

ULTIMATE NORWAY AURORA TRIP

ITINERARY

DAY

1

DAY 1: WELCOME TO OSLO

When you arrive at Oslo's Gardermoen Airport, make your way into **Oslo's** city centre. Many travellers opt to take the express train to Oslo Central Station, but we can arrange a private transfer for you (at additional cost). For those arriving early, we recommend exploring Oslo by foot, spending the afternoon at sights including the **Royal Palace**, **Akershus fortress**, **Oslo City Hall**, **Oslo Opera House**, and the **Aker Brygge** area. Other notable attractions include the beautiful Vigeland Sculpture Park, the Viking Ship Museum and Karl Johans street.

Spend the night in Oslo.

HIGHLIGHTS: Aker Brygge - Oslo - Oslo City Hall - Oslo Opera House - The Royal Palace (Oslo)

DAY

2

DAY 2: NORWAY IN A NUTSHELL IN WINTER - THE FLÅM RAILWAY

Get an early start and head to Oslo Central Station, where you'll begin the Norway in a Nutshell® railway journey towards Bergen, with an overnight stop in **Flåm**. This train ride takes you over Norway's "mountainous rooftops", through charming villages like Gol and **Geilo**.

In Myrdal, you'll switch trains to the famous **Flåm Railway** (Flåmsbana) for an incredible ride to the beautiful village of Flåm, which is especially lovely in winter. Enjoy a relaxing day in Flåm, where you can follow one of the many hiking trails in the mountains around the village, or participate in an optional activity such as a winter fjord safari.

Spend the night in Flåm.

We recommend booking our luggage transfer for the travel between Oslo and Bergen.

HIGHLIGHTS: Flåm - Flåm Railway (Flåmsbana) - Geilo - Gol - NORWAY IN A NUTSHELL®

DAY

3

DAY 3: NORWAY IN A NUTSHELL TO BERGEN

In the morning, you'll board a boat to sail through **Aurlandsfjord** into the World Heritage-listed **Nærøyfjord**, the narrowest fjord in all of Europe. This is perhaps the most beautiful arm of **Sognefjord**, with its mighty waterfalls and small farms clinging to the steep mountainsides, which is especially beautiful in the winter months. The boat docks in Gudvangen, and from there the journey continues by bus through Nærøydalen, with its charming villages and scenic winter landscape. The bus will arrive in Voss, where you continue the tour by train on the Bergen Railway to **Bergen**.

Spend the night in Bergen.

HIGHLIGHTS: Aurlandsfjord - Bergen - Nærøyfjord - Sognefjord

DAY

4

DAY 4: EXPLORE BERGEN & BOARD THE HURTIGRUTEN

Despite being an international city, Bergen, "The Capital of the Fjords", has all the charms of a small town. Here you'll find **Brvågen**, a UNESCO World Heritage site, along with remarkably preserved old houses, a

lively fish market, cable cars offering stunning views, great museums and more. We recommend riding the **Fløibanen** Funicular to Mount Fløyen to enjoy the panoramic view of the city or a cable car up **Mt. Ulriken** to survey the winter landscape.

In the evening, you embark on the Norwegian Coastal Voyage with **Hurtigruten**. Onboard you'll stay in a comfortable outside cabin with private facilities.

Spend the night on board Hurtigruten.

HIGHLIGHTS: Bergen - Bryggen - Fishmarket - Fjords in Norway - Fløibanen Funicular (Funicular Railway) - Hurtigruten Coastal Voyage - King Håkon's Hall - Maria Church - Rosenkrantz Tower

DAY

5

DAY 5: BEAUTIFUL ÅLESUND

You will continue your scenic winter coastal voyage today from **Florø** to **Molde**. This morning, you can enjoy the breathtaking beauty of the Nordfjord, followed by a delicious breakfast. As the ship sails past the West Cape, you will enter the open ocean before reaching Ålesund, which is known for its beautiful Art Nouveau architecture. You will get a chance to explore **Ålesund** during a 3-hour stop.

Spend the night on board Hurtigruten.

HIGHLIGHTS: Ålesund - Nordfjorden

DAY

6

DAY 6: TRONDHEIM THE VIKING TOWN

Early in the morning, the ship pulls in to the historic city of **Trondheim**. Here you will have about 3.5 hours to explore the city on your own or take an optional sightseeing tour. Trondheim is the original capital of Norway, and until the 16th century, the city was known as Nidaros. Here you will find **Nidaros Cathedral**, which is one of Scandinavia's largest buildings from the Middle Ages, along with tiny, picturesque old wooden houses. From Trondheim, the ship sails on to Rorvik, where the southbound and northbound coastal ships meet.

Spend the night on board Hurtigruten.

HIGHLIGHTS: Baklandet - Nidaros Cathedral/Nidarosdomen - Trondheim

DAY

7

DAY 7: OVER THE ARCTIC CIRCLE & NORTHERN LIGHTS

Today you will cross the **Arctic Circle** while enjoying spectacular sights, including islands and skerries with interesting rock formations jutting out of the deep waters. The ship will dock in **Bodo** for 2.5 hours, which is a lovely place to wander, catching glimpses of sea birds among the wild nature.

In the evening, the ship will dock in Svolvær, **Lofoten**, a small, picturesque fishing village with a charming Scandinavian atmosphere where you will disembark and spend the next two nights. After checking in you can take an evening stroll between stockfish racks and traditional fishermen huts called 'rorbuer' and if you are lucky the northern lights might appear.

Note that once you cross the Arctic Circle, your chances of spotting the northern lights increases, so keep your eyes peeled at night.*

Spend the night in Svolvær.

**Please note that the northern lights are a natural phenomenon, so sightings cannot be guaranteed.*

HIGHLIGHTS: Bodø - Lofoten Islands & Svolvær - Northern lights

DAY

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DAY 8: LOFOTEN AT LEISURE

Spend the day in Svolvær at your leisure. We recommend a stroll through town or a walk to the nearby island of Svinøya for a visit to the art museum and excellent views of Svolvær, the Svolvær Geita, the sea and the surrounding islands.

Optional activities like a thrilling RIB boat safari and a northern light excursion are available today. We recommend ending the day with a visit to the "Magic Ice bar" and its gallery with magnificent ice sculptures.

Spend the night in Svolvær.

HIGHLIGHTS: Lofoten Islands & Svolvær

DAY

9

DAY 9: FLY TO TROMSØ & NORTHERN LIGHT HUNT

Start the day with an early morning flight to Tromsø Airport and make your way to your hotel by bus or taxi. After settling in at your hotel, you can spend the rest of the day exploring the charming city of the "capital of Northern Norway". Spend the rest of the day at leisure in **Tromsø** exploring the charming Arctic city and its various attractions, including the **Polar Museum**, the **Arctic Cathedral** and the **Fjellheisen** cable car.

In the evening it's time to leave the city lights behind on a guided small group tour for chance to enjoy some of the brightest northern lights in the world.

Spend the night in Tromsø.

HIGHLIGHTS: Northern lights - Tromsø

DAY

10

DAY 10: DOG-SLEDDING & AURORA BOREALIS

Spend the first half of the day at leisure in Tromsø exploring the charming Arctic city and its various attractions, including the Polar Museum, the Arctic Cathedral and Fjellheisen cable car. For those who are looking for more adventures you can add optional activities in the morning.

In the late afternoon you will be transferred to the wilderness centre, **Camp Tamok**. There you will join a thrilling dog-sledding tour into the white landscapes, through an uninhabited forest landscape surrounded by majestic mountains. After the tour you will have another opportunity to look for auroras while enjoying a hearty dinner in a lavvu, a traditional Sami tent, at Camp Tamok, before being driven back to your hotel.

Spend the night in Tromsø.

HIGHLIGHTS: Arctic Cathedral - Camp Tamok - Dog sledding in Tromsø - Fjellheisen - Northern lights - The Polar Museum - Tromsø

DAY

11

DAY 11: EXPERIENCE TROMSØ

Explore Tromsø at your leisure today or join an optional activity. Notable city attractions include the Art Museum of Northern Norway and **Polaria**. For a fantastic bird's eye view over the city, you can take a ride up the Fjellheisen cable car to Mt. Storsteinen (421 m / 1382 ft). Another alternative is booking an optional activity such as a northern light cruise, or a reindeer sledding tour.

Spend the night in Tromsø.

HIGHLIGHTS: Polaria - Tromsø - Tromsø Cathedral

DAY

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DAY 12: JOURNEY TO KIRKENES

Head to Tromsø airport before boarding the domestic flight to **Kirkenes** for your journey further north.

Kirkenes, located about 400 km (240 miles) above the **Arctic Circle** in northern Norway has just over 3,000 inhabitants, including the native Sami people. This is remote, scenic slice of Norway. We recommend booking optional activities like dog-sledding or a King Crab safari or spending time around town.

We recommend the Border Country Museum (Grenselandsmuseet), which tells the story of war and peace along the border, or the Andersgrotta Cave, a vast underground bunker that sheltered the town's residents during WWII.

Spend the night in Kirkenes.

HIGHLIGHTS: Kirkenes

DAY

13

DAY 13: THE SNOW HOTEL EXPERIENCE

Today you will be transferred from your hotel to the **Snow Hotel** where you will experience a true arctic wonder. You will have the opportunity to take part in optional activities like a King Crab safari, a dog-sledding tour, or a snowmobile excursion.

In the evening, you will enjoy a drink at the **Snow Bar** and feast on a 3-course meal by the fireplace at the Høyloftet Restaurant before preparing for an amazing night in your special suite made of snow and ice*! If you are up for a northern lights hunt, you can sign up for an optional aurora tour.

Spend the night at the Snow Hotel.

**Please note that we offer the option of choosing to stay in a private cabin instead of in an ice room at the Snow Hotel. Click the optional activities for further information.*

HIGHLIGHTS: Kirkenes SnowHotel

DAY

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DAY 14: SAY GOODBYE TO THE ARCTIC NORTH & KIRKENES

Spend the morning warming up in the Snow Hotel's sauna and enjoying a hearty breakfast. Visit the on-site friendly reindeers and meet the happy Huskies before being transferred back to Kirkenes after a thrilling experience at the Snow Hotel. If your departure flight is in the afternoon there are optional activities such as dog-sledding, snowmobiling and a King crab safari available today for those who are interested.

After an incredible time in Norway, it's time to head home today. Your tour will conclude in Kirkenes, where you will make your way back home.

Note: If you need assistance with flights from Kirkenes, or booking additional nights in Oslo before and after your holiday in the North then please contact us for details.

Whatever your needs, we are here to help. If you have any questions about our packages or services, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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