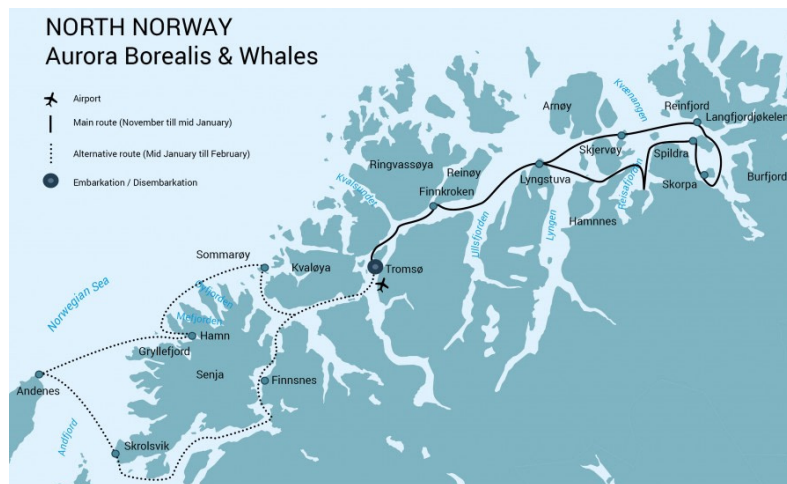


North Norway, Aurora Borealis & Whales - Winter Solstice Christmas Special

Explore the beauty of northern winter



Title:	North Norway, Aurora Borealis & Whales - Winter Solstice Christmas Special
Dates:	18 Dec - 25 Dec, 2021
Tripcode:	RVR44-21
Duration:	7 nights
Ship:	s/v Rembrandt van Rijn
Embarkation:	Tromsø
Disembarkation:	Tromsø
Language:	English speaking voyage

ITINERARY

PLEASE NOTE: All itineraries are for guidance only. Programs may vary depending on local ice and weather conditions and in order to take advantage of opportunities to see wildlife. The on-board expedition leader determines the final itinerary. Itineraries may mention places that require permission to land, which must be granted by the relevant national authorities. Such permission is not granted prior to the publishing of these itineraries. Flexibility is paramount for expedition cruises. Willingness to compromise on comfort is a basic requirement on board of a historic traditional sailing vessel. Important information about the sailing program: the boat is equipped with sails and these will be used in good conditions (open sea, water depth, appropriate wind conditions, time availability). This is not guaranteed. The captain decides whether to use the sails or the engine. There is no claim to one or other propulsion method. If sails are used, they are operated by the crew. Guests follow the safety instructions of the team. Average cruising speed for s/v Rembrandt van Rijn is 6.5 knots.

The North Norway cruise follows the path of more than one kind of whale as it travels amongst the fjords of Troms. The long Norway nights offer travellers on this expedition an excellent chance to take in the beauty and wonder of the Northern Lights.

Nice to know: The coasts and fjords of Norway are renowned for their beauty

In the far north of the country, about 350 km (217 miles) north of the Arctic Circle, lie the islands of Kvaløya and Senja. Enormous schools of herring gather in the fjords around these islands to live out the winter. This abundance of food creates one of the largest concentrations of biomass on Earth, which in turn attracts large numbers of whales. It is these giants of the sea that this voyage is dedicated to finding.

During winter the daylight is limited, but the nighttime hours are far from wasted: North Norway is one of the best areas in the world to see the northern lights, a magical phenomenon that can only be fully appreciated when the sky is clear and dark, with minimal light pollution. This voyage offers ample opportunities to admire the auroras from the remote bays and fishing villages where you'll spend the night.

Polar Night in Tromsø, North Norway: Polar night is a natural phenomenon that occurs in the winter months

Polar night is a natural phenomenon that occurs in the winter months. The polar night season officially starts in Tromsø on November 27 and lasts until January 15 but technically, the sun already disappears on November 21 and doesn't come back to the city until January 21 due to the city being surrounded by high mountain ranges. In this period, there won't be any daylight but it isn't pitch black either. There is a twilight and a form of weak daylight between roughly 9am and 2pm.

"Solstice" (Latin: "solstitium") means sun-stopping. In most locations north of Equator, the shortest day of the year is around this date. It is a very special season of the year.

Important note: -

Tromsø is the base and gateway in which our voyages start and end. These voyages focus on viewing the aurora borealis and whales, and the expedition leader determines the final itinerary to be introduced during the welcome briefing on day one. The map shows two possible routes that we may take in order to raise our chances for wildlife sightings:

The main route (bold line) heads north to the Kvaenangen fjord, very likely to be visited during November to mid-January.

The alternative route (dotted line) heads south around the island of Senja, mainly in the period from mid-January till February. The expedition leader will determine the final route.

Because of the seasonal occurrence of herring and whales in these fjords, the whale safari cruises take place in winter, when the Northern Norway days are short and the nights long. Whale watching (orcas and humpbacks) is highly dependent on the variable herring stocks in the area, and this is ultimately unpredictable. Other whales (i.e., sperm whales) are not dependent on herring, which is why we have a good chance of seeing them in specific areas, such as along the south route near Andenes. The expedition leader will adapt the sailing plan to maximize your chances of seeing whales.

Other highlights of these trips: Arctic Norway (mountains and fjords) and Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis). In the winter the daylight hours are limited, but during the dark hours we have the opportunity to see the northern lights. These amazing phenomena are only visible when it is dark and the sky is clear, and without other disturbing light sources. The trip will provide ample opportunity to admire the Aurora Borealis in the remote fishing towns and bays where we spend the night at the pier or at anchor. In some places the ship will also sail at night.

Main route / North route: (Kvaenangen fjord)

The main route (bold line) heads north to the Kvaenangen fjord, very likely to be visited during November to mid-January.

Day 1: Paris of the North

Your adventure begins in Tromsø, nicknamed the “Paris of the North,” located in an area rich with Norse and Sámi history. Enjoy exploring this sub-Arctic Norwegian town, said to have been inhabited since the last ice age. All voyages with s/v *Rembrandt van Rijn* aim at departing from Tromsø in the evening of day one, while s/v *Noorderlicht* will set sail in the early morning of day two. All passengers of *Rembrandt* are kindly asked to board the vessel by 17:00, while passengers of *Noorderlicht* are welcome to board the vessel between 17:00 and 23:00.

Day 2 – 6: Into the Nordic fjords

You then sail along the base of the Lyngen Alps, across the Lyngen fjord, and may stay for the night in Hamnnes, on the island of Uløya. Hamnnes is an ancient trade and fishing settlement originating in the 17th century, with typical wooden warehouses where residents store dried cod. (In fact, the town still exports this cod for the traditional Mediterranean dish, Bacalhau.) Uløya offers good hiking, often on snowshoes. From Hamnnes, you sail farther northeast into the Kvaenangen Fjord. Part of the day you sail through the fjords, and in the afternoon you find a harbor to spend the night in one of the scenic fishing villages, such as Skjervøy, Seglvik, Reinfjord, or Burfjord. There are good hiking possibilities in the area, for example on the Island of Spildra. Great hikes can also be made in Burfjord, just 50 km (31 miles) from the northerly town of Alta. During the evenings and nights, there are fine opportunities to see auroras if the sky is clear enough. Our course is

heading south-west again. We spend the night near the small village of Finnkroken. This small village offers good opportunities to see the Northern Lights.

Day 7: Under the northern lights

Arrival in Tromsø around midday. In the afternoon you enjoy free time to shop for souvenirs in town, visit a museum, or simply take a walk in the fresh winter air. After spending the last night on board, you disembark on day eight (Saturday) with memories that will accompany you wherever your next adventure lies.

Day 8: Goodbye Northern Norway!

Disembarkation in the port of Tromsø at 9:00 a.m. at the latest. Transfer to the airport on your own (not included). Individual journey home with scheduled flight via Oslo back home (flights not included in the cabin price).

All itineraries are subject to change and vary according to weather conditions.

Alternative route: South route (around Senja)

The alternative route (dotted line) heads south around the island of Senja, mainly in the period from mid-January till February. The expedition leader will determine the final route.

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Day 2: In search of Norway's whales

The itinerary depends largely on the weather conditions, the amount of daylight during the voyage, and the expected location of the whales. You might sail clockwise or counter-clockwise around the island of Senja.

Day 3 – 6: Whales of the shelf

You spend the next several days along the north coasts of Senja and Andfjorden, areas where many whales have been spotted in recent years. Keep a look out for sperm whales and other whale species here. Near Andenes, along the edge of

the continental shelf, whales dive particularly deep to feed on giant squid. You may also see white-tailed eagles, one of the largest birds of prey in Europe, vying for their share of the herring. In the afternoon, you find a place for the night in one of the scenic fishing villages nearby, such as Skrolsvik, Andenes, Gryllefjorden, Hamn and/ or Sommarøy. Once the sun has set, you can make short hikes along the coast or in small villages – and maybe even catch sight of the aurora. On the small island of Sommarøy there are good opportunities for hiking and exploring small bays.

Day 7: Under the northern lights

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All itineraries are subject to change and vary according to weather conditions.

Included in this voyage

- *Voyage aboard the indicated vessel as indicated in the itinerary*
- *All meals throughout the voyage aboard the ship including snacks, coffee and tea.*
- *All shore excursions and activities throughout the voyage by Zodiac.*
- *Program of lectures by noted naturalists and leadership by experienced expedition staff.*
- *All miscellaneous service taxes and port charges throughout the programme.*
- *AECO fees and governmental taxes.*
- *Comprehensive pre-departure material.*

Excluded from this voyage

Any airfare, whether on scheduled or charter flights

Pre- and post- land arrangements.

Transfers to / from the vessel.

Passport and visa expenses.

Government arrival and departure taxes.

Meals ashore.

Baggage, cancellation and personal insurance (which is strongly recommended).

Excess baggage charges and all items of a personal nature such as laundry, bar, beverage charges and telecommunication charges.

The customary gratuity at the end of the voyages for stewards and other service personnel aboard (guidelines will be provided).

CABINS & PRICES

Triple Private Porthole



1 porthole
 1 upper/lower berth + 1 lower berth
 Private shower and toilet
 Ample storage space



Complete cabin	7050 USD
Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied.	7500 USD



Sharing berth	2350 USD
Share your cabin with others for the best price	2500 USD

Twin Private Inside



1 upper / lower berth
 Private shower and toilet
 Ample storage space



Complete cabin	5200 USD
Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied.	5500 USD



Single cabin	4420 USD
Price for the complete cabin occupied by 1 person (1.7x the shared rate).	4675 USD



Sharing berth	2600 USD
Share your cabin with others for the best price	2750 USD

Twin Private Porthole



1 porthole
1 upper / lower berth
Private shower and toilet
Ample storage space



Complete cabin	5900 USD
Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied.	6300 USD



Single cabin	5015 USD
Price for the complete cabin occupied by 1 person (1.7x the shared rate).	5355 USD



Sharing berth	2950 USD
Share your cabin with others for the best price	3150 USD