



Northern Norway - A Family Adventure in Tromsø And Sommarøy



HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group
VISITING: Norway

BROCHURE CODE: 1703
DURATION: 4 nights

In Brief

This trip to Norway includes two contrasting destinations that make for a fantastically varied family holiday. Spending two nights in the city of Tromsø, with two nights on the island of Sommarøy in between, you will find yourselves on an array of adventures. These include speeding over the snow on a husky sleigh ride, venturing out by boat in search of whales and marine wildlife, and hunting for the Northern Lights at a remote reindeer farm.

Our Opinion

“ After having such a great time in Finland the previous year, my family insisted on repeating the winter holiday experience, but they wanted to visit somewhere a little different. This trip combined everything we could have wanted, as you still get to do the most popular activities like the huskies and the reindeer, but you also get to experience things like the city tour in Tromsø and a whale watching safari in Sommarøy. We were also lucky enough to see the Northern Lights on the last night which was an amazing end to the trip.”

Dawn Kitson



What's included?

- **Transfers:** return airport transfers are included from Tromsø Airport, as well as return transfers to Sommarøy
- **Accommodation:** 2 nights at Clarion Hotel The Edge in a family room, 2 nights in a sea view apartment at the Sommarøy Arctic Hotel
- **Meals:** 4 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 4 dinners
- **The following activities are included:** Aurora husky visit, husky sledding, Northern Lights watch, wildlife boat trip, Tromsø city tour, one entrance to Polaria Arctic Aquarium, Reindeer Camp Dinner with Northern Lights Watch (**the order of activities is subject to change**)
- Cold weather clothing during guided activities

A note on flights: flights are not included in the holiday price so that the best possible fares and schedule can be found at the time of booking. There are low cost and scheduled flights operating this

route and our Travel Experts will happily provide a quotation and arrange the flights as part of the package.

Trip Overview

This holiday sandwiches two nights on the island of Sommarøy between two nights in bustling Tromsø, creating the perfect recipe for a family winter holiday in Norway.

Tromsø is a very family-friendly city, everything is easy to reach and there is a lot to keep the whole family happy. Polaria, for example, is an incredible Arctic aquarium which offers an interactive way to explore the natural world. We include entry to Polaria in the holiday as it is just such a fabulous family destination; no family holiday is complete without getting up close to a bearded seal is it?

From Tromsø you will then be transferred to the island of Sommarøy for two nights, getting you out into the Norwegian countryside for a taste of The Great Outdoors and some amazing wildlife encounters. Sommarøy will give your family the chance to witness the stunning scenery of Norway and even children are impressed by the landscape here.

This holiday has been designed to provide the most memorable experiences for your family and in Norway, animals and nature play a huge role in this. Your holiday includes encounters with huskies on two occasions, as well as the chance for you to go on a wildlife boat trip in search of seals, birds and maybe even whales.

Of course, this region is renowned for its Northern Lights displays, and so we have included some family-friendly Aurora activities. You will visit a husky centre near Tromsø to meet the dogs and puppies, before an Aurora Camp visit. You will take part in an Aurora watch on Sommarøy and, to end the holiday, you will enjoy a visit to a traditional reindeer herder's camp, deep in the Aurora Zone.

Most of these activities also include time for snuggling up around a warming fire with your family and keeping an eye on the skies, hot drink in hand. With any luck, the dazzling Aurora Borealis will light up the night and add some extra magic to your trip. If not, it's still an amazing way to spend time together as a family.



Image credits: Tromsø Adventure, Sommaroy Arctic Hotel, Konrad Konieczny/www.nordnorge.com, Bård Løken - Visitnorway.com, Clarion Hotel The Edge

Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY
1

ARRIVAL AND AURORA HUSKY VISIT

Once you arrive at Tromsø Airport, you will be transferred to your hotel. This is only around a twenty-minute journey, so it won't be long before you can check into your hotel and start your holiday in earnest.

We get things started straight away and so tonight, you will enjoy an evening of cuddling huskies, a delicious dinner and, hopefully, the spectacular Northern Lights.

You will head to a meeting point in downtown Tromsø (no more than a 5-minute walk away) in order to be picked up for your transfer to the husky yard, which is around 30 minutes away. The pups will be awaiting your arrival and will be more than ready for some time to play after a hard day's work. After receiving your warm clothes, you will then have time to stroke, cuddle and play with the huskies. This will also be a perfect opportunity to take some family photos with your new furry friends.

Once you have had your fill of the adorable dogs, you will be taken to an Aurora Camp, which is positioned at a perfect Northern Lights viewpoint. Here, you can keep warm around a fire and a hearty dinner will be served as you keep watch on the sky for a potential Aurora display. This is an exceptional way to kick-start your holiday.

This activity will last around four hours in total.

Included Meals: Dinner

DAY
2

DOG SLEDDING, SOMMARØY AND NORTHERN LIGHTS WATCH

Today, you will have your first breakfast in Tromsø, before heading back to the huskies.

This time, the huskies will be much more excitable as they'll know that you are here to take them out with the sleds, their favourite pastime. After a full safety briefing, you will set off with your expert guide driving the sled, giving you the chance to sit back and enjoy the views of the mountains and sea.

The dogs always make a lot of noise before they set off as they are so eager to get going, but as soon as the sled is moving they fall silent and focus on what they are doing. At first, it always feels like they are travelling quickly but they soon settle down into a happy rhythm and you'll relax and enjoy the ride. You will be sledding for approximately 45-60 minutes and, upon your return, you will enjoy a warm lunch in a traditional Norwegian Gamme hut, around a crackling campfire.

After your morning with the dogs, you will return to Tromsø to collect your bags (you can store them at the hotel after you have checked out this morning) and enjoy some free time in the city before being transferred to Sommarøy for the next part of your adventure.

The road to Sommarøy is spectacular and the journey lasts between 1.5 and 2 hours approximately. Your family will check into their apartment on arrival and can soak in the sea views and the mountains

in the distance.

A delicious dinner will be served in the hotel's main restaurant, where all ingredients are based on traditions of the local area (don't worry, children can be well catered for – please let us know of any dietary requirements at the time of booking). Then, you will join your guide in order to head out on your second Aurora activity; a visit to the Northern Lights Park. The park is a short walk from the hotel and there are several features, which have been hand-built by a local islander; it is perfectly situated to search the dark skies above for the Aurora.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
3

WILDLIFE BOAT TRIP

This morning, an incredible adventure awaits as you will head out onto the sea for a wildlife boat trip! After stepping into your cold weather clothing, you will receive a full safety briefing. You will then board a small vessel that holds a maximum of 20 passengers, and will set sail for prime wildlife-watching spots.

From November until mid to late January, there may be an opportunity to spot whales as they follow the herring shoals into the Atlantic Ocean. Although it is not guaranteed, Sommarøy is known to attract high numbers of orca, humpback and fin whales. Witnessing these gigantic mammals in their natural environment is quite a staggering sight.

In addition to whales, there is plenty more to watch out for on this excursion, including wonderful white-tailed eagles, sea otters, porpoises, puffins and adorable seals. The abundant marine and birdlife are amazing, but at any time of year, the views are beyond spectacular. This activity is around 2-3 hours in duration.

The afternoon is yours to enjoy your surroundings and tailor your time. Why not wrap up warm and take a walk around the local area; it's fascinating for families to see what life is like in this remote corner of Europe. Or, return to your cosy accommodation and just spend time as a family.

Dinner will be served in the hotel restaurant today. After your evening meal, we strongly recommend a stroll outside to keep an eye out for any Northern Lights displays, as they can often be seen from very close to the hotel.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY
4

RETURN TO TROMSØ, TROMSØ CITY TOUR, POLARIA ARCTIC AQUARIUM AND REINDEER CAMP DINNER WITH NORTHERN LIGHTS WATCH

This morning, you will have breakfast at the hotel, before taking a transfer back to Tromsø, where you will spend the final night of your trip.

After dropping your bags off at the hotel, your guide will meet you for a fun guided tour of Tromsø. There is so much to see in this small city, but all of the key areas can be reached on foot. The tour will

be tailored to keep the children entertained and as it is private to your family, you can ask your guide to focus on your family's interests. The activity will last around three hours in total.

After the tour and perhaps a stop for lunch (you can choose one of the wonderful local restaurants/cafés), you will have time to visit the Polaria Arctic Aquarium as the entrance fee is included in your holiday. This interactive visitor centre is extremely popular with families, as you can admire Arctic sea life up close. There are also films and displays which provide an interactive insight into the Arctic's natural wonders.

Tonight it is time for your final activity, a reindeer camp dinner with Northern Lights watch!

You'll transfer out into the countryside to a local reindeer farm, where you will be greeted by a Sámi guide (the Sámi are the indigenous people of Lapland). After pulling on your winter suit and being given an introduction to the life of the herders and their animals you will have the chance to feed them.

You will then be invited inside the Gamme (a Sámi hut) to warm up by the fire and enjoy a traditional three-course Sámi meal.

Following your dinner, you will be invited to a Lavu (Sámi tent) to gather around the fire and listen to stories about the culture and life as a herder. Your guide will also perform a traditional song, called a joik, as you wait in hopes for a Northern Lights display. You will be out for approximately 4 hours tonight, including transfers.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY
5

DEPARTURE

Today, you will leave Tromsø behind and take your transfer to the airport in time your flight home. If you would like to extend your stay then please do not hesitate to contact one of our Travel Experts for a quote.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation Notes

Accommodation Notes

Please note: due to limited availability in Tromsø hotels, this trip runs with two hotel choices in Tromsø, detailed below.

Included Accommodation

Clarion Hotel The Edge (Nights: 1,4)



This stylish hotel in the centre of Tromsø is an ideal base for families staying in 'The Paris of the North'. With a conveniently central location, the hotel offers splendid vistas of the city.

Hotel Facilities

- The magnificent Sky Bar takes you up into the clouds and is a great viewpoint for casting your eyes over the city. On weekends when the Sky Bar is not reserved for an event, guests can head up here and enjoy a refreshing drink, excellent music and an amazing panoramic vista
- The modern, quirky restaurant serves a hearty breakfast each morning with an offering of organic products
- The hotel has an exercise and well-being centre which many parents take advantage of if they have a moment to themselves
- Amongst other facilities, there is a steam room and Finnish sauna. Tickets for the well-being centre are bookable and payable at the hotel reception
- All guest rooms and common areas have free wireless internet. You will receive the login information at reception upon arrival
- **NB:** The hotel is cash-free. They take payment by credit or debit card and accept all major international cards including American Express and Diners. They can accept cash payment if needed but offer no change if you do not have the correct money.

Room type

FAMILY ROOMS: all rooms are ensuite and come with Wi-Fi, TV, minibar, iron and ironing board. The family rooms can sleep up to 4 people with 1 double/twin bed and 2 rollaway beds

Image credits: Clarion Hotel The Edge

Sommarøy Arctic Hotel (Nights: 2-3)



Breathtaking sea views and vistas of the distant, mountains are part of daily life at Sommarøy Arctic Hotel. Overlooking the Atlantic Ocean and located in a traditional fishing village, its location is ideal for families as you are in the midst of spectacular nature that makes for an excellent activity playground.

Hotel facilities

- The hotel has a wood-fired sauna and outdoor hot tub with sea views for the enjoyment of all guests (surcharges may apply locally)
- The hotel restaurant looks out over the sea and offers a menu of fresh local ingredients
- There are an array of accommodation types, including apartments that are perfectly suited to families

Room Type

SEA VIEW APARTMENT

The cosy, well-equipped apartments look out onto spectacular sea views, offering a peaceful backdrop for the whole family each time you open your curtains in the morning. The apartments have two bedrooms making them ideal for a family of four and have a kitchen, lounge and bathroom.

FISHERMEN'S COTTAGE

Families of more than four may be placed in the hotel's fishermen cottages. These also offer sea views and full kitchen and lounge facilities. Ideal for larger families, there are two bathrooms and three bedrooms, meaning plenty of space for everyone. Supplements apply (please ask for a quote).

Image credits: Sommarøy Arctic Hotel

The Specifics

Holiday group size (approximate)

Minimum 4 people; maximum 30 people (approximately)

Group Size

We always try to provide an approximation of the group size you can expect to be with for the duration of each of our holidays. It may be that you are joined by others for parts of your holiday (such as transfers and particular activities) but the above number reflects those you can normally expect to be with from beginning to end. If group size is something which is particularly important to you, please speak to our Travel Experts and they can suggest the best holidays for you.

Tailor-made holiday group sizes will vary for all activities as will the group size for any additional activities you book.

Minimum numbers required for a holiday to operate

Some of our holidays require a minimum number of participants to operate (as listed in the 'Group Size' section). If your holiday departure has not yet reached the minimum number, you will be told at the time of booking. In the unlikely event that your chosen date is not guaranteed by nine weeks before your scheduled departure date, we will contact you to discuss the available options as per our booking conditions.

Minimum and maximum age

The minimum age for this holiday can be found in the 'Key Facts' section of the holiday overview.

Younger family members may be able to participate but may not be able to take part in all activities. Please contact one of our Travel Experts if you have any questions.

Itinerary amendments

The order of activities listed in this agenda is provided for guidance only, your final and detailed itinerary will be provided either with your final travel documents (which are uploaded into your online account around a week prior to departure) or upon arrival.

Terms and Conditions

Our full booking terms and conditions can be found on our website: <https://www.activitiesabroad.com/booking-conditions>