



## Itinerary

### 15 Day North Cape Astronomy Voyage

**\*IMPORTANT NOTE: This is the default version of the tour itinerary. Any extra nights, optional tours or other amendments, will not be visible on this version. If you have booked extras, Please contact [info@myholiday2.com.au](mailto:info@myholiday2.com.au) for a personalised version of your itinerary\***

#### Day 1: Arrive Oslo, Norway – Embark Ship

Welcome to Norway! Your adventure begins in the vibrant capital city of Oslo.

If you have time before boarding your ship, take a stroll around the city centre to explore some of Oslo's iconic landmarks. Snap photos of the distinctive Rådhuset (town hall), the Royal Palace, and the beautiful Oslo Cathedral.

Later in the afternoon, board your ship, the MS Trollfjord, and get settled into your comfortable cabin or suite. After checking in, you'll meet the Coastal Experience Team, who will be your guides throughout the voyage. They'll organise lectures and onboard activities to enrich your journey.

In the evening, mingle with your fellow guests in the ship's stunning two-storey panorama lounge. Sit back, relax, and watch as Oslo's sparkling city lights fade into the distance, marking the start of your unforgettable voyage.

**MEALS:** Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** MS Trollfjord

#### Day 2: At Sea

Today is all about settling in and enjoying your time onboard as we cruise along Norway's stunning southern coast.

Take the time to make yourself comfortable in your cabin and explore the ship. Enjoy a taste of Norway's coastal cuisine at one of the ship's three restaurants or relax with a drink in the bar. It's also a great opportunity to start getting to know your fellow travellers.

Soak in the breathtaking scenery as Norway's spectacular southern coastline drifts by. You can take in the views from the expansive Observation Deck, relax in the two-storey lounge and bar, or even admire the scenery while unwinding in the panoramic sauna.

Beyond the stunning landscapes, this stretch of coast has many fascinating stories to tell. Join the Coastal Experience Team for lectures, presentations, and activities to learn more about Norway's history and what lies ahead on your voyage.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** MS Trollfjord

### Day 3: Lysefjord and Stavanger

Wake up to the breathtaking views of Lysefjord, a 42-kilometre-long fjord known for its stunning natural beauty. The highlight here is Preikestolen (Pulpit Rock), a towering cliff that rises 604 metres above the sparkling fjord waters. At the fjord's end, you'll see Kjerag mountain, which soars even higher. Keep an eye out for mountain goats, cascading waterfalls, and the famous Kjeragbolten, a glacial boulder precariously wedged in a mountain crevasse.

Later, we'll arrive in Stavanger, a vibrant coastal city with a rich cultural heritage. Explore Gamle Stavanger (Old Stavanger), home to Northern Europe's best-preserved collection of wooden houses, and visit Stavanger Cathedral, Norway's oldest, dating back to the 12th century.

If you're looking for something different, stop by the Norwegian Petroleum Museum to learn about the country's oil industry, browse unique local boutiques, or simply relax with a beer at one of the city's charming waterfront cafes. Stavanger's mix of history, culture, and modern flair has something for everyone.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** MS Trollfjord

### Day 4: Ålesund

After breakfast onboard, we'll dock in the picturesque town of Ålesund, which stretches across several islands. Known for its striking Art Nouveau architecture, Ålesund's colourful buildings and rounded spires date back to the early 1900s. For a spectacular view of the town and surrounding archipelago, head to the Mount Aksla viewpoint—a perfect spot for photos.

If you're interested in marine life, consider visiting the Atlantic Sea Park, Norway's first marine science centre. This is one of Northern Europe's largest saltwater aquariums, home to seals, otters, crabs, and a variety of fish. You can even spot Humboldt Penguins, a species rarely seen north of the equator.

For a deeper dive into Ålesund's history and charm, you can join an optional excursion to explore the town on foot or by bus. A local guide will share fascinating stories and secrets about this unique coastal gem.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** MS Trollfjord

### Day 5: Rørvik

Today, we'll explore Rørvik, located on Inner-Vikna, the largest island in the Vikna archipelago, a chain of around 6,000 islands, islets, and skerries. We plan to dock in Rørvik mid-morning and will stay in port for most of the day.

Rørvik has a rich history, with ancient burial mounds in the area that date back thousands of years. The town's maritime heritage is showcased in its many museums, especially at the Norwegian Coastal Museum, where you can learn about the local seafaring traditions.

If you're curious about modern Norwegian aquaculture, visit the SalmoNor Centre, where you can tour a working salmon farm and discover how Norway supplies the world with premium Nordic salmon.

Another major export here is cod, which is especially abundant in these waters during winter. Rørvik even hosts an annual Cod Festival in March. While you're here, why not treat yourself to freshly made cod cakes—a local specialty!

Take your time to explore this charming port town and enjoy the unique combination of history, culture, and seafood it has to offer.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** MS Trollfjord

## Day 6: Lofoten

On the second last day of your journey, we'll visit the stunning Lofoten Islands, widely considered one of Norway's most breathtaking destinations. As we approach, you'll be greeted by dramatic peaks towering over picturesque fishing villages nestled along the coast.

We'll dock in the town of Svolvær mid-morning. Situated on the island of Austvågøya, Svolvær is the largest town in the Lofoten archipelago. It's a vibrant hub with shops, restaurants, art galleries, and cosy cafés to explore. Don't miss the chance to take in the view of the Svolvær Goat, a nearby mountain that resembles a goat with horns.

From Svolvær, you can choose from a variety of optional excursions:

- Try winter fishing in the rich local waters.
- Paddle along the scenic coastline in a kayak.
- Join a bus tour to learn more about the history and culture of the Lofoten Islands.

Later, we'll visit Stokmarknes, an important site in Hurtigruten's history. It was here, in 1893, that Richard With founded the Original Coastal Express. On the waterfront, you'll find the Hurtigruten Museum, where our 1956 ship, MS Finnmarken, is displayed inside a striking glass building, like a ship in a bottle.

Enjoy this day filled with stunning scenery, fascinating history, and opportunities to explore the unique culture of the Lofoten Islands.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** MS Trollfjord

## Day 7: Tromsø

Today we visit Tromsø, a lively city located 217 miles north of the Arctic Circle. Known as the "Gateway to the Arctic," Tromsø is a vibrant hub filled with trendy restaurants, cosy cafés, and boutique shops offering local crafts and fashion. MS Trollfjord will be docked here for eight hours, giving you plenty of time to explore.

One of the highlights of your visit will be a trip to the Science Museum of Northern Norway, where interactive exhibits and installations teach you about the fascinating Northern Lights. You'll also stop at the Tromsø Planetarium, where the 360-degree dome ceiling and high-quality digital projectors provide stunning visuals of the constellations and daily films like Experiencing the Aurora. Our expert astronomers will accompany you—take the opportunity to ask them any questions about the Arctic skies.

Tromsø is also the perfect place to tick off some bucket-list experiences. Optional excursions include:

- Dog sledding through the snowy landscapes
- Snowmobiling across stunning Arctic terrain
- Reindeer encounters, including feeding and learning about Sámi culture
- A visit to a snow igloo
- A guided bus tour to explore the history and highlights of this Arctic city

With so much to see and do, Tromsø promises to be an unforgettable Arctic adventure.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** MS Trollfjord

## Day 8: Honningsvåg

We'll arrive early in Honningsvåg, giving you a full day to explore this remarkable town—the northernmost city on mainland Europe. The landscape here is unique, with few trees or bushes, creating a stark and beautiful winter wonderland. With long winters and plenty of snowfall, Honningsvåg is perfect for enjoying stunning winter scenery and activities.

Put on some snowshoes and feel the crunch of snow underfoot as you hike across the plains. If you're feeling adventurous, try ice fishing, a traditional winter pastime in the far north. Be sure to sample the local delicacy, king crab, freshly caught in the surrounding waters and served year-round. For a cultural touch, visit the Once Upon a Dream art gallery to admire local artwork, and don't miss Honningsvåg Church, the oldest building in the area, dating back to 1885.

The highlight of your day will be a visit to the North Cape, one of mainland Europe's northernmost points. In winter, we'll travel there by snowmobile, an exciting way to navigate the Arctic landscape. Standing at the cape, near the edge of Norway, you'll gaze out over the Barents Sea under the polar night sky—a magical experience. If you're lucky, the Northern Lights might dance above, creating a sight you'll never forget.

At the cape, take a photo with the iconic globe monument—a must for every visitor! Then, head into North Cape Hall to warm up and explore exhibits about life in the High Arctic. A short film offers deeper insight into this remote region.

After reaching the northernmost point of our voyage, we'll begin our journey south, sailing away from Honningsvåg in the evening.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** MS Trollfjord

## Day 9: Alta

Welcome to Alta, a town situated at 70 degrees north, well above the Arctic Circle. Known for its exceptional Northern Lights visibility, this is one of the best places in the world to witness the aurora, so have your camera ready!

On our included excursion, you'll get a glimpse into daily life in Alta. Visit the UNESCO-listed prehistoric rock art, which provides a fascinating look into the region's ancient history. You'll also stop by the striking Northern Lights Cathedral, home to an exhibition showcasing how Alta became a hub for groundbreaking Aurora Borealis research during the 19th and 20th centuries.

If you're looking for adventure, Alta's snowy winters offer plenty of authentic Arctic experiences. You can go dogsledding through the pristine wilderness or join the Coastal Experience Team on a hike to Mount Komsa, where you'll be rewarded with breathtaking views.

Another must-see is the Igloo Hotel, the world's northernmost ice hotel. Located on the banks of the Alta River, this incredible structure is made from 250 tonnes of ice and features stunning ice sculptures and intricately carved walls. It's a true Arctic wonder and a testament to the unique winter culture of this region.

Spend your day immersed in the natural beauty, rich history, and one-of-a-kind experiences that Alta has to offer.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** MS Trollfjord

## Day 10: Narvik

Welcome to Narvik, a town that was originally established as an ice-free port to export iron ore from nearby mines. Today, it's not only a hub of activity but also known for its rich World War II heritage and as a gateway to outdoor adventures like skiing, dog sledding, and hiking.

On optional excursions, you can delve into Narvik's fascinating history at the Narvik War Museum, where engaging exhibits tell the story of the town's pivotal role during World War II.

For a scenic adventure, hop aboard the Arctic Train and travel along the famous Ofoten Railway, which offers breathtaking views of the surrounding mountains. If you're after panoramic vistas of Narvik itself, take the Narvikfjellet cable car to the mountaintop and enjoy spectacular views of the town and surrounding landscapes.

Whether you're here for history or adventure, Narvik has something for everyone to enjoy.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** MS Trollfjord

### Day 11: At Sea

Today, we continue our journey south along the breathtaking Norwegian coast, a region filled with windswept islands, tranquil bays, and some of the world's most stunning fjords. As you admire the ever-changing landscapes, keep an eye out for wildlife, including the impressive Sea Eagles that soar gracefully overhead.

When Hurtigruten first began sailing north of the Trøndelag region in 1893, much of this coastline was uncharted and mysterious. Over the years, we've gained unparalleled expertise in navigating these waters. Today, we are among the few with the maritime skill and local knowledge to guide you through the intricate network of skerries, islets, and hidden fjords that define this part of Norway.

Take this day to relax onboard, marvel at the scenery, and enjoy the unique experience of sailing through some of the most enchanting coastal landscapes in the world.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** MS Trollfjord

### Day 12: Åndalsnes

This morning, we'll dock in the heart of Åndalsnes, a charming coastal town nestled at the end of Romsdalsfjord, along the scenic Isfjord.

The true stars of Åndalsnes are its towering mountains, which have made it a hotspot for hikers, climbers, and skiers. One of the area's most famous attractions is the Troll Wall, a 1,000-metre vertical cliff in the Romsdalen valley that draws adrenaline seekers from around the globe.

For a more leisurely experience, take a city walk to soak in the town's quaint charm, followed by a ride on the Romsdal Gondola. This scenic gondola will take you to the summit of Nesaksla Mountain, 708 metres above sea level. At the top, enjoy breathtaking 360-degree views of the surrounding landscape, including the iconic Romsdalshorn, the town of Åndalsnes below, and the winding Rauma River.

Whether you're seeking adventure or simply looking to relax and enjoy the views, Åndalsnes offers an unforgettable experience surrounded by Norway's natural beauty.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** MS Trollfjord

### Day 13: Bergen

Welcome to Bergen, one of Norway's most beautiful and historic cities. Once the country's capital, Bergen is nestled between seven mountains and the sea, offering a unique blend of natural and urban charm.

Take a stroll through the UNESCO-listed Bryggen district, where you'll find colourful wooden wharves dating back to the 14th century. Wander the cobbled streets and narrow alleys, exploring fascinating museums, artisanal boutiques, and cosy cafés. If you're in the mood for a local treat, stop at a pub to

enjoy a glass of Hansa beer.

Don't miss a visit to Bergen's famous fish market, located just across from Bryggen. It's a lively spot filled with the sights, sounds, and delicious scents of fresh seafood and local produce.

As this is your last day in Norway, it's the perfect time to pick up any special souvenirs or gifts to remember your journey. Enjoy the unique atmosphere of Bergen as you reflect on your unforgettable Norwegian adventure.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** MS Trollfjord

### Day 14: Farsund and Kristiansand

We'll arrive in Farsund early in the morning, where you'll have the chance to hike along the beautiful Lista sandy beaches and visit the historic Lista Lighthouse.

For history enthusiasts, there's an opportunity to explore a remarkably well-preserved German fortress from World War II. Many of the original barracks are still intact, and on a guided tour, you'll learn about the area's wartime history before we set sail for Kristiansand.

By late afternoon, we'll dock in Kristiansand, Norway's fifth-largest city, with a population of about 112,000. Known for its uniform grid layout, the city's straight roads stretch from the harbour through the town, showcasing architecture from various eras. This reflects Kristiansand's history of rebuilding after devastating fires in the 18th and 19th centuries, as well as damage from World War II.

Enjoy a guided walking tour to explore the city's charming streets and learn more about its history and culture.

For those looking to explore further, an optional excursion takes you to the Lindesnes Lighthouse, Norway's southernmost point. This working lighthouse has guided seafarers since the early 20th century, but its history dates back to 1656. Enjoy the stunning views and learn about the rich maritime heritage of the area.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** MS Trollfjord

### Day 15: Oslo – Disembark Ship

As our journey comes full circle, we return to Oslo early in the morning. The city that was the first port of our voyage now becomes the last. Take a moment to reflect on the incredible adventure you've experienced as you bid farewell to the crew and disembark, marking the end of your travels with us.

Throughout The North Cape Express, you've explored Norway's vibrant cities and charming villages, travelling to the northernmost reaches of Europe. Along the way, you've witnessed Norway's dramatic landscapes, from towering mountains to peaceful fjords, and perhaps even the magical Northern Lights dancing across the Arctic skies.

As you make your way home, we hope you'll treasure the fond memories of this unforgettable voyage. Thank you for sailing with us, and we look forward to welcoming you back onboard for another iconic journey along Norway's breathtaking coastline.

Alternatively, why not extend your stay in Norway? You could add a Norway in a Nutshell package, which includes a journey on the world-famous Flåm Railway. Contact MyHoliday2 to discuss more options and plan your perfect extended adventure.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

### \*\*\*5 DAY / 4 NIGHT OSLO TO OSLO NORWAY IN A NUTSHELL® EXTENSION\*\*\*

#### Day 15: Oslo – Disembark Ship

After disembarking from the ship, you'll need to make your own way to your hotel. Once you've checked into your hotel, the rest of the day is yours to enjoy at your own pace. You might choose to relax, explore the local area, or simply unwind and reflect on your journey so far.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** Clarion Hotel the Hub or similar

#### Day 16: Oslo ~ Myrdal ~ Flam Railway ~ Flam

This morning, after enjoying breakfast, make your own way to the train station at your convenience. Your journey begins with a train ride from Oslo to Myrdal, offering a comfortable and scenic start to your day.

At Myrdal, you'll have a short stopover before boarding the world-famous Flåm Railway. Renowned for its breathtaking views, this iconic train journey will take you through stunning Norwegian landscapes, including towering mountains, cascading waterfalls, and picturesque valleys.

Once you arrive in Flåm, take some time to soak in the beauty of this charming village. From there, make your way to your hotel and settle in for a relaxing evening surrounded by the natural wonders of Norway.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** Fretheim Hotel or similar

#### Day 17: Flam ~ Gudvangen ~ Voss

Today, you'll embark on a scenic ferry ride that takes you through two of Norway's most stunning fjords, the Aurlandsfjord and the Nærøyfjord. As you sail, marvel at the breathtaking landscapes, including steep cliffs, cascading waterfalls, and charming villages nestled along the water's edge.

After arriving in Gudvangen, you'll have a short stop to take in the serene surroundings before continuing your journey. From there, board a bus that will take you to Voss, a picturesque town known for its natural beauty and outdoor activities.



Once you arrive in Voss, make your own way to your hotel. Check in and settle into your room, then enjoy the rest of the day at your leisure. Whether you choose to relax, explore the local area, or take in the tranquil scenery, the choice is yours.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** Scandic Hotel Voss or similar

### Day 18: Voss ~ Oslo

This morning, start your day by making your way to the train station for your journey back to Oslo. Enjoy the comfortable ride as the train takes you through Norway's picturesque landscapes, offering a final chance to soak in the country's natural beauty.

Once you arrive in Oslo, make your own way to your hotel. After checking in, take some time to relax and settle in. The rest of the day is yours to enjoy at your own pace—perhaps explore more of the city, revisit a favourite spot, or simply unwind after your travels.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** Clarion Hotel the Hub or similar

### Day 19: Depart Oslo

Today marks the end of your unforgettable adventure. After checking out of your hotel, make your own way to the airport.

We sincerely thank you for choosing MyHoliday2 for your journey and hope you've created lasting memories during your travels. Wishing you a safe and smooth onward journey, and we look forward to helping you plan your next adventure in the future. Safe travels!

**MEALS:** Breakfast