

EXPLORE!

Norwegian Fjords & Spitsbergen - Expedition

15 days

Arctic, Norway, Spitsbergen - Trip code ELN



Norwegian Fjords & Spitsbergen - Expedition

Cruise Into The Arctic Fabulous Norwegian Fjords Set sail from Bergen - the gateway to Norway's fjords - to the remote shores of Svalbard on this dazzling 15-day odyssey across the Norwegian Sea. Walk across the glaciers that carved the stunning landscapes, explore subarctic islands by Zodiac in search of polar bears, walk through history at UNESCO-protected historical sites, and much more. Don't merely pine for the fjords; find them. En-route, we will have time to enjoy the picturesque Lofoten Islands. This enchanting collection of islands that form the Lofotens are rightly famous for their azure waters and the colourful fishermen's cabins that dot the coast. We also plan to cruise in to the nearby Trollfjord, one of Norway's shortest and yet most dramatic fjords. Called the 'Gateway to the Arctic', Tromsø is the last major habitation before we head deeper into the Arctic Circle towards the usually ice-bound outpost of the Svalbard archipelago, more commonly known as Spitsbergen. A rugged land of deep fjords, mountains and ice sheets, we spend our time here searching for walrus, seal, reindeer, arctic fox and the mighty polar bear.

Trip highlights

- ★ Walk through history at UNESCO - protected historical sites

ACCOMMODATION GRADE:

Premium

Our premium accommodation is hand-picked and chosen for its character, location or local importance. These properties have excellent facilities and a higher level of comfort and service. They provide the perfect wind down after an active day.

TRIP PACE:

Relaxed

You can enjoy easy-going activities and experiences on these Relaxed pace tours, with opportunities to absorb the sights and immerse yourself in the local surroundings, but still come home feeling relaxed and refreshed.

Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

DAY 1 - Bergen

The Expedition will depart in the late afternoon. You will have time to explore Bergen on your own, a delightful city, known as the Gateway to the Norwegian Fjords. Wander through the historical seaport, or make a stop at the museum of Edvard Grieg. The local fish market is also worth a visit.



Accommodation: Expedition (or similar)



Premium Boat



Single room available



Meals Provided: Dinner

DAY 2 - Flam

Today we will visit Flam. Hop on the Flam Railway, travelling through valleys and mountain passes to reach the scenic fjord of the Flam District. The line is used most often as a tourist train as it passes through picturesque landscape and boasts an incredibly steep gradient, with an elevation difference of 862 m.



Accommodation: Expedition (or similar)



Premium Boat



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 3 - Sail from Flam to Olden

We cross the famous North Sea, towards Olden. Depending on time, we may stop in Olden for a short bus ride to the Briksdal area and a walk to the beautiful glacier found here. For those who don't want to walk the full distance 'Trollcars', a buggy-style vehicle, are available to take you up to the glacier.



Accommodation: Expedition (or similar)



Premium Boat



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 4 - Olden and Geirangerfjord

Sail deep into one of Norway's most beautiful fjords, into the mainland. The fjord is one of Norway's most visited tourist sites and has been listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The fjord is 15 km long, surrounded by spectacular mountains, lush green trees, waterfalls and several farms. Ensure that you have your camera to hand for some spectacular photo opportunities.



Accommodation: Expedition (or similar)



Premium Boat



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 5 - Trondheim

We continue on to Trondheim, a modern city surrounded by beautiful forests and mountains and is home to the remarkable Nidaros Cathedral. Built over the burial site of Saint Olav, the king of Norway in the 11th century, Nidaos Cathedral is the traditional location for the consecration of the king of Norway. Choose between taking an afternoon hike to the Sverresborg Folk Museum, or enjoy a city tour including the Folk Museum and the elaborate Cathedral, built between 1070 and 1300.



Accommodation: Expedition (or similar)



Premium Boat



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 6 - Torghatten and Vega Island

The rugged coastline of central Norway features some of the world's most beautiful scenery. The captain will liaise with local Norwegian pilots to determine our best landing options. Our aim is to visit Torghatten, one of the most bizarre rock formations in Norway and a significant local landmark. We will also try to cruise by ship and Zodiac, through the Treana archipelago, comprising of over a thousand tiny islands. Our on-board photography expert will be on hand to ensure that you make the most of the photographic opportunities found in this area. In the afternoon, we will head to the quaint and picturesque Vega Island, a listed UNESCO site. You will have time to wander through the picturesque fishing villages and appreciate the slow pace of life found here. This region is also renowned for its eider down harvesting.



Accommodation: Expedition (or similar)



Premium Boat



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 7 - Svartisen and Vikingen

Today we visit Svartisen and Vikingen, where we will enjoy beautiful glaciers and a globe sculpture which marks Vikingen as a point directly on the Arctic Circle. Svartisen is Norway's second largest glacier and water collected here is used for hydropower. Here, we hope to enjoy a scenic walk up to a glacier before continuing onto Vikingen. Our last stop of the day will be Sanna, a remote island that offers great walking opportunities and a chance to see some sea eagles.



Accommodation: Expedition (or similar)



Premium Boat



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 8 - The Lofoten archipelago

The Lofoten archipelago is an enchanting area of picturesque villages, backed with jagged peaks which are perched by the sea. Go ashore via coach on the island of Å, where cod fishing is still a major part of the economy. There will be a chance to visit the Torrfiskmuseum (Stockfish museum) before a bus tour across the Lofoten Islands to Svolvær. We will stop here for photos and other interest points along the way, including the Viking Museum at Bostad. In the evening, stay on deck as you cruise into one of Norway's most famous fjords, the short yet dramatic Trollfjord. Search the cliffs on your continuing quest to spot trolls.



Accommodation: Expedition (or similar)



Premium Boat



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 9 - Lofoten Islands

Continue exploring the beautiful Lofoten Islands, spending time on Andenes Island - a spectacular location for spotting marine wildlife.



Accommodation: Expedition (or similar)



Premium Boat



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 10 - Explore Tromso

Today we arrive in Tromso. Explore this northern haven and be sure to visit the Arctic Cathedral, whose unique architecture is evocative of snow and icebergs and its stained glass windows are among the largest in Europe. Tromsø, the capital of northern Norway, is known as the 'Gateway to the Arctic' since so many Arctic expeditions originated from here. Choose between hiking on the mountain top overlooking Tromso, or wandering the city's streets before taking a cable car to the mountain top. Enjoy a delicious lunch of traditional open-faced sandwiches while gazing over the city. Everyone will have the chance to visit some of the major sites, including the Polar and Tromso Museums and weather permitting, enjoy a stunning view from a cable car.



Accommodation: Expedition (or similar)



Premium Boat



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 11 - Tromso to Hornsund

Sail past Bear Island. Even from afar, Bear island offers spectacular views, with thousands of bird species such as fulmars, kittiwakes, guillemots and gulls. Weather permitting, there may be an opportunity to explore mist-shrouded Bjørnøya by Zodiac - a birdwatcher's paradise. The weather is temperamental, so the option of a landing is not guaranteed.



Accommodation: Expedition (or similar)



Premium Boat



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 12 - Hornsund

Explore the natural beauty of Hornsund and take advantage of the spectacular photo opportunities, as we explore by Zodiac. This scenic archipelago is made up of deep fjords, mountains and massive ice sheets. Keep your eyes peeled for walruses, seals, reindeer, Arctic foxes and of course, polar bears.



Accommodation: Expedition (or similar)



Premium Boat



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 13 - Hornsund and Bellsund, Svalbard

Soak up the sights and sounds of Svalbard. Our focus is searching for wildlife, with a variety of sea and land mammals, as well as birdlife, calling this region home. Our flexible itinerary and experience allows us to take the best advantage of ice and weather conditions. Each season we attempt to discover new landing sites to explore, thus enhancing your expedition experience. Shore walks and Zodiac adventures bring us up close to mystical landscapes, icebergs, and of course the magical wildlife.



Accommodation: Expedition (or similar)



Premium Boat



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 14 - Bellsund to Longyearbyen

Today, we will have a full day to enjoy this glacial wilderness. We will cruise by Zodiac amongst the ice floes, where we may encounter some lounging walruses with their young. If we're lucky, we may catch a glimpse of an Arctic fox roaming the tundra, whilst we head out on a shore landing. At all times, we will of course keep our eyes peeled for the King of the Arctic, the might polar bear !



Accommodation: Expedition (or similar)



Premium Boat



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 15 - Longyearbyen

Disembarkation will take place early morning, after breakfast. Depending on your flight times, a transfer will either take you to the airport or into the center of the town, where you are free to explore on your own. Longyearbyen boasts an outstanding Arctic museum, an art gallery and a number of other cultural attractions for you to enjoy.



Meals Provided: Breakfast

Polar information

Ship information

Expedition At a nimble 105 metres (345 ft) in length, with a capacity to hold 132 guests, the Expedition is an ideal vessel to ply polar waters. The ship is large enough to provide stability, speed, spacious cabins and ample public space, yet she is small enough to manoeuvre in remote areas and get you close to the action. Ship stabilizers ensure a smooth ride in rough waters, such as the infamous Drake Passage enroute to the Antarctic, allowing you to enjoy more of your time at sea. A fleet of ten zodiacs allows passengers to get out and actively explore the remote shores of our destinations. The Expedition is a speedy vessel. A top speed of 16 knots means you'll spend less time getting from A to B, and more time to explore your surroundings.

What's included?



Included meals

Breakfast: 14
Lunch: 13
Dinner: 14



Transport

Expedition
Zodiac



Trip staff

Expedition Crew
Naturalist(s)



Accommodation

14 nights premium boat

Trip information

Country information

Arctic Region Holidays & Tours

Norway Trips

Climate

Seasonal Climate Despite the northern latitudes the climate in Norway is not extreme, due to the affects of the North Atlantic Drift. Between May and September is the best time to visit this region, with summer temperatures reaching the high teens and rain a regular feature year round along the coast. North of the Arctic Circle the sun does not set between the middle of May and the end of July, so you can expect to encounter the midnight sun during this period.

Time difference to GMT

+1

Plugs

2 Pin Round

Religion

Lutheranism

Language

Norwegian

Spitsbergen Holidays & Tours

Climate

Between May and September is the best time to visit this region, with summer temperatures reaching a maximum of 5 degrees centigrade. North of the Arctic Circle, the sun does not set between the middle of May and the end of July, so you can expect to encounter the midnight sun during this period.

Time difference to GMT

+1

Plugs

2 Pin Round

Budgeting and packing

Clothing

Parkas These will be provided by the ship operator. Please register your size with us before travel and we will arrange for your parka to be available in your cabin on arrival. **Gloves** Keeping your hands warm and dry can be a challenge. Thin polypropylene gloves can be worn underneath warm outergloves. This allows you some protection from the cold when removing your gloves to operate your camera etc. We strongly recommend that you bring more than one pair of gloves, in case one gets wet (or lost). **Hat/Cap** Warm, woollen hat/cap to protect your ears, as well as a scarf, neck gaiter or other face protection, such as a balaclava. **Trousers** Water-resistant trousers of coated nylon or, even better, Gore-Tex® are essential for your comfort. They can be worn over your regular clothes to keep you warm and dry. We suggest that you purchase trousers a few sizes larger than you normally wear as you will be wearing them over other clothing. Gore-Tex® or similar fabrics are excellent for keeping out wind and water without trapping excess heat. Rain gear and Gore-Tex® products can be found in any outdoor sport clothing store. In addition to your waterproof trousers, warm ski pants are suggested if you have them. Warm trousers such as jeans, corduroys etc are also good. **Socks** Warm wool socks worn over a thin pair of silk, polypropylene socks should provide enough warmth and insulation for your feet. Bring several pairs of socks, since you will inevitably get your feet wet. **Outer Clothing** Woollen, knit or cotton sweaters/tops, polar fleece tops (medium weight), several cotton turtlenecks and T-shirts for layering on and off the ship. **Underclothing** Thermal underwear is highly recommended as it will keep you warm without adding bulk. Most polar travellers prefer a lightweight version.

Footwear

Complimentary, used waterproof boots will be supplied onboard. However, guests might want to bring their own if they are the following sizes due to the limited quantities onboard: - men's UK size 12 & 13 1/2 - women's UK size below three & seven and above. Guests must bring their own if they are: - men's UK size six 1/2 or smaller - men's UK size 13 1/2 or larger - women's UK size two or smaller - women's UK size nine 1/2 or larger. These are rubber, waterproof boots that are just below your knees with a strong, ridged non-skid sole. You usually have to step from the Zodiac into icy water up to 30 cm high on most landings. Do not bring heavy, cumbersome boots that make it difficult to walk or boots with metal cleats as they cannot be used for landings. For maximum warmth, wear loose-fitting boots and two pairs of socks. Try out your boots before the voyage.

Luggage

20kg

Luggage: On tour

One main piece of baggage and daypack. Remember you are expected to carry your own luggage so don't overload yourself.

Equipment

Sunglasses and sun cream
Personal toiletries
A refillable water bottle
Books/reading material
Camera and memory cards (and something to protect the camera when out in the elements)
Seasickness remedy
Walking poles
Personal First Aid

Tipping

Local crew

Tipping is of considerable significance to the people who will take care of you during your travels. It is an expression of satisfaction. The suggested amount is USD \$10 - 15 per person per day spent on board. Of course, tipping is a personal choice and the suggested amount is set only as a guideline. The money is collected by the Hotel Manager at the end of the voyage and distributed among the crew and Expedition Staff. The Officers choose not to participate in the tipping pool.

Arctic Region Holidays & Tours

Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Foreign Exchange

Norway Trips

Food and drink

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Dinner price

£35.00 - 40.00

Beer price

£6.00 - 8.00

Water price

£2.00 - 3.00

Foreign Exchange

Local currency

Norwegian Krona

Recommended Currency For Exchange

Take Norwegian Krona with you

Where To Exchange

Recommend you buy some Norwegian Krona before departing the UK (or whilst in transit in Oslo).

ATM Availability

ATMs are available in Myre and at Oslo and Evenes Airports.

Credit Card Acceptance

Credit cards are generally accepted at many hotels and optional excursions may be paid for by credit card.

Travellers Cheques

Not recommended.

Spitsbergen Holidays & Tours

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Foreign Exchange

Transport, Accommodation & Meals

Transport Information

Expedition, Zodiac

Ship description

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Cabins

Prices are based on the use of outward facing, category one cabins on the lower deck. Category one cabins are triple or quad share. They are comfortable with a private toilet and shower, and porthole. The Expedition has a number of different cabin categories, all outside facing and with two beds (apart from suites which have queen size beds). Some have larger windows. We can also offer single occupancy, subject to availability. Call us for details on the cabin choice to fit your requirements.

Essential information

FCO Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice [click here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, [click here](#)

Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

Essential Information

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

Visa Information

All visa information is subject to change. You should confirm all visa related issues with the relevant Embassy prior to departure. For Norway entry visas are not required for UK, AUS, NZ, CAN, USA citizens. Other nationalities should consult the relevant consulate.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may consider applying through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See www.travcour.com to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our [Essential Information](#) and [Booking Conditions](#).

Transfers

Find out more about [Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions](#) before you book.

Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer click [here](#)

Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

Flight information

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. [Read more about them here.](#)

Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

Arctic Region Holidays & Tours

Norway Trips

Vaccinations

The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/> and from your local healthcare provider.

Spitsbergen Holidays & Tours

Vaccinations

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