



# Cruising to the land of ice and polar bears-



## Cruising to see the ice pack and a land of polar bears

By Anne Z. Cooke Tribune News Service

LONGYEARBYEN, Svalbard—If it weren't for the red

flags marking the tundra trail to the glacier, some of us—passengers on the Hurtigruten cruise ship MS Fram, sailing out of Spitsbergen—might have been tempted to leave the slowpokes behind and bushwhack across country.

But as newcomers are relentlessly reminded here in Svalbard Archipelago, where white is the new black, that polar bears are the Big Dogs. More numerous than humans (3,500 to 2,750) and a protected species, the bears have the run of the islands,