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## 13 DAYS SCENIC NORWAY



## MOUNTAINS & FJORDS

**Sept. 19- Oct. 1, 2023 (13 Days Scenic Norway & Fjords)**

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Oslo
- Flam
- Bergen
- Lofoten Islands
- Svolvaer
- Svolvaer
- Svolvaer
- Tromso
- Honningsvag
- North Cape
- Alta
- Kirkines

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# 13 DAYS SCENIC NORWAY & FJORDS



## DAY 1 (September 19 ) Arrival to Oslo

### Arrival to Oslo

Meet your driver and guide and transfer to the hotel. Transfer to the city, tour of Oslo depending on the arrival time; tour of Oslo: Royal Palace (outside), Vigeland sculpture park, Opera House, Akershus fortress (outside), City hall, Aker Brygge Dinner and overnight in Oslo

### Akershus Fortress:

Dating from 1299, this medieval castle and royal residence developed into a fortress in 1592 and was rebuilt into a renaissance castle between 1637 and 1648. Akershus Castle today contains banquet halls, the Royal Mausoleum and the government's reception rooms, and its small, historic church is the home of the royal sarcophagi.

**Holmenkollen Ski Museum** - with jump tower and time permitting, we will visit these museums: Munch, Polar, Nobel Peace Prize center, Kon-Tiki, etc..

**Oslo Opera: walking on a roof top is a must!**  
**Overnight in Oslo.**



## DAY 2 (September 20 ) Oslo

Breakfast at the hotel.  
Full day sightseeing of Oslo incl.

### Holmenkollen ski jump:

The Holmenkollen Ski Jump is a massive ski jump with a history stretching for over 100 years. Atop the ski jump is a platform where visitors can take in some of the most breathtaking views of Oslo, the fjord and the region beyond

### Vigeland Sculpture Park:

Vigeland park Sculpture Park in the Frogner Park with more than 200 sculptures by Gustav Vigeland. Attracting more than a million visitors every year, free-to-enter Vigeland Park in Oslo is one of the top tourist attractions in Norway. It is the largest sculpture park by a single artist in the world, with more than 200 sculptures in bronze, granite and cast iron by acclaimed Norwegian sculptor Gustav Vigeland, whose realistic work represents the cycle of human life. The sculptures in the park, a tribute to the complexity of humankind, are centred around The Monolith. Carved out of a gigantic stone block, it is the highest point in Vigeland Park and depicts 121 humans climbing around and clinging to each other, with children at the top. Every figure represents a different stage of life.



## DAY 3 ( September 21 ) Oslo to Stavanger

Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to Kistefos. Kistefos offers world-class architecture, industrial history, art exhibitions, and an impressive sculpture park in scenic surroundings After lunch continue your journey to Flam. Transfer to the city and here people can decide either to go hiking to the Pulpit Rock or take a cruise on Lysefjord and see the Pulpit Rock from the fjord.

**Pulpit Rock Hiking;** The bus will take the group to the starting point, it takes aprox 45 minutes by bus; then they will hike up to the top of Pulpit Rock and back, hiking takes 2 hours each way; then the bus will take them back to the hotel.

The hike to Pulpit Rock is Norway's most iconic hike, with views of the Lysefjord and this slab of rock that almost looks like it is from another planet. This giant monolith is also known as Preikestolen. The hike is five miles round trip, the shortest on this Norway itinerary. It is an easy hike that anyone with average fitness can do, including children. Since it is Norway's most popular hike, expect lots of crowds, especially during the peak travel season from June through August.

**Lysefjord Cruise:** The group will have some free time before the fjord cruise, then they will board the cruise at 15:00, it takes 3.5 hrs; then they will return to the hotel. Overnight and dinner at Stavanger.

**Note:** Add on flight from Oslo to Stavanger is additional. Current price is 89 € pp including 23 kg checked bag.

#### **DAY 4 ( September 22 ) Stavanger to Flam**

Breakfast at the hotel. We depart from Stavanger to Voss (about 5hrs). Arrive in Voss about 2pm and take the train to Myrdal. Take Flamsbana, it is one of the main attractions in Norway and the most scenic ride in Europe. Prepare to witness spectacular scenery including mountainsides, tiny, charming villages, foaming waterfalls, go through 20 tunnels and take pictures at many viewpoints. The hour will fly by! we arrive in Flam. Overnight and dinner at Flam area.



**STAVANGER**

#### **DAY 5 ( September 23 ) Flam to Bergen**

Breakfast at the hotel in Flam. We take a Naeroyfjord cruise from Flam to Gudvangen arriving at 11:30 am. Take a Fjord cruise through Narefjord. The narrow and spectacular Nærøyfjord is surrounded by steep mountains with snow covered tops that stretch up to 1800 meters above sea level. Water falls cascade down the mountains and picturesque villages dot the landscape. Narefjord is a branch of the Sognefjord – King of the fjords. We will then continue to Bergen and arrive in the afternoon around 3:00 pm. This is free time to relax and walk in the city. Dinner and overnight in Bergen.

#### **DAY 6 ( September 24 ) Bergen to Lofoten**

Breakfast at the hotel in Bergen.

Bergen is Norway's second-largest city and a gateway to the fjords. Founded in 1070 A.D., Bergen boasts architecture influenced by the prosperous 14th-century German trading organization, the Hanseatic League.

We will visit the UNESCO-listed wharfs in the colorful Bryggen district, now a neighborhood with artisan's shops, complete with cobblestone streets. Just across the street is the famous fish market, which serves delicious seafood. Then we will take the Fløibanen funicular which will take us up Mount Fløyen for lovely views of the city.

After the sightseeing tour in Bergin, transfer to the airport (about 5pm ) and take a flight to Harstad/Narvik. Meet your driver in Narvik ariport and drive to Svoalver/Lofoten and arriving around 8pm. Dinner and overnight in Svoalver.



**Bergen to Lofoten**

#### **DAY 7 ( September 25 ) Lofoten**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Located far north of the Artic Circlce, Lofoten is a place where mother nature reminds you of God's glorious creations. With dramatic, imposing beauty everywhere you look, Norway's Lofoten islands are like nowhere else on earth. From idyllic fishing villages to remarkable beaches that seem so out of place in Arctic Norway, the Norwegian islands of Lofoten have it all. Experience the midnight sun, charming villages, and incredible nature.

We have a full day of scenic sightseeing tours in Lofoten. The National Scenic Routes are beautiful driving tours that are a little out of the ordinary. There are many interesting stops on the way: **REINEHALSEN** is one of Norway's most famous photo points where we will stop for photo opportunities.

**RAMBERGSTRANDA** is a beautiful beach, Nusfjord is one of Norway's oldest and best-preserved fishing villages...

We will also get to see Lofoten island from different perspective. Experiencing Lofoten by RIB enables you to learn a lot about the nature, wildlife and settlement in Lofoten while getting lots of fresh sea air. Abandoned fishing villages, countless small islands and skerries, abundant bird colonies and perhaps the chances are high that you will see an eagle or more. It's the fourth largest eagle in the world with a wingspan up to 265 cm and a weight almost at 7 kg.



This is but a sample of what you can expect to see on a RIB safari. On the way back we will visit the famous Viking museum. The chieftain house at Borg is the largest Viking era house ever discovered. We will take an excursion to Reine, one of the most picturesque place in Lofoten island. Dinner and overnight. (Viking dinner possible). Note: There's a great possibility of Northern Lights occurrence during our stay in Lofoten.



### **DAY 8 ( September 26 ) Lofoten-Tromso**

Breakfast at the hotel. Today we will have a scenic drive to Tromso by bus, admiring spectacular landscapes from snow capped mountains lakes, waterfalls and valleys. Arrive Tromso in the evening. Dinner and overnight in Tromso.



### **DAY 9 ( September 27 ) Tromso**

Breakfast at the hotel in Tromso. Located 400km north of the Arctic Circle at 69°N, the small city of Tromsø bills itself as Norway's gateway to the Arctic, and there's definitely more than a hint of polar atmosphere around town. Surrounded by chilly fjords and craggy peaks that remain snowcapped for much of the year, Tromsø sits on the eastern edge of Tromsøya, and is linked to the mainland by a gracefully arched bridge.

#### **The Artic Cathedral:**

Today we will have a full day of sightseeing in Tromso. We will check out the iconic Arctic Cathedral, with its beautiful stained-glass mosaic also called the Tromsdalen Church, which was dedicated on November 19, 1965. The cathedral is a landmark visible from the Tromsø Sound, the Tromsø Bridge and when landing in Tromsø by aircraft. The 11 aluminium-coated concrete panels on each side of the roof provide the cathedral's form. The glass mosaic is one of artist Victor Sparre's most prominent works. It depicts God's hand from which departs three rays of light: one through Jesus, one through a woman and one through a man. The glass work contains many symbols and generates considerable attention among tourists.

#### **Cable Car:**

For a fine view of the city and the midnight sun, take the cable car to the top of Mt Storsteinen (421m). There's a terrace and (pricey) restaurant at the top, from where a network of hiking routes radiates.

#### **Northern Lights:**

In Tromsø there is always a good chance of seeing the northern lights in the period September until April. These are the months of the year when it is dark enough outside to see the lights dance across the sky.



**The Artic Cathedral**



**Northern Lights**

Tromsø is in the centre of the northern lights' oval, which means we can see the northern lights even when the activity is low. The northern lights, also known as the aurora borealis, is our favourite natural phenomenon. It is unpredictable and surprising. It can appear almost out of nothing, fade away and reappear in just minutes. Experiencing the northern lights is something you will remember for the rest of your life.

After dinner we will spend the night chasing Lady Green aka the Northern Lights with a private photographer. If we are lucky we will enjoy and experience the spectacular show of the Northern Lights. Dinner and overnight in Tromso.

### **OPTIONAL TOUR WITH CRUISE TO THE NORTHERN MOST REGION**

1 night onboard the Hurtigruten  
Cruise and Excursion to the Arctic  
Circle (North Cape, Alta & Kirkenes).

**Note:** For those who would like to proceed to the North Cape, please see the itinerary below. For those who will not join the this optional tour, they will fly home departing from Tromso airport.



### **DAY 10 ( September 28 ) Morning free in Tromso, afternoon Embark Hurtigruten cruise in Tromso**

Breakfast at the hotel. Free leisure time to explore Tromso on your own. In the afternoon embark on Hurtigruten Cruise to the Northern region. Dinner on board.



## DAY 11 ( September 29 ) Honningsvåg

Breakfast on board the cruise.

Disembark the ship at the Honningsvåg, a cosy little town which is the gateway for cruise passengers visiting the North Cape. Here, you will find quaint shops and delicious Arctic food experiences. The most popular activity is of course a visit to the North Cape Plateau.

### Nordkapp – the North Cape – is the end of the world

We proceed to our North Cape excursion. Nordkapp, also called North Cape is Norway's most northern part and is one of the most popular travel destination of Scandinavia —and for good reason. The North Cape is a monumental natural experience. Along with breathtaking views and unusual climatic conditions, the dramatic cliff allows you to stand at Europe's northern end. The famous point of Nordkapp is the 307 meters (1,007 ft) high cliff, often called as the northernmost point of Europe. It's an unmatched experience to be standing near the northern edge of Norway and look out over the Barents Sea under the polar sky. The cape is marked with a famous globe monument, which demands a selfie or two... or five. When you're ready, head inside North Cape Hall to warm up and learn about life in the High Arctic through a short film and a variety of exhibits. Having reached the northernmost point of our voyage, we'll turn around and begin our drive to Alta (about 3 hours), arriving in the evening.

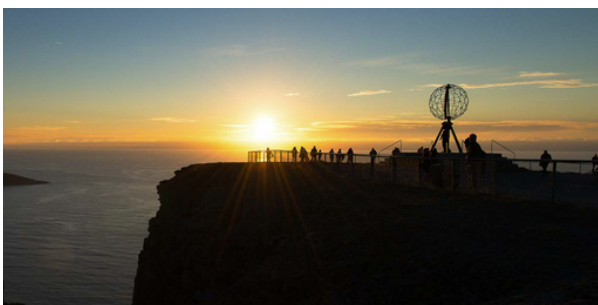
### Alta - the City of the Northern Lights

At 70 degrees north, this town is still far above the Arctic Circle. The area is known for particularly good northern lights visibility, so keep your camera ready. If the skies are clear and the conditions are right, you should be able to snap some amazing shots of the lights dancing above.

Alta became the epicenter of ground-breaking research of the aurora borealis between the 19th and 20th centuries.

Tonight is another chance to look out for Northern Lights during the night.

Dinner and overnight in Alta.



**Nordkapp – The North Cape**



**Alta – The City of the Northern Lights**



## DAY 12 (September 30) Drive from Alta to Kirkenes

Breakfast at the hotel. Arrive in Kirkenes in the afternoon.

### Kirkenes - The Red King Crab City

Kirkenes is located in the extreme northeastern part of Norway on the Bøkfjord, a branch of the Varangerfjord, near the Russian border. We're about 250 miles north of the Arctic Circle and actually as far east as St. Petersburg. Most of the approximately 7,000 inhabitants are of Norwegian background, while a minority is Sami. Others originate from Finland and some 500 immigrants have recently arrived from Russia.

In Kirkenes, we will join a Red King Crab Safari and you'll have the chance to meet and eat this gigantic - and delicious - crab. The red King Crab is not only the biggest, but also the most delicious shellfish you will ever have the chance of tasting. Now it's time for you to make your own deadliest catch, and have it for a delicious dinner.

Kirkenes is the home of a fantastic Kirkenes Snow Hotel. You will have the option (additional expense) to experience your overnight stay in the Snow Hotel or the regular hotel (no added expense). The Snow Hotel is made entirely from snow and ice. Even your free drink comes in a glass carved from ice! This will be a nice experience for once in a life-time! Overnight in Kirkenes.



## DAY 13 (October 01) Take Flight to Reykjavik

Your amazing Norway exploration ends here. After breakfast we transfer to Kirkenes airport for our flights to Oslo.

You have the option to continue your journey in Iceland or return home to USA. If flying to Iceland you will fly to Oslo to Reykjavik, Iceland.

Please see details of the full Iceland Itinerary here.