



The Small Cruise
Ship Collection

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NORTH NORWAY, AURORA BOREALIS & WHALES

The North Norway cruise follows the path of more than one kind of whale as it travels amongst the fjords of Troms. The long Norway nights offer travellers on this expedition an excellent chance to take in the beauty and wonder of the Northern Lights. To see a video about this cruise -please click [here](#). In the far north of the country, about 350 km (217 miles) north of the Arctic Circle, lie the islands of Kvaløya and Senja. Enormous schools of herring gather in the fjords around these islands to live out the winter. This abundance of food creates one of the largest concentrations of biomass on Earth, which in turn attracts large numbers of whales. It is these giants of the sea that this voyage is dedicated to finding. During winter the daylight is limited, but the nighttime hours are far from wasted: North Norway is one of the best areas in the world to see the northern lights, a magical phenomenon that can only be fully appreciated when the sky is clear and dark, with minimal light pollution. This voyage offers ample opportunities to admire the auroras from the remote bays and fishing villages where you'll spend the night. Polar night is a natural phenomenon that occurs in the winter months. The polar night season officially starts in Tromsø on November 27 and lasts until January 15 but technically, the sun already disappears on November 21 and doesn't come back to the city until January 21 due to the city being surrounded by high mountain ranges. In this period, there won't be any daylight but it isn't pitch black either. There is a twilight and a form of weak daylight between roughly 9am and 2pm. Important note: - Tromsø is the base and gateway in which our voyages start and end. These voyages focus on viewing the aurora borealis and whales, and the expedition leader

determines the final itinerary to be introduced during the welcome briefing on day one. The map shows two possible routes that we may take in order to raise our chances for wildlife sightings: The main route (bold line) heads north to the Kvaenangen fjord, very likely to be visited during November to mid-January. The alternative route (dotted line) heads south around the island of Senja, mainly in the period from mid-January till February. The expedition leader will determine the final route. Because of the seasonal occurrence of herring and whales in these fjords, the whale safari cruises take place in winter, when the Northern Norway days are short and the nights long. Whale watching (orcas and humpbacks) is highly dependent on the variable herring stocks in the area, and this is ultimately unpredictable. Other whales (i.e., sperm whales) are not dependent on herring, which is why we have a good chance of seeing them in specific areas, such as along the south route near Andenes. The expedition leader will adapt the sailing plan to maximize your chances of seeing whales. Other highlights of these trips: Arctic Norway (mountains and fjords) and Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis). In the winter the daylight hours are limited, but during the dark hours we have the opportunity to see the northern lights. These amazing phenomena are only visible when it is dark and the sky is clear, and without other disturbing light sources. The trip will provide ample opportunity to admire the Aurora Borealis in the remote fishing towns and bays where we spend the night at the pier or at anchor. In some places the ship will also



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NORTH NORWAY Aurora Borealis & Whales



amount of daylight during the voyage, and the expected location of the whales. You might sail clockwise or counter-clockwise around the island of Senja.

Day 3 – 6: Whales of the shelf

You spend the next several days along the north coasts of Senja and Andfjorden, areas where many whales have been spotted in recent years. Keep a look out for sperm whales and other whale species here. Near Andenes, along the edge of the continental shelf, whales dive particularly deep to feed on giant squid. You may also see white-tailed eagles, one of the largest birds of prey in Europe, vying for their share of the herring. In the afternoon, you find a place for the night in one of the scenic fishing villages nearby, such as Skrolsvik, Andenes, Gryllefjorden, Hamn and/or Sommarøy. Once the sun has set, you can make short hikes along the coast or in small villages - and maybe even catch sight of the aurora.

Day 7 – 8: Under the northern lights

Continuing your circumnavigation of Senja, you sail to the small island of Sommarøy. Here there are good opportunities to see the northern lights as well as embark on pleasant hikes. You spend the last morning of the cruise exploring the island's small bays and white beaches. On day seven, you sail back to Tromsø and arrive around midday. You'll have enough time to shop for souvenirs in town, visit a museum, or simply take a walk in the fresh winter air. After spending the last night on board, you disembark on day eight (Saturday) with memories that will accompany you wherever your next adventure lies.

sail at night.

ITINERARY

South route: (around Senja) Day 1: Paris of the North

Your adventure begins in Tromsø, nicknamed the "Paris of the North," located in an area rich with Norse and Sami history. Enjoy exploring this sub-Arctic Norwegian town, said to have been inhabited since the last ice age. All voyages with s/v Rembrandt van Rijn aim at departing from Tromsø in the evening of day one, while s/v Noorderlicht will set sail in the early morning of day two. All passengers of Rembrandt are kindly asked to board the vessel by 17:00, while passengers of Noorderlicht are welcome to board the vessel between 17:00 and 23:00.

Day 2: In search of Norway's whales

The itinerary depends largely on the weather conditions, the



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These voyages focus on viewing the aurora borealis and whales, and the expedition leader determines the final itinerary to be intruded during the welcome briefing on day one. The map shows two possible routes that we may take in order to raise our chances for wildlife sightings: One route (the described one) heads south around the island of Senja, mainly in the period from mid-January till March. The other route (represented by the dotted line) heads north to the Kvaenangen fjord, very likely to be visited during November to mid-January. Because of the seasonal occurrence of herring and whales in these fjords, the whale safari cruises take place in winter, when the Northern Norway days are short and the nights long. Whale watching (orcas and humpbacks) is highly dependent on the variable herring stocks in the area, and this is ultimately unpredictable. Other whales (i.e., sperm whales) are not dependent on herring, which is why we have a good chance of seeing them in specific areas, such as along the south route near Andenes. Our chances of seeing orcas are minimal, while the odds of encountering other species (for instance, humpbacks) are higher. The expedition leader will adapt the sailing plan to maximize your chances of seeing whales.

Additional note: The coasts and fjords of Norway are renowned for their beauty

In the far north of the country, about 350 km (217 miles) north of the Arctic Circle, lie the islands of Kvaløya and Senja. Enormous schools of herring gather in the fjords around these islands to live out the winter. This abundance of food creates

one of the largest concentrations of biomass on Earth, which in turn attracts large numbers of whales. It is these giants of the sea that this voyage is dedicated to finding. During winter the daylight is limited, but the nighttime hours are far from wasted: North Norway is one of the best areas in the world to see the northern lights, a magical phenomenon that can only be fully appreciated when the sky is clear and dark, with minimal light pollution. This voyage offers ample opportunities to admire the auroras from the remote bays and fishing villages where you'll spend the night.



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YOUR SHIP: REMBRANDT VAN RIJN

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Rembrandt van Rijn

VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

S/V 'Rembrandt Van Rijn' was originally built as a herring lugger. The vessel was rebuilt as a three-masted passenger sailing schooner in The Netherlands in 1994 and sailed in Spitsbergen (1994 - 1996) and in Galapagos (1998 - 2001). The vessel underwent a complete rebuilding and refurbishment program in 2011. The communication and navigation equipment has been completely renewed according to the latest SOLAS regulations. The Rembrandt van Rijn measures 56 meters in length (168 ft.), 7 meters in width and has a draft of 2, 5 meters. The maximum engine speed is 9 knots. She has an experienced crew of 12 on board including two tour guides. The ship can accommodate a maximum of 33 passengers in 16 cabins: 1 Triple Private cabin with porthole (with shower and toilet), 6 Twin Private Inside cabins (with shower and toilet, no porthole), 9 Twin Private cabins (with shower and toilet and porthole). The general interior public areas include a spacious restaurant area so that all meals can be taken together as well as separate bar area and reading table area. There is room to relax, read and socialize. The ship is well suited for expedition cruising among small islands and offers excellent open deck viewing areas, even when under sail. The two inflatable rubber crafts (zodiacs) enable landing

and wildlife viewing opportunities in otherwise



inaccessible areas.



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INSIDE YOUR SHIP



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PRICING



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