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ASTRONOMY VOYAGE | BERGEN – KIRKENES – BERGEN

Get unique insight and knowledge about the Arctic sky and the greatest light show on Earth, the Aurora Borealis, on this popular voyage along the mesmerising Norwegian Coast. This unique voyage is accompanied by special lecturers - experts on astronomy and expeditions to see the Northern Lights. Through the series of lectures and a guided tour of the night sky from the deck of the ship, your lecturer will bring our galaxy's stars, planets and meteors closer whilst also exploring the numerous myths and legends linked to the constellations in our skies.



ITINERARY

DAY 1 : Bergen

All Aboard! Your astronomy adventure begins in Bergen, the cultural gateway to the fjords and the second-largest city in Norway. If you've time before your ship departs, visit the UNESCO-listed wharfs of the colourful Bryggen district with its artisan shops and cobblestone streets. Just across the street is the famous Fish Market which serves delicious seafood or venture to the Fløibanen funicular which whisks you up Mount Fløyen for breath-taking views of the city. Make yourself at home onboard the ship and enjoy the relaxed ambience, taking the opportunity to meet your fellow guests and astronomers.

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DAY 2 : Ålesund

A day for masterpieces Arrive at the Art Nouveau town of Ålesund, renowned for its stunning and picturesque architecture. Take time to explore the city and its rich Norse history or visit Atlanterhavsparken, one of the largest saltwater aquariums in Northern Europe. You can also make your way up to small Mount Aksla for a panorama of the town and its picturesque position surrounded by islands. In the afternoon, we reach the port of Molde and the amazing view of 222 mountain peaks across the fjord, called the 'Molde Panorama'.

DAY 3 : Trondheim

The Royal City of Trondheim As we journey north, we reach the medieval city of Trondheim, a vibrant mix of historic civic architecture and a bustling student population. Nidaros Cathedral is considered one of the most sacred buildings in all of Norway and rightly nicknamed 'Norway's Notre Dame'. Whilst here, take the time to visit the Archbishop's Palace to view Norway's crown jewels. Not far from Nidaros Cathedral is Gamle Bybro, a charming wooden bridge that sits over River Nid and marks the entrance to the old Hanseatic district of Bakklandet. This neighbourhood features colourful wooden wharves that stand on stilts and host some of the city's most trendy eateries, making Bakklandet a key destination for all foodies.

DAY 4 : Arctic Circle and Lofoten Islands

Welcome to the Arctic! In the early hours of the morning, the ship crosses the Arctic Circle and enters the Arctic. Join us out on deck to mark the moment with a traditional ceremony that will be sure to wake you up fully! Above the Arctic Circle, your chances of spotting the majestic Northern Lights increase. As we call into the northern city of Bodø, gaze up at the snow-capped Børvass peaks before experiencing the fabulous street art this

city has to offer. From here, we continue across the Vestfjord and towards the Lofoten archipelago which greets you with the stunning sight of the 1,000 metre-high Lofoten Wall

DAY 5 : Stokmarknes and Tromsø

Expand your Northern Lights knowledge Welcome to the historic Arctic exploration capital of Tromsø, a hive of culture, history and Northern Lights knowledge. Today you will visit the Science Museum of Northern Norway, learning more about the Northern Lights through a range of exhibits and installations. As part of this trip, you'll stop at The Planetarium and its full-dome ceiling offering 360-degree views and high-quality digital projectors showing daily films about 'Experiencing the Aurora' and the constellations. Our expert astronomers will be joining you on the trip so make sure to ask them lots of questions!

DAY 6 : Honningsvåg

The Northern Lights and the North Cape As we reach Honningsvåg, at the top of the European mainland, be sure to visit the globe monument at the North Cape. This is a popular excursion, so make sure you book early! From Honningsvåg, look out for the striking rock formation called Finnkirka near the entrance to Kjøllefjord village. The building-like pillars were once an ancient sacrificial site for the indigenous nomadic Sami people who still inhabit and herd reindeer in the region today. As we continue north towards Kirkenes, we sail past Slettnes Lighthouse, the northernmost lighthouse in continental Europe.

DAY 7 : Kirkenes

To the top and back again By breakfast, we will have reached the top of Norway and the town of Kirkenes, situated just a few kilometres from the Russian border. The area still retains many influences from Norway's neighbour, from signs in both

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Norwegian and Russian to a monthly Russian market. There is the option to visit the border town of Storskog for views over both countries. It is at this point of our coastal voyage that we turn and return south. The ports we visited at night are now seen during the day for a full Norwegian coastal experience.

DAY 8 : Hammerfest and Tromsø

The extreme north Once the northernmost town in the world, (before Longyearbyen, Svalbard) Hammerfest is a key destination for Astronomy lovers and outdoor enthusiasts. Be sure to trek up Mount Salen, for views over the town and picturesque landscapes. You can also take a moment to see the UNESCO-listed Meridian Column which commemorates the first-ever measurement of the globe. As we sail, keep your eyes open for the Northern Lights, but you might also spot pods of Orcas and Humpback Whales migrating to these waters to feed on herring.

DAY 9 : Vesterålen and Lofoten Islands

Welcome to Lofoten Passing through the legendary Lofoten and Vesterålen archipelagos, the ship negotiates an intricate network of inlets and isles through one of the most beautiful stretches of the Norwegian coast. From here, the coastal landscape changes from rolling hills to soaring mountains. Along this stretch of coastline is where The Hurtigruten Coastal Express story began, in the coastal town of Stokmarknes in 1893. Don't miss the newly opened Hurtigrutemuseet in Stokmarknes, a museum dedicated to The Coastal Express housed in the full-sized and fully restored ship MS Finnmarken from 1952.

DAY 10 : Arctic Circle, Seven Sisters

A date with the Seven Sisters Leave behind the magic of the Arctic Circle and head towards the ports of Bodø and Ørnes. Marvel at the Seven Sisters mountain range where local legend has it seven beautiful troll princesses, fleeing from an unwanted suitor, got caught out as the sun rose, turning them into the seven beautiful mountains you see today. The landscapes will continue to amaze you! Don't miss views of the Torghatten Mountain, with its distinctive hole right through the centre. There is a local legend as to why and how this mountain came to have such a hole. Make sure you ask your Coastal Guide about it!

DAY 11 : Trondheim and Kristiansund

The old cities and the sea An early morning arrival in Trondheim will give you time to further explore the city and discover any sites you might have missed on the northbound section of the journey. Some insider advice: treat yourself to a barista-brewed coffee and Nordic patisserie in one of the many cafes in the Bakklundet district before walking up to Kristiansten Fort for great views over the city. In the afternoon, we dock at Kristiansund, a quaint harbour town spread over three islands. Meander along the cobbled streets of the old town and be sure to sample the local delicacy of klippfisk, salted cod that's dried on the surrounding cliffs.

DAY 12 : Bergen

The final chapter of the fairytale A few nautical miles are left between you and Bergen today as your Astronomy Voyage draws to a close. Before we say our goodbyes, we voyage across the mouth of Sognefjord, the longest and widest fjord in the whole of Norway. As we arrive in Bergen, it's time to say goodbye to the Captain, crew and astronomers who have accompanied you on this unique voyage along Norway's spectacular coastline. However, if you aren't ready to leave Norway just yet, there are

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plenty of extension options that will make your trip that extra bit more special.

Please Note:

The day-by-day programme will give you a few ideas about what you can see and do on your coastal voyage in Norway, but bear in mind that this itinerary is just an indication of what you can experience. After all, this is a sailing where the elements rule and weather conditions might vary, which is why every voyage is unique.



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YOUR SHIP: HURTIGRUTEN SHIPS

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VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

All of our ships include large lounges and deck space affording perfect views to the changing scenery, creating a proximity to nature throughout the ship. This atmosphere give you the energy to participate on our on board activities and excursions, that take you even closer to the coast. On all our ships you will find a wide range of comfortable cabins, from exclusive suites to cosy inside cabins. We have divided them into four categories; Expedition Suite, Arctic Superior, Polar Outside and Polar Inside with different amenities and extras. MS TROLLFJORD Flagship of Hurtigruten's Signature voyages, MS Trollfjord takes its name from a small but spectacular fjord in the Vesteralen archipelago. Freshly refurbished in 2023, MS Trollfjord is an homage both to Norwegian nature and our 130-year heritage sailing the Norwegian coast. Locally sourced natural materials such as wood and stone feature prominently throughout the ship's furnishings, reflecting the beauty of the fjords we sail through. The style of decor is classic, timeless, and unique in our fleet. SPECIAL FEATURES: Two-storey panoramic lounge, 1893 Bar, sauna, fitness room, lecture rooms, 3 restaurants (main dining Flora, Brasserie Árran & a la carte Røst), library, shop, observation deck. MS RICHARD WITH MS Richard With is named

after Captain Richard With. His establishment of the Norwegian Coastal Express back in 1893 had an enormous impact on life along the Norwegian coast. In 2022, MS Richard With was upgraded to a greener hybrid ship. SPECIAL FEATURES: Sauna, fitness room, Explorer Lounge & Bar, 2 outdoor hot tubs, 3 restaurants (main dining Torget, Brygga bistro and a la carte Kysten), Multe bakery, shop, lecture hall, observation deck. MS KONG HARALD Norway's reigning monarch, a seasoned sailor, lends his name to this remarkable hybrid vessel. The vessel features a modern, Arctic-inspired interior. SPECIAL FEATURES: Sauna, fitness room, Explorer Lounge & Bar, 2 outdoor hot tubs, 3 restaurants (main dining Torget, Brygga bistro and a la carte Kysten), Multe bakery, shop, lecture hall, observation deck. MS NORDNORGE Nord-Norge means the northern part of Norway, mostly situated north of the Arctic Circle. The interior decor is modern and Arctic-inspired. SPECIAL FEATURES: Sauna, fitness room, Explorer Lounge & Bar, 2 outdoor hot tubs, 3 restaurants (main dining Torget, Brygga bistro and a la carte Kysten), Multe bakery, shop, lecture hall, observation deck. MS NORDKAPP MS Nordkapp is named after one of the highlights of the Hurtigruten voyage, the northernmost point of mainland Europe, the North Cape (71°N). The ship features a modern, Arctic-inspired interior. SPECIAL FEATURES: Sauna, fitness room, Explorer Lounge & Bar, 2 outdoor hot tubs, 3 restaurants (main dining Torget, Brygga bistro and a la carte Kysten), Multe bakery, shop, lecture hall, observation deck. MS POLARLYS Polarlys is Norwegian for 'polar light', and refers to the natural Arctic phenomenon we pursue in winter. The ship features a modern, Arctic-inspired interior. SPECIAL FEATURES: Sauna, fitness

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room, Explorer Lounge & Bar, 2 outdoor hot tubs, 3 restaurants (main dining Torget, Brygga bistro and a la carte Kysten), Multe bakery, shop, lecture hall, observation deck. MS NORDLYS The name of this ship as well as the art, decor and colours employed aboard are all inspired by the Northern Lights. The delicate aesthetic creates a distinct and unique on-board ambience. SPECIAL FEATURES: Sauna, fitness room, Explorer Lounge & Bar, 2 outdoor hot tubs, 3 restaurants (main dining Torget, Brygga bistro and a la carte Kysten), Multe bakery, shop, lecture hall, observation deck. MS MIDNATSOL One of our best-known ships, MS Midnatsol (previously MS Maud) is named after the Midnight Sun, the phenomenon that occurs in northern Norway every summer when the sun doesn't set for 24 hours. The decor on board is inspired by Norway's stunning nature, reflected in many of the pieces of Norwegian modern art on board. Her bright interiors are appointed in a classic Art Deco style. SPECIAL FEATURES: Sauna, fitness room, Explorer Lounge & Bar, 2 outdoor hot tubs, 3 restaurants (main dining Torget, Brygga bistro and a la carte Kysten), shop, lecture hall, observation deck. MS VESTER ÅLEN MS Vesteralen is one of the oldest and smallest ships, named after an archipelago in Nordland country and the first Coastal Express steamship from 1893. Fresh and lightly refurbished in 2019 and again in 2022, MS Vesteralen has bright, informal public areas and lounges throughout. The last refurbishment included upgrading 32 outside cabins to Arctic Superior standard with double beds, rebuilding 4 cabins into 2 mini suites, upgrading the restaurant, the cafe, the reception area, and the gym, in addition to giving Trollfjord lounge a new look and feel. On a journey with MS Vesteralen, we will have a "behind the scenes" focus where the guests will get an opportunity to get closer to the Hurtigruten heritage, emphasizing maritime operations, logistics and hotel

operations. With a focus on edutainment and engaging activities, we will provide guests with an in-depth knowledge of the different departments and the interaction between them. SPECIAL FEATURES: Panorama lounge & bar, smaller lounges in the front and back of the ship, cafe, 1 main restaurant, shop, fitness room, observation deck. Please Note : the deckplan below is MS Nordkapp and the



deckplans vary.

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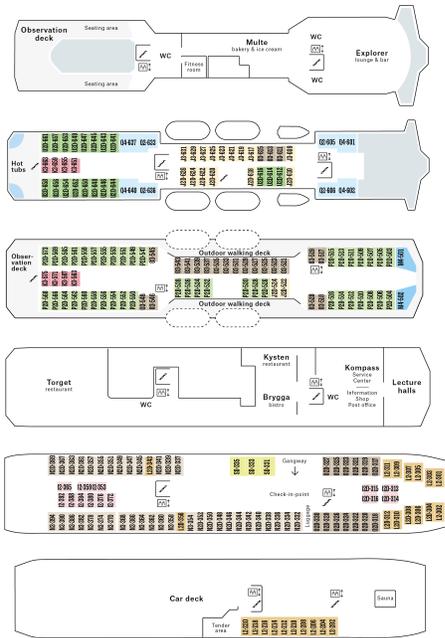
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INSIDE YOUR SHIP



Arctic Superior



Polar Inside



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