

GRAND NORDIC ADVENTURE – FINLAND, NORWAY & ICELAND

Beginning in Helsinki, you'll journey north by rail through Finland's wilderness to Kirkenes, staying in scenic Arctic accommodation. Visit the renowned Snowhotel before joining our iconic Coastal Express voyage to Bergen. Round off your trip by flying to Iceland for a six-day guided tour exploring the island's volcanic beauty.



ITINERARY

Day 1 - Arrive in Finland

Welcome to Finland's capital, Helsinki, and the first day of an adventure that will take you over land and sea, exploring three amazing countries. After arriving at the airport, make your way to your centrally located hotel and check in. This evening there will be a welcome dinner for you, and it's here that you'll meet your tour manager and get to know some of your fellow travel companions. If you have time before dinner, why not explore a bit of Helsinki on foot. The hotel is located quite close to Kaisaniemi Park, which dates from 1812, and is the ideal place to get some fresh air after your journey. Otherwise, just relax and enjoy the hotel facilities.

Day 2 - Getting to know Helsinki

Today we will go on a three-hour tour of Helsinki with an English-speaking guide. You'll enjoy a scenic overview of this



vibrant Nordic city from the comfort of a private bus, seeing modern architecture, historic landmarks, and picturesque waterfront areas. A highlight will be the Sibelius Monument, dedicated to Finland's most renowned composer. Another point of interest - subject to opening hours - is the Temppeliaukio Rock Church. This is a unique architectural landmark built directly into solid bedrock and features a beautiful interior with natural rock walls and a striking copper dome.

Day 3 - Tran ride to the Arctic

As nice as Helsinki is, it's time to leave and begin our exploration as we head north. After breakfast we'll walk over to the nearby railway station and jump on a long-distance train that will take us to Rovaniemi, the regional capital of Finnish Lapland. When you step off the train in the late afternoon, you'll be breathing Arctic air. Upon arrival, a bus will transfer you to your hotel, the wonderfully named Santa Claus Hotel. As the afternoon and evening are at your leisure, feel free to explore this iconic Arctic town and find a nice restaurant or bar. For those who want to, you can join an optional excursion and enjoy a 'Midnight Sun dinner' at the Sky Kitchen and View restaurant.*
*Note: Only available Jun - Aug on Mon, Wed and Fri.

Day 4 - Relaxing with reindeers

Begin your day with a visit to a local, family-run reindeer farm, where you can learn about the traditions of reindeer herding and the significance of reindeer in Arctic culture. During a guided tour, you'll have the opportunity to meet and feed the reindeer, gaining insight into their importance in regional history and sustainable practices. After some free time for lunch, the afternoon offers a relaxing experience of floating in a freshwater lake in Rovaniemi. Wearing a specially designed rescue suit, you can enjoy the calm, pristine waters and the peaceful wilderness environment while staying warm and dry, surrounded by the natural beauty of Lapland.

Day 5 - Arctic bliss under the Midnight Sun

The day begins with a leisurely breakfast at the hotel. Afterwards, we'll embark on a scenic journey northward in a comfortable touring coach with a short stop at the Santa Claus Village, located right on the Arctic Circle. Here, you can enjoy some free time to explore this festive destination and take in the unique surroundings. Continuing our adventure, we'll visit Sodankyla to see its historic old church, one of Finland's oldest wooden structures. A break for lunch provides an opportunity to relax before heading towards Saariselka. Arriving in Saariselka, check into the Midnight Sun Village where you'll be spending the next two nights in a distinctive yet cosy glass-ceilinged cabin. As the sun remains high, the landscape is alive with vibrant colours and natural beauty, creating a truly magical Arctic summer experience. In the evening, enjoy a delicious dinner at the hotel, and soak up the serene atmosphere of this enchanting region.

Day 6 - Hiking with huskies

Today, enjoy either a relaxed morning in the peaceful surroundings, or - if you're feeling energetic - join an optional excursion such as the Electric Fat Bike Safari. After a delicious lunch at the hotel, the afternoon offers a hike along scenic trails in the company of some energetic and friendly Siberian huskies. This is a dog walk with a difference, and you can choose whether or not to have a canine companion. Along the way, you'll learn about local wildlife and plants, pick fresh berries, and maybe even drink from mountain streams. The trek offers a moderate challenge amid pristine nature. In the evening, experience the magic of the Midnight Sun and capture its golden hues with a photography expedition beside a tranquil



lake. The journey continues to a wilderness camp on Lake Inari's shore, where you can enjoy a warm drink and look out at the serene, otherworldly landscape. This day offers a perfect blend of relaxation and adventure in the heart of the Arctic summer.

Day 7 - Discovering Sámi culture

This is our last day in Finland before crossing into northern Norway. Start the day with a tasty breakfast at the hotel to prepare you for the journey ahead. As we depart Saariselka, the scenic drive takes us to the charming village of Inari, renowned for its rich Sami culture. Here, you'll visit the SIIDA Sami Museum, where fascinating exhibits showcase the indigenous people's history, traditions and art. After exploring the museum, enjoy an included lunch featuring local dishes and flavours in the restaurant there. Continuing on our adventure, the route takes us across the border into Norway, heading towards the picturesque northern port of Kirkenes. As evening falls, relax and unwind with a delicious dinner at your hotel, reflecting on the day's experiences.

Day 8 - See the Snowhotel then step onboard

Start your day with a hearty breakfast at the hotel, and the get ready for an enchanting visit to the Snowhotel Kirkenes 365. This extraordinary hotel, built entirely of snow and ice, offers a mesmerising experience regardless of the season - yes, even in summer! During your guided tour, you'll explore the intricately crafted ice chambers and enjoy a welcoming drink. The visit also grants access to the entire park, where you can see reindeer and huskies, as well as places to sit and eat. After this magical experience, you'll be transferred to the Hurtigruten pier in Kirkenes to embark on your maritime journey along Norway's incredible coast. Find your cabin, explore the ship and attend a mandatory safety briefing - your sea adventure is about to begin.

Day 9 - Midnight magic in Tromsø

Our sea journey begins with stops at Mehamn and Kjøllefjord during the night, followed by early morning visits to Honningsvag and Havøysund, bringing us close to the northernmost reaches of Norway. In the early afternoon, we'll arrive in Hammerfest, known as one of the world's northernmost settlements. Here you can admire the UNESCO-listed Meridian Column, browse souvenirs at the Polar Bear Society, or take a short hike up Mount Salen for some amazing panoramic views. Continuing south along Norway's rugged coast, we pass Øksfjord and arrive at Skjervøy, a bustling fishing port we've been visiting since 1896. As we approach Tromsø, you'll enjoy glimpses of the majestic Lyngen Alps, home to some of Norway's highest peaks. The city welcomes us just before midnight - but don't let the hour put you off, you can explore the lively streets under the endless light of the Midnight Sun.

Day 10 - Scenic serenity in the Lofoten Islands

Today's voyage takes us through the jaw-dropping archipelagos of Lofoten and Vesteralen. After departing from Finnsnes early in the morning, our ship calls at Harstad, home to the historic Trondenes Church, said to be the world's northernmost medieval stone church. Next is Risøyhamn, followed by Sortland, where the scenery shifts from gentle hills to towering mountains. We then visit Stokmarknes, the birthplace of The Coastal Express, and explore the Hurtigrutemuseet (Hurtigruten Museum), which showcases Norway's maritime legacy with the beautifully preserved ship MS Finnmarken. Afterwards, sailing along Raftsund, the captain may navigate into Trollfjord, where towering mountain walls seem within reach, before turning around in this dramatic fjord. Keep a lookout for soaring sea



eagles here. In the evening, we arrive in Svolvaer in the Lofoten Islands and then continue past the impressive granite cliffs of the Lofoten Wall, concluding a truly memorable day on 'the world's most beautiful voyage'.

Day 11 - Legends of the Arctic Circle

The ship calls at Bodø in the early morning, followed by Ørnes. After breakfast, we cross the Arctic Circle, marking the moment with a traditional taste of Norwegian cod liver oil. A brief stop at Nesna precedes our journey to Sandnessjøen, the gateway to the magnificent Helgeland Coast. Marvel at the lofty peaks of the Seven Sisters mountain range, and learn the local legend of seven troll princesses turned into mountains. You can't miss the distinctive holed mountain of Torghatten - learn from the Expedition Team about the fascinating mythology associated with it. In the afternoon, we arrive in Brønnøysund, where a walk along Havnegata reveals the lively marina and historic Brønnøy Church. Our day concludes with a stop at the charming fishing port of Rørvik, nestled in the picturesque Vikna archipelago.

Day 12 - Culture, cathedrals and klippfis

We begin our day in historic Trondheim as the city awakens. Take a trip to see the exquisite Nidaros Cathedral, the resting place of St. Olav, and enjoy a stroll across Gamle Bybro bridge for scenic views over the River Nid. Relax in the trendy Bakklandet district with a coffee and some typical Norwegian 'boller' or buns, before ascending Kristiansten Fort for panoramic vistas of Norway's third-largest city. Later, our ship docks at Kristiansund, known as Norway's 'bacalao capital' for its salted, dried cod known as klippfisk. Wander through the cobbled streets of the old town and visit the lively port, with an optional visit to Varden viewpoint to savour a sweeping panorama. The journey then continues to Molde, famed for the Romsdal Alps and nicknamed 'City of Roses' due to the vibrant blooms which typically flourish from mid-June to late August.

Day 13 - Arrival in Bergen at the end of your sea journey

Today marks the final chapter of our Norwegian coastal journey. Last night, we called at Ålesund and Torvik, and today begins with breathtaking views of Nordfjord beneath the majestic Jostedal glacier - Europe's largest. The ship then docks in Florø, offering a chance to admire the charming harbour and marina. As we depart, Stabben Lighthouse comes into view, and crossing the mouth of Sognefjord, Norway's longest and widest fjord, provides spectacular scenery. In the afternoon, the voyage concludes in Bergen, navigating through scenic islands and skerries along Hjeltefjord. Upon arrival, you'll enjoy a guided tour by bus passing historic sites like St. Mary's Church and Haakon Hall, exploring the vibrant fish market and the historic Brygge wharf. The evening offers the chance for a leisurely walk or a scenic ride up Mt. Fløyen for panoramic city views (own arrangements).

Day 14 - Fly to Iceland

This is the day when we say goodbye to Norway, and hello to Iceland. But there's no rush, and the morning is at leisure for you to do some more exploring around Bergen, if you wish. In the afternoon we will fly from the airport in Bergen to Keflavik, which is close to Reykjavik. A transfer will take you to your hotel in the city, and along the way you'll see for the first time the strange, volcanic terrain that makes up much of Iceland. In fact, it was in this area that lava spewed to the surface recently - so keep a lookout for sign of activity such as smoke and steam.

Day 15 - Exploring Iceland's capital



Begin your day with breakfast at the hotel, then enjoy a three-hour Reykjavik sightseeing tour. You'll visit notable landmarks such as City Hall, the National Museum, Hofði house, Harpa Concert Hall, and the Conference Centre. The tour offers insights into Iceland's rich history and culture. One highlight is a visit to Hallgrimskirkja Church, Reykjavik's iconic landmark, known for its stunning architecture and towering presence. Explore the beautifully designed interior, showcasing unique Icelandic artistry and spirituality. The remainder of the day and evening are yours to explore Reykjavik's vibrant streets, local cafes, shops, and cultural sites at your own pace, soaking up the city's laid-back atmosphere.

Day 16 - A day of complete immersion

Today we'll be heading to the famous Blue Lagoon. Relax in the mineral-rich, milky-blue waters, renowned for their supposed healing properties and surreal beauty. The Comfort entrance includes access to silica mud masks at the Mask Bar, a refreshing drink, and towels. Surrounded by rugged lava fields, the lagoon's warm, mineral-laden waters provide a tranquil oasis and a perfect way to unwind. Once you've soaked away all your cares, it's time to get dressed and board the bus again as we travel to our next destination - Selfoss. Along the way we'll stop briefly to admire the colourful geothermal landscapes at Krisuvik, arriving at our hotel in the late afternoon. Please note: if the Blue Lagoon is not open that day, we'll instead go to the Sky Lagoon. Here, with the Saman Pass, you'll get admission, one journey through the Skjol ritual and a towel (but no drink).

Day 17 - Explore the Land of Fire and Ice

Today offers a truly captivating tour of Iceland's amazing south coast. Visit the iconic Seljalandsfoss, a breathtaking waterfall you can walk behind, and nearby Skogafoss, one of the country's largest and most powerful waterfalls. Continue to Reynisfjara, a dramatic black sand beach famed for its striking basalt columns and the view of Dyrholaey, a towering promontory offering panoramic vistas of the coastline. Later, we'll explore the LAVA Centre, an engaging exhibition and cinema that brings Iceland's volcanic activity to life through immersive displays and films. The rest of the afternoon and evening are yours to relax or explore at your leisure, simply enjoying the peaceful beauty and unique atmosphere of this remarkable region.

Day 18 - The Golden Circle tour

After breakfast we'll head out on the iconic Golden Circle tour. Visit Gullfoss, the powerful two-tiered waterfall, and Geysir, where the famous Strokkur geyser erupts regularly, shooting water high into the air. Continue to Þingvellir National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the historic site of the original Icelandic parliament, with dramatic rift valleys showcasing the continent's geological activity. After a day of exploring these natural and historical wonders, we return to Reykjavik in the late afternoon and check into our hotel. In the evening, we'll enjoy a farewell dinner, celebrating the incredible experiences and memories made since we set out. No doubt you'll have made a few friends since we left Helsinki, so now's the ideal time to exchange email addresses and make promises to keep in touch.

Day 19 - The end of the tour

Sadly, all good things must come to an end, and today is the day our tour finishes. After breakfast at the hotel, it's time to check out. If you're not planning to spend some extra time lingering in Iceland, make your way to the airport for your return flight home. We are confident you have had an amazing time on this tour, taking in three Nordic nations over land and sea, and



we hope to see you again in the future.

Please note:

Itineraries are subject to change.



YOUR SHIP: KONG HARALD

YOUR SHIP: Kong Harald

VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:



MS Kong Harald is a tribute to Norway's reigning monarch and his lifelong love of the sea. Named after King Harald V, a three-time Olympic sailor, this hybrid-powered ship offers both tradition and innovation. Refitted with advanced green technology in 2023, it now features battery packs and efficient engines that reduce emissions by up to 25%, alongside modern Arctic-inspired interiors that reflect Norway's natural elegance. Life aboard is warm and inviting, embracing the Norwegian spirit of _koselig_. You'll find three restaurants, a bakery and ice cream bar, panoramic lounges, two outdoor hot tubs, a fitness room, sauna, and the Explorer Bar for relaxing with a view. The Expedition Team offers fascinating insights and guided excursions along the Norwegian coast. With its cosy cabins, eco-conscious upgrades, and maritime charm, MS Kong Harald blends sustainability, comfort, and cultural discovery.



INSIDE YOUR SHIP



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