Itinerary

16 Day Classic Northern Lights Voyage With Flights

***IMPORTANT NOTE: Any extra nights, optional tours or other amendments, will not be visible on this itinerary.**

Day 1: Depart Australia

Today you will depart Australia for your flight to Europe.

IMPORTANT FLIGHT NOTE:

Depending on airline schedules, you may be required to depart on Day 0.

Flights may transit through the Middle East. Airlines may include Emirates, Qatar Airways, Etihad Airways or similar.

If you do not wish to travel with a specific airline or via a specific region, please advise MyHoliday2 in your booking notes.

Alternative flights are subject to availability and may incur surcharges, longer travel times or less direct routing.

MEALS: In-flight

OVERNIGHT: In-flight

Day 2: Arrive Bergen, Norway

Upon arrival at Bergen Airport, make your way outside the main terminal building and board the Flybussen airport express bus from Stop A3.

Travel into central Bergen, where Flybussen operates several stops around the Bryggen and Torget areas. Disembark at the most convenient stop for your confirmed hotel and continue on foot for the short walk to your accommodation.

NOTE: Flybussen stops and departure points may change. Please check airport signage and the current Flybussen timetable on arrival.

MEALS: Nil

OVERNIGHT: Radisson Blu Royal Hotel, Bergen

Day 3: Bergen ~ Embark Ship

After breakfast, check out of your hotel. You may wish to leave your luggage with the hotel and spend the morning exploring more of Bergen at your own pace.

Before joining your ship, take some time to explore the UNESCO-listed Bryggen district, with its colourful historic wharfs, artisan shops and cobblestone streets. Nearby, visit Bergen’s famous Fish Market or ride the Fløibanen funicular to the top of Mount Fløyen for impressive views across the city.

Later in the afternoon, make your own way to the Hurtigruten Terminal at Jektevikterminalen. Check-in for your voyage opens at 16:00, ahead of your scheduled departure from Bergen at 20:30.

While waiting to board, relax in the guest lounge at the terminal. Once onboard, settle into your cabin and enjoy the ship's facilities as your Norwegian coastal voyage begins.

As you depart Bergen, sail through the Hjeltefjord along a historic route once travelled by Vikings. During your voyage, locally sourced coastal ingredients feature throughout the onboard dining experience.

You will also meet the Coastal Experience Team, who will enhance your journey with informative presentations, onboard activities and optional hikes along Norway's spectacular coastline.

TIME IN PORT:

Bergen: 14:45 - 20:30

MEALS: Breakfast, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Hurtigruten Coastal Vessel

Day 4: Ålesund

Experience the tranquil early morning atmosphere of Nordfjord near Torvik, followed by a scenic sail past West Cape as we approach Ålesund.
Known for its exquisite Art Nouveau architecture, Ålesund also boasts Atlanterhavsparken, Northern Europe’s largest saltwater aquarium. If your journey falls in spring or winter, you'll have ample time to explore this charming town.

TIME IN PORT:

Florø: 02:45 - 03:00

Måløy: 05:15 - 05:30

Torvik: 08:20 - 08:30

Ålesund: 09:45 - 20:00

Note: *Itinerary for Ålesund will change if sailing between April and September*

Molde: 22:35 - 23:05

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Hurtigruten Coastal Vessel

Day 5: Trondheim

As we venture into the Trøndelag region of Norway, you'll be greeted by a landscape characterized by rolling hills, picturesque farmsteads scattered across fields, and quaint coastal settlements.
Trondheim, established by Viking King Olav Tryggvason in 997, now stands as Norway's third-largest city, blending medieval charm with a lively student community.

Upon arrival, you'll have three hours to immerse yourself in Trondheim's highlights, either independently or through our optional excursions. A standout attraction is Nidaros Cathedral, affectionately dubbed "Norway's Notre Dame," boasting Gothic architecture and revered as the country's most sacred edifice. Adjacent lies the Archbishop's Palace, where Norway's crown jewels are proudly exhibited.

Nearby, the historic city bridge, Gamle Bybro, spans the Nid River, marking the entrance to the old Hanseatic district of Bakklandet. Here, vibrant wooden wharves line the river's edge, now home to a diverse array of eateries. Ascending from Bakklandet, Kristiansten Fort offers breathtaking panoramas of the city and fjord.

In the afternoon, as we set sail north-westward, prepare to be enchanted by the ochre hues of Kjeungskjær Lighthouse, nestled amidst islets and rocky reefs, before our journey continues towards the charming town of Rørvik.

TIME IN PORT:

Kristiansund: 02:45 - 03:00

Trondheim: 09:45 - 12:45

Rørvik: 21:40 - 22:00

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Hurtigruten Coastal Vessel

Day 6: Bodø

As we journey into the Arctic Circle early in the morning, your Arctic exploration of Norway commences with a traditional ceremony, sure to invigorate your senses.
Above the Arctic Circle, summer offers the spectacle of the midnight sun, with 24-hour daylight, while winter promises increased chances of witnessing the mesmerizing Northern Lights.

At 10:00, we make a stop at Ørnes, near Norway's second-largest glacier, Svartisen, where the pier features the renowned Love Bench, a symbol of enduring romance adorned with padlocks.

Next, we navigate to Bodø, Northern Norway's second-largest city, framed by the majestic Børvass peaks.

Here, you can admire captivating street art or opt for an excursion to Saltstraumen, the world's most powerful maelstrom.

In the afternoon, the ship glides into the enchanting Lofoten archipelago, with the awe-inspiring Lofoten Wall, standing 1,000 meters high, seemingly extending a welcoming embrace.

Stamsund, boasting one of the largest fishing fleets in the islands, bustles particularly from January to April when Arctic cod, locally known as skrei, migrate from the Barents Sea to Vestfjord to spawn.

As evening descends and you catch sight of rows of picturesque fisherman’s huts perched on stilts, known as rorbuer, you'll know you've arrived at the charming harbour of Svolvær, the principal town of the Lofoten Islands.

TIME IN PORT:

Brønnøysund: 01:35 - 01:45

Sandnessjøen: 04:35 - 04:50

Nesna: 06:00 - 06:10

Ørnes: 10:00 - 10:10

Bodø: 13:05 - 15:20

Stamsund: 19:15 - 19:40

Svolvær: 21:20 - 22:15

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Hurtigruten Coastal Vessel

Day 7: Tromsø

Arriving in Harstad just after 07:00, you have the opportunity for a tranquil early morning stroll around town. Our journey continues to Finnsnes, a gateway to the beautiful island of Senja, accessible via the impressive Gisund Bridge. Keep your eyes peeled for various seabirds, including puffins, as several colonies dot the nearby landscape.
Next on our itinerary is the historic Arctic exploration hub of Tromsø, where you'll have four hours to explore the city or partake in optional excursions. Along the waterfront, discover Polaria, an environmental research centre showcasing Arctic studies alongside a small aquarium. Indulge in shopping and dining experiences in the city centre, including a visit to Mack Brewery or the beloved local haunt, Ølhallen pub. Don't miss out on the delightful cafés offering scrumptious cinnamon buns and inventive coffee art. Across the fjord from our docking point, marvel at the iconic Arctic Cathedral adorned with its stunning stained-glass mosaic.

As we bid farewell to Tromsø in the early evening, we set our course northward toward the historic trading post of Skjervøy, established in 1622. En route, we pass by the majestic Lyngen Alps rising dramatically from the sea.

TIME IN PORT:

Stokmarknes: 01:30 - 01:40

Sortland: 02:55 - 03:10

Risøyhamn: 04:35 - 04:50

Harstad: 07:10 - 07:45

Finnsnes: 11:00 - 11:30

Tromsø: 14:15 - 18:15

Skjervøy: 22:10 - 22:25

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Hurtigruten Coastal Vessel

Day 8: Honningsvåg

Arriving in the early morning, the ship docks in Hammerfest on the island of Kvaløya. During summer, the island welcomes herds of reindeer migrating here in their thousands, a sight to behold.
As we approach Havøysund, you'll notice the towering wind turbines of the landmark Havøyglaven wind farm, generating enough electricity to power 6,000 local homes.

Our journey takes us to Honningsvåg by mid-morning, serving as the gateway to the North Cape, where a globe monument stands proudly atop continental Europe. Depending on the season, an optional excursion offers a bus journey from Honningsvåg to North Cape, with the chance to spot reindeer along the way.

Near the entrance of Kjøllefjord village, keep an eye out for the remarkable rock formation known as Finnkirka, once an ancient sacrificial site used by the indigenous Sámi people. In the summer, you can opt for a fascinating excursion to meet local Sámi, gaining insight into their traditional reindeer herding lifestyle and enjoying joik folk songs.

Continuing our northward journey, we arrive at Mehamn in the evening. During February and March, you might witness the sight of tons of cod drying on outdoor wooden racks called hjell, primarily destined for export.

Our next destination is Berlevåg. En route, we pass the towering Slettnes Lighthouse, the northernmost mainland lighthouse on Earth, a beacon guiding our path through the Arctic waters.

TIME IN PORT:

Øksfjord: 01:50 - 02:00

Hammerfest: 05:05 - 05:45

Havøysund: 08:30 - 08:45

Honningsvåg: 10:55 - 14:30

Kjøllefjord: 16:40 - 17:00

Mehamn: 18:55 - 19:15

Berlevåg: 22:00 - 22:10

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Hurtigruten Coastal Vessel

Day 9: Kirkenes

During the night, we make stops at Båtsfjord and Vardø before reaching Vadsø early in the morning. Set your sights to the skies as the area surrounding Vadsø offers some of the most breathtaking and popular birdwatching experiences in the Arctic. Positioned directly beneath the migration route of birds flying from east to west, keep a lookout for hooded crows and majestic sea eagles.

As we near the Norwegian border, upon reaching Kirkenes after breakfast, you'll realize you've journeyed further east than St. Petersburg and Istanbul. Here, you'll have the opportunity to choose from a variety of optional excursions to explore the surrounding area.

Kirkenes marks a pivotal point in your Norwegian coastal cruise as the ship changes direction, embarking on its southern route. Places we sailed to during the night will now be revealed in the daylight.

Returning to Vardø, take a moment to visit the poignant Witches' Monument and the impressive star-shaped Vardøhus Fortress, erected in 1737. Serving as the northernmost fortification of its kind, it remains a significant military site to this day.

Our voyage continues as we return to the lively port of Båtsfjord and journey onward to Berlevåg for a late evening arrival, intersecting paths with the northbound ship along the way.

TIME IN PORT:

Båtsfjord: 00:00 - 00:30

Vardø: 03:30 - 03:45

Vadsø: 06:55 - 07:10

Kirkenes: 09:00 - 12:30

Vardø: 16:05 - 17:00

Båtsfjord: 20:00 - 20:30

Berlevåg: 22:25 - 22:35

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Hurtigruten Coastal Vessel

Day 10: Hammerfest

During the night, we make stops at Mehamn and Kjøllefjord before our early morning visits to Honningsvåg and Havøysund.
In the early afternoon, we spend time in Hammerfest, boasting the largest population among the world's northernmost settlements. Explore the UNESCO-listed Meridian Column, peruse souvenirs at the Polar Bear Society, or hike the path behind the town leading to the panoramic viewpoint atop Mount Salen.

Continuing our coastal journey southward, we sail to Øksfjord and then Skjervøy, enveloped by towering mountain peaks. Serving as a vital fishing port since 1896, Skjervøy offers the chance to spot orcas and humpback whales during winter months, drawn here by the abundant herring.

As we approach Tromsø, marvel at the stunning vistas of the Lyngen Alps, boasting some of Norway's highest peaks.

We dock in Tromsø just before midnight, where in the summer months, you can enjoy a leisurely stroll through the bustling city under the enchanting glow of 24-hour daylight.

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

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Hurtigruten Coastal Vessel

Day 11: Svolvær

Today, you're in for a treat as we explore the captivating archipelagos of Lofoten and Vesterålen, showcasing some of the most breathtaking sights along our Norway scenic route.
After an early morning stop at Finnsnes, our journey continues to Harstad, home to the remarkable Trondenes Church, the world’s northernmost medieval stone church, nestled on the peninsula.

Our next port of call is the quaint Risøyhamn, followed by Sortland, where the landscape gradually transitions from rolling hills to majestic 1,000-meter-high mountains.

We then arrive at Stokmarknes, the birthplace of Captain Richard With and the inception point of The Coastal Express in 1893. Don't miss the opportunity to visit Hurtigrutemuseet, housed in a unique ship-in-a-bottle building, chronicling our illustrious legacy, with a focus on the retired ship MS Finnmarken from 1956.

As we sail along Raftsund, keep your eyes peeled for the mesmerizing Trollfjord. If weather permits, the Captain may navigate the ship into this narrow fjord, where towering mountain walls create an awe-inspiring sight. Witness the ship execute a remarkable 180-degree rotation to exit the fjord, all while keeping an eye out for majestic sea eagles soaring overhead.

Our evening brings us to Svolvær, where the prominent mountain overlooking the town is whimsically named the Svolvær Goat for its purported resemblance. See if you can spot the likeness!

Continuing our journey, we head for Stamsund, passing by the imposing granite cliffs of the Lofoten Wall, a fitting conclusion to our exploration of these extraordinary archipelagos.

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

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Hurtigruten Coastal Vessel

Day 12: Brønnøysund

Our day begins with a call at Bodø in the early hours of the morning, followed by a stop at Ørnes at 7 am. After a hearty breakfast, we cross over the Arctic Circle, commemorating the moment with a traditional tasting of good ol' Norwegian cod liver oil!
A brief pause at Nesna precedes our onward sail to Sandnessjøen, serving as the gateway to the magnificent Helgeland Coast.

As we sail along, marvel at the breathtaking landscape of the Seven Sisters mountain range, boasting peaks soaring up to 1,100 meters high. Legend has it that these seven stunning mountains were once seven beautiful troll princesses, transformed by the rising sun into the majestic peaks you see today.

Don't forget to keep an eye out for Torghatten Mountain, distinguished by its distinctive hole. Your Coastal Experience guide will be delighted to share the intriguing local legend behind this natural wonder.

By mid-afternoon, we reach Brønnøysund, where you can explore the lively marina with a stroll along Havnegata. At the heart of town stands the Brønnøy Church, a stone church dating back to 1870, showcasing exquisite Neo-Gothic architecture.

Our final destination of the day is the charming fishing port of Rørvik, nestled within the picturesque Vikna archipelago. Here, you can unwind and soak in the serene coastal ambiance before bidding farewell to another memorable day along the Norwegian coast.

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

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Hurtigruten Coastal Vessel

Day 13: Trondheim

Begin your morning in Trondheim, the capital of the Viking Age, where you can leisurely explore the awakening city. Pay a visit to the sacred Nidaros Cathedral, the final resting place of St. Olav, and capture a memorable photo on Gamle Bybro bridge overlooking the picturesque Nid River.
Indulge in a delightful coffee experience paired with Nordic pastries at one of the chic cafés in the Bakklandet district. Then, ascend to Kristiansten Fort for panoramic views of Norway's third-largest city.

As we sail past stunning island scenery and quaint communities, we arrive at Kristiansund's harbour in the late afternoon. Spread across three islands, Kristiansund is renowned as Norway's "Bacalao Capital," famous for the salted cod dried on the surrounding cliffs, known as klippfisk in Norwegian. Take a leisurely stroll through the cobblestone streets of the old town, explore the bustling port, or ascend to the old watchtower at Varden viewpoint for a breathtaking panorama.

Our penultimate port of the day is Molde, where the majestic peaks of the Romsdal Alps await your gaze. Known as "The City of Roses," Molde blooms with vibrant flowers from mid-June to late August, creating a picturesque setting for your exploration.

TIME IN PORT:

Trondheim: 06:30 - 09:30

Kristiansund: 16:30 - 17:30

Molde: 21:15 - 21:45

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Hurtigruten Coastal Vessel

Day 14: Arrive Bergen - Disembarkation

As our Norwegian coastal cruise draws to a close, we make our last stops during the previous night at Ålesund and Torvik. Keep an eye out on our approach to Måløy for a potential sighting of the northbound Coastal Express if you're an early riser.

In the morning, seize the opportunity to behold the grandeur of Nordfjord, nestled beneath the colossal Jostedal Glacier, the largest on mainland Europe. Upon docking at Florø, take a moment to admire the picturesque harbour and marina.

As we bid adieu to Florø, keep your camera ready to capture the iconic Stabben Lighthouse, a beloved subject for photographers. Enjoy breathtaking views as we traverse the mouth of Sognefjord, Norway's longest and widest fjord.

Arriving at our final port in the afternoon, the ship gracefully navigates through the last islands and skerries of our Norway scenic route, journeying down Hjeltefjord to reach Bergen.

Upon arrival in Bergen at 14:45, you'll have the opportunity to disembark and make your own way to your hotel. The remainder of the day is yours to enjoy at leisure, allowing you to explore this captivating city further. Bergen, the second-largest city in Norway and gateway to the fjords, offers a rich history dating back to its founding in 1070 AD. Its architectural charm reflects the influence of the prosperous 14th-century German trading organization, the Hanseatic League.

NOTE: If you have booked the land only package option, all services conclude at disembarkation from the vessel.

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

OVERNIGHT: Radisson Blu Royal Hotel, Bergen or similar

Day 15: Depart Bergen

Upon departure from your hotel, arrange your own transportation to the airport for your return flight home. The airport is approximately 18km from Bergen city centre and a 20 minute drive in a taxi. Alternatively, MyHoliday2 can arrange the Flybussen for $60 per person, noting that the first bus departs at 06:00. ***Note: Hotels typically reserved are conveniently situated within a 10-minute walk from a Flybussen stop, though hotels are subject to availability.*

MEALS: Breakfast, In-Flight

OVERNIGHT: In-Flight

Day 16: Arrive Australia

Today marks your return to Australia. Depending on flight schedules, you may arrive back on Day 17.

NORWAY IN A NUTSHELL EXTENSION

Day 15: Bergen ~ Voss

After enjoying breakfast, make your own way to Bergen train station to embark on the first leg of your Norway in a Nutshell extension. Board the train and relax as you journey through the stunning Norwegian landscape, soaking in the scenic views of fjords, mountains, and picturesque villages. Upon arrival in Voss, you will need to make your own way to your hotel. Once you have checked in, the rest of the day is yours to enjoy at your leisure. Take some time to explore the charming town of Voss, known for its beautiful surroundings and outdoor activities. Whether you choose to wander through the local shops, enjoy a meal at a cosy restaurant, or simply relax and take in the serene atmosphere, your day in Voss promises to be a delightful experience.
MEALS: Breakfast

OVERNIGHT: Park Hotel Vossevangen, Voss or similar

Day 16: Voss ~ Gudvangen ~ Flåm

After breakfast, make your way to the Voss bus terminal. Here, you will board a comfortable bus bound for the picturesque village of Gudvangen. The scenic bus ride will take you through stunning landscapes, providing a preview of the natural beauty that awaits you.
Upon arriving in Gudvangen, you will be dropped off conveniently close to the ferry terminal. From here, embark on an unforgettable cruise along the UNESCO-listed Nærøyfjord. As you glide through this breathtaking fjord, marvel at the towering mountains, cascading waterfalls, and quaint villages dotting the landscape. The serene beauty and majestic views make this cruise a highlight of your journey.

Once you arrive in Flåm, make your own way to your hotel to check in. After settling in, you have the rest of the day to explore at your own pace. Spend your time leisurely exploring the charming village of Flåm, visiting local shops, or simply relaxing and taking in the stunning fjord views. Enjoy the tranquility and natural splendor of this beautiful destination.

MEALS: Breakfast

OVERNIGHT: Flåmsbrygga Hotell, Flåm or similar

Day 17: Flåm ~ Flam Railway ~ Mydal ~ Oslo

After breakfast, make your way to Flåm Train Station to begin the first leg of your journey on the spectacular and world-famous Flåm Railway. This incredible train ride will take you through some of Norway's most stunning landscapes, offering views of deep ravines, cascading waterfalls, and picturesque fjord scenery. As the train winds its way up the mountains, you'll marvel at the engineering feat that created this steep and scenic railway. The journey includes a brief photo stop at the breathtaking Kjosfossen waterfall, where you can capture the beauty of this natural wonder. Upon reaching Myrdal, you'll transfer to the Bergen Railway, one of the best train journeys in the world, for the next leg of your trip. This segment of your journey takes you from the mountains to the vibrant city of Oslo. The train will traverse Northern Europe's highest stretch of railway, passing through the wild mountain terrain of the Hardangervidda plateau and offering views of the Hardangerjøkulen glacier. As you descend into the wooded valleys and open countryside, the scenery gradually changes, showcasing Norway's diverse landscapes. Enjoy the comfortable and relaxing ride as you approach Oslo.

Once you arrive in Oslo, make your way to your hotel to check in. After settling into your accommodations, you have the rest of the day to spend at your leisure. Explore the vibrant city of Oslo, take a stroll along the waterfront, visit local shops and cafes, or simply relax and unwind after your scenic journey. The day is yours to enjoy the capital's rich culture and attractions at your own pace.

MEALS: Breakfast

OVERNIGHT: Comfort Hotel Xpress Central Station, Oslo or similar

Day 18: Depart Oslo

After breakfast, make your way to the airport for your departure. If you prefer to extend your stay and explore more of what Oslo has to offer, MyHoliday2 can arrange additional nights for you.
MEALS: Breakfast

Day 19: Arrive Australia

Today marks your return to Australia. Depending on flight schedules, you may arrive back on Day 20.