

Norway's Arctic Circle



TRIP OVERVIEW

Take a unique journey to witness the stunning Northern Lights from Norway's renowned Aurora Camp. Witness a heavenly ballet of light dancing across the night sky and delight in gliding through the stunning mountains and fjords on Alaskan Huskies and Reindeer sledding adventures. Wander through historic Tromsø, enjoy authentic arctic meals around a warming campfire or traditional tent and exchange stories with the local Sami people.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information that you require for a smooth and comfortable trip to Norway. Please take the time to read this dossier to familiarise yourself with all the aspects of our tour. It includes important information such as visa requirements.

Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

DAY 1: UK to Tromsø

Arrive in Langnes where you will be met and transferred to your hotel in Tromsø.

DAY 2: Tromsø B/L

Following breakfast, it is time to change into your arctic gear for a fabulous day of adventure. Dogsledding with Alaskan huskies is an unforgettable once in a lifetime experience. Glide through stunning picture postcard mountainous scenery. Spend time with the huskies and their puppies before enjoying lunch. In the afternoon visit the historical buildings which were the Macks Ølbrygger brewery up to 2012, when they were re-located after 135 years. Enjoy a guided tour where you will get to know the history of the northernmost brewery in the world. Learn about the ingredients in the beer and the brewing process and visit the microbrewery.

DAY 3: Tromsø B

After the excitement of yesterday's adventure today is at leisure to relax and unwind. For the more active of you an optional excursion will be available, depending on the month of your visit this will either be whale watching or a day cruise, both will offer magnificent scenery and a contrasting view of this stunning island from the sea. In the evening, you will drive to the Aurora Camp for the highlight of this tour, the wondrous Northern lights. Surrounding a campfire with the husky puppies, admire the astonishing array of colours from the Aurora as they light up the sky. Sometimes referred to as the polar lights, this beautiful natural light display is caused by collisions between electrically charged particles released from the sun that enter the earth's atmosphere and collide with gases such as oxygen and nitrogen. The beauty of the lights will quite literally take your breath away.

DAY 4: Tromsø B/L

After breakfast, you will transfer back into your Arctic wear for your short reindeer sledding experience in the Arctic Tundra. After your sledding, listen to stories from the Sami people, and authentic reindeer herders, learn to feed the reindeer and enjoy a traditional meal in a Lavvo (Sami tent) - a perfect ending to a unique day.

DAY 5: Tromsø to the UK or extension B

Following breakfast, you will be transferred to the airport for your return flight to the UK, or remain in Tromsø for your city stay extension.

Please note: Excursions are in shared services, meaning that these excursions are not exclusive to Mercury Holidays customers, however, you will have a local English-Speaking guide present during these excursions ensuring that you have first-hand knowledge at all times. This guide will only be available during excursions.

The Aurora Borealis is a meteorological phenomenon and therefore viewing cannot be guaranteed. The husky and reindeer sledding excursions are weather dependent; if conditions are not suitable, another excursion will be provided and details will be given on your arrival into your resort.

ACCOMMODATION DETAILS & MAP

Accommodation

Your accommodation is selected for convenience, location, comfort or character. Hotel accommodation is generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but please note there is no international classification system for hotels, and differences in facilities and quality do exist between the UK and Norway. All group tours hotels have private bathroom facilities and air-conditioning, where needed. Rest assured that all accommodation used by Mercury Holidays is regularly inspected by our staff and partners to ensure that standards meet your needs. If you have booked a triple share please note that your room will be a twin room with a rollaway bed or sofa bed added. This may limit the floor space in the room.

Please note the hotels listed on our website and brochure are provided for guidance only and final confirmation of your accommodation will be sent in a document, along with your final flight information, approximately 10 days before you travel.

Meals

Breakfast is always western style and served in the hotel each morning. Lunch (when included) will be taken in local restaurants or at the hotel. A variety of restaurants are visited giving you the chance to experience a range of dishes and flavours.



ON YOUR ARRIVAL

On your arrival in Langnes you will be met by a representative from our local agent, **Delta of Scandinavia**, holding a sign displaying: "Mercury Holidays". The Mercury Holidays/ **Delta of Scandinavia** representative will show you to your transfer vehicle. Your national guide will be on hand 24 hours a day should you have any queries, however if you need to contact your representative during your stay the details are:

Delta of Scandinavia

Contact Number: 0045 441 22845

E-mail: delta@delta-scandinavia.com

Emergency contact information

Please find below the emergency contact details for **Delta of Scandinavia**
24 hour contact number: Ms Gabriela 0045 4880 8543

WHAT YOU NEED FOR YOUR TOUR

Visas

A visa is not required for your trip to Norway. Further advice should be sought from the applicable tourist authority for other nationalities and for general queries. We strongly advise you check your destinations' Tourist Board or Embassy for the most up-to-date guidelines regarding passport validity.

Insurance

We strongly recommend that you and all members of your party are suitably insured as soon as you book your holiday. It is a condition of booking that you must have suitable travel insurance. It is important that you purchase travel insurance that suitably covers your participation in whatever activities you may undertake at the time that you make your booking. To assist you with this, we have arranged travel insurance in partnership with Holiday Extras. To arrange your travel insurance with Holiday Extras, please call 0800 781 4237 and quote 'WK830' for preferential rates. Please ensure you provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24-hour emergency contact number as soon as possible. Mercury Holidays will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

Tour Guides - local guides

You will be met on arrival at the terminal by your English-Speaking Driver. Your excursions are in shared services, meaning that these excursions are not exclusive to Mercury Holidays customers, however, you will have a local English-Speaking guide present during these excursions ensuring that you have first-hand knowledge at all times. This guide will only be available during excursions.

Private Tour

If you have booked a private tour then you will be accompanied by a Driver Guide or a Driver and Local Guides. These will be available to you during all scheduled sightseeing. Private Tours can depart on any day of

the week depending on flight and train schedules and the opening days of the attractions. They will follow the itinerary as described in the brochure unless you have been advised otherwise and you will still have all of the same meals, sightseeing and local excursions included.

Tipping

It is customary/at your discretion to tip both your driver and guide. We would recommend to tip approximately 35 NOK (£3) per person per day. This is a total of 140 NOK (£12) per person to budget for tips on your trip. Tips will be collected at the beginning/end of your tour. Tips are accepted in the local currency.

Health and Vaccinations

It is your responsibility to check any health and vaccination requirements applicable to your booked arrangements. We can only provide general information about this. Health and hygiene facilities and disease risks vary from country to country. You should take health advice about your own needs as early as possible and in good time before your departure. Sources of information include; www.fco.gov.uk, www.travelhealthpro.org.uk, www.hpa.org.uk, your General Practitioner or a specialist clinic.

Physical Accessibility

All our tours feature a "Tour Pace" to help find the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights, climb stairs and get on and off coaches and boats. The tour pace for Norway's Arctic Circle is intermediate. A good level of fitness is required as you may be on your feet for approximately four hours in a day, though this will be interspersed with regular breaks and will vary from day to day. You will be walking around the sights, and may be getting on and off coaches, trains and boats and climbing steps which may be irregular. You will stay in variety of hotels throughout the tour. Our guides will always endeavor to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

Group Size

The minimum number of travellers in your group will be 10, and the maximum will be 56. If in the unlikely event there are less than 10 people booked on your tour date, we will endeavour to reduce any disruption to your holiday and try to operate your tour with lower passenger numbers. If we are not able to operate your departure date then you may be asked to change to a different date and a full refund will be made available to you should this alternative not be suitable.

Currency Exchange

The currency in Norway is the Norwegian Krone (NOK). We recommend that you exchange your currency before you leave the UK. It is important that you budget carefully and ensure you have the right form of currency before you arrive in the country. Cash machines will also be available throughout the tour in order to withdraw money in your local currency.

Itinerary Changes

The order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions or for operational purposes. The schedules of the domestic airlines in country are subject to frequent changes. For this reason, we have indicated

approximate times only. Your local guide will inform you of any schedule changes as they are informed of them. Some road construction &/or weather conditions may lengthen the driving times. Our intention is to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover any personal purchases such as souvenirs, laundry, any meals not included in the itinerary as well as drinks and any additional snacks. Approximately £350- £450 per person will be sufficient for the duration of the tour. It is a good idea to try and maintain a supply of small notes and change in the local currency for tipping or small purchases.

Credit Card Information

As normal practice you may be asked for your credit card details on check-in at the hotel in order to cover any extras incurred during your stay. If you do not have a credit card you may be asked for a cash deposit. American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted in hotels.

WHAT TO PACK

- Sunglasses, sunscreen and hat in summer
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Camera and charger
- A plug adaptor - the voltage in Norway is 230 V
- Anti-bacterial hand gel
- Binoculars
- Personal first aid kit containing travel pills, rehydration powder, plasters, stomach settlers, antiseptic creams, aspirin etc
- Small day pack for excursions
- Waterproof, lightweight jacket
- Lightweight clothing
- Sweater and jacket for the cooler months (Warm arctic clothing is included for all activities on days 2, 3 and 4, except for the Northern Light Chase).

FLIGHT INFORMATION

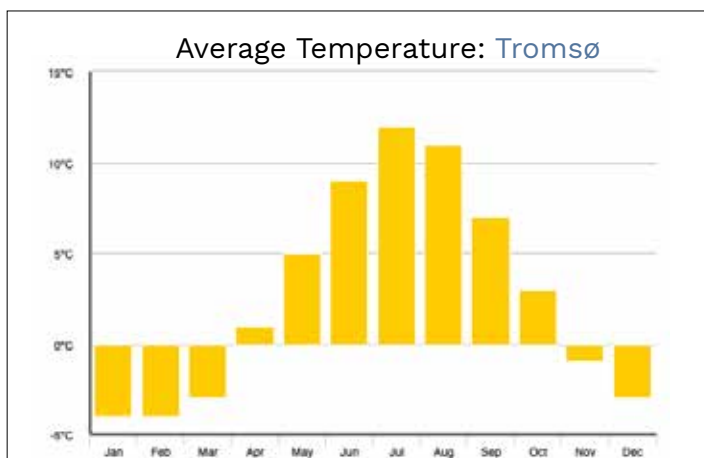
IMPORTANT: Please note that final flight details, including terminal, airline and baggage allowance, will be confirmed on your final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure. A printed E-ticket is no longer required at check-in, all you need to do is present your passport to the staff at the desk and your boarding pass will be given to you.

Airport Extras

If you wish to arrange Airport car parking, lounges or accommodation at preferential rates, we recommend you book this in advance with Holiday Extras Tel. 0871 360 2000, quoting HX313.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE

Weather can vary quite considerably throughout the year, so please familiarise yourself with the climate charts below.



Tromsø City Stay Extension

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so. Please contact 0333 003 0522



TRIP OVERVIEW

Stay in Tromsø for your 2 night extension and discover at your own pace what the city has to offer or simply relax in your hotel. Tromsø is a major cultural hub above the Arctic Circle, famed as a viewing point for colourful Northern Lights. The city's historic centre is distinguished by its centuries-old wooden houses and 1965 Arctic Cathedral, with its distinctive peaked roof and soaring stained-glass windows, which dominates the skyline.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information which you will require during your extension in Tromsø.

Hotel

Your 2 night stay will take place at the 3★ **Thon Hotel Tromsø** on Bed & Breakfast.

Hotel information

Located just around the corner from Storgata, Tromsø's main shopping street, this centrally located and modern hotel offers bright and stylish well-appointed rooms all with TV, minibar and FREE Wi-Fi. A range of attractions are close by including the Polar museum and the Hurtigruten Ferry Terminal.

Hotel Information: Groennegata 50, Tromsø 9008, Norway
Contact number: 0047 77 69 80 50

Any alternative hotels or board basis will have been confirmed at booking. Please speak to our reservations department if you are unsure.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take some extra money with you to cover any lunches or dinners where these are not mentioned on your itinerary and personal purchases, such as souvenirs, extra drinks and snacks.

Please note

This extension takes place after your main tour.



WEATHER AND CLIMATE

