

Touring holidays of Scandinavia

Expressions



The Lofoten Islands touring holiday



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8 NIGHTS/9 DAYS

Bodø • Nusfjord • Svolvær •
Hurtigruten cruise • Trondheim



Nusfjord

This luxury fly-drive touring holiday by car and boat of the Lofoten Islands offers an in-depth encounter with Norway's Arctic Circle and the incredible natural beauty of the Lofoten Islands, home to some of the most varied landscapes in the world. Start by flying into Bodø via Oslo. Bodø is a relatively small city set amidst some of Norway's most beautiful scenery. One of its main attractions is the beautiful harbour, whose pier offers stunning views across the Norwegian Sea. After one night here board a short flight across to Svolvær where you will collect your hire car and drive to Nusfjord, your base for the next 3 nights. Nusfjord is one of the best-preserved fishing villages on the islands and is located very close to some of the best beaches in the world. Spend your time here visiting the white sands and the picturesque villages surrounding them. Your next base is Svolvær, one of the largest towns in the Lofoten Islands. Experience the cod fisheries found throughout the town and view the top sights of the Lofoten War Museum and the North Norwegian Art Centre. The Lofoten Islands are home to some incredible hiking opportunities which you may want to make the most of, and Svolvær is close to the dramatic Trollfjord. After 6 days exploring all that the Lofoten Islands have to offer, leave your hire car in Svolvær and board the Hurtigruten service to Trondheim. Spend two nights onboard, skirting the incredible western coastline of Norway and crossing the Arctic Circle. Arrive into Trondheim in the early morning and board your flight back to the UK via Oslo.

Day one Arrive in Bodø

This holiday starts with a flight from London to Bodø via a connection in Oslo. Check in to your hotel in Bodø for one night. The city of Bodø is an excellent base from which to explore some of Norway's best scenery and natural attractions. One of its most well-known features is the Saltstraumen maelstrom, a small strait home to the world's strongest tidal current. Here you can witness whirlpools bigger than 10 metres with the water moving as fast as 40 km/h. Slightly further out of the city is Kjerringøy, a small, rural community featuring beautiful alpine landscapes ranging from mountains to white sandy beaches. The Kjerringøy trading post is a museum offering a unique insight into the lives of the powerful local merchants and information about the fish trade of the 19th century. For those looking for more adventurous activities, Bodø offers kayaking, RIB tours and even snorkelling in the surrounding fjords, and fishing is a popular local activity. There are also numerous hiking routes including Keiservarden, which leads up to Keiservarden hill overlooking Bodø, and Mount Ronvikfjellet, one of the top viewing spots for the Midnight Sun in the country. Within Bodø itself the beautiful harbour offers views from its pier dating back to 1904 and the Norwegian Aviation Museum offers an insight into the civil and military aviation history of Norway.

Day two Bodø to Nusfjord by air

Today you catch a short morning flight to Svolvær before collecting your hire car. It is then a drive of roughly an hour and a half to your first base of Nusfjord. This journey will take you southwards and introduce you to the incredible scenery to which you will be privy for the next few days. Cross long bridges and skirt around narrow fjords, all intersected with imposing mountains and beautiful stretches of clear water. At certain times the clouds will cover the tops of the mountains, giving the whole area a beautifully solemn atmosphere. The final stretch will see you driving alongside some of the Lofoten Islands' incredible beaches; the juxtaposition of the clear waters and soft sand with snow-capped mountains on the opposite shore is truly spectacular. Arrive into the fishing town of Nusfjord and check in to your hotel for the next three nights

Days three and four In Nusfjord

Nusfjord is located in an excellent position for exploring some of the best beaches in Norway. The nearby municipality of Vestvågøy is home to Haukland Beach, easily reached by car. This is an excellent spot to see the sunrise or sunset during winter and is a popular summer tourist destination. A further six-minute drive from here you will find Uttakleiv



Sunset at Bodø (copyright Tommy Andreassen)

Beach, the most photographed beach in Norway. The magnificent rocky coastline and relatively high chance of viewing the Northern Lights make it an excellent photo spot. For a higher perspective, Mannen is a year-round hiking route above Haukland Beach which takes between 1-1.5 hours and will reward you with stunning views of the rocky coastline. Other popular beaches in this area include Eggum Beach and Vik Beach, the latter of which comprises a long, curving stretch of white sand. The town of Ballstad is located on the southern coast of the Lofoten Islands and features Busknes Church, a red, wooden church consecrated in 1905. A church has stood here since 1324, although the previous buildings have had unfortunate endings due to storms and lightning strikes. Ballstad is also home to the most popular brand of cod liver oil in the country, Möller, whose tasting depot offers samples of all three types of tran, a particularly nutritious cod liver oil. Further west in the municipality of Flakstadøya you will find the Flakstad Kirke, a red church built in 1780 with a particularly Russian influence due to the exchange of Russian timber for Norwegian fish. Not far from here is the secluded Kvalvika beach, reachable only via a hike up a moderately steep mountain. Above this is Ryten, a mountain awarding incredible views of the entire area and possible all year round. Further south still is the picturesque fishing village of Hamnøy, where red cabins over a century old hug the shoreline. The journey to Hamnøy is just as much of a spectacle as you will travel over a series of bridges, each one giving views of the fjords and mountains

in all directions. Nusfjord itself is one of the best-preserved fishing villages in Norway, and evidence suggests that people have been living here since 425 BC. The Rorbuer, seasonal fishermen huts, date back to the 19th century and make for a very scenic base set against their mountainous backdrop.

Day five Nusfjord to Svolvær

Today you retrace your steps up to Svolvær, the capital of the Lofoten Islands. Check in to your hotel here for the next two nights.

Day six In Svolvær

Svolvær is home to picturesque red Rorbuer set beneath a dramatic mountain range and is an excellent base from which to explore the wonders of the northern Lofoten Islands. Within Svolvær itself, attractions include the War Memorial Museum, which showcases a wide range of artefacts from World War II, and the North Norwegian Art Centre, an artist-run institution presenting contemporary visual art. Svolvær's proximity to the Trollfjord makes it the main starting point for tours to this magnificent natural spectacle, which is narrow enough to be able to drink from the passing waterfalls on smaller vessels. Cod fisheries are an essential part of the town's economy and you will find cod hung up on racks to dry throughout Svolvær. One of Norway's most popular climbing routes, Svolvaergeita, is situated above the city and offers wonderful panoramic views from its twin horns at the summit. Roughly half an hour down the coast you will find the town of Henningsvaer, a seaport which has been dubbed "the Venice

of Lofoten". It consists of a series of islets populated by brightly coloured wooden houses and is a popular climbing location. You will also find the Kaviar Factory and the Galleri Lofotens Hus, which features Norway's largest collection of paintings from Northern Norway. Another popular activity from Svolvær is to take a short cruise or fishing tour around some of the lesser-populated areas, and there are multiple options available in the town.

Days seven and eight Svolvær to Trondheim by Hurtigruten ship

You have most of today in Svolvær to explore more of the city's attractions, before dropping off your hire car and boarding the evening Hurtigruten service to Trondheim. Start by passing the Lofoten Wall, a collection of mountain peaks which appear from a distance to form a straight line. The next morning you will cross the Arctic Circle before sailing along the Helgeland coast and the Seven Sisters mountain range, with peaks up to 1,100 metres high. Stop briefly at Sandnessjøen and Brønnøysund, a pretty town with a charming high street and marina. During the summer months it is possible to stop here and enjoy a taste of fresh salmon.

Day nine Trondheim to London by air

Arrive in Trondheim early this morning and transfer to the airport, where you will catch a flight back to the UK via a short stopover in Oslo.



Henningsvæer Lofoten Islands

GENERAL INFORMATION

This tailor-made touring holiday is one of several suggested touring holidays we can offer you exactly as it is but also with any alterations you might want including extra nights in one or more places or adding in extra places. All our tours can be extended so that you can include a longer stay in one mountain or lake resort too, perhaps at the end of the itinerary. Do call to discuss the options with our travel consultants.

PRICES

From £1,660 per person

Based on two people sharing a double or twin room.

Alternative hotel options can be offered in most locations as well as room upgrade supplements.

DATES

This holiday can be arranged throughout the year.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Return flights with British Airways from London to Oslo
- Scheduled flights from Oslo to Bodø and Trondheim to Oslo
- Hire of a group B car for six days
- 1 night's half board in a Superior double room at the Clarion Collection Hotel Grand Bodø, Bodø
- 3 nights' bed and breakfast in a Standard Harbour Cabin at Nusfjord Arctic Resort, Nusfjord
- 2 nights' bed and breakfast in a Rorbu S room at Svinøya Rorbuer, Svolvaer
- 2 nights' bed and breakfast in a Polar outside cabin on the Svolvaer – Trondheim Hurtigruten
- Concierge service and Expressions Holidays regional helpful hints

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Early check-in or late check-out at any hotels (although we can arrange this on request at additional cost)
- Any other services not mentioned above, such as transfers and meals except breakfast at hotels
- Personal holiday insurance. This is essential and cover should be in place from when you book the holiday.
- Possible local tourist tax, usually the equivalent of £1 to £3 per person per night, and payable locally to the hotel
- Transfers in any cities

TOUR CODES

SCFD04
EX338451

FLEXIBLE ARRANGEMENTS

Our arrangements are very flexible in that you choose to travel on any day you want, subject to availability of your chosen transport and hotels. As mentioned above, additional nights can be added at any point.

OUR PRICES

The sample prices mentioned in this leaflet are generally a 'from' price based on the cheapest season of travel. However, fares and hotel rates can change (up and down depending on offers), so we give you an accurate price for your holiday when we provide you with a quotation. Our sample prices should be used as an indication of how much a particular combination will cost and to show the differences on average between the hotel categories on offer.

Expressions

BOOKING CONDITIONS

Our booking conditions apply to all holidays. A copy can be found on our website and a copy is also sent to you with a written quotation and when you make a booking.

FINANCIAL PROTECTION

Expressions Holidays offers full financial protection for all holidays you book with us. If your holiday includes a flight, the ATOL (3076) covers the costs of the holiday. If the holiday does not include a flight, it is the ABTOT bond that protects the cost of the holiday. We are also members of AITO (the Association of Independent Tour Operators) and ABTA.



Expressions Holidays
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HOW TO BOOK

To make a booking, just phone us on

01392 441250

and we can take you through the details we need and start the booking process. A deposit is required to confirm the arrangements and this can be paid by debit or credit card over the phone. The level of the deposit will be confirmed at the point of booking.