

Nicknamed “the Gateway to the Arctic”,

Tromsø has been a traditional starting-point for expeditions to the far north.

have strong links with Svalbard and adjacent waters. The city has rec-

ently developed into a world centre for polar knowledge. Tromsø’s

TROMSØ

— a Powerhouse in Polar Research

Historically, fishing and hunting that took place in the high Arctic was the basis for prosperity in this part of the world, and Tromsø continues to

polar research community covers a broad range of disciplines, including natural and physical sciences as well as the humanities.



University of Tromsø

The University of Tromsø is the world's northernmost university. It plays an active role in research, higher education and competence building in the Barents-Euro-Arctic Region.

Research at the Department of Arctic Biology focuses largely upon physiological adaptations in birds and mammals to polar environments. Projects are carried out at new laboratories at the university, the department's field station in Svalbard and on Arctic and Antarctic expeditions.

At the Auroral Observatory, a long tradition of studying the Northern Lights is ongoing. Tromsø's research community also has a long history in the study of the geology and the geophysics of polar regions.

Tromsø is a world leader in telemedicine. Developments in this field are likely to have profound effects on the quality of life for people living in sparsely populated Arctic regions.

University of Tromsø

Department of Arctic Biology
Department of Medical Biology
Social Sciences/Humanities
The Auroral Observatory
Norwegian College of Fisheries Science
Tromsø Museum
Arctic-Alpine Botanical Garden

Polar Environmental Centre

In 1998, the Norwegian Polar Institute moved into the new Polar Environmental Centre. The building houses several institutions that deal with research and advisory services concerning the polar regions, as well as co-operation with partners in north-west Russia.

Tromsø's traditional role as a meeting place for people from different cultures continues into the present, with conferences about polar research issues often being a focal point. The centre offers conference facilities for up to 206 people.

Polar Environmental Centre

Norwegian Polar Institute
Akvaplan-niva
Foundation for Nature Research and Cultural Heritage Research
Norwegian Institute for Air Research
Norwegian Mapping Authority
Geological Survey of Norway
Norwegian Pollution Control Authority
Directorate for Cultural Heritage
Norwegian Radiation Protection Agency
The Saami Parliament

Norwegian Polar Institute

The Norwegian Polar Institute is Norway's principal institution for research, environmental monitoring and mapping in the polar regions. Climate change, ecotoxicology and terrestrial and marine ecology are special research priorities.

Fieldwork has always been important to the Polar Institute, e.g. investigations of polar bears in Svalbard. Polar bears are at the top of the food chain in the Arctic, and are threatened by toxic chemicals that are brought to the High North via ocean and air currents. Keeping track of the contaminant levels and impacts on flora, fauna and the landscape helps us to understand the state of the earth and minimise future problems.

The institute runs research stations in Svalbard and field stations in Antarctica. It also owns the research vessel *Lance* which is specially outfitted for expeditions in the polar regions.

Other key institutions

Several other disciplines are also represented in the city. Agriculture and weather forecasting in Arctic regions, operation of ships in icy waters, studies of the Arctic's indigenous minority peoples and Arctic and Antarctic cultural heritage – just to mention a few. Many institutions follow up Tromsø's historical tradition as a fisheries centre, and research covers all main aspects of the fisheries and aquaculture industry.

Key institutions

NORUTGroup Ltd./Norwegian Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ltd.
Tromsø Satellite Station
Kongsberg Spacetec
European Incoherent Scatter Research Station (EISCAT)
The Norwegian Meteorological Institute

Learn more

Not everyone is fortunate enough to spend time in the polar regions. However, exciting glimpses can be seen at the visitor's centre Polaria and at the Tromsø Museum and the Polar Museum. Additional information can be found at the Tromsø University Library and the Tromsø Public Library. The Norwegian Polar Institute Library is among the world's largest collections of polar literature. The NPI picture library stores images spanning more than a century of polar activities.

