



## Itinerary

### 17 Day Magical White Christmas: Norway & Finland

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

#### Day 1: Arrive Oslo, Norway

Welcome to Norway! Your journey begins in Oslo, the nation's vibrant capital set on the Oslofjord and framed by shimmering lakes.

Arrive in Oslo on Christmas Eve and make your own way to your hotel. Spend the day at leisure, exploring the city's festive atmosphere filled with twinkling lights and bustling Christmas markets.

Why not wander into the city centre to capture striking photos of landmarks such as the distinctive Rådhuset town hall, the stately Royal Palace, and Oslo Cathedral, all set against a charming winter backdrop?

Later, stroll along the lively waterfront at Aker Brygge, a popular dining hub, and admire the historic Akershus Fortress. Continue further to the Bjørvika precinct, home to cutting-edge architecture and the remarkable Edvard Munch Museum.

In the evening, join your guide and fellow travellers for a special welcome dinner, the perfect start to your Arctic holiday adventure.

**MEALS:** Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** Radisson Blu Scandinavia Hotel / Thon Hotel Opera, Oslo or similar

#### Day 2: Oslo City Tour

Begin Christmas Day with a delicious breakfast, then set off on a guided city tour exploring Oslo's highlights and hidden treasures. See the iconic Oslo Opera House, renowned for its glacier-like silhouette against the sparkling Oslofjord. Venture to Frogner Park to admire Vigeland Sculpture Park, filled with over 200 captivating sculptures by Gustav Vigeland, including the striking monolith centrepiece.

Travel outside the city for panoramic views at Holmenkollen Ski Jump, a symbol of Norway's sporting heritage. Enjoy a visit to the world's oldest ski museum, delving into the rich history of skiing in Scandinavia. After a rewarding day of discovery, return to your Oslo hotel to relax and soak up the festive spirit, ready for new adventures ahead.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** Radisson Blu Scandinavia Hotel / Thon Hotel Opera, Oslo or similar

#### Day 3: Oslo ~ Myrdal ~ Flåm

After breakfast, embark on a breathtaking train journey from Oslo to the mountain station at Myrdal. There, board the renowned Flåm Mountain Railway, a vintage line offering dramatic views as it winds down steep valleys dotted with waterfalls. Pause briefly at Kjosfossen Waterfall for photographs before continuing your descent through Norway's spectacular wilderness.

Arrive in the storybook village of Flåm and check into welcoming, cosy accommodations for the night. Spend time at the Flåm Railway Museum, located beside the station, where you'll discover captivating exhibits and interactive displays about the creation, engineering, and history of this remarkable railway line—a feat completed over two decades and one of the steepest standard-gauge railways in the world.

Enjoy a delicious Norwegian dinner at your hotel. As evening settles, unwind amid the peaceful charms of Flåm, embraced by the beauty of fjords and surrounding nature.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** Fretheim Hotel, Flam or similar

#### Day 4: Flåm ~ Voss ~ Bergen

After breakfast, bid farewell to Flåm and embark on a breathtaking journey through Norway's world-famous fjords. Relax on a two-hour boat cruise along Aurlandsfjord and Nærøyfjord, relishing views of dramatic cliffs, waterfalls, and tranquil waters. In Gudvangen, transfer by bus through the scenic Nærøydalen valley to historic Voss.

From Voss, board a picturesque train bound for Bergen, a coastal gem renowned for its colourful wooden houses and vibrant maritime history. Upon arrival, check in to your hotel and unwind or explore the city at your leisure. Consider riding the Fløibanen funicular to Mount Fløyen for panoramic city and fjord vistas and spend the evening wandering Bergen's lively streets filled with shops, cafes, and cultural sites—making lasting memories in Norway's West Coast jewel.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** Clarion Admiral Hotel, Bergen or similar

#### Day 5: Bergen ~ Embark Ship

Enjoy a relaxed morning in Norway's coastal gem before joining a captivating walking tour of Bergen, famed as the gateway to the fjords. Visit iconic sights including St Mary's Church, Håkon's Hall, and wander through the UNESCO-listed Bryggen district, where colourful medieval wooden wharves now house boutique shops and artisan workshops. This historic area reveals Bergen's maritime legacy and Hanseatic past.

At the bustling Fish Market, delight in the spectacle of fresh seafood being prepared, and perhaps sample local delicacies. Later, discover Troidhaugen—the former home of composer Edvard Grieg—for an intimate look at the arts. In the evening, make your way to the Bergen pier to board the MS Nordkapp, ready to embark on your scenic Coastal Express voyage along Norway's breath-taking coastline.

**TIME IN PORT:**

Depart Bergen: 20:30

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** MS Nordkapp

### Day 6: Ålesund

Begin your day with a peaceful morning sailing by Nordfjord and the spectacular cliffs of West Cape, taking in pristine coastal scenery. Your journey brings you to Ålesund, renowned for its enchanting Art Nouveau architecture—a result of the town's dramatic rebuilding after the 1904 fire. Meander through colourful, turreted streets, admire fanciful buildings inspired by nature, and discover the acclaimed Jugendstilsenteret, the national centre for Art Nouveau, housed in the historic Swan Pharmacy from 1907.

Ascend Mount Askla for panoramic town and sea views or visit Atlanterhavsparken to encounter marine life in one of Northern Europe's largest saltwater aquariums. As Ålesund's fairy-tale atmosphere bids you farewell, continue sailing to Molde, famous for its panoramic view of 222 snow-capped peaks—'the Molde Panorama'—and breathtaking natural beauty along Norway's coast.

#### TIME IN PORT:

Florø: 02:45 - 03:00

Måløy: 05:15 - 05:30

Torvik: 08:20 - 08:30

Ålesund: 09:45 - 20:00

Molde: 22:35 - 23:05

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** MS Nordkapp

### Day 7: Trondheim

Awake in Trondheim, Norway's third largest city and famed as the country's first capital, founded by Viking king Olav Tryggvason in 997. Enjoy ample time to soak up the youthful energy and deep history of this northern hub—wander through the old town or opt for an enriching local excursion. A highlight is the awe-inspiring Nidaros Cathedral, known as "Norway's Notre Dame," celebrated for its magnificent Gothic architecture and role as a cultural and religious heart of the nation.

Stroll across the iconic Gamle Bybro (Old Town Bridge), called the "Gate of Happiness," to enter colourful Bakklandet, home to charming wooden houses, cafes, and shops. For sweeping views of the city and fjords, ascend Kristiansten Fortress, a white-walled stronghold perched above the skyline. Later, as your journey continues, pass the distinctive Kjeungskjær Lighthouse before reaching Rørvik—a cozy harbor to complete a day steeped in Norway's rich past and vibrant present.

#### TIME IN PORT:

Kristiansund: 02:45 - 03:00

Trondheim: 09:45 - 12:45

Rørvik: 21:40 - 22:00

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** MS Nordkapp

## Day 8: Bodø

As dawn breaks, the ship crosses the legendary Arctic Circle—a moment celebrated on deck with a lively, light-hearted ceremony led by King Neptune. Those willing may take part in a fun ‘polar baptism’ tradition: a ladle of ice water poured down the back or a taste of cod liver oil, all rewarded with a commemorative certificate and a sip of cloudberry wine—a memorable start to your Arctic adventure.

Journeying further north, the pursuit of the Northern Lights intensifies as the ship calls at Ørnes, close to the stunning Svartisen glacier, before arriving in Bodø, surrounded by towering peaks. Entering the enchanting Lofoten archipelago, witness the traditional skrei cod fishing in Stamsund, and end the day in postcard-perfect Svolvær, where fisherman’s cabins line the harbour—all against a spectacular Arctic landscape.

### 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:** MS Nordkapp

## Day 9: Tromsø

Begin the first day of the new year with a tranquil arrival in Harstad, perfect for a morning stroll. Continue to Finnsnes, gateway to scenic Senja island, and cruise through Norway’s majestic Arctic landscapes. Spend the afternoon in vibrant Tromsø, historically renowned as the capital of Arctic exploration and situated above the Arctic Circle. You’ll have ample time to visit the interactive Polaria Arctic centre, sample craft beer at Mack Brewery, or relax in cafés with cinnamon buns and Norwegian coffee art.

Don't miss the Arctic Cathedral's iconic glass mosaic or panoramic views from Fjellheisen cable car on Mount Storsteinen. In the evening, sail past the dramatic Lyngen Alps to the remote trading post of Skjervøy, enchanted by the natural beauty and rich culture of northern Norway.

**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:** MS Nordkapp

## Day 10: Honningsvåg

Begin your day by sailing through the high Arctic, stopping in the historic ports of Hammerfest and Havøysund before arriving at Honningsvåg. This lively town serves as the gateway to the mighty North Cape—Europe's northernmost point, marked by a dramatic cliff and the iconic Globe monument. Join an optional bus excursion across striking tundra, where you may see Sami reindeer herders and spot the "Children of the World" sculptures, envisioning global peace at the edge of the continent.

Your journey continues to Kjøllefjord, home to the sacred Finnkirka rock formation revered by the indigenous Sámi, and on to Mehamn, famous for the aroma of drying cod hanging in open-air racks in late winter. Cap off the day cruising past Slettnes Lighthouse, mainland Europe's northernmost lighthouse, taking in the stark, soulful splendour of the Norwegian Arctic before continuing through Berlevåg.

**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:** MS Nordkapp

### Day 11: Kirkenes ~ Saariselkä

In the morning, we arrive at the scenic port town of Vardø, where breathtaking Arctic views greet us. Continuing south, reach Kirkenes—a bustling frontier town close to the Russian border. Here, our expedition leaves the coast as we embark by comfortable coach on a picturesque journey into Finnish Lapland's snowy forests.

We stop in Inari, the heart of Finnish Sámi culture, and explore the award-winning Siida Sámi Museum. This remarkable museum, crowned European Museum of the Year 2024, showcases Sámi heritage through immersive exhibits and outdoor displays, deepening appreciation for Europe's only Indigenous people. After lunch at a local restaurant, continue to Saariselkä—a cosy ski village nestled among the snowy wilderness—where we settle in for a restful Arctic night.

#### TIME IN PORT:

Båtsfjord: 00:00 - 00:30

Vardø: 03:30 - 03:45

Vadsø: 06:55 - 07:10

Arrive Kirkenes: 09:00

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch

**OVERNIGHT:** Santa's Hotel Tunturi, Saariselkä or similar

### Day 12: Saariselkä

Wake up to magical winter landscapes in Saariselkä, where optional adventures await, from exhilarating toboggan runs to exploring the snow-dusted fells. In the afternoon, experience an authentic reindeer safari at a family-owned Sámi farm. Learn from local herders how reindeer are cared for and how this ancient mode of transport has sustained Arctic life for generations. Glide peacefully through the snowy forest in a reindeer-drawn sleigh, listening only to the soft jingle of reindeer bells as the wilderness sparkles around you.

Warm up afterwards inside a cosy 'kota' hut with a hot drink and stories about Sámi life, then test your hand at a Lappish lasso. If skies are clear, keep watch for the Northern Lights waving overhead. Return to your hotel with cherished memories of Lapland's traditions and breathtaking snowscapes.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** Santa's Hotel Tunturi, Saariselkä or similar

### Day 13: Saariselkä ~ Rovaniemi ~ Sinettä

Travel south through Lapland's snowy forests to Rovaniemi, pausing at the historic Sodankylä Old Church along the way. Upon arrival, immerse yourself in the festive magic of Santa Claus Village. Explore wintry attractions such as meeting Santa Claus every day of the year, crossing the marked Arctic Circle line, riding with reindeer, and sending postcards from Santa's Post Office—all while Arctic elves share stories and local crafts.

Enjoy optional adventures including dog sledding, snowmobile rides, and visits to Mrs Claus's Christmas Cottage. When dusk falls, retreat to Sinettä and unwind in an Arctic snow hotel; relax at the on-site spa and sauna before dining on local specialties. Spend the night in a cosy glass igloo with a 360-degree view, where—if luck is on your side—the Northern Lights might paint the sky above for an enchanting end to your day.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** Arctic Snowhotel (Glass Igloo), Sinettä or similar

### Day 14: Sinettä ~ Rovaniemi

After breakfast, journey to Rovaniemi—the vibrant capital of Finnish Lapland with a history reaching back to the Gold Rush era. Almost entirely rebuilt after World War II, the city is internationally known for its unique design: renowned architect Alvar Aalto shaped Rovaniemi's map after a reindeer's head, with major roads forming antler-like branches and the Keskuskenttä sports stadium as its "eye"—a creative homage to Lapland's iconic animal.

Settle into your hotel nestled amid arctic scenery. In the afternoon, visit a local husky kennel, where you'll meet the energetic dogs that define Lapland's spirit. Over lunch, learn about their companionship and the expert training preparing them for wintry journeys. Dash through the wilderness aboard a husky-drawn sled, then gather indoors for fireside snacks and warm drinks, cherishing a thrilling day in Lapland's pristine nature.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch

**OVERNIGHT:** Scandic Rovaniemi City, Rovaniemi or similar

### Day 15: Rovaniemi

Enjoy breakfast before setting out for a day of discovery in Arctic Rovaniemi. Your guide is on hand with suggestions—from the iconic Jätkäkynttilä (Lumberjack's Candle) Bridge, a cable-stayed landmark lit to evoke the region's lumberjack history, to the Aalto Centre: a cluster of public buildings including Lappia Hall, the City Library, and City Hall, masterfully designed by Finland's celebrated architect Alvar Aalto. Stroll the city centre along Aalto's "reindeer antler" street layout, appreciating the blend of modernism and northern character.

Art and science lovers can visit the Pilke Science Centre and Korundi House of Culture, featuring interactive exhibits and Finnish contemporary art, or explore the award-winning Arktikum museum on Arctic culture. For wildlife enthusiasts, an optional excursion to Ranua Zoo brings you close to polar bears, Arctic foxes, lynx, and brown bears thriving in naturalistic enclosures—an unforgettable Arctic encounter.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** Scandic Rovaniemi City, Rovaniemi or similar

### Day 16: Rovaniemi ~ Helsinki

This morning, board a comfortable train for the scenic journey from Rovaniemi to Helsinki, travelling through snow-dusted forests and lakes dotted across Finland's heartland. Relax as you glide towards the coast, arriving in Helsinki by late afternoon—a city famed for its blend of neoclassical grandeur, modern design, and vibrant culture.

With time left in the day, explore Helsinki's highlights: stroll around lively Market Square, visit striking Helsinki Cathedral and the ornate Uspenski Cathedral, or unwind among the city's many green parks and along the waterfront. For a unique experience, wander the boutiques, cafes, and restaurants of the city centre, or take a tram to the UNESCO-listed Suomenlinna Sea Fortress. As the sun sets, enjoy a memorable dinner and soak up the cosmopolitan atmosphere of Finland's charming capital.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** Scandic Grand Marina / Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel, Helsinki or similar

### Day 17: Depart Helsinki

After breakfast, savour your last moments in Helsinki and reflect on the extraordinary journey through Norway and the arctic wilds of Finland. Once checked out of your hotel, make your own way to Helsinki Airport—conveniently reached by a 30-minute train, frequent airport bus, taxi, or rideshare from the city centre.

With luggage and memories in tow, board your flight home. Carry with you the camaraderie built, the Arctic adventures lived, and the inspiring landscapes you'll never forget. Farewell—and safe travels until the next adventure!

**MEALS:** Breakfast