

***SCANDINAVIA
&
NORWAY
CRUISE***



MY TRAVEL EXPERIENCE

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Scandinavia with Hurtigruten Cruise & Flights

Duration: 15 days

Stay: 7 nights hotels, 1 night cabin, 5 nights cruise, overnight flight

Travel style: Escorted tour & cruise with flights from Australia

Booking code: SCHV15M

Call 1300 168 910 to speak to experts at My Travel Experience

Email hello@mytravelxp.com

15 Days Scandinavia Tour & Cruise with Flights

About the holiday

Incredible sightseeing and unforgettable experiences await you on a magnificent winter wonderland journey through Norway and Finland!

Absorb the beautiful landscapes, vibrant towns and rich history, from Helsinki to Bergen, with so much in between. Board the iconic 'Santa Claus Express' for a fantastic train journey into the heart of Lapland. Experience the excitement of mushing a dog team during an exhilarating husky ride through the enchanting snowy forest. Plus, cross of the Arctic Circle and chase the spectacular Northern Lights with an unforgettable night in glass-roofed cabin.

Embark on a stunning Hurtigruten voyage that will treat you to some of the best scenery of the Norwegian coast, including Senja, the Vesterålen archipelago, the stunning Lofoten Islands and the Helgeland Coast.

This thrilling tour and special cruise combination will have you buzzing with astounding travel moments!

Why you'll love this tour...

- Discover the Nordic delights of Finland and its spectacular Lapland
- Experience the Norwegian Coastal Express cruise from Kirkness to Bergen
- Travel at the best time of the year to witness the breathtaking Northern Lights
- Return flights from Australia are included

Travel dates:

2025 - Departs Australia 04 & 12 January, 08 February & 21 March

Departures are subject to confirmation at time of booking. Price will vary depending on your travel date. Please contact us for your preferred date or other travel options.

Call 1300 168 910 or email hello@mytravelxp.com for current deals.



Escorted Tour & Cruise Includes:

- Return economy airfares from Australia, to Helsinki & from Bergen
- 7 nights in quality 3 & 4-star hotels
- 1 night in a glass-roofed Aurora cabin
- 5 nights on board Hurtigruten Norwegian Coastal Express voyage, southbound
- Breakfast daily, plus 5 lunches and 9 dinners
- Fully escorted by a professional English-speaking tour guide & cruise director
- Comfortable, dedicated transportation throughout the tour
- Sightseeing as per itinerary
- Entry to TempPELLIAUKIO Church & SIIDA Museum
- Husky & reindeer safaris through the Scandinavian wilderness
- Santa Claus Express train ride from Helsinki to Rovaniemi

Package excludes:

- Airport transfers
- Meals & sightseeing not specified in the inclusions or itinerary
- Optional tours & shore excursions
- Personal items, such as drinks, snacks, laundry, WiFi access etc.
- Cruise gratuities & tips for guides, representatives & drivers
- Travel insurance is essential
- Prices are based on twin share, please contact us for single rates

Subject to confirmation by airlines, hotels, tour company, cruise line & local operators.

Booking conditions & cancellation fees apply.

Any questions, please call 1300 168 910 or email
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Highlights:

- Incredible sightseeing, including a city tour of Helsinki
- Cross the Arctic Circle and chase the spectacular Northern Lights
- Entry to Temppeliaukio Church and SIIDA Museum
- Be treated to some of the best scenery of the Norwegian coast, including Senja, the Vesterålen archipelago, the stunning Lofoten Islands, and the Helgeland Coast
- Enjoy the excitement of husky and reindeer safaris through the Scandinavian wilderness
- Spend a night in a magical glassed-roof Aurora cabin under Saariselkä's starry skies, looking for the northern lights
- Cruise southbound aboard the signature Hurtigruten Norwegian Coastal Express
- Ride the Claus Express train from Helsinki to Rovaniemi

Itinerary:

Day 1 - Fly from Australia to Helsinki

Prepare to be inspired. Depart today for your journey to Scandinavia.

Note: Some flights may depart a day earlier

Day 2 - Arrive Helsinki

Welcome to the White City of the North, Helsinki! Finland's buzzing capital city is best-known for its art and culture, and innovative architecture.

From Helsinki airport, make your own way to the hotel and spend the rest of the day at your own leisure. Take this day at your leisure to discover the unique charm of this quirky city. In the evening, join the rest of the group and your English-speaking Tour Manager for a welcome dinner.

Note: If you arrive before the standard check-in time of 3 PM local time, you are welcome to leave your luggage with the hotel reception until your room is ready. Early check-in may be possible, but it is subject to availability and at the hotel's discretion.

Hotel - Radisson Blu Seaside or Similar

Meals - Dinner

Day 3 - Helsinki

Start your day with a delicious breakfast at the hotel. This morning, accompanied by our English-speaking Tour Manager, we will embark on a guided tour of the Temppeliaukio Church, locally known as the 'Rock Church.' This unique structure, completed in 1969, is one of Helsinki's most iconic attractions, carved directly into solid rock. Our local guide will lead us on a two-hour tour of Helsinki, the capital of

Finland, often called the "Daughter of the Baltic Sea" or the "White City of the North."

During this tour, you will gain insights into Finland's rich culture, history, and traditions. We will visit notable landmarks including Senate Square with its famous Cathedral, the Market Square, the orthodox Uspenski Cathedral, the Olympic Stadium, the Parliament, Finlandia Hall, the Sibelius Monument, and the Temppeliaukio Church. The tour includes entrance to the Rock Church, subject to its opening.

Hotel - Radisson Blu Seaside or Similar

Meals - Breakfast

Day 4 - Helsinki - Santa Claus Express - Rovaniemi

This morning, we will transfer from the hotel to Helsinki railway station to board the iconic 'Santa Claus Express.' This modern and comfortable train will take us from Helsinki to the heart of Lapland, the official home of Santa Claus. Onboard dining is available at your own cost, making it a pleasant journey to the pristine north. Upon our arrival in Rovaniemi, we will transfer from the railway station to the hotel for check-in.

Hotel - Scandic Pohjanhovi or Similar

Meals - Breakfast

Day 5 - Rovaniemi

Today, experience one of the highlights of any visit to Finnish Lapland: a thrilling husky safari in the magical snowclad countryside. The 2.5-hour Happy Trail Tour includes a 45-minute self-driven husky ride covering approximately 6-10 km. This adventure is the perfect way to enjoy the excitement of mushing a dog team. You'll meet the dogs, learn how to drive your sled, and then embark on an exhilarating dash through the enchanting snowy forest.

After the safari, you'll have time to mingle with the huskies, take some memorable photos, and enjoy a snack with juice and cookies around the fire. You'll also have the opportunity to learn fascinating facts about sled dogs and create lasting memories. To warm you up after the husky safari, we will serve hot berry juice.

Hotel - Scandic Pohjanhovi or Similar

Meals - Breakfast

Day 6 - Rovaniemi - Pyhä

This morning, we will depart from Rovaniemi and visit Santa Claus' Village for a couple of hours of Christmas magic. Here, you'll cross the Arctic Circle and have plenty of time to enjoy the village's many charms and fun activities, such as meeting Santa's reindeer, perusing the souvenir shops, or exploring Snowman World. You can even send a postcard from Santa's post office, staffed by his postal elves, which will bear a special Arctic Circle postmark not available anywhere else. And, of course, you can meet Santa himself.

In the afternoon, we will continue our journey north for a special overnight stay. Tonight, we will be bedding down in incredible 21st-century igloos. These glass-roofed structures allow you to sleep right beneath the starry skies, and with any luck, the Northern Lights. Each cabin is extremely well-insulated to ensure guests remain comfortable even in the coldest temperatures.

Hotel - Northern Lights Village or Similar

Meals - Breakfast, Dinner

Day 7 - Pyhä - Saariselkä

In the morning, we will depart from Pyhä and continue our journey north to Saariselkä. Along the way, we will make a quick stop in Sodankylä to view one of Finland's oldest wooden churches from the outside. Upon arrival in Saariselkä, we will check into our hotel. The remainder of the day is yours to explore this charming village at your leisure. You might also choose to join one of the many optional excursions available locally.

Hotel - Santa's Hotel Tunturi or Similar

Meals - Breakfast, Dinner

Day 8 - Saariselkä

Today's program features another highlight of any visit to Finnish Lapland: a short Reindeer Safari. You will be introduced to the ancient Lappish mode of transport, the reindeer sleigh. In the old days, this was the only means of winter transportation for the people of Lapland, with sleighs often pulled by 25 to 30 reindeer in a long caravan. During this 2-hour safari, you'll experience this traditional and peaceful way of moving through the snowy landscape, with the only sound being the soft glide of the sleigh. The remainder of the day is at your leisure, providing more opportunities to try one of the many optional safaris or explore the area at your own pace.

Hotel - Santa's Hotel Tunturi or Similar

Meals - Breakfast

Day 9 - Saariselkä - Inari - Kirkenes

Travel to Kirkenes today, with a stop in Inari to visit the SIIDA Museum, which offers an insightful look into Sami culture and the natural environment of northern Finland. After exploring the museum, we will continue our journey, crossing the border into breathtaking Norway and eventually arriving in Kirkenes. Upon arrival, you will also have the opportunity to visit the SnowHotel Kirkenes, where you can enjoy an included ice drink.

Hotel - Thon Hotel Kirkenes or Similar

Meals - Breakfast, Dinner

Day 10 - Kirkenes - Board Cruise

After breakfast, make your way to the Hurtigruten cruise terminal in time for your coastal voyage to Bergen.

In the port of Vardø, you'll find the star-shaped Vardøhus Fortress, built in 1737. The northernmost fortification of any kind, it remains a part of the military to this day. We cruise Norway's coastline to arrive in the small port of Båtsfjord in the evening and then on to Berlevåg. You might be able to make out Mount Tanahorn to the west, or see Kjølnes Lighthouse blinking atop a cliff overlooking the Barents Sea.

Time in port:

Kirkenes: 09:00 - 12:30

Vardø: 16:05 - 17:00

Båtsfjord: 20:00 - 20:30

Berlevåg: 22:25 - 22:35

Accommodation - MS Polarlys, MS Kong Harold or Similar

Meals - Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 11 - Hammerfest

We make stops at Mehamn and Kjøllefjord during the night before early morning visits to Honningsvåg and Havøysund. In the early afternoon, you'll spend time in Hammerfest, which has the largest population on a list of the world's northernmost settlements. See the UNESCO-listed Meridian Column, shop for souvenirs at the Polar Bear Society, or take the path behind the town to the viewpoint atop Mount Salen.

Continue cruising Norway's coastline south to Øksfjord and then to Skjervøy, surrounded by mountain peaks. Hurtigruten ships have been docking at this vital fishing port since 1896. You might spot orcas and humpback whales that gather here to feed on herring. As we make our way to Tromsø, you might also glimpse views of the Lyngen Alps which boast some of the highest peaks in all of Norway.

Time in port:

Mehamn: 01:20 - 01:30

Kjøllefjord: 03:25 - 03:35

Honningsvåg: 05:45 - 06:00

Havøysund: 08:00 - 08:15

Hammerfest: 11:00 - 12:45

Øksfjord: 15:50 - 16:05

Skjervøy: 19:30 - 19:45

Tromsø: 23:45 - 01:30

Accommodation - MS Polarlys, MS Kong Harold or Similar

Meals - Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 12 - Svolvær

Today, you'll be exploring the archipelagos of Lofoten and Vesterålen, real highlights of our Norway scenic route. After Finnsnes early in the morning, the ship calls at Harstad where the white-washed Trondenes Church, the world's northernmost medieval stone church, sits on the peninsula.

Next is our smallest port of call Risøyhamn and then Sortland, where the landscape slowly transforms from hills to 1,000-metre-high mountains. Stokmarknes is where Captain Richard With began The Coastal Express in 1893. Visit Hurtigrutemuseet, a ship-in-a-bottle building that chronicles our legacy, centred around retired ship MS Finnmarken from 1956.

Sailing along Raftsund, the Captain may choose to take the ship into tiny Trollfjord if the weather allows. The mountain walls will look so close that you'll think you can reach out and brush them! To exit the fjord, the ship will rotate 180 degrees on the spot, then sail back out. Remember to look out for sea eagles here too. We reach Svolvær in the evening. The huge mountain that sits above the town is named the Svolvær Goat due to its supposed resemblance. See if you agree! The ship then sails for Stamsund, eventually passing the giant granite cliffs of the Lofoten Wall.

Time in port:

Tromsø: 23:45 - 01:30

Finnsnes: 04:20 - 04:40

Harstad: 08:00 - 08:30

Risøyhamn: 10:45 - 11:00

Sortland: 12:30 - 13:00

Stokmarknes: 14:15 - 15:15

Svolvær: 18:30 - 20:30

Stamsund: 22:15 - 22:30

Accommodation - MS Polarlys, MS Kong Harold or Similar

Meals - Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 13 - Brønnøysund

The ship calls at Bodø in the small hours of the morning and then Ørnes at 7am. We then cross over the Arctic Circle just after breakfast. Commemorate the moment with a tradition of tasting a spoonful of good ol' Norwegian cod liver oil!

Make a short stop at Nesna before sailing on to Sandnessjøen, gateway to the magnificent Helgeland Coast. Admire the stunning landscape of the Seven Sisters mountain range, with peaks up to 1,100m high. The tale goes that 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.

You'll also not want to miss views of Torghatten Mountain, with the distinctive hole in it. There is a local legend as to why and how this mountain came to have such a hole. Make sure you ask your Coastal Experience Team about it!

We reach Brønnøysund mid-afternoon. Explore the bustling marina on a walk along Havnegata. In the centre of town is Brønnøy Church: a stone church in the Neo-Gothic style dating back to 1870. Our last stop of the day is the cosy fishing port of Rørvik in the picturesque Vikna archipelago.

Time in port:

Bodø: 02:30 - 03:30

Ørnes: 06:25 - 06:35

Nesna: 10:25 - 10:35

Sandnessjøen: 11:45 - 12:15

Brønnøysund: 15:00 - 17:25

Rørvik: 21:00 - 21:30

Accommodation - MS Polarlys, MS Kong Harold or Similar

Meals - Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 14 - Trondheim

Stroll around Trondheim in the early morning as the city wakes. Visit the sacred Nidaros Cathedral, resting place of St. Olav. Then, walk to Gamle Bybro bridge for a photo opportunity over Nid River. Treat yourself to quality coffee and a Nordic patisserie in one of the Baklandet district's many chic cafés then walk up to Kristiansten Fort for great views of Norway's third largest city.

Then continue to sail past beautiful island scenery and some of Norway's smallest communities. Dock at Kristiansund's harbour in the late afternoon. The town is spread over three islands and known for being Norway's "Bacalao Capital" for the salted cod that's dried on the surrounding cliffs, called klippfisk in Norwegian. Take a walk around the cobblestone streets of the old town and tour the lively port. You can also head up to the old watchtower at Varden viewpoint for a lovely panorama. The penultimate port of the day is Molde where you can spot the tops of the Romsdal Alps. Nicknamed "The City of Roses", flowers should be in bloom between mid-June and late August.

Time in port:

Trondheim: 06:30 - 09:30

Kristiansund: 16:30 - 17:30

Molde: 21:15 - 21:45

Accommodation - MS Polarlys, MS Kong Harold or Similar

Meals - Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 15 - Arrive Bergen - Fly to Australia

Our Norwegian coastal cruise will reach its end later today. During the previous night, we'll call at Ålesund and Torvik. On our approach to Måløy, you might catch a glimpse of the northbound Coastal Express if you're up early enough. You'll have a chance to glimpse Nordfjord, under the enormous Jostedal Glacier, mainland Europe's largest. The ship then docks at Florø in the morning where you can take in the harbour and marina. Leaving Florø, you'll spot Stabben Lighthouse, a favourite subject for photographers. There are also stunning views to enjoy as we cross the mouth of Sognefjord, the longest and widest fjord in the whole of Norway.

As we reach our final port in the afternoon, the ship will navigate through the last islands and skerries of our Norway scenic route, and sail down Hjeltefjord to arrive into Bergen.

Sadly, it's time to say farewell to the Captain, crew, and fellow guests. Then make your own way to the airport in time for your departing flight and start of the journey back home. We hope you've had a wonderful holiday with My Travel Experience.

Time in port:

Ålesund: 00:30 - 01:20

Torvik: 02:35 - 02:45

Måløy: 05:45 - 06:00

Florø: 08:15 - 08:30

Bergen: 14:45

Meals - Breakfast

Please note: The day-by-day descriptions are intended as an indicative guide only. Travel by nature is unpredictable. Weather patterns, sea conditions, road accessibility, public holidays, travel restrictions and many other factors may necessitate itinerary changes that are ultimately for the client's benefit. It is essential that clients are flexible in this regard.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact our expert travel designers on 1300 168 910 or email hello@mytravelxp.com

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This is a summary in brief for our customers:

1. Upon making a reservation with My Travel Experience you will receive a booking form, which needs to be filled out and signed to confirm that you agree to the terms and conditions.
2. Your booking will then be confirmed to you in writing and you will be required to make a payment to hold your reservation.
3. At this time, you must take out travel insurance for your holiday to protect you against any unforeseen circumstances.
4. 120 days prior to departure you will be asked to make the balance payment for your trip, unless full payment was required at time of booking.
5. 10 days prior to departure you will be sent your travel documents via email.

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If you wish to cancel you must notify us of your cancellation in writing. We will then write to the Suppliers to cancel your booking and request a refund (if applicable) for any elements of your holiday that are refundable. You will need to make an insurance claim for any travel arrangements that are non-refundable. If you have any issues during the refund or cancellation process, you have 30 days to contact our office in writing to lodge a complaint so an immediate resolution can be found for you.

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