



A young female Arctic fox's movement was tracked as she travelled 4,415 km from Spitsbergen, on the Svalbard Archipelago to Ellesmere Island, Canada. It was possible for the fox to cross continents because these countries are seasonally bridged by sea ice. The fox moved at an average of 46 km a day, and up to 155 km/day over Greenland. Such a distance shows the exceptional movement capacity of this small-sized species. The fox's position was tracked using a satellite collar that transmitted daily every 60 seconds for three hours. Putting together the satellite data shows the fox's journey, that you can join up on the map below.



Some points of interest

Point 1. The fox begins her journey on the 1st March 2018 in Spitsbergen, the Svalbard Archipelago, Norway.

Point 2 to 3: She moves to the North-East of Spitsbergen and reached the open sea on the 11 March 2018.

Point 3 to 4: She then changed course and headed West, reaching the shore, where she again met open water on 16 March 2018.

Point 4 to 5: There the Arctic fox turned again, heading South-East and crossing the Northern part of Spitsbergen from West to East.

Point 6 to 7: on 26 March 2018, she met ice-covered sea for the first time and left Spitsbergen heading North-East on the sea ice.

Point 7 to 8: One day later, her route turned northward and then Westward, towards North Greenland.

Points 9 to 13: she reached Greenland on the 16th April 2018 and 1512 km after having left Spitsbergen.

Point 30: She finally reached Ellesmere Island, Nunavut, Canada, 76 days (10 June 2018) after leaving Spitsbergen.

Points 31 to 32: Here she stayed in a limited area around the Fosheim Peninsula, until the satellite transmitter stopped transmitting on 6 February 2019.

source: <https://polarresearch.net/index.php/polar/article/view/3512>

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