

HamanScandinavia 

ABSOLUTELY NORTH
9 nights / 10 days
Self drive tour



North Norway covers about a third of Norway. The region is multi-cultural – housing not just Norwegians - but also the indigenous Sami people, the Norwegian Finns (known as Kvens) and Russian populations. The Norwegian language dominates in most of the area. Experience with this trip the Big North with its myth: Arctic Circle & North Cape passing by the scenery Lofoten archipelago.

Day 01: Arrival in Bodø

Arrival in Bodø accordingly to your own itinerary. Bodø is located in the centre of Nordland County and is surrounded by beautiful nature, including the Børvasstindene mountains to the south, and Landegode island and the Lofoten Islands to the north. The city is located just north of the Arctic Circle where the midnight sun is visible from beginning of June to middle of July. Accommodation at Rica Hotel Bodø.

Day 02: Bodø – Lofoten Islands

Breakfast at the hotel. Ferry crossing from Bodø to Moskenes on the Vestfjord. After 3 hours you will arrive on the south part of the beautiful Lofoten archipelago. Drive north along the beautiful scenery passing through many charming fishing villages before arriving in Mortsund. Accommodation at Statles Rorbu - the fisherman's cabins.

Day 03: Lofoten - Vesterålen (210 km)

Breakfast at the hotel. Morning departure from Henningsvær to continue your journey towards Harstad and the Vesterålen Islands. Discover more about these amazing islands and enjoy the beautiful nature. Driving north you will pass by Svolvær, known as the Lofoten Capital, and through the Lofast, the new fairway combining tunnels and bridges that is connecting Lofoten to the mainland and the Vesterålen Islands. In Vesterålen the landscape is mountainous, but the mountains have a more rounded shape compared to the mountains in Lofoten. Accommodation at Thon Hotel Harstad in Harstad.

Day 04: Harstad - Senja Island

Breakfast at the hotel; today you will return to the mainland to reach the famous Senja Island passing by the Gisund Bridge. Among the sights of interest we recommend Ånderdalen National Park, traditional fishing communities and the world's largest troll: Senja Trollet (The Troll of Senja). Accommodation at Hamn I Senja Hotel in Gryllefjord.

Day 05: Senja - Alta (340 km)

Breakfast at the hotel; enjoy your drive through the Finnmark region, located at the Northernmost part of continental Europe. Here, Norway swings eastward and Finnmark has always been an area where east meets west, in culture as well as in nature and geography. In this area you can discover more about the Sami culture and traditions. We also recommend a visit to the Rock carvings at Alta museum, dating from circa 4200 BC to 500 BC. These carvings are listed on the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites. Accommodation at Rica Hotel Alta.

Day 06: Alta – North Cape (285 km)

Breakfast at the hotel; today you will continue your journey in North direction driving towards the Magerøy Island where you will visit Europe's northernmost point. The North Cape is at latitude of 71° north. We are confident that this is an experience of a lifetime! The North Cape rises to a majestic 308 meters above the Barents Sea; it has always been an important point of orientation for sailors in the northern areas and a big attraction for people from all over the world. At North Cape the Midnight sun is usually visible from middle May to the end of July. Accommodation at Rica Hotel Honningsvåg.

Day 07: Honningsvåg – Hammerfest - Tromsø (Cruise on Hurtigruten)

Breakfast at the hotel. Leave Honningsvåg passing again the North Cape Tunnel with south west direction with Hammerfest as your final destination. Hammerfest claims to be the northernmost city in the world, although the title is disputed by Honningsvåg and Longyearbyen, Svalbard. The validity of the claim depends upon one's definition of a city; Hammerfest is the world's northernmost settlement of more than 5,000 inhabitants. At your arrival board on the famous Hurtigruten boat, Norwegian Coastal Express, to enjoy half day cruise that will start at 12:45. Hurtigruten sails along Norway's spectacular western and northern coast. The whole trip has been described as the "World's Most Beautiful Sea Voyage." You will cruise south passing close beautiful islands and you will arrive in Tromsø at 23:45. Accommodation at the Clarion Collection Hotel With in Tromsø.

Day 08: Tromsø – Narvik (250 km)

Breakfast at the hotel; morning at your own disposal to discover the city centre of Tromsø with its beautiful old and historic wooden houses that co-exist with modern architecture. Tromsø has been named after the island of Tromsøya, which it is situated on. The Arctic Cathedral, a modern church from 1965, is probably the most famous landmark in Tromsø. Leave Tromsø driving across the Troms region enjoying the beautiful scenery. Arrival in Narvik in the evening, in the city there are many monuments to commemorate the battle of Narvik in 1940 during World War II. Accommodation at Narvik Hotell.

Day 09: Narvik - Bodø (330 km)

Enjoy your Scandinavian breakfast buffet at the hotel.

Continue your journey driving along the Ofotfjord, ferry crossing on the Tysfjord between Skardberget and Bognes. Continue along the coast with a magnificent view on many islands at islets that rise from the sea. Arriving in Bodø, we recommend a drive outside the city, direction south, to cross the Salstraumen Bridge in order to enjoy the view of the Saltstraumen Maelstrom - World's Strongest Tidal Current. Saltstraumen is created when the tide try to fill the Skjerstad fjord. In the attempt to level out the two sides, the water increases its speed and turns into something that looks like a very strong river. However this "river" has a twist, it runs both ways. Huge whirlpools are formed; sometimes they can be as much as 10 to 15 meters in diameter. The current is strongest around new and full moon.

Accommodation at Rica Hotel Bodø.

Day 10: Departure from Bodø

Breakfast at the hotel. Departure according to your own itinerary.

Hotel description:

The price is based on accommodation in good tourist class hotels (3-4 stars). If any of the hotels are fully booked we will find alternatives of equal standard.

Services:

- 9 nights hotel accommodation in shared double room with shower/WC
- 9 x Scandinavian breakfast buffet
- Ferries, tunnels and cruises listed in the above program necessary for the realization of the tour.

The price is valid from 01.05.2012 – 30.09.2012