

ULTIMATE NORWAY AT CHRISTMAS - ARCTIC EXPEDITION UNDER THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

Arctic Winter Wonderland at Christmas Setting out from Tromsø, explore four spectacular regions and experience a magical Christmas with snow covered landscapes . As we spend an exciting week witnessing the glacial majesty of the Lyngen Alps, the dramatic beauty of the Lofoten Islands, the forested mountains of Vesteralen and the serenity of Senja, you'll see snow-frosted mountains, deep blue fjords, cosy villages decked with twinkling Christmas lights and - with luck - the ethereal Northern Lights overhead. This time of year can be fully dark in the north, making it a magical time to enjoy an intimate Scandinavian voyage and a unique festive onboard experience. Set a Course for Adventure with the True Norway Experts We've been sailing Norway's coast since 1896, and nobody knows the region like we do. Using our expertise and with a flexible itinerary, we'll head out in our small expedition boats to the best and most beautiful islands and beaches. Here you'll enjoy activities such as snowshoeing, hiking and kayaking. What's more, three unique and bespoke adventures mean you'll experience a beach bonfire under the stars, a Nordic sauna and polar plunge, and an after-hours heritage dinner at a museum reserved exclusively for us.



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 a historic Arctic expedition, 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'.

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 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.



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, 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. The Lyngen Fjord is over a hundred miles long, and we'll spend the day going on a nature landing, with hikes, snowshoe walks and - if conditions allow - kayaking.

Later, it's time for a real treat. After our active day we'll gather on the beach and enjoy the warmth of a bonfire. With hot drinks in hand, Norwegian foods 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.

Please note, this is an exploration week and the actual route taken may vary from the text above.

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'll visit a local community and experience some warm Scandinavian hospitality. Learn about the Sami culture, and life in remote villages during the winter months.

During this Christmas season, 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.

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Day 4 Vesterålen

Enjoy an exclusive adventure

Vesteralen awaits us with its beautiful snow-covered landscapes - the perfect place for expedition activities such as snowshoe hiking, small boat cruising and morning kayaking.

In the afternoon we enjoy another bespoke adventure when we spend an evening at the Hurtigruten Museum. Here, we'll enjoy an exclusive opening and be served a Christmas themed dinner in this very special heritage setting.

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Day 5 Lofoten

Get to know Lofoten in more detail

Sailing from Vesteralen to Svolvaer to, we aim to cruise through the Raftsunde strait to Trollfjord, passing between towering cliffs. As we do so, you'll enjoy great views from the deck, and we sail so close to the sides it feels like you can almost touch them!



In winter, the Lofoten Islands transform into a snow-covered wonderland. Narrow fjords, hidden beached between towering mountains and picturesque fish villages are all ideal for a small ship like MS Spitsbergen. Embark on a fishing trip from Svolvaer, or relax in a traditional Nordic sauna before taking a thrilling polar plunge - sure to revitalise you!

Get a taste of Svolvaer when our ship stays late into the night here. It's a small town, but it's the biggest you'll find in these islands, and there are a few cosy restaurants and bars here if you fancy trying a Lofoten snack or brew. As Christmas nears, the streets and homes are decorated with beautiful lights - wander around and simply soak up the festive atmosphere.

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Day 6 Exploring Lofoten

A Christmas Eve 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.

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Day 7 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 inner waters, with the magical winter light playing softly on the sea and mountains. We also pass through areas where we're most likely to see whales. While on board, enjoy the Arctic scenery from the ship, perhaps enjoying another cinnamon bun or mug of hot chocolate as the sublime Arctic scenery glides past.

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Day 8 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.



YOUR SHIP: SPITSBERGEN

YOUR SHIP:	**Spitsbergen**
VESSEL TYPE:	**ExpeditionPassenger Capacity: 335Built / refurbished: 2009 / 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 teh 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

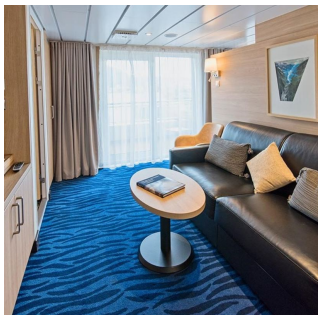


INSIDE YOUR SHIP

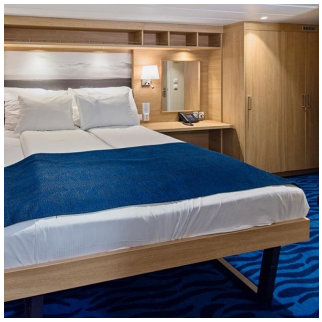
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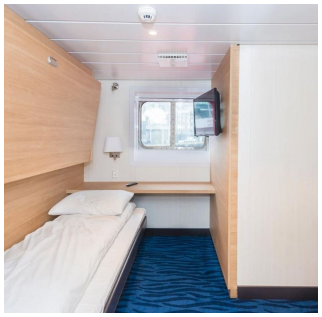
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