



NORWAY WINTER WONDERLAND

Few places on earth offer more ways to witness the Aurora Borealis than Norway and during the long winter nights this extraordinary phenomenon of coloured lights dancing across the dark sky occurs.

Tailor-Made Journeys, Suggested Itineraries



Europe, Norway



10 days from AU\$26,245 pp



Private

Journey Overview

Few places on earth offer more ways to witness the Aurora Borealis than Norway and during the long winter nights this extraordinary phenomenon of coloured lights dancing across the dark sky occurs. Sighting of the Northern Lights is completely weather dependent but on this journey you are spending four nights above the Arctic Circle which means chances are very good. You will also take an exhilarating reindeer sleigh ride through magical snow-covered terrain, and gain an immersive introduction to the fascinating Sami people whose traditions include reindeer herding and fishing. Heading south you'll explore the breathtaking fjords around Bergen and Norway's vibrant capital, Oslo.

Journey Highlights

- Venture above the Arctic Circle and spot the Northern Lights
- Meet Sami reindeer herders and learn about their cultural heritage
- Take the legendary Flam Railway and cruise on Norway's longest and deepest fjord
- Wander Bergen's atmospheric Hanseatic wharf area



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Tromsø

Arrive into the bustling city of Tromsø, located above the Arctic Circle and renowned for its stunning natural beauty, including the mesmerising Northern Lights and picturesque fjords. Upon arrival you are met by your private driver for transfer to your hotel.

Clarion The Edge

Day 2: Tromsø

Embark on a captivating guided exploration of Tromsø. Begin at the historic harbour, with its fishing boats and ancient pub, before crossing the iconic Tromsø bridge to explore the blend of medieval and modern history. Visit the Arctic Cathedral, clearly visible from downtown, whose modern design dates to the 1960s and the Polar Museum which is located in the former Customs House on the quayside and dates from 1830. Tromsø has long been an important base for many polar expeditions, and the Polar Museum exhibits and presents this polar seafaring tradition. At the museum you will meet the courageous men and women and the ships and equipment that were essential for life both on the sea and in the Arctic.

After a leisurely afternoon, head out into the wilderness for a fascinating introduction to the Sami reindeer herders and an exhilarating reindeer sleigh ride along the valley and coast, followed by the chance to feed the reindeer. As the day draws to a close, savour a traditional fireside meal and immerse yourself in tales of Sami history, folk stories, and enchanting joiking (songs).

Clarion The Edge / Meals: B

Day 3: Tromsø - Senja

This morning you will depart for the scenic island of Kvaløya to experience the thrill of a Husky Sled Ride. During the approximately one-hour ride through the stunning Norwegian tundra, you'll be able to take in breathtaking views of the surrounding mountains and picturesque Balsford and Malangen peninsula, and experience the unique bond between the musher and the dogs.

Following the exhilarating ride, enjoy a guided tour of the dog yard where you will learn about the Alaskan Husky breed, dog sled racing, animal welfare, and have a chance to meet with some of the 200 Alaskan huskies and their puppies. Afterwards, replenish with a hearty meal of Bidos, featuring reindeer meat, broth, and vegetables, served around the crackling camp fire.

This afternoon you will be transferred by private vehicle to Senja. Norway's second-largest island, Senja is renowned for its breathtaking natural beauty, including majestic mountains, deep fjords, and charming coastal villages. The island offers a tranquil and scenic retreat, making it a haven for nature lovers and outdoor enthusiasts, whilst its location at 69.4° north above the Arctic Circle make it perfectly suited for opportunities to witness the northern lights, a rare celestial phenomenon that bathes the night sky in an ethereal, spectacular glow. These northern latitudes afford ideal viewing conditions when the skies are clear.

Hamn I Senja / Meals: BLD

Day 4: Senja

Enjoy a day at leisure, with a variety of optional activities to choose from.

Experience the invigorating thrill of Arctic bathing as you don flotation suits and immerse yourself in the icy waters of the harbour, a unique and exhilarating activity that combines the chill of the Arctic with the warmth of a floating cocoon.

Alternatively, embark on a wildlife & fjord safari by boat (additional cost), where the stunning landscapes and diverse wildlife – including seals, sea eagles and cormorants – unfold before your eyes, creating a memorable adventure on the tranquil waters of the fjords.

Or discover the enchanting beauty of Senja with a northern lights snowshoeing experience (additional cost). Traverse the snowy landscapes, guided by the soft glow of the Arctic night, and witness the mesmerizing dance of the Northern Lights above this winter wonderland.

Hamn I Senja / Meals: B

Day 5: Senja - Bergen

Morning transfer to the airport for a flight to Bergen in the south. Founded in 1070, the beautiful city of Bergen was up until 1830 the largest town in Norway and a centre of commerce and shipping.

Enjoy a guided tour on arrival. Walk through the typical Bryggen quarter with its picturesque colourful, crooked wooden houses with pointed gables facing the harbour, see the Nykirken Church, the Bergenhus Fortress, as well as the fish markets at the old Hanseatic wharf where all the seafood specialities from northern Scandinavia are sold.

Board the Funicular to the summit of Mount Fløyen, offering spectacular panoramic views of Bergen, its surrounding fjords, and the picturesque landscapes before continuing on to visit the home of the world-famous composer Edvard Grieg, offering a glimpse into his life and work. Afterwards, enjoy a brief visit to the exquisite Fantoft Stave Church.

This evening, head to the pier to embark on a unique fjord to table dining experience. Take in the best of Bergen's mountain, fjord and sea scenery on the 25-minute boat trip out to Holmen where you will indulge in an exceptional meal that connects you with the rich culinary heritage of the region, all set against the breathtaking backdrop of scenic fjord views.

Opus XVI / Meals: BD

Day 6: Bergen - Voss

This morning you will transfer by private vehicle to Voss, a charming town nestled amidst stunning fjords and surrounded by picturesque landscapes of lakes and mountains. On arrival, enjoy a scenic ascent of Mount Hanguren on the Voss Gondola, providing stunning views of Voss, its lakes, and the surrounding mountains.

Afternoon at leisure.

Elva Hotel / Meals: B

Day 7: Voss

This morning you will be transferred to Gudvangen to join a private RIB boat safari amongst the fjords, including the spectacular Aurlandsfjord and Nærøyfjord, featured on UNESCO's World Heritage List. Enjoy stunning views of steep mountains with snow covered tops that stretch up to 1800-metres above sea level, cascading waterfalls and picturesque villages that dot the landscape.

Afterwards, continue on to Undredal Village, a charming village known for its scenic beauty, traditional Norwegian architecture, and goat cheese production where you will enjoy a cheese tasting at a picturesque location with views of the fjord.

Elva Hotel / Meals: B**Day 8: Voss - Oslo**

Bid farewell to Voss and make your way to Oslo. Board the famous Flåm Railway, one of the world's most scenic rail journeys. On the 20-kilometre-long train ride, peer at rivers cutting through deep ravines, waterfalls cascading down steep, snow-capped mountains and tiny farms clinging dizzily to sheer slopes before continuing by regional train to Oslo.

Upon arrival in Oslo you will be met at the train platform and transferred by private vehicle to your hotel.

Oslo, the capital of Norway, is a vibrant city known for its scenic location along the Oslofjord, and its captivating blend of history, art, and outdoor experiences.

The Thief / Meals: B**Day 9: Oslo**

Explore Oslo with a local guide, with highlights including historic landmarks such the City Hall, Opera House, Royal Palace, medieval Akershus Fortress, and the Nobel Peace Centre (closed for renovation until January 2024). Journey to the renowned Frogner Park, also known as Vigeland Sculpture Park, featuring over 200 sculptures by Gustav Vigeland in bronze, granite, and cast iron. Afterwards, Norsk Folkemuseum, Norway's largest cultural history museum. The Open-Air Museum boasts 160 buildings representing diverse regions, time periods, and social classes. Notable features include the Gol Stave Church from 1200 and exhibitions covering contemporary history, folk art, traditional costumes, toys, and Sami culture, providing a rich overview of Norway's cultural heritage.

The Thief / Meals: B

Day 10: Depart Oslo

Transfer to the airport for your departure flight.

Meals: B

Map



Accommodation

Clarion The Edge, Tromsø



The Edge is situated right in the centre of Tromsø, beside the water, which offers a stunning reflection of its innovative architecture. Master chef Marcus Samuelsson, based in New York, has created a whole new restaurant concept in cooperation with Clarion, with a focus on fun dining using Arctic ingredients. Dine at Kitchen & Table, where Tromsø meets Manhattan, or enjoy a drink at the city's only Skybar located on the 11th floor. Complimentary WiFi throughout the hotel.

Hamn I Senja, Senja Island



Hamn i Senja is a stunning 4-star resort on the west coast of Senja island, in Northern Norway. Since 1994, this historical fishing station has become a well-known holiday spot with a history that dates back hundreds of years.

The resort features 29 apartments and 51 twin rooms, while the Aurora Rooms come with a façade facing the fjord and the mountains, giving guests a cinematic view of the Arctic seasons — the Midnight sun and the Northern Lights. Relax with a glass of wine in the Storbrygga Eatery on the quay, with a fabulous view over the harbour. In the summertime, guests can enjoy the maritime mood outdoors on the quay itself.

Hamn is the perfect base for enjoying the beauty of the island. A wide range of activities are offered, including skiing, snowshoeing, cycling, fishing and other water sports. After a day spent in nature, soak in one of four outdoor hot tubs with panoramic views over the fjord and mountains. And if you're lucky and the sky is dark, keep your eyes peeled for the magnificent Northern Lights.

Opus XVI Hotel, Bergen



Music is never far away when you stay at the aptly named Opus XVI. The now-trendy former bank is owned by the descendants of Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg, famous for his work on Ibsen's *Peer Gynt*.

Here you will find 65 rooms and suites christened in honour of his compositions. Each of the suites are individually designed with modern interiors, and a subtle classic touch. The décor consists of muted colours, dark cabinetry and gold accents. Some rooms enjoy views towards Mount Fløyen while others look down over the quiet plaza of Vågsallmenningen.

Close to the coast, you can expect inventive seafood dishes in the delightful Restaurant XVI. The chef and his team are passionate about local ingredients and create a three- and five-course menu which includes everything from langoustine and monkfish to goats' cheese.

Just a short walk from this heritage hotel guests can find the famous fish market, the bustling pier and the Fløibanen funicular which travels high above the city and shows why Bergen is known as the 'capital of the fjords'.

Elva Hotel, Voss



This Scandi star is a designer hotel with a passion for gastronomy and nature.

The hotel is made up of one main building and five mini houses — each with two to three stylish, paired back suites. Picturesque windows in all overlook a tranquil lake and forested mountains. Every room is named after a cascading waterfall found along the nearby rivers.

While the call of the wild is never far away, it is the culinary experience that sets this boutique hotel apart. The fine dining restaurant follows the seasons and serves exquisite tasting and wine pairing inspired by local produce from the Voss and Westland region. Visit in autumn and you can expect a seven-course menu of pumpkin, baked tusk fish and wild mushrooms, while summer the cosy café and bar features barbecue Bratwurst from Voss Gardsslakteri and ratatouille.

After a day spent white-water rafting, river boarding or kayaking, Elva has a rustic wood-fired sauna and three bubbling hot tubs where you can enjoy a drink overlooking the glassy waters of the lake.

The Thief Hotel, Oslo



Arty hotel, The Thief is situated in Tjuvholmen, the new 'energetic heart' of Oslo, and a key centre for contemporary art.

Owned by an eccentric billionaire with a passion for art, the hotel oozes extravagance and glamour. You'll find unusual sculptures and works by Warhol and Gormley around the hotel; while room keys grant exclusive access to Astrup Fearnley Contemporary Art Museum, just a short distance from the hotel.

The 118 spacious rooms enjoy luxury touches: think rainforest showers, floor to ceiling windows and private terraces overlooking the stunning Oslofjord waterfront. The décor combines timeless elegance with modern art and design, and comfort and cosiness throughout.

Once guests have had their fill of sightseeing, they can unwind with a drink inside the hotel bar, a favourite hangout for some of Norway's elite, or take in the outstanding views from the roof terrace.

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