



Craig
travel

EXPERIENCE NORWAY

LAND OF THE MIDNIGHT SUN
MAY 5-21, 2024 | 17 DAYS | 42 MEALS
ECORTED BY KAREN CULLEN

Like a crumpled ribbon, Norway stretches along the northern coast of Europe, offering some of the world's most spectacular scenery. Sheer cliffs rise steeply from the tranquil waters; freshly melted snows from hidden ice fields cascade down steep slopes, creating feathery streams of light. Tiny farmhouses cling precariously to the steep slopes while quaint villages sit nestled in small protected coves. Like long fingers of the sea, the fjords penetrate deep into the heartland of Norway, creating watery roadways to isolated villages.

Join us on this spring journey to the Land of the Midnight Sun on board the *ms Nordnorge* of the Hurtigruten Norwegian Coastal Cruises fleet. Originally developed to serve the remote communities of northern Norway, these specially designed vessels are really cruise ships serving a dual purpose - in addition to carrying freight for the cities and villages of the far north, they allow cruisers a unique opportunity to visit these picturesque settlements while sailing the inside passage to the North Cape and beyond. We have limited space on this special departure and our early booking savings won't last long, we urge you to book early.



Our Cruise Ship • ms Nordnorge

Nord-norge means the northern part of Norway, mostly located inside the Arctic Circle. Our ship the *ms Nordnorge* carries up to 590 passengers. It was totally refurbished in 2016 and now features a modern, Arctic inspired interior. On board, there are three restaurants, a bakery, an ice cream bar, a sauna, a fitness room and an observation deck with hot tubs. On board programming is designed to enhance your experience by engaging you and interpreting the nature, wildlife, and culture you encounter during the voyage. The dedicated Expedition Team will give interesting lectures, presentations and activities both inside and out on the ship's sun deck. Cabins vary in size from the most luxurious suites featuring seating areas with a TV at 188-240 sq ft, to the cozy inside cabins at 90-118 sq ft. All of them are comfortable, featuring double or twin beds plus a full bathroom with shower.

Journey Leader

Karen Cullen retired from 30+ years in the travel industry, where she worked as a Director with both an international travel agency chain and a travel insurance provider in Business Development. She is now looking forward to sharing her passion for travel and meeting new people with all those who join her. She has an interest in learning about new cultures and the history of various countries, whilst maintaining a passion for volunteering. She has travelled to Europe with extensive travels in Italy, Ireland, Greece, Portugal and Great Britain. Glacier hiking in Iceland, kayaking in Newfoundland and in Tofino and skiing the Rockies. Australia, Hawaii, most Caribbean islands and Central America countries, Junk-a-noo in the Bahamas, a long and extensive list of experiences, people and places. Among her most proud passport stamps is Malawi where she volunteered with Women for Fair Development in developing a strategic plan.



Inclusive Features

- 2 nights in Oslo at a first class hotel as indicated or similar plus a city tour
- Rail / ferry journey from Oslo to Bergen
- 2 nights in Bergen at a first class hotel as indicated or similar plus a city tour
- 11 night cruise on Hurtigruten's *ms Nordnorge* sharing a twin-bedded stateroom in category selected
- 42 meals included as noted in the itinerary (B - 15 breakfasts, L - 13 lunches, D - 14 dinners)
- Six included shore excursions - Trondheim, Tromso, Kirkenes, the North Cape and the Lofoten Islands (2) plus a number of optional (extra cost) excursions
- Services of your cruise escort and/or cruise director and local representatives
- Baggage handling at hotels and shipside for one piece of luggage per person
- Gratuities for all included services
- All current taxes, surcharges and fees

Air-Inclusive rates also include:

- Return economy class airfare
- Transfers between airports and hotels
- Airport transfers in Canada or equivalent value
- All current air taxes, fuel surcharges and fees

MAY 5, Sunday

Group members from across Canada gather in Toronto for the overnight flights to Oslo.

Depart Canada

MAY 6, Monday

Upon arrival in Oslo we shall collect our bags and transfer into the city and to our **Clarion Hotel The Hub** (2 nights) D

Arrive Oslo

MAY 7, Tuesday

After a sumptuous Norwegian breakfast our panoramic city tour includes a view of the Royal Palace, the Parliament Buildings, the National Theatre, the Akershus Fortress and the Opera House. Highlight visits will include the Fram Museum and the Kontiki Museum, each marking feats of great Norwegian adventurers. The balance of the day has been left free to enjoy at your leisure.

Oslo

BL

MAY 8, Wednesday Rail / Cruise Adventure to Bergen

Enjoy another day of spectacular scenery. Departing Oslo, we travel by rail across the mountain plateau with views of the rugged countryside. Enjoy a picnic lunch on the train. At Myrdal we change trains and travel on the famous Flam Railway to Flam where we journey by boat, winding our way through the steep slopes down to Sognefjord, the longest and deepest fjord in Norway. We have a boxed dinner as we cruise. Upon arrival in the coastal city of Bergen we will transfer to our hotel where our luggage awaits us. **Thon Hotel Orion** (1 night) BLD

MAY 9, Thursday Bergen / Embark

This morning our included city tour features Trolldaugen and Fantoft Stave Church followed by free time to sample the local cuisine. In the afternoon embark our ship and begin our cruise up Norway's inside passage. Norway is a fascinating country known for its incredible landscapes and friendly people. This voyage is felt by many to be the most scenic cruise in the world. Enjoy a delightful buffet dinner as we cruise north.

Embarkation / ms Nordnorge (11 nights) BD

MAY 10, Friday Alesund / Molde

Be sure to rise early this morning to discover the magical beauty of Norway's fjords. Our coastal voyage, known in Norwegian as the 'Hurtigruta', follows the traditional route to service the tiny settlements dotted along the coast. In fact, our ship is carrying mail and other supplies for the various settlements that we will visit. This afternoon we will enjoy free time in Alesund, a relatively modern port (it was completely rebuilt in Art Nouveau style after a fire in 1904). Lying on a strip of land, the city has virtually no room to expand making it very easy to explore on foot. Later we come to Molde, known as the 'City of Roses' because of its beautiful municipal gardens. BLD

MAY 11, Saturday Trondheim

Trondheim is the former capital of Norway and its third largest city. Visit the fascinating Ringve Museum of Musical History. The 18th century manor house features an extensive collection of historic instruments displayed in a number of rooms, each furnished according to the period of the famous composer for which it is named. After a brief city tour, including a visit to the Nidaros Cathedral, Norway's largest church, dating back to 1070 AD, we rejoin the ship in time for lunch as we sail north towards the Arctic Circle. BLD

MAY 12, Sunday Arctic Circle / Lofoten Islands

Very early this morning we sail across the Arctic Circle and enjoy relaxed cruising by the Borvass Mountains, watching out for the 3,000 ft high Lofoten Wall on the horizon. Tucked between tall mountains, majestic granite cliffs, and white-sand beaches, seeing beautiful Lofoten is truly an extraordinary experience. The additional charm of the islands is revealed in its small, picturesque fishing villages with their bohemian atmosphere. BLD

MAY 13, Monday Tromso

After a morning of coastal cruising we arrive in Tromso, the 'Paris of the North' and a lively university town. Our excursion begins with a cable car ride to the top of the mountain for incredible views of the fjord landscape followed by a city tour including the Arctic Cathedral (if not closed for private service) which boasts one of Europe's largest stained-glass windows. BLD



Akershus Fortress at night, Oslo



Trondheim, intimate charm in the third largest city



Hurtigruten's ms Nordnorge, our home for 11 nights

MAY 14, Tuesday North Cape / Honningsvåg

Today we experience one of the highlights of the trip, the North Cape plateau, the most northerly point in Europe. Boarding our coach in Honningsvåg, we cross a starkly barren landscape, climbing up to the North Cape, where we visit the striking museum, offering views of the Arctic Ocean. In the evening we re-board our ship and sail southeast toward Kirkenes. BLD

MAY 15, Wednesday Kirkenes

Arriving in Kirkenes by mid-morning, we enjoy a short excursion to the Russian Borderland Museum, dedicated to the long and varied history of this region which became quite important during the Second World War. This afternoon the ship will turn around for our southward journey back towards Bergen. BLD

MAY 16, Thursday North Cape / Hammerfest

We bid farewell to the extreme north and journey south. Along the way we shall see some of the world's northernmost fishing villages and Europe's northernmost lighthouse, plus enjoy a brief stop at the old trading post of Skjervoy. BLD

MAY 17, Friday Lofoten Islands

We will disembark at Risøyhamn where we will take a tour to Melbu and learn about Vesteralen's nature, culture and livelihood. Join a fascinating concert at Royal Neptune Hall before rejoining our ship in Stokmarknes. This evening, taking full advantage of the extended hours of daylight, we have an incredible shore excursion between Svolvær and Stamsund to see the Lofoten Wall, with its sheer mountain cliffs rising 3,300 feet from the sea. BLD

MAY 18, Saturday Cruising / Cross the Arctic Circle

Relax on board as our route takes us along the beautiful inside passage, making brief stops at a number of small villages where you may have the opportunity to purchase Norwegian handicrafts that are often sold near port. Along the way we pass Mount Torghatten with its massive hole created during the Ice Age and the mythical Seven Sisters Mountains. BLD

MAY 19, Sunday Trondheim / Kristiansund

Arriving in Trondheim early this morning, we have some free time to explore the city centre on our own or join an optional excursion (extra cost) to the renowned Atlantic Road, an incredibly scenic route. Those choosing to stay on board at Kristiansund will cross the open sea to Molde. Following lunch on board, we can sit back and relax as the coastal scenery unfolds before us. BLD

MAY 20, Monday Bergen / Disembark

During the night, the ship calls at Alesund, Torvik, and Maløy then we sail past fascinating scenery, including the picturesque Nordfjord below the enormous Jostedal Glacier. We sail across the mouth of Sognefjord as well as the beautiful archipelago en route to Bergen. Disembarking in Bergen after lunch, we check into our hotel with the balance of the day at leisure.

Thon Hotel Orion (1 night) BLD

MAY 21, Tuesday Bergen / Canada

All too soon, we catch our return flights to Toronto where we make connections to our homes across Canada. B



Colourful Row Houses, Bergen

CT Rating 2/5 - Moderately Easy: While the cruise is easy, the shore arrangements associated with this cruise include some relatively fast paced walking tours. The journey across Norway (May 8) is a long travel day involving rail and boat travel.

Cruise Cost in Canadian Dollars per person

Category/Description/Deck	Sharing Twin or Double
Polar Inside (I2) Deck 3	\$8,795
Polar Outside (N2D) Deck 3	\$10,195
Polar Outside (O3) Deck 5,6	\$10,475
Arctic Superior (P2D) Deck 5	\$10,975
Arctic Superior (U2D) Deck 6	\$11,485
Single Supplement	Call for rates / available online

Reservations will be confirmed by category and cabin numbers will be assigned at time of sailing. Above rates are per person based on sharing the category chosen. Cruise costs above are based on joining at the hotel in Oslo and leaving the group at the hotel in Bergen. See deck plan for full details on various categories available. For your complete cost, add the airfare noted below to your cruise cost above.

Estimated air add-ons per person:

Toronto.....	\$1,550
Ottawa.....	\$1,700
Montreal.....	\$1,750
Halifax / Saint John / Winnipeg / Thunder Bay.....	\$1,800
St. John's / Charlottetown	\$1,850
Saskatoon / Regina / Victoria	\$1,950
Calgary / Edmonton / Vancouver.....	\$1,900

Airfares from other gateways are available on request and are subject to change. Refer to inclusive features for details. Prices are based on a minimum 20 members and on rates, taxes and fees effective May 2023. Air taxes and fuel surcharges are subject to change. Prices are subject to change due to factors beyond our control. Our escort will accompany this group with a minimum enrolment of 20.

Insurance is NOT INCLUDED but is highly recommended. Premiums are calculated based on the individual's age, destination (country), trip length, and trip booking window – please contact our staff to receive a quote. Your coverage starts on the effective date of your confirmation of coverage. Please discuss your insurance coverage prior to booking. Check our website for the most current information. Refer to the enrollment form for terms and conditions.

Final payment will be due October 31, 2023

Deposit is \$1,900pp for twin accommodation

\$2,900pp for single accommodation

To reserve your spot on this tour, simply complete the enclosed enrollment form, indicating the journey that you wish to join and your home city, and forward it with your deposit to:



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