

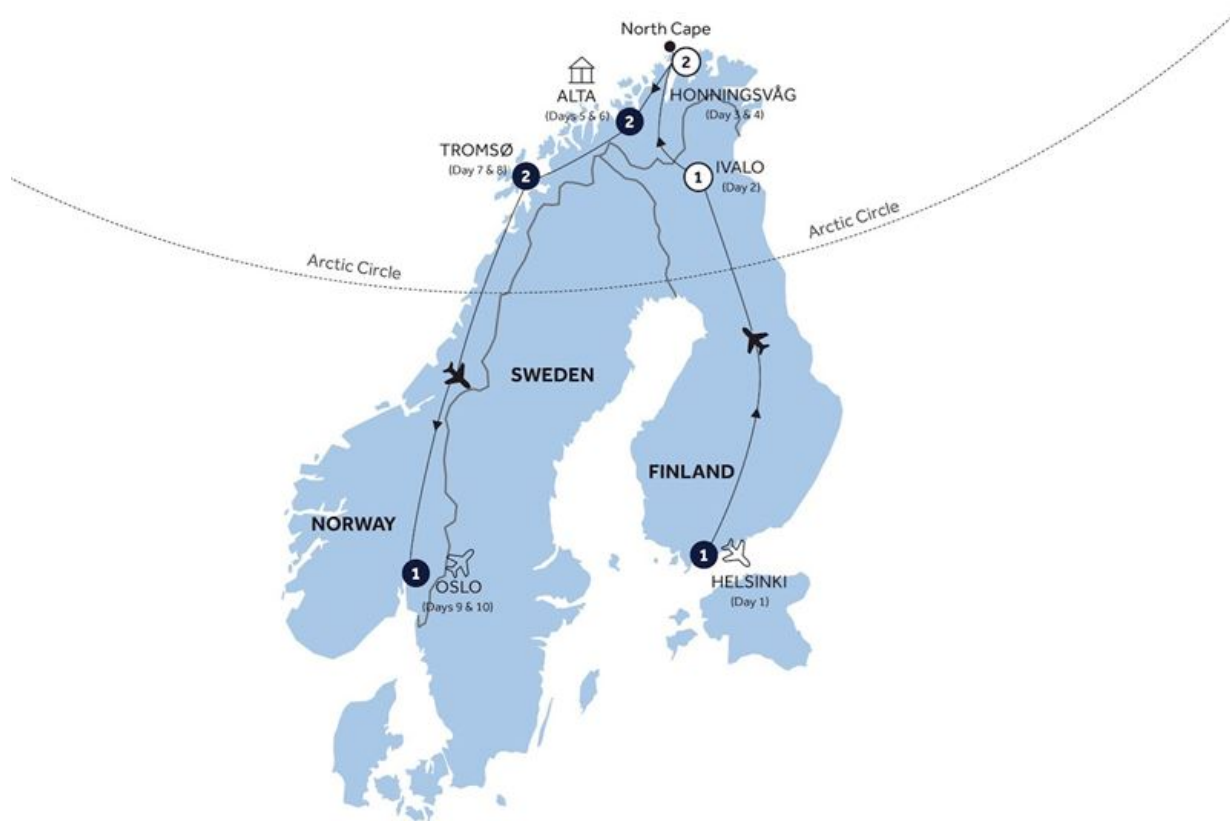
**INSIGHT VACATIONS**

*The Art of Travelling in Style*

## **NORTHERN LIGHTS OF SCANDINAVIA**







## KEY

1 Central Hotels + Nights

1 Scenic Hotels + Nights

● Place Visited

○ Optional Place Visited

▨ Trip Option

🚢 Cruise

🚆 Train

✈ Join/Leave Options

✈ Included Flights

🏠 UNESCO Heritage Site

## Day 1 | Welcome to Helsinki.



Welcome to Helsinki, with its excellent museums and pretty seaside buildings. This beautiful city is set to be your home for the night. At Helsinki airport, transfers depart at 10:00, 14:00 and 16:00 for the grand GLO Hotel Art. Meet your Travel Director at 18:00 for a drinks reception. Decorated in a distinctive Art Nouveau style, this charming four-star hotel is the ideal place to sit back and get to know your fellow travellers, before your Scandinavian adventure begins.

**Hotel:** GLO Hotel Art, Helsinki.

## Day 2 | The gateway to Lapland



Today you'll take a flight to Ivalo, a small yet important centre in Finnish Lapland, 250km above the Arctic Circle. The Gateway to the North, Ivalo is set on the Ivalo River, where the first Lapland Goldrush took place in the 19th century.

You'll enjoy a Welcome Dinner at your boutique hotel, Aurora Village, famed for its cabins with a glass roof, offering sweeping views of the night sky. Look out for the dancing northern lights, as you gaze through the glass ceiling from the comfort of your room. Please note that the northern lights are a natural phenomenon and therefore sightings cannot be guaranteed.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

**Hotel:** Aurora Village, Ivalo.

## OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

You will be offered one of the following two optional experiences depending on availability:

**Meet the Finnhorses** - Join us for an up close and personal experience with the Finnhorses whose ancestors served the Finns in WW2, as well as a demonstration of how Salmon is prepared within a traditional Lapland Teepee. We'll learn about life in these extreme circumstances from a local expert, who will also give you valuable technical insights on getting the very best out of your photos of the Northern Lights.

**Adult: 135.00 EUR**

**Aurora Snowmobile Safari** - Venture into the remote wilderness of the North on an exciting snowmobile ride. Along the way learn some fascinating facts about the Arctic and about life in these extreme conditions.

**Adult: 135.00 EUR**



### Day 3 | Ivalo to Honningsvåg



Today you'll be heading further North through the winter Lapland landscape. Cross the Finnish–Norwegian border as you make your way to Honningsvåg, the northernmost and smallest city in Norway. Your drive will take you along the mighty Porsangerfjord, the fourth largest fjord in Norway. You will take the subsea Nordkapp Tunnel to the island of Magerøya, to reach your hotel in this small fishing community. Explore the quaint city by taking a stroll along the waterfront before retiring to your hotel and enjoying a delicious dinner.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Hotel:** Scandic Nordkapp

### Day 4 | Northern Lights in North Cape



Enjoy a leisurely day to discover more of Honningsvåg. Take a walk to the 19th century church that survived the destruction of World War 2, a true rarity in Northern Norway. Perhaps take an Optional Experience to learn about king crabs and enjoy a fresh, sea-to-table lunch of this delicacy. Take your chance to visit the northernmost point of Europe, the famous North Cape and sip on bubbles and delight in exquisite caviar with your fellow travellers (weather permitting).

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Hotel:** Scandic Honningsvåg.

### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

**Arctic King Crab Safari And Lunch** - Set out in the company of local fishermen to witness giant king crabs being hauled out of their pots. With our catch secured, continue to a remote fishing village to see the crabs being prepared and enjoy a feast of king crab for lunch.

Adult: 224.00 EUR

*\*On occasion, this optional experience will be land based only and offered at €95.00*

### Day 5 | North Cape to Alta



Today's journey will take you along an ever changing landscape from barren lands through highlands to the shores of the Altafjord. It was in Alta where the world's first northern lights observatory was built at the end of the 19th century. With increasing tourism the city is going through quick development offering a wide range of activities. Start your adventures with a visit to one of the first ice hotels in the world and enjoy a chilled beverage with your fellow travellers. Your comfortable hotel is located next to the modern and iconic Northern Lights Cathedral in the heart of the city.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Scandic Alta.

## OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

**Northern Lights Mountain Safari** - With our Local Expert, we'll chase the Northern Lights from the top of a mountain high above Alta. We'll learn about this incredible phenomenon over a traditional hot chicken curry soup at his camp, located on the slate mountains. Then, we'll gear up into survival suits for the hunt!

**Adult: 164.00 EUR**

### Day 6 | Alaskan Huskies in Alta



You'll enjoy a leisurely day in Alta to continue with your activities. Maybe you'll choose to visit the UNESCO World Heritage listed Alta Museum famous for its prehistoric rock carvings. Later, you'll visit a working husky farm and get to know the Lyrek family and champion sled dogs. Learn about the Alaskan huskies and the challenges they face competing in the marathon long Arctic dog sled races. Indulge in a delectable oven-baked Highlight Lunch before meeting the dogs themselves.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch with Wine

**Hotel:** Scandic Alta.

## OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

**World Heritage Rock Art Centre** - Join us as we discover the life and culture of the people of Alta. Their ancient lives have been documented in rock art which is brought to life by the museum. With our guide, we'll learn how the rock art, slate industry and the local wildlife have shaped the lives of the people who settled here thousands of years ago.

**Adult: 40.00 EUR**

**Wilderness Dog Sleigh Ride** - Come and meet some outstanding athletes who love to run: Alaskan huskies. Their loving owners and handlers race them in the 1000-kilometre-long sleigh race – the Finnmark Race. Now it's your chance to join them in an exhilarating dogsled ride through forests and fields close by the Alta River.

**Adult: 113.00 EUR**

### Day 7 | Norway's gateway to the Arctic



Today you'll head to Tromsø, northern Norway's largest city, located on the island of Tromsøya. You'll be surrounded by snowcapped mountains and ethereal water views. Just a short walk from your hotel, you'll find a high concentration of old wooden houses and a great array of restaurants.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Clarion Hotel The Edge, Tromsø.

## OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

**Arctic Aurora Dinner Cruise** - All aboard! This incredible dinner cruise offers a unique opportunity to search for the Northern Lights from the water while enjoying a delicious selection of Arctic specialties from a local restaurant in Tromsø. Our state-of-the-art, purpose built, hybrid electric launch will cruise silently into the darkness of the Tromsø fjords while our hosts serve dinner with a modern twist inspired by traditional Northern Norwegian cuisine. While the captain keeps an eye out for the Northern Lights from the bridge, you will be free to

relax and enjoy the onboard ambience. An evening to remember forever.

**Adult: 184.00 EUR**

### Day 8 | Delve into Scandinavian history



Join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience as you meet members of the Indigenous Sami community of Scandinavia. Delve into the history of Arctic Norway and join a Sami guide for an immersive journey through their camp, with an invitation to help feed their reindeer herd.

You are invited into a lavuu (a traditional Sami tent) to hear stories of Sami life and folk songs around the fire, after enjoying a traditional Sami meal with hot drinks.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Hotel:** Clarion Hotel The Edge, Tromsø.

### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

**Arctic Cathedral and Cable Car Experience** - Visit the Arctic Cathedral of Tromsø, an architectural landmark of Northern Norway. Then, we'll enjoy soaring views of fjords as we ascend via cable car to the Storsteinen mountain range, 1,400 meters above sea level.

**Adult: 55.00 EUR**

### Day 9 | A merry finale in Oslo



In the morning, take a flight from Tromsø to Oslo, a modern city located on the shores of the Oslofjord. Surrounded by forested mountains, city dwellers and visitors alike have easy access to nature all year round. On your orientation see the Oslo Opera House and the new Deichmann Library in the contemporary Bjørvika district. Join your fellow travellers at a local restaurant to make a toast to newfound friends and a wonderful journey, over a Celebration Dinner with wine.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

**Hotel:** Thon Hotel Opera, Oslo.

### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

**Highlights of Oslo** - Visit the fascinating Viking ship museum and let our Local Expert bring the era to life. Discover the world's best-preserved Viking ships, which made countless voyages across the seas before becoming the final resting places of their wealthy owners. Next, we'll leap forward in time to explore the fascinating Vigeland Sculpture Park, to admire the many surreal sculptures of human

figures in all manner of poses. These two Oslo highlights are not to be missed!

**Adult: 42.00 EUR**

## **Day 10 | Farewell Oslo**

It's time to say farewell to your fellow travellers. Transfers arrive into Oslo airport at 07:15 or 10:15.

**Meals:** Breakfast