Are you ready to enter an old mine full of memories from coal-dusted miners?

20 years ago, the coal miners went into the mountain looking for the black gold. How was it like to work in the mines at Svalbard? You can now get the answer by joining us for working day as a miner on Svalbard. We provide with a guide that will take you safely through a walk deep in the mountain. You will be picked up at the hotel. Coal mine number 3 is located near the airport and on our way we pass by the Global Seed Vault. We arrive the coal mine with a wonderful view over the Adventfjord.

We put on our helmets and headlamps before we venture into the mine and our "work day" is starting. You can feel the humid and cold air in the hallway. Our guide talk about the coal mine production while you can hear sounds from the deep in the mountain. You will be told stories about the miner's life in Svalbard, how they lived and about the community back in the days.

We end our trip with a highlight: Walking into the mountain. It's pitch-black dark here. All light is shut out. Now you know why you have a fully-charged headlamp. The darkness surrounds you, but in the distance there's light - at the end of the tunnel.

The coal seams are part of the Early Paleocene Firkanten Formation, which is exposed in the Central Tertiary Basin in the central part of Spitsbergen. This was a deltaic coastal plain, with delta front and prodelta environments, and includes depositions of peat swamp, lacustrine, lagoonal and barrier deposits.

Included

- Guided tour at coal mine number 3
- Suit, helmet and headlamp
- Transport to and from accommodation
- Guide with emergency and safety equipment

Recommended equipment:

For this tour we recommend wearing warm clothes and clothes that can get dirty due to coal dust. The mine is not heated and the overall provided is a regular worker overall. Warm boots, woollen clothes, hat, and gloves are recommended.

Duration: Approx. 3 hours

Minimum number: **2 participants**

Age limit: **2 years**

Literature:

The Geology of Svalbard: <https://brage.npolar.no/npolar-xmlui/handle/11250/173141>

Golovneva, L.B., Zolina, Spicer, R.A. 2023: The early Paleocene (Danian) climate of Svalbard based on palaeobotanical data. *Papers in Palaeontology* 9.

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/spp2.1533>

Lüthje, C. & Milàn, J. & Hurum, J. 2010: Paleocene Tracks of the Mammal Pantodont Genus *Titanoides* in Coal-Bearing Strata, Svalbard, Arctic Norway. *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology* 30. 521-527. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/02724631003617449>

VENUES

Main conference venue - The workshops, annual EAVP member assembly, auction, conference talks and poster session will take place at the University Centre in Svalbard (UNIS). UNIS has a broad number of lecture theatres and classrooms available for workshop and conference sessions. The University Centre in Svalbard is the core institution of the Svalbard Science Centre, an international Arctic centre of expertise in research and education. In addition, UNIS also incorporates other professional and scientific institutions in Svalbard, such as The Norwegian Polar Institute, EISCAT and Svalbard Science Forum.

Icebreaker venue – The Icebreaker event will be held at the Svalbard Museum, adjoined to UNIS. The Svalbard Museum will have new exhibits (opened in March 2024), including sections involving palaeontological excavations in Svalbard.

Conference dinner venue – The conference dinner will be held at *Gruvelageret* (Link here: <https://gruvelageret.no/en/home/>). Situated in a part of Longyearbyen previously used to host working coalminers in the 1940s, the restaurant has a rich history and a delicious menu including local delicacies. There are still a few places available, please book at <https://www.conferencemanager.dk/eavpkonferanse2024/signup>

Note that you do not have to book the conference hotel to book the conference dinner.

GETTING TO SVALBARD AND ACCOMMODATION

Travelling to Longyearbyen

The only way to get to Longyearbyen is by air, either from Oslo (Norway) or Tromsø (Norway). The airlines Norwegian and SAS operate flights from both locations. It is worth noting that many (but not all) of the flights from Oslo have stopover in Tromsø. Be aware that there is a wedding taking place in Longyearbyen at the same time as the conference, so please book flights as soon as possible.

Staying in Longyearbyen

We have arranged a discounted hotel rate with the hotel operator Hurtigruten. This business runs multiple hotels in town. Hurtigruten has set up our own site for booking hotels (<https://www.conferencemanager.dk/eavpkonferanse2024/signup>). There are also several guest houses available in town. See visitsvalbard.com for more details.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A WIDER TOURISM EXPERIENCE?

If you are interested in a dog-cart ride or whale-watching, then this is for you. Longyearbyen has rich flora and fauna in the summer, and it is possible to see many different species of birds, whales, and other mammals (arctic fox, reindeer). Around and during the conference, it is possible to book trips either by boat or dog to see the exotic Arctic wilderness. As clearly stated, **you must have a trained guide/polar bear guard with a firearm on trips outside of Longyearbyen**. As such there are many organised trips to pick from, below we have selected a few from Hurtigruten and provided links to these. However, there are other companies that provide different trips, check out visitsvalbard.com for an overview (<https://en.visitsvalbard.com/things-to-do>). *Note that many of these trips require a level of physical fitness.* Details on this can found in the links provided for each trip.

Biking and hiking

Hurtigruten can provide multiple different types of tours either on foot, on ATV or bicycle. Here a selection that you can look at.

Bike ride out of Longyearbyen: <https://hurtigrutensvalbard.com/en/activities/bicycle-tours/summer-cycling-with-electric-bike>

Hike up Sarkofagen (overlooks Longyearbyen):
<https://hurtigrutensvalbard.com/en/activities/hiking/hike-sarkofagen>

Full day hike to Foxfonna glacier: <https://hurtigrutensvalbard.com/en/activities/hiking/hike-to-foxfonna>

Boat trips and whale watching

Svalbard in the summer provides an opportunity to see large marine mammals that visit the Archipelago. Small boat trips will not be possible with Hurtigruten during the field trip days (as we booked all their boats), but there are other companies that can (see visitsvalbard.com). On our previous visits by boat in Isfjorden we have been lucky enough to see beluga, minke and humpback whales – this is of course not guaranteed, but there is always a good chance. If you are bringing small children with you to conference, then a trip on a larger boat might be for you. Details on suitability are provided in the descriptions of the trips.

Dog cart rides

There are a few different providers for dog cart rides in Longyearbyen (see visitsvalbard.com for more details). Our provider Hurtigruten has two different summer dog cart tours: either along the coast to the next valley Bjørndalen, or into Adventdalen. Both these trips provide fantastic views of the surrounding areas of Longyearbyen and an opportunity to see the rich animal life. The ride along coast does give more opportunities to see sea birds and whales (like beluga whales). More information on these tours is in the links below.

Dog ride by the sea: <https://hurtigrutensvalbard.com/en/activities/dogsledding/dog-sledding-by-the-sea>

Dog ride in Adventdalen:

<https://hurtigrutensvalbard.com/en/activities/dogsledding/dogsledding-on-wheels>

SAFETY NOTICE AND OTHER INFORMATION

Please be aware that Longyearbyen is in the Arctic, and we are guests in the realm of the polar bear. As such safety precautions **MUST** be taken. **Do not under any circumstances walk out of Longyearbyen without a polar bear guard with a firearm. This includes travelling to and from the airport.** Please take the airport bus or use a taxi. Note that walking to/from Longyearbyen town centre to Nybyen or Sverdrupbyen by road is ok. <https://en.visitsvalbard.com/visitor-information/safety-in-svalbard>

If you want to explore the areas outside of Longyearbyen, please book an armed guide. You can contact the different travel companies for a quote.

Cultural heritage in Svalbard

Please note that everything in Svalbard which is **older than 1946** is automatically protected by law (yes even things that look like rubbish). In addition, all traces of human graves, including crosses and other grave markers, as well as bones and bone fragments found on or below the surface of the ground are automatically protected regardless of their age. The same applies to skeletal remains at slaughter sites for walruses and whales and in connection with self-shooting traps for polar bears.

Automatically protected cultural monuments have a 100-metre protection zone in all directions from the visible or known outer edge. The protection zone has the same protection conditions as the cultural monument itself.

So please do not touch or approach any old mining equipment lying around in Longyearbyen as these are protected.

Are you bringing children?

If you are bringing babies or small children to the conference, please let us know (if you haven't already). At the conference venue there will be a room available for nursing and equipped with some toys and books to take a break with your child(ren). We would also like to mention there are a few indoor areas in Longyearbyen (the cultural house and library) where they have toys and books free to use. Be aware that not many tourists bring young children with them to Svalbard, so you may get excited questions from Longyearbyen residents thinking you have moved to Svalbard.

FAQ

There is a website with frequently asked questions and answers here about visiting Svalbard. Please have look, if this does not answer your questions feel free to contact us by email.

FAQ link here: <https://en.visitsvalbard.com/visitor-information/faq>