

GTC

GREENHILLS

TRAVEL CENTRE

NORTHERN LIGHTS

26 Day Small Group Tour

Including: Scandinavian Capitals, Norwegian Coastal Cruise &
Norway in a Nutshell

Fully Escorted from Maitland by Warwick (Curly) Gladman

26 Oct – 20 November 2024

Day 1 | 26 Oct 2024 (B, D)

Fly from Sydney to Copenhagen

Day 2 | 27 Oct 2024 (D)

After clearing immigration and customs, transfer to our hotel for three nights at Hotel Mayfair 4* (or similar).

Day 3 | 28 Oct 2024 (B)

Copenhagen

Hop On Hop Off Pass. See the Little Mermaid, 'Queen Mary's humble abode'. (Any entrance fees not included)

Day 4 | 29 Oct 2024 (B)

Copenhagen

Free day, Hop On Hop Off Pass.



Day 5 | 30 Oct 2024 (B,D)

Stockholm

Travel from Copenhagen to Stockholm by train. On arrival check in to Radisson Blu 4* (or similar), for our three-night stay and have the afternoon free to explore. Tonight, we visit the Ice Bar and enjoy a two-course dinner.

Day 6 | 31 Oct 2024 (B)

Stockholm

Hop On Hop Off Pass. The Abba Museum and Vassa are a must see. (Any entrance fees not included)

Day 7 | 1 Nov 2024 (B)

Stockholm

Free day to explore using your Hop On Hop Off Pass. You will need at least two hours for the Vassa Museum.

Day 8 | 2 Nov 2024 (B, D)

Oslo

Travel from Stockholm to Oslo by train, an evening arrival into Oslo. Just a five minute walk from the train, our hotel The Comfort Hotel Grand Central 3.5* (or similar), is Oslo's most central hotel. Right in the newly opened Ostbanehallen, packed with restaurants, cafes and shops, combined with modern New York style design you get a hotel experience beyond the ordinary.

Day 9 | 3 Nov 2024 (B)

Oslo

Enjoy an Oslo city tour from 10.00am – 3.00pm. This tour includes all the major and 'must see' attractions in Oslo. The bus will take you through the city centre near Oslo, to the Vigeland Sculpture Park and to the Ski Jump at Holmenkollen. You will see the Viking Ships in the Viking Ship Museum, then the unique polar Fram in the Fram Museum or spectacular expeditions of Thor Heuerdahl in the Kon-Tiki Museum.

Day 10 | 4 Nov 2024 (B)

Oslo

Free day to explore at your leisure.



Day 11 | 5 Nov 2024 (B, D)

Kirkenes

Get the early morning train to the airport where we fly to Kirkenes. Upon arrival check into the Thon Hotel 4* (or similar) and enjoy a free afternoon. At 5.00pm we meet for a tour of the snow hotel and dinner.

On this tour you will 365, as well as a three-course dinner in our own unique Lavern Restaurant. Your driver will pick you up in Kirkenes and after a 15 minute drive we will arrive at the Snowhotel Kirkenes. Your guide will escort you to the cosy Gabba Café where you will receive a warm welcome by the fire. Afterwards, it's time to go back up to the warm restaurant to enjoy a three-course dinner made from local, arctic ingredients. After dinner the ice bar is open for a drink and some cool photos before the evening comes to an end. At 8.45pm our driver will take you back to Kirkenes. If you want to stay longer in the ice bar or upstairs in the restaurant you can of course order a taxi later at your own expense. Keep an eye out for the Northern lights, they can appear at any time.

Day 12 | 6 Nov 2024 (B, D)

Kirkenes

Take the day as it comes as we don't have anything planned until the early evening. At 5.00pm join sami artist John Hendrik Mienna for an exclusive journey. We pick you up from your hotel in Kirkenes and drive you to Snowhotel. First we start by meeting our four majestic reindeer. You will learn about reindeer and feed them from your hand with their favourite food tundra food, lichen. Our journey will continue into our reindeer pen where we will walk up to our Lavvu – Sami tent. Here by the camp fire you will hear stories about the Sami both from folklore and from John Hendriks own experiences, culminating with a performance of 'Joik', the unique Sami art of singing. The evening doesn't end here, but goes on as you enter the Snowhotel and get the full scope of the icy majesty on your way up to the Lavern Restaurant where you will enjoy an exclusive arctic three-course dinner.

The dinner is Sami inspired and includes reindeer, the cornerstone of the Sami diet and lifestyle. After dinner you can visit our ice bar before your transfer takes you back to Kirkenes. Enjoy the Sami culture in full both in mind and

palate this winter evening. At 9.15pm it is time to meet at the reception for the Hunting of Northern lights trip. On this bus tour our driver will take you far from the light pollution and drive east towards the Russian border, west towards Finland or south into the Pasvik valley, depending on the aurora forecast. You will be back at the Thon Hotel by midnight.



Day 13 | 7 Nov 2024 (B)

Kirkenes

9.30am transfer to the dog yard for the Husky dogsledding tour. The sledding tracks, made from the snow that is saved from last winter, approx. 5kms. You are driven by a dog mucher with two people together on a sled. (Clothes including thermal suit, boots and gloves will be provided at the start of the activity if needed). At 2.30pm we will visit Andersgrotta WW2 Bomb Shelter. On this tour you will be met by our experienced guide outside Andersgrotta in the centre of Kirkenes and you will be taken inside the cave, which is the biggest WW2 bomb shelter in the area. You will see and learn about hoe civilians lives were during the world war as well as crucial and interesting details of the role Kirkenes played in the war. Included in the tour in a 10 minute documentary film (in English, German and Norwegian Language), based on archives and new recordings. After a busy day enjoy a free afternoon.



Day 14 | 8 Nov 2024 (B, L)

Kirkenes

Today our day starts at 9:30am with the Original King Carb Safari. Our fisherman/guide will pick you up at your hotel and take you to the very short way to our King Crab pier in Kirkenes. Here your guide will help you dress and give security instructions, before going out in the boat. The trip will stop by fishing boats in Kirkenes and you will learn about the King Carb fishing and other fascinating marine facts. Then we will head out and look at WW2 battle stations in the fjord where our guide will tell you interesting facts from the world war. After that we got to pull up the cages and then to 'the other side' to slaughter the crabs. 'The other side' is out little rustic boathouse restaurant across the fjord from Kirkenes. After getting some mandatory pictures with your big catch, coffee and tea is served with the crabs are being steamed. The crab legs are served Norwegian style with bread, butter, mayonnaise and lemon, and our expert will also teach you how to open the legs like a King or Queen. Drinks, wine, beer or mineral water can be ordered by the table. After the meal we head back over the fjord to Kirkenes and you will be driven back to your hotel.



5 night Norwegian Coastal Express Cruise on board MS Kong Harald

About the ship: Built in 1993, refurbished 2023 with a passenger capacity of 590.

For relaxing: Stylish bar with a wide range of beverages, Wi-Fi throughout the ship, large outdoor sundeck with comfortable furniture, shop stocked with snacks, essentials and souvenirs, observation saloon and panorama lounge.

For being active and enjoying food: A range of thought-provoking lectures with the Coastal Experience Team. Snowshoes and walking poles available for rent. Main restaurant 'Torget' for all three daily meals, A la carte fine-dinning restaurant 'Kysten', All-day dinning bistro 'Brygga', icecream and bakery 'Multe as well as Sauna and fitness rooms.

The Coastal Experience: During your voyage, our onboard Coastal Experience Team will enhance your experience by offering engaging insights on the nature, wildlife and culture you encounter along the way. Join one of their expert lectures, listen to them talk about wildlife on deck or head ashore with them on a 'friluftsliv' hike.



Day 15 | 9 Nov 2024 (B,L,D)

Night 1 of Coastal Express Cruise
Kirkenes

Board ship and depart at 12:30pm

Day 16 | 10 Nov 2024 (B,L,D)

Night 2 of Coastal Express Cruise
Mehamn – Tromsø

Included Excursions:

Hammerfest 11.00am. The northernmost town in the world. Join us on a coach tour that explores and explains the events that have shaped Hammerfest, a town at the top of Europe. Enjoy a scenic bus tour of one of the world's most northernmost towns. Learn about Norway's WWII history at the Museum of Reconstruction.

See the UNESCO-listed Meridian Column. Enjoy breathtaking views from Mount Salen Tromsø

Midnight Concert in Tromsø Cathedral 11.45 pm

Join us for a unique musical experience at a memorable midnight concert in one of the region's most beautiful churches. Explore Tromsø's magnificent cathedral, which stands as a landmark in the heart of the city and faces the seaward approach to welcome visitors. In this majestic setting, experience an unforgettable concert performed by the region's leading professional musicians. Lean back on a wooden pew, admire the cathedral's remarkable interior, and embark on a journey through the region's musical heritage.



Day 17 | 11 Nov 2024 (B,L,D)

Night 3 of Coastal Express Cruise

Tromsø – Stamsund

Included Excursions:

Harstad - 8.00 – 12.30 A Taste of Vesterålen: This popular, classic excursion takes you on a sightseeing tour of Harstad and historic Trondenes. Enjoy the beautiful fjord landscape along Kvæfjord before boarding a ferry across the Gullesfjord. We'll begin our excursion with a short sightseeing tour of the streets of Harstad. This is the third largest community in Northern Norway with a history connected to herring fishing, the military, and in more recent times, offshore oil. On a clear day, you should be able to spot Trondenes peninsula to the north of the town. Here, you'll visit a white 13th century medieval stone church, the northernmost of its kind in the world. We'll drop in at the Trondenes Historical Centre which displays objects discovered in the region throughout history, from the early Stone Age through to Viking times, the Middle Ages, and the present day. The museum also has a reconstructed farmstead dating from around 1200 with a granary, forge and stave church. From Trondenes, the bus will take us for a scenic drive across Hinnøya Island to meet our ferry at Gullesfjord. On board, savour a hot drink and freshly made waffles and lefse along with the views. The tour then continues by bus along Sigerfjord to Sortland where you'll rejoin your ship.

Svolvaer - Discover a Fishing Village: The town of Svolvær has been a thriving fishing community since 1828. On this excursion, you'll explore the town's oldest quarter on the adjacent island of Svinøya. As you explore the village, you'll find evidence of Lofoten's long cod fishing heritage. Well-preserved red fishermen's huts, called rorbuer, line the shore on wooden stilts. Although they're no longer used by fishermen, the smell of stockfish drying in the open air proves that the fishing industry is still very much alive in Svinøya. Find out how the fishermen lived, and sample some locally dried and cured stockfish. You'll also get to take some back home as a souvenir! Next, we'll visit a gallery dedicated to local 19th century artist, Gunnar Berg, who was known for his paintings of Lofoten. We then pass a fish restaurant and fish processing plant before heading back across the bridge to Svolvaer town centre.

Stokmarknes - Hurtigruten Museum: Enjoy the scenery as we make our way by bus from Sortland to Stokmarknes, the birthplace of Hurtigruten. On the waterfront, you'll find a full-sized ship encased within a large glass building. Here, our very own MS Finnmarken from 1956 has been lovingly restored and transformed into a museum in honour of The Coastal Express. Hurtigrutemuseet preserves archives, photographs and artefacts that chronicle the birth and evolution of The Coastal Express, our pivotal contribution to coastal communities, and the transformation that had on the Norwegian coast. On a guided tour, you'll get to explore 1956 MS Finnmarken's bridge, galley, engine room, classic dining room, and cabins. Then, you can relax in the lounge from the first ever Coastal Express ship, DS Finnmarken from 1912. With knowledgeable guides and a range of interactive exhibitions, Hurtigrutemusset promises a memorable visit, encapsulating and celebrating the legacy of the original Norwegian coastal voyage.

Day 18 | 12 Nov 2024 (B,L,D)

Night 4 of Coastal Express Cruise

Bodø – Rørvik

Included Excursion:

Visit the Salmon - Brønnøysund

Learn about the salmon lifecycle, as well as salmon fishing and farming in this hands-on tour of the Norwegian Aquaculture Centre in Toft. After a bus tour around the pretty town of Brønnøysund, we'll admire the impressive views as we cross the magnificent bridge to the Norwegian Aquaculture Centre in Toft. There, our guides will tell the story of Norway's vibrant salmon fishing culture. Meet the salmon that grow here and see how they live, then take part in feeding these beautiful creatures. You'll also hear about the different bits of technology that help the salmon from egg to fish. There's even an opportunity to try an underwater camera to see the fish up close. The Norwegian coast's cool and clear waters offer the prime conditions for sustainable and responsible aquaculture. As a result, Norway is one of the world's major exporters of fish and seafood with around 37 million people around the globe enjoying the country's produce. Sample it yourself as we end the tour with a taste of the salmon that's so internationally loved.

Day 19 | 13 Nov 2024 (B,L,D)

Night 5 of Coastal Express Cruise

Trondheim – Ålesund

Included Excursions:

Trondheim With Nidaros Cathedral

Take a bus tour of Trondheim, an ancient city rich in history and culture that also serves as one of Norway's major academic and research centres. Founded as early as 997, this age-old Viking capital is full of culture and history, but it has also established itself as a leader of innovation and Norway's centre of knowledge. A bus tour of Trondheim brings us past the former capital's beautiful red city bridge and old wooden wharf buildings of the Baklandet neighbourhood that have stood along the Nid River since the 18th century. We'll then enjoy the magnificent panorama of the bustling city from Utsikten viewpoint which overlooks nearby Kristiansten Fortress and gives view of Munkholmen island in the fjord.

Next stop is Nidaros Cathedral, Norway's national shrine. Built over the tomb of St. Olav in 1070, it boasts stunning architecture and ornate Gothic-style decoration carved masterfully into the stone. After a fascinating guided tour of the cathedral, you'll pick up a complimentary book about Norway's Notre Dame to take home as a souvenir.

Bergtatt – Magnificent Marble Mine

Travelling from Kristiansund, we're met by our guides at Bergtatt who kit us out with all the necessary gear and give a safety demonstration. We're now ready for an unforgettable journey into the enchanting marble caves. Mining operations have been taking place here since 1938 and are still ongoing in other parts of the mountain. We'll head into the heart of the mountain and board

rafts on the illuminated crystal-clear lake. As we glide along the calm water, we stop to get a taste of the pure water that springs from the rock wall.

We'll then be led to the Grand Hall for a unique subterranean dining experience. Seated at candlelit tables, you'll feast on a meat and vegetable stew, made from local ingredients. Amid this magical atmosphere, we'll watch a fascinating film about the marble mine. After emerging from our underground adventure, we'll board the bus and enjoy a short tour of Molde. And then re board our ship

Day 20 | 14 Nov 2024 (B,D)

Bergen

Disembark and transfer to hotel for 2 nights in Bergen and enjoy the afternoon free.

Zander K Hotel 3.5* (or similar), across the street for the railway Station.



Day 21 | 15 Nov 2024 (B)

Bergen.

Morning Walking Tour. Afternoon free time to use your Bus Pass.

Day 22 | 16 Nov 2024 (B,D)

Voss

PLEASE NOTE: YOU ARE ONLY ALLOWED AN OVERNIGHT/CARRY ON BAG FOR THE NEXT TWO NIGHTS. LUGGAGE WILL BE TRANSPORTED TO OSLO AND WILL BE AT YOUR HOTEL WHEN YOU ARRIVE ON 18 NOVEMBER.

Norway in a Nutshell.

This morning we depart by train for Voss and enjoy one of the world's most scenic rail

journeys as you travel through magnificent landscapes of farmland, forests and glacier capped mountains. On

arrival check in to our hotel and then board the Voss Gondola. Voss Gondola is the largest and most modern

gondola in northern Europe, starting at the Voss train station and ending at the spectacular Hangurstoppen in less than 7 minutes.

Fleischer Hotel (or similar) right at the railway station.



Day 23 | 17 Nov 2024 (B,D)

Flam

Norway in a Nutshell

Check out of your hotel and go by bus to Gudvangen then take a ferry through the breathtaking narrow Naeroy Fjord to Flam. The afternoon is free to explore Flam. Free entry to the Flam Railway Museum. Tonight, we'll savour the local fare with a Viking Plank Dinner.

Flamsbrygga Hotel (or similar).

Day 24 | 18 Nov 2024 (B)

Oslo

Norway in a Nutshell

Travel from Flam to Oslo by Train on the famous Flam Railway to Mrydal where we change trains for Oslo.

Comfort Hotel Grand Central (or similar).

Day 25 | 19 Nov 2024 (B,D)

Depart Oslo for Sydney

Day 26 | 20 Nov 2024

Arrive Sydney 8.45 pm and transfer back to Maitland.

Trip Inclusions:

- Fully escorted by Warwick (Curly) Gladman
- Return transfers to Sydney Airport from Maitland
- All flights and Train travel
- 22 nights Hotel accommodation
- 26 Breakfasts
- 16 dinners.
- 6 lunches.
- 6 day Cruise Kirkenes to Bergen
 - Double/Twin Artic Superior Cabins with window on Middle or Upper Deck.
 - Single Cabins Middle Deck with Porthole. All cabins have shower and toilet.
 - Beverages are included in all meals.
 - Breakfast includes coffee, tea, water, juices, and milk.
 - Lunch and dinner include water, coffee and tea.
 - Alcoholic beverages are not included.
 - City Sightseeing and day tours as per the itinerary.

Want to know more about the ship visit <https://www.hurtigruten.com/en-au/ships/ms-kong-harald>

Remember this is a working ship. Average cabin size is 8-11 sq m.

All day tours and excursions include entrance fees if applicable.

Cruise Optional Excursion:

Snowmobile Trip in the Polar Night \$600

11 Nov Mehamn - Kjollefjord Snow Mobile at night drive yourself 2h 15 m 1.20am – 3.25 am

Join us on an unforgettable snowmobile tour into the polar night across one of Europe's most extreme and exciting natural environments.

Learn how to operate your own snowmobile from experienced instructors. Drive your snowmobile through the night over the mountains.

Hear your guides tell stories about life in Troms and Finnmark county.

Gaze in awe at the Northern Lights if they happen to appear during your ride.



Luggage 23 KG Checked Baggage including carry on 7 kg plus handbag or laptop.

\$16500 Cost per person Twin/Double Share.

Single Traveller Supplement \$5400

Upgrades to Premium Economy or Business Class available

Call to book, only 19 spaces available on this tour

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