



The Small Cruise Ship Collection

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ULTIMATE NORWAY AT CHRISTMAS - ARCTIC EXPEDITION UNDER THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

A Northern Norwegian Christmas Welcome to a quieter kind of Christmas, set against the stillness of the Arctic. Travelling aboard a purpose-built HX expedition ship, you'll journey through Northern Norway's wild coast -- from the Lyngen Alps and Senja to the islands of Vesterålen and Lofoten. With flexibility to follow nature's lead, each day is shaped by opportunity: snowshoeing through quiet forest trails, cruising among icy inlets, or simply admiring the coastal communities in their magical Christmas lights. Live the Nordic Winter Life On shore and on board, experience a season steeped in Norwegian customs -- and shaped by the rhythm of the Arctic winter. Warm up with spiced gløgg and gingerbread, learn the stories behind local decorations and seasonal dishes, and join in festive traditions as Norwegians have for generations. You might step into a centuries-old stave church, dine by candlelight in the Hurtigruten Museum, or raise a toast by a beach bonfire beneath the Northern Lights.



ITINERARY

Day 1 Depart from Tromsø

Lap up the Christmas atmosphere in Tromsø

Backed by snowy mountains, lively Tromsø is the perfect place from which to set out on an adventure. It was the base for many historic Arctic expeditions, including those of Roald Amundsen, and its situation 250 miles north of the Polar Circle has led to it being called the 'Gateway to the Arctic'. Just like the legendary explorers, now it is your turn to set a course for the Arctic.

If you arrive early in Tromsø, we recommend exploring the city before joining your cruise. This time of year is enchanting, with bustling Christmas markets, cafes serving gløgg (hot mulled



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wine) and twinkling lights in every window. From the Fjellheisen cable car, you'll have an amazing view over the snowy city and its festive decorations. Make sure to visit the striking Arctic Cathedral - with its huge stained-glass window.

Day 2 Exploring Lyngenfjord and Alps

Approaching the scenic Lyngen Alps via the Lyngenfjord

For the next seven days we'll be exploring four distinct regions in depth, each with its own outstanding features and unique beauty. The first such region we're likely to visit is Lyngen.

The scenic Lyngen area is a landscape of jagged, snowy mountains, and a magnet for winter activities. Lyngenfjord is over a hundred miles long, and we'll spend our time here going on nature landings, hiking, snowshoeing, kayaking and, if conditions allow, spotting whales from our small expedition boats or the ship's deck.

Later, it's time for a real treat. Inspired by Norway's friluftsliv, or deep love for the great outdoors, we'll gather on the beach and enjoy the warmth of a bonfire on our Day to Dusk - Flames and Flavours experience. With hot drinks in hand and Norwegian treats cooked by our onboard chefs, you'll really feel at one with nature. If we're lucky, perhaps the Northern Lights will put on a display for us.

Day 3 Senja

Discover Norway in miniature

Senja is Norway's second-largest island, and it's sometimes called Norway-in-miniature. With its rugged mountains, sandy beaches, dark forests and idyllic fishing villages, you can see how it earned this name. Free-roaming reindeer wander around the island, so keep an eye out for them.

We plan to visit the historic settlement of Tranoya for a unique experience with some warm Scandinavian hospitality. Learn about ancient Viking culture and modern life in the remote villages of Arctic Norway during the winter months.

In December and January, we'll sometimes be sailing in the dark and at dusk during the day - but this will only enhance our experience, with glittering snowscapes illuminated by the low sun and the starlight.

Day 4 Vesterålen

Enjoy an exclusive adventure

Vesterålen awaits us with its beautiful snow-covered landscapes, ideal for expedition activities such as snowshoe hiking, small boat cruising and kayaking. We plan to spend two days in this region.

It's here that we have our special Into the Night - Dinner at the Museum experience at Hurtigrutemuseet, the Hurtigruten Museum. You'll enjoy an exclusive opening of this heritage setting and dine amid historical artefacts in the old dining room of the ship, MS Finnmarken.

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Day 5-6 Lofoten

Get to know Lofoten in more detail

Sailing from Vesteralen to Svolvær, your Captain and Expedition Leader will chart the day's route based on conditions and opportunities, ensuring we make the most of what the region has to offer.

If conditions allow, we'll venture into Trollfjord, where narrow waters are framed by sheer-sided cliffs, Or we'll cruise between rugged peaks through the Raftsundet Strait. Whatever route we take, you'll be immersed in striking scenery. And as we navigate dramatic fjords, the mountains rise so close to the ship you'll feel like you could reach out and touch them.

In winter, the Lofoten Islands transform into a snow-covered wonderland. Narrow fjords, hidden beaches between towering mountains and picturesque fishing communities are all ideal to visit with a small ship like MS Spitsbergen.

One such community is Svolvær. As Christmas nears, the streets and homes are decorated with beautiful lights - wander around and simply soak up the festive atmosphere.

To top it off, you'll also get to enjoy your second special experience, a Nordic Sauna and Polar Plunge. Embrace a revitalising Norwegian tradition as you relax in the warmth of a sauna before taking a thrilling polar plunge.

Day 7 Christmas in Lofoten

A Jul to remember

In Norway, Christmas Eve is the first day of Christmas - or Jul, as the Norwegians say. We'll enjoy a lovely day as we sail around the Lofoten Islands, seeking out landings to get closer to nature - perhaps it will be a beach covered in snow! We may head out in our small expedition boats to explore between remote islands or even get out the kayaks.

Later, on board, you'll feel the Christmas spirit all around you. Decorations, Christmas singing, storytelling, hot chocolate and gløgg - could there be a better place to be at this special time of year? In the evening you'll enjoy a special Norwegian-themed dinner - or julebord - and afterwards the celebrations will continue.

Day 8-9 Towards Tromsø

Enjoy Christmas Day in serene Norwegian beauty

Today is Christmas Day, and we'll continue to enjoy the uniquely festive onboard atmosphere, but with added adventure. We'll stay sheltered in the deep fjords as we make our way back towards Tromsø - at each turn there will be a new island or mountain. Along the way we have plenty of time to scout out landing sites in our small expedition boats, and to go on nature walks and take part in other activities.

The scenery continues to be stunning as we pass through these

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inner waters, with the magical winter light playing softly on the sea and mountains. We also pass through areas where we're likely to see whales. While on board, enjoy the Arctic scenery from the ship, warm up in the sauna or join the Expedition Team to listen to talks and attend discovery sessions in the Science Centre.

[Day 10 Return to Tromsø](#)

Another opportunity to explore Tromsø

Your Christmas expedition cruise ends back in Tromsø. If you didn't have an opportunity to explore this beautiful town before the cruise, make sure you do now. There's so much to see and do here.

Please note:

Itineraries are subject to change.



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YOUR SHIP: SPITSBERGEN

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Spitsbergen

Expedition Passenger Capacity:

335 Built / refurbished: 2009 /

VESSEL TYPE:

2016

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

Completely rebuilt in 2016, the 100 metre MS Spitsbergen features high technical standards as well as comfortable, modern public areas and cabins. The vessel's fresh Scandinavian design reflects a colour palette derived from the sea. She is modern and environmentally progressive, and further improvements that will reduce emissions and fuel consumption even more are in process. The new ship's maneuverability and optimal size make her quite suitable for exploring polar waters of both the Arctic and Antarctica. Spitsbergen has a wide range of facilities including a sauna, fitness centre and hot tub, several bars and restaurants and a panoramic lounge. MS Spitsbergen has an on-board Expedition Team and serves as a university at sea. Interesting lectures inside the ship as well as out on the sun deck make this an exciting and educational journey. Topics depend on the season and the waters we sail in. The Expedition Team host a lecture programme and evening gatherings daily. Out on deck you can participate in live points of interest to learn more about the nature, culture and other phenomena we encounter along the coast. In addition, the Expedition Team will

introduce you to the uniquely Norwegian notion of 'friluftsliv' (outdoor life), and encourage you take part in 'friluftsliv' hikes and activities during the journey. Ship Facilities Compass Service Centre Brygga bistro Shop Torget main dining Wi-Fi Lift Guest launderette Panoramic deck 8 Outside bar for events,



decks 7 & 8



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INSIDE YOUR SHIP

Arctic Superior. From

Expedition Suite. From



Polar Inside. From

Polar Outside. From



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PRICING

18-Dec-2027 to 27-Dec-2027

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Polar Outside. From | £5395 GBP pp |
| Polar Inside. From | £4609 GBP pp |
| Arctic Superior. From | £6455 GBP pp |
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