

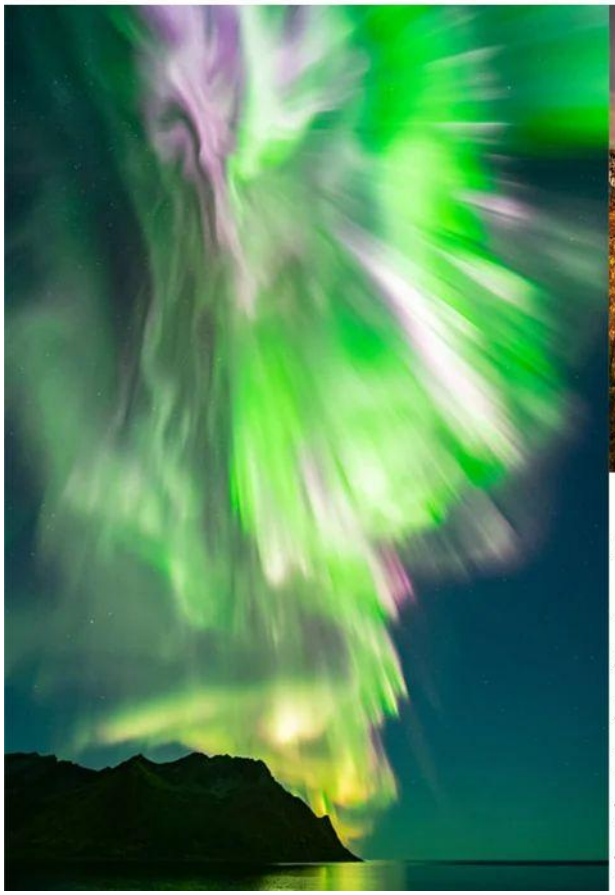
BY VINCENT.VOYAGE TRAVEL BLOG



AROUND 300 PAGES OF ESSENTIAL INFORMATION ABOUT NORWAY

NORWAY

YOUR MUST-HAVE TRAVEL GUIDE 2026/2027





TROMSØ
LOFOTEN ISLANDS
SENJA
FJORDS OF NORWAY
BERGEN
OSLO
BODØ
ALTA

NORTHERN LIGHTS
ITINERARIES
ACCOMMODATION
ACTIVITIES
FERRIES & CRUISES
TOLLS & ROADS
TRANSPORT & PLANNER



Welcome to this guide dedicated to discovering Norway, its most beautiful places, its activities and all the practical information to make sure your trip goes smoothly.

It's a guide that has been constantly evolving since 2022, when the first version was just a few dozen pages long. So it has grown quite a bit!

I decided to make this **guide completely free**, available to **everyone**. No need to pay, no subscription, no need for an email.

If you'd like to **help** keep this content completely free and **encourage me** in this work, there are several ways to do so. Because no, the Vincent Voyage blog is not a job at all and doesn't pay the bills. **Your contributions allow me to devote more time to it**.

- Use the *Booking* and *Getyourguide* links found throughout this guide. I earn a small percentage and for you it doesn't cost anything extra

- If you're planning your holidays, even somewhere other than Norway, use these links (always the official links, of course). They contain my little ID that tells *Booking*, *Getyourguide* or *Discover Cars* that I'm the one who sent you.

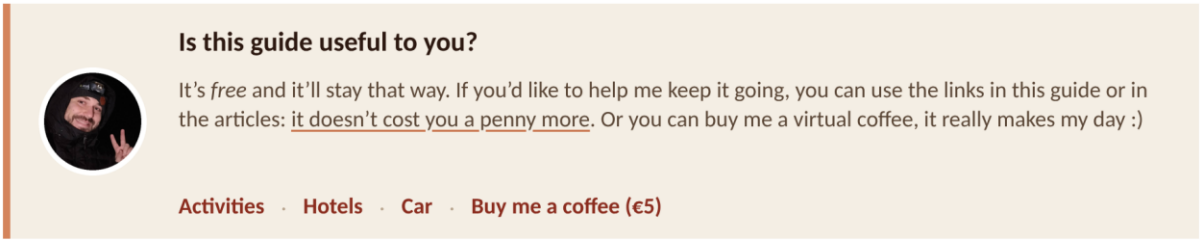
    - *Book your accommodation on Booking.com*

    - *Book your activities on Getyourguide*

    - *Find your rental car with Discover Cars*

Feel free to bookmark these links! A huge thank you! 😊

If you want even moooore info, join *our Facebook group about Norway* — we're more than 37,000 Norway fans!



NORWAY

LINKS AND PRACTICAL INFORMATION

2026/2027 edition

THE BEST ACTIVITIES IN NORWAY 11

SEEING THE NORTHERN LIGHTS 12

GOING DOG SLEDDING 13

SEEING WHALES AND ORCAS 14

EXPLORING NORWAY'S FJORDS BY BOAT 15

The cruise on the Naeroyfjord between Flam and Gudvangen 16

The cruise Geiranger - Hellesylt 17

The cruise between Alesund and Geiranger 18

The cruise into the Trollfjord, in the Lofoten Islands 18

A cruise to see the Saltstraumen in Bodo 19

The cruise on the Lysefjord from Stavanger 20

The cruise on the Osterfjord from Bergen 20

SEEING THE GLACIERS AND WALKING ON THEM 21

THE MUST-SEE PLACES IN NORWAY 22

TROMSO AND ITS REGION 23

THE ISLAND OF SENJA 24

THE LOFOTEN ISLANDS 25

BODO 26

BERGEN AND ITS SURROUNDINGS 27

THE FJORD REGION 28

OSLO, THE CAPITAL 29

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT NORWAY 30

GETTING TO NORWAY 31

GETTING THERE BY PLANE 31

GETTING THERE BY CAR – CAMPER VAN 32

TAKING THE FERRY TO GET TO NORWAY (or to leave!) 33

GETTING AROUND NORWAY 34

JOURNEY PLANNERS 34
AUTOPASS / EPASS 24 FOR TOLLS 35
RENTING A CAR 36
RENTING A CAR WITH DISCOVER CARS 37
DRIVING IN WINTER 38
THE MOST BEAUTIFUL ROADS IN NORWAY 39
ROAD CONDITIONS AND CLOSURES 40
TRAVELING BY BUS 41
TRAVELING BY TRAIN 41
FERRIES IN NORWAY 42
CRUISES IN NORWAY 42
WHERE TO STAY 43
CAMPING IN NORWAY 43
HOTELS – CABINS – ACCOMMODATION 43
WHAT CLOTHES TO PACK BY SEASON 44
PAYMENTS IN NORWAY 46
BANKS AND BANK CARDS 46
SEEING THE NORTHERN LIGHTS IN NORWAY 47
WHEN TO SEE THE NORTHERN LIGHTS 48
HOW TO SEE THE NORTHERN LIGHTS 49
WHERE TO SEE THE AURORAS 50
SEEING THE NORTHERN LIGHTS WITH AN AGENCY 51
PHOTOGRAPHING THE NORTHERN LIGHTS 52
WHERE TO GO AND ITINERARIES TO DISCOVER NORWAY 53
FIRST TRIP TO NORWAY 54
MISSION: NORTHERN LIGHTS 55
A few itineraries in Norway 56
T R O M S O 57
TROMSO AT A GLANCE 58
PLACES TO SEE IN TOWN 59
PLACES TO SEE AROUND TROMSO 60
ACTIVITIES 62
SEEING THE NORTHERN LIGHTS IN TROMSO 62
WHALE AND ORCA WATCHING 69

GOING DOG SLEDDING 74
SNOWMOBILING AROUND TROMSO 79
SEEING REINDEER IN TROMSO 83
DISCOVERING CAMP TAMOK 87
DISCOVERING TROMSO BY BOAT 88
OTHER ACTIVITIES 91
SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND COMPANIES 94
WHEN TO VISIT TROMSO 102
A FEW HIKES 103
WHERE TO STAY 104
STAYING IN A QUALITY HOTEL 105
BUDGET HOTELS IN CENTRAL TROMSO 107
APARTMENTS AND HOUSES 109
STAYING OUTSIDE TROMSO 111
SLEEPING IN A GLASS IGLOO 113
A TOOL TO BUDGET AND PLAN A TRIP TO TROMSO 114
WHERE TO EAT / GRAB A DRINK / COFFEE 116
HOW TO GET THERE AND GET AROUND 117
PRACTICAL INFO 118
MAP OF TROMSO 119
3 ITINERARIES IN TROMSO IN WINTER 120
ITINERARY 1: around Tromso with a car and activities 120
ITINERARY 2: Tromso without a car 121
LOFOTEN ISLANDS 122
LOFOTEN ISLANDS AT A GLANCE 123
PLACES TO SEE 124
A FEW HIKES 126
ALL THE ACTIVITIES IN THE LOFOTEN ISLANDS 127
WHERE TO STAY IN THE LOFOTEN ISLANDS 130
The best rorbuer in the Lofoten Islands 130
A few budget-friendly places to stay in the Lofoten Islands 132
Staying in Ballstad, a central and really lovely spot 133
WHERE TO EAT 134
HOW TO GET THERE AND GET AROUND 135

SVOLVAER 136
How to get to Svolvaer 136
Renting a car in Svolvaer 137
What to see in Svolvaer 138
Things to do in Svolvaer 139
Where to stay in Svolvaer 141
HENNINGSVAER 143
How to get to Henningsvaer 144
What to do in Henninsvaer 145
Where to stay in Henningsvaer 146
NUSFJORD 147
How to get to Nusfjord 147
What to see in Nusfjord 148
Where to stay in Nusfjord 149
HAMNOY AND SAKRISOY 150
What to see in Hamnoy 150
What to see in Sakrisoy 151
How to get to Hamnoy and Sakrisoy 151
Where to stay in Hamnoy and Sakrisoy 152
REINE 153
Getting to Reine 153
What to see in Reine 154
Where to stay in Reine 155
Å i LOFOTEN 157
S E N J A 159
SENJA AT A GLANCE 160
MUST-SEE PLACES 161
ACTIVITIES 164
WHERE TO STAY 167
WHERE TO EAT 169
MAP OF SENJA 170
HOW TO GET THERE AND GET AROUND 171
A day trip to Senja from Tromso 172
Two days in Senja 173

2-WEEK ITINERARY TROMSO – SENJA - LOFOTEN 174
2 weeks between Tromso, Senja and the Lofoten Islands 175
TROMSO AND ITS SURROUNDINGS *175*
SENJA *179*
LOFOTEN ISLANDS *180*
A L T A 184
WHY GO TO ALTA 185
WHAT TO SEE IN ALTA 185
THE ALTA MUSEUM AND SAMI CULTURE *186*
WHAT TO SEE AROUND ALTA *187*
SEEING THE NORTHERN LIGHTS IN ALTA 188
Seeing the northern lights by car *189*
Seeing the northern lights with an agency *190*
Other activities under the northern lights *190*
OTHER THINGS TO DO IN ALTA 192
WHERE TO STAY IN ALTA 193
6 hotels and apartments in the city centre *193*
6 very good places to stay outside town *194*
PRACTICAL INFORMATION 195
How to get to Alta *195*
How long to stay in Alta *195*
B O D Ø 196
PLACES TO SEE 197
How to see the Saltstraumen *198*
Follow the coast and enjoy the beaches at sunset *199*
SEEING THE NORTHERN LIGHTS IN BODO 200
Seeing the northern lights with a tour company *200*
PRACTICAL INFO 201
Where to stay in Bodo *201*
Renting a car in Bodo *202*
Taking the ferry between Bodo and the Lofoten Islands *202*
FAQ *203*
THE ATLANTIC ROAD 204
WHAT IS THE ATLANTIC ROAD 205

Do you absolutely have to go see the Atlantic Road 205
Seeing the Atlantic Road without a car 206
SLEEPING NEAR THE ATLANTIC ROAD 207
B E R G E N 208
BERGEN AT A GLANCE 209
PLACES TO SEE IN TOWN 210
PLACES TO SEE IN THE SURROUNDING AREA 213
ACTIVITIES AROUND BERGEN 213
ALL THE CRUISES AROUND BERGEN AND THE FJORDS 214
ONE-WEEK ITINERARY IN THE FJORDS FROM BERGEN (BY CAR) 216
BERGEN WITHOUT A CAR 220
A day in the fjords from Bergen 220
Norway in a Nutshell – the Naeroyfjord and the Flam Railway in one day from Bergen 221
One-week itinerary in Bergen and the fjords without a car 223
ALL THE ACTIVITIES IN BERGEN 229
WHERE TO STAY IN BERGEN 234
The best places to stay in Bergen 236
Excellent value for money 238
For travellers on a budget 238
Staying on the Nordnes peninsula 239
Renting an apartment for families 239
Staying near Bergen airport 240
WHERE TO EAT 241
HOW TO GET THERE AND GET AROUND 242
THE FJORD REGION FROM THE LYSEFJORD TO ALESUND 244
MAP OF THE NORWEGIAN FJORDS 245
PLACES TO SEE IN THE FJORD REGION 246
ACTIVITIES IN THE FJORD REGION 248
The most beautiful cruises in the Norwegian fjord region 249
ALESUND 251
What to visit in Alesund and nearby 251
Things to do 252
Where to stay in Alesund 253
GEIRANGER 254

The different viewpoints over Geiranger 254
Visiting Geiranger and its surroundings without a car 255
Activities and cruises to try 256
Where to stay in Geiranger 257
FLAM 258
The Flam Railway - Flamsbana 258
A cruise on the Naeroyfjord 259
The viewpoint at Stegastein 260
From Bergen: Flam Railway + Cruise on the Naeroyfjord 261
Other cruises to Flam or Gudvangen 262
Getting to Flam from Bergen 263
Getting to Flam from Oslo 263
Where to stay in Flam 264
What to see near Flam 265
2-WEEK ITINERARY IN THE FJORDS 266
WHERE TO STAY IN THE FJORD REGION 274
HOW TO GET THERE AND GET AROUND 277
O S L O 278
OSLO AT A GLANCE 279
PLACES TO SEE IN OSLO 280
The various museums in Oslo 280
Other sights and neighbourhoods to see in Oslo 282
THINGS TO DO IN OSLO 284
The Oslo Pass – the pass that's almost a must 284
Taking a boat trip around the archipelago 284
The various guided tours in Oslo 285
3 sporty activities in Oslo 286
WHERE TO STAY IN OSLO 287
My 6 favorite hotels in Oslo 287
3 hotels in Oslo's historic centre 288
WHERE TO EAT 290
HOW TO GET THERE AND GET AROUND 291
THE VIKING CHURCHES 292
WHAT ARE THE VIKING CHURCHES OF NORWAY 292

WHERE TO FIND THESE CHURCHES 293

WHO AM I 294

SOCIAL MEDIA 295

HOW TO SUPPORT THE BLOG AND THE FREE CONTENT 296

THE BEST ACTIVITIES IN NORWAY

SEEING THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

As I'll explain in detail further down, the northern lights are a must in Norway, at least in the north, 8 months a year (from September to April). To maximize your chances, head beyond the Arctic Circle, go where the weather is good (I especially recommend Tromso, Senja or the Finnmark), but above all I recommend you follow the *tips for chasing the northern lights*. Namely:

- be mobile to escape the clouds (because obviously, with clouds, there's no chance of seeing the lights)
- anticipate the weather with the websites that show cloud cover. That way you'll know where to go, where the clouds will be, where the sky is clear, hour by hour. Use Ventusky for that.
- avoid light pollution — you need to be in a dark environment to see the lights in good conditions
- have a clear view, because if you are boxed in somewhere, behind mountains, you won't see much

In short, since Norway has *some of the best places to see the northern lights*, here are the main articles to help you in your quest for the northern lights:

- *All the questions and answers about the northern lights*
- *Seeing the northern lights in Tromso*
- *The best agencies to see the northern lights in Tromso*
- *Seeing the northern lights in the Lofoten Islands*
- *Where to see the northern lights in Senja*



GOING DOG SLEDDING

With that much snow, dog sledding is possible in a large part of the country. Well ok, mostly in the north around Tromso, in the Finnmark, and in the center.

It's a really fun, active experience, with plenty of contact with the dogs, who are adorable. Personally I love it as much for the sledding itself as for hanging out with the huskies, who are true athletes!

Roughly speaking, you can do it from November to April — though it will mostly depend on the snow, which makes sense 😀

- *Dog sledding in **Tromso***
  - *Recommended agency facing the Lyngen Alps*
- *Dog sledding in the **Lyngen Alps***
- *Dog sledding in **Alta***
- *Dog sledding near **Lillehammer***
- *Dog sledding in **Roros***
- *Dog sledding 2 hours from **Bergen***
- *Dog sledding on a glacier at **Folgefonna***



SEEING WHALES AND ORCAS

It's one of Norway's flagship activities. Whales and orcas cruise along the country's coasts for a good part of the year and are fairly easy to spot.

In **Tromso**, they can be seen from early November to late January. Sometimes a bit earlier, sometimes a bit later — it can vary by a week or two. You head out to see them by boat at Skjervoy, a 3-hour drive from Tromso. Several companies offer this service — I tell you everything in the following article:

- *discover all the cruises to see orcas and whales in Tromso*
    - *recommended cruise with Brim Explorer*

In **Andenes**, at the very north of the Vesteralen islands, you can see them all year round. The only catch is the weather. It can blow really hard there, and trips regularly get cancelled.

- *discover the whales from Andenes*

In the **Lofoten**, you can see them too. Last year lots were spotted, mainly orcas having a blast along the coast. However, since sightings are very hit and miss, there haven't been any tours for a few years now.

In **Alta** and along the coast, it's cetacean heaven. You sometimes see them from the shore (mostly dolphins), but you can take a boat tour into the fjord to see them from much closer.

- *discover the whale-watching cruise from Alta*



EXPLORING NORWAY'S FJORDS BY BOAT

With so many fjords and thousands of kilometers of coastline, it would be a shame not to make the most of it. Personally I do it on almost every trip, and without fail whenever I'm somewhere new (Tromso, Oslo, Bergen, Geiranger, Naeroyfjord, Trollfjord…)
There are impressive boat trips pretty much everywhere in the country, in every season. Here are the main fjord cruises — there's bound to be one in your area!

Oh, and in the following article, I also list all *the fjord cruises around Bergen*.

- **Bergen**
  - *Exploring the Mostraumen*
  - *Going from Bergen to Flam by boat*
  - *Cruise from Bergen to Fjaerland*

- **Stavanger**
  - *Cruise on the Lysefjord and to Preikestolen*

- **Naeroyfjord**
  - *Cruise on the Naeroyfjord from Flam or Gudvangen*
  - *Cruise on the Naeroyfjord from Bergen*

- **Geiranger**
  - *Discovering the Geirangerfjord by speedboat*
  - *Boat cruise from Hellesylt*
  - Sightseeing cruise Hellesylt – Geiranger - Hellesylt
  - Cruise Alesund – Geiranger – Alesund (9 h)

- **Oslo**
  - *Discovering the Oslofjord and the bay*

- **Lofoten Islands**
  - *Silent cruise into the Trollfjord, Norway's narrowest fjord*

- **Tromso**
  - *Exploring the fjords of Tromso by electric boat*

- **Alta**
  - *Cruise in the fjords around Alta*





The cruise on the Naeroyfjord between Flam and Gudvangen

A must-do cruise not too far from Bergen. Unquestionably one of the 2-3 most beautiful fjords in the country.

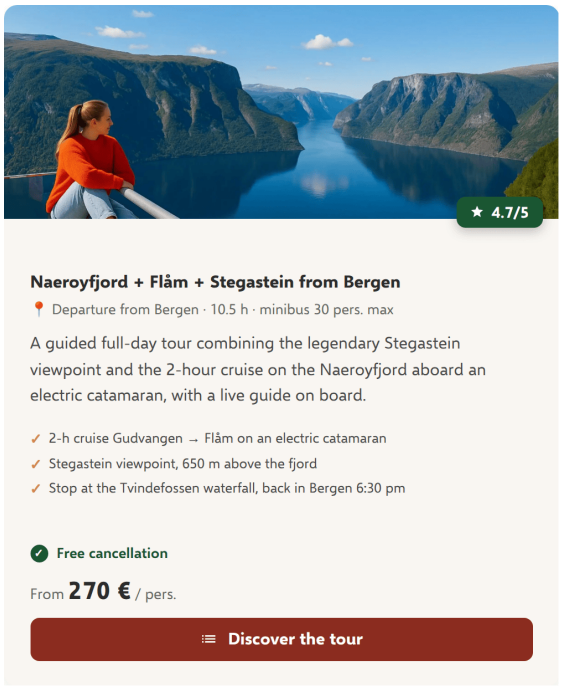
Practical info:

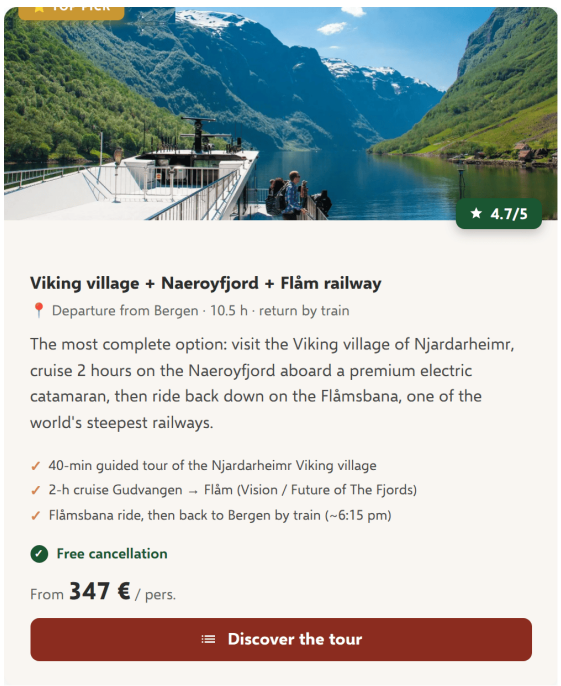
- 2-hour trip between Flam and Gudvangen (or the other way around)
- Return to your starting point by bus or boat
- One-way fare: 665 NOK
- Booking essential, several weeks in advance in summer
- Book with *Norway's Best*
- More information in the article dedicated to the *Naeroyfjord*





- If **you're coming from Bergen** and don't have a car, you have these two options





The cruise Geiranger - Hellesylt

One of the most beautiful fjords in the country, seriously impressive, with several ways to explore it:

- The trip between Geiranger and Hellesylt by ferry, ideal if you're bringing your car, notably with *Fjordtours*
- The sightseeing cruise departing from Geiranger that does the round trip to Hellesylt
  - *Info and booking*
- Exploring the Geirangerfjord by RIB boat to get as close as possible to the waterfalls
  - *Info and booking*

In the following article, discover the different cruises on the Geirangerfjord







Geiranger ↔ Hellesylt round trip on the Geirangerfjord

📍 Departure from Geiranger · 2.5 h · Cruise Service ferry

The classic round trip on the UNESCO-listed Geirangerfjord from Geiranger, with a 1.5-h stop to explore the village of Hellesylt. Close-up stops at the Seven Sisters and the other waterfalls, with waterfall-water tasting on board.

- ✓ 2.5-h guided round trip, full tour of the UNESCO fjord
- ✓ 1.5-h stop in Hellesylt for a stroll
- ✓ Boat accessible to wheelchair users

✓ **Free cancellation**

From **62 €** / pers. (instead of 73 €)

Discover the tour



Guided Geirangerfjord tour by small boat

📍 Departure from Geiranger · 75 min · eco-friendly small boat

The intimate option: 75 minutes on a small boat to get as close as possible to the iconic waterfalls (Seven Sisters, Friaren, Brudesløret). Small group with a passionate guide — a far more immersive format than the classic ferry.

- ✓ Closest approach to the Seven Sisters, Friaren and Brudesløret
- ✓ Small group with a knowledgeable guide (in English)
- ✓ 4.7/5 from 736 reviews: the highest rating on the fjord

✓ **Free cancellation**

From **77 €** / pers.

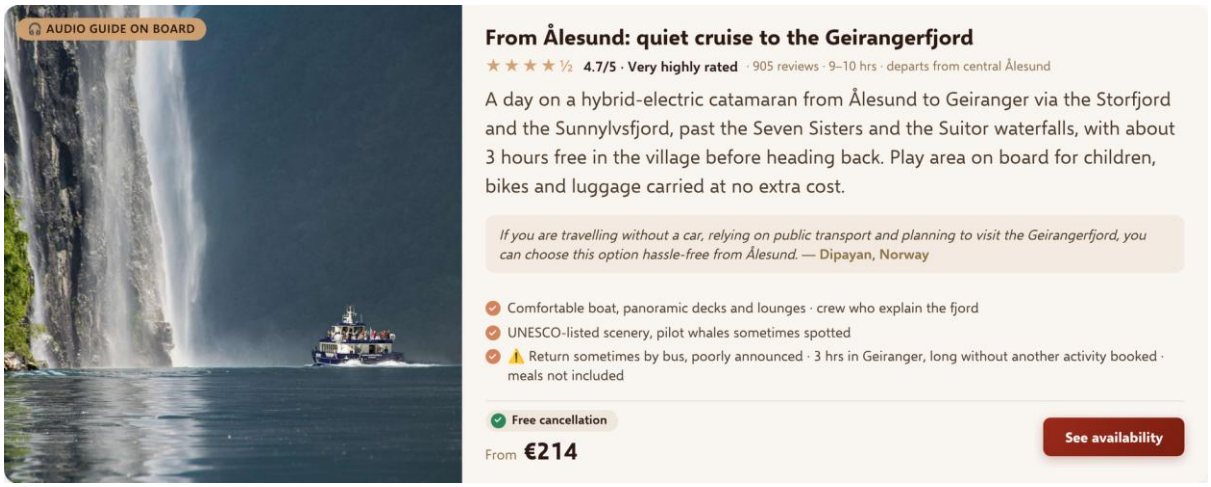
Discover the tour

The cruise between Alesund and Geiranger

Ideal for seeing the superb Geirangerfjord without having to go down to Geiranger and for avoiding the crowds.

Practical info:

- 11-hour trip departing from Alesund through the Storfjord and on to the Geirangerfjord
- Round trip
- Some free time in Geiranger
    - *More information*



The cruise into the Trollfjord, in the Lofoten Islands

One of the most beautiful fjords in northern Norway, and one of the narrowest, with eagle watching

Practical info:

- 3-hour trip through spectacular scenery with a truly special atmosphere in the fjord
- The only cruise in the *Lofoten Islands*
    - *Info and booking*



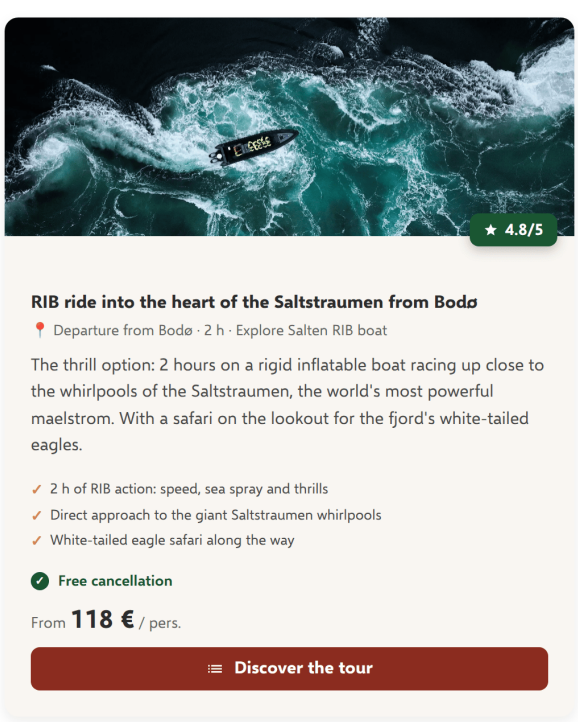
A cruise to see the Saltstraumen in Bodo

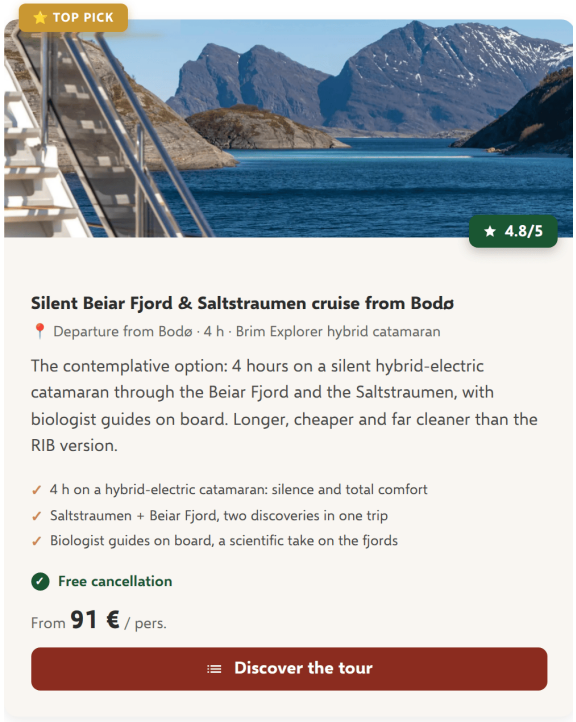
It's the most powerful maelstrom in the world, and you can take a boat ride on it! In the following article, discover
Bodo and the Saltstraumen

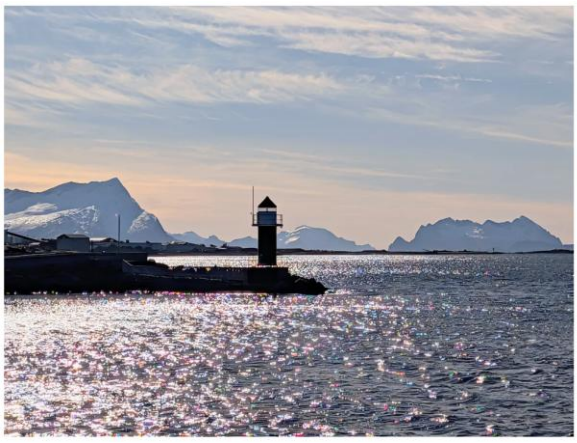
Practical info:

- A cruise through the fjords and over the world's strongest current by electric boat
  - *Info and booking*

- A RIB boat tour for a full dose of thrills in the current
  - *Info and booking*









The cruise on the Lysefjord from Stavanger

It's the must-do cruise when you're around Stavanger — among other things, it lets you see the Preikestolen from below. Absolutely worth seeing!

Practical info:

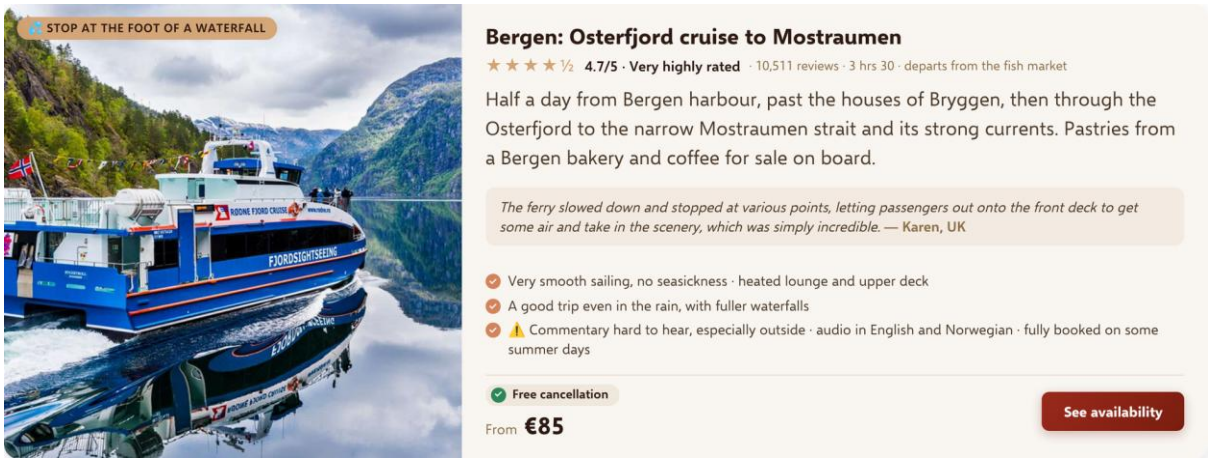
- A 3-hour cruise departing from Stavanger
- It runs all year round, with several departures a day in high season
    - *Info and booking*



The cruise on the Osterfjord from Bergen

If you're going to Norway for the first time and want a taste of the fjords, this cruise is made for you. Not as impressive as the Naeroyfjord or Geiranger, but it's really lovely!

- *Info and booking*



SEEING THE GLACIERS AND WALKING ON THEM

There are still quite a few glaciers in Norway, especially in the center, in the big massifs like the Jostedalsbreen. Fewer in the north, where the mountains are lower.

But basically, here are the glaciers you can visit:

- **Nigardsbreen**, accessible from road 55, in the Jostedalsbreen. You can walk on it with guides (*see here*)
- **Briksdalsbreen**, on the other side of the Jostedalsbreen, reachable via a short walk
- **Bøyabreen**, from Fjaerland, a few minutes' walk from the parking lot
- **Folgefonna**, next to Odda, a magnificent setting — and you can even hike on it (*see here*)
- **Okstindbreen**, further north in the Helgeland, where you can also hike on it with a guide (*see here*)
- **Svartissen**, also in the Helgeland, is Norway's 2nd largest glacier. It sits in a superb national park. A beautiful hike to get there, between lakes and mountains
- **Steindalsbreen**, a glacier in the magnificent setting of the Lyngen Alps, not far from Tromso



THE MUST-SEE PLACES IN NORWAY

Each region mentioned here gets a very detailed section further along in the guide

TROMSO AND ITS REGION

Tromso is a huge playground, in every season. People come to Tromso mostly in winter for its activities, because it's one of the best places to see the northern lights, and because you can go dog sledding or see whales and orcas. But Tromso is more than that — it's magnificent scenery.

And this scenery is a paradise for hiking, with trails by the hundreds, each more beautiful than the last. You can explore the region with or without a car, dive into fantastic landscapes, and visit the island of Kvaloya, the mountain of Signaldalen, the Lygen Alps in particular. In short, it takes more than one trip to get to know it well!

Blog articles and resources:

- ***What to do** in Tromso:* I give you all the information to plan your trip to Tromso — the activities, the places to see, how to organize yourself
- *What's the **best time** to visit Tromso*: because there's always something to do in Tromso, but activities are specific to each season — I tell you month by month what you can do
- ***Where to stay** in Tromso*: I walk you through the accommodation options in Tromso — the good, the cheap, the unusual
- *What are the **best activities** to do in Tromso*: I show you everything you can do in Tromso so you make the most of your stay
- *Tromso, the paradise of **dog sledding***: discover how to go dog sledding and the best operators
- *Seeing **orcas and whales** in Tromso and Skjervoy*: here's all the info for seeing the whales — the best time, the different boats
- *The **map** for visiting Tromso*: on a single map, find all the essential info to visit Tromso
- *The **best guides** to see the **northern lights** in Tromso*: find the best agencies and guides, plus tips for choosing well
- *The **10 best spots** to see the northern lights around Tromso*: because you need to see the northern lights in the right conditions, here's a list of good places to admire them
- *Renting a **cheap car** in Tromso with Discover Cars*: find your car with a quality comparison site





THE ISLAND OF SENJA

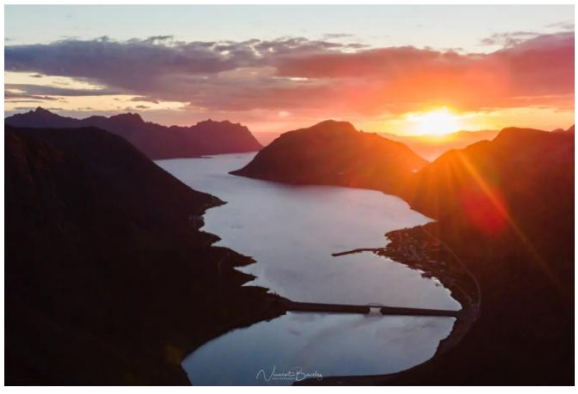
Right next to Tromso — well, a 3-hour drive or *a 1-hour ferry ride from Sommaroy* — you'll find *the fabulous island of Senja*. Norway in concentrated form, with fjords, mountains, fjords, mountains and… absolutely nobody, or almost. Senja is a paradise, and you should enjoy it before more and more people discover it (ok, given how much I talk about it, I'm not exactly helping to keep it under the radar!)

You have to explore all the fjords of the north and west, head to Sifjord and get blown away, wander through the park of Anderdalen and of course watch for the auroras because yes, *Senja is an excellent place to see the northern lights*! *Senja is generally visited as part of an itinerary between Tromso and the Lofoten Islands*. An absolute must!

Blog articles and resources:

- ***What to do** in Senja*: discover the most beautiful spots and the best things to do in Senja
- *The best **map** for visiting Senja*: a map with all the info and the spots, so you know exactly what to see
- ***How to get** to Senja*: find out how to get there by car, ferry or plane
- *The best **places to stay** in Senja*: here is my list of great accommodation options in Senja
- *A **2-week itinerary** covering Tromso, Senja and the Lofoten Islands*: a fantastic itinerary I put together to discover the most beautiful places in the north
- *The best places to see the **northern lights** in Senja*: also a list of great spots to watch the northern lights in Senja
- *The village of **Gryllefjord***: Gryllefjord is one of the most beautiful places in Senja, go check it out







THE LOFOTEN ISLANDS

We are talking about *the most beautiful landscapes in Norway*, no less. Absolutely incredible mountains of striking black rock, stretching over hundreds of kilometers. And on top of all that, the Lofoten Islands are home to gorgeous fishing villages like Nusfjord, Henningsvaer, Reine and quite a few others.

The Lofoten Islands are mostly a summer destination, as they boast some of the most beautiful beaches in the world. Fine sand, crystal-clear water, all surrounded by mountains. Paradise! Well, give or take a few degrees.

The weather there is quite the character: very cloudy, sometimes glorious, often rainy. That's the Lofoten Islands for you, a place truly worth visiting in any weather!

Blog articles and resources:

- ***What to do** in the Lofoten Islands*: discover all the places to see and things to do in the stunning Lofoten Islands
- *The best **map** for visiting the Lofoten Islands*: and all of this gathered in one single map
- *The best **hotels** in the Lofoten Islands*: a super handy list of accommodations, houses and hotels, for your stay in the Lofoten Islands
- *A **2-week itinerary** covering Tromso, Senja and the Lofoten Islands*: here is how to discover the most beautiful places in northern Norway
- ***What to do** in the Lototen Islands*, discover all the must-do activities
- *How to **get** to the Lofoten Islands*: bus, plane, car, ferry, discover all the ways to get there
- *Renting your car to explore the Lofoten Islands*: here is a good comparison site to rent the right car in Norway



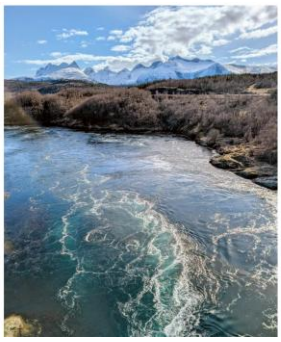


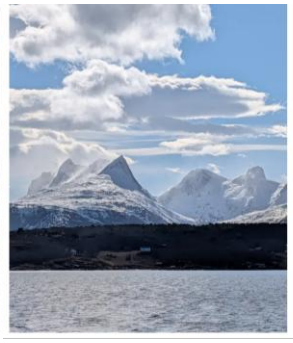
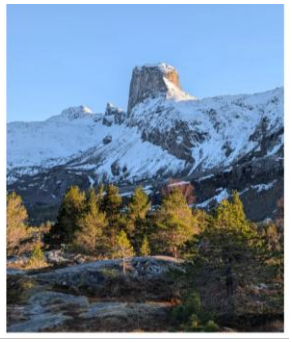
BODO

Bodo is not just the departure point for the *ferry to the Lofoten Islands*. And yet, that's how most people think of this town, even though it's lovely and well worth lingering in for a while.
Locals say it's like the Lofoten Islands, but without the tourists. And it's true that the surrounding mountains are magnificent, and everything is close by.
You can enjoy nature, go skiing, watch the northern lights, take cruises, including one to see the largest maelstrom in the world: the Saltstraumen, truly impressive (especially at high tide).

Resources for Bodo:

- *An article introducing Bodo*
- *Rent your car in Bodo with Discover Cars*
- *Find your accommodation in Bodo*
- *Take a fjord cruise to see the Saltstraumen*





Discover the Bodo region and the Lofoten Islands!

Compare offers in just a few seconds to find the best price — with **free cancellation** included. Save up to 40% and enjoy fantastic scenery 😍

👉 **See the offers!**

BERGEN AND ITS SURROUNDINGS

Bergen is probably the most beautiful city in Norway (it's a close call with Alesund). Amazing architecture, with its different neighborhoods of wooden houses, a historic past embodied most notably by the docks of Bryggen, a UNESCO World Heritage site, but also by its royal buildings. Bergen has it all (except the weather, let's be honest).

Especially since there's more to Bergen than that: it's a city where you feel wonderfully at ease. We love strolling through its little streets, around the peninsula, along the quays. Taking the funicular up for the views is a real treat. But above all, Bergen is a great base for exploring the surrounding area, and the fjords in particular. You can very easily *go to Flam by boat* or by train, head off to *discover the Naeroyfjord and the fjords around Bergen*. Or simply head further north into the fjord region for a great road trip!

Blog articles and resources:

- ***What to do** in Bergen*: the historic neighborhoods, the wooden houses, the cruises, I tell you everything you need for a great stay in Bergen
- *An **itinerary** around the Bergen region*: a one-week itinerary between Bergen and the fjords
- *The **best places to stay** in Bergen*: I put together a great selection for you, from beautiful hotels to practical accommodation
- *The **fjord cruises** around Bergen*: here are all the cruises to discover the fjords around Bergen
- *How to get from Bergen to **Flam***: Flam is a must-see in the region, here are all the ways to get there
- *Rent a **cheap car** to explore the fjords with Discover Cars*: a comparison site you can trust to find your car







THE FJORD REGION

They say that *Norway's fjord region* stretches from Stavanger (with the Lysefjord) all the way to Alesund. It's huge! And on top of that, there is so much to do: places to see, roads to drive, Viking churches to discover.

Incredible fjords like the Naeroyfjord, the Geiranger or the Sognefjord, churches like Borgund or Urnes; drive the most beautiful road in the country, the Sognefjell, and unwind around Fjaerland, which is a true slice of paradise.

But you also have legendary spots like the Trollstigen road (careful, many *roads in Norway are closed for part of the year*), the village of Geiranger and its viewpoint at Dalsnibba. Well, I could list them all for you, but that's not the point. The fjords are *one of the top places to visit in Norway in summer*, but not only. In winter it will be much harder because of the weather and the road closures.

But either way, prepare to be blown away!

Blog articles and resources:

- *The **most beautiful places** in the Norwegian fjords*
- *The best 2-week itinerary to discover the Norwegian fjords*
- *The **fjord cruises** around Bergen*
- *How to get from Bergen to **Flam***
- *All the information in the **map** of the Norwegian fjords*
- *Rent a **cheap car** to explore the fjords with Discover Cars*





Enjoy Norway's most beautiful fjords!

Compare offers in just a few seconds to find the best price — with **free cancellation** included. Save up to 40%! 😍

👉 **See the best offers!**

OSLO, THE CAPITAL

So no, the Norwegian capital is not a city with the wow factor of Europe's imperial cities. But it's a city worth spending time in, because it's a really pleasant place.

You will find *some really interesting museums in Oslo*, like the FRAM museum on polar expeditions, others on Norwegian folklore, the country's history, the Nobel Peace Prize… But it's also a city where it's very pleasant to wander around: the architecture is lovely, the sidewalks are wide, it's an airy city with quite a few parks like Vigeland. And you can also enjoy the new waterfront, which is really nice.

So it can be a great stop for a long weekend or to start your trip to Norway, Oslo never disappoints 😊

Blog articles and resources:

- ***What to do** in Oslo*
- *A selection of the best **places to stay** in Oslo*
- *How to get from **the airport** in Oslo to the city center*
- *Where to **stay near the airport** Oslo Gardermoen*
- *The **cruises** to take on the Oslofjord*

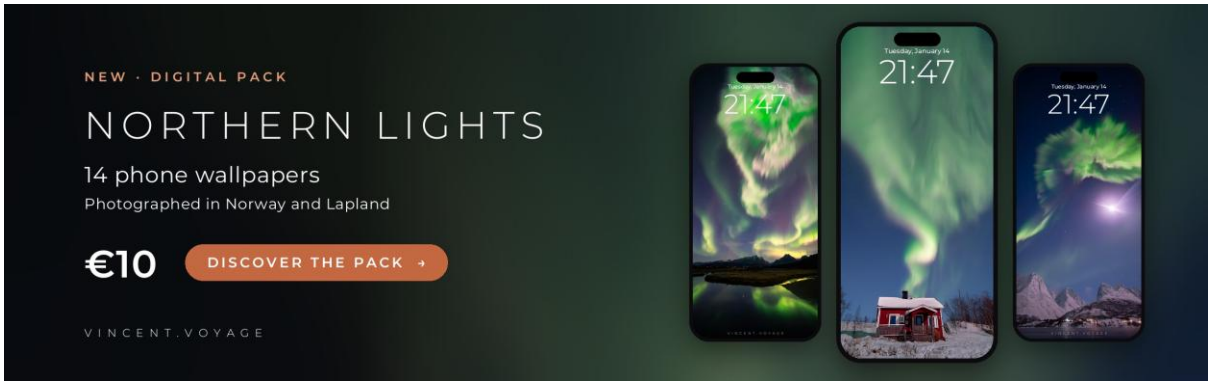






GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT NORWAY

Complete article about Norway



GETTING TO NORWAY

GETTING THERE BY PLANE

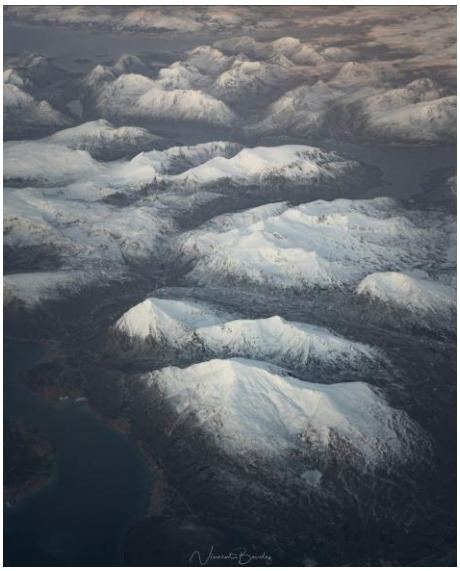
- Main airports that are easy to reach: Oslo / Bergen / Trondheim / Alesund / Bodo / Tromso / Evenes / Hammerfeset / Alta / Kirkenes
    - 3 airports served by **direct flights**: Oslo, Bergen and Tromso
    - In winter, you can fly direct to Tromso with Air France, Transavia, Norwegian and Easyjet

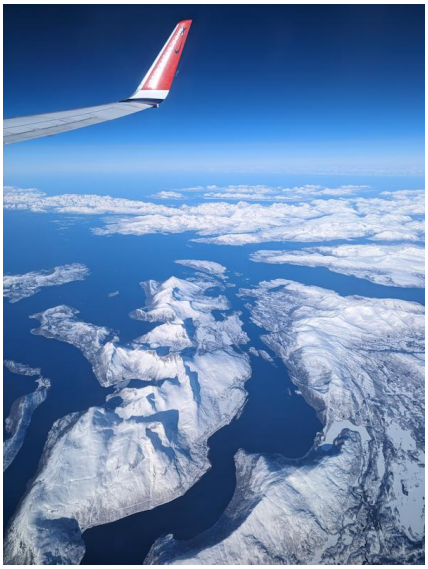
- Main airlines: Air France / Lufthsansa / Norwegian / Wideroe / FlySAS / Finnair , Easyjet, Luxair from Luxembourg

- The earlier you book, the cheaper it gets, especially with Norwegian (a good airline)

- The Air France sales, twice a year, offer great prices for Oslo, Bergen and now Tromso

- You absolutely must **COMPARE**: prices vary enormously from one day to the next and from one airline to another, for no reason. I use Kayak, I like it, it's reliable. But there are others like *Booking Flights*, which is great for its price prediction tool.





Always sit by the window!

GETTING THERE BY CAR – CAMPER VAN

- Don't forget to sign up for the autopass*tolls in Norway*)
    - Be careful, ferry and toll prices depend on the size of your vehicle

- Watch out for the periods when winter tires are mandatory (from mid or late October until May, depending on the region). Tires must have 3mm of tread depth. More information here, which you can translate with your browser.

- The route goes through Germany, Denmark and Sweden
    - Just below you have the details of the ferry crossings
    - Otherwise you can find your ferry on *Direct Ferries*

- There are checks at every border crossing
    - Identity checks
    - Vehicle checks
    - Pet passport checks

- Be warned, the drives are very long
    - Paris-Tromso, for example, is 3300km, so 4 days non stop



Is this guide useful to you?

It's *free* and it'll stay that way. If you'd like to help me keep it going, you can use the links in this guide or in the articles: it doesn't cost you a penny more. Or you can buy me a virtual coffee, it really makes my day :)

Activities · Hotels · Car · Buy me a coffee (€5)

TAKING THE FERRY TO GET TO NORWAY (or to leave!)

Getting to Norway by ferry from Denmark or Germany is a real classic. It saves you a lot of time, but above all it's far more comfortable, with much less driving (on a stretch that isn't the most interesting anyway). So it's a good option. But you need to book fairly early and choose the ferry that best fits your needs:

FROM GERMANY

- **Kiel – Oslo**: you skip driving up the whole of Denmark. It's an overnight ferry, so a relaxing day instead of eating up kilometers of road (you save 7 hours of driving compared to Hirtshals–Larvik). Duration: 20 h. With Color Line. *More info on this crossing*

FROM DENMARK

Almost all the routes leave from Hirtshals, at the very north of the country (except one from Copenhagen). You save precious time to explore southern Norway.

- **Copenhagen – Oslo**: in the same spirit as Kiel, an overnight cruise that drops you right in the heart of Oslo. Ideal if you're coming from eastern Denmark or southern Sweden, or if you want to combine two capitals. You board in the evening, sleep on board, and arrive in the morning fresh and rested. Duration: ~17-18 h. With DFDS. *Info and booking*
- **Hirtshals – Kristiansand**: the shortest and fastest crossing to Norway. *Very popular, so remember to book early!* The smart choice if you're heading for the south of the country, or simply as an express gateway. Fast catamaran in 2 h 25 (March-October) or classic ferry in ~3 h 55, with several departures a day. With Color Line or Fjord Line. *More info on this crossing*
- **Hirtshals – Larvik**: *the most popular route.* Among the crossings departing from Hirtshals, it's the one that gets you closest to Oslo (~1 h 45 drive afterwards). A good compromise to reach the southeast without taking the overnight cruise. Duration: ~4 h, 2 departures per day. With Color Line. *Info and booking*
- **Hirtshals – Langesund**: you land between Kristiansand and Oslo, very handy for the south-east and for heading to Telemark. Duration: ~4 h 30. With Fjord Line. *More information*
- **Hirtshals – Stavanger**: you arrive directly on the west coast, in the heart of fjord country (Lysefjord, Preikestolen), without having to drive across the whole of southern Norway. Often overnight. Duration: ~11 h 15. With Fjord Line. *Info and booking*
- **Hirtshals – Bergen**: the direct gateway to the west and the great fjords (Hardanger, Sognefjord). You land right in the capital of the fjords, without stringing together hundreds of kilometers of road. Overnight. Duration: ~17 h 15. With Fjord Line. *More info on this crossing*

FIND YOUR FERRY TO NORWAY
WITH DIRECT FERRIES

GETTING AROUND NORWAY

JOURNEY PLANNERS

Super important, especially if you're not getting around by car. Journey planners let you… well, plan, of course! Bus, train and boat timetables… everything you need so you don't waste too much time on your journeys.

- Entur.no – the classic one that works across the whole country
- Ruter.no – for Oslo
- Svipper.no – for Tromso and the whole Troms region
- reisnordland.no – for the Lofoten Islands
- Google maps works really well and factors in the ferries, but not their timetables
- Vegvesen: the website of Norway's government road agency, with traffic info, road closures and trip planning that takes ferry timetables into account.



AUTOPASS / EPASS 24 FOR TOLLS

- A great many ferries and tunnels are paid automatically via your license plate
- If you rent a car up there, you get autopass automatically, there's nothing you need to do
- **To keep it simple**, if you're coming with your own vehicle:
    - you can choose between several procedures:
        1. signing up on **EPASS 24** to register your license plate
            - and Ferry Pay to pay for the ferries automatically
            - all of that gets you no discounts though
        2. signing up on **SKYTTELPASS** to register your plate, receive the toll tag and enjoy discounts
            - then autopassferje to get big discounts on the ferries

1. Sign up for **AUTOPASS** via **EPASS 24**
    - A simple EPASS 24 registration allows them to **read your plate** and send you the invoice at the end

2. Sign up for **Skittelpass** (or Flyt / BroBizz works all across Scandinavia! / Fremtind Service / ØresundPay) to receive the **toll tag** because with that tag…

3. You can sign up on **autopassferje.no** and get:
    - Big **discounts** of up to 50% on nearly ALL the ferries!
    - You put down a €200 cash advance (the prepayment)
    - And you get reimbursed at the end
    - WATCH OUT! You need to plan ahead to receive your pass, it can take a while
    - GOOD NEWS: if you sign up for Skittelpass but the toll tag doesn't arrive in time, you can still sign up on autopassferje and enjoy the discounts. The most important thing is to sign up.

4. If you'd rather not make an advance payment but still want to pay for the ferries automatically, then you need to sign up for FERRYPAY

5. If you have neither the tag nor Ferrypay, then you'll pay for the ferries one by one — someone always comes around with a card terminal.

I explain absolutely everything about tolls and ferries in Norway in this article

RENTING A CAR

- All the major companies are pretty much on par (Hertz, Europcar, Avis…)
    - Avoid Thrifty, tons of hidden fees and it ends up costing a fortune

- Keep an eye on the **daily mileage** included, because you'll be driving a lot

- **Choosing** your car:
    - An **SUV / 4x4 is absolutely not required**. The roads are well maintained
    - Go for an **automatic transmission** since the roads are never straight — much more comfortable to drive (and you can enjoy the view)
    - Also **hybrid** if you can, to avoid spending too much on fuel

- Equipment for **winter**
    - All the cars are well equipped for winter, no worries there!
    - They have winter tires, sometimes studded — they can handle anything
    - I'll admit the heated seats are a treat after a night outside

- How to **search**
    - First of all, you **absolutely MUST COMPARE**. I use *Booking.com (formerly Rental Cars*, and I've been happy with it. Take a look at the different offers available
    - But I'm renting more and more with ***Discover Cars***, which I really like! It's very clear and the prices are competitive
    - Then also check directly on the rental companies' own websites, sometimes you'll find better deals there

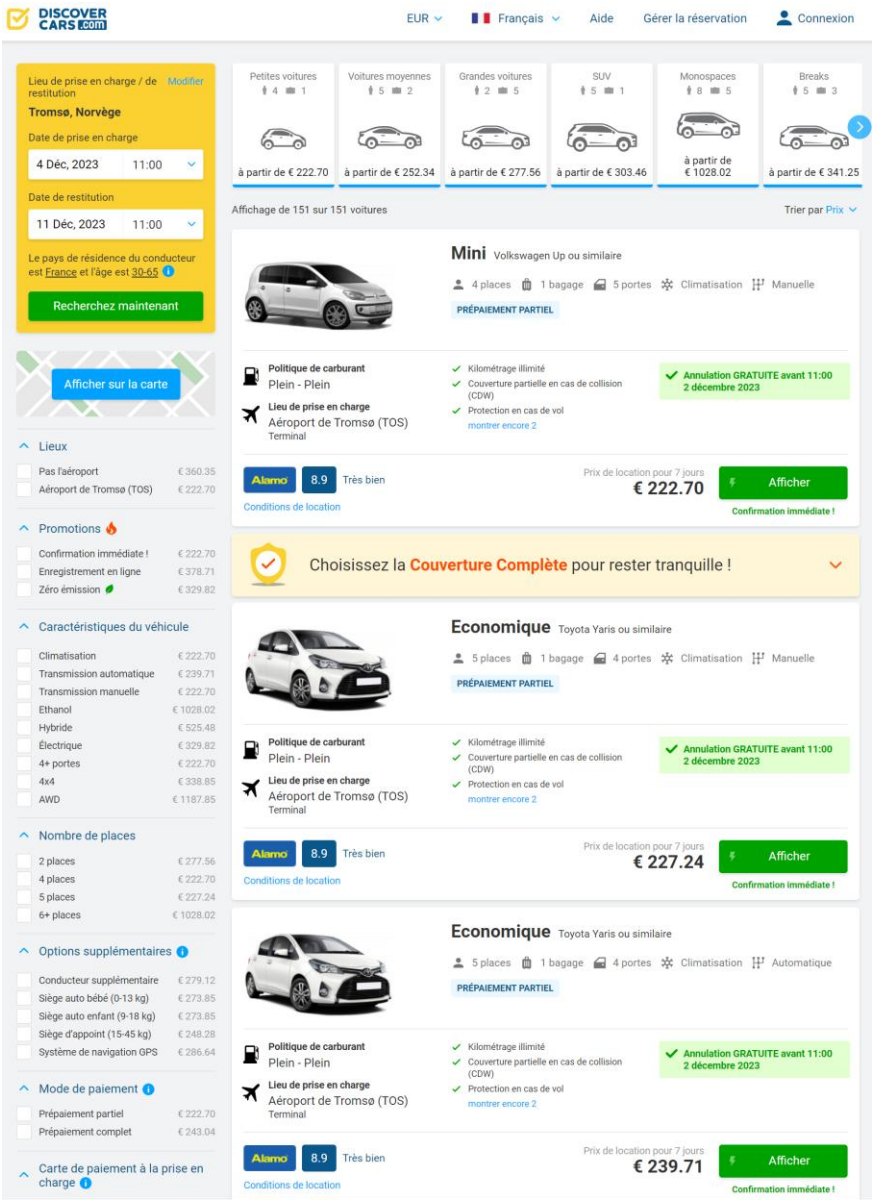
- **GETAROUND** – Peer-to-peer car rental
    - Super handy
    - More choice than with traditional rental agencies
    - Reliable (tested in Tromso and approved!)
    - Give it a try and get €15 toward your first rental

- Renting a **VAN**
    - It's possible to rent a van in Norway, but it's very expensive. You'll find local companies in every region, especially Lofoten, Tromso and Oslo.
        - There's Arctic Campers, Campervannorway, Nordiccampers (Oslo), Indie Campers , MotorhomeRepublic…
    - And there's also a good selection on Getaround

RENTING A CAR WITH DISCOVER CARS

Since 2023, I've mainly been using (but not only!) *Discovercars* to rent my cars. At first, quite simply because Kayak was showing me their results as the best deals. Then because it genuinely is great value, reliable and clearer than other sites. So ever since, I've been really satisfied!

An example from my latest search (and rental)



⭐ *Find your car with Discover Cars* ⭐

DRIVING IN WINTER

- Driving on snow and ice is easy!
- The roads are well maintained in Norway
- The tires grip the road really well
- The snowplows are out quickly whenever it snows or gets windy (the wind blows snow onto the road)

- A few **precautions**, all common sense:
    - Keep big safety distances, since braking takes much longer
    - No sudden moves, no hard braking, no fast tight turns
    - You need to anticipate and stay alert

Be VERY CAREFUL with storms, as driving conditions can quickly become difficult. Check the weather before setting off.





Sometimes you can't see a thing. Imagine at night!

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL ROADS IN NORWAY

In Norway, we have some exceptional roads. It's truly a place where driving is a pleasure. Above all, there are roads officially listed as “scenic roads”, in other words the most beautiful in the country. Let's just say they seriously deliver.

Heads up: some of these roads aren't open year-round (see the road conditions section).

So, from north to south, we have:

- Varanger – the end of the world, out toward Kirkenes
- Havoysund – right next to the North Cape
- Senja – the mind-blowing road from Torsken to Husoy
- Andoya – In the Vesteralen, the west coast up to Andenes
- Lofoten – The road that crosses… every single island! It's insane. Go all the way to the end (especially)
- Helgelandskysten – 400 km along the Atlantic, weaving through the archipelagos
- Atlanterhavsvegen - The very famous Atlantic Road
- Trollstigen – all the way to Geiranger, does this fantastic road even need an introduction
- Gamle Strynefjellsvegen – a little road through a valley of mountains and wild rushing rivers
- Rondane – a road through the heart of Rondane National Park, with its mountains and lakes
- The road over the Sognefjell – simply incredible. Wedged between the Jotunheimen and the Jostedalsbreen
- Valdresflye – the gateway to the Jotunheimen, pure magic
- Gaularfjellet – in the mountains next to Fjaerland, superb of course
- Aurlandsfjellet – also known as Snovegen, it runs along the Aurlandsfjord and offers insane views
- Hardanger – as the name suggests, it follows the Hardangerfjord and runs down to Odda
- Hardangervidda – this one dives into the high plateaus of the national park of the same name, sublime
- Ryfylke – A road that winds through fjords and mountains like the Lysefjord all the way to Stavanger
- Jaeren – The south coast, skirting beaches and landscapes unlike anywhere else in Norway



ROAD CONDITIONS AND CLOSURES

Norway being a country with pretty funky weather conditions, it's important to check the state of the roads, to know whether they're closed and for how long.

- In winter, roads can be closed because of avalanches
  - But they generally reopen quickly
  - And don't let that scare you — they're not dangerous, they just block the road

- To check road conditions, head to THIS SITE and zoom in on the region
  - Click on a sign and you can see how long the closure will last

- Some roads also close every year because of snow. These are mostly roads in the center of the country. Here are the dates from previous years

		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
D/M = Dato/Måned - Date/Month - Datum/Monat		D/M	D/M	D/M	D/M	D/M
Fv 8100 Varanger, Hamningbergvegen	=====	25/05	12/05	18/04	20/05	26/04
	==X==	19/11	09/11	04/11	22/12	11/11
Fv 63 Geiranger -Trollstigen, Trollstigen	=====	24/05	11/05	16/05	12/06	21/05
	==X==	13/11	07/12	30/10	30/11	16/11
Fv 63 Geiranger -Trollstigen, Langvatnet - Geiranger	=====	26/05	9/05	16/05	17/06	15/05
	==X==	18/11	20/12	09/01 2020	01/12	25/11
Fv 258 Gamle Strynefjellsvegen	=====	15/06	-	16/06	29/06	15/06
	==X==	11/10	-	24/09	22/09	23/09
Fv 55 Sognefjellet, Rustasætre - Turtagrø	=====	28/04	25/04	12/04	01/05	26/04
	==X==	18/11	17/11	06/12	23/11	23/11
Fv 51 Valdresflye, Garli - Maurvangen	=====	31/03	23/03	1/04	05/04	31/03
	==X==	23/12	25/12	09/01 2020	23/12	31/12
Fv 613 Gaularfjellet, Mel - Mjell	=====	28/04	26/04	14/04	02/05	27/04
	==X==	20/11	25/12	09/12	11/12	03/01 2022
Fv 5627 Aurlandsfjellet, Aurland / Lærdal - Stegastein	=====	01/06	27/05	03/06	03/06	01/06
	==X==	20/10	12/10	29/10	06/11	19/10
Fv 520 Ryfylke, Røldal - Hellandsbygd	=====	16/05	15/05	11/05	16/06	01/05
	==X==	21/11	20/12	04/12	14/12	05/12

★ ***I explain everything about road closures in Norway in this article***, with live status updates! ★

TRAVELING BY BUS

- A VERY well-developed bus network across the whole country
- Use the journey planners for timetables and stops (entur.no in particular)
- Careful though, some places (like around Tromso) only have one or two buses a day, so you really need to check beforehand
- There's no bus connection between the center (Trondheim) and the north

TRAVELING BY TRAIN

So yes, it's possible to travel by train in Norway. It takes time, but the trains are comfortable and the journeys superb (especially the Oslo Bergen).

The main cities are connected, though not necessarily to each other — the tricky part is that you often have to go back through Oslo to visit the south (Andalsnes, Bergen, Stavanger).

At the very top you can go as far as Bodo (then take the ferry to the Lofoten or the bus to Narvik or Tromso), but there's a Swedish line that goes all the way to Narvik. That line passes through Kiruna and starts in Stockholm.

Tickets are booked on VY.no



FERRIES IN NORWAY

- Loads of ferry options, especially in the southwest

- No need to book
  - except for **Bodo – Moskenes**! that can be booked here
  - *I tell you everything about the Bodo – Lofoten ferry in this article*

- For timetables and fares, you need to check case by case (and -50% with autopassferje.no)

- The list of routes and operators is available HERE
  - Find your route and click on it
  - That takes you to the operator's website
  - And there you'll need to run a search through the routes on offer

- Routes and ferries in TROMS can also be checked on
  - this local planner (fylkestrafikk.no)
  - and *entur.no*



CRUISES IN NORWAY

A good, fairly classic way to discover Norway is on a cruise ship.

- The great classic is Bergen – Kirkenes on the Hurtigruten
- But also cruise lines like MSC, Costa…
- And departures from Kiel or Copenhagen

Prices vary enooormously, there are often good deals (2 for the price of 1), and even better ones in low season.

WHERE TO STAY

CAMPING IN NORWAY

- Yes, **wild camping** is allowed EVERYWHERE (outside of towns, obviously)
    - As long as there's no sign saying otherwise
    - The same goes for parking your campervan
- Because of past abuse, restrictions are being introduced in the Lofoten
- You'll find HERE a map of camping spots and areas
- And even more on Park4night!
- Making a fire is sometimes allowed. But NEVER in wooded areas
    - You absolutely must put it out before leaving
    - (it's common sense but you never know)

HOTELS – CABINS – ACCOMMODATION

- Accommodation is very expensive in Norway. It doubles or even triples in tourist season.
- Easily over €100 a night, even for private rentals
- Staying away from the center gets you fjord/mountain views, that kind of thing (especially up north)
- The main hotel chains that are good are Thon and Scandic. Radisson isn't bad either.
- But you reeeeally need to compare. In Norway, prices vary a lot between high and low season (they can easily double)
- As a comparison site, I mainly use Booking, they also list private rentals.
- I still use Airbnb a little, though barely anymore, because of the fees that keep climbing way too much. But there's plenty of choice.



Eliassen Rorbuer in Hamnoy, Lofoten Islands

WHAT CLOTHES TO PACK BY SEASON

- **GENERAL POINTS**
  - The weather is extremely changeable
  - Temperatures can drop very quickly
  - It's always windy
  - It's very often wet (rain, snow)

- **WINTER**
  - It can get COLD (between 0 and -25 inland)
  - Windy, especially on the coast
  - Sometimes there are warm spells, it rains a lot and everything melts, but then it snows again
    - **CLOTHES TO PACK**
      - Very warm clothing, dress in layers
      - A big coat — the Fjallraven ones keep you nice and warm. The Singi model is fantastic but costs an arm and a leg
      - Thermal underwear, tights, tee- shirts like damart (here's what I bought)
      - Wool socks (I buy them there, in the Extra supermarkets — perfect)
      - Wool sweaters (mine are alpaca, great, but they reek of animal once wet)
      - Between the sweater and the jacket, you can add *a fleece*
      - 2 types of gloves:
        - Thin gloves to wear all the time — not too warm, and you can still handle your camera
        - Big winter gloves
        - I have these ones from The Heat Company, they're great
      - **Boots**: absolutely crucial, as you'll be in the snow all the time. The best: the Sorel Caribou. Even better: the Baffin.
      - A wool beanie (or fur-lined hood) that covers your ears. I have a *trapper hat by Fjallraven* that's wonderful!



Sorel Caribou



Baffin

- **SUMMER**
  - In central Norway, generally between 10 and 15°
  - In the north, generally between 5 and 15°
  - But temperatures can really vary
  - There can be the occasional hot spell at 25° from time to time
  - Rain
    - **CLOTHES TO PACK**
      - A windbreaker
      - Waterproof shoes
      - A K-way or similar rain jacket
      - Really plan for both nice weather and chilly spells

- **SPRING**
  - Between 5 and 10°, less in the far north (as it can snow until early May)
  - Melting snow, quite a bit of rain
    - **CLOTHES TO PACK**
      - A windbreaker
      - Waterproof shoes that can handle snow
      - A K-way or similar rain jacket
      - Base layers like tights/damart will come in handy

- **AUTUMN**
  - Really wet
  - It starts getting cold, mostly at night
    - **CLOTHES TO PACK**
      - A windbreaker and a K-way are a must
      - Waterproof shoes as the ground will be very wet (lots of moss)
      - Warm clothes in layers

- **SNOW**
  - It starts snowing in early November in central Norway
  - Late November in the north, though it's not certain it will stick
  - Mostly from mid-January



Is this guide useful to you?

It's *free* and it'll stay that way. If you'd like to help me keep it going, you can use the links in this guide or in the articles: it doesn't cost you a penny more. Or you can buy me a virtual coffee, it really makes my day :)

Activities · Hotels · Car · Buy me a coffee (€5)

PAYMENTS IN NORWAY

- The currency is the **Norwegian krone** (NOK)
  - €1 = 11 NOK (rounding off — it varies between 10.5 and 11.5)

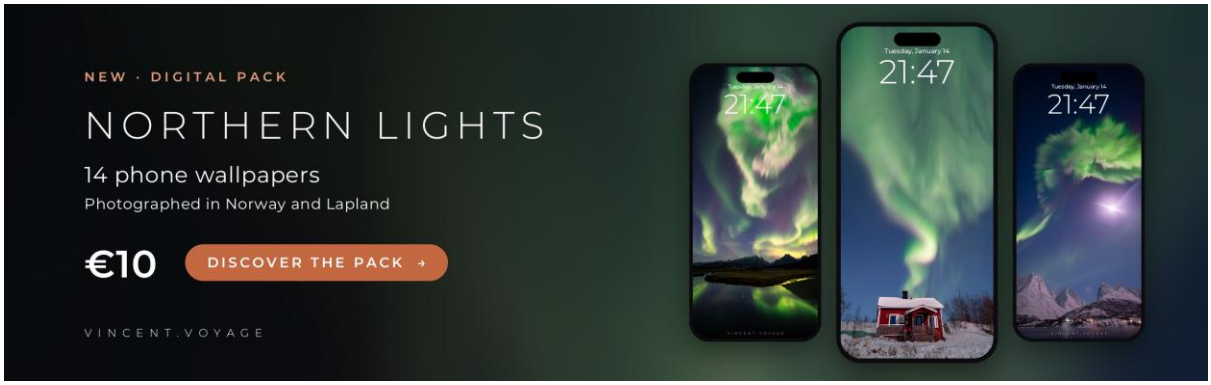
- The **payment methods**
  - EVERYTHING, or almost, is paid by **card**, it's the default payment method
  - Very few cash payments, even though it's possible

- Should you **exchange currency** at home or in Norway
  - The exchange rate for card withdrawals and payments depends on your bank
  - Check with your bank:
    - The exchange rate
    - The fees
  - So unless you get an excellent exchange rate (for example in Paris, the CEN exchange office), I recommend withdrawing cash there, only if you need it, and otherwise paying by card as much as possible (watch out for your card limits!)

BANKS AND BANK CARDS

Do you absolutely need to get a new bank card to cut down on fees?

- Fees are generally around 3% for Norway, which isn't huge. For ONE trip, it's not worth getting a new card with a new bank. Better to see what your current bank can offer (free withdrawals, no fees for X weeks..)
- If you're going to travel more often outside the euro zone, then yes, it's worth it



SEEING THE NORTHERN LIGHTS IN NORWAY

WHEN TO SEE THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

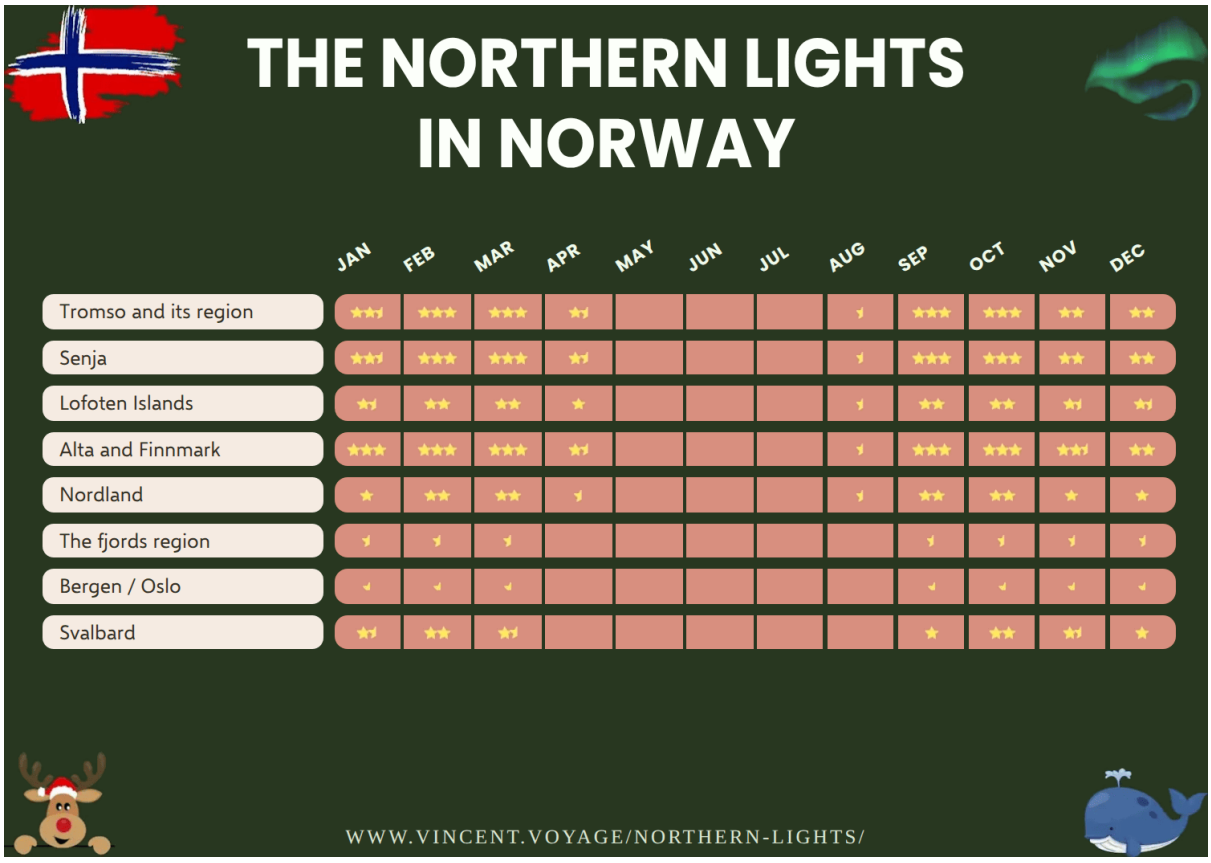
- Visible from **late August** / early September **to early / mid-April**

- **There's no single best season for the auroras**
  - You "just" need a clear sky, darkness, and therefore decent weather. And some solar activity
  - Now, people say there's more activity around the equinoxes. Nothing really proves it, but I have to admit it's not wrong!

- But **I'd recommend** these periods more all the same:
  - Mid-September to mid-October
    - Mid-September the days are no longer too long, while by mid-October night falls early but not too early
    - The weather won't be too rough yet (but there's rain)
  - Mid-February to mid-March
    - Snow, and days long enough to make the most of the daytime
    - Better weather than in December, for example

  - **But don't worry, the other periods are great too!**

- Because of the weather and the element of luck, I recommend **going for a week** to maximize your chances



HOW TO SEE THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

tips you ABSOLUTELY must follow to try to catch the northern lights

- Be **patient** because the auroras can show up at any moment
- Be **mobile** so you can move around depending on the weather
- Check the **cloud cover** on a site like Ventusky to see where and when the sky is clear (it can change within a few km)
- Get out of town and **move away** from the lights
- Find a spot with a **clear view** to the north and west (and east too). Basically, as unobstructed as possible
- My article with everything you need to know about the northern lights

The KP index isn't the best indicator!

- It “just” shows disturbances in the magnetic field
- But the higher it is, the bigger the disturbances, which points to potential solar storms
- I've had amazing dancing auroras at KP 0/1 in Tromso
- Watch the **BZ**. As soon as it goes negative, it means they're there. And if it plunges, things are about to go off fast, especially when it swings back up!
- Get an **app** that shows the KP, the BZ, the winds and the density
    - And that sends notifications when things are about to kick off (super important)
    - Follow the website spaceweatherlive and the app *Norlys*



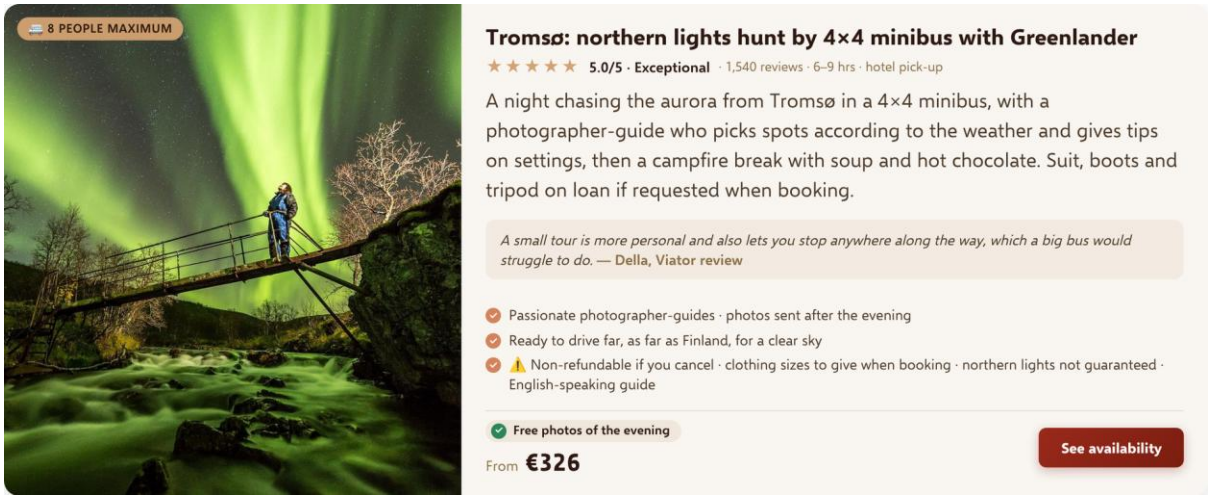
WHERE TO SEE THE AURORAS

- They're easy to see from the Arctic Circle up
- Tromso and Alta are really well located — you can see them almost every night, even with low activity
    - *Seeing the northern lights in Tromso*

- The Lofoten Islands too, but the weather is so-so and there's a lot of light
    - *Seeing the northern lights in the Lofoten Islands*

- Senja, not much light, weather somewhere between Tromso and the Lofoten, so it works
    - Seeing the northern lights in Senja
- Below the Arctic Circle, only during strong activity

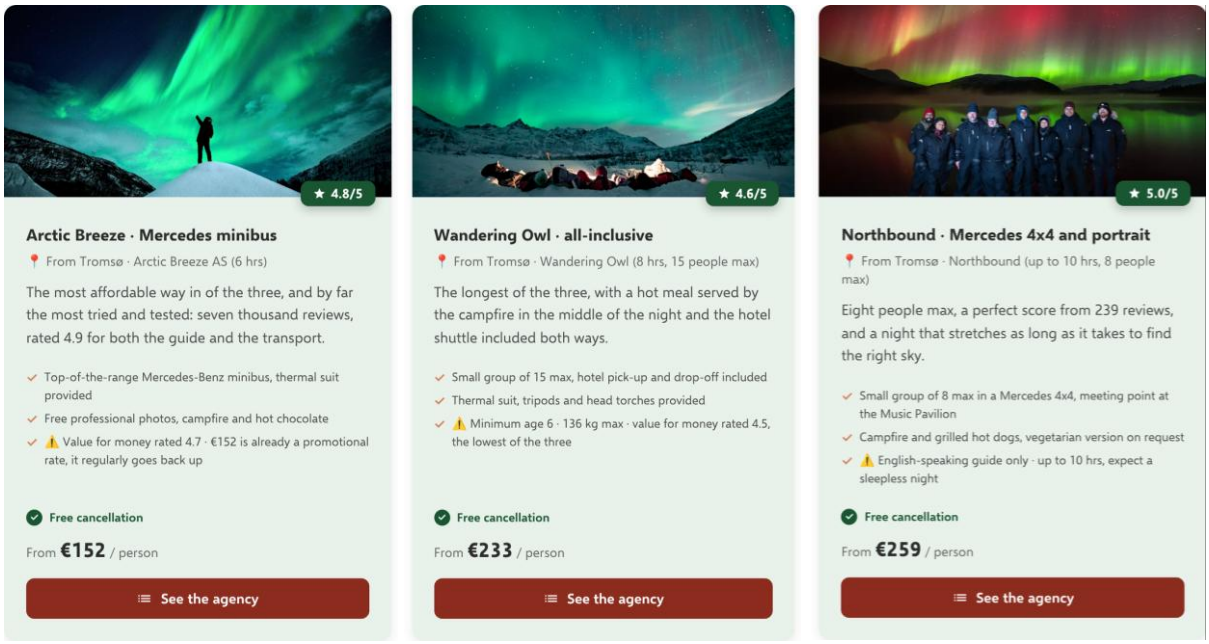




SEEING THE NORTHERN LIGHTS WITH AN AGENCY

- How to **choose** your agency to see the northern lights
  - I explain everything in this article!
  - Reputation and reviews, for example here on Getyourguide
  - Group size (bus or minibus)
  - The photographers
  - The price

- Here are the best agencies in Tromso
  - You need to book the good agencies several weeks ahead, or even one or two months in advance for the very best ones => **you have to plan ahead!**





PHOTOGRAPHING THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

- I put absolutely EVERYTHING in this article
- Absolutely set your focus manually BEFOREHAND (infinity, on the stars)
- Exposure time between 2 (when they're moving fast) and 15 seconds (slow)
- ISO around 3200 or more, but not too high so you don't get grain.
- The widest aperture possible (1.4 2.8)→
- Plenty of space on your memory cards
- Fully charged batteries (careful, they drain faster in the cold)





WHERE TO GO AND ITINERARIES TO DISCOVER NORWAY

FIRST TRIP TO NORWAY

A few suggestions for a first trip, even though there are dozens of possibilities:

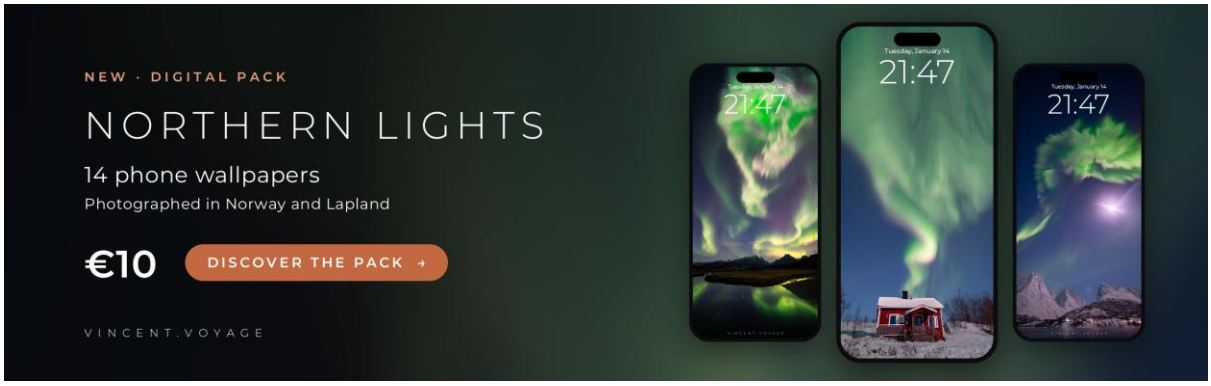
- **Winter**
  - *1 week in Tromso*, for landscapes, snow activities and northern lights
  - 1 week in the Lofoten Islands, between beaches, mountains and little villages
  - 10 days between Tromso, the Lofoten Islands and Senja
  - In this article I detail a 2-week itinerary in the north

- **Year-round**
  - 1 week between Oslo and Bergen, connected by train, with stops in Flam and Naeroyfjord
  - 2 weeks in the north between Tromso, Senja and the Lofoten — and why not push on to the North Cape!

- **Summer**
  - 1 week around Bergen and the fjords further north (Sognefjord, Naeroyfjord, Flam, Borgund…)
  - 1 week in the Lofoten
  - 2 weeks in the fjords between Bergen and Alesund, adding a bit of time to head down to the fjords around Stavanger
  - A week between Tromso and Senja to enjoy the great outdoors
  - You'll find the best itineraries in this article: *where to go in Norway in summer*

- **A weekend** in a city for 3/4 days:
  - Oslo, for the history and the museums, a really pleasant city
  - Bergen, for the architecture, Bryggen and the fjords

- **HEADS UP**:
  - Norway is worth visiting ALL year round — there's always something to see, somewhere at its best (whales, northern lights, hiking, cities…) depending on what you're after



MISSION: NORTHERN LIGHTS

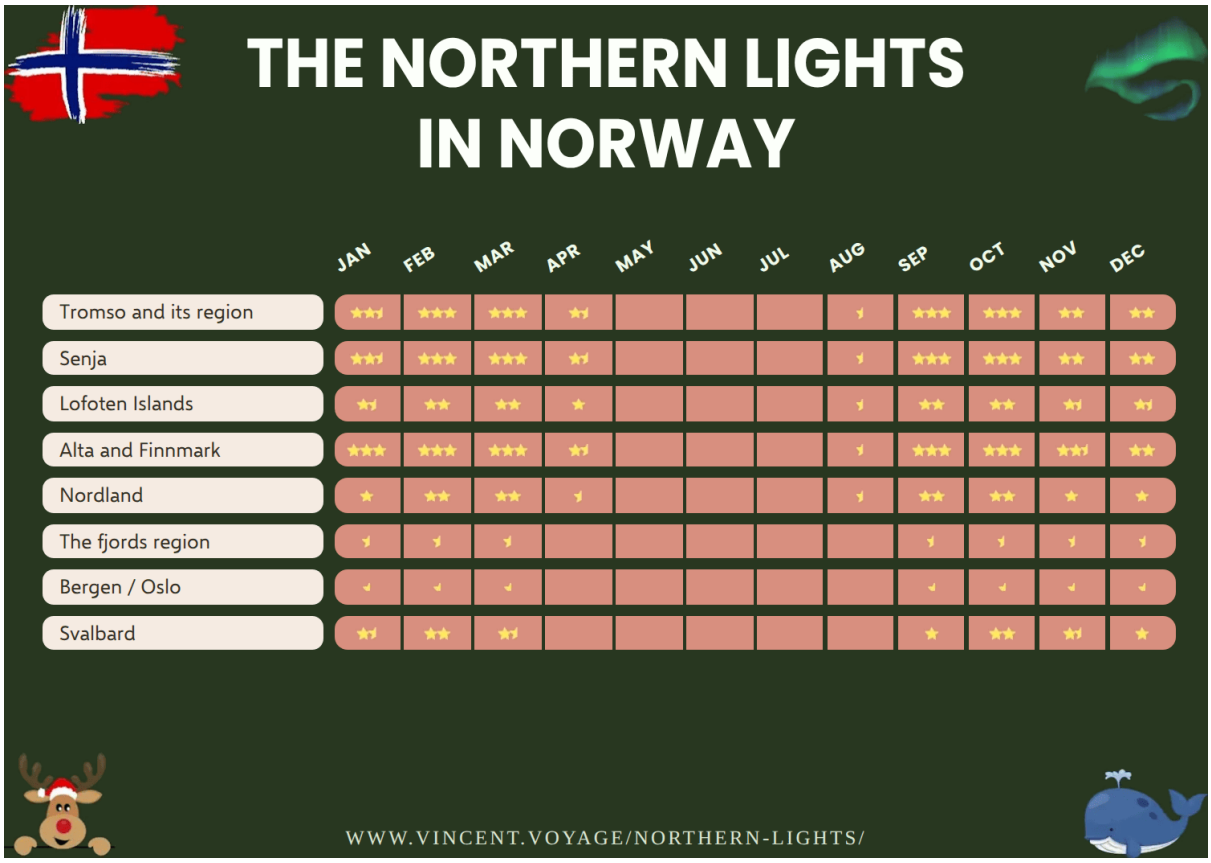
Best spots in Norway:

- **Tromso**: because it offers countless options for getting away from the clouds, plenty of agencies, and everything revolves around the auroras

- **Alta** and Finnmark: a drier, colder, more "Lapland" climate, better suited to auroras, but fewer agencies and fewer spots that make you go wow, though it's still very beautiful

- **Senja**: few people, quite a few options, changeable weather between the fjords and the colder interior. Worst case, you can get off the island very easily

- **Lofoten Islands**: not a fan for the auroras because the weather is really tough, lots of clouds, and it's impossible to escape since the archipelago is very big. Lots of light pollution. But doable on the various beaches!



A few itineraries in Norway

To plan your trip to Norway, there's nothing like taking inspiration from tried-and-tested itineraries, especially for a first trip or a first time in a region. And that's lucky! I've already created several itineraries, they're in this guide, so I'll put the links here so you can jump straight to them:

NORTHERN NORWAY

- **A week in Tromso in winter with a car**
  - *Shortcut to the section in the guide*
  - *Link to the blog post*

- **Itinerary for Tromso without a car**
  - *Shortcut to the section in the guide*
  - *Link to the blog post*

- **2 weeks in northern Norway, between Tromso, Senja and the Lofoten Islands**
  - *Shortcut to the section in the guide*
  - *Link to the blog post*

- **3 itineraries to discover the Lofoten Islands**
  - *Link to the blog post*

Also check out my tool for creating your personalised Tromso itinerary!

THE FJORD REGION

- **A week to discover Bergen and the fjords with a car**
  - *Shortcut to the section in the guide*
  - *Link to the blog post*

- **A week in and around Bergen, but without a car**
  - *Shortcut to the section in the guide*

- **Two weeks in the Norwegian fjords**
  - *Shortcut to the section in the guide*
  - *Link to the blog post*

T R O M S O

Full article here

TROMSO AT A GLANCE

3 places to see in town

- The Fjellheisen cable car
- The Telegrafbukta beach
- The harbor

3 places to see around Tromso

- Kvaloya, the road to Tromvik via Ersfjord and Grotfjord
- Kvaloya, the road to Sommaroy
- The Lyngen Alps, taking the ferry there and coming back by road (or the other way around)

3 best activities

- *Dog sledding*
- *Northern lights*
- *Snowmobile*

3 great Norwegian restaurants

- *Maskinverkstedet*
- *Bardus*
- *Full Steam*

3 best hotels

- *Scandic Ishavshotel*
- *Radisson Blu*
- *Clarion The Edge*

3 cafés to relax in

- Smørtorget
- Koseverden & Koselig
- Svermeri Kafé og Redesign

Car rental comparison sites

- *Discover Cars*
- *Booking.com*

Best times to visit

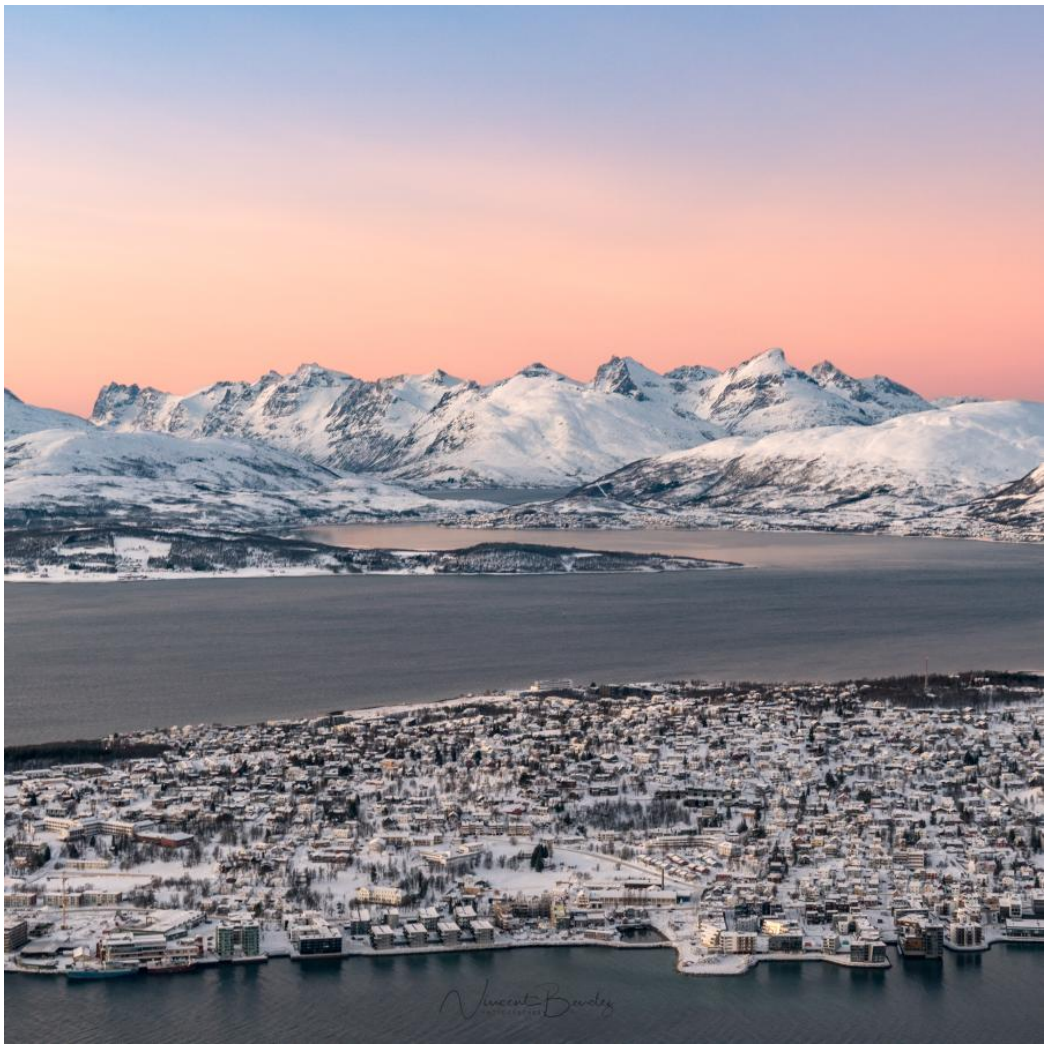
- Northern lights: from early September to late March
- For whales and orcas: from late October to late January
- For hiking: from June to late September
- For snow activities: from mid-November to early April

How long to stay to see the northern lights

- At least 5 days to put all the odds on your side
- A week is great
- In 2 weeks you can do a fantastic road trip around the whole region

PLACES TO SEE IN TOWN

- The city center and the harbor
- The Fjellheisen cable car
    - The most beautiful view over the city, but it costs an arm and a leg (family rate available, and you can walk up or down, with crampons in winter)
- The Polar Museum (Polarmuseet)
    - Really fascinating insight into the lives of hunters and fishermen back in the day
- Maybe Polaria
- The Telegrafbukta beach
    - Also a lovely spot to see the northern lights without having to leave town
- The Arctic Cathedral
- Possibly the Troll Museum



PLACES TO SEE AROUND TROMSO

- The island of **KVALOYA**
  - The road to Sommaroy
  - The road to Tromvik passing through Ersfjord and Grotfjord
  - The road to Skulsfjord
  - Discover Kvaloya in this article



- The **Breivikeidet valley**
  - A stunning view of the Lyngen Alps just after the golf course
  - Continue on to **Nakkevatnet** and Sjursnes
- **Laksvatn** then Lakselvbukt, and keep going along the Lyngen

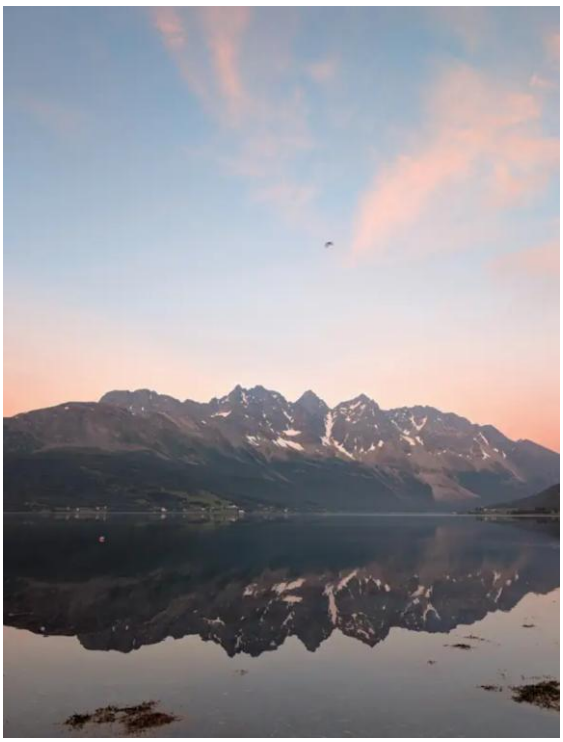


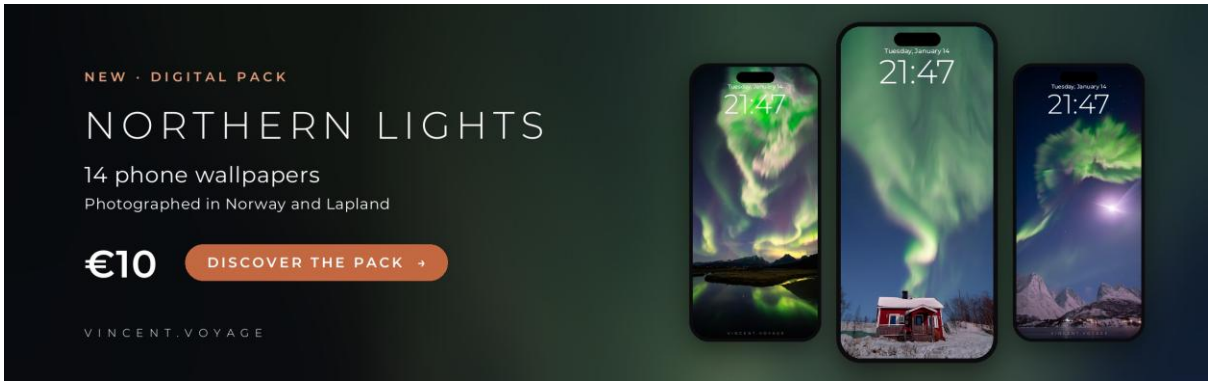


- The **Lyngen Alps**
  - Take the *ferry at Breivikeidet*, go as far as Lyngseidet and drive back down
  - Or take the southern route via Oteren

- The mountain valley of **Signaldalen**







ACTIVITIES

Below you'll find plenty of details about the activities you can do in Tromso. But take a look at the following article if you want *ALL the activities, tours and every provider in Tromso*!

SEEING THE NORTHERN LIGHTS IN TROMSO

Practical Info

- You can see them from early **September** to early **April**
- Article about the northern lights
- How to photograph the northern lights
- 10 places to see the northern lights in this article, for example:
    - Grotfjord
    - The road to Kvaloyvagen
    - Kattfjordvatnet
    - Signaldalen

To **CHOOSE THE RIGHT AGENCY/GUIDE**, you need to pay attention to the following points:

- The **reputation**, the reviews. Look at their track record, the reviews, the customer feedback. The more reviews there are and the higher the rating, the better, obviously
- Don't book a guide with no reviews or just an average rating. Always favor **experience** and the safe bets
- When the price is too low, **there's a catch**. There are early-season deals, but a good agency is around €180/250, and the smaller the group, the more expensive it is
- Pay attention to the **duration** of the tour; don't book the ones offering to see the northern lights in 3 hours, that's nonsense, or the ones who say “no, no, no need to go to Finland”
- Some have dangerous behavior, **dangerous driving** (Green Gold, Amazing Arctic Tours), I'd advise against booking with them
- Don't book **taxi drivers turned guides**, they're not guides, they don't know the spots.

The best northern lights agencies in Tromso

You can find them in *this dedicated article*
And above all, you can find plenty of other quality agencies in the comparison table below!
⭐ ⭐ *You can click directly on the cards to access the activity details and book*



Wandering Owl

The longest and most complete outing of the trio: hotel shuttle both ways, a hot meal by the campfire and tripods for everyone.

- Group: **15 people max**
- Warm clothing: **Yes** — thermal suit
- Duration: **8 hrs**
- Light hot meal, hot drinks, biscuits, campfire
- Value for money rated **4.5**, the lowest of the three · age 6+, 136 kg max.

From **€233** / person

✓ See availability



Arctic Photo Guide

Nicola, photographer-guide and driver all in one, takes six people max by 4x4 where minibuses can't go. A perfect score from 177 reviews.

- Group: **6 people max** (premium off-road 4x4)
- Warm clothing: **No** — bring your own, three layers recommended
- Duration: **9 hrs**
- Hot soup, professional tripods, photos included
- The only one of the trio with no suit provided · bring winter hiking boots

From **€244** / person

✓ See availability



Northbound

Mercedes 4x4, eight people max and a night that stretches as long as it takes. You leave with a portrait under the aurora and a timelapse.

- Group: **8 people max** (Mercedes 4x4)
- Warm clothing: **Yes** — thermal suits
- Duration: **up to 10 hrs**
- Hot dogs grilled over the fire (vegetarian version), drinks and snacks
- English-speaking guide only · tips and taxes already included in the price

From **€259** / person

✓ See availability



Blue Puffin

Photographer-guides who put everything into your experience: a home-made hot meal by the fire, tripods provided and free portraits under the aurora.

- Group: **15 people max** (minibus)
- Warm clothing: **Yes** — thermal suit
- Duration: **7 hrs**
- Home-made hot meal (soup), hot drinks, pastries, campfire

From **€195** / person

✓ See availability



Creative Vacations

Vidar, a photographer-guide, takes a very small group out to look for the aurora, and you leave with your portraits, free of charge.

- Group: **7 people max** (often 5–6)
- Warm clothing: **Yes** — suit + winter boots
- Duration: **7–9 hrs**
- Campfire, vegetable soup, hot drink, biscuits

From **€250** / person

✓ See availability



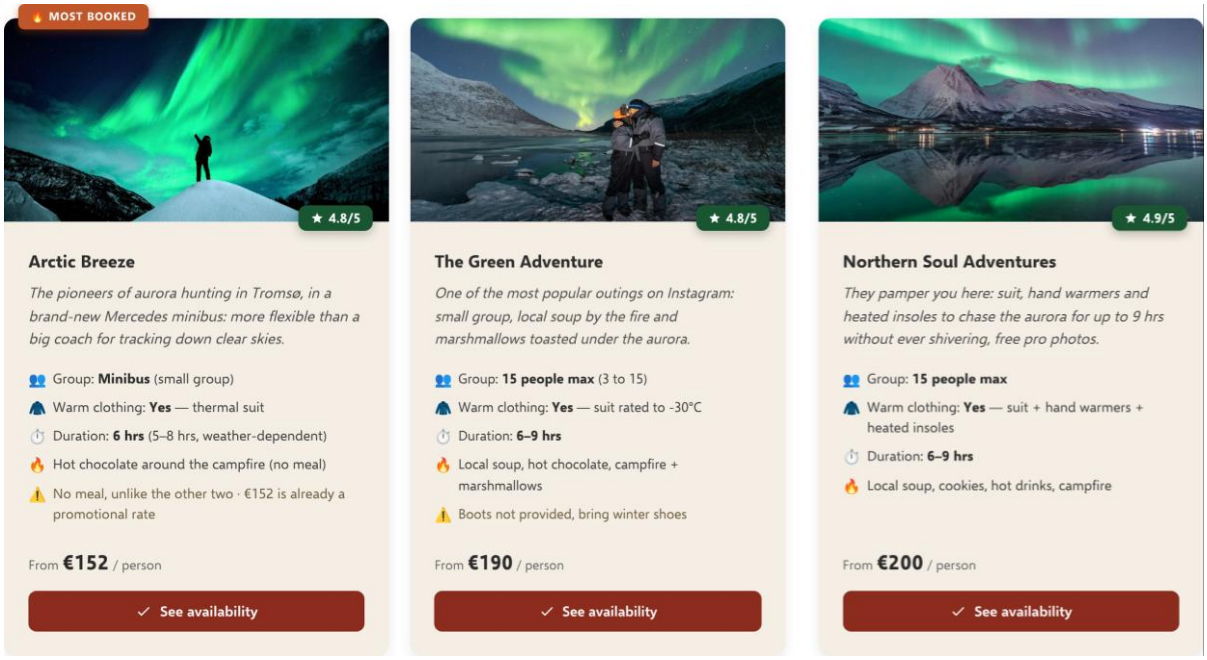
Greenlander

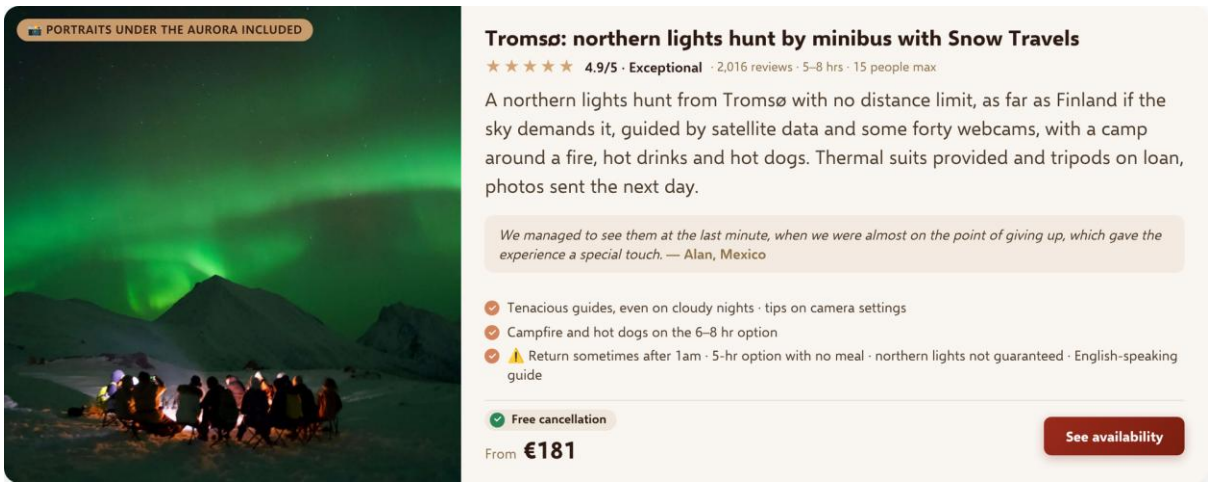
The smallest group in Tromsø, in a 4x4 van, with a 97% success rate: they'll drive all the way to Finland if need be.

- Group: **8 people max** (4x4 van)
- Warm clothing: **Yes** — suit + boots rated to -30°C
- Duration: **6–9 hrs**
- Hot meal (vegan option), hot chocolate, campfire
- The priciest in the comparison · border crossing possible, bring ID

From **€290** / person

✓ See availability

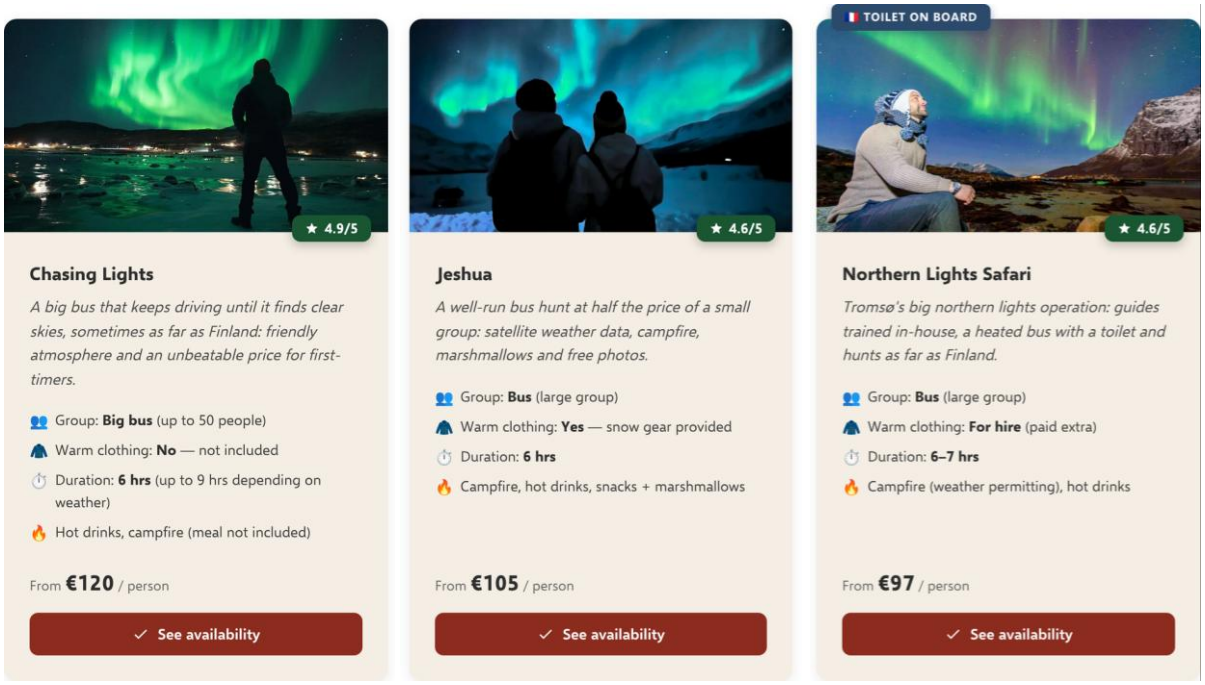

MOST BOOKED
★ 4.8/5
Arctic Breeze
The pioneers of aurora hunting in Tromsø, in a brand-new Mercedes minibus: more flexible than a big coach for tracking down clear skies.
Group: Minibus (small group)
Warm clothing: Yes — thermal suit
Duration: 6 hrs (5–8 hrs, weather-dependent)
Hot chocolate around the campfire (no meal)
No meal, unlike the other two · €152 is already a promotional rate
From €152 / person
See availability
★ 4.8/5
The Green Adventure
One of the most popular outings on Instagram: small group, local soup by the fire and marshmallows toasted under the aurora.
Group: 15 people max (3 to 15)
Warm clothing: Yes — suit rated to -30°C
Duration: 6–9 hrs
Local soup, hot chocolate, campfire + marshmallows
Boots not provided, bring winter shoes
From €190 / person
See availability
★ 4.9/5
Northern Soul Adventures
They pamper you here: suit, hand warmers and heated insoles to chase the aurora for up to 9 hrs without ever shivering, free pro photos.
Group: 15 people max
Warm clothing: Yes — suit + hand warmers + heated insoles
Duration: 6–9 hrs
Local soup, cookies, hot drinks, campfire
From €200 / person
See availability

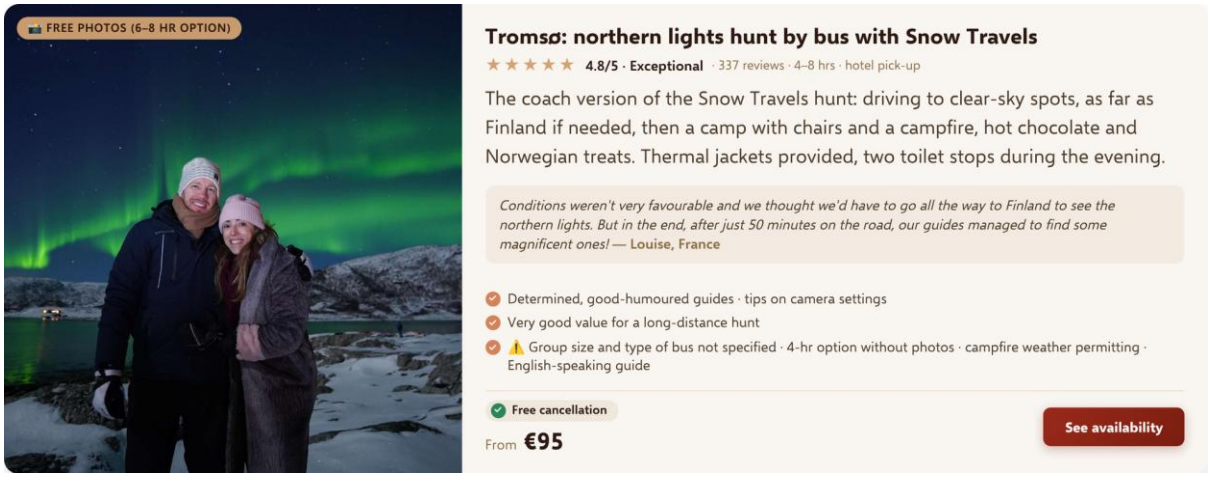

PORTRAITS UNDER THE AURORA INCLUDED
Tromsø: northern lights hunt by minibus with Snow Travels
4.9/5 · Exceptional · 2,016 reviews · 5–8 hrs · 15 people max
A northern lights hunt from Tromsø with no distance limit, as far as Finland if the sky demands it, guided by satellite data and some forty webcams, with a camp around a fire, hot drinks and hot dogs. Thermal suits provided and tripods on loan, photos sent the next day.
We managed to see them at the last minute, when we were almost on the point of giving up, which gave the experience a special touch. — Alan, Mexico
Tenacious guides, even on cloudy nights · tips on camera settings
Campfire and hot dogs on the 6–8 hr option
Return sometimes after 1am · 5-hr option with no meal · northern lights not guaranteed · English-speaking guide
Free cancellation
From €181
See availability

Seeing the northern lights by bus

The bus isn't (too) expensive and there's always room. So if you're on a tight budget, or if you're booking at the last minute, it will do the job. But these are 40-person buses, it's noisy, with lots of light. So you have to expect that, but they will still do their job to find the northern lights.

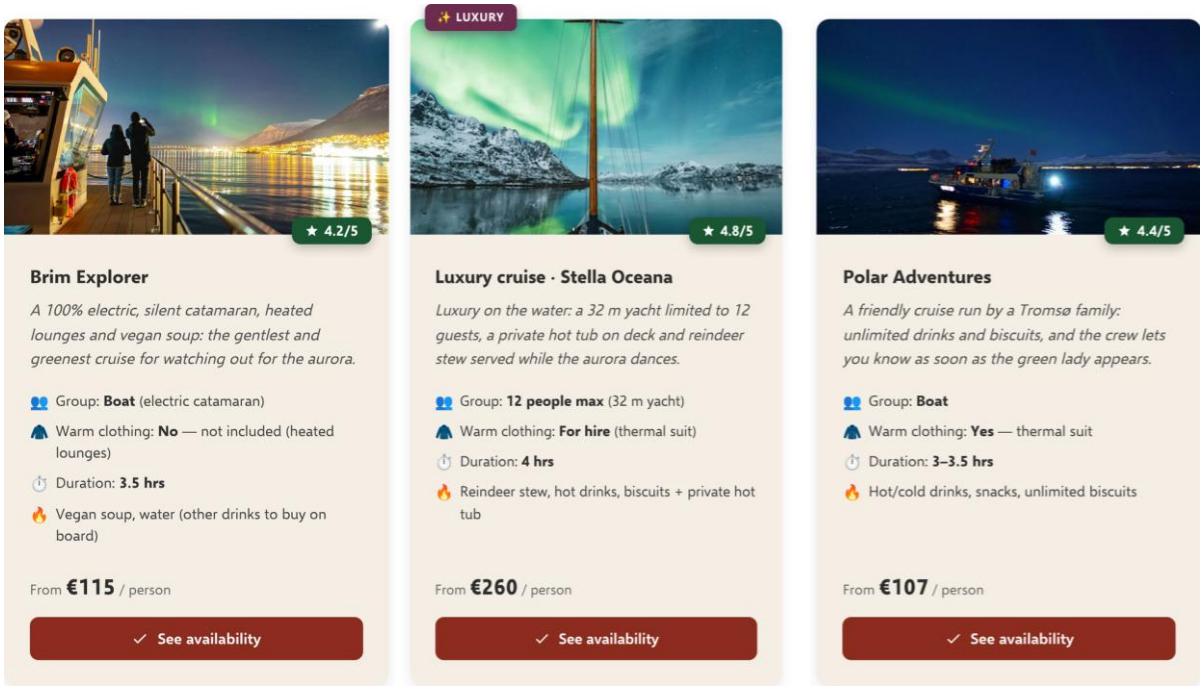
- *In the following article I give you all the info to see the northern lights on a small budget*





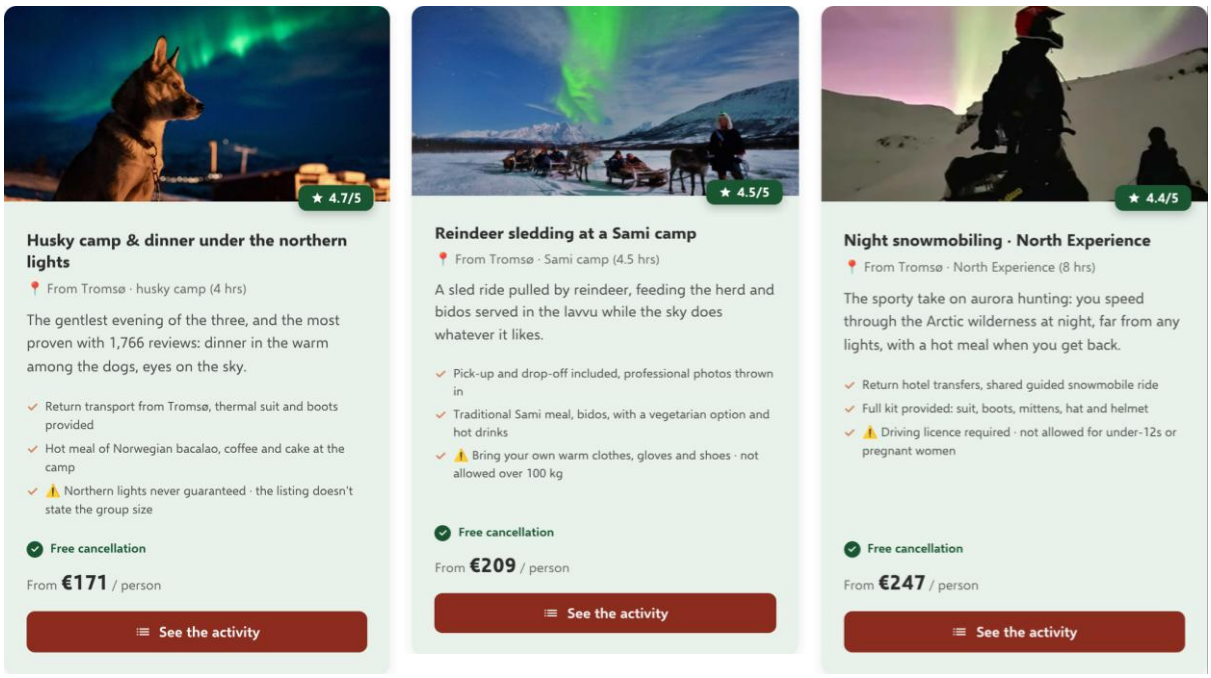
Taking a cruise to see the northern lights

From Tromso, several boats set off in the evening to go watch the northern lights. Careful, it's extremely weather-dependent. A boat can't go very far like a car can, so if the area is cloudy, it will be hard to see them. But it's a really lovely experience



3 experiences to see the northern lights differently

Because it's not just about driving around and watching them, there are plenty of other things to do beneath them!



COMPARISON OF NORTHERN LIGHTS AGENCIES

Click on a row to open the agency's card, see the details and book. 43 agencies and activities compared.

Agency	Type	Group	Price	Rating	Gear	Duration	
★Arctic Photo Guide	Minibus	6	€260	5/5	Yes	6 hrs	See ›
★Creative Vacations	Minibus	7	€250	5/5	Yes	7 hrs	See ›
★Rise Experience	Minibus	7	€210	5/5	Yes	7 hrs	See ›
Green Gold of Norway	Minibus	8	€170	4.5/5	Yes	6 hrs	See ›
★Greenlander	Minibus	8	€290	5/5	Yes	6 hrs	See ›
★Northbound	Minibus	8	€220	5/5	Yes	7 hrs	See ›
Tromso Accessible Tour	Minibus	8	€170	3.8/5	Yes	7 hrs	See ›
★Your Tromso Guide	Minibus	8	€200	c4.9/5	Yes	7 hrs	See ›
★Arctic Breeze	Minibus	15	€160	4.8/5	Yes	6 hrs	See ›
★Arctic Circle Tour	Minibus	15	€196	4.9/5	Yes	6 hrs	See ›
Arctic Explorers	Minibus	15	€204	4.7/5	Yes	7 hrs	See ›
★Arctic Glow	Minibus	15	€175	4.9/5	Yes	6 hrs	See ›
★Blue Puffin	Minibus	15	€195	4.9/5	Yes	7 hrs	See ›
Chasing Lights	Minibus	15	€230	4.8/5	Yes	7 hrs	See ›
Enjoy the Arctic	Minibus	15	€140	4.7/5	Yes	6 hrs	See ›
Flexitour	Minibus	15	€180	4.8/5	Yes	7 hrs	See ›
★Northern Soul Adventures	Minibus	15	€200	4.9/5	Yes	7 hrs	See ›
Snow Travels	Minibus	15	€190	4.9/5	Yes	5 hrs	See ›
Spirit in the sky	Minibus	15	€170	4.8/5	Yes	7 hrs	See ›
★The Green Adventure	Minibus	15	€190	4.8/5	Yes	7 hrs	See ›
Arctic GM	Minibus	8/20	€260	4.5/5	Yes	6 hrs	See ›
Arctic Guide Service	Bus	Bus	€110	4.3/5	No	6 hrs	See ›
Arctic Resort (formerly Norwegian Travel)	Bus	Bus	€115	4.3/5	No	6 hrs	See ›
Bifrost	Minibus	15	€180	4.8/5	Yes	7 hrs	See ›
Brim Explorer	Boat	boat	€115	4.2/5	No	3 hrs	See ›
Chasing Lights	Bus	Bus	€120	4.9/5	No	6 hrs	See ›
Enter Adventures	Bus	Bus	€106	4.3/5	No	6 hrs	See ›

Tromso							
Jeshua AS	Bus	Bus	**€105**	**4.6/5**	No	6 hrs	**See ›**
NLT Guide Company	Minibus	16	**€140**	**4.7/5**	Yes	6 hrs	**See ›**
North Experience	*Snowmobile*	8	**€230**	**4.4/5**	Yes	8 hrs	**See ›**
Northern Lights Safari	Bus	bus	**€97**	**4.6/5**	No	6 hrs	**See ›**
Northern Norway Travels	Minibus	15	**€190**	**4.4/5**	Yes	6 hrs	**See ›**
NorthernShots Tours	Bus	bus	**€125**	**4.3/5**	No	7 hrs	**See ›**
Polar Adventure	Large group	20 or bus	**€100–220**	**4.5/5**	Yes	7 hrs	**See ›**
Polar Adventures	Boat	boat	**€107**	**4.4/5**	No	3 hrs	**See ›**
Rodne	Boat	Boat	**€97**	**4.3/5**	No	2 hrs	**See ›**
Tromso Arctic Reindeer	Reindeer	Reindeer	**€180**	**4.6/5**	No	4.5 hrs	**See ›**
Tromso Lapland	Reindeer	Reindeer	**€150**	**4.5/5**	No	4.5 hrs	**See ›**
Tromso Villmarkssenter	Dogs	Kennel visit	**€160**	**4.6/5**	—	—	**See ›**
★Wandering Owl	Minibus	15 max (minibus)	**€190**	**4.8/5**	Yes	5–8 hrs	**See ›**
★World Sea Explorers	Boat	Boat	**€260**	**4.8/5**	—	4 hrs	**See ›**

WHALE AND ORCA WATCHING

- You can see them from **early November to late January** (sometimes early February)
    - You can sometimes spot cetaceans in the water with a bit of luck all year round
    - Doable for everyone, no difficulty at all
    - There are several ways to see the cetaceans:
        - Departing from Tromso
        - Directly in Skjervoy
        - On a comfortable boat
        - On a RIB boat
- *Article about the whales in Tromso*

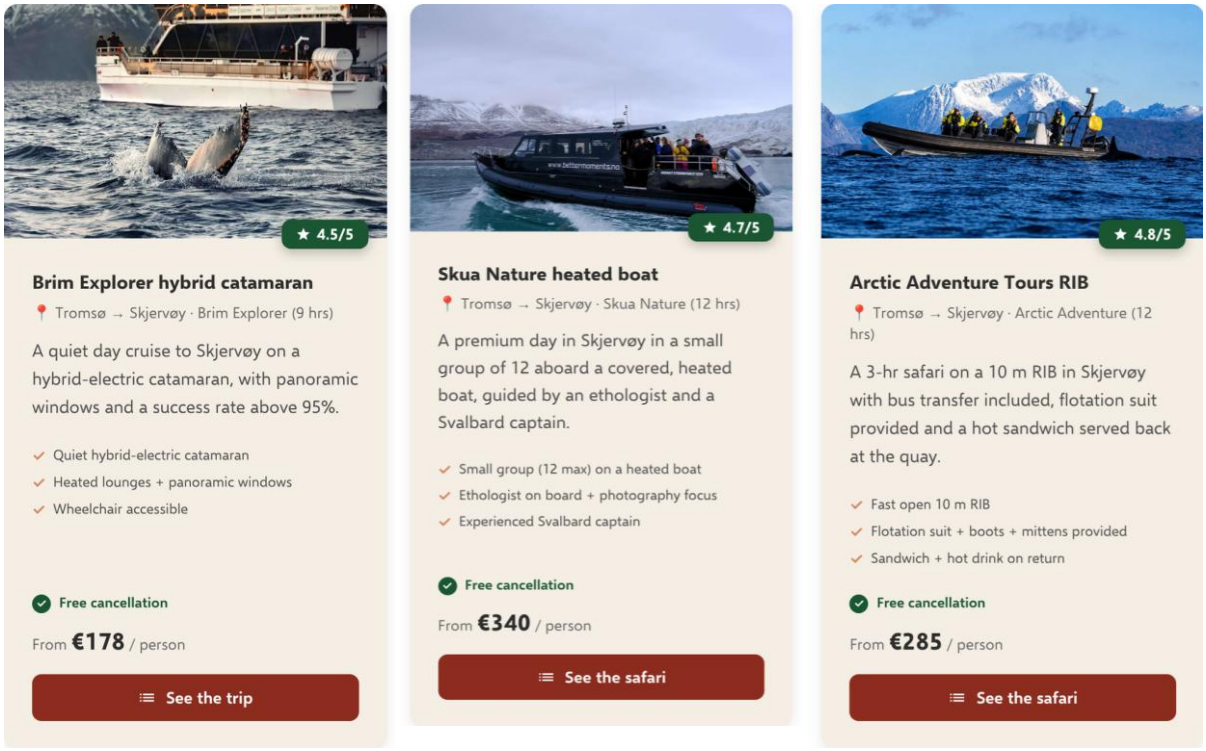
- Main whale watching agencies (comparison table just below)
    1. Brim Explorer electric boat (departing Tromso): €178
    2. Big catamaran with Arctic Resort: €185
    3. Departure by boat from Tromso with Polar Adventure: €225

    - **My suggestion**: Brim Explorer for the electric boat — kinder to the animals — and it leaves straight from Tromso, so no need to take a bus



COMPARISON OF WHALE WATCHING AGENCIES

- My 3 favorite boats for seeing the whales
  - *Brim Explorer* is the most renowned agency, and it runs electric boats
  - *Skua Nature* has great little boats halfway between a RIB and a comfortable heated boat
  - *Arctic Adventure Tours*, the agency to go with for RIB boats





- **Watching orcas and whales from a comfortable boat**

Here are 6 more options for seeing orcas and whales from a comfortable boat, departing from Tromso.



MS Alba · responsible cruise

📍 From Tromsø · MS Alba (8 hrs)

The cheapest of the three, led by a wildlife specialist guide who explains the whales' behaviour throughout the trip.

- Heated indoor lounges and large outdoor decks for watching
- Whale Pass: free rebooking if no whales or dolphins are seen, subject to availability
- ⚠ Guides in English, German, Finnish and Italian · only 53 reviews

Free cancellation

From ~~€205~~ **€143** / person

See the tour



Helgøy Skyssbåt · fast catamaran

📍 From Tromsø · Helgøy Skyssbåt (7–7.5 hrs)

The best rated of the three: a fast catamaran that cuts the journey time to leave more time for the whales, and never more than 90 passengers.

- 90 passengers max on a 147-seat boat, heated panoramic lounge
- Free coffee, tea and hot chocolate, kiosk and toilets on board
- ⚠ No whales? Another trip free of charge, subject to availability

Free cancellation

From **€199** / person

See the tour



Polar Adventures · all-inclusive safari

📍 From Tromsø · Polar Adventures (8 hrs, 50 people max)

The no-surprises option: everything on board is included, you help yourself as much as you like, and the boat never takes more than fifty people.

- Unlimited food and drinks, no extra charges on board
- Thermal suits provided, heated lounge, outdoor decks and toilets
- ⚠ 8 hrs at sea and the most expensive of the three · 50 people isn't a small group

Free cancellation

From **€238** / person

See the tour



Norwegian Travel · high-speed catamaran

📍 From Tromsø · Norwegian Travel (8 hrs)

The most tried and tested of the bunch with 3,792 reviews, and the only one to offer a second-chance guarantee if the whales don't show up.

- Cosy lounge with panoramic windows and a large outdoor deck
- Talk about the whales, free coffee, tea and water, life jacket and safety equipment
- ⚠ Guide language (English, German or Italian) depends on the departure

Free cancellation

From ~~€200~~ **€170** / person

See the tour



Cruise Service · catamaran

📍 Nerstrandkaia, Tromsø · Cruise Service (6–8 hrs)

Departs from central Tromsø, within walking distance of your hotel, for a guided cruise that lasts as long as it takes to reach the whales.

- Guided cruise in the Arctic fjords, 6–8 hrs depending on where the whales are
- Boarding at Nerstrandkaia, right in the city centre, no shuttle needed
- ⚠ No meals, drinks or warm clothing mentioned in what's included

Free cancellation

From **€189** / person

See the tour



MS Gabriele · whale safari

📍 Nerstrandkaia, Tromsø · MS Gabriele (6–8 hrs)

Almost two thousand reviews for this city-centre catamaran, where you can watch from the deck or from behind the windows.

- Watching possible indoors and outdoors, guide commentary during the trip
- Boarding at Nerstrandkaia, right in the city centre, no shuttle needed
- ⚠ Food and drinks not included: snacks and drinks to buy at the on-board kiosk

Free cancellation

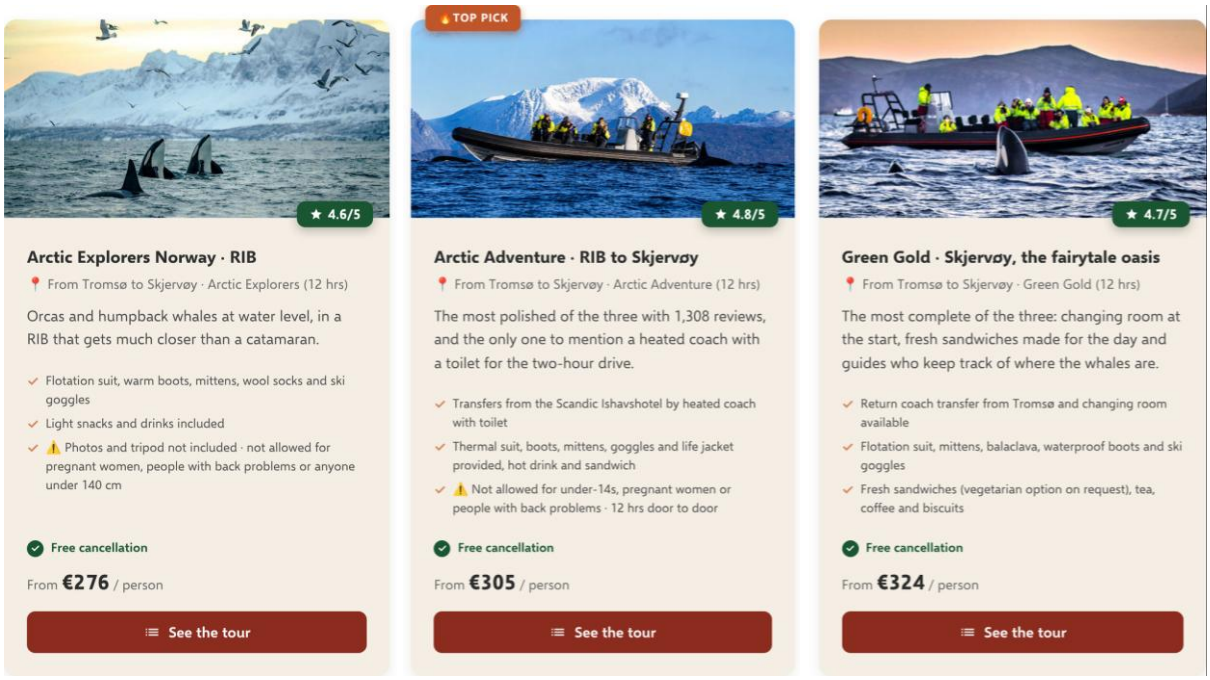
From **€191** / person

See the tour

BOOK YOUR WHALE AND ORCA TRIP IN TROMSØ!

- **Watching orcas and whales from a RIB boat**

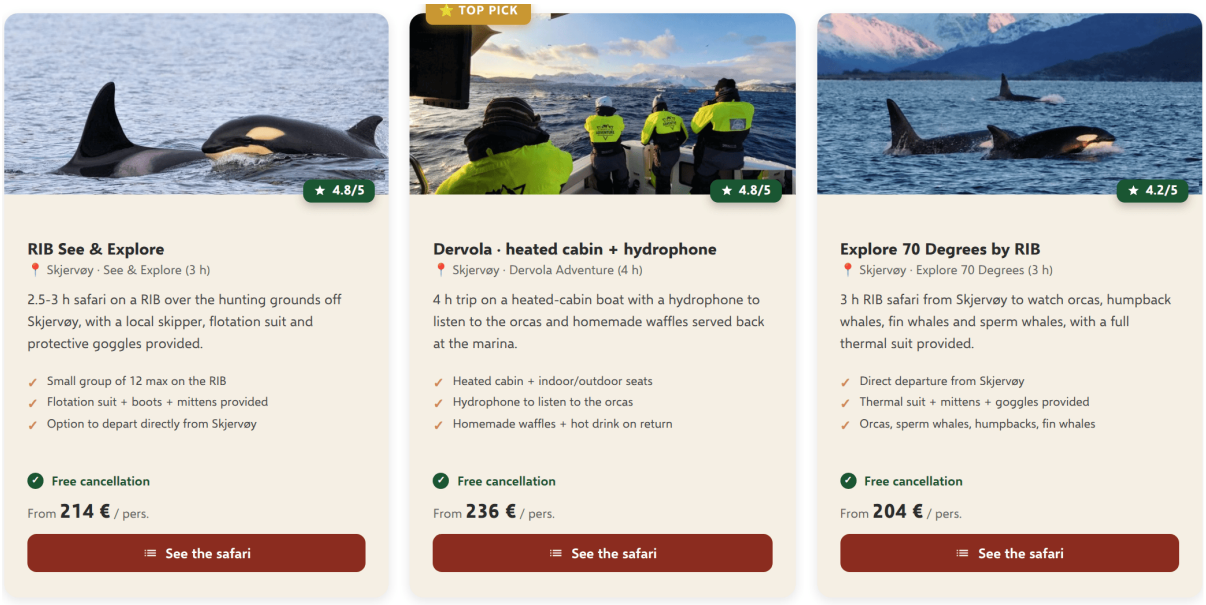
To get as close as possible to the cetaceans and get your fill of thrills! From Tromso, the trip starts with a bus ride to Skjervoy. It's better, but pricier!





- **Watching orcas and whales directly in Skjervoy**

If you'd rather get there on your own or you're already in the area, you might as well book directly with these agencies





GOING DOG SLEDDING

- Doable as soon as there's enough snow (November and December, nothing guaranteed; January is almost a sure thing)
- If there's no snow, you'll ride a sled on wheels instead
- Age limits:
    - Anyone can drive **from age 17**
    - You can ride on the sled **from age 7** if you're the one driving (well, there are exceptions depending on the agency)
    - If a guide is driving, there's usually no age limit
    - If you have kids, I especially recommend going to Breivikeidet as it's much flatter, so there's less chance of taking a tumble
- It's not especially difficult, but it does work your thighs, abs and arms
- For little ones **from age 4**, it's possible with Norwegian Travel
- You can also go dog sledding under the northern lights!
- Article about dog sledding in Tromso here

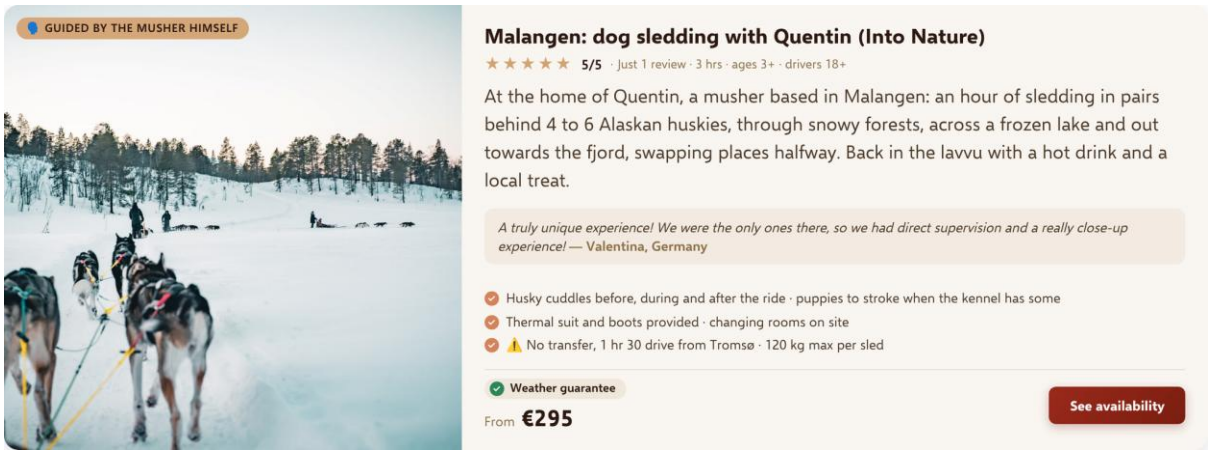
- Recommended agencies (you'll find the complete listing on the next page):
    - Kennel in Breivikeidet, facing the Lyngen Alps (a magnificent setting)
    - Tromso Wilderness Center / Villmarkssenter
    - Arctic Adventures on Kvaloya
    - Run Wild Mushing
    - Into Nature

My recommendation: *Breivikeidet* for the superb view, *Arctic Adventures* or *Into Nature* if you have a car.



THREE FAMILY-RUN KENNELS

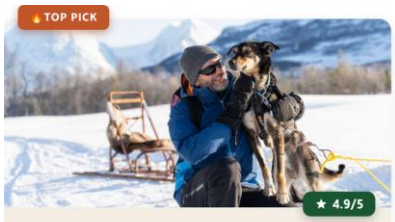
These are the best options if you have a car. You get away from the big agencies, you're in a really small group, it's just perfect! OffTrack offers the longest tour, with 2 hours on the sled, no less!







COMPARISON OF THE DOG SLEDDING COMPANIES



Arctic Resort Breivikeidet · drive your own sled

📍 Breivikeidet, from Tromsø · Arctic Resort (4.5 hrs)

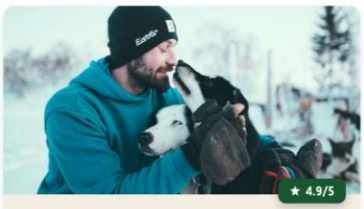
By far the cheapest of the three, and the most accessible too: from age 4, in the Breivikeidet valley, with a photo stop halfway through the ride.

- ✓ You drive your own sled on a short circuit, photo stop halfway
- ✓ Return transfers from Tromsø, thermal suit, boots, hat and mittens
- ✓ ⚠ Hot drinks and cake only, no full meal · not allowed for under-4s

Free cancellation

From **€259** / person

See the activity



Arctic Adventure · self-drive day

📍 From the Scandic Ishavshotel, Tromsø · Arctic Adventure (4 hrs)

Four thousand four hundred reviews at 4.9: by a long way the most tried and tested dog outing in Tromsø, and you reach the kennels by minibus.

- ✓ Drive your own sled, guide with you the whole way
- ✓ Minibus to the kennels, Arctic suit, boots, socks, hat and wool mittens
- ✓ ⚠ Cake and hot drinks only · not allowed for under-7s, people with back problems or anyone with poor fitness

Free cancellation

From **€322** / person

See the activity



Tromsø Villmarkssenter · traditional lunch

📍 25 min from Tromsø · Tromsø Villmarkssenter (4 hrs)

The only one of the three to serve a proper hot meal, and the closest to town: twenty-five minutes' drive each way.

- ✓ About 45 minutes of self-driving on a shared sled, after a briefing
- ✓ Hot meal included, snowsuit and boots provided
- ✓ ⚠ Not allowed for under-16s, pregnant women, people with back or heart problems, or anyone over 118 kg

Free cancellation

From **€326** / person

See the activity



Harkin Husky Farm (Best Arctic)

📍 Harkin Husky Farm · Best Arctic (7 hrs)

An adventure at Harkin Husky Farm (1 hr 30 by bus from Prostneset): you drive your own sled for 45–60 min in pairs, swapping roles halfway.

- ✓ 7 hrs · from age 12 · bus transfers from Prostneset (1 hr 30 each way)
- ✓ Suit + boots + gloves + hat provided · hot soup + drinks
- ✓ 45–60 min of self-driving · small groups of 15

Free cancellation

From **€245** / person

See the activity



Dog sledding in Tamokdalen

📍 Tamokdalen · Arctic Resorts (7 hrs)

A dog sledding adventure in Tamokdalen (95 min from Tromsø): you drive your own sled then swap with your partner, hot meal in the lavvu afterwards.

- ✓ 7 hrs · from age 7 · bus transfers Tromsø ↔ Tamokdalen (95 min)
- ✓ Thermal suit + boots + mittens + hat + hot meal included
- ✓ 1,530 reviews · self-drive sled ride + visit to the dog yard

Free cancellation

From **€309** / person

See the activity



Ethical sledding with Moa Hundseid

📍 Kvaløya · Moa Hundseid (4 hrs 30)

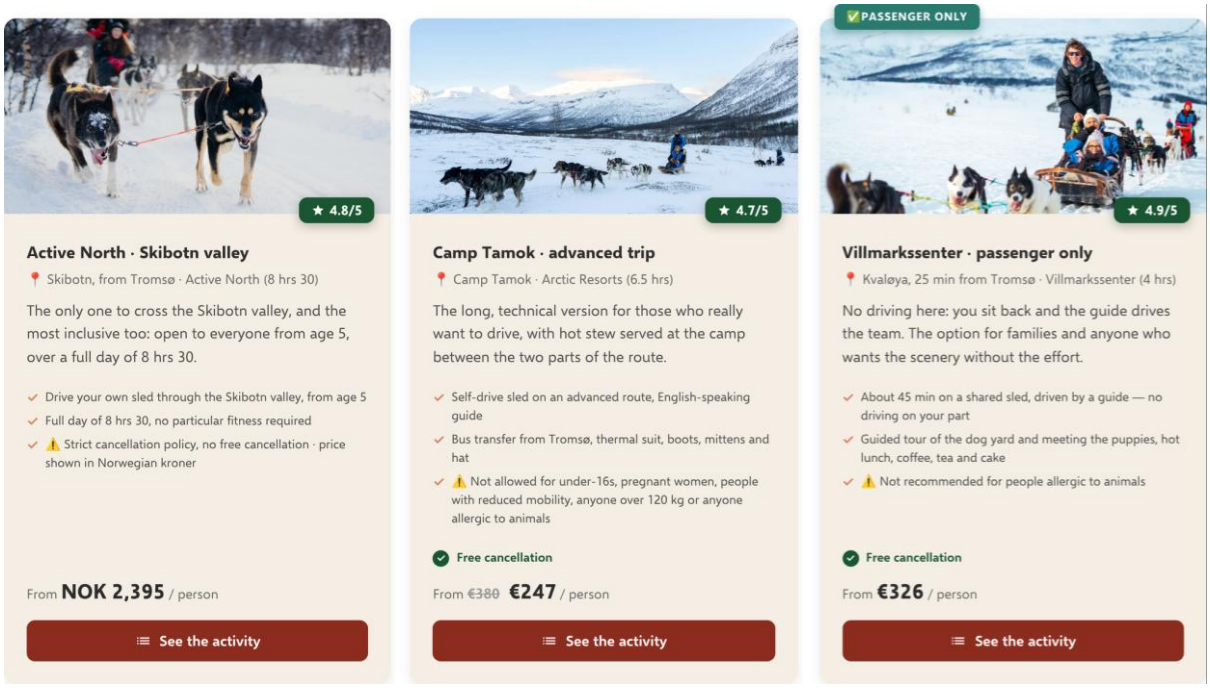
A small ethical camp on Kvaløya, huskies in well-kept individual kennels, and reindeer soup by the campfire after the ride.

- ✓ 4 hrs 30 · small, human-scale local camp · 521 reviews
- ✓ Huskies in individual kennels · reindeer soup + hot drinks by the fire
- ✓ Northern lights possible on the way back · sled ride ~1 hr

Free cancellation

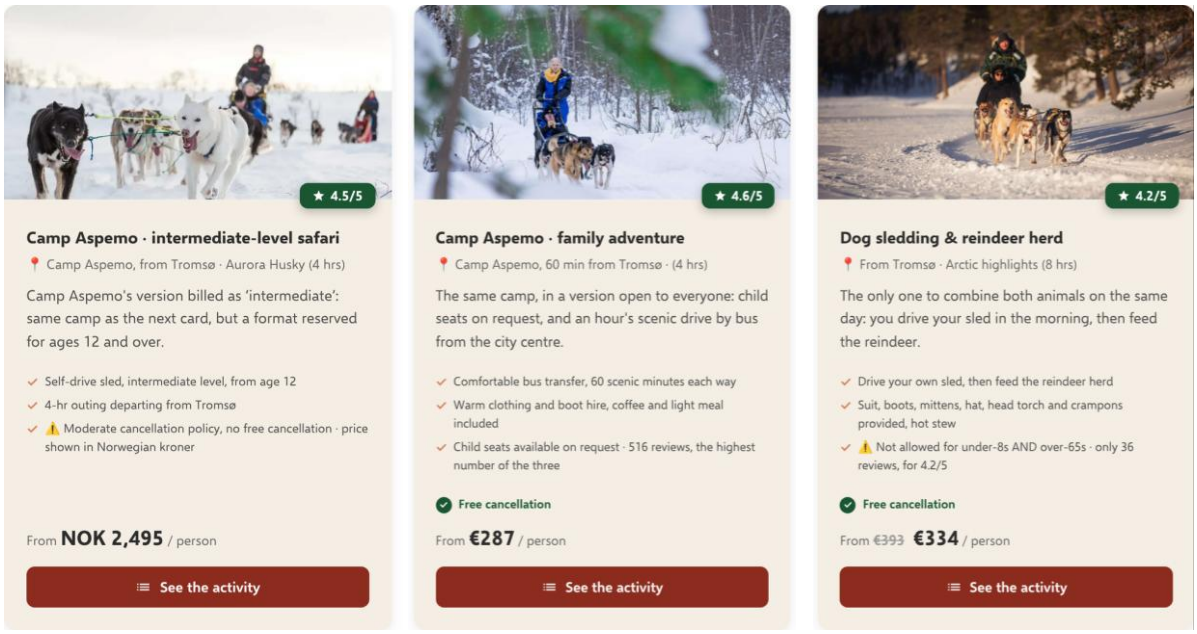
From **€360** / person

See the activity

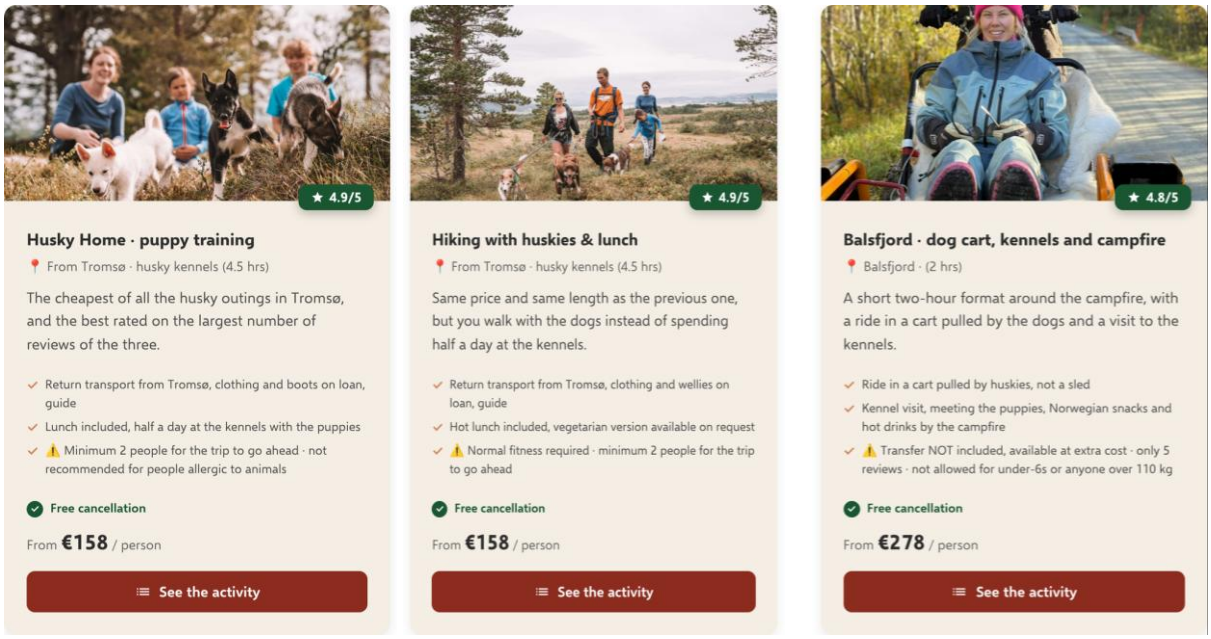


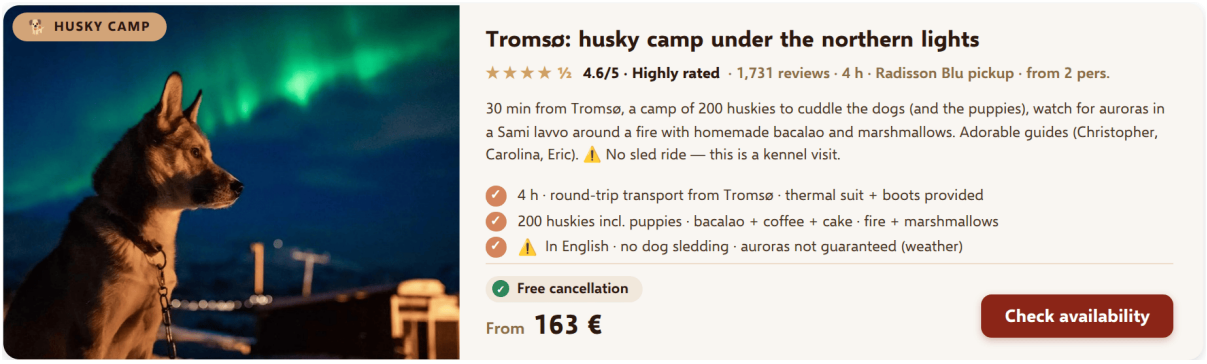
- A warning about Camp Aspemo

This is the former Aurora Husky from Moen, which has come back much bigger at Malangen. These are very (too) fast and expensive tours, with lots and lots of people. Let's just say this shouldn't be your first-choice company. Only if everything else is fully booked. All 3 activities take place at their own base.



Seeing the sled dogs when there's no snow





SNOWMOBILING AROUND TROMSO

- You need to have your **driver's license** to be allowed to drive the beast
- Rides are generally done two to a snowmobile, with an extra charge if you want to drive solo (around €50 on average). Before getting into the details, here are the companies I recommend
    - Camp Troll: €270, the go-to agency, transport and lunch included, in the fantastic Lyngen Alps
        - *They also offer an electric snowmobile tour!*
    - XLyngen: €275, transport and lunch included, also in the Lyngen Alps
    - Aurora Wonderland Basecamp: €260, brand new but in a majestic setting
        - And you can also *sleep in a lavvo*
    - Camp Tamok: €300, in the superb setting of Tamokdalen
        - Night option with *snowmobile + dog sledding*!
    - **My suggestion**: *Camp Troll* for something simple in a great setting. The newer XLyngen and Aurora Wonderland are less well known (for now) but very professional — I've had excellent feedback.



COMPARISON OF THE SNOWMOBILE COMPANIES



Lyngen Experience · full day

📍 Lyngen Alps, from Tromsø · Lyngen Experience (10 hrs)

The longest of the three, ten hours door to door, and the most inclusive too: open to everyone from age 12.

- ✓ Guided snowmobile trip through the Lyngen Alps
- ✓ Full 10-hr day, no particular fitness required
- ✓ ⚠ Intermediate cancellation policy, no free cancellation · price in kroner · no rating shown on the listing

From **NOK 3,000** / person

See the activity



Aurora Wonderland · Lyngen base camp

📍 Lyngen Alps, from Tromsø · Aurora Wonderland (7.5 hrs)

The shortest of the three, with an expedition meal served at base camp and a snowmobile guide dedicated to the group.

- ✓ Return transport from Tromsø to base camp, insulated suit, boots and helmet
- ✓ Safety and driving briefing, expedition meal, coffee, tea and snacks
- ✓ ⚠ Bring your own: gloves or mittens and a balaclava · no hotel pick-up

Free cancellation

From **€279** / person

See the activity



Camp Troll · Lyngen Alps safari

📍 Lyngen Alps, from Tromsø · Camp Troll (8 hrs)

The best rated and most tried and tested of the three, and the only one to include the ferry crossing in the transport from Tromsø.

- ✓ Transport from Tromsø, ferry crossing included
- ✓ Full thermal kit: suit, boots, mittens and helmet
- ✓ ⚠ Snowmobiles are shared, even if you book for just one person

Free cancellation

From **€288** / person

See the activity



Camp Tamok · snowmobile trip

📍 Camp Tamok, from Tromsø · (7 hrs)

The cheapest of all the snowmobile trips in the area, and the only one not to take place in the Lyngen Alps.

- ✓ Transfer from Tromsø, thermal suit, boots, mittens, balaclava and helmet
- ✓ Hot stew and drinks at the camp, safety and driving briefing
- ✓ ⚠ Road insurance included, but with a personal excess of up to NOK 10,000 · not allowed for people with back or heart problems

Free cancellation

From **€233** / person

See the activity



XLyngen · panoramic safari

📍 Lyngen Alps · departs Prostneset, Tromsø (8 hrs)

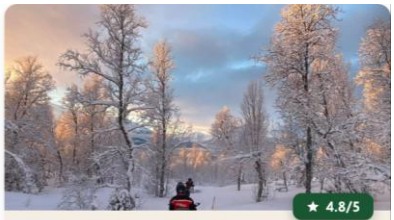
Boarding at Tromsø harbour, within walking distance of the centre, for a day's safari with lunch and dessert on the programme.

- ✓ Guided snowmobile safari, return ticket included
- ✓ Lunch, drink and dessert included, equipment provided
- ✓ ⚠ Driving licence required · bring gloves · not allowed for under-6s

Free cancellation

From **€307** / person

See the activity



Camp Troll · electric snowmobile

📍 Lyngen Alps, from Tromsø · Camp Troll (8 hrs)

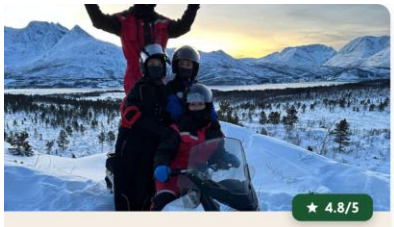
Electric machines, so they're silent: it's the only way to hear anything other than an engine in the Lyngen Alps.

- ✓ Electric snowmobiles, guided trip in the Lyngen Alps
- ✓ Coach and ferry crossing from Tromsø, full winter kit
- ✓ Soup made with local produce, vegan, and gluten-free options on request

Free cancellation

From **€317** / person

See the activity



★ 4.8/5

Best Arctic · Lyngen at an easy pace

📍 Lyngen Alps, from Tromsø · Best Arctic (7 hrs)

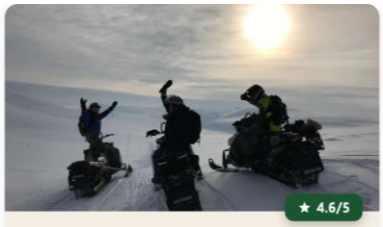
The listing says so itself: a relaxed pace, focused on nature rather than speed, with several photo stops along the way.

- ✓ 60- to 90-minute safari, scenic transfers by bus and ferry
- ✓ Thermal suit, boots, gloves and helmet provided, soup and hot drinks
- ✓ ⚠ Two people per snowmobile, swapping drivers halfway

Free cancellation

From **€249** / person

See the activity



★ 4.6/5

North Experience · a day in the Arctic

📍 From the Magic Ice Bar, Tromsø · North Experience (8 hrs)

Same price as the previous one for an extra hour, departing from central Tromsø, with a hot meal served along the way.

- ✓ Shared snowmobile ride, guides and return bus transport
- ✓ Boots, mittens, hat and helmet provided, meal and hot drinks
- ✓ ⚠ Warm clothing not provided, bring your own · not allowed for under-12s or pregnant women

Free cancellation

From **€249** / person

See the activity



Snowmobile adventure · 9-hr day

📍 From the Scandic Ishavshotel, Tromsø · (9 hrs)

The longest of the three, nine hours from the Scandic Ishavshotel, with an Arctic meal served during the trip.

- ✓ Bus transfer from the city centre, thermal clothing, boots, gloves and helmet
- ✓ Safety instructions, driving tips and Arctic meal included
- ✓ ⚠ New listing, no ratings or reviews published · driving for ages 18 and over only · not allowed for under-7s

Free cancellation

From **€435** / person

See the activity



★ 4.6/5

Active North · Skibotn safari

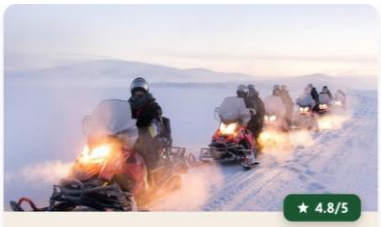
📍 Skibotn, from Tromsø · Active North (8 hrs 30)

The only snowmobile trip open from age 5, in the Skibotn valley, with pick-up from Tromsø.

- ✓ Guided snowmobile safari in the Skibotn valley, from age 5
- ✓ 8 hrs 30 day, pick-up from Tromsø included
- ✓ ⚠ Strict cancellation policy, no free cancellation · price in kroner · only 17 reviews

From **NOK 2,195** / person

See the activity



★ 4.8/5

Chasing Lights · three-country border

📍 Finnish Lapland, from Tromsø · Chasing Lights

The only one to cross the border: two and a half hours by bus to Finnish Lapland, then across the frozen lakes to the Three-Country Cairn.

- ✓ Transport from Tromsø, warm suit, boots, socks, helmet and face mask
- ✓ Hot lunch, hot drink and free professional photo gallery
- ✓ ⚠ English-speaking guide only · ID required · minimum 8 participants · €1,000 excess payable by the driver

Free cancellation

From **€327** / person

See the activity



Easy Caravan · snowmobiling and ice fishing

📍 Kilpisjärvi, Finland, from Tromsø · (7 hrs)

The only one to combine snowmobiling and ice fishing, across the Finnish border, with a campfire on the programme.

- ✓ Snowmobile, helmet and ice-fishing gear provided
- ✓ Pick-up and drop-off in Tromsø in a heated vehicle, snacks and hot drinks by the campfire
- ✓ ⚠ Driving licence required, minimum age 18 · ID needed for Finland · no ratings or reviews published

Free cancellation

From **€1,100**

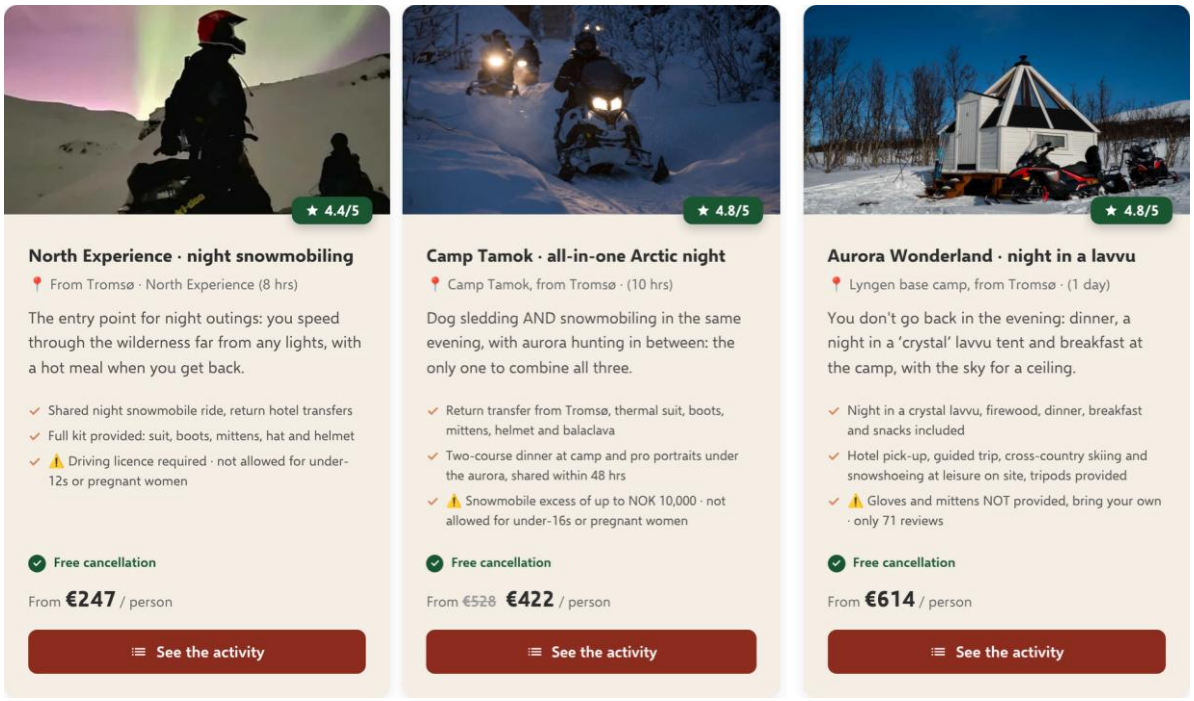
See the activity

FIND YOUR SNOWMOBILE TOUR IN TROMSØ

Snowmobiling under the northern lights

If the sky is clear, you can go snowmobiling in a magnificent setting under the northern lights. All the ingredients for a fantastic evening!

You'll also notice that some of them offer other things, like sleeping in a lavvo or doing the dog sledding + snowmobile combo (hence the high price at Camp Tamok).



SEEING REINDEER IN TROMSO

- Seeing the **reindeer** in a Sami camp
- From October or November onwards, when the reindeer come back from their summer wanderings
- The activity consists of
    - Feeding the reindeer, getting up close to them and maybe even petting them!
    - Taking loads of photos
    - Possibly going for a sleigh ride
    - Having the meal (usually a reindeer stew, with a vegetarian option available)
    - Learning more about Sami culture
    - Prices from €140, transport included

Careful: if you go to a farm run by the Sami, you can't just turn up whenever you like — it's at set times, with groups, because everything is organised.

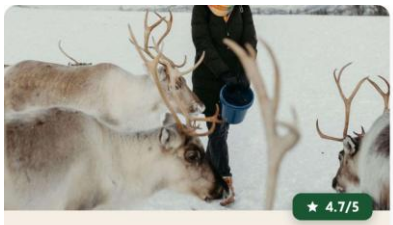








TROMSO ARCTIC REINDEERS:
Located not far from Tromso, the best-known site; very good



Reindeer camp & Sami culture

📍 From Tromsø bus terminal · Tromsø Arctic Reindeer (4 hrs)

The entry-level option and the most proven of the three, with 3,820 reviews: the camp, stories, songs and lunch.

- ✓ Transport, guides, Sami stories and songs
- ✓ Lunch, coffee and snacks included, child booster seat available
- ✓ ⚠ No sled ride with this option · value-for-money sub-score of 4.4

Free cancellation

From **€162** / person

See the activity



Reindeer sledding & feeding

📍 From Tromsø bus terminal · Tromsø Arctic Reindeer (4 hrs)

Twenty euros more than the previous one, and this time you get in the sled and feed the herd. 6,872 reviews, a local record.

- ✓ Reindeer sled ride and feeding the herd
- ✓ Professional guide, stories and joik, hot lunch, coffee and snacks
- ✓ Child booster seats available, your own is accepted

Free cancellation

From **€182** / person

See the activity



Sled, three-course dinner & northern lights

📍 From Tromsø bus terminal · Tromsø Arctic Reindeer (4.5 hrs)

The evening version: same camp, but a three-course dinner and the sky to keep an eye on between sled rides.

- ✓ Reindeer sledding and three-course dinner at the camp
- ✓ Return bus transport, guide, stories and joik, coffee and snacks
- ✓ ⚠ The northern lights are obviously not guaranteed · few booster seats on the buses, bring your own

Free cancellation

From **€201** / person

See the activity

TROMSO LAPLAND:

Located south of Tromso at Breivikeidet, with a view of the Lyngen Alps (colder but a more beautiful setting)



Reindeer feeding & lunch

📍 From the Radisson Blu, Tromsø · Tromsø Lapland (4.5 hrs)

The daytime option, and the cheapest of the six reindeer trips reviewed: you feed the herd, have lunch in the warm, and the return trip is taken care of.

- ✓ Reindeer feeding and time to chat with a guide about Sami culture
- ✓ Hot meal with vegan option, coffee, tea and hot chocolate
- ✓ ⚠ Not recommended for people with reduced mobility · no sled ride

Free cancellation

From ~~€163~~ **€147** / person

See the activity



Feeding, bidos & a chance of northern lights

📍 From the Radisson Blu, Tromsø · Tromsø Lapland (4.5 hrs)

Exactly the same price as the previous one, but the evening version: Sami bidos at the camp and the sky to watch as you step outside.

- ✓ Reindeer feeding and traditional Sami meal, bidos, vegetarian option available
- ✓ Scenic transfer of 45 min to 1 hr, hotel pick-up and drop-off, suit and boot covers on loan
- ✓ ⚠ The northern lights aren't guaranteed · not recommended for people with reduced mobility

Free cancellation

From ~~€163~~ **€147** / person

See the activity



Reindeer sledding & Sami culture

📍 From Tromsø · Tromsø Lapland (4.5 hrs)

The only one of the three where you get in the sled, with a Sami guide and bidos served at the camp after hand-feeding the herd.

- ✓ Sami guide, hand-feeding the herd, suit and boot covers provided
- ✓ Bidos lunch or vegan option, tea and coffee, transport from Tromsø
- ✓ ⚠ Sled ride limited to 30 minutes max, and the length depends on snow conditions

Free cancellation

From **€211** / person

See the activity

Wondering Reindeer

A small family farm that takes you to explore the island of Kvaloya as well as seeing the reindeer — a nice mix of sightseeing, reindeer and culture. It's a full-day trip, which explains the price.



Reindeer Experience

Located 15 min north of Tromso, this new little farm has a good reputation. It's closer, so it's cheaper and there's less time spent on transport!



Unit X Reindeer Camp

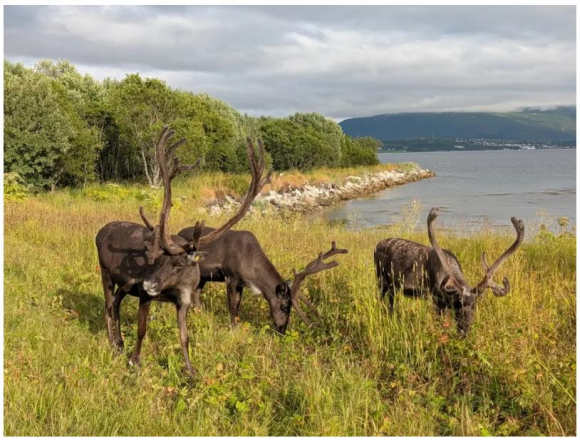
A small family farm that opened a year ago, a little south of Tromso. Excellent reputation — considered the most authentic and family-run of them all.



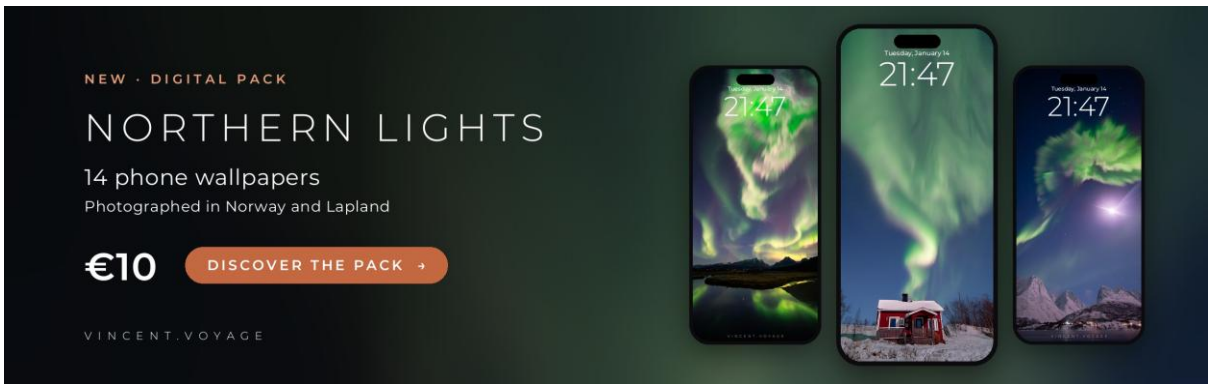
Seeing reindeer roaming free around Tromso

In winter it's tricky, because they eat much better at their farm, so they mostly stay at home.

In summer and autumn, you see loads of them on Kvaloya, even in built-up areas. After the Kvaloya bridge, they're often on the beach to the right, but also along the road heading south. Basically, at that time of year, they're pretty much everywhere!







DISCOVERING CAMP TAMOK

Camp Tamok is a winter activity centre best known for its famous **ice domes**, a superb and temporary ice hotel (naturally, you might say).

Camp Tamok is located 1.5 hours south of Tromso, out in the wilderness, in the heart of the mountains of Tamokdalen, which are magnificent.

At Camp Tamok, you can do a whole bunch of activities:

- Visiting the **Ice Domes**
  - Either on an organised tour from Tromso
  - Or visiting on your own, coming by car (from 10 am to 11 am and 3.30 pm to 5 pm)
- Going dog sledding with a visit to the Ice Domes (more physical than at Breivikeidet for example
- Going snowmobiling (+ ice domes)
- Going snowmobiling (without the ice domes)
- Going night snowmobiling, maybe even with northern lights!
- Seeing the reindeer under the northern lights
- Just watching the northern lights there
- Dog sledding under the northern lights (the dream activity! Careful, it's not always available at Camp Tamok, in which case it happens somewhere else)
- Going on a snowshoeing walk + seeing the reindeer + the domes



DISCOVERING TROMSO BY BOAT

One of the most popular activities (covered in more detail in this article): exploring the area around **Tromso by boat**. The idea is to explore several fjords around Tromso and do a bit of fishing. Honestly, it's really not bad at all.

- Duration: 3.5 to 5 hours
- Places visited (roughly the same for every company): south of Kvaloya, between Kvaloya and Malangen, the east coast of Malangen, Ramfjord, or towards Ringvassoya (depending on works)
- Lunch included, featuring the fish caught on board. Fish-free dishes are available too
- Departure: Tromso harbour (no shuttle)
- Price: between €110 and €120 for most tours







Tromsø: sea fishing safari (Duen Experience)

★★★★★ **4.8/5 · Exceptional** · 709 reviews · 3 h 30 · 12 max

A real fishing safari led by a skipper and a dedicated guide — aluminium boat fitted with a sonar, 6 rods in rotation for 12 max. Flotation suit provided, fish soup prepared on board with your catch (veggie option), international crew (Pepe, Louie, Fanny...).

- 3 h 30 · small group 12 max · hotel pickup · flotation suit
- Skipper + dedicated guide · sonar + 6 rods in rotation · homemade soup from the catch
- ⚠ In English · fishing accessible to beginners

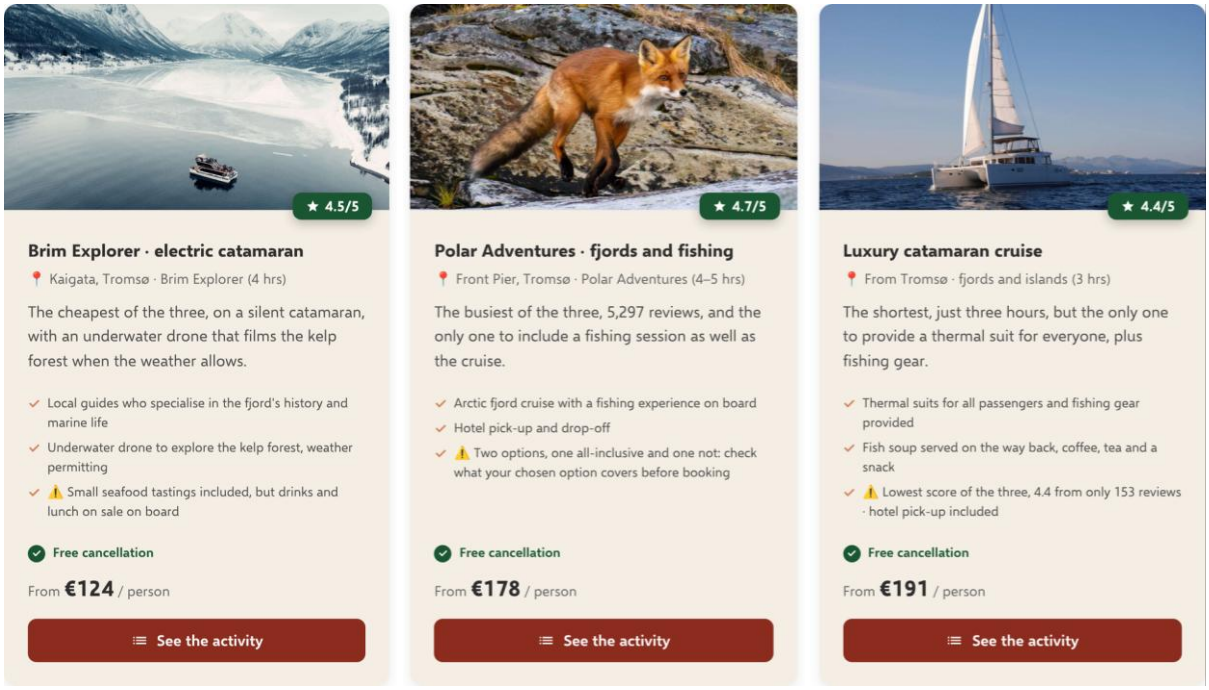
Free cancellation

From **148 €**

Check availability

There are mainly 3 companies doing this (see the details on the next page):

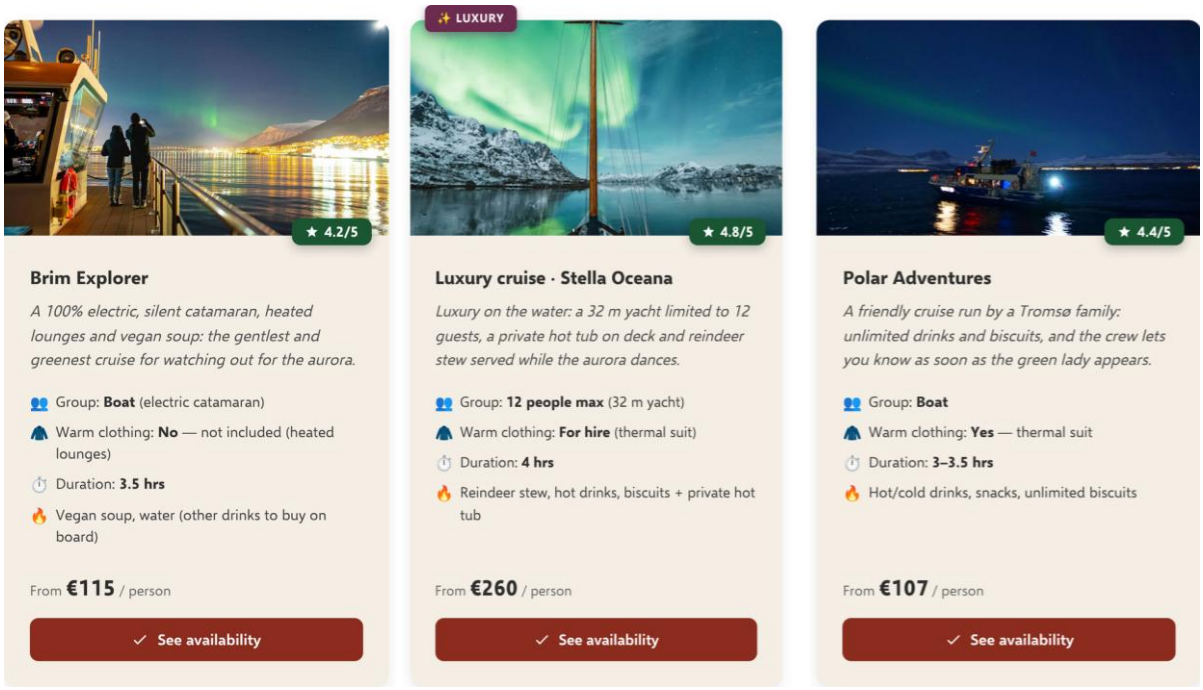
- **Polar Adventures**: a fairly big boat with plenty of room outside, a classic boat without much charm. Very friendly crew. €120
  - Check it out here
- **Brim Explorer**: a bigger, hybrid, more recent boat. I haven't tried it yet, but it has an excellent reputation. And they have an underwater drone that they bring out depending on the weather. €135
  - Check it out here
- **Catamaran** — a more luxurious option for exploring the fjords and fishing, €130
  - Check it out here



To **go fishing** on a lovely wooden boat: *the Hermes II*, €172 (an amazing experience!)



For a cruise under the **northern lights** (careful, it really depends on the weather!)
The boats don't go very far out, so check the cloud cover, otherwise no lights.





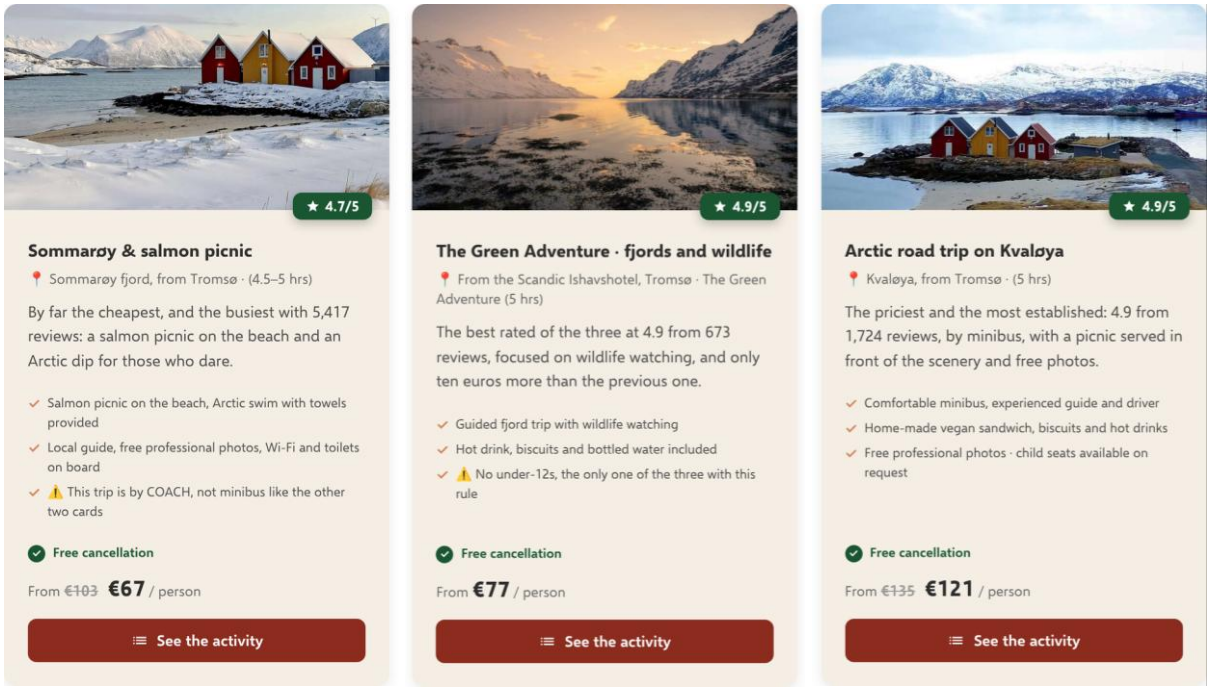
Is this guide useful to you?

It's *free* and it'll stay that way. If you'd like to help me keep it going, you can use the links in this guide or in the articles: it doesn't cost you a penny more. Or you can buy me a virtual coffee, it really makes my day :)

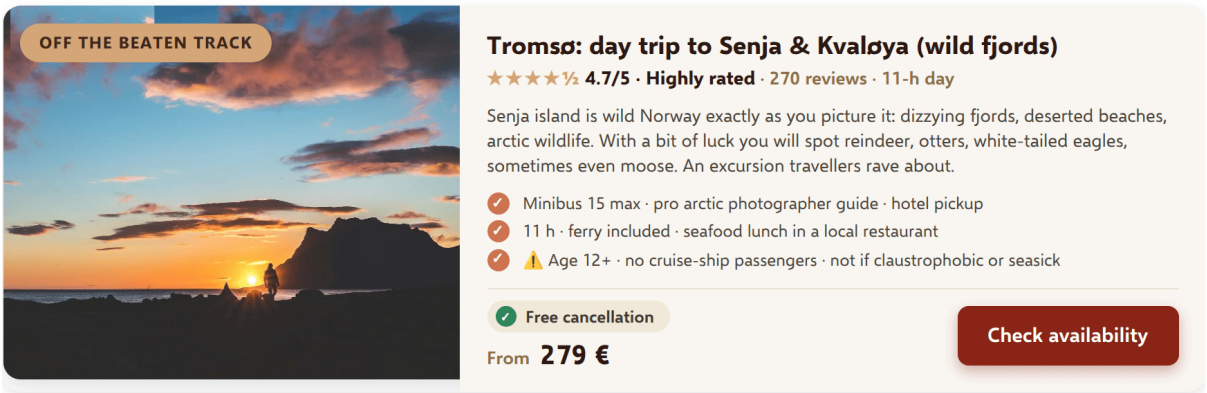
Activities · Hotels · Car · Buy me a coffee (€5)

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Exploring **Kvaloya** with a tour company (if you don't have a car or would rather be driven around). You'll go around the island, heading to Sommaroy and/or Tromvik, with Ersfjord and Grotfjord.
  - With Northern Soul Adventures, €120
  - With *The Green Adventure*, a great agency, often with discounted prices
  - With Jeshua, €85 (prices vary a lot with promotions) but by bus



But you can also go and discover Senja from Tromso in a single day!



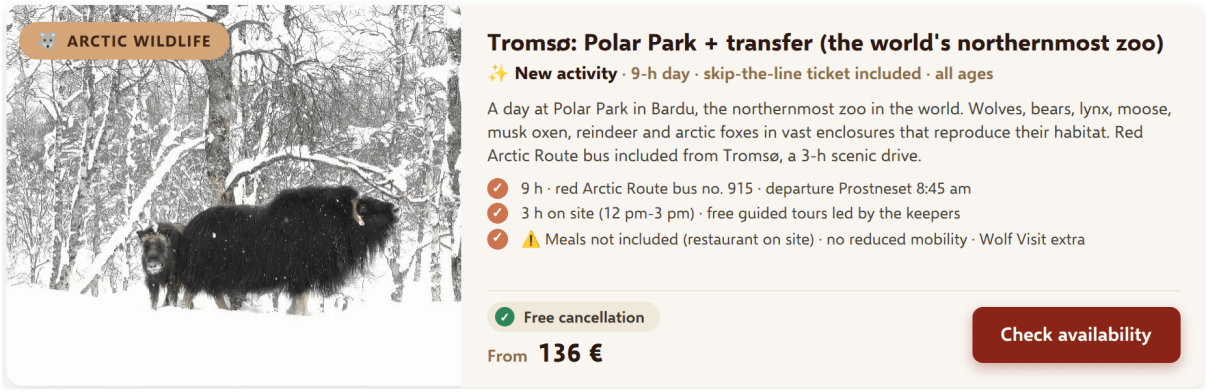
- Going on a hike on **snowshoes**
  - With Wandering Owl, €130
  - Renting the gear from **Tromso Outdoor** to do it on your own



- Seeing the **animals** of the Arctic
  - At the Polar Park near Bardufoss (it's not a zoo), a 3-hour drive from Tromso
  - Watch out for the opening hours, which are quite limited, especially in winter
  - You can get there by bus — the details are on the Polar Park website





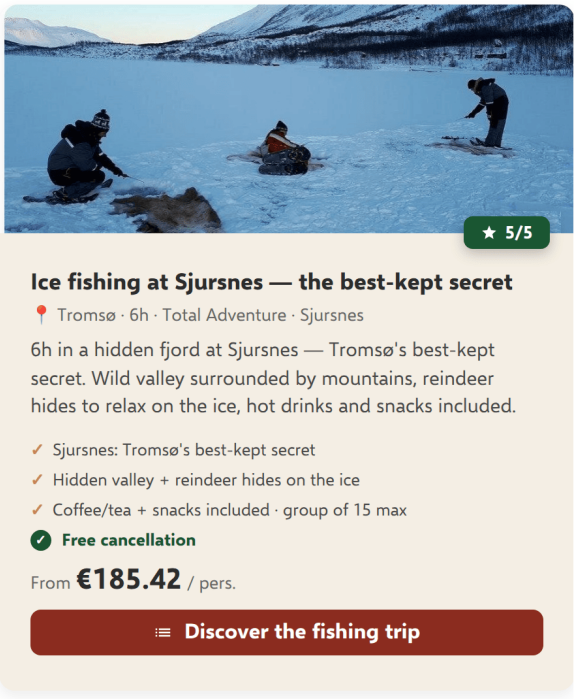


- Going **ice fishing**

A must-do activity for locals at the week end. When the fjords are frozen, you can see dozens of them out there with their little fishing rods. You have several options:

  - **Buying your gear**, fishing rod, bait, from a fishing shop in the centre such as Andresens on Storgata (careful, you need a licence to fish in lakes and rivers, so focus on the fjords and the open sea)
  - Going through an **agency**. There are two that do this in Tromso:
    - *Skadi*
    - *Total Adventure*







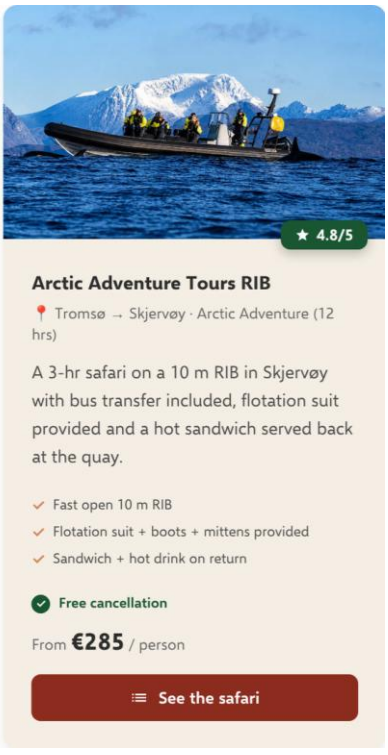
SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND COMPANIES

🐋 WHALES & ORCAS

- Brim Explorer, hybrid catamaran, comfortable and recent, €178 *(info and booking)*
- Skua Nature, tiny heated boat (12 pers.), ideal for photography, €340 *(info and booking)*
- Arctic Adventure, RIB boat, departing from Tromso, €285 *(info and booking)*
- MV Quest, expedition ship, 24h whales + northern lights cruise, full board, €580 *(info and booking)*
- Polar Adventures, family-friendly boat, all-inclusive package with lunch, €223 *(info and booking)*
- Helgøy Skyssbåt, fast catamaran from Tromso, €178 *(info and booking)*
- Arctic Whale Tours (MS Alba), human-scale catamaran, responsible approach, €183 *(info and booking)*
- Cruise Service, catamaran certified for the open sea, €177 *(info and booking)*
- MS Gabriele, a big comfortable catamaran departing from Tromso, €178 *(info and booking)*
- MS Rygerdronningen, high-speed catamaran, €187 *(info and booking)*
- Norwegian Travel, big recent catamaran, comfortable, €168 *(info and booking)*
- Green Gold of Norway, RIB boat, €303 *(info and booking)*
- Frozen Frontiers, RIB boat, from Tromso or Skjervøy, €219 *(info and booking)*
- Arctic Explorers Norway, RIB boat, €330 *(info and booking)*
- Explore 70° North, RIB boat, from Skjervøy, €200 *(info and booking)*
- Dervola Explore, RIB boat in Skjervøy, €200 *(info and booking)*
- Maritime Tours, fast boat, safari in Skjervøy, €140 *(info and booking)*
- Sea Safari Øksnes, RIB boat, from Tromso or Skjervøy, €180 *(info and booking)*
- See Explore, RIB boat, transfer from Tromso or Skjervoy, €270 *(info and booking)*

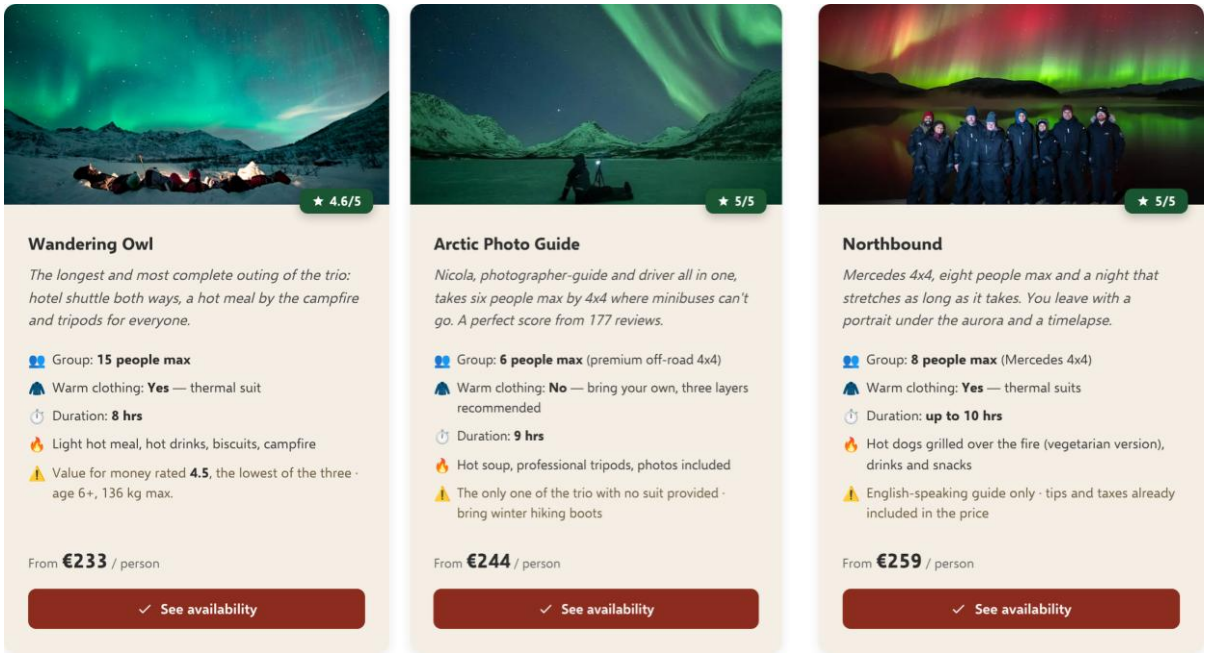






💚 NORTHERN LIGHTS – THE TOP PICK AGENCIES

- Wandering Owl, €190 *(info and booking)*
- Arctic Breeze, €155 *(info and booking)*
- Enjoy the Arctic, €185 *(info and booking)*
- Northbound, €240 *(info and booking)*, small group
- Arctic Explorers, €200 *(info and booking)*
- The Green Adventure, €190 *(info and booking)*
- Greenlander, €305 *(info and booking)*, small group
- Creative Vacations, €255 *(info and booking)*, small group
- Arctic Photo Guide, €260 (*info and booking*), small group
- Northern Soul, €205 (*info and booking*)



💚 NORTHERN LIGHTS – THE OTHER QUALITY AGENCIES

- Blue Puffin, €195 (*info and booking*)
- Your Tromso Guide, €200, (*info and booking*)
- NLT Guide Company, €150 (*info and booking*)
- Arctic Glow, €175 (*info and booking*)
- Rise Experience, €210 (*info and booking*)
- Arctic Circle Tour, €190 (*info and booking*)
- Snow Travels, €190 (*info and booking*)
- Bifrost, €190 (*info and booking*)
- Flexitour, €180 (*info and booking*)
- Bus - Northern Shot Bus, €80 *(info and booking)*
- Bus – Chasing Lights, €130 (*info and booking*)

❄ SNOWMOBILE

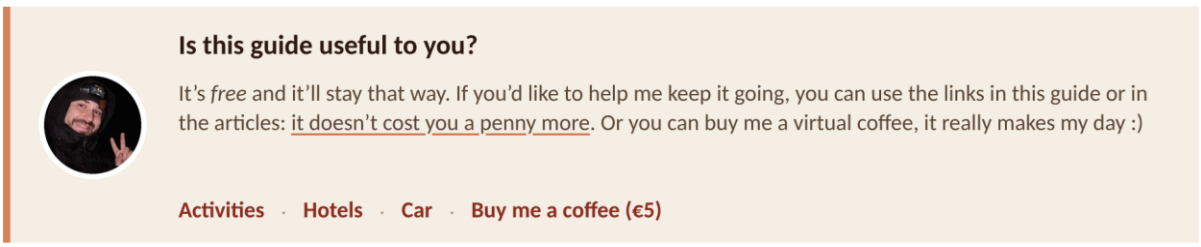
All these operators offer transport from Tromso

- Camp Troll, Lyngen Alps, €270 *(info and booking)*
- Camp Troll with electric snowmobile, €300 (*info and booking*)
- XLyngen, Lyngen Alps, €290 *(info and booking)*
- Aurora Wonderland, Lyngen Alps, €265 *(info and booking)*
- Camp Tamok, Tamokdalen, €310 *(info and booking)*
- Camp Tamok, night snowmobile tour, €500 *(info and booking)*
- Chasing lights, full day in Kilpisjarvi from Tromso, €300 *(info and booking)*
- Lyngen Experience, in the Lyngen Alps, €330 (*info and booking*)
- Active North, in Skibotn, €410 (*info and booking*)
- North Experience, in Kilpisjärvi, Finland, €230 (*info and booking*)
- Night - North Experience, in Oteren, €230 (*info and booking*)



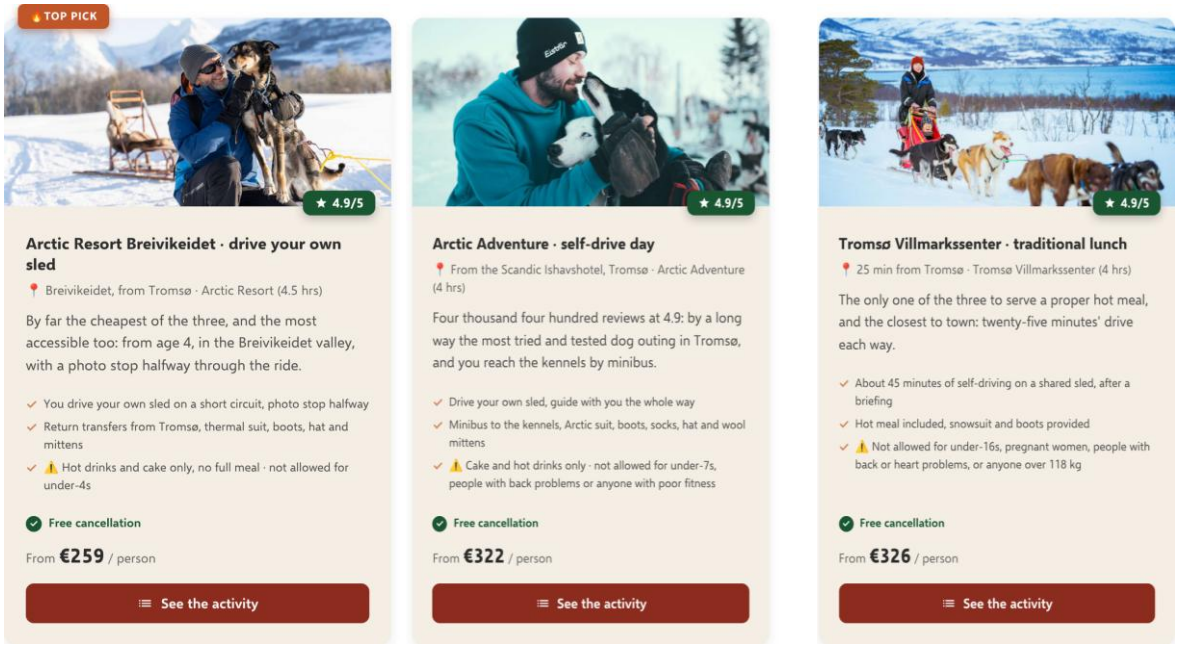






🐶 DOG SLEDDING

- Arctic Adventure, on Kvaloya, €300 *(info and booking)*
- Arctic Resorts, in Breivikeidet, €240 (facing the Lyngen Alps, stunning) *(info and booking)*
- Tromso Wilderness Center, on Kvaloya, €310 *(info and booking)*
- Aurora Husky, in Malangen, €240, 30-min ride (*info and booking*)
- Camp Tamok, in the stunning valley of Tamokdalen, €310 *(info and booking)*
- OffTrack Experience, in Malselv (no transfer from Tromso), €410 *(info and booking)*
- Into Nature, €300, in Malangen (no transfer) *(info and booking)*
- Run Wild Mushing, in Malangen (no transfer), €300 *(info and booking)*

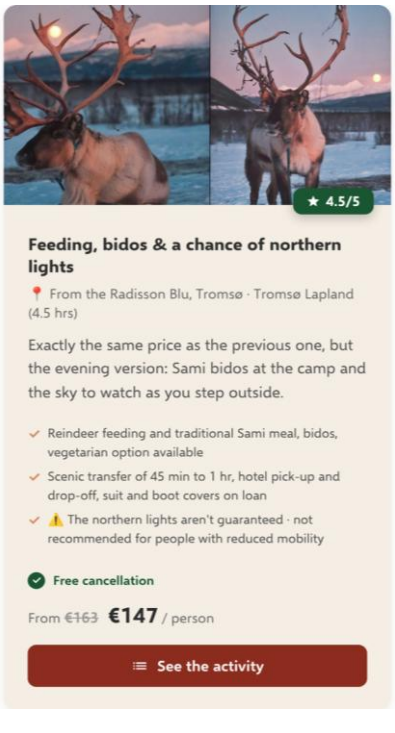




🦌 REINDEER VISITS

- **Tromso Arctic Reindeer**, feeding, €150 *(info & booking)*
- **Tromso Arctic Reindeer**, with a sled ride, €170 *(info & booking)*
- **Tromso Arctic Reindeer** at night under the northern lights, €190 *(info & booking)*
- **Tromso Lapland**, reindeer feeding, €155 *(info & booking)*
- **Tromso Lapland**, with a sled ride, €200 *(info & booking)*
- **Tromso Lapland,** night visit, €155 *(info & booking)*
- **Wondering Reindeer**, Sami culture, reindeer and Sommaroy, €230 *(info & booking)*
- **Unit X Reindeer Camp**, discovering reindeer and Sami culture, €150 *(info & booking)*

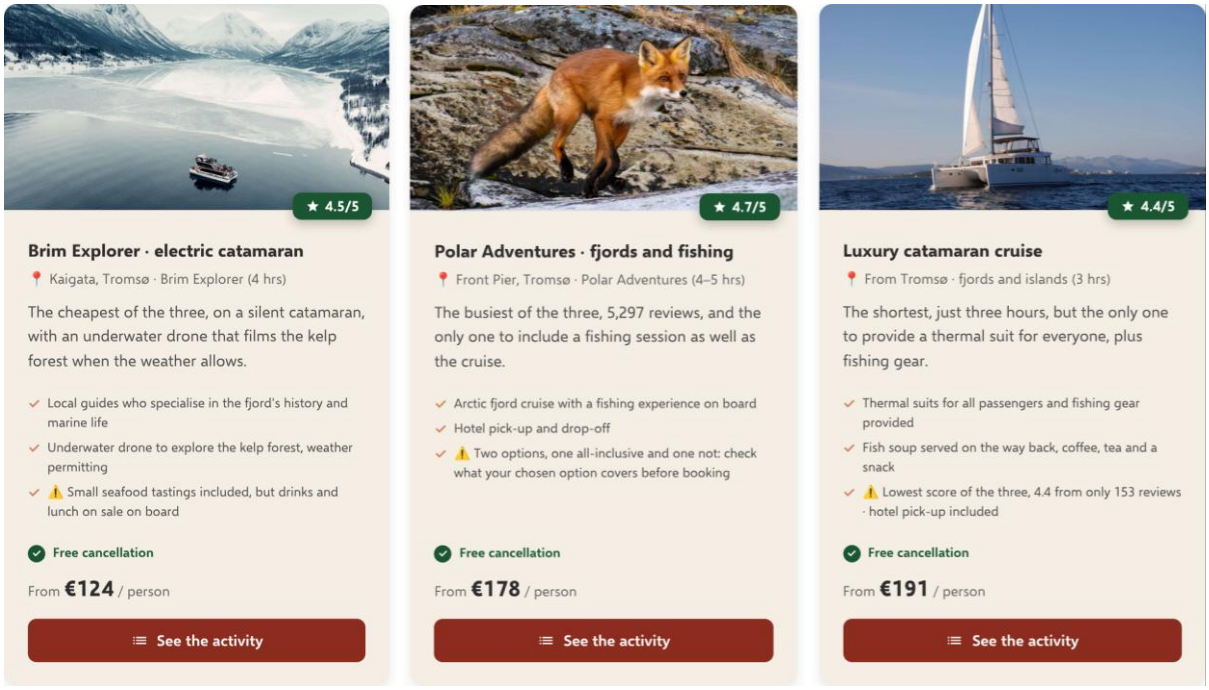






⛵ FJORD TOURS BY BOAT

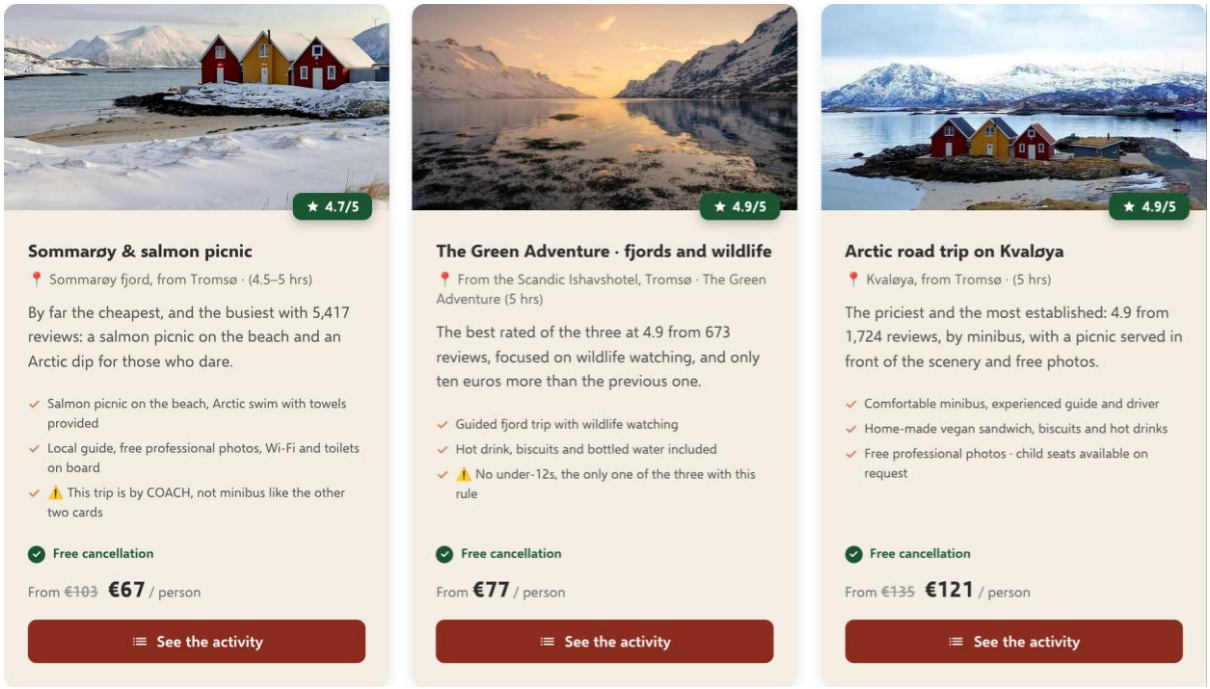
- **Brim Explorer**, €130 *(info and booking)*
- **Polar Adventures**, €120 *(info and booking)*
- **Hermes II**, €170, local fishing boat *(info and booking)*
- **Duen Experience**, €149, fishing boat (*info and booking*)





📷 VISITING KVALOYA WITH A TOUR AGENCY

- **Northern Soul Adventures**, €120 *(info and booking)*
- **Bifrost**, from €90 *(info and booking)*
- **Jeshua AS**, €85 (*info and booking*)
- **Arctic Explorers**, €140 (*info and booking*)
- **Enjoy the Arctic**, €120 (*info and booking*)
- **The Green Adventure**, €95 (info and booking)
- **Northern Norway Travel**, €160 (*info and booking*)
- **Amazing Arctic Tours**, €110 (*info and booking*)



WHEN TO VISIT TROMSO

Below you'll find a month-by-month recap of the different activities you can do. Hikes, midnight sun, polar night — here's what awaits you in Tromso (and in northern Norway in general).

- More info on the different seasons in Tromso



A FEW HIKES

Here are 5 hikes I recommend (as long as there's no snow)

- **Bromestinden**: easy, halfway between Tromvik and Rekvik. Superb views of the mountains and of Senja too! Watch out for the wind
- **Nattmalsfjellet**: offers a magnificent elevated view over Ersfjord without working your calves too hard
- **Floya**: a classic — you start from the top of the cable car and continue further along. It doesn't really climb, and you get magnificent views of the coastline and Tromso
- **Ornfloya**: a fantastic view over the archipelago of Sommaroy. Not difficult at all, just be careful after rain.
- **Sorbotn**: you need to start from Sorbotn (a tiny little village) and head into a valley where there's nobody around. Fantastic — you're surrounded by mountains

Can you do these **hikes in winter**? Brosmestinden, Nattmalsfjellet and Sorbotn yes, with snowshoes. Ornfoya with crampons because it's very slippery. Floya, I think you can do it in just regular shoes.Generally speaking, it's VERY hard to recommend winter hikes because it depends on the snow levels and the ice. And it really varies a lot from one week to the next, from one year to the next.

Otherwise the easiest option is really **snowshoeing**. Rent a pair from Tromso Outdoor, head into Breivikeidet or Kattfjordvatnet, two valleys with plenty of options.



WHERE TO STAY

Heads up, hotel prices vary enormously between high and low season, sometimes tripling. You can also find this list in *this article on accommodation in Tromso*

And even at these prices, you unfortunately really need to book in advance. The good hotels in the center go very quickly.

There's a whole range of hotels that aren't particularly expensive, especially in low season. But prices are still high in high season. We're not talking about the same category of hotels as the Clarion or Scandic, but they're still perfectly respectable!

The apartment option is a good alternative, and I'll suggest several. Prices also go up in winter, though less, however they're the accommodations that go the fastest — they're the most popular precisely because of the price and the space.

Access all the best accommodations by clicking here



The view from the Scandic Ishavshotel, not bad at all

STAYING IN A QUALITY HOTEL

Don't forget, these are starting prices – in winter, prices can double or even triple!



★ 8.5/10

Radisson Blu Hotel Tromsø

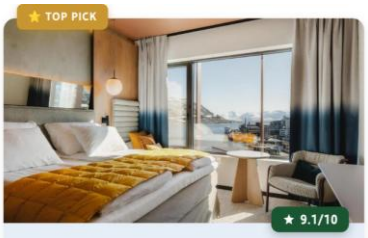
📍 Tromsø centre · on the waterfront

Large hotel tower on the waterfront, at the end of the pedestrian street. Over three thousand reviews and location rated 9.6: the volume is as reassuring as the location.

- ✓ Location 9.6: waterfront and pedestrian street right outside
- ✓ View from the upper rooms mentioned in many reviews
- ✓ Value for money 8.0: the lowest in this first selection

From **€110** / night

See availability



★ TOP PICK

★ 9.1/10

The Dock 69°39' by Scandic

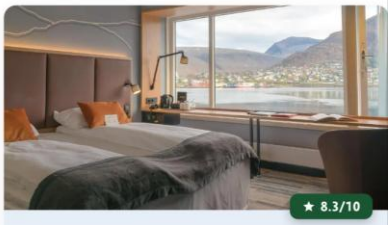
📍 Tromsø harbour · a few minutes from the centre

Recent harbourside address with polished Nordic design and panoramic corner rooms. The best comfort and cleanliness sub-scores of the nine addresses in this guide.

- ✓ Cleanliness and comfort both at 9.4, the highest in the guide
- ✓ Panoramic corner rooms very often mentioned
- ✓ Breakfast called varied and high quality, centre minutes away

From **€130** / night

See availability



★ 8.3/10

Scandic Ishavshotel

📍 Tromsø quayside · facing the Arctic Cathedral

Hotel on the quayside, facing the Arctic Cathedral, with the most recognisable view in Tromsø. Location rated 9.6, but value for money drops off sharply on this listing.

- ✓ Location 9.6: on the quay, facing the Arctic Cathedral
- ✓ Breakfast and bread regularly praised in reviews
- ✓ Value for money 7.8: the lowest score of the nine

From **€130** / night

See availability



★ 8.1/10

Thon Hotel Tromsø

📍 Tromsø centre · in the heart of town

Functional Thon chain address right in the centre, a stone's throw from tour departures. Simple rooms and a generous breakfast, for a genuinely modest budget by Norwegian standards.

- ✓ Rooms described as spacious and clean, staff rated 8.7
- ✓ Varied breakfast, with gluten-free options noted
- ✓ Facilities 8.0 and value for money 7.6: a simple offer

From **€120** / night

See availability



★ TOP PICK

★ 8.6/10

Clarion Hotel The Edge

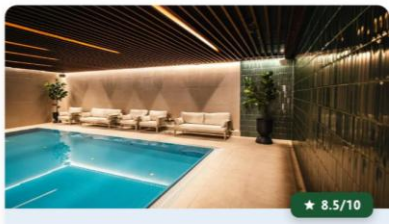
📍 Tromsø harbour · on the waterfront

Large glass hotel on the harbour, with a panoramic bar on the top floor. One of the best location scores in this guide, and a breakfast that reviews describe as incredible.

- ✓ Location 9.7, on the harbour and near tour departures
- ✓ Breakfast praised for the variety of its produce
- ✓ Staff rated 9.1, reception often described as friendly

From **€125** / night

See availability



★ 8.5/10

St Elisabeth Hotel & Spa

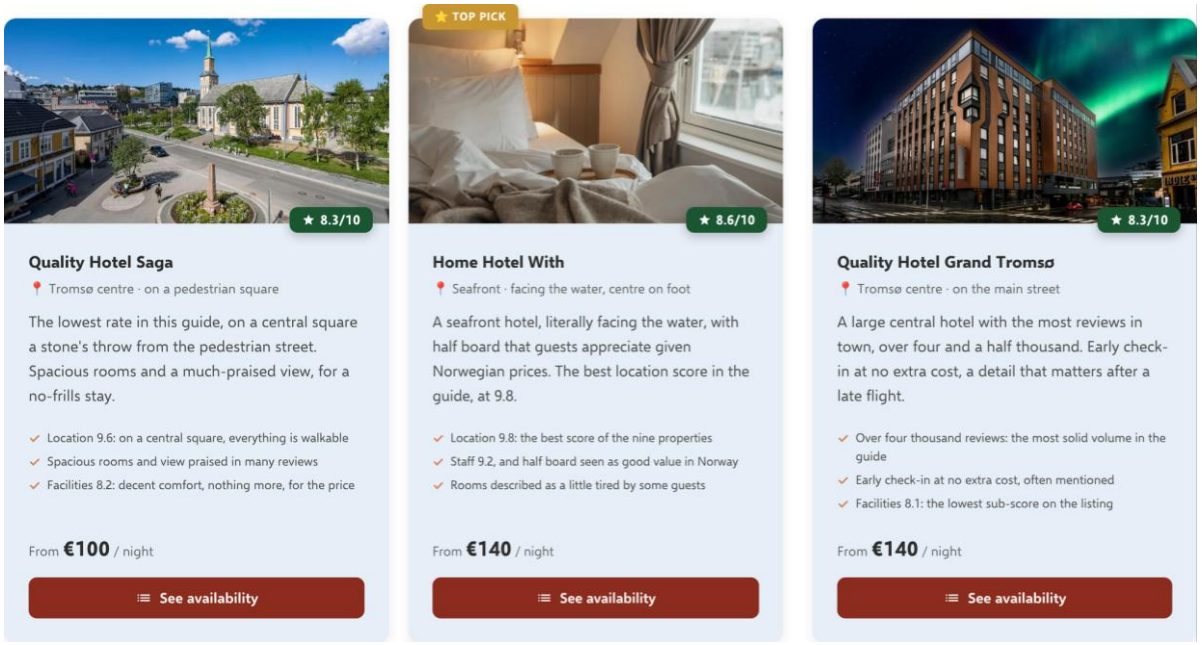
📍 Tromsø · away from the centre

Hotel with a pool and a proper spa area, praised for its welcome. The trade-off is clear: it's the most out-of-the-way address in the guide, with location rated 8.3.

- ✓ Staff 9.2: the welcome dominates the reviews
- ✓ Pool and spa area described as the real highlight
- ✓ Location 8.3: away from the centre, allow for travel time

From **€130** / night

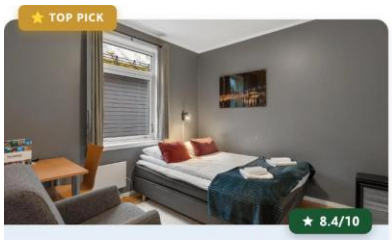
See availability


★ 8.3/10
Quality Hotel Saga
Tromsø centre · on a pedestrian square
The lowest rate in this guide, on a central square a stone's throw from the pedestrian street. Spacious rooms and a much-praised view, for a no-frills stay.
Location 9.6: on a central square, everything is walkable
Spacious rooms and view praised in many reviews
Facilities 8.2: decent comfort, nothing more, for the price
From €100 / night
See availability
TOP PICK
★ 8.6/10
Home Hotel With
Seafront · facing the water, centre on foot
A seafront hotel, literally facing the water, with half board that guests appreciate given Norwegian prices. The best location score in the guide, at 9.8.
Location 9.8: the best score of the nine properties
Staff 9.2, and half board seen as good value in Norway
Rooms described as a little tired by some guests
From €140 / night
See availability
★ 8.3/10
Quality Hotel Grand Tromsø
Tromsø centre · on the main street
A large central hotel with the most reviews in town, over four and a half thousand. Early check-in at no extra cost, a detail that matters after a late flight.
Over four thousand reviews: the most solid volume in the guide
Early check-in at no extra cost, often mentioned
Facilities 8.1: the lowest sub-score on the listing
From €140 / night
See availability


DINNER AND AFTERNOON SNACK INCLUDED
Home Hotel Aurora, dinner included facing Tromsø harbour
★★★★ 8.4/10 · Very good · 2,250 reviews · location 9.6/10 · staff 9.1/10
On the pedestrian street Sjøgata, facing the harbour and 50 m from the cathedral, in the heart of Tromsø. As in all Home Hotels, the price includes breakfast, an afternoon coffee-and-waffles break and a buffet dinner. The Hurtigruten terminal is 250 m away, the Polar Museum 500 m.
Perfectly placed to enjoy all the activities departing from the town. The underfloor heating is welcome when you get back from a northern lights hunt. — Caroline, Saint Pierre and Miquelon
Free sauna and rooftop jacuzzi with harbour views · jacuzzi extra, around €5, in a booked slot
Comfortable beds and quiet rooms, often found spacious · 12-space car park to book, NOK 300 per day
Dated decor and a simple dinner, no dessert, served from 6pm to 8pm · cleaning on request only, breakfast not before 7am
From €150 / night
See availability

BUDGET HOTELS IN CENTRAL TROMSO

Budget prices in Tromso are mostly budget in low season. Even in high season they can climb quite a bit. That said, it's still very decent: good beds, small rooms and no breakfast included, but it's affordable.



First Hotel Backpack

📍 Tromsø centre · just off the pedestrian street

Small central hotel with a misleading name: these aren't dorms but proper rooms, simple and well kept. The warmest welcome in this series, rated 9.3.

- Staff 9.3: the welcome is the unanimous highlight of reviews
- Rooms called pleasant and well located in the centre
- Facilities 8.3: a simple offer, in line with the rate

From **€55** / night

See availability



Comfort Hotel Xpress Tromsø

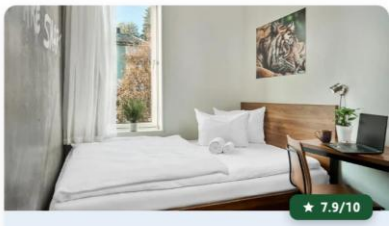
📍 Tromsø centre · right in the heart of town

Large budget hotel with an unapologetic concept: self check-in, reception open round the clock and compact rooms. Nearly five thousand reviews, the largest volume in this budget selection.

- Location 9.4: right in the centre, everything on foot
- Self check-in and day-and-night access often mentioned
- Facilities 8.0: small rooms, that's the whole concept

From **€55** / night

See availability



Smarthotel Tromsø

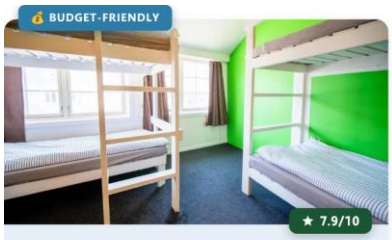
📍 Tromsø · quiet area, centre on foot

Tiny rooms and a tight rate, in a quiet area a few minutes from the centre. The buffet breakfast comes up in reviews as a pleasant surprise for the price.

- Breakfast described as a pleasant surprise given the rate
- Quiet area, but the centre is still within walking distance
- Facilities 7.8, overall score 7.9: the lowest of the lot

From **€69** / night

See availability



The Tromso Hostel

📍 Tromsø · Flybussen stop a few minutes away

Hostel with the lowest rate in this guide, with dorm beds and a shared kitchen. The airport bus stop is very close, which makes late arrivals easier.

- Location 9.3: close to the Flybussen and easy to find
- Cleanliness and staff regularly praised in reviews
- Comfort 7.9: shared dorms, the rate shown is per bed

From **€35** / dorm bed

See availability



Ami Hotel

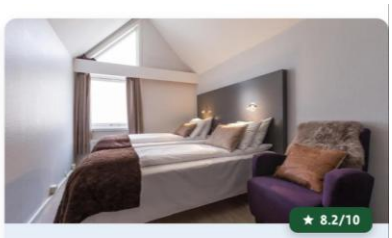
📍 Tromsø · a few minutes from the centre

The best score in this series, for a small hotel with an equipped kitchen. Unlimited tea and coffee, functional rooms: the practical address if you cook for yourself.

- Cleanliness 8.8 and staff 8.8, the best scores of the trio
- Equipped kitchen and unlimited coffee mentioned in many reviews
- Functional rather than spacious rooms, centre on foot

From **€70** / night

See availability



First Hotel Viking

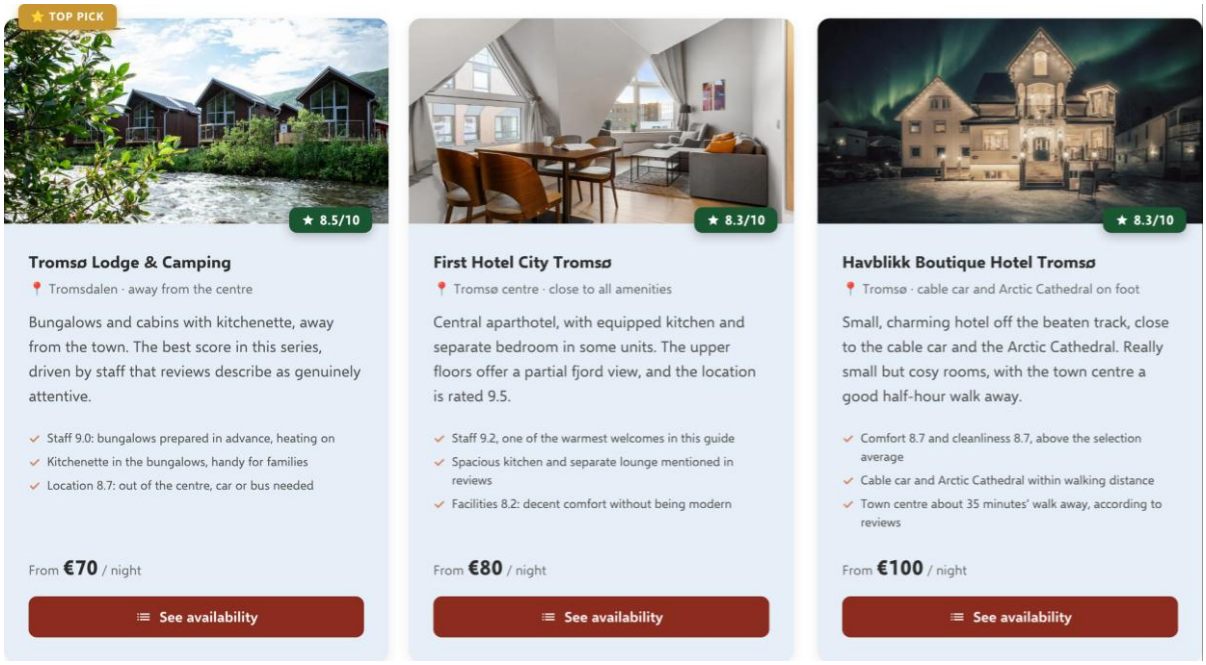
📍 Tromsø centre · shops and bus stops all around

Unpretentious central address, with several bus stops right nearby. The afternoon waffles served with jam and brunost are a detail guests often remember.

- Staff 9.3: the best welcome score in this series
- Afternoon waffles and location very often mentioned
- Facilities 8.0: decent rooms, nothing more

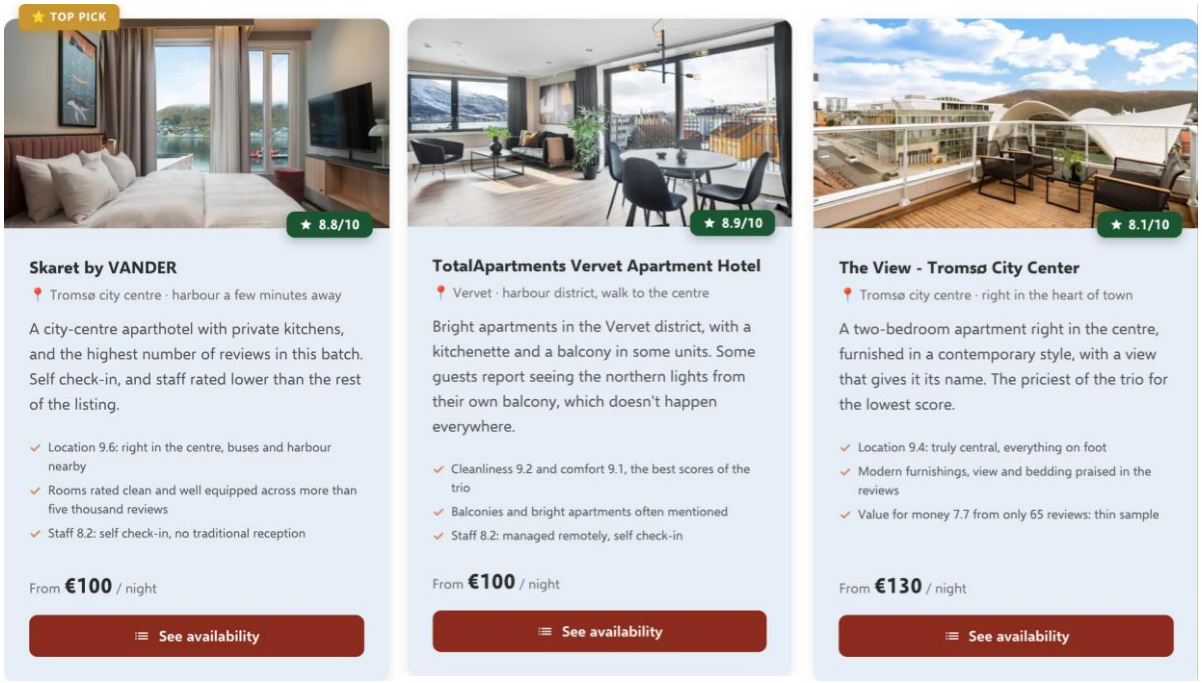
From **€75** / night

See availability

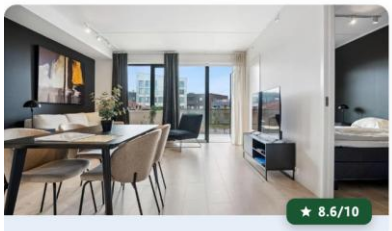

TOP PICK
★ 8.5/10
Tromsø Lodge & Camping
Tromsdalen · away from the centre
Bungalows and cabins with kitchenette, away from the town. The best score in this series, driven by staff that reviews describe as genuinely attentive.
Staff 9.0: bungalows prepared in advance, heating on
Kitchenette in the bungalows, handy for families
Location 8.7: out of the centre, car or bus needed
From €70 / night
See availability
★ 8.3/10
First Hotel City Tromsø
Tromsø centre · close to all amenities
Central aparthotel, with equipped kitchen and separate bedroom in some units. The upper floors offer a partial fjord view, and the location is rated 9.5.
Staff 9.2, one of the warmest welcomes in this guide
Spacious kitchen and separate lounge mentioned in reviews
Facilities 8.2: decent comfort without being modern
From €80 / night
See availability
★ 8.3/10
Havblikk Boutique Hotel Tromsø
Tromsø · cable car and Arctic Cathedral on foot
Small, charming hotel off the beaten track, close to the cable car and the Arctic Cathedral. Really small but cosy rooms, with the town centre a good half-hour walk away.
Comfort 8.7 and cleanliness 8.7, above the selection average
Cable car and Arctic Cathedral within walking distance
Town centre about 35 minutes' walk away, according to reviews
From €100 / night
See availability

APARTMENTS AND HOUSES

Pay attention to where your accommodation is. Tromso is on a hill: if you take a place up high but don't have a vehicle, you'll have to walk quite a bit or set aside a small bus budget. And you'll need crampons in winter. So check the distance to the city centre, especially for activities (in particular if the northern lights agency doesn't drop you off close to where you're staying)







★ 8.6/10

TotalApartments Vervet Gjøa

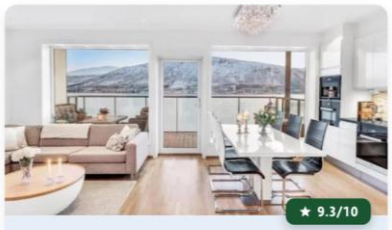
📍 Vervet · close to tour departures

Spacious apartments run by the same manager as the Vervet Apartment Hotel, with indoor parking. Tour departures and the centre are both within walking distance, according to reviews.

- ✓ Cleanliness and comfort both at 9.0, location 9.5
- ✓ Self check-in described as very convenient
- ✓ Indoor parking and wheelchair access, rare in this category

From **€120** / night

See availability



★ 9.3/10

ARCTIC PANORAMA

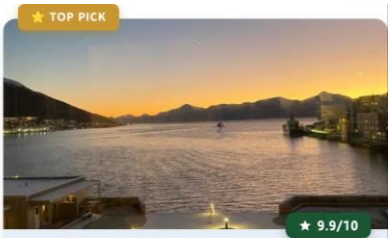
📍 Tromsø · sea and mountain views, bus outside

Seventy-eight-square-metre apartment with sea and mountain views, washing machine and dryer included. A brisk fifteen-minute walk to the centre, or the bus right downstairs.

- ✓ Facilities, cleanliness and comfort all at 9.7
- ✓ View, washing machine and free coffee mentioned by guests
- ✓ Only 30 reviews: still a very thin sample

From **€140** / night

See availability



★ TOP PICK

★ 9.9/10

Royal Skir apartment sea view

📍 Tromsø · seafront apartment

The highest score in the whole Tromsø selection, for seventy-five square metres facing the sea with indoor parking. The owner comes up in almost every review.

- ✓ Facilities and comfort at 9.9, value for money 9.6
- ✓ The owner's welcome mentioned in almost every review
- ✓ Only 99 reviews, and the highest rate in the series

From **€220** / night

See availability



★ TOP PICK

★ 9.3/10

Cozy little house in Tromsø city

📍 Tromsø · detached house, free parking

An entire hundred-square-metre house with two bedrooms, two bathrooms and free parking. Every sub-score above nine: the best listing in this trio, by far.

- ✓ Cleanliness and comfort both at 9.5, staff rated 9.5
- ✓ House described as quiet, cosy and very well equipped
- ✓ Only 99 reviews, and location 8.9: not right in the centre

From **€105** / night

See availability



★ 8.8/10

2-Bedroom Apartment with Private Entrance

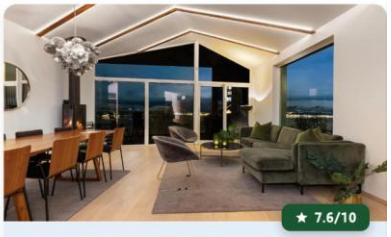
📍 Tromsø · private entrance, near the centre

Two-bedroom apartment with its own entrance and free parking, within walking distance of the centre. An EV charging point is available on site at a rate guests find reasonable.

- ✓ Staff 9.4 and communication with the host highly rated
- ✓ EV charger on site, cheaper than street charging
- ✓ Location 8.9: expect to walk, the address isn't central

From **€190** / night

See availability



★ 7.6/10

Enter Tromsø - Exclusive Apartments

📍 Tromsø · near the centre, hot tub and sauna

Upmarket apartments with hot tub, sauna and gym, a stone's throw from the centre. The highest rate in the whole Tromsø selection, for the lowest score.

- ✓ Reception staff show you to your room, free luggage storage
- ✓ Value for money 7.0: the lowest score in the whole selection
- ✓ Only 31 reviews, and no sub-score above 8.7

From **€350** / night

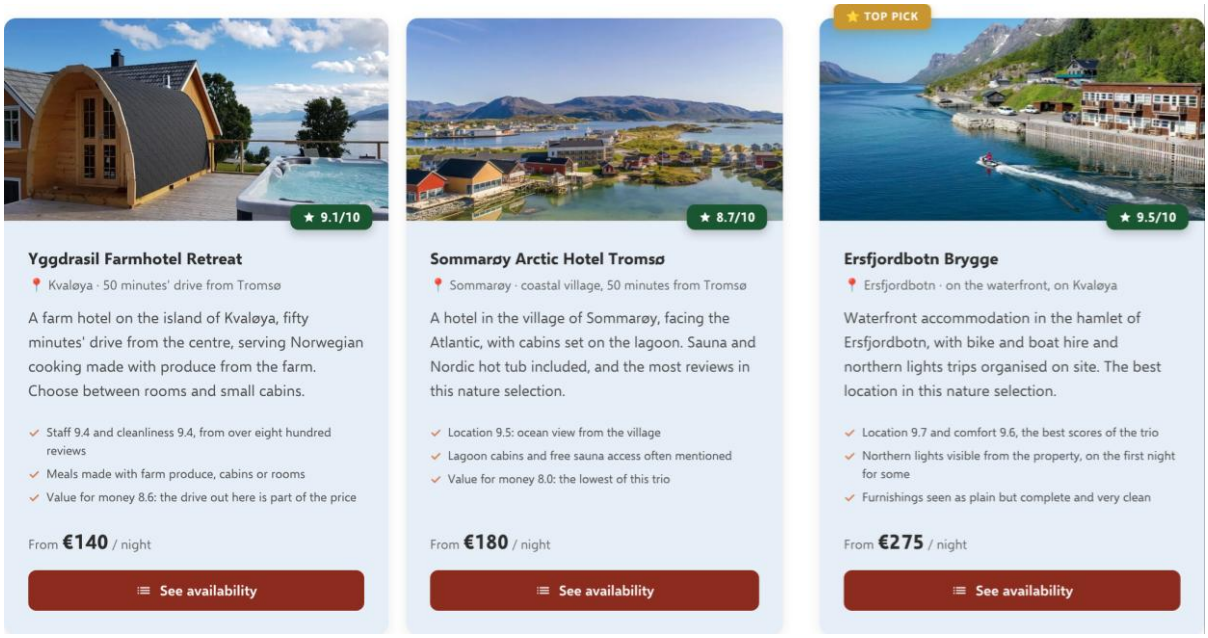
See availability

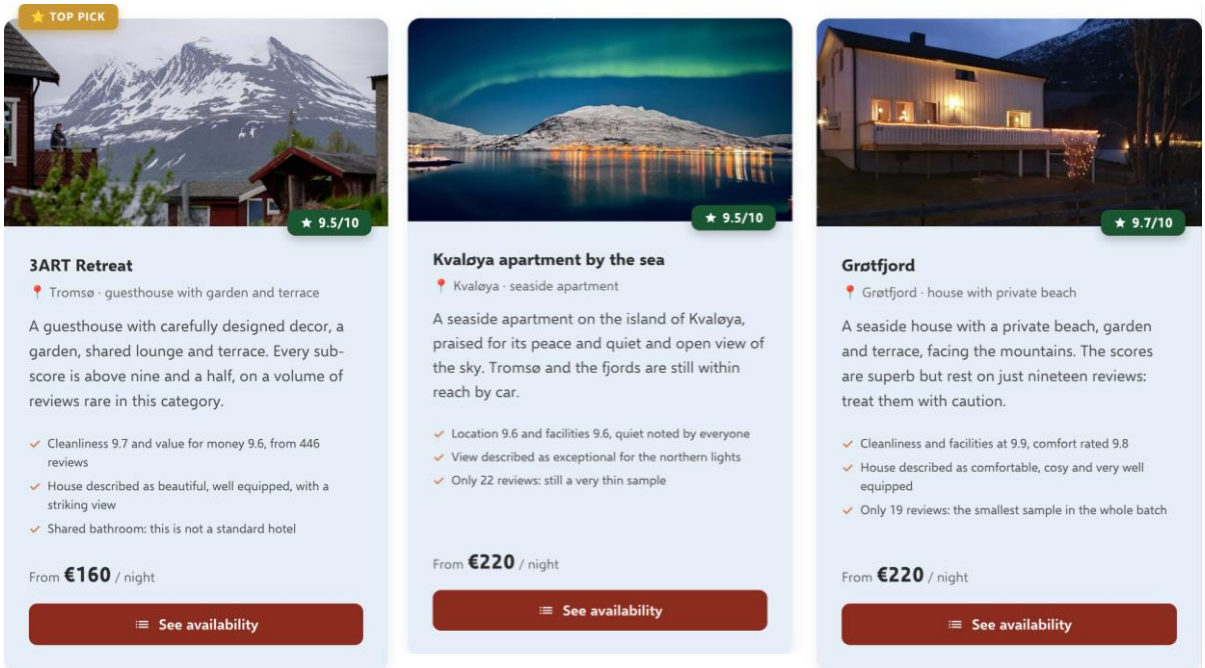
FIND YOUR DREAM PLACE TO STAY IN TROMSØ

STAYING OUTSIDE TROMSO

If you have a car, it's an excellent idea. You'll be closer to nature and to the northern lights, and it'll cost you less in parking, but also in accommodation. There are a few hotels scattered around, mainly on Kvaloya. Quite a few apartments and houses too – I'll show you all of that.

Staying on the island of Kvaloya





Staying in the Lyngen Alps



★ 8.6/10

Viking Cabins - MIT FabLab - Solvik

📍 Kvalvik · facing the Lyngen Alps

Isolated wooden cabins in Kvalvik, with sauna, ski room and ski-in, ski-out access. You can watch the northern lights from the grounds, above the peaks of the Lyngen Alps.

- ✓ Value for money 8.8, the best of this trio
- ✓ Place described as simple, warm and truly remote
- ✓ Facilities 8.1: rustic cabins, not a hotel

From **€170** / night

See availability



★ TOP PICK

★ 9.5/10

Koppangen Brygger

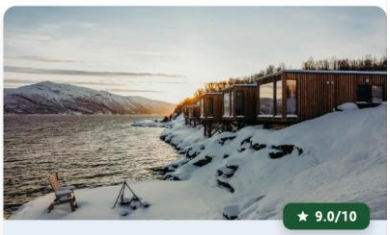
📍 Koppangen · fishing village on the Lyngenfjord

Seafront houses in a Lyngenfjord fishing village, a twenty-minute drive from Lyngseidet. Fjord views, a restaurant on site, and staff rated 9.7.

- ✓ Staff 9.7 and comfort 9.6, value for money 9.5
- ✓ Location, food and welcome mentioned together in reviews
- ✓ Houses described as spacious and very practical

From **€190** / night

See availability



★ 9.0/10

Aurora Distillery Cabins

📍 Lyngen · cabins facing the fjord

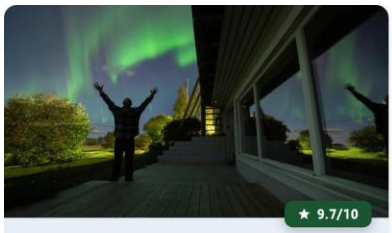
Fjord-facing cabins in the Lyngen Alps, sold as a retreat far from everything, and reviews confirm the peace and quiet. The service, however, falls clearly short on this listing.

- ✓ Location 9.4 and comfort 9.1, northern lights often seen
- ✓ Peace and isolation described as the real selling point
- ✓ Staff 7.9: the only sub-score below 8 in the whole nature selection

From **€200** / night

See availability

3 other places to stay around Tromso



★ 9.7/10

Northern Lights Apartment

📍 Mortenhals · sea views, in Malangen

Sea-view apartment in Mortenhals, in Malangen, with garden, terrace and free parking. A host-run address, well away from Tromsø, designed for the northern lights.

- ✓ Apartment called clean and spacious, large picture windows
- ✓ Full kitchen and the hosts' availability praised
- ✓ Only 7 reviews: no score you can really go by

From **€190** / night

See availability



★ 8.1/10

Malangen Resort

📍 Malangen · an hour's drive from Tromsø

Resort on the Malangen fjord, an hour's drive from Tromsø and eight kilometres from the nearest grocery shop. The only one in this trio with a real volume of reviews.

- ✓ Location, food and welcome mentioned together in reviews
- ✓ Location 9.0, but the nearest shop is eight kilometres away
- ✓ Value for money 7.9: the lowest score on the listing

From **€200** / night

See availability



★ 10/10

DAVVI Tind - Highest Chalet

📍 Lyngen Alps · panoramic chalet, six people

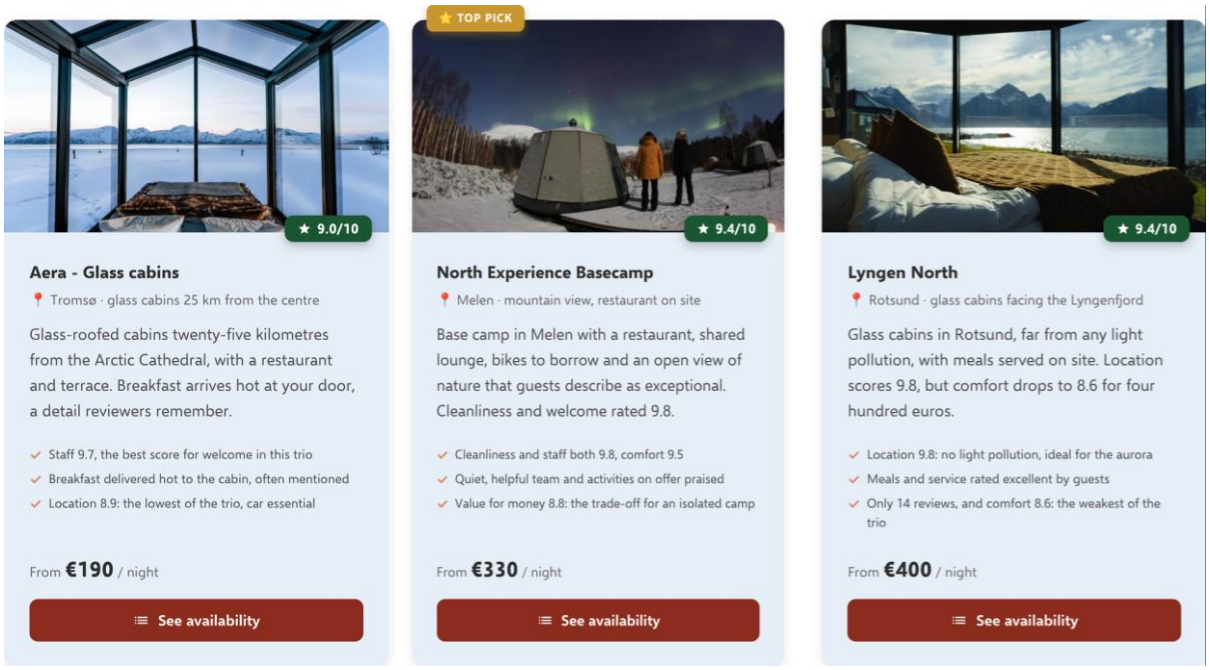
Perched chalet for six, sold on its fjord panorama and mountain views. The highest rate in the whole project, from a sample of eight reviews.

- ✓ Chalet described as isolated, peaceful and very cosy
- ✓ Northern lights seen from the chalet by several guests
- ✓ Only 8 reviews: a 10/10 from so few means nothing

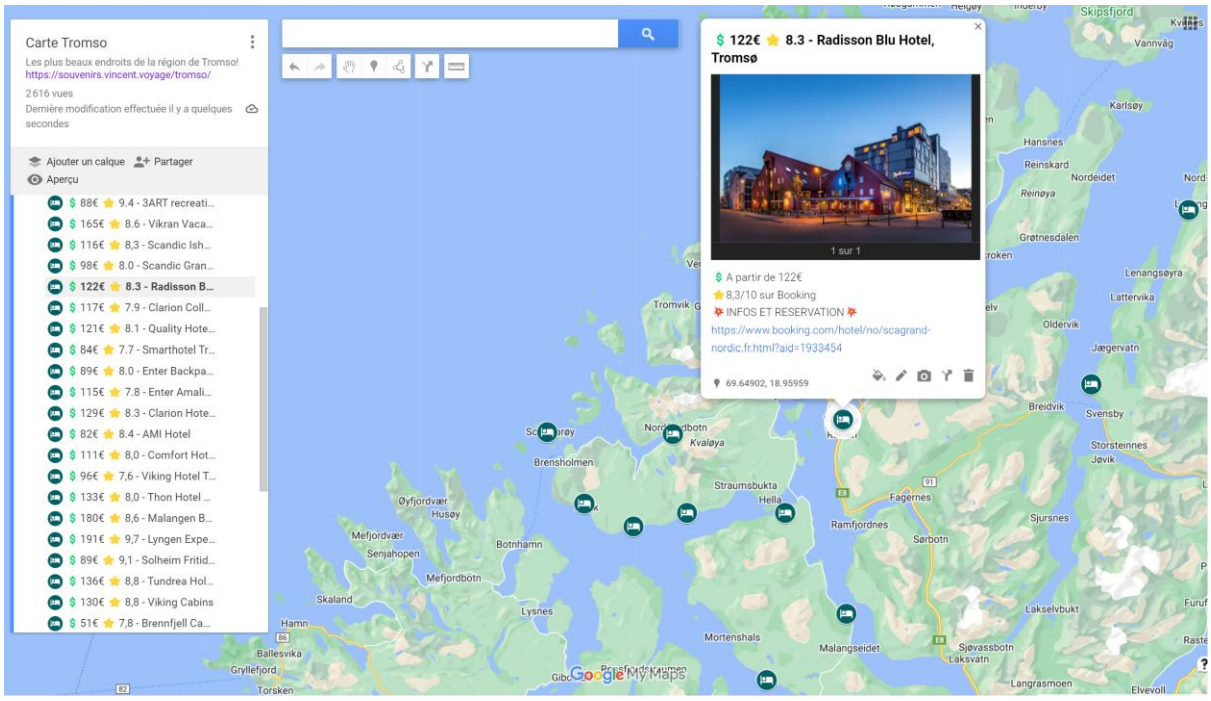
From **€500** / night

See availability

SLEEPING IN A GLASS IGLOO



Click here or on the map to see the accommodation selection



A TOOL TO BUDGET AND PLAN A TRIP TO TROMSO

Right, I'm not going to lie to you (it would be a shame to start now): Tromso is an expensive city. As you've probably noticed. And there are loads of expense items

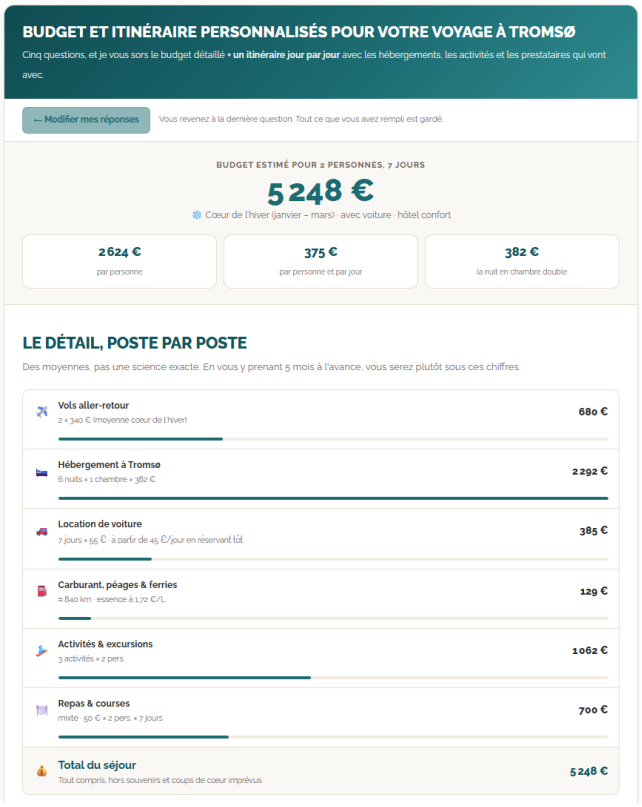
To help you with the budget AND your itinerary, I've created a tool that should be super useful! If you don't want to wait, *click here* to go straight to it!

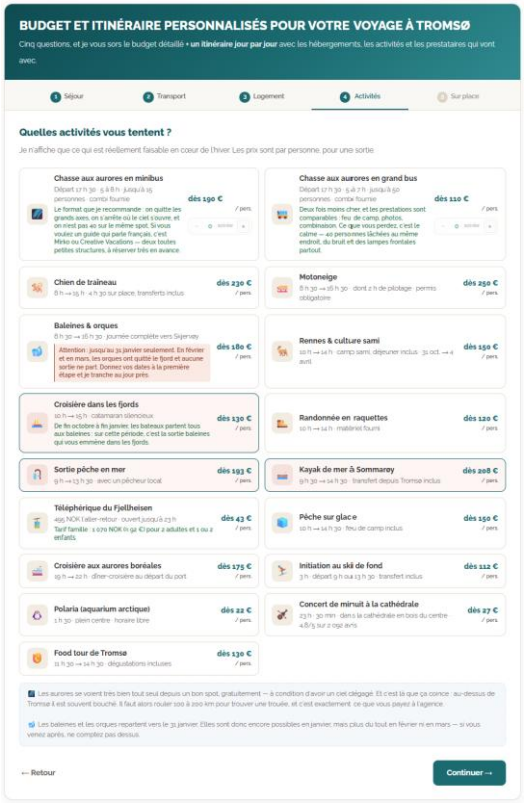
Calculating the budget for a trip to Tromso

So the first aim of this tool is to help you work out the budget for a stay in Tromso. All the expense items were entered manually, according to different types of services:

- Activities (northern lights, dog sledding, reindeer, snowshoeing…), with different price levels
- Car rental, with a small car or a more comfortable one
- Accommodation, in Tromso or outside, for 2 or more people, budget or more upmarket
- The length of the stay, but also the season

And lots of other factors. All of this will give you a fairly accurate idea of what to expect, and of course you can run several simulations. Here are a few examples





CREATE YOUR PERSONALISED TROMSØ ITINERARY!

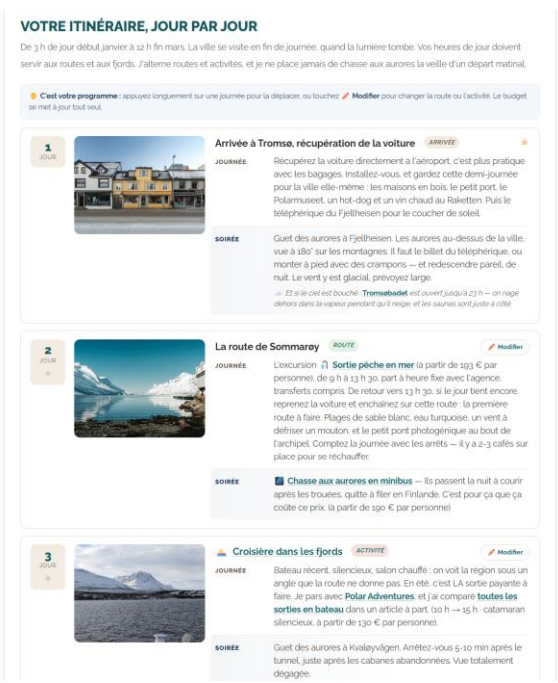
Create your personalised itinerary for Tromso!

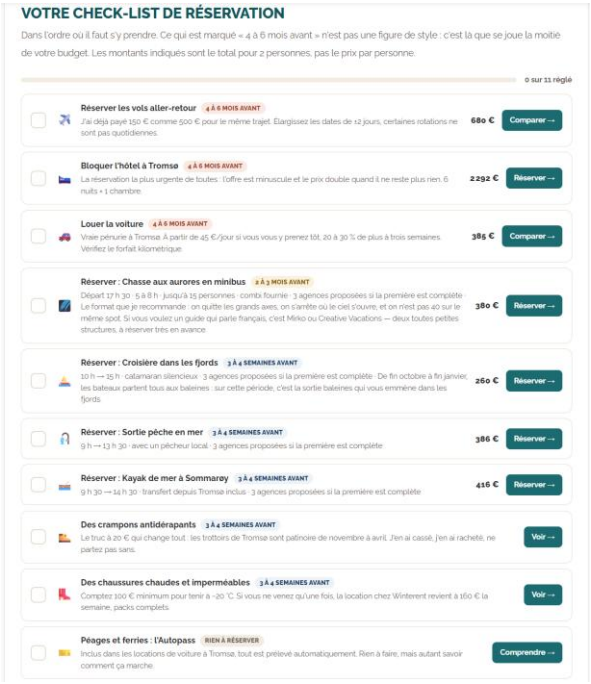
This tool doesn't just give you the budget!

Once you've entered everything you'd like to do, you'll see a suggested itinerary, including the scenery, the places to see, the activities and the must-dos.

So, in the end you'll get:

- Your day-by-day itinerary
- Suggestions for booking each activity and your accommodation
- This itinerary depends entirely on the settings you entered (car or no car, the price ranges you chose)
- You can receive this itinerary by email
- As well as a series of emails to help you prepare your trip (it's not compulsory, and you can unsubscribe straight away)
    - And of course, no information is passed on to anyone, as always here





CREATE YOUR PERSONALISED TROMSØ ITINERARY!

WHERE TO EAT / GRAB A DRINK / COFFEE

- Norwegian **restaurants** (therefore expensive)
  - Maskinverkstedet (my favorite, you need to book)
  - Smak AS
  - Mathallen
  - *Full Steam*
  - Bardus, very good, nice wine list (super expensive, obviously)
  - Emmasdrommekjokken

- Restaurants at almost **normal prices**
  - Pizzeria Casa Inferno (for a Norwegian pizza, it's pretty good)
  - Pastafabrikken (nothing fancy)

- Grab a **coffee** in a cozy spot
  - Smørtorget
  - Kaffebonna
  - Risø, the hot chocolate, wow! and a really good kannelbolle
  - Koseverden & Koselig cafe (our usual little café, especially for the desserts)
  - Svermeri Kafé og Redesign (good, but odd opening hours if I remember correctly)
  - Tøllefsenhjørnet

- To **eat cheap** (not easy!)
  - Cafés like Smørtorget serve Nordic open-faced sandwiches. At Koseverden they serve dishes from Eastern Europe that are good and not too expensive
  - The 7/11s and other convenience stores of that kind do hot dogs and cheap pizzas. Nothing fancy, sure, but cheap.
  - At the Extra in the city center, there's a grill counter where they make burgers and that sort of thing for cheap. At the end of the day, it all gets discounted to clear it out.
    - Almost all the Eurospar stores have a grill counter and go half price at the end of the day
  - Outside the city, gas stations have hot dogs
  - Some supermarkets have salad bars. I recommend Eurospar, sometimes €10 per kilo (double that at Extra)
  - Otherwise, supermarket sandwiches. But they're really not great.



HOW TO GET THERE AND GET AROUND

- Closest **train** station: Narvik (if you're coming from Stockholm) or Bodo (Norwegian network). You'll then need to take a bus.

- **Airport** closest to the city: Tromso Langnes (about 10 min from the center)
    - Coming from France or Belgium, you'll inevitably have a stopover (more if you're flying from a regional city, while we wait for direct flights to Oslo). Airlines:
        - Norwegian
        - Air France + Wideroe
        - FlySAS
        - Lufthansa
        - Finnair
        - You absolutely must COMPARE, and try shifting your dates by a day or two. One example of a comparison tool: Booking and its price predictions, which are reliable.

- Lots of options by **bus and boat** for both short and long trips. **Trip planner**:
    - https://svipper.no/
    - https://entur.no/

- Renting a **car**: look mainly at the airport, as the rental desks open late. They're all pretty much the same EXCEPT Thrifty. One to avoid. You need to pay attention to:
    - The number of km per day. They now cap it so they can charge you for extra kilometers
    - An automatic gearbox is a bit more comfortable and makes it easier to stay focused on the snow
    - Hybrids are often the same price, and given the price of fuel, that's not a bad deal
        - Electric cars are much cheaper, but watch out for the range in winter
    - For peer-to-peer car rentals: Getaround
    - You absolutely have to compare agencies, as prices vary for no reason. Use for example *Booking.com* (I like it, it works well, they absorbed Rental cars). Then check the agencies' own websites to see if prices are cheaper.
    - I compare (and made my latest bookings) on **Discover Cars**. Clear, no nasty surprises, and not particularly expensive.
        - *In the next article, I give you all the information you need to rent a car in Tromso. Which agencies, how much it costs…*

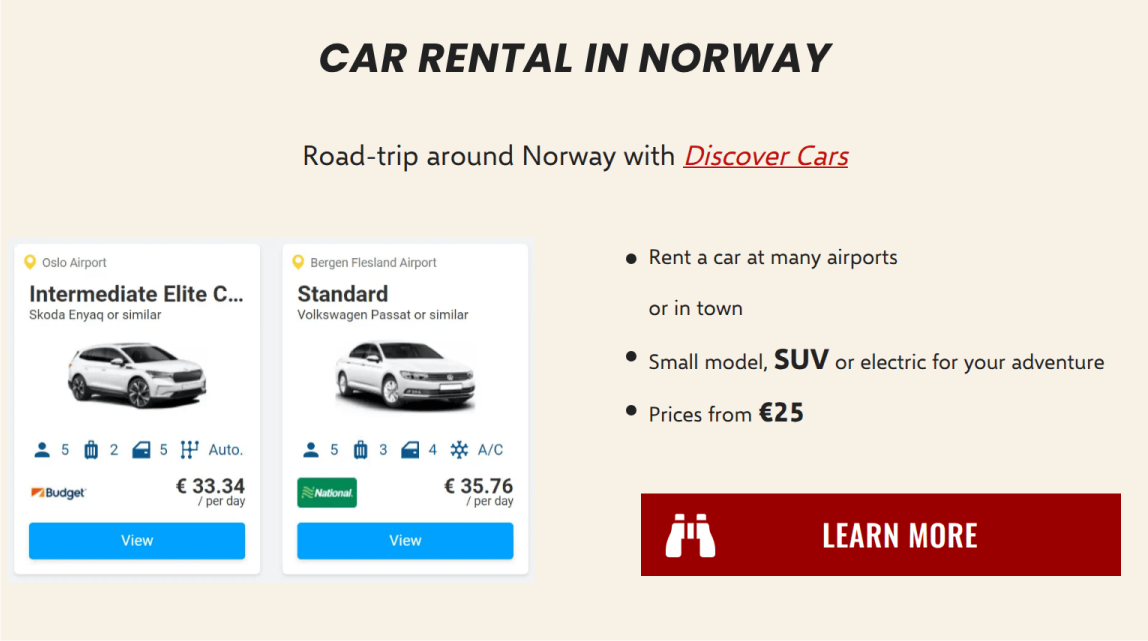
- Car rental with **GETAROUND**
    - Very reliable, with plenty of choice in Tromso
    - Sign up and get €15 off your first rental
    - Always plenty of choice, even at the last minute
    - Watch out for the mileage, which isn't unlimited

- The **parking lots** in Tromso are paid and expensive:
    - The underground parking garage is super convenient, about €20 a day

- Outdoor parking lots are easy to spot, and you pay with the app **Easypark**. Convenient.
- Possibly free parking in the south towards Telegrafbukta.
- Parking lots higher up on the island are cheaper
- Hotels in the center don't have parking
- Supermarket parking lots are free but with a time limit

PRACTICAL INFO

- Tourist office: Samuel Arnesens gate 5
- Bus from the airport to the city center: Flybussen, every 20 to 30 min, 125 NOK per trip
- Tromso Outdoor to **rent clothing** designed for extreme cold in Tromso
- **Luggage storage** in Tromso:
  - At the airport, but I've never actually seen it
  - At the shopping center Jekta
  - At the shopping center Nestranda, in the city center
  - 1st floor of the ferry terminal
- To **exchange money**: RIA agency (the exchange rate is really not good)
- **Payments**: everything is paid by card. You can withdraw cash at the 3 ATMs in the city center (bank-affiliated), but watch out for the ATM fees + your own bank's fees (it may charge for non-euro withdrawals as well as a markup on the exchange rate)
- **Second-hand**: there are second-hand shops in Tromso (clothes, tableware…) such as Remiks or Gjenbruken

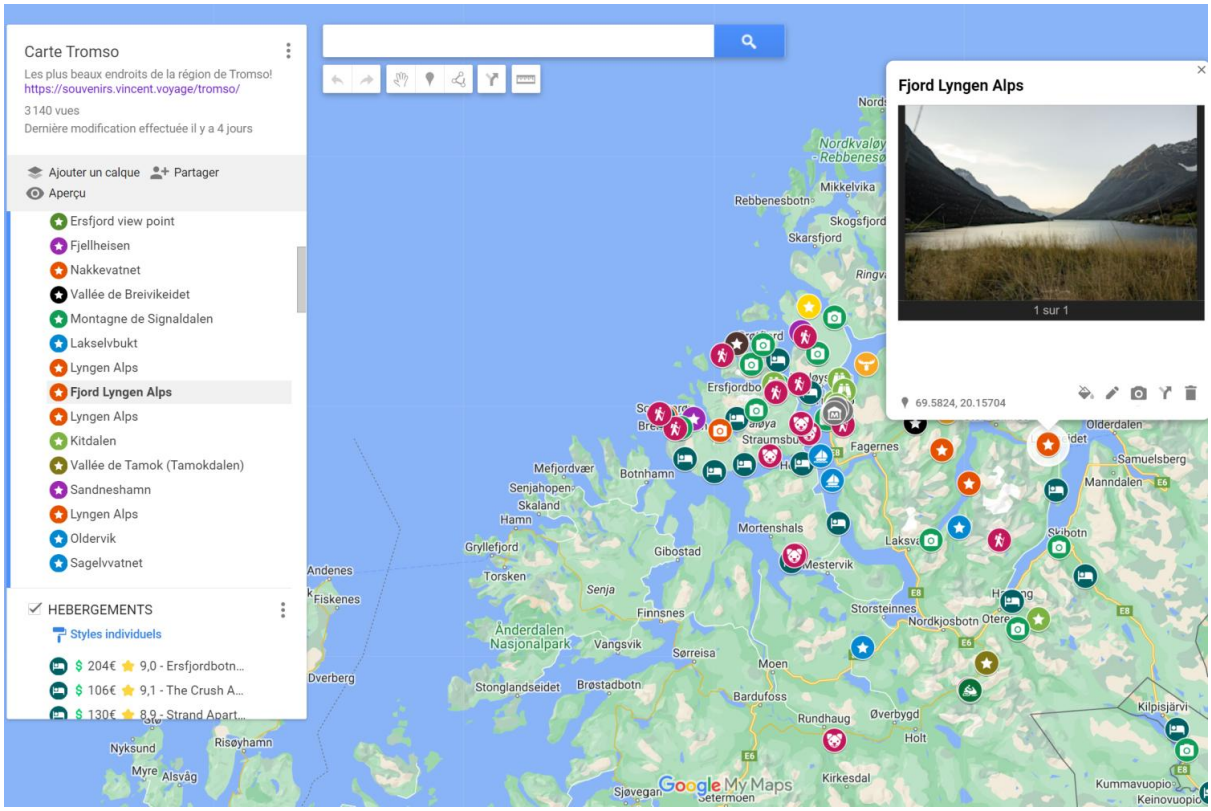


MAP OF TROMSO

I've put all this info together in a map of the Tromso area, which includes:

- The most beautiful spots
- The places to see the northern lights
- Activities like whales, dog sledding, northern lights… and the different agencies
- A few hikes
- Plenty of great places to stay, across all price ranges
- Restaurants, bars, cafés
- And all the practical info

You can access the map by clicking here



CREATE YOUR PERSONALISED TROMSØ ITINERARY!

3 ITINERARIES IN TROMSO IN WINTER

Here I'll walk you through 3 itineraries to discover Tromso and its surroundings. Why 3, you ask? Because it depends on whether you want to do activities, whether you have a car, and whether you want to discover Senja. So here are 3 options. This is taken from my article "*The best itineraries in Tromso* "

ITINERARY 1: around Tromso with a car and activities

- **Tour** of Tromso, the polarmuseet, the Fjellheisen cable car for sunset. If the weather is nice, it's possible to see the northern lights from up there.
    - You can go see the northern lights *with a tour agency* on your first evening, to gather as much information as possible and then go see them on your own afterwards

- Exploring the island of **Kvaloya**:
    - Drive across Kvaloya to **Sommaroy**, explore the archipelago, and on the way back stop at the viewpoint over Skulsfjord just before the tunnel

- Go **dog sledding**
    - ***Discover the different dog sledding options here***
    - Top pick for dog sledding at **Breivikeidet** (*info and booking*)

- Head to the **Lyngen Alps** via Breivikeidet and take the ferry, with a quick stop at Nakkevatnet on the way, then drive back by road. If the weather is clear, Signaldalen is a good spot to see the northern lights on the way back

- Exploring the island of **Kvaloya**:
    - Take the road to **Tromvik**, passing through **Ersfjord** and **Grotfjord**. Continue on to Rekvik via Brosmetinden

- See the **whales and orcas** (if it's the season) / take a boat into the fjords / see the reindeer
    - The different options for whale watching
        - Top pick for the comfortable hybrid boat (info and booking)
    - Explore the fjords by boat
    - See the reindeer at a Sami farm near Tromso

- Drive to the mountains of **Signaldalen** via Laksvatn and Lakselvbukt

Recommended accommodation:

- Hotel in Tromso: Radisson Blu, Scandic Ishavshotel or Enter Backpack for a budget option
- Apartment in Tromso: Next to the church, handy apartment in Kvaloysletta, Skaret right in the city centre , Meilbo which is practical and very well located
- Accommodation outside Tromso: Ersfjord Brygge, Malangen Resort

ITINERARY 2: Tromso without a car

Without a car in Tromso, there's one big advantage and one big drawback. There are agencies for absolutely everything, so you're not limited as long as you book early enough. But exploring the surroundings by public transport is very complicated if not impossible. That's because there's generally only one bus a day.

- **Tour** of Tromso, the polarmuseet, the Fjellheisen cable car for sunset. If the weather is nice, it's possible to see the northern lights from up there.
    - If the sky is overcast in Tromso, you can go see the northern lights *with a tour agency* on your first evening

- Go *dog sledding at Breivikeidet* for a superb view of the Lyngen Alps

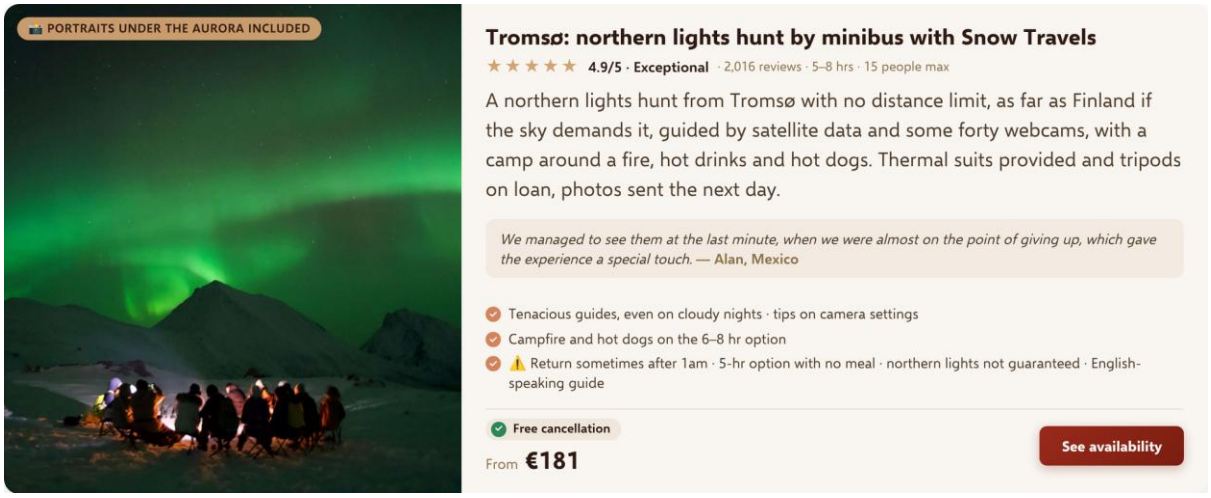
- Go to **Ersfjord** by bus, stop at the viewpoint up on the hill, then head down to the fjord. You can walk out to a small peninsula. Come back by bus, stopping along the fjord Kaldfjord, then head back to Tromso.

- Exploring the island of **Kvaloya** *with a tour agency*, depending on conditions, either the road to Sommaroy or the road to Tromvik via Grotfjord

- See the whales and orcas or go fishing on a traditional boat

- Go snowmobiling in the Lyngen Alps

- Where to **see the northern lights** in Tromso itself:
    - The Telegrafbukta beach
    - The rooftop of the Clarion the Edge
    - At the top of Fjellheisen (cable car or on foot, but you'll need crampons)
    - Otherwise, here's *the list of good agencies*



LOFOTEN ISLANDS

Full article here

LOFOTEN ISLANDS AT A GLANCE

The most beautiful villages to see

- Henningsvaer
- Reine, Hamnoy, Sakrisoy, A (all really close to each other)
- Nusfjord

3 Most beautiful beaches

- Kvalvika
- Uttakleiv (and its neighbors Vik and Haukland
- Unstad

3 Best activities

- *Cruise in the Trollfjord*
- *See the northern lights*
- *Go kayaking*

3 Favorite restaurants

- *Gammelbua - Reine*
- *Karoline – Nusfjord*
- *Anita's Seafood - Sakrisoy*

3 Best places to stay

- *Anker Brygge - Svolvaer*
- *Hattvika Lodge - Ballstad*
- *Rostad Rorbu - Hamnoy*

3 Cafés to unwind

- *Unstad Arctic Surf*
- *Henningsvær Lysstøperi*
- *Bakeriet På Å*

Rental car comparison sites

- *Discover Cars*
- *Booking.com*

Best time to visit

- Northern lights: from early September to late March
- For hiking: from late May to mid-October
- For snow activities: from December to March, but very hit-or-miss
- In July and August, it gets really crowded

How much time to explore the Lofoten Islands

- In 5 days you can see the essentials, but without hiking
- A week lets you really make the most of it, 10 days lets you fit in lots of hikes
- *In 2 weeks you can put together a fantastic itinerary across the whole north*

PLACES TO SEE

It's hard to pick the most beautiful spots in Lofoten. Truly, **everything is beautiful**. The south is exceptional.

- The **traditional villages** you simply can't miss (see the dedicated sections further down in this document):
  - Henningsvaer
  - Reine
  - A i Lofoten
  - Hamnoy & Sakrisoy
  - Nusfjord



- The **beaches** to see. Oh yes! Some of the most beautiful beaches in the world are right here in the Lofoten Islands! Light sand, turquoise water, surrounded by mountains, they are simply paradise
    - Unstad, the surfing beach, a beautiful setting and the best kanelbolle right next door
    - Uttakleiv, the most famous and the largest beach
    - Haukland and Vik, just before Uttakleiv
    - Skagsanden and Flagstad, also good for surfing and very pretty
    - Kvalvika but it takes a hike to get there
    - Eggum
    - Ramberg

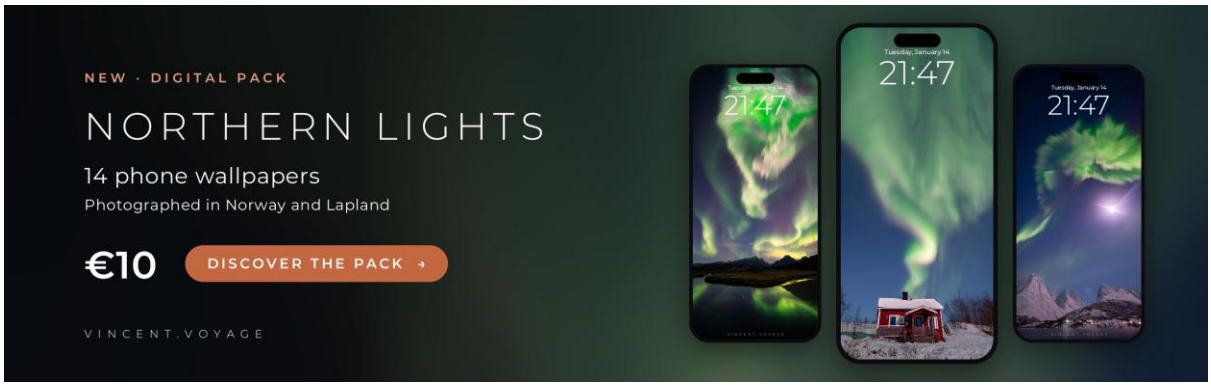
- The most beautiful spots
    - The viewpoint of Gudinnegrava
    - Fredvang, then continue on the little road to the south west
    - Svolvaer
    - The island of Moskenesoya, exceptional
    - Flakstad
    - Valberg then Stamsund
    - But honestly, take any road, especially the small ones



A FEW HIKES

- Reinebringen: the most famous one, an insane view above the village of Reine
- Tjeldbergtind: a beautiful view above the town of Svolvaer
- Festvågtind: a superb view above the village of Henningsvaer
- Kvalvika: a lovely beach you can reach via 3 hiking trails (including Ryten)
- From Unstad to Eggum
- Mannen: a beautiful view above the beaches

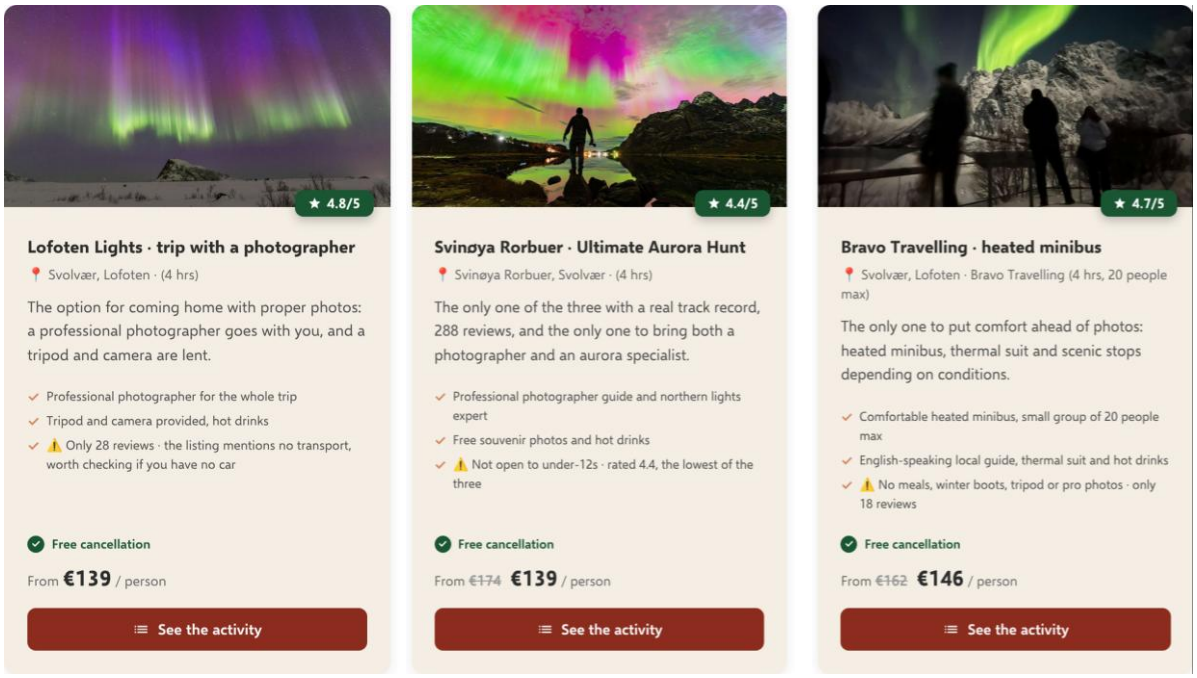




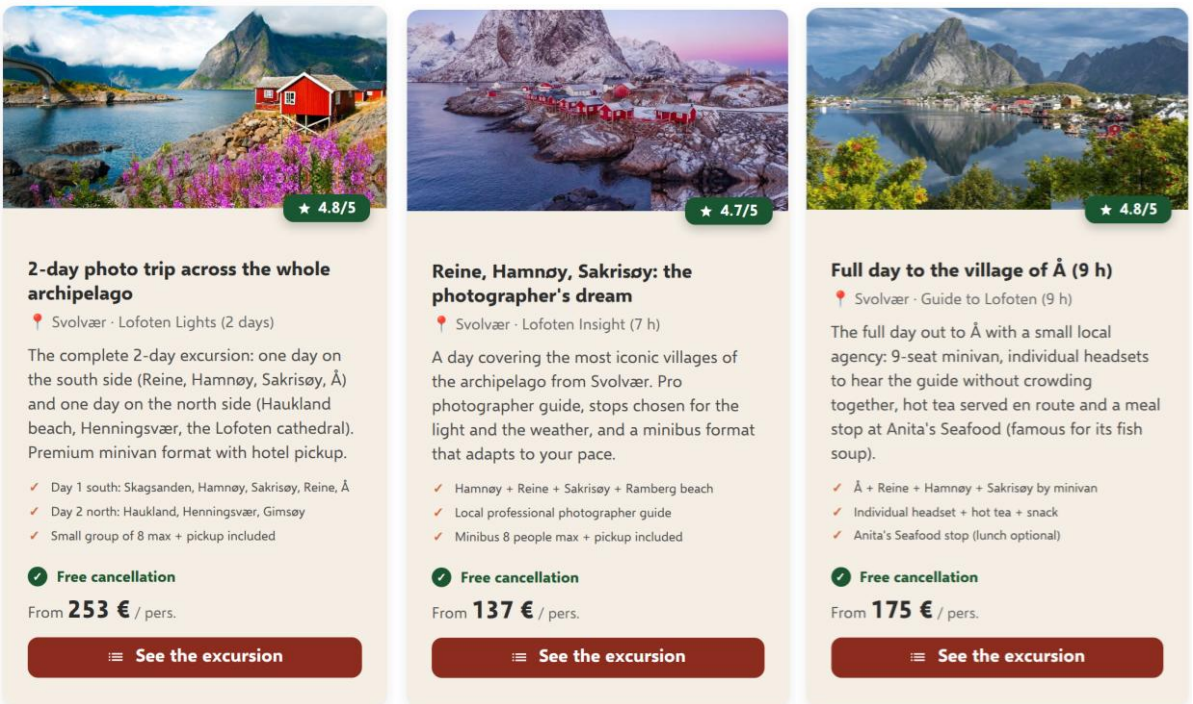
ALL THE ACTIVITIES IN THE LOFOTEN ISLANDS

- Discover *all the activities in the Lofoten Islands* in this article!

See the northern lights with a guide



Discover the most beautiful spots in Lofoten on a guided tour



Take a boat trip in the fjords or head out with a fisherman



★ 4.9/5

Trollfjord & sea eagles · RIB

📍 Sjømannsgata, Svolvær · (2 hrs)

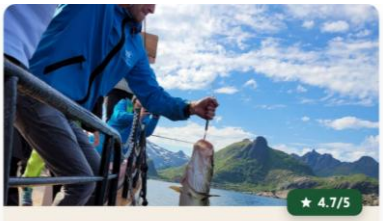
The best rated of the three and the cheapest: two hours at water level in the Trollfjord, looking for sea eagles.

- Bilingual guide, inflatable boat trip into the Trollfjord
- Warm suit, gloves, hat, balaclava, helmet or goggles and life jacket provided
- ⚠ Not allowed for under-8s, pregnant women or people with back problems

Free cancellation

From **€115** / person

See the activity



★ 4.7/5

Fishing boat cruise

📍 Sjømannsgata, Svolvær · (4 hrs)

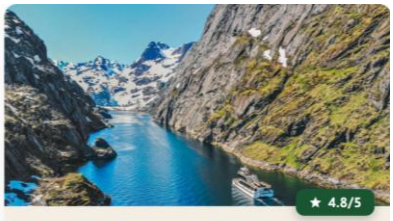
The longest of the three, and the only one where you actually fish: tackle, rain gear and crew provided.

- Fishing tackle, rain gear and life jacket provided
- Crew on hand throughout the trip, 4 hrs at sea
- ⚠ Not suitable for people with reduced mobility · arrive 15 min early to check in

Free cancellation

From **€124** / person

See the activity



★ 4.8/5

Brim Explorer · silent cruise

📍 Torget, Svolvær · Brim Explorer (3.5 hrs)

The electric boat cuts its engines in the Trollfjord: it's the only one of the three that offers silence, and the most comfortable.

- Silent electric boat, guide on board
- Access to heated indoor areas, 3,775 reviews, the highest number of the three
- ⚠ Only tap water is free: everything else is sold at the café · value-for-money sub-score of 4.4

Free cancellation

From **€143** / person

See the activity

Go kayaking in heavenly waters



★ 4.9/5

Eggum · midnight sun kayaking

📍 Eggum, Bøstad · Northern Explorer (3 hrs)

The cheapest and the most established of the three, 435 reviews: three hours of paddling under a sun that never sets.

- Double kayaks, full kit and drysuit in summer
- Professional guides, hot drinks and a snack
- ⚠ SUMMER trip only, under the midnight sun · not allowed for under-10s

Free cancellation

From **€106** / person

See the activity



★ 4.9/5

XXLofoten · winter kayaking in Svolvær

📍 Svolvær · XXLofoten (2 hrs)

The only one of the three to paddle in the depths of winter, and the only one to pick you up from your hotel: two hours, drysuit provided.

- Drysuit, paddle, spray deck and life jacket provided
- Experienced guide, food and drinks, hotel pick-up and drop-off
- ⚠ WINTER trip · not allowed for under-11s, people with heart problems or anyone over 118 kg

Free cancellation

From **€124** / person

See the activity



★ 4.8/5

Reine Paddling · Reinefjorden

📍 Reine, Moskenes · Reine Paddling (3 hrs, 14 people max)

The most photographed fjord in Lofoten, paddled between the red rorbuer — and the only one of the three with guides in five languages.

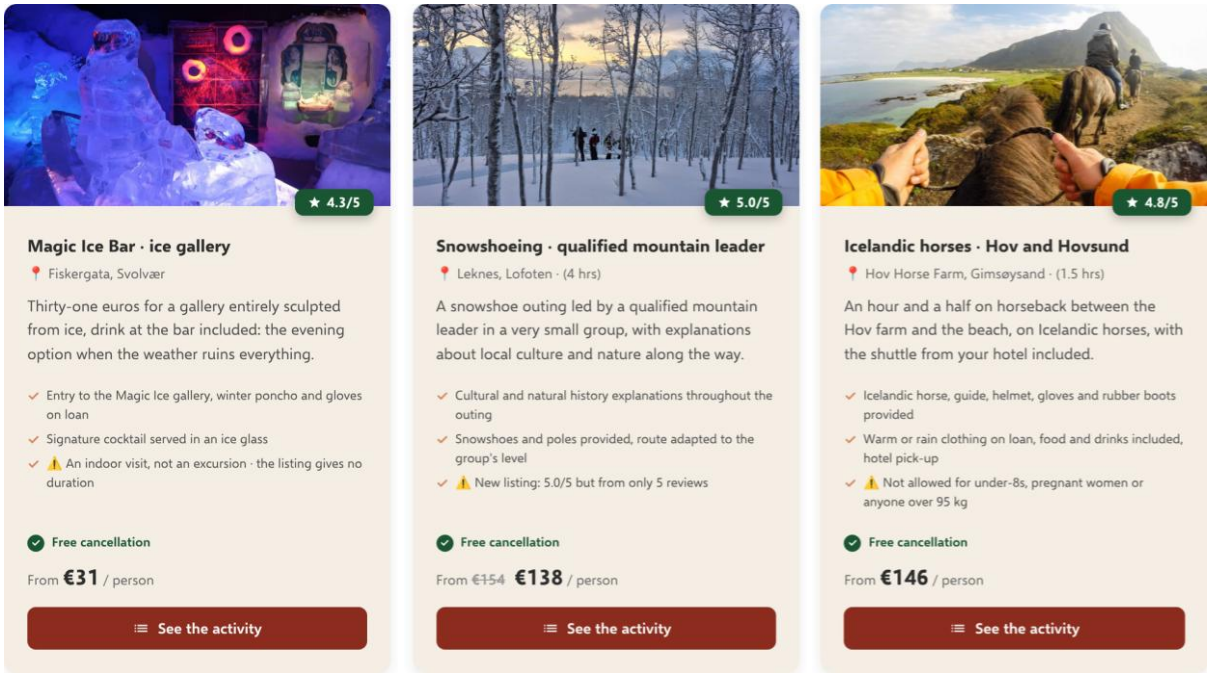
- Guides available in French, Spanish, Italian, English and Norwegian
- Double kayak and full kit: life jacket, jacket, spray deck and paddle
- ⚠ Suitable for beginners but average fitness required · from age 10

Free cancellation

From **€134** / person

See the activity

Other activities to do in the Lofoten Islands





What **you cannot do** in the Lofoten Islands (due to the lack of flat ground and above all the lack of snow):

- Dog sledding, since Lila closed their agency
- Snowmobiling
- See reindeer at a farm run by the Sami, for that you need to *go to the Vesteralen*

WHERE TO STAY IN THE LOFOTEN ISLANDS

The best rorbuer in the Lofoten Islands

(find all the best places to stay in this article)

rorbuer are the old fishermen's cabins, mostly red, that have now been converted into accommodation. And it's really lovely, so Norwegian! (And a tad pricey, I'll admit.)



Rostad Retro Rorbuer

📍 Olenilsøy · next to Reine

Rorbuer renovated in a retro style facing the Reine mountains, with a full kitchen in every cabin. The best score on the whole blog for Norwegian accommodation.

- Outstanding sub-scores: cleanliness and comfort at 9.7, location 9.9
- Mountain and water views mentioned in almost every review
- Carefully done retro interiors and a fully equipped kitchen

From **€137** / night

See availability



Anker Brygge

📍 Svolvær · on the harbour, centre 2 min away

Red rorbuer on the edge of Svolvær harbour, looking down on the boats and the peaks. Equipped kitchen in every cabin, for those who want to cook their own meals.

- Staff 9.3 and location 9.6, comfort rated 9.2
- Equipped kitchens and breakfast described as very generous
- Value for money 8.4: the rate climbs fast in high season

From **€137** / night

See availability



Hattvika Lodge

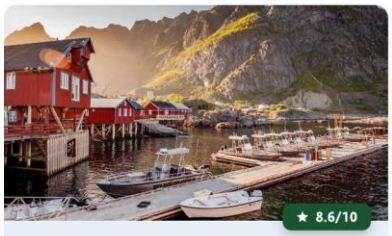
📍 Ballstad · design cabins by the sea

Design cabins by the sea in Ballstad, with restaurant, sauna and guided activities from the lodge. The most stylish address in Lofoten, with the price tag to match.

- Staff 9.6, cleanliness and comfort both at 9.6
- Renovated rorbuer, fully equipped, and a much-praised team
- Value for money 8.5: three hundred euros a night

From **€300** / night

See availability



Å Rorbuer

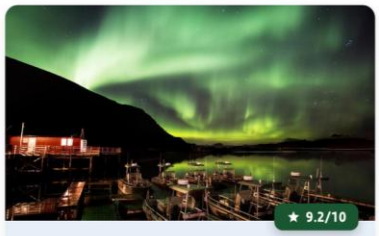
📍 Å · at the end of the E10

At the very end of Lofoten, where the E10 stops: historic rorbuer on the harbour, with a village bakery and a restaurant in the old warehouse.

- Comfort 9.1 and cleanliness 9.0, location rated 9.2
- Cabins described as large, clean and fully equipped
- Value for money 7.9: the road out here comes at a price

From **€155** / night

See availability



Lofoten Basecamp

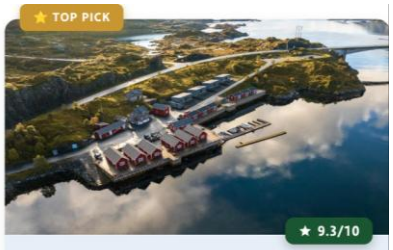
📍 Leknes · private beach, central position

Modern rorbuer with sauna and private beach, in Leknes, right in the middle of the archipelago. The most logical base for heading south to Reine or north to Svolvær.

- Staff 9.6, cleanliness and comfort both at 9.5
- Functional rooms, beds and espresso machine mentioned
- Over fifteen hundred reviews: the most solid volume in the selection

From **€173** / night

See availability



Arctic Resort Lofoten

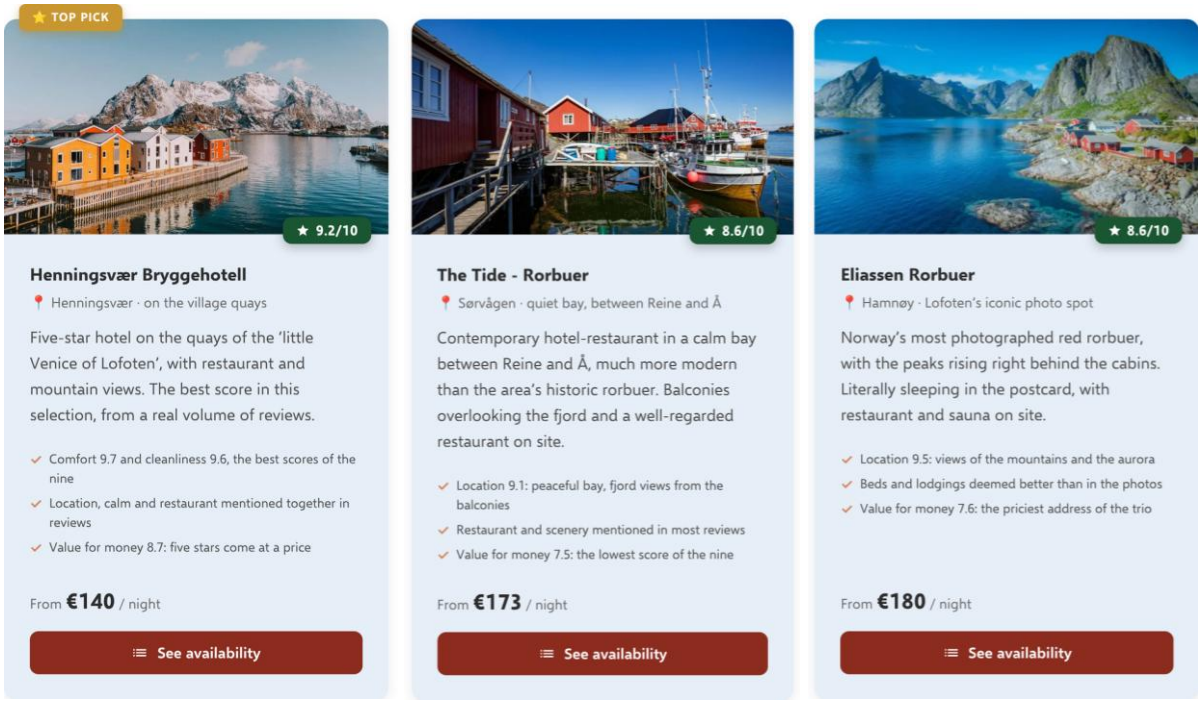
📍 Ramberg · by the water, between Ramberg and Reine

Brand-new rorbu hotel by the water, between Ramberg and Reine, with kitchenette, laundry and free EV chargers. Self-service operation, with keys in a code box.

- Cleanliness 9.6 and comfort 9.5, chalets described as new
- Free EV charging and laundry, often mentioned
- Children over three charged at the adult rate

From **€240** / night

See availability


TOP PICK
★ 9.2/10
Henningsvær Bryggehotell
Henningsvær · on the village quays
Five-star hotel on the quays of the 'little Venice of Lofoten', with restaurant and mountain views. The best score in this selection, from a real volume of reviews.
Comfort 9.7 and cleanliness 9.6, the best scores of the nine
Location, calm and restaurant mentioned together in reviews
Value for money 8.7: five stars come at a price
From €140 / night
See availability
★ 8.6/10
The Tide - Rorbuer
Sørvågen · quiet bay, between Reine and Å
Contemporary hotel-restaurant in a calm bay between Reine and Å, much more modern than the area's historic rorbuer. Balconies overlooking the fjord and a well-regarded restaurant on site.
Location 9.1: peaceful bay, fjord views from the balconies
Restaurant and scenery mentioned in most reviews
Value for money 7.5: the lowest score of the nine
From €173 / night
See availability
★ 8.6/10
Eliassen Rorbuer
Hamnøy · Lofoten's iconic photo spot
Norway's most photographed red rorbuer, with the peaks rising right behind the cabins. Literally sleeping in the postcard, with restaurant and sauna on site.
Location 9.5: views of the mountains and the aurora
Beds and lodgings deemed better than in the photos
Value for money 7.6: the priciest address of the trio
From €180 / night
See availability


HISTORIC RORBUER · LOFOTEN
Nusfjord Village & Resort, rorbuer in a Lofoten museum village
★★★★½ 9.4/10 · Fabulous · 598 reviews · location 9.7/10 · comfort 9.6/10
Nusfjord is one of the oldest fishing villages in Norway, tucked away at the end of a cove beneath the mountains. Its red and yellow rorbuer, tastefully restored, have become cosy rooms and suites, some set above the harbour. Leknes airport is 27 km away, with a paid shuttle.
The accommodation was a magnificent rorbu overlooking the harbour, the view from the room was magical! Nothing to fault on cleanliness, everything was spotless. — Guillaume, France
Breakfast buffet and Karoline restaurant praised in a large share of reviews · pizzas at Oriana, fish soup and waffles at the Landhandleriet café
Outdoor sauna and hot tubs facing the sea, included · very comfortable beds, bathrobes and slippers provided
Village visitors outside the rorbuer during the day, spa open afternoons only · reception closed after 5pm, parking sometimes far from the units
Free cancellation
From €250 / night
See availability

A few budget-friendly places to stay in the Lofoten Islands



Fast Hotel Svolvær

📍 Svolvær · central location

The cheapest in Svolvær, and the listing owns it: staff and facilities below seven out of ten, but a central location and a rate that stays under eighty euros.

- Location 8.8: the only decent sub-score on the listing
- Nearly twelve hundred reviews: the 7.0 score is solid
- Staff and facilities at 6.8: the lowest level in the guide

From **€78** / night

See availability



Kræmmervika Rorbuer

📍 Ballstad · rustic rorbuer by the sea

Rustic rorbuer and hostel by the sea in Ballstad. Spacious cabins with an unapologetically raw feel, plus a garden, laundry and temporary art galleries on site.

- Waterside location and rustic charm often mentioned
- Cabins called spacious, team quick to sort out problems
- Kitchens and bathrooms deemed basic, cleanliness could be better

From **€80** / night

See availability



Scandic Svolvær

📍 Svolvær · on the water, in the harbour

Chain hotel on the water right in Svolvær harbour, with a view that comes up in almost every review. Functional rooms and a breakfast described as incredible.

- Location 9.4: on the water, in the heart of Svolvær harbour
- View and breakfast mentioned together in most reviews
- Value for money 7.6: you can feel the Scandic rate

From **€110** / night

See availability



Fish factory

📍 Ballstad · converted old fish factory

Former fish factory turned guesthouse in Ballstad, with shared kitchen and lounge. Big spaces, water views, and a rate that's still rare in Lofoten.

- Every sub-score nine or above, value for money 9.1
- Views and large living spaces mentioned in most reviews
- Shared bathroom: awkward at peak times

From **€80** / night

See availability



Ure Lodge

📍 Sennesvik · by the sea, east of Leknes

Apartments in an old building by the sea, in Sennesvik, with sauna and hot tub. Generous space and open views, for a moderate rate by Lofoten standards.

- Cleanliness 9.1, comfort 9.0, space and sea views often cited
- Charm of the historic building noted by guests
- Staff 8.1: nobody on site, vague communication

From **€95** / night

See availability



Gammelbanken Seaview Suites

📍 Ballstad · modern suites with sea views

Modern sea-view suites in Ballstad, in a soundproofed building with terrace and free parking. The best score of the trio, but from a still small sample.

- Cleanliness and comfort both at 9.6, the best of the trio
- Modern, well-equipped apartments with careful design
- Beds to make yourself on arrival, and only 97 reviews

From **€98** / night

See availability

Staying in Ballstad, a central and really lovely spot



★ 8.7/10

Hemmingodden Lodge

📍 Ballstad · cabins facing the sea

Former fishing lodge turned modern address in Ballstad, with restaurant, sauna and bar. Sea-facing, well-equipped cabins, for the lowest rate of this trio.

- ✓ Comfort 9.1 and cleanliness 8.9, view very often mentioned
- ✓ Cabins described as cute, modern and well equipped
- ✓ Value for money 8.2: the lowest of the trio

From **€140** / night

See availability



★ 9.8/10

Cabin in Lofoten with spectacular view

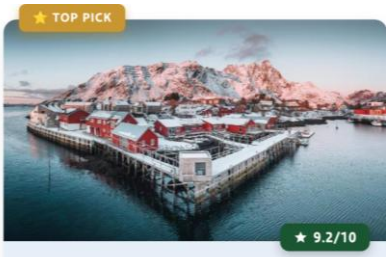
📍 Ballstad · entire house, mountain views

Entire hundred-square-metre house in Ballstad, with three bedrooms, rented exclusively. The best sub-scores in the whole Lofoten selection, but from a still very small sample.

- ✓ Facilities, cleanliness and location all at 9.8
- ✓ Layout, decor and view praised in almost every review
- ✓ Only 46 reviews, and Wi-Fi rated just 7.5

From **€220** / night

See availability



★ TOP PICK

★ 9.2/10

Hattvika Lodge

📍 Ballstad · design cabins by the sea

Design cabins by the sea in Ballstad, with restaurant, sauna and guided activities from the lodge. The most stylish address in Lofoten, with the price tag to match.

- ✓ Staff 9.6, cleanliness and comfort both at 9.6
- ✓ Renovated rorbuer, fully equipped, and a much-praised team
- ✓ Value for money 8.5: three hundred euros a night

From **€300** / night

See availability



💰 BUDGET-FRIENDLY

★ 8.1/10

Kræmmervika Rorbuer

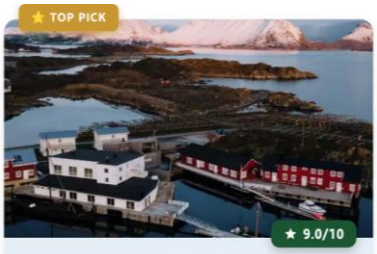
📍 Ballstad · rustic rorbuer by the sea

Rustic rorbuer and hostel by the sea in Ballstad. Spacious cabins with an unapologetically raw feel, plus a garden, laundry and temporary art galleries on site.

- ✓ Staff 8.7: responsive team, rustic charm often mentioned
- ✓ Waterside location praised in most reviews
- ✓ Facilities 7.8: kitchens and bathrooms deemed basic

From **€80** / night

See availability



★ TOP PICK

★ 9.0/10

Solsiden Brygge Rorbuer

📍 Ballstad · on the village harbour

Recent rorbuer on the harbour of Ballstad, a still-working fishing village off the tourist trail, with tastefully decorated rooms and a very generous breakfast.

- ✓ Staff 9.5 and comfort 9.4, from over a thousand reviews
- ✓ Rooms described as spacious, clean and well equipped
- ✓ Value for money 8.6: fair without being a bargain

From **€145** / night

See availability



★ 9.3/10

Kræmmervikveien 33

📍 Ballstad · entire house for six people

Entire seventy-five-square-metre house in Ballstad, with three bedrooms and six beds. Designed for a group, with a location that reviews rate 9.6 out of ten.

- ✓ Location 9.6 and value for money 9.3, quiet highlighted
- ✓ House described as warm and well heated in winter
- ✓ Only 46 reviews, and comfort 8.9: the lowest of the trio

From **€269** / night

See availability

FIND YOUR DREAM PLACE TO STAY IN THE LOFOTEN ISLANDS

WHERE TO EAT

- Gammelbua, a Norwegian restaurant in Reine (the best in my opinion, not cheap)
- Tapperiet, Norwegian cuisine in Reine
- Anita's Seafood, an amazing setting, in Sakrisoy
- Gadus, in Hamnoy
- Karoline, in Nusfjord
- Digg, in Leknes
- Unstad Arctic Surf (especially for their kannelbole that are to die for)
- Fiskekrogen, in Henningsvaer
- Balloon Burger in Svolvaer
- Bacalao, in Svolvaer
- Kjokkenet in Svolvaer



Gammelbua in Reine



Is this guide useful to you?

It's *free* and it'll stay that way. If you'd like to help me keep it going, you can use the links in this guide or in the articles: it doesn't cost you a penny more. Or you can buy me a virtual coffee, it really makes my day :)

Activities · Hotels · Car · Buy me a coffee (€5)

HOW TO GET THERE AND GET AROUND

- In the following article I share *all the ways to get to Lofoten*
- Closest **train** station: Narvik (coming from Stockholm) or Bodo (Norwegian network), then take the ferry to Moskenes

- **Airport** closest to the islands:
  - Evenes (Harstad/Narvik), located 3 h from Svolvaer
  - Bodo, then take the ferry to Moskenes
  - Leknes and Svolvaer: you can only get there *from Bodo*
  - Coming from France or Belgium, there is always at least one stopover (more if you're coming from outside Paris, while waiting for direct flights to Oslo). Airlines flying to Evenes and Bodo:
    - Norwegian
    - Wideroe (the only airline flying to Leknes and Svolvaer)
    - FlySAS
    - You absolutely must COMPARE, and try shifting your dates by a day or two. One example of a comparison site: *Booking Flights* (and its prediction tool). Reliable.

- Plenty of options by **bus**. **Journey planner**:
  - https://www.reisnordland.no/
    - App to buy tickets
  - https://entur.no/

- For the **ferry** Bodo – Moskenes:
  - https://www.torghatten.no/en/our-routes/18-782

- Renting a **car**:
  - There are car rental agencies in
    - Moskenes
    - Leknes
    - Svolvaer city center
    - Svolvaer airport
    - The airport of Evenes
  - Don't forget to comare, and to compare the comparators!



SVOLVAER

Svolvaer is the main town in the north of Lofoten. And it's a very pretty little town, really pleasant since it's surrounded by mountains, with its archipelago and a lovely harbor.

Staying in Svolvaer for your Lofoten trip is a good idea if you have several bases. Because Svolvaer is far from the sights in the south. So what can work really well is to spend a few days in the south, like in Reine or Ballstad, and a few days in Svolvaer.

But in any case, Svolvaer is well worth a little visit!

How to get to Svolvaer

- **Ferry**:
  - there is a *ferry* between *Svolvaer and Skutvik* (from June 1st to August 30) and it takes cars
  - there is also the Hurtigruten which stops in Svolvaer
  - or you can take the *ferry between Bodo and Moskenes*, and then drive for 2 h 15

- **Plane**:
  - there is a small airport in Svolvaer, served by Wideroe. There is always a stop in Bodo, usually coming from Oslo
  - otherwise there is the Harstad/Narvik airport (also called Evenes), which is a 3 h drive away and has direct flights
  - or the Leknes airport, but it's small too

- **Car**:
  - It's a 7 h drive coming from Tromso
  - 3 h 30 from Andenes (north of the Vesteralen)
  - More than 5 h from Finnsnes in Senja
  - 2 h from Reine

- **Bus**:
  - Bus 300 crosses the whole of Lofoten, from Narvik to A i Lofoten, twice a day
  - You should check *Entur.no* or *Reisnordland.no* — two super efficient journey planners — to get timetables and connections
  - The routes are:
    - Narvik – Svolvaer: 3 h 50
    - Tromso – Svolvaer: 7 h 20 (take the 100 then the 300)

Renting a car in Svolvaer

Do you need to rent a car to visit Svolvaer and the surrounding area?

Svolvaer is in itself a very small town. So it's not necessary. Even to reach the closest surroundings like Kabelvag, you can do it by bus.

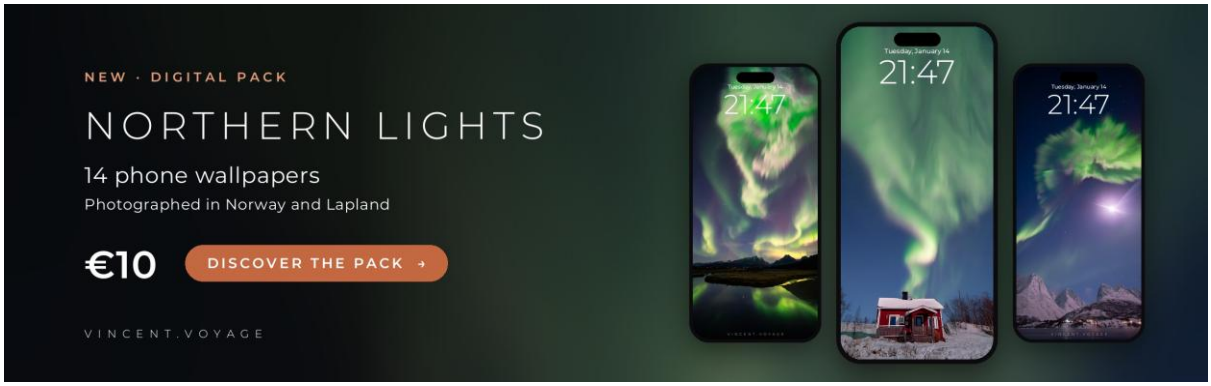
However to go further afield, to explore around the town, having a car is important. Not essential since there is a bus network (we'll get to that), but important for flexibility.

You'll find the main car rental agencies, both in town and at the airport (that is, 5 minutes out of town): Hertz, Avis, Budget, Sixt.

However, you really need to book in advance because there isn't a huge amount of supply and prices can skyrocket. Roughly, a “normal” price in Svolvaer is around €50 a day. But if you book late, it can climb to €100.

To rent a car:

- You have to compare
- And compare the comparison sites! They have different deals
- I use *Discover Cars* and *Bookingcom*



What to see in Svolvaer

Svolvaer is a really pleasant little town, with the mountains on one side and the sea on the other. It's an excellent base, but in the town itself there isn't a huge amount to see. That said:

- The harbor, really pleasant
- The island of Skrova with its turquoise waters
- The little peninsula behind the Svinoya Rorbuer, and walking all the way to Moloen i Svolvaer, for the view
- The center of Kabelvag with its wooden houses
- The lighthouse viewpoint at Kabelvag
- The LofotAkvariet, a fun experience
- The Djevelporten hike for a view over the whole town
- The *Magic Icebar*, way nicer than the one in Tromso



Things to do in Svolvaer

Svolvaer is the starting point for lots of great activities:

- **Go kayaking** around the island of Skrova
  - *Info and booking*



- **See the northern lights**
  - Here's a *list of the different spots*
  - And if you want a guide, *here's a recommendation*



- **See the Trollfjord** by boat, the narrowest fjord in the country
  - See it on a *[silent electric boat](#)*
  - Or on a *[RIB boat](#)*



- Go on a **snowshoe walk** in the heights above Svolvaer
  - *[Info and booking](#)*

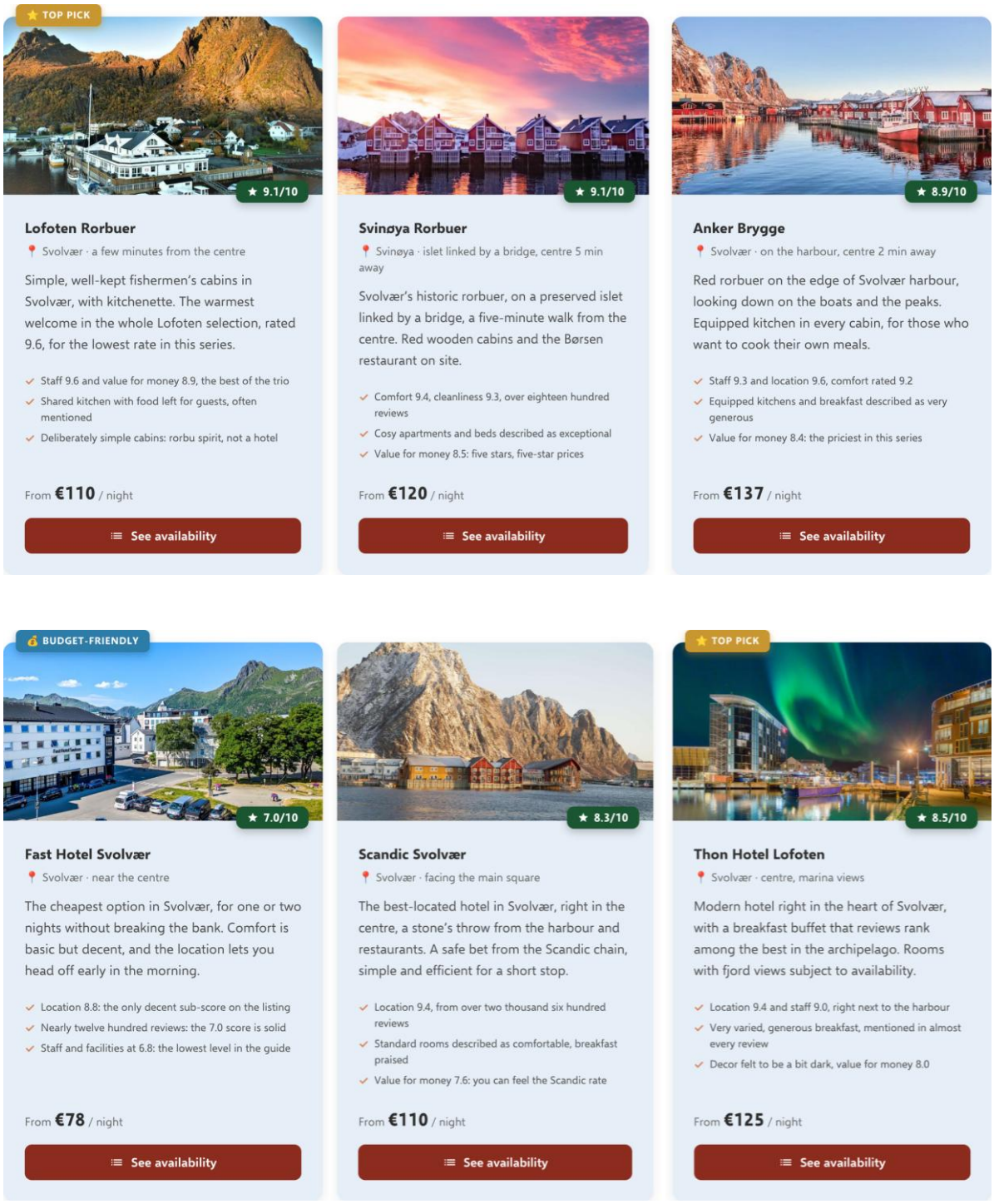
- **Go fishing** on a fishing boat
  - *[Info and booking](#)*

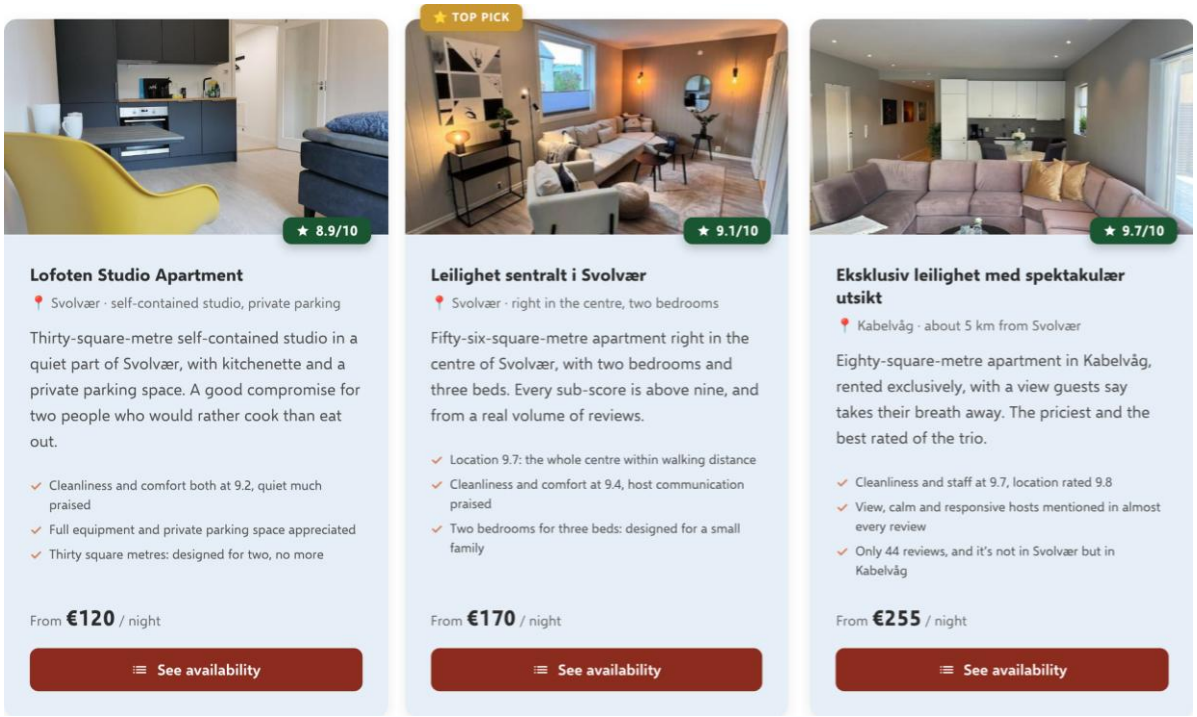


Where to stay in Svolvaer

Svolvaer is a good base for exploring the north of the Lofoten. It's a bit far for the south, so you can split your stay between two places, one in Svolvaer, the other in Reine, Ballstad or Leknes for example.

Here's a list of quality accommodations, some cheap ones, some rorbuer, some apartments. It's in Svolvaer that you get the most choice, quite simply!



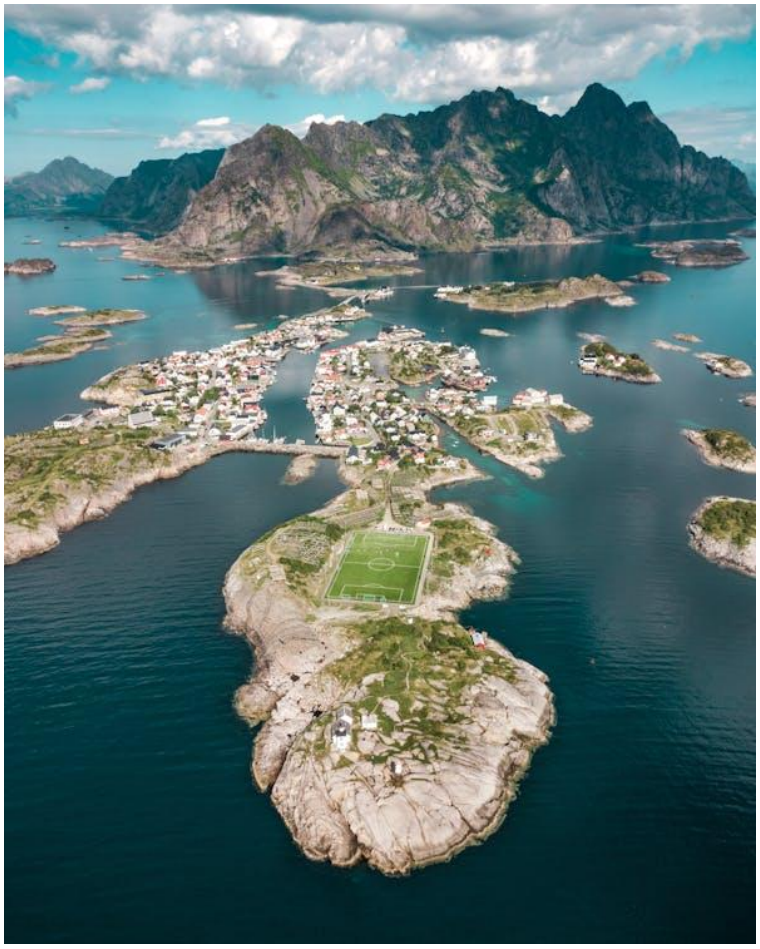

TOP PICK
★ 8.9/10
Lofoten Studio Apartment
Svolvær · self-contained studio, private parking
Thirty-square-metre self-contained studio in a quiet part of Svolvær, with kitchenette and a private parking space. A good compromise for two people who would rather cook than eat out.
Cleanliness and comfort both at 9.2, quiet much praised
Full equipment and private parking space appreciated
Thirty square metres: designed for two, no more
From €120 / night
See availability
★ 9.1/10
Leilighet sentralt i Svolvær
Svolvær · right in the centre, two bedrooms
Fifty-six-square-metre apartment right in the centre of Svolvær, with two bedrooms and three beds. Every sub-score is above nine, and from a real volume of reviews.
Location 9.7: the whole centre within walking distance
Cleanliness and comfort at 9.4, host communication praised
Two bedrooms for three beds: designed for a small family
From €170 / night
See availability
★ 9.7/10
Eksklusiv leilighet med spektakulær utsikt
Kabelvåg · about 5 km from Svolvær
Eighty-square-metre apartment in Kabelvåg, rented exclusively, with a view guests say takes their breath away. The priciest and the best rated of the trio.
Cleanliness and staff at 9.7, location rated 9.8
View, calm and responsive hosts mentioned in almost every review
Only 44 reviews, and it's not in Svolvær but in Kabelvåg
From €255 / night
See availability


HARBOUR-VIEW FLATS · LOFOTEN
Nordis Apartments, 4★ apartments with balcony in the heart of Svolvær (Lofoten)
★★★★ ½ 8.8/10 · Superb · 462 reviews · location 9.7/10
The rare perk here: you sleep right in the centre of Svolvær — restaurants, boats and harbour 100 m away — but in a real apartment with its own kitchen, living room and balcony. Guests come back above all for the double harbour / snowy-mountains view from the picture windows, and for the unexpected calm despite the central location. Ideal for a family or a group that wants a Lofoten base without hotel timetables.
2- or 3-bedroom apartments (up to 6+ pers.) · balcony in all · fitted kitchen
Heart of Svolvær · restaurants 100 m away · Svolvær airport 5 km
Nordis restaurant on site (European cuisine) · free Wi-Fi · pets allowed
Free cancellation
From 260 €
Check availability


DISCOVER ALL THE PLACES
TO STAY IN SVOLVAER

HENNINGSVAER

Henningsvaer is a really pleasant fishing village close to Svolvaer. It's less typically Norwegian than Reine or A for example, but it's still worth a quick visit because it's really nice and pretty, especially its little harbor with stunning mountains as a backdrop. For sunset, it's fantastic.



How to get to Henningsvaer

- By **car**:
  - 35 min from Svolvaer
  - 1 h from Leknes
  - Stop off on the way at the little beach of Rorvikstranda
  - Heads up, there's a parking lot at the entrance to the village of Henninsvaer, and it's paid

- By **bus**:
  - From Svolvaer: bus 743, which runs 5 times a day
  - From Leknes: you need to catch the 743 at Rorvik, via the 300 or the 741

- With an **agency**
  - If you're in Svolvaer, you can go with a guide who tours the main points of interest in the area, obviously including Henningsvaer



What to do in Henninsvaer

There isn't necessarily a lot to see in the village, which is very pleasant. It's mainly **the harbor** and also the famous **football pitch**. If you have a drone, it's the perfect playground!

The road to get there is really nice too. If you want to **hike** there's the Nipen which offers a great view over the archipelago

Henningsvaer is growing, with more and more **little cafés** that are super cool, like the Lysstøperiet

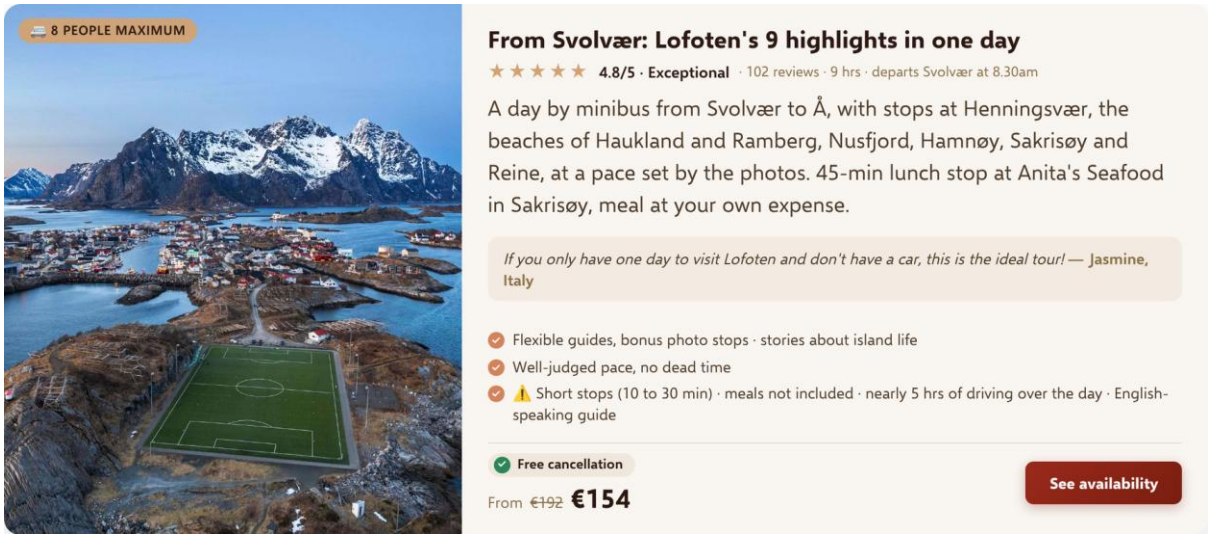
In the gallery, you'll find a **collection of paintings** by painters from northern Norway, mostly of local landscapes.

Beyond that, there are quite a few options for boat trips straight out of Henningsvaer.



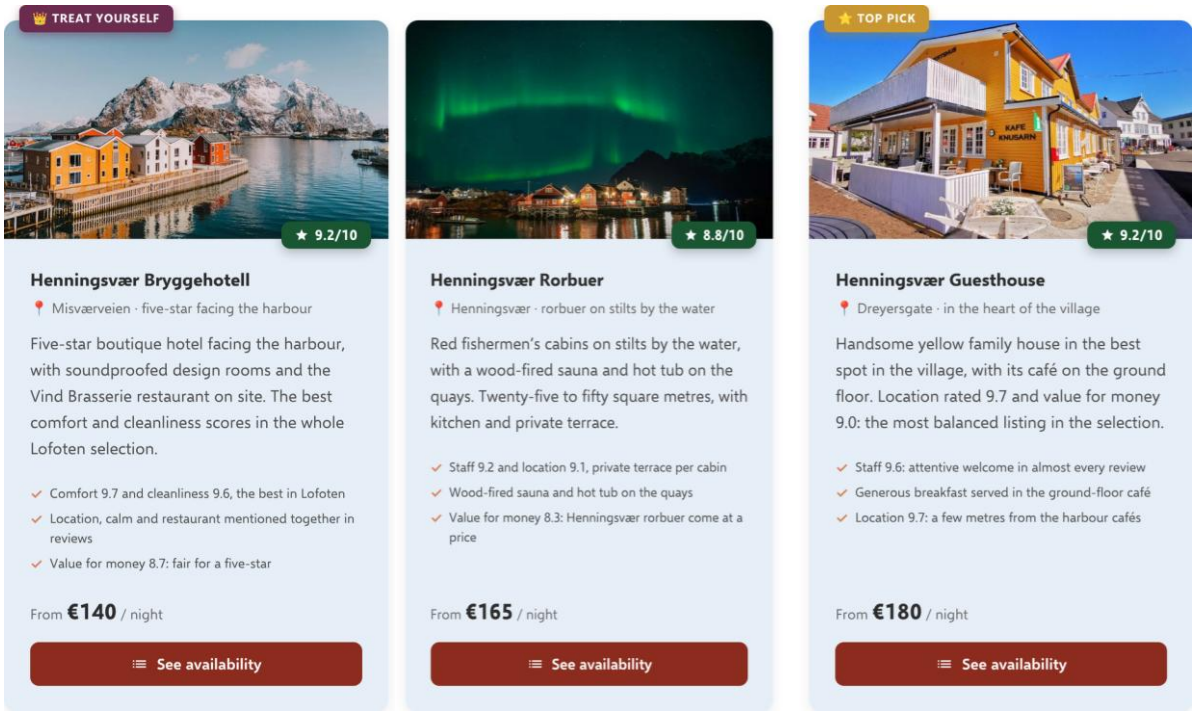


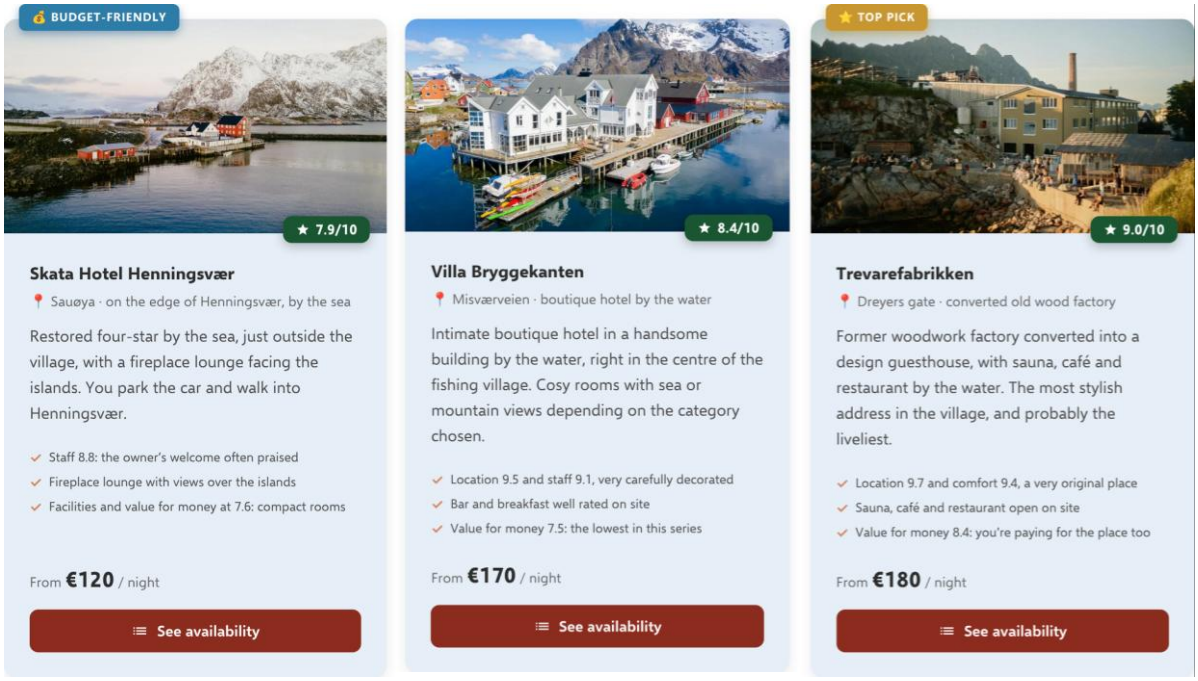
If you don't have a car, you can still visit Henningsvaer with the various guides who take you around the archipelago.



Where to stay in Henningsvaer

Staying in Henningsvaer is far from a bad idea, because the setting is lovely. It's quieter than Svolvaer, there are little cafés and you're close to the sights further south. So if you have a car, it's a good option





NUSFJORD

Nusfjord, (yet another!) pretty village in the heart of the Lofoten. And this one is truly tiny. It was renovated not long ago and now feels a lot like one big museum. Each shelter has been turned into a period scene explaining daily life and fishing, with tools from the era.

It's interesting — the village entrance now has a fee (100 NOK). It helps pay for the upkeep of the village and the historic areas.

There's also the mini harbor, which is really pretty, shaped like a horseshoe. And with lots of yellow buildings. Honestly, it's really lovely!

You can also stroll a bit further out to the lighthouse.

And while I'm at it, the road to the village is really beautiful!





How to get to Nusfjord

- By **car** it's very simple. 30 minutes from Leknes, 1 h 30 from Svolvaer and 50 minutes from Reine. There's a parking lot just before the village entrance.
- By **bus**, easy: there isn't one.
- With an **agency**, Nusfjord is included in tours that visit the most beautiful spots in the Lofoten
    - *Info and booking*

What to see in Nusfjord

As I was saying, the village is tiny. You could even say it's more of a historic village than a living one. So here's what you must see:

- The various buildings recreating the fishermen's way of life
- The harbor, tiny but really pretty
- Including the view from up by the elevated machinery
- The red houses just before the village entrance
- And you can walk to the lighthouse a bit further on, passing the building about whaling









Where to stay in Nusfjord

Nusfjord can be an interesting option for the night. The setting is unreal, with a little end-of-the-world feel. And on top of that, the accommodations here are absolutely lovely, but pricey. You're paying for the setting and the seclusion, something you really won't find everywhere.

Can you stay in Nusfjord for a whole trip? Well, you're not very far from everything, so if you want peace and quiet and a quality hotel, I'd say why not!





HAMNOY AND SAKRISOY

Two teeny villages separated by just a bridge. Okay, a super photogenic bridge from which you take the iconic photo of Hamnoy, but it's what takes you from Hamnoy, the fishing village with red houses, to Sakrisoy which instead has yellow houses.

These two villages are super photogenic because behind their houses and rorbuer, you have really beautiful mountains rising up. So it's ideal for gorgeous photos, especially when the northern lights show up (if the weather cooperates of course, and that's… far from guaranteed!)

What to see in Hamnoy

Obviously, **the bridge**. Because it's quite simply THE most famous view in the Lofoten.

But also go for a wander around the cottages of Eliassen Rorbuer, as they're pretty red houses and you can take some lovely photos

Also, stop just before at the little harbour, which is really nice





What to see in Sakrisoy

It's even smaller than Hamnoy! There's the famous yellow house facing the mountains — everyone stops there, and rightly so. Right next to it is also a good spot for the northern lights.

You can head to the other side, onto the little island with all the yellow houses; there's normally a nice view from Olenilsøya kystfort.

And you can also go for a meal or a coffee at Anita Seafood, the salmon there is delicious!





How to get to Hamnoy and Sakrisoy

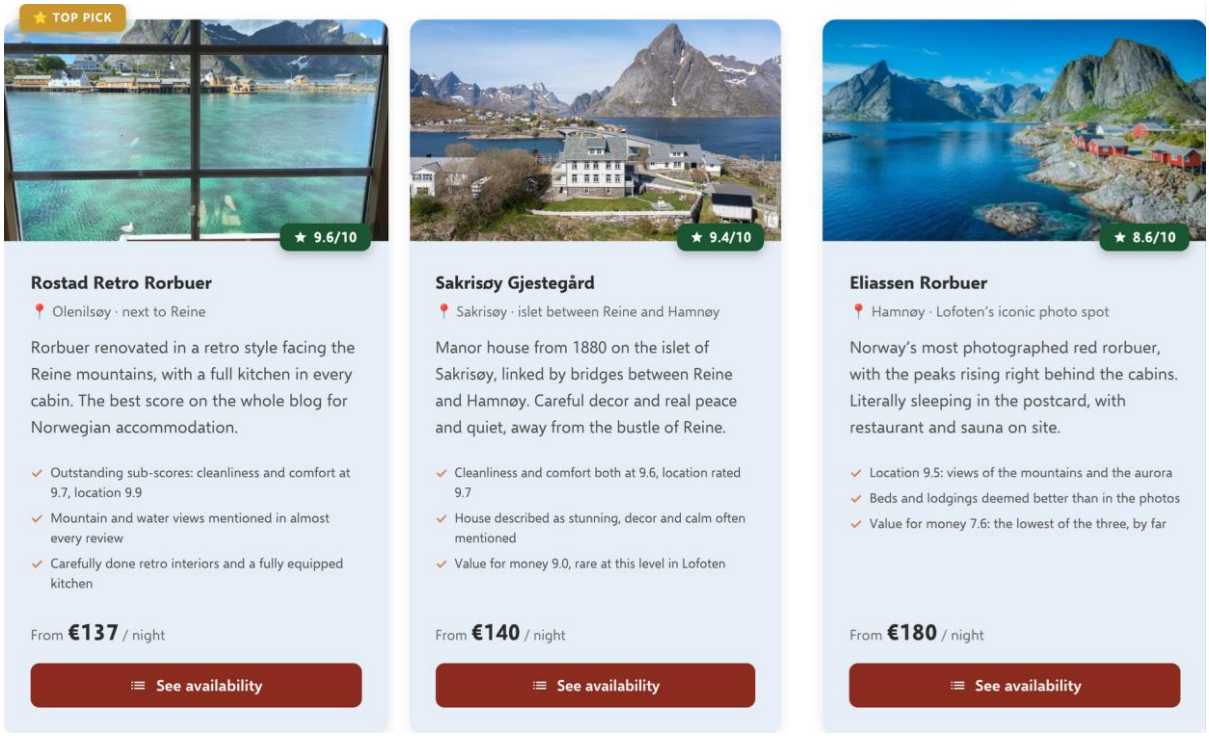
- By car it's super simple: it's on the main road, 1 h from Leknes. You're 10 minutes from Reine.
- By bus, you need to take bus 742 (it runs 4/5 times a day) or the 300 (once a day)

Where to stay in Hamnoy and Sakrisoy

And here it's great. There are plenty of superb accommodations, with rorbuer pretty much everywhere, and good-quality ones. Naturally, with this location, the views are insane.

It's also very handy for exploring the southern part of the Lofoten, since you're not far from the beaches, Leknes, Ramberg… so yes, you can easily explore from here

You can click directly on the little cards to access the accommodations and make your bookings





REINE

THE ultimate postcard village.

Why? Because it has everything it takes to win you over:

- Insane views before you even reach the village
- The incredible view from the bridge
- Ultra photogenic red houses
- And a really good restaurant, yes yes

And what's cool is that it's beautiful in every season. In summer with the turquoise waters, in autumn with the colors, and in winter with the snow





Getting to Reine

- It's very simple, it's on the main road. 1 h 15 from Leknes, 15 min from A i Lofoten and 5 minutes from Hamnoy and Sakrisoy.
    - There's a free parking lot on the bridge; otherwise it's by Tapperiet and the gas station but that one is paid (and yes, they do check)
- By bus, it's the 742 (or the 300) from Leknes or A, otherwise from Svolvaer take the 741 to Leknes then the 742

What to see in Reine

It's pretty simple, there are amazing viewpoints everywhere! In particular

- Before entering Reine, by the Valen cabins
- The bridge facing the mountains at the entrance to Reine
- The harbor, with all the little red houses

You can also do the famous **Reinebringen** hike, which gives you a magical view over the archipelago. Be careful though, don't go up in winter because (for starters, it's forbidden) you can end up stuck up there because of the ice and snow, and every year they have to rescue tourists by helicopter.

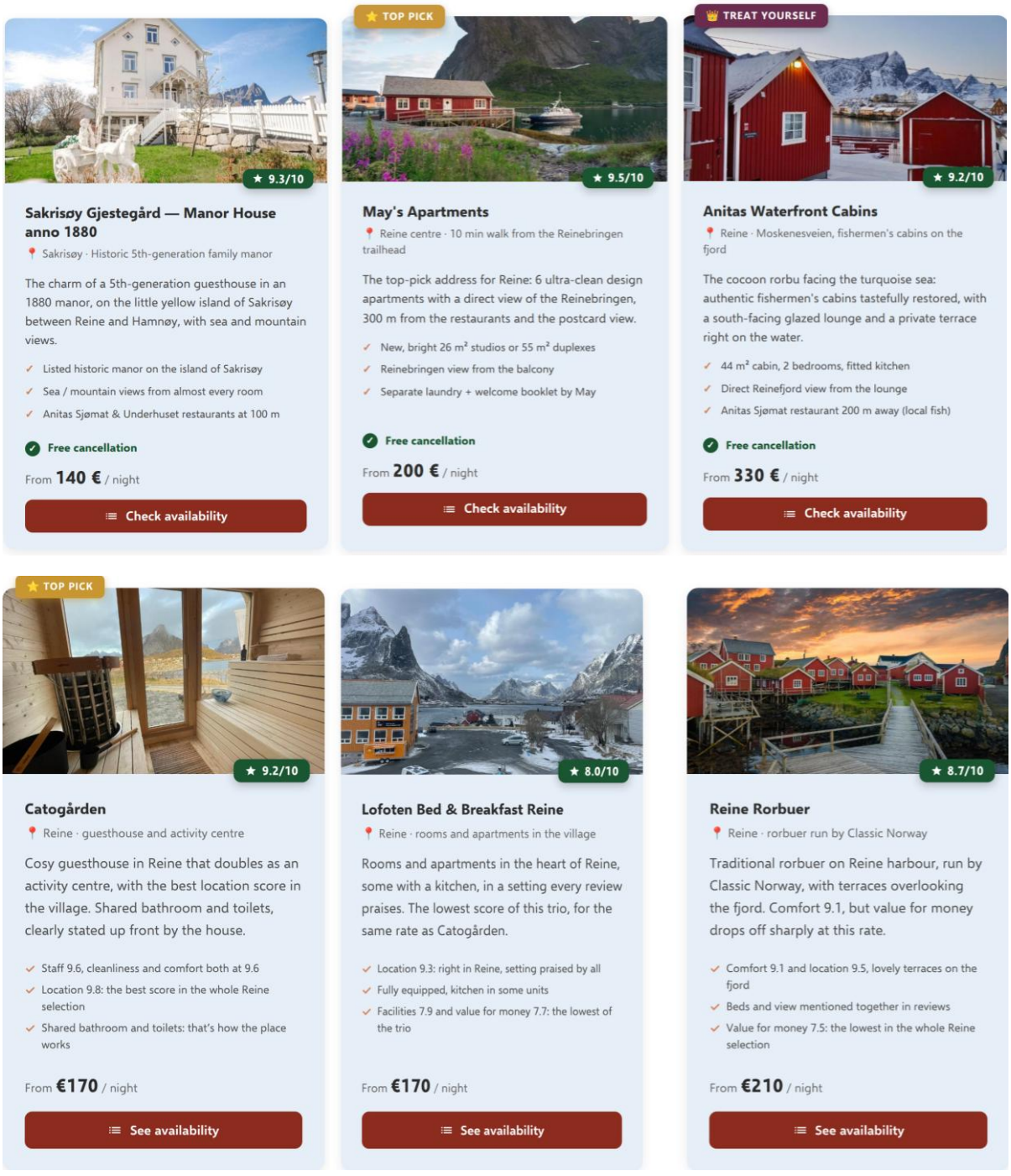
I recommend **having dinner at Reine Rorbuer**, it's excellent, but you'd better book ahead. The Tapperiet is decent but has dropped a bit in quality, I find.

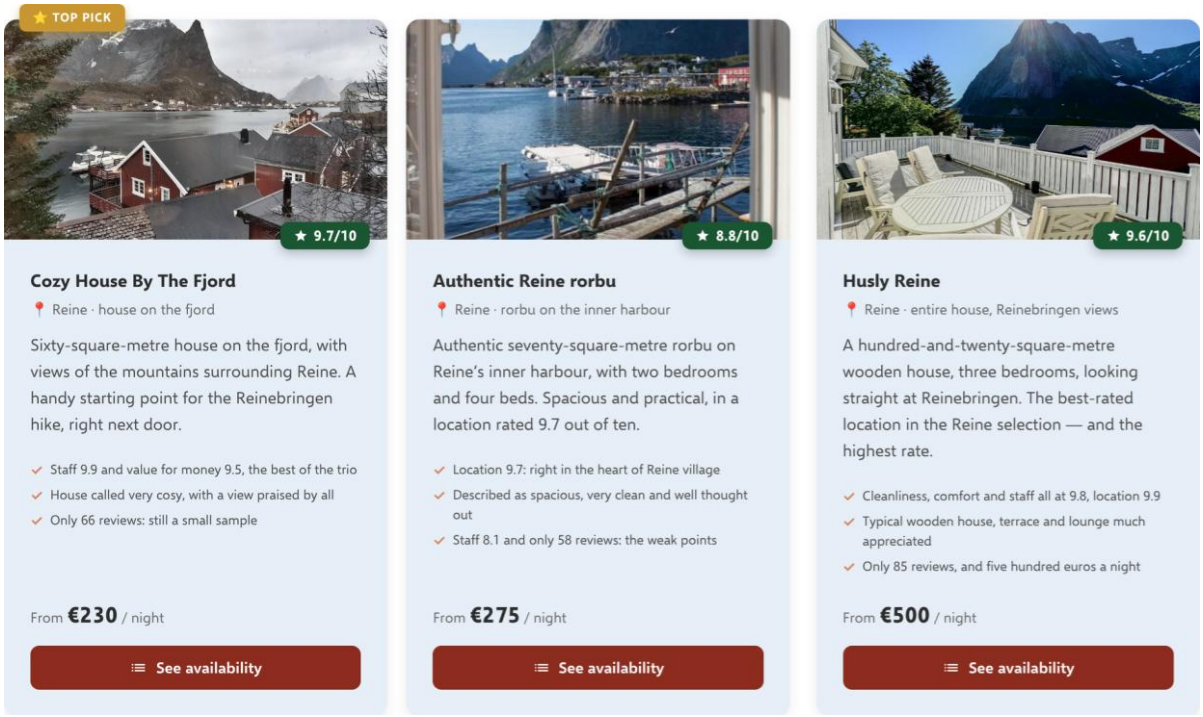




Where to stay in Reine

Reine is a very good base. I've already stayed there quite a while to explore the south, and honestly, it works really well. And the setting, wow, wow, wow!





SEE ALL THE PLACES TO STAY AROUND REINE

Å i LOFOTEN

Å is the village at the end of the world. Truly. Because it's the very end of the road that runs across the Lofoten islands. And you find yourself in an authentic fishing village, still very much active, with a whole bunch of red houses on stilts.

It's really lovely, and even though it's become quite touristy, honestly you're not tripping over other visitors.

There are a few walks to do in the area, notably around the lake, if there's no snow (otherwise it's a bit of a slog), and the viewpoint at the tip of the peninsula. But basically, in Å you're mostly there to soak up the setting.

There's also a small fishing museum, but I haven't visited it yet, so I can't tell you more.

On the other hand, there's a bakery that is, apparently, incredible: Bakeriet på Å

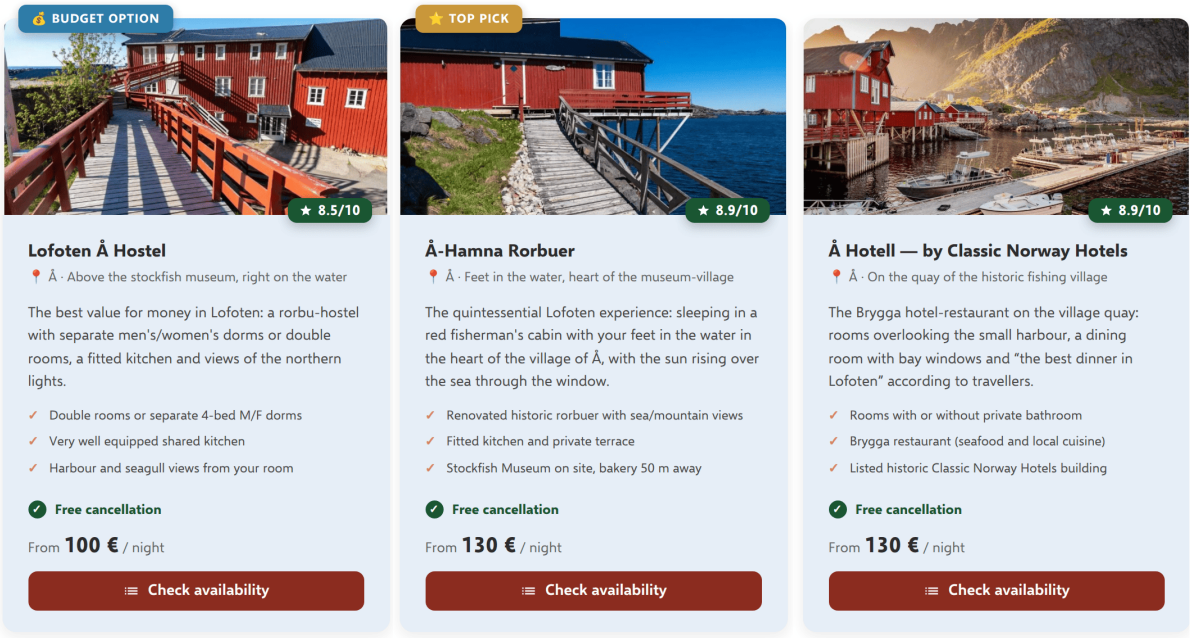








You're at the very end of the road here. But honestly, who wouldn't love to sleep in a setting like this, in these little houses? *Just click on the cards to access them*!





S E N J A

Full article here

SENJA AT A GLANCE

Most beautiful villages to see

- Husoy, the true fishing village
- Gryllefjord, the village at the end of the world
- Fjordgard for its setting

4 Best viewpoints

- Sifjord, the descent after the tunnel
- The viewing platform at Bergsbotn
- Tungeneset and the Devil's Teeth
- The bridge at Gryllefjord

3 best activities

- *Hiking*
- *Kayaking*
-

3 best restaurants

- *Hamn i Senja*
- *Senja Fjordhotell*
- *Mefjord Brygge*

3 best places to stay

- *Mefjord Brygge*
- *Hamn i Senja - Hamn*
- *Kaikanten - Gryllefjord*

3 cafés to relax in

- *Ha! Coffee here mostly means the mini-markets*
- *Or at the hotels (Hamn, Mefjord brygge, Senja Fjordhotell…)*

Rental car comparison sites

- *Discover Cars*
- *Booking.com*

Best time to visit

- Northern lights: early September to late March
- Hiking: early June to early October
- Summer is fantastic and not too crowded

How long to stay in Senja

- 2 full days for a very quick overview: 1 day in the northern fjords, 1 in the west
- 3–4 days to take your time and enjoy the island
- *A week to relax and make the most of the hikes*

MUST-SEE PLACES

Exploring Senja is easy, as there are only 3 or 4 roads. So take your time driving them, and head to the western part where there is absolutely no one

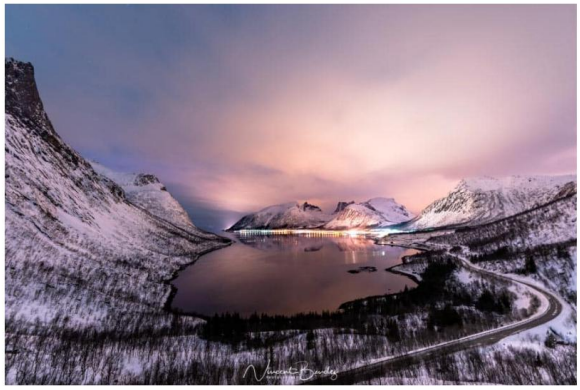
- The **villages**, worth it mostly for their setting
    - Gryllefjord
        - Walk to the head of the fjord and, outside winter, climb above the tunnel
        - The road to Torsken
    - Mefjordvaer
    - Fjordguard
    - Husoy



The view from the bridge at Gryllefjord

- The heavenly waters of **Hamn** i Senja
- The view from the platform at **Bergsbotn**





- **Bovaer** and its beach
- The viewpoint at **Tungeneset** overlooking the Devil's Teeth



- **Ersford**
- **Sifjord**, the most beautiful view on the island
- The road to **Flakstad**
- The road to **Rodsand**
- The **Anderdalen park**



The view over Sifjord

Is this guide useful to you?



It's *free* and it'll stay that way. If you'd like to help me keep it going, you can use the links in this guide or in the articles: it doesn't cost you a penny more. Or you can buy me a virtual coffee, it really makes my day :)

Activities · **Hotels** · **Car** · **Buy me a coffee (€5)**

ACTIVITIES

Senja is a **very undeveloped** island, and that's what makes it charming. There are no tour operators, or almost none (Senja Wild in Skaland) — the hotels are the ones offering activities such as boat trips, snowshoe outings…

- See the **northern lights**
  - Senja is a wonderful place to see the northern lights, as there is no light pollution
  - General article about the northern lights
  - Where to see the northern lights in Senja
    - Tungeneset, Bergsbotn, the beaches, Skaland…
  - There are no tour operators; the hotels (Hamn, Mefjord brygge…) offer outings in general.
  - Senja Wild offers activities under the northern lights (snowshoeing, kayaking…)







- Go **dog sledding**
  - With Senja Husky Adventure, in Vangsvik

- Seeing the **reindeer**
  - There is no reindeer farm in Senja. However, you can spot them quite easily in the center of the island and in the Anderdalen park, in the south near Tranoy. There are of course also **moose** — you may come across them at night.

- Going **hiking**
  - In Senja there are hikes everywhere, and they are insane. The best known are Hesten and **Segla** starting from Fjaerland, the most iconic ones. **Husfjellet**, starting from Skaland, is magical too. The views are fantastic, as you tower above the mountains. And it can be done summer and winter alike, thanks to snowshoes — but be extremely careful with ice!

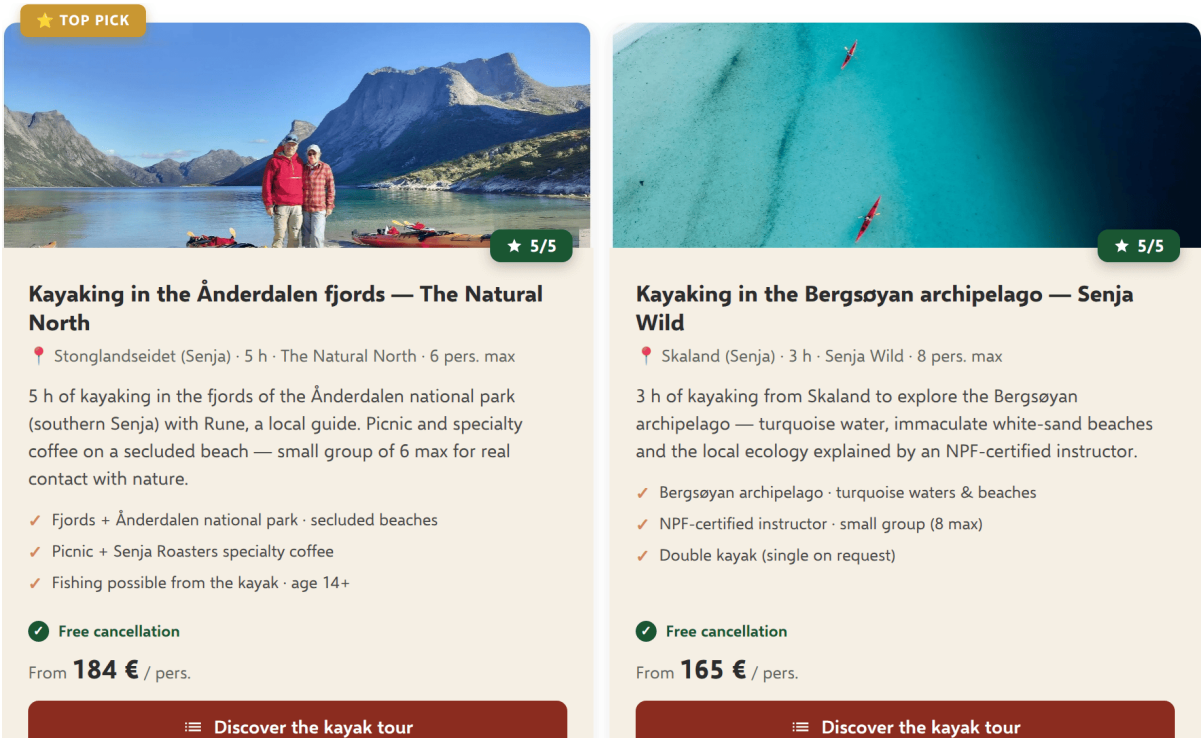




- Going **snowshoeing**
  - All the hotels on the island rent out (sometimes lend) snowshoes. Some offer guided outings (Hamn, Mefjordbrygge). You could also rent at Intersport, in Finnsnes.

- Seeing **whales** and going out by **boat**
  - No dedicated operator here. Hamn i Senja and Mefjordbrygge have boats and offer boat trips. There have been no whales around Senja for a few years now, so there is no dedicated whale tour anymore.

- **Kayak rental and lessons**
  - At Senja Wild in Skaland, among others, you can rent, take lessons, get your wetcard, or join a kayak tour of several hours… here are two examples below. Kayaking here is truly something exceptional: the water is crystal clear, the beaches are magnificent, and you are surrounded by mountains



WHERE TO STAY

My 6 favorite hotels in Senja

Along with the ones that are very good, and the lowest-priced ones, which I find are also excellent opportunities. That said, in Senja there isn't a huge amount of choice. And that's also why we love it.



★ 8.2/10

Hamn i Senja

📍 Hamn · small isolated archipelago, north coast

My all-time top pick: a complex set on its own islet, crystal-clear water and no one around. An exceptional setting, ideal for the northern lights.

- ✓ Heavenly setting on a small isolated archipelago
- ✓ Rooms, cabins and apartments with sea view
- ✓ Restaurant, sauna and hot tub on site

Free cancellation

From **140€** / night

Check availability



★ 8.8/10

Mefjord Brygge

📍 Mefjordvær · in the heart of a small fishing port

Excellent value for money and an adorable team. From the small room to the large cabin with sauna, in a very well located central village.

- ✓ Sauna, spa and in-house brasserie on site
- ✓ From the cosy room to the family apartment
- ✓ Hikes accessible on foot from the village

Free cancellation

From **130€** / night

Check availability



⭐ TOP PICK

★ 8.7/10

Storm Hotel Senja

📍 Husøy · on a tiny island fishing village

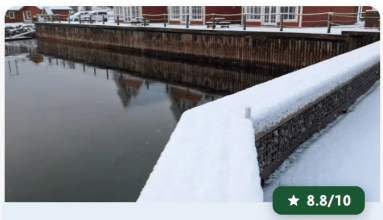
Brand new and completely atypical: set on the island of Husøy, one of Senja's most spectacular villages. The first reviews are excellent.

- ✓ Unique location on the island-village of Husøy
- ✓ Recent, designer and comfortable hotel
- ✓ Excellent guest reviews (8.7/10)

Free cancellation

From **170 €** / night

Check availability



★ 8.8/10

Senja Fjordhotell

📍 Stonglandseidet · south-west, by the water

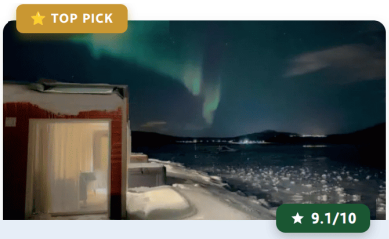
In the south-west of the island, where there is no one around. Small rooms, but above all lovely bungalows and fishermen's cabins by the water, Hamn-style.

- ✓ Bungalows and fishermen's cabins by the water
- ✓ Secluded, wild corner in the south of Senja
- ✓ Quite a few activities offered on site

Free cancellation

From **145€** / night

Check availability



⭐ TOP PICK

★ 9.1/10

Norwegian Wild

📍 Vangsvik · cabins facing the national park

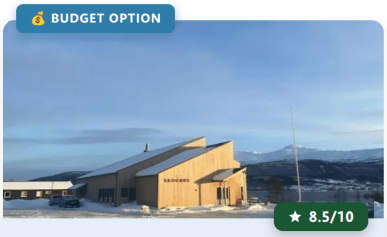
Traditional cabins by the fjord near the Ånderdalen park. The best value for money in Senja.

- ✓ Red cabins with sea view and traditional sauna
- ✓ Aurora chalets with optional private jacuzzi
- ✓ 8 km from Ånderdalen national park

Free cancellation

From **60 €** / night

Check availability



💰 BUDGET OPTION

★ 8.5/10

Skoghus

📍 Silsand · nature guesthouse, private beach

Welcoming guesthouse in the south of Senja with a private beach, 2 equipped shared kitchens and a large lounge with wood stove.

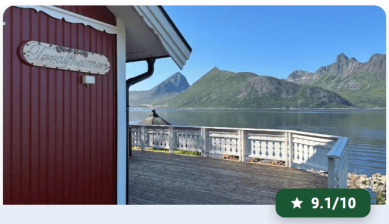
- ✓ Private beach and large garden in the middle of nature
- ✓ 2 equipped shared kitchens + wood-stove lounge
- ✓ Dogs welcome at no extra charge

Free cancellation

From **80 €** / night

Check availability

3 family houses to rent in Senja



Cozy house by the sea

📍 Tofta · house facing Husøy (10 people)

Red house at the water's edge facing the fishing village of Husøy. Ideal for groups of 10, with 5 bedrooms.

- ✓ 5 bedrooms for 10 people, huge terrace
- ✓ Direct view of Senja's peaks and the fjord
- ✓ Waterfall next door and northern lights from the terrace

Free cancellation

From **150 €** / night

Check availability



Wilderness Villa

📍 Silsand · log chalet facing the lake

Log chalet deep in the forest, facing a lake full of fish. Welcoming Finnish-Italian couple, fireplace and cosy décor.

- ✓ 4 bedrooms, 85 m² with fireplace and warm décor
- ✓ Private rowing boat on the lake + fishing (permit required)
- ✓ 10 min from Ånderdalen national park

Free cancellation

From **160 €** / night

Check availability



Senja Skaland

📍 Melkarhola · house with picture window on the fjord

90 m² house with a huge picture window over the fjord. Sauna on site, and seals visible from the windows.

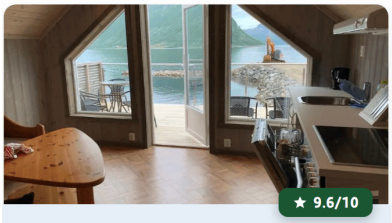
- ✓ 3 bedrooms, 90 m² with armchairs facing the fjord
- ✓ Private sauna and wood stoves in every room
- ✓ 10 min walk from the centre of Skåland

Free cancellation

From **170 €** / night

Check availability

3 cabins or apartments to rent



Rorbu på Kaldfarnes - Yttersia Senja

📍 Kaldfarnes · rorbu with a large picture window

Fjord-side rorbu with a huge picture window over the Kvænan. Large terrace, and snowshoes on loan.

- ✓ Huge picture window over the Bergsfjorden
- ✓ Full kitchenette (oven, washing machine, dishwasher)
- ✓ Spacious terrace and snowshoes on loan

Free cancellation

From **160 €** / night

Check availability



Skipperhuset 2, Kristian Isaksen suite

📍 Tofta · architect suite on the island of Husøy

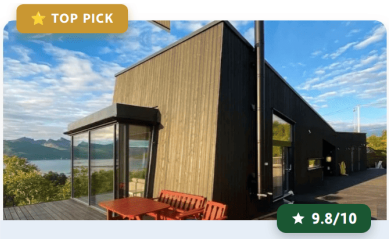
65 m² suite with splendid décor on the small fishermen's island of Husøy. Terrace facing the fjord for the northern lights.

- ✓ 2 air-conditioned bedrooms, 65 m², architect décor
- ✓ On the fishermen's island of Husøy, "at the end of the world"
- ✓ Heated terrace facing the fjord for the northern lights

Free cancellation

From **300 €** / night

Check availability



Senjavista

📍 Skaland · architect cabin overlooking the fjord

115 m² architect cabin overlooking the fjord at Skaland. Panoramic picture windows for spectacular northern lights.

- ✓ 4 bedrooms, 115 m² with XXL picture windows
- ✓ 10/10 rating for facilities, location and staff
- ✓ Northern lights and fjord in cinemascope from the living room

Free cancellation

From **400 €** / night

Check availability

FIND YOUR DREAM STAY IN SENJA!

WHERE TO EAT

- The restaurant at Hamn i Senja, very good but booking is essential
- The restaurant at Mefjordbrygge, very good, pricey but really very good
- The restaurant at Skagi — I haven't tried it yet
- A grill in Gryllefjord open until 9 pm (a luxury here!). Greasy, but it does the job
- The restaurant at Senja Fjordhotell — tried it this autumn, really good. Book ahead so they can plan (photo below)
- Nothing exciting in Finnsnes. But there's an Asian restaurant, a Burger King, a cafeteria…



MAP OF SENJA

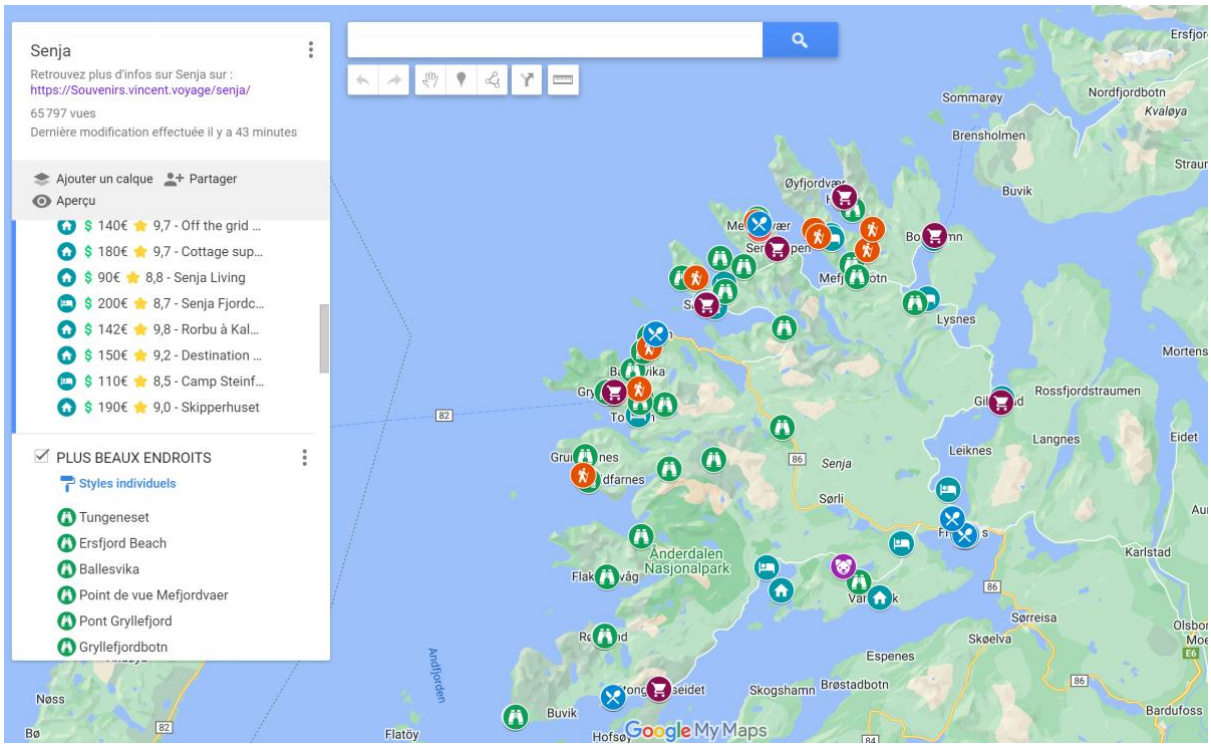
I've created a Google Maps map with all the info listed here, the essential info for your stay, so as to have everything gathered in one place.

You'll find:

- Accommodation with photo, price and rating
- The most beautiful spots with photo
- The hikes
- Restaurants and cafés
- The mini-markets (the supermarkets are in Silsand and Finnsnes)
- Activities such as dog sledding and kayaking

Once you're on the map, it works with layers. First, you can click on any item to get the details. Then you can toggle the layers on/off on the left. Super handy!

You can access the map by clicking here



HOW TO GET THERE AND GET AROUND

- Closest **train** station (well, the least far one): Narvik (coming from Stockholm) or Bodo (Norwegian network)

- **Airport** closest to the islands:
  - Tromso, a 3-hour drive away, the most convenient
  - Bardufoss, 1 hour to the south
    - You absolutely must COMPARE, and try shifting your dates by a day. Example of a comparison site: Kayak. Reliable.

- Very few options by **bus**. All the villages are connected to Silsand and Finnsnes, but not to each other. And there is only one bus per day. **Journey planner**:
  - https://entur.no/

- Ferry from Tromso: Brensholmen - Botnhamn:
  - *Everything you need to know about this ferry*
  - All year round
  - Timetable
  - Fares approx.: €10 per person, €27 per car

- Ferry from Andenes – Gryllefjord
  - Between May and September
  - Timetable
  - Fares

- Renting a **car**:
  - Because buses are so infrequent, a car remains almost essential to explore Senja. It's possible without one, but complicated — or you just need to be patient
  - There are car rental agencies in
    - Finnsnes
    - Bardufoss (the least far)
    - *But I recommend renting in Tromso*

- Car rental with **GETAROUND**
  - Very reliable, with some choice in Bardufoss, otherwise Tromso
  - Sign up and get €15 off your first rental



A day trip to Senja from Tromso

If you're based in Tromso and want to visit Senja during your stay, it's entirely possible. You have two options, which I explain in depth *in this article*:

- By car, you take the first *ferry from Brensholmen* (usually at 8 am)
  - Ideally, to save time and avoid an early-morning drive, it's better to sleep nearby, for example at the *Sommaroy Arctic Hotel*
  - You arrive at the far east of Senja. In one day, you have time to see the most beautiful spots of the north coast (Husoy, Fjaerland, Mefjordvaer, Tungeneset, Bergsbotn, Skaland, Gryllefjord and as far as Torsken)
  - To get back, watch out for the time of the last ferry. Otherwise you can drive back — about 3.5 hours





- Alternatively, you can go with a tour operator that shows you Senja in one day, all inclusive! Your guide takes you to the island's most beautiful spots. It comes at a cost (Senja is far away), and you also get a look at the road to Sommaroy on the way.



Two days in Senja

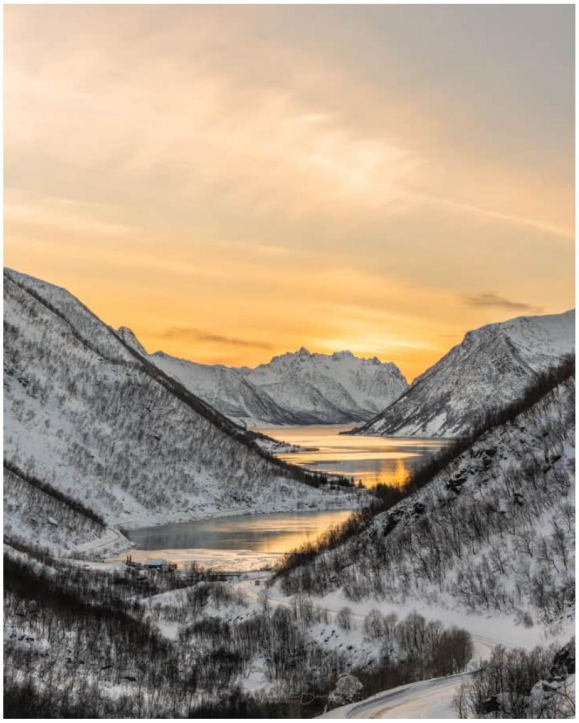
People often come to Senja for just one day, to do the north coast. In 2 days, with a night on site somewhere central like *Mefjordbrygge* or *Hamn i Senja*, you can spend a second day in a far more remote area that is at least as spectacular: the western fjords. That gives you:

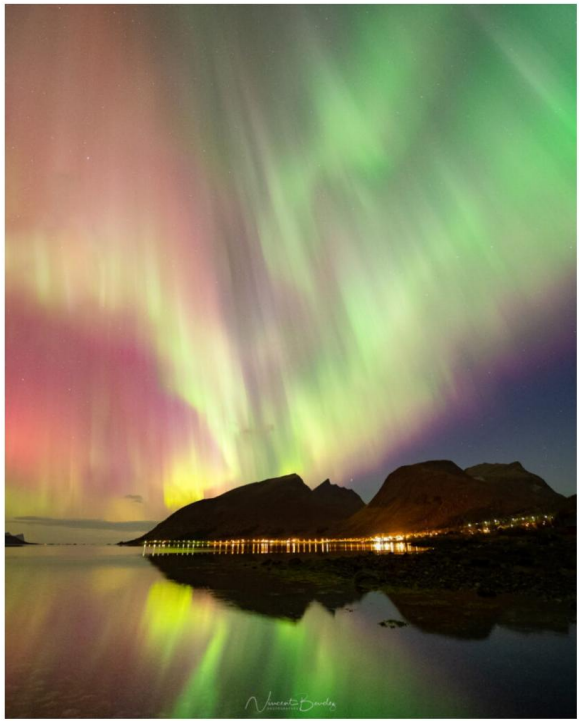
DAY 1:

- Take the ferry, or hit the road very early from Tromso
- Drive first to the peninsula of Husoy
- Follow the huge fjord to reach Mefjordvaer
- Then the northern road, passing successively through Ersfjord, Tungeneset, Skaland, Bergsbotn and its platform, then the road to Gryllefjord and Torsken if you have time

DAY 2:

- Take the road through the Anderdalen park all the way to Sifjord — there you'll get probably the most beautiful view on the island
- Continue on the road to Flakstadvag
- You won't see a soul in that corner of the island, even though it's at least as beautiful!





2-WEEK ITINERARY
TROMSO – SENJA - LOFOTEN

2 weeks between Tromso, Senja and the Lofoten Islands

The idea is to discover these 3 superb places while taking your time a little, without too much driving, because if you're visiting in winter, the days are short. So even fewer chances to admire the landscapes, which are wonderful.

This itinerary is of course adaptable – you can easily add a day in Senja and, for example, drop the last day in Tromso. In short, you decide! It's a good starting point to get an idea 😊

Oh, and the full article on this route is here!

TROMSO AND ITS SURROUNDINGS

DAY 1 –

- Arrival in **Tromso**, pick up the car. Compare on *Booking Cars* and *DiscoverCars* to find the right car at the right price. *Getaround* for peer-to-peer rentals
- **4 nights in Tromso**, at the *Radisson Blu* for comfort, otherwise *the Ami Hotel* for something cheaper. More recommendations in *this article on accommodation* or *on Booking*. A place outside the centre would be a good idea if you have a car.



DAY 2 –

- Discovering **Kvaloya** via the road to **Tromvik**. Go through **Ersfjord** (and its super cool little café), **Grotfjord**, Tromvik and the road to Rekvik
- Evening: I recommend going with an agency to see the northern lights, to get as much information as possible and learn how to chase them. *Agency recommendations here*. I suggest a whole bunch of them a bit higher up in the Tromso section 😊 But I'd still recommend *Wandering Owl*.





Tromsø: northern lights hunt by 4×4 minibus with Greenlander

★★★★★ **5.0/5 · Exceptional** · 1,540 reviews · 6–9 hrs · hotel pick-up

A night chasing the aurora from Tromsø in a 4×4 minibus, with a photographer-guide who picks spots according to the weather and gives tips on settings, then a campfire break with soup and hot chocolate. Suit, boots and tripod on loan if requested when booking.

A small tour is more personal and also lets you stop anywhere along the way, which a big bus would struggle to do. — **Della, Viator review**

- Passionate photographer-guides · photos sent after the evening
- Ready to drive far, as far as Finland, for a clear sky
- ⚠ Non-refundable if you cancel · clothing sizes to give when booking · northern lights not guaranteed · English-speaking guide

Free photos of the evening

From **€326**

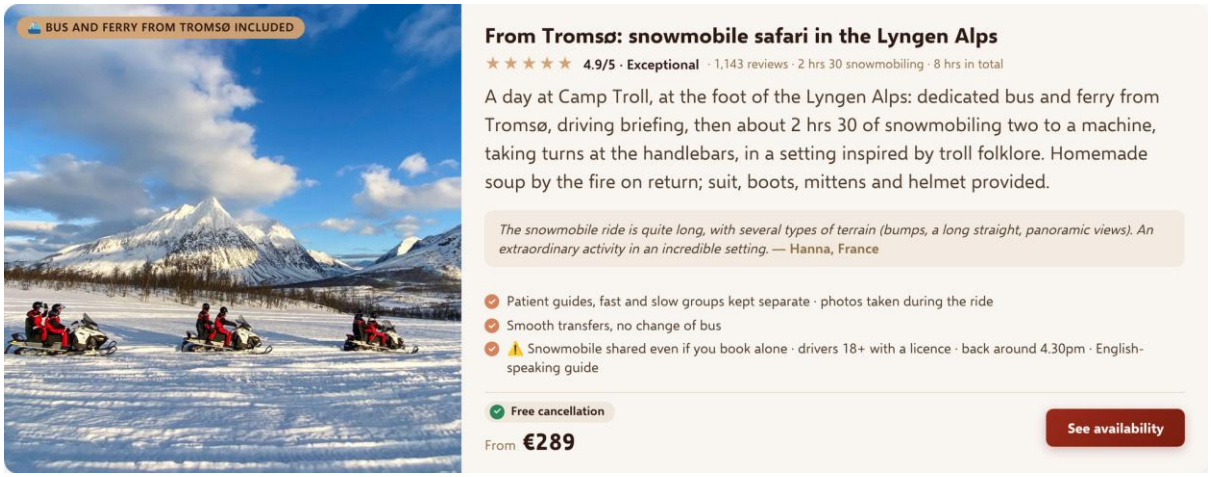
See availability

DAY 3 –

- Discovering the **Lyngen Alps**:
  - By **car**: taking the **ferry** from Breivikeidet (if you're running well ahead of schedule, head to **Nakkevatnet** just a touch south of Breivikeidet), then head north, then come back to Lyngseidet, drive back down to the mountain of **Signaldalen**. If there's still time, go via Laksvatn and **Lakselvbukt**
  - By **snowmobile**, with pickup in Tromso — at *Camp Troll* in particular you can go snowmobiling in the Lyngen Alps (note that a driving license is required). You'll find all the recommendations in the section on activities in Tromso.







DAY 4 –

- Excursion by **dog sled**
  - You'll find all the recommendations *in this article*
  - For a lovely setting facing the Lyngen Alps, you can go to *Breivikeidet*
  - If you have your own car, go to *Into Nature* or *Run Wild Mushing*
  - If you have children under 7, then check out *Norwegian Travel*
- End of the day at the **Fjellheisen** cable car if the weather allows



DAY 5 –

- Exploring **Kvaloya**, with the road out to **Sommaroy** and passing through various fjords
- Night at the *Sommaroy Arctic Hotel* to sleep close to the **ferry** the next morning



SENJA

DAY 6 –

- Take the **ferry** early from Brensholmen (just south of Sommaroy) to **the island of Senja**
- Once on Senja, take the road to **Husoy**
- Then the village of **Fjordgard**, continue through the fjords to **Tungeneset** (careful, it's slippery) and the viewing platform at **Bergsbotn**
- Night in *Hamn i Senja*, *Mefjord Brygge* or in *Skaland*







DAY 7 –

- Drive to **Gryllefjord** and Torsken
- Then head to **Sifjord** with its incredible view, and continue on to Flakstadvag
- Sleep in the south of Senja to save time for the next day. For example at the *Furoy FishingCamp* and its superb location

LOFOTEN ISLANDS

DAY 8 –

- **Departure** for the Lofoten. Leave early to make a stop at the **Polar Park** and see the Arctic animals. Watch out for the opening hours!
- Late arrival in **Svolvaer** as the drive is long
- **Night** in Svolvaer, for example at *Anker Brygge* or *Svinoya Rorbuer*. For a budget option, check out the *FastHotel*



DAY 9 –

- Morning visit to **Henningsvaer** passing by the tiny beach of **Rørvikstranda**
- Head to the **Lofotr Museum**, a reconstruction of a Viking village (watch out for the opening hours!)
- Go to the beach at **Unstad** where you'll find quite a few surfers who don't mind the cold, and grab a wonderful **kannelbolle** at Unstad Arctic Surf
- Sleep in **Ballstad**, for example at the *Solsiden Brygge Rorbuer* or at the *Hattvika* for a treat





DAY 10 -

- Visit the **beaches** of Haukland, Vik and Uttakleiv
- See the pretty village of **Nusfjord**
- Night in Ramberg, for example at the *Ramberg Gjestegard* overlooking the beach, or in Nusfjord so you don't have to leave the village and can spend the evening there. And enjoy the *Nusfjord Arctic Resort*



DAY 11 –

- Stop at the beach in **Ramberg**, with its mountain views and its famous little cabin
- Stop at **Flakstad**, also a spot for surfers
- Go to **Fredvang**, see the famous bridges, then continue southwest towards Selfjord. If there's no snow you can go to **Kvalvika**
- 2 **nights in Hamnoy**, at the *Eliassen Rorbuer* for example, with mountain views





DAY 12 –

- Discover the pretty villages of **Hamnoy**, **Sakrisoy** and **Reine** (make sure you go down to the harbor, don't just stop at the bridge)
- Another night in *Hamnoy*







Eliassen Rorbuer, the red postcard rorbuer of Hamnøy

★★★★½ **8.6/10 · Superb** · 2,917 reviews · location 9.5/10 · comfort 8.9/10

Eliassen's red rorbuer line the islet of Hamnøy, the most photographed view in Lofoten, 5 km from Reine. Each cottage has its own kitchen, and the seafront ones look straight out onto the fjord and the mountains. The Moskenes ferry to Bodø is 10 km away.

The location is stunning! A magnificent setting with this majestic fjord. — **Johanne, Canada**

- Bakery, fish & chips and Krambua restaurant in the rorbuer village · self check-in with a code, free parking and EV charging
- Northern lights visible from the living room according to several reviews · the bridge to Reine offers one of the finest views in Lofoten
- Breakfast extra and basic, served only in high season · rorbuer packed close together, non-seafront ones often facing the car park, small rooms

From **€207** / night

See availability

DAY 13 –

- Discover the village at the end of the world: **A i Lofoten**
- **Back to Tromso** (easily 8 h on the road)
- 2 nights in Tromso, for example at the *Scandic Ishavshotel* (watch out for the prices in very high season), or why not sleep outside Tromso, at the *Malangen Resort* to make the most of nature

DAY 14 –

- If it's not departure day, then visit the **Polarmuseet**, and the pretty city center
- Grab a hotdog at **Raketten Bar** & Pølse
- Buy your **souvenirs** at the Tromsø Gift & Souvenir Shop (yellow facade)
- Last day, sniff.



Is this guide useful to you?



It's *free* and it'll stay that way. If you'd like to help me keep it going, you can use the links in this guide or in the articles: it doesn't cost you a penny more. Or you can buy me a virtual coffee, it really makes my day :)

Activities · Hotels · Car · Buy me a coffee (€5)

ALTA

WHY GO TO ALTA

Quite simply because Alta is an excellent alternative to Tromso in winter!

You'll find the same activities: you can easily go dog sledding, snowmobiling or whale watching (it's even easier than from Tromso).

But Alta is also right in the heart of Sami country! There's a really interesting museum with prehistoric rock art not far away.

Yes, there's some very pretty scenery around Alta (the town itself is ugly, more on that later). It's not as beautiful as Tromso and its surroundings, but it's really lovely.

And above all – again, more on that below – it's great for the northern lights!

Off we go, let's take a look at all that.

WHAT TO SEE IN ALTA

As I was saying, Alta is a tad ugly. Well, it's a "practical" town, meaning boxy buildings without much concern for looks, because that's not the point.

In Alta, you'll mainly go and see **the cathedral** shaped like a corkscrew, the famous Nordlyskatedralen (the Northern Lights Cathedral). It really is surprising! And I loved seeing it under the northern lights (although I can't find the photos anymore).



In winter, there's the Borealis Vinterfestival, with lots of activities and ice sculptures. Nice!

In the town itself, that's about it. It's really well placed as a base for exploring the area, but as for sights, well, there you go, we've covered it all. A town destroyed at the end of the war, rebuilt as a practical, pragmatic town, not designed to be pretty.

THE ALTA MUSEUM AND SAMI CULTURE

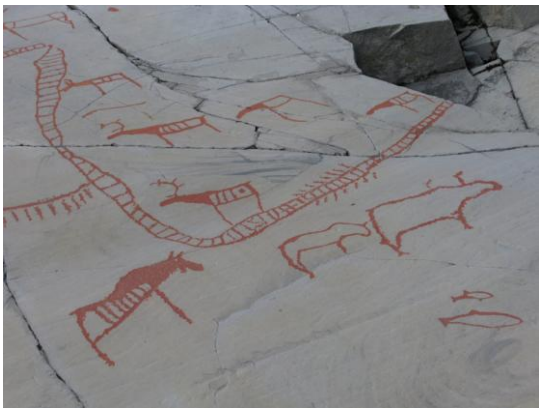
This is the place you absolutely must see in Alta! However, it's not in the city centre but a little way out, in a magnificent setting. It's not a classic museum, it's THE museum for understanding the Sami – you know, the traditionally nomadic people of Lapland (Finland, Norway, Sweden and Russia).

Alta holds a major place in Sami history and culture, and is home to a unique archaeological treasure on the **UNESCO World Heritage list**.

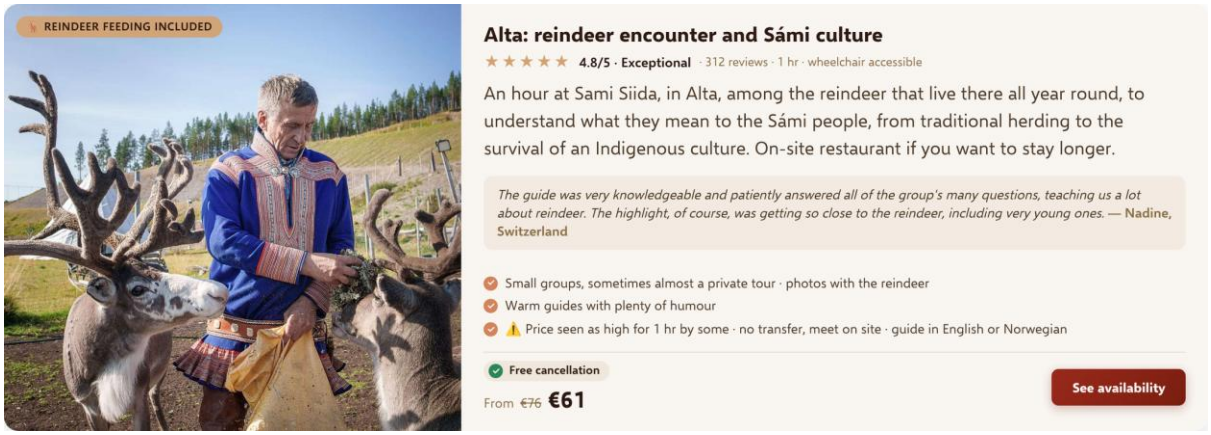
Although the town is now a modern urban centre, its surroundings are still ancestral reindeer-herding lands for Sami communities. The cultural and historical heart of the region beats at the **Alta Museum**, on the exceptional site of Hjemmeluft. This is where you can admire the largest concentration of rock art in Northern Europe, with **thousands of rock carvings and paintings** made between 7,000 and 2,000 years ago.

These prehistoric works of art, which depict hunting and fishing scenes, bears and some of the very first depictions of skiers, show the deep spiritual bond that the first inhabitants of the Arctic, the ancestors of the Sami, already had with nature and wildlife





And to **learn more about the Sami**, the best thing is *to go and meet them* in person!



WHAT TO SEE AROUND ALTA

A good hour west of Alta there's a **huge peninsula** that's magnificent. In the middle of covid, my wife and I stayed 2 weeks in Jokelfjord. So go and explore that area, and the remote villages a bit further on too, especially Oksfjord, a little taste of the end of the world!



You've obviously got all the coastal roads, especially the ones heading north, like the little F883, and in particular going all the way to the Storekorsnes lighthouse, a really good spot to see the northern lights.

Further south, you've got the forests and a really pretty river, the Altaelva, which changes its name loads of times, with plenty of little places to stop, including for the northern lights. Because out there, there's absolutely nobody.

But Alta's big strength is that you're close to two of the main tourist spots on the north coast: the **North Cape** is 230 km away (watch out for limited access in winter) and **Skjervoy** a touch closer, at 200 km. And the road to both is really lovely!

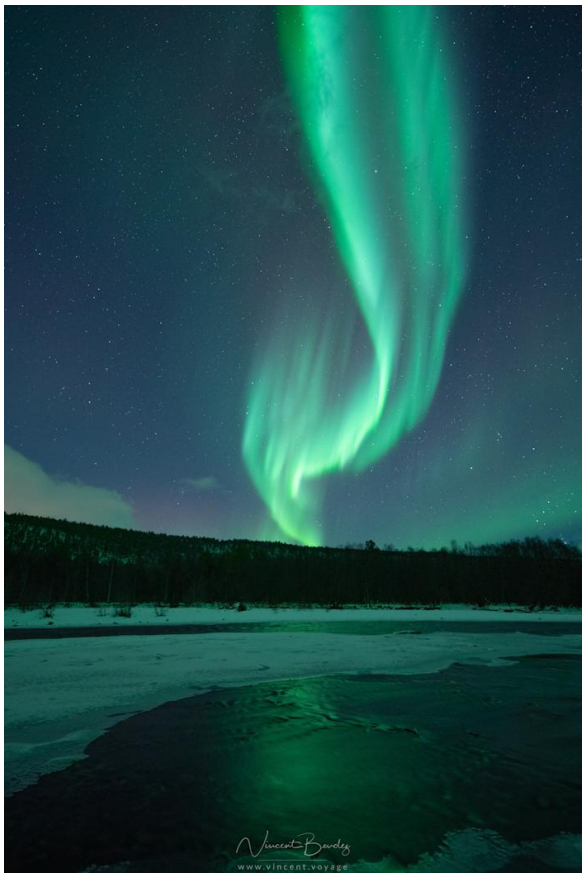
SEEING THE NORTHERN LIGHTS IN ALTA

- Renting a car
- Going through an agency

Trying to see them in town isn't a great option, because the town is very bright. Really.

Alta really is an excellent place to see the northern lights because:

- The weather is extremely favourable, probably the best in the country
- You can stay by the sea, head into the forests to the south, or even go all the way into Finland
- The coast is quite lit up, but it's very easy to find spots with no light pollution
- And there are very few tourists





Seeing the northern lights by car

You can easily *rent a car in Alta*, but be careful if you take an electric one in winter: charging points get scarce as soon as you leave town, because there are some really remote places.

Then, unlike Tromso, there aren't any ultra-classic spots to watch them from. Your best bets are the coast and the river. But above all, you MUST get away from the town, which is very bright:

- Along the coast, head either towards Jokelfjord or (my recommendation) north via the F883. It's very easy to find spots facing the right way, with no light pollution. That's where I used to go when I didn't want to stray too far from town
- Along the river, it's super easy too. Get out the map and look for the places where the road runs close to the river, places like Gammelbollo River Access in Google Maps.
- Head south on the road to Finland. There you've got a whole lot of nothing, huge open spaces, no lights at all, and it's bitterly cold



Seeing the northern lights with an agency

If you don't have a car, don't want to drive at night, or just don't want the hassle of all that, you can simply go through an agency.

There are far fewer than in Tromso, but thankfully there are still some, and for every budget.

So I think it's worth it if that's your kind of thing.

Here's what I'd suggest for the classic tours:

- *Alta Adventure* for a small-group tour
  - There's also *Aeventyr* for small groups
- *Finnmark Adventure* for bus tours
  - And also *Amazing Aurora*





Other activities under the northern lights

Because you can do two activities in one! So why miss out? 😊 As usual, you can click directly on the cards to go to each activity.



Alta: dog sledding under the northern lights

★★★★★ **4.9/5 · Exceptional** · 36 reviews · 4 hrs · 8 participants max

An evening dog sledding through the pine forests of the Gargia valley, 30 minutes from Alta, watching for the northern lights, then coffee or tea in the warmth of the old Gargia mountain lodge. Solo driving from age 16, swap halfway if you share the sled.

It was a bit chaotic at first but we soon got the hang of it. We got to interact with the dogs and puppies and the guides were very good at answering our questions. — **Linda, Viator review**

- Thorough briefing, suitable for beginners · stops to watch for the aurora
- About 1 hr 15 of sledding over some ten kilometres
- ⚠️ High price · cold in the passenger seat, bring extra layers · ages 8+

Free cancellation

From **€354**

See availability



Alta: night-time snowmobiling under the northern lights

★★★★½ **4.7/5 · Very highly rated** · 76 reviews · 2 hrs snowmobiling · 4 hrs in total

An evening snowmobiling along the old postal route to the Beskades mountains, far from the town lights, in convoy behind the guide, with driver and passenger swapping halfway. Coffee, tea and snacks served on the plateau.

There were no northern lights, as the sky was overcast, but that didn't bother us at all; we had a really good time. — **Colin, UK**

- Reassuring guides, pace adapted to the group · stops as soon as the aurora appears
- Very warm gear, even at -15°C
- ⚠️ Northern lights not guaranteed · car licence needed to drive, passengers 12+ · not open to over-70s or over 130 kg

Free cancellation

From **€253**

See availability



Alta: huskies, Arctic dinner and northern lights at Gargia Lodge

★★★★½ **4.7/5 · Very highly rated** · 3 reviews · 4 hrs · ages 8+

An evening at Gargia Lodge, on the edge of the Finnmarksvidda: a tour of the kennel and insights into the life of mushers, then Arctic stew in a Sámi-style hut, far from any light pollution, to watch for the aurora. Return transfer from central Alta included.

- Affectionate dogs and a tasty dinner
- Remote site, ideal for watching the northern lights
- ⚠️ No sled ride · still very few reviews · price seen as high · northern lights not guaranteed

Free cancellation

From **€162**

See availability

OTHER THINGS TO DO IN ALTA

You'll find all the classic winter activities: dog sledding, reindeer, snowmobiling, whale watching or simply a boat trip on the fjord…

Everything you need for a great stay, then!



The chatty captain's cruise

📍 Fiskerihavna · Icecube of Aurora (2–4 hrs)

A boat for ten people, a captain who tells the story of the Tirpitz and the British mines, and white-tailed eagles flying over the islands in the fjord.

- ✓ Ten participants max, warm suit, boots and mittens on loan in winter
- ✓ Guide in English or Norwegian, porpoises and dolphins spotted on some days
- ✓ ⚠ Tea, coffee and biscuits only on the 3- and 4-hr options · hotel shuttle extra, book 10 hrs ahead · minimum age 6

Free cancellation

From **€118** / person

See the activity



Orcas from a heated cabin

📍 Havneveien 24 · finnmark moods (3 hrs 30)

Between November and January the herring move into the Altafjord and the orcas follow; you watch for them in the warm behind the windows, coffee in hand.

- ✓ Heated indoor seats, toilets and WiFi on board, coffee, tea and biscuits
- ✓ Guide in English or German, rated 5.0 from 100 reviews
- ✓ ⚠ Hotel pick-up not included · the boat rolls, best avoided if you get seasick

Free cancellation

From ~~€238~~ **€214** / person

See the activity



Close to the water by RIB

📍 Markedsgata 6 · Æventyr (3 hrs 30)

The RIB cuts its engines at a safe distance, and the orcas, being curious, often come and circle the boat of their own accord.

- ✓ Twelve participants max, thermal suit, life jacket, gloves and goggles provided
- ✓ Engines cut at a respectful distance, coffee, toddy and snacks on board
- ✓ ⚠ Only about 1 hr on the water · up to 1 hr's drive to reach the right harbour · minimum age 12

Free cancellation

From **€253** / person

See the activity



Sami reindeer sledding

📍 Øytunveien 4 · SAMI SIIDA (2 hrs)

The reindeer plods along, all you can hear is its hooves in the snow, then you sit in the lavvu around the fire with a Sami guide.

- ✓ Sami guide, lavvu visit, campfire and meal included
- ✓ Transport to the meeting point included, winter suit on loan
- ✓ ⚠ Two hours in all and the sled ride is short · transport and value for money rated 4.4, the lowest scores on the listing

Free cancellation

From **€238** / person

See the activity



Daytime snowmobiling on the plateau

📍 Gargia valley · Æventyr (4 hrs)

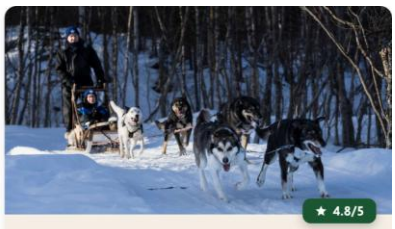
Two hours of driving along the old postal route to the Beskades plains, setting off from a hundred-and-fifty-year-old mountain lodge.

- ✓ Pick-up and drop-off in Alta, suit, boots, gloves and helmet provided
- ✓ Two per snowmobile, with the option of swapping places along the way
- ✓ ⚠ Category B car licence required to drive, passengers from age 12 · 2 hrs of actual driving out of the 4

Free cancellation

From **€256** / person

See the activity



Your own dog team at Gargia

📍 Gargia valley · Æventyr (4 hrs, 8 people max)

Full training, then your own dog team through the Gargia pine forests, and a hot meal at the historic mountain lodge to finish.

- ✓ Eight participants max, Alta ↔ Gargia transfer and full kit provided
- ✓ Hot lunch, coffee and toddy at the lodge, then time spent with the huskies
- ✓ ⚠ 50 min on the trail out of the 4 hrs · age 16 to drive solo, minimum age 8 · physically demanding according to several reviews

Free cancellation

From **€310** / person

See the activity

WHERE TO STAY IN ALTA

You've got quite a few options here, with two main ones. If you don't have a car, staying in central Alta is pretty much your only option, because there isn't much public transport. After that, we'll look at the nice alternatives outside town.

6 hotels and apartments in the city centre



Thon Hotel Alta

📍 Alta sentrum · right in the town centre

Four-star hotel in the heart of Alta, a stone's throw from the shops and tour agencies. The most convenient address in town when you're combining aurora hunting and the rock art museum.

- ✓ Breakfast called extraordinary for its choice and variety
- ✓ Beds and room comfort praised in most reviews
- ✓ Value for money 8.1: the lowest sub-score on the listing

From **€140** / night

See availability



Best Western Hotel Alta

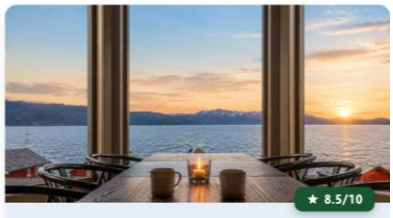
📍 Alta · residential area, away from the centre

Four-star hotel reopened under the Best Western banner, in a quiet area away from the centre. Free parking and spacious rooms, but a Booking page starting from scratch on reviews.

- ✓ Large beds and spacious bathrooms noted by the first guests
- ✓ Breakfast with local produce and free parking with no meter
- ✓ Only 4 reviews since the rebrand: a very thin sample

From **€130** / night

See availability



Fjord Hotel Alta

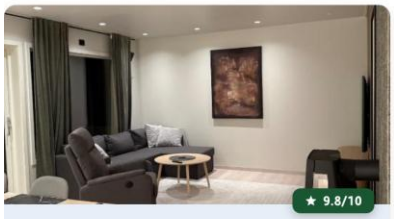
📍 Bossekop · Alta's old quarter

Small family-run hotel in the old Bossekop quarter, run like a home rather than a chain hotel. Sauna, garden and a sunny terrace, and a dining room that guests notice.

- ✓ Rooms described as large and very quiet, cleanliness rated 9.0
- ✓ Norwegian breakfast and dining-room decor often mentioned
- ✓ Adults-only property: children are not accepted

From **€160** / night

See availability



Brand new apartment

📍 Alta · central area, walk to the town centre

A sixty-eight-square-metre apartment with two bedrooms sleeping five, designed for a family or a group. Fully equipped kitchen, free private parking, and Alta town centre within walking distance.

- ✓ Rated practical and well located by the first guests
- ✓ Two bedrooms sleeping five, free private parking included
- ✓ Only 6 reviews so far: still a very thin sample

From **€139** / night

See availability



City apartment

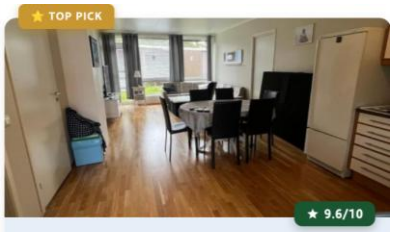
📍 Alta · right in the town centre

A forty-one-square-metre one-bedroom apartment right in the centre, with a kitchen island that guests find really handy. The most compact of the three, but the best located.

- ✓ Cleanliness and use of space come up in most reviews
- ✓ Kitchen island described as really practical, staff rated 9.5
- ✓ Only 24 reviews, and value for money at 8.6: the lowest of the three

From **€170** / night

See availability



Kvileskogen 36

📍 Alta · a stone's throw from the Northern Lights Cathedral

Two bedrooms and sixty-seven square metres a stone's throw from the Northern Lights Cathedral. The best sub-scores of the three, and by far the most substantial number of reviews.

- ✓ Comfort 9.8 and cleanliness 9.7, the best sub-scores in Alta
- ✓ Described as spacious, very well equipped and very clean
- ✓ Staff 9.7 and value for money 9.3, rare at this price level

From **€190** / night

See availability

6 very good places to stay outside town



★ 9.6/10

Villa Valentina

📍 Alta · villa facing the fjord

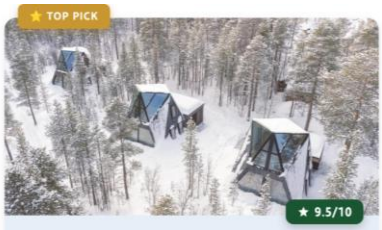
Entire three-bedroom villa facing the fjord, with sauna, fireplace and firewood provided. Rented exclusively, it's clearly aimed at families and groups who want their own house.

- ✓ Every sub-score at 9.6: staff, facilities, cleanliness, comfort
- ✓ New sauna, fireplace and firewood often mentioned in reviews
- ✓ Only 58 reviews: still a thin sample for an entire villa

From **€289** / night

See availability

⭐ TOP PICK



★ 9.5/10

Trasti & Trine Boutique Hotel

📍 In the forest · 10 km from Alta, near the river

Charming hotel surrounded by forest, ten kilometres from Alta and five hundred metres from the river. Its restaurant comes up in almost every review, as does the breakfast.

- ✓ Cleanliness 9.6, comfort 9.5, over three hundred reviews
- ✓ Dinner and breakfast described as exceptional by guests
- ✓ Value for money 8.7: remoteness comes at a price, car essential

From **€320** / night

See availability



★ 9.3/10

Flatmoen Natur Lodge

📍 Flatmoen · south of Alta, out in nature

Cabins with large picture windows on an estate with horses, south of Alta. Outdoor hot tub and sauna, and northern lights that guests watch from the hot water.

- ✓ Outdoor hot tub under the aurora, the unanimous highlight of reviews
- ✓ Picture-window cabins, beds and equipped kitchen much appreciated
- ✓ Value for money 8.5: by far the priciest of the three

From **€420** / night

See availability

💰 BUDGET-FRIENDLY



★ 8.4/10

Alta River Camping

📍 Alta · along the river, south of the centre

A campsite along the Alta river, south of the centre, with a shared kitchen, barbecue and playground. The lowest rate in the area, from over two thousand reviews.

- ✓ Reception open until 11pm: late arrival possible
- ✓ Riverside setting praised in most reviews
- ✓ Facilities 8.2: campsite standard, not a hotel

From **€68** / night

See availability



Øksfjord Hotel Norway

📍 Øksfjord, Loppa · outside Alta, to the north-west

A small harbour hotel in Øksfjord, in Loppa municipality, with sauna, billiards and a paid airport shuttle. A stop on the road well north-west of Alta, not a place in town.

- ✓ Sauna, billiards and paid airport shuttle on site
- ✓ Equipped kitchen in some units, free parking
- ✓ Only one review published so far: no usable score

From **€89** / night

See availability

⭐ TOP PICK



★ 9.1/10

Arctic FjordCamp

📍 Storeng, Burfjord · outside Alta, on the fjord

Cabins right on the fjord at Storeng, near Burfjord, with a beach, sauna and shared kitchen. The best score in this batch, for a location rated 9.7.

- ✓ Location 9.7: the fjord view dominates every review
- ✓ Units described as very clean and well equipped, cleanliness 9.2
- ✓ Value for money 8.6, and a car is essential

From **€165** / night

See availability

FIND YOUR DREAM PLACE TO STAY IN ALTA!

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

How to get to Alta

It's super easy, you'll see.

- **Getting there by plane**

Alta has a big airport with flights from Oslo and Norway's main cities. It's 2 hours from Oslo and 45 minutes from Tromso (I did it once, it's really quick).

- **Getting there by car**

If you're coming from Tromso, it's very easy too. You take the ferry between *Breivikeidet and Svensby*, then the one between *Lyngseidet and Olderdalen*. It saves you a huge amount of time compared with driving all the way around the Lyngen Alps. All in all, it's about 6 hours on the road. When I do this drive, I like to take a break halfway, and I usually stop in Skjervoy.

- **Getting there by bus**

That's perfectly doable too, as Alta really is on the main road through northern Norway. It's line 150, and you can find the timetables and fares on the *Entur* and *Svipper* websites. It's super simple, and it takes 6 h 30 from Tromso (with a boat ride thrown in!)

How long to stay in Alta

Alta has quite a lot to offer. It's great if you're passing through on a road trip along Norway's north coast. You can easily spend 2–3 days in the area.

It's also great if you want to discover Norway in winter without going to the big cities like Tromso. It's an excellent alternative. You can do exactly the same things as in Tromso, i.e. snowmobiling, dog sledding, whale watching or just a boat trip on the fjord, all while enjoying the northern lights.

So you can easily stay 4 or 5 days here, or even a week if you have a car to explore the surroundings as well, because that's the one little thing missing in my opinion: there are no tours of the surrounding area, which is a bit of a shame.

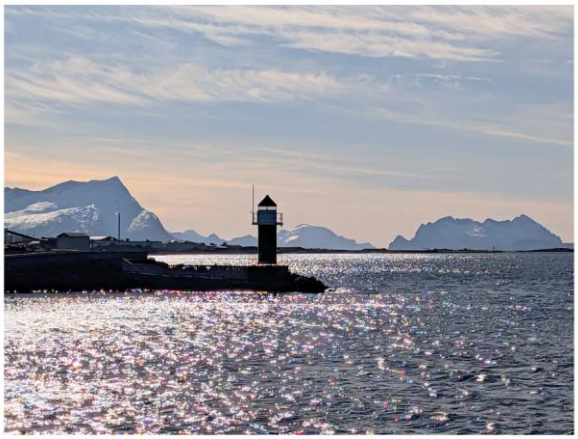
B O D Ø

Full article here

PLACES TO SEE

The locals say of Bodo: "*it's like the Lofoten Islands, but without the tourists*". And I can confirm it's true.

The area around Bodo is full of magnificent mountain ranges worthy of the Lofoten Islands, most notably Stetind which isn't very far away.

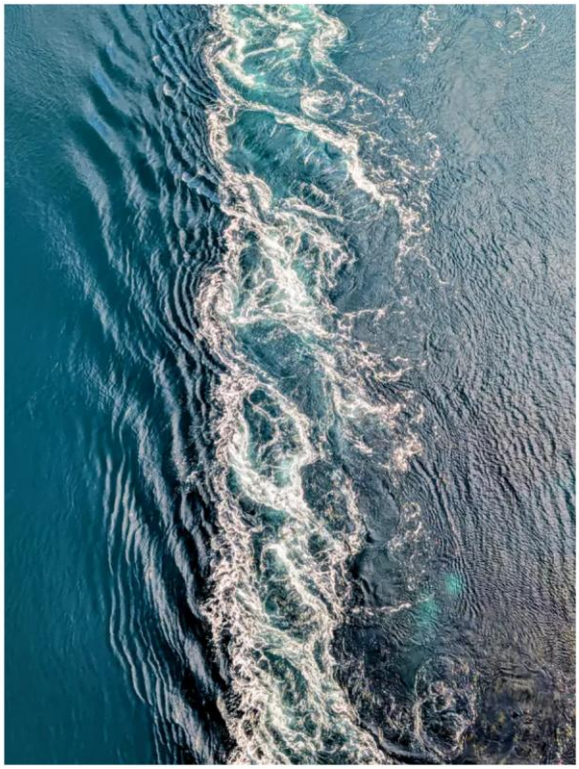




But Bodo is mainly known for two things (which have nothing to do with each other):

- The *ferry to the Lofoten Islands*
- The strongest tidal current in the world, the **Saltstraumen**. Super impressive (especially at high or low tide) — you can see a real difference in water level between the current trying to come in and the one trying to get out, creating the famous maelstroms.



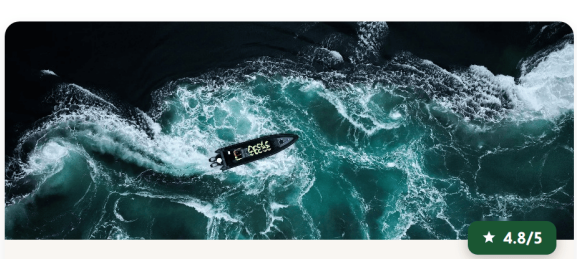


How to see the Saltstraumen

- On **your own**: go to the edge of the Saltstraumbrua, on the side with the big parking lot. You can get really close to the current, it's great fun. Be sure to walk onto the bridge too — that's where you can best see its movements.
- By **boat**, to really "feel" the effects of the current. There you have two types of trips:
    - The **electric boat** which goes to see the current and cruises around the fjords, really lovely
        - *Info and booking*
    - The **RIB boat** which dives right into the current to give you your fill of thrills
        - *Info and booking*







★ 4.8/5

RIB ride into the heart of the Saltstraumen from Bodø

📍 Departure from Bodø · 2 h · Explore Salten RIB boat

The thrill option: 2 hours on a rigid inflatable boat racing up close to the whirlpools of the Saltstraumen, the world's most powerful maelstrom. With a safari on the lookout for the fjord's white-tailed eagles.

- ✓ 2 h of RIB action: speed, sea spray and thrills
- ✓ Direct approach to the giant Saltstraumen whirlpools
- ✓ White-tailed eagle safari along the way

Free cancellation

From **118 €** / pers.

Discover the tour



★ 4.8/5

Silent Beiar Fjord & Saltstraumen cruise from Bodø

📍 Departure from Bodø · 4 h · Brim Explorer hybrid catamaran

The contemplative option: 4 hours on a silent hybrid-electric catamaran through the Beiar Fjord and the Saltstraumen, with biologist guides on board. Longer, cheaper and far cleaner than the RIB version.

- ✓ 4 h on a hybrid-electric catamaran: silence and total comfort
- ✓ Saltstraumen + Beiar Fjord, two discoveries in one trip
- ✓ Biologist guides on board, a scientific take on the fjords

Free cancellation

From **91 €** / pers.

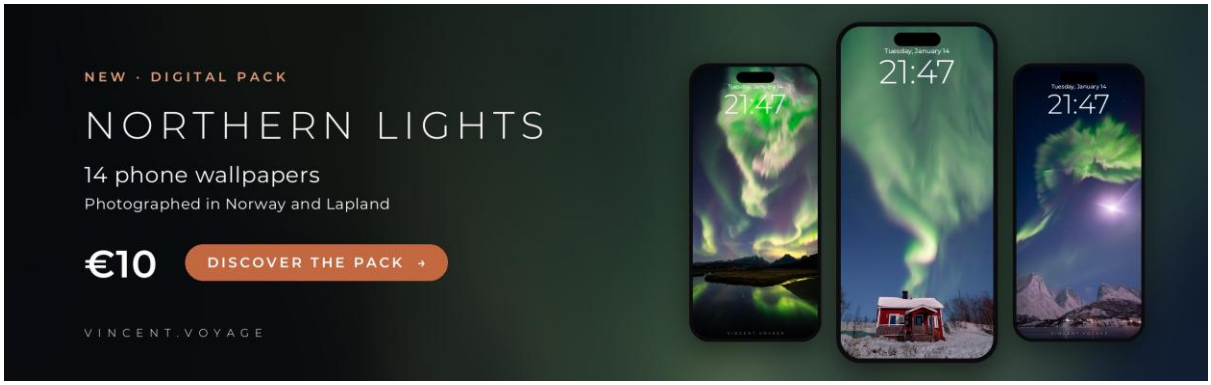
Discover the tour

Follow the coast and enjoy the beaches at sunset

The Bodo coastline is really beautiful. Follow the road north of Bodo and you'll find quite a few beaches, pretty viewpoints and walks to do. The landscapes are really lovely too







SEEING THE NORTHERN LIGHTS IN BODO

Bodo is a well-located city for the northern lights. Above the Arctic Circle, you have quite a few opportunities. As soon as the weather allows, you need to find yourself a patch of clear sky. And since Bodo is the windiest city in Norway, the chances of the sky clearing up are pretty high.

So here are my tips:

- Get away from the city (Bodo and its surroundings are very bright) to avoid light pollution
- Find an unobstructed view, mainly facing north. The beaches I told you about on the previous page are perfect for that!
- And be patient!

Seeing the northern lights with a tour company

Even though Bodo is less touristy, there are companies that will take you hunting for the northern lights. If you don't know how to go about it, or you don't want any hassle, then they're made for you.



Northern lights cruise by electric boat from Bodø

📍 Departure from Bodø · 3 h · Brim Explorer hybrid catamaran

The sea-and-silence option: 3 h on a hybrid-electric boat out of Bodø harbour, looking for auroras offshore. Heated indoor lounges, toilets, WiFi and coffee on board — the comfortable aurora, without the cold of the polar night.

- ✓ Silent hybrid-electric boat, observation offshore
- ✓ Heated indoor lounges, coffee on board, free WiFi
- ✓ Weather guarantee: reschedule or refund if conditions are poor

From **€68** / pers.

Discover the tour



Northern lights hunt by car from Bodø

📍 Departure from Bodø · 3 to 5 h · Rampen nature guide

The aurora-hunter option: 3 to 5 h by car with a local guide who takes you to Bodø's best spots depending on the weather, far from the city lights. Hot chocolate and cookie break while the sky comes alive.

- ✓ Guide who picks the spots based on weather and solar activity
- ✓ Pick-up possible at the Wood Hotel Bodø or Rampen Adventure Hub
- ✓ Hot drinks (chocolate, tea, coffee) and cookies included
- ✓ **Free cancellation up to 24 h before**

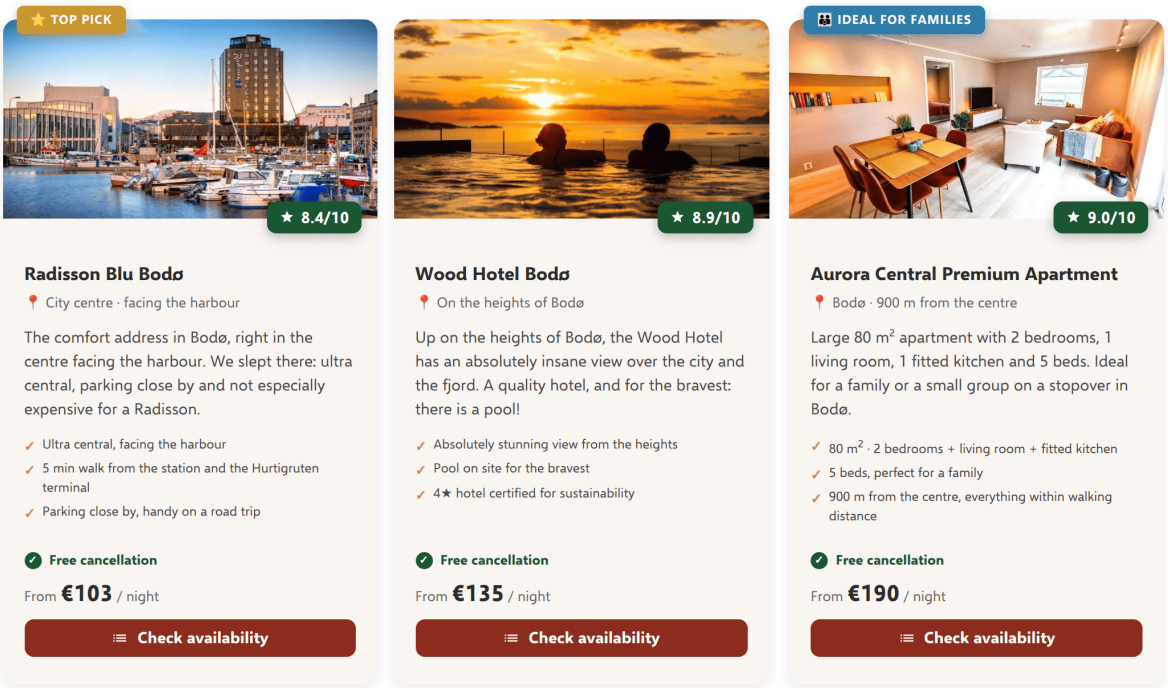
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Discover the tour

PRACTICAL INFO

Where to stay in Bodo

You'll find all the classic chains in Bodo (Thon, Radisson, Scandic…). Prices are very seasonal but much more reasonable than in Tromso, for example. We stayed at the *Radisson* and honestly had no issues at all. Here are 4 examples of great places to stay in Bodo:
If you have a car, it's easy to park in the city center, and parking isn't particularly expensive.





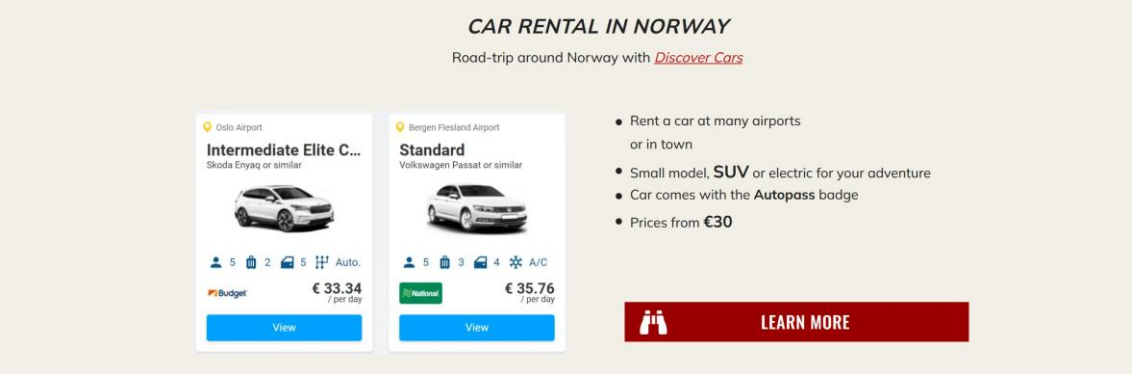


Renting a car in Bodo

It's very easy and even **very convenient** to rent a car in Bodo because:

- You'll be arriving by plane to visit the Lofoten Islands, so Bodo is the perfect place to pick up your car
- There's much more choice than in Moskenes, after taking the ferry
- Definitely compare prices and the different rental companies, and check the reviews
    - I use *Discover Cars* in particular, for its prices and clear information (and free cancellation)

Then you can take the ferry to the Lofoten Islands and return the car at the end of your stay.



Taking the ferry between Bodo and the Lofoten Islands

The easiest ferry to get to the Lofoten Islands. But also the most popular! *All the information can be found here*.

Should you book the ferry in advance:
50% of the spots are available for booking. If you're going in high season, then yes, book several weeks in advance. Otherwise, arrive at least 2 h before departure.
In low season, there's no need to book.

How much does the crossing cost:

- Free for foot passengers without a reservation
- 605 NOK for a standard car

How many crossings per day:

- There are between 1 (low season) and 10 (high season)

Should you spend the night in Bodo before taking the ferry?

- Yes! To see the Saltstraumen, if nothing else.

FAQ

How long to stay in Bodo
The city is small and pleasant, and you can quickly see it all. But if you want to enjoy a region where there's absolutely no one around, then take a few days to wander, and hike if it's the season.

Is it really worth it
If you're passing through on a road trip, if you're going to take the ferry to Moskenes, then at least take the time to go see the Saltstraumen. If you have time, drive the road to Narvik because it's really beautiful.

How to get to Bodo
Super simple! There's an **airport** served from Oslo several times a day (1 h 30). If you book early, flights aren't expensive. And from Bodo, it's the gateway to the Lofoten, so it's a very good

- *Find your flight to Bodo*

Bodo is also served by the **Hurtigruten** if you prefer to come by boat
But Bodo is also on the Norwegian **train** network. It's the northernmost city on the entire network, so you can come by train from Oslo or Trondheim.

What's the best season to visit Bodo
I'd say it's whatever season you're visiting Norway. Bodo isn't really a holiday destination in itself. It's either on your way, or the starting point of your trip. But it's pretty nice in any season (it is very windy)

- In autumn and winter you have the northern lights. There's wind, there's snow.
- Spring, summer, autumn: you can do some great hikes
- And generally speaking, there are few tourists all year round



THE ATLANTIC ROAD

Full article here

WHAT IS THE ATLANTIC ROAD

It's one of Norway's best-known scenic routes, yet it's one of the least easy to get to. It is, however, open all year round, except in a big storm. It's just that it's located in an area with few tourists, far from the fjords, far from the north, on the coast between Trondheim and Alesund.

This scenic route is different from the others you've probably seen in Norway. No dizzying hairpin bends, no mountains, no walls of ice. The Atlantic Road, Atlanterhavsveien, is a coastal road of around thirty kilometers, a succession of small bridges linking lots of little islands together. Some of the bridges are spectacular, raised and curved to embrace the waves that come crashing in during storms.

Do you absolutely have to go see the Atlantic Road

To be honest, I was disappointed. I was expecting something more spectacular, bigger, longer.

Given the detour it takes to get there, I find it much less spectacular than all the other roads in Norway. A spoiled-child problem, I suppose.

So if you're on a road trip, in a campervan, and you have the time, then yes, go for it, come see it. If you're in a car and counting the kilometers, this trip probably isn't worth it. Because it's between Molde and Kristiansund (two towns that are worth a visit), so a tad far from everything!





Seeing the Atlantic Road without a car

If you're in Molde, you don't feel like driving or you don't have a car, you can visit the Atlantic Road and its surroundings (like the stave church of Kvernes) by going through a tour company.



Atlantic Ocean Road & Varden — bus with audio guide

📍 Molde · 3h30 · West Norway Travel

The budget option: 3h30 by bus with an audio guide (EN/DE via the GuideToGo app). The Atlantic Road's iconic bridges, the wild Hustadvika coast and the Varden viewpoint at 407 m — Molde's essentials without a live guide.

- ✓ Atlantic Ocean Road: spectacular bridges & photo stop
- ✓ Varden viewpoint (407 m): Molde, fjord & 222 peaks
- ✓ Hustadvika coast, Farstadsanden & Molde Panorama

✓ **Free cancellation**

From **€81** / pers.

Discover the tour



Atlantic Ocean Road, Kvernes Stave Church & Farstad

📍 Molde · 4h30 · West Norway Travel

The complete option: 4h30 with a live local guide. On top of the Atlantic Road highlights come the interior visit of the Kvernes stave church and Farstad beach — the richest experience for discovering the Romsdal region.

- ✓ Interior visit of the Kvernes stave church
- ✓ Atlantic Ocean Road & Varden viewpoint
- ✓ Farstad beach — the most northerly dunes in Europe

✓ **Free cancellation**

From **€118** / pers.

Discover the tour

Is this guide useful to you?

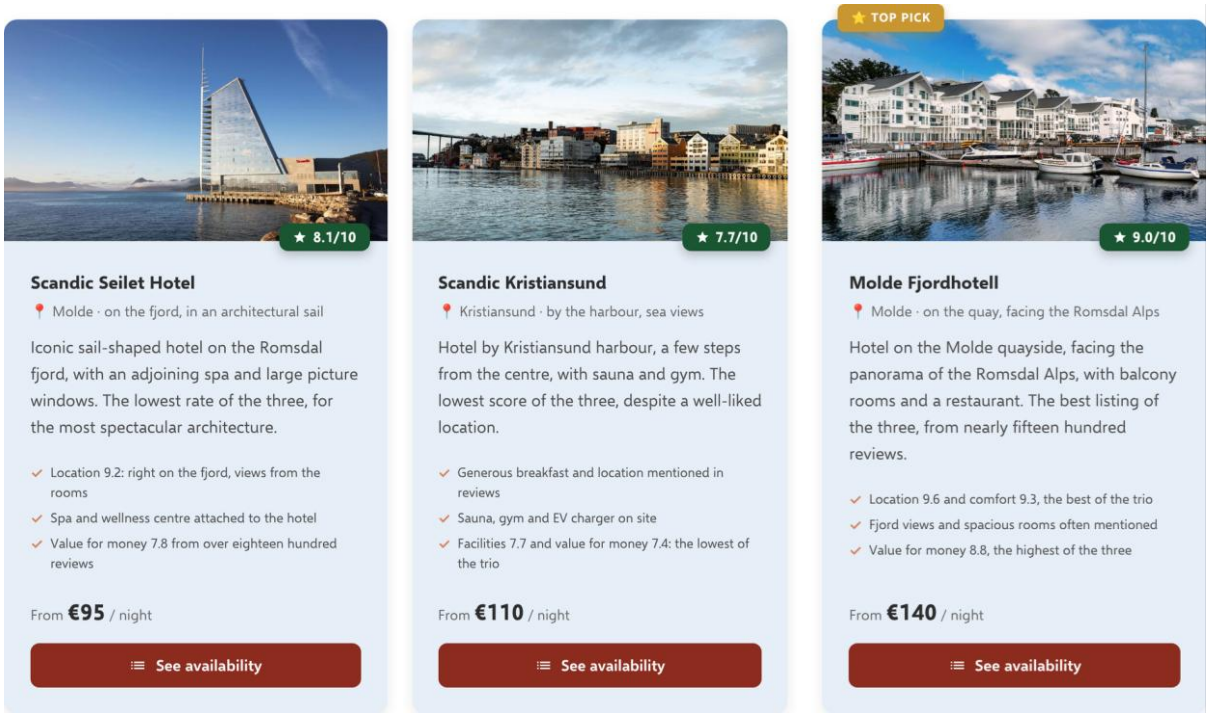


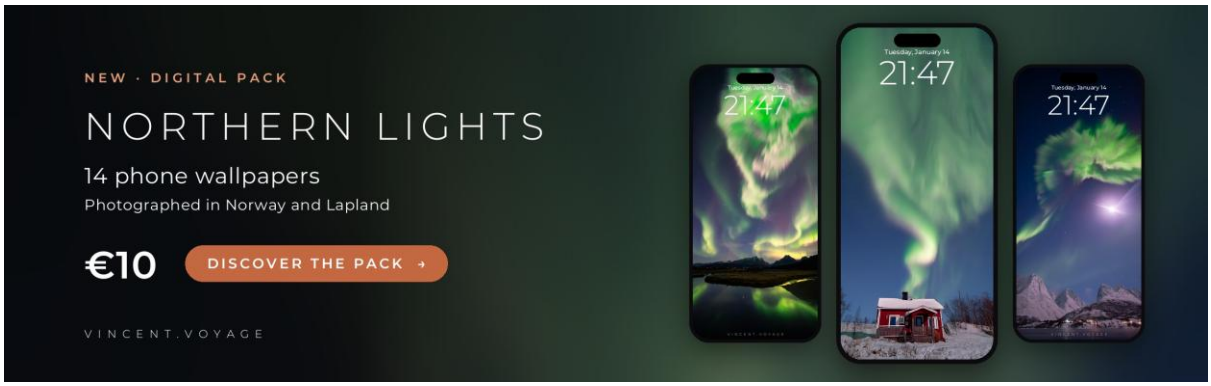
It's *free* and it'll stay that way. If you'd like to help me keep it going, you can use the links in this guide or in the articles: it doesn't cost you a penny more. Or you can buy me a virtual coffee, it really makes my day :)

Activities · Hotels · Car · Buy me a coffee (€5)

SLEEPING NEAR THE ATLANTIC ROAD

Kristiansund is a nice little town to base yourself in, as is Molde — two pleasant towns.





B E R G E N

Full article here

BERGEN AT A GLANCE

3 most beautiful places to see in town

- The historic docks of Bryggen
- The funicular up Floyen
- The Nordnes peninsula for its wooden houses

3 most beautiful places to see around Bergen

- **Naeroyfjord**
- *Flam and its train*
- The church of Bordung

3 Best activities

- *A guided tour of Bergen*
- *A day in the fjords*
- *Naeroyfjord + the Flam train in one day*

3 Best places to stay

- *Radisson Blu*
- *Hanseatiske Hotel*
- *Bergen Bors Hotel*

3 Favorite restaurants

- *The fish market*
- *Pingvinen*
- *Bryggeloftet*

3 Cafés to unwind

- *Café Pomme*
- *Løvetann Café & Bistro*
- *Fjåk chocolate shop*

Car rental comparison sites

- *Discover Cars*
- *Booking.com*

Best time to visit

- To enjoy Bergen and its surroundings: April to October is great
- Summer is fantastic but very very touristy
- From June to October, all the roads in the fjord region are open
- A Bergen + Oslo combo works all year round, with a train connection

How long to stay to make the most of the city

- Bergen itself needs at least 2 days
- But to explore the nearby surroundings, you'll need 5 days (Flam, Naeroyfjord, Borgund, Aurlandsfjord…)
- With 2 days more, cross the Sognefjord and go to Fjaerland

PLACES TO SEE IN TOWN

Bergen is probably the most beautiful city in Norway thanks to its architecture and its wooden houses.

- The docks of **Bryggen**, of course
    - And the Hanseatic Museum (interesting, and its renovation should be finished by now)





Bryggen is also great to admire from the other side of the wharf



- **The panoramic view from Floyen**
  - Funicular tickets can be bought at the entrance
  - *Or you can also buy them in advance to avoid the line*



- **The stave church** of Fantoft



- The harbor and the **fish** market

- The **fortress** of Bergenhus
  - The Rosenkrantz tower
  - King Hakon's hall

- The **wooden districts**
  - Vagsbunnen
  - Nedre Fjellsmauet
  - The Nordnes peninsula
  - Nostet

- Mount Ulriken, accessible by cable car, a great spot for hiking on Bergen's most beautiful mountain

- **Guided** tour
  - With a local guide









Bergen: guided walking tour, past and present

★★★★★ **4.9/5 · Exceptional** · 2,439 reviews · 2 hrs · small group

Two hours on foot with a licensed guide: Bergenhus Fortress, the Hanseatic alleys of Bryggen and St Mary's Church, then the picturesque residential districts, with anecdotes about daily life in Bergen. The tour ends near the guide's favourite cafés and restaurants.

An interesting tour to do at the start of a trip to set the scene. Our guide gave us lots of ideas for visits and tips, all of which turned out to be spot on. — **Marie, France**

- Engaging, very knowledgeable guides · pace adapted to the group
- Hidden alleys you wouldn't find on your own
- ⚠ Groups sometimes bigger than advertised · uneven cobbles and a few climbs · goes ahead in the rain · in English or German

Free cancellation

From **€34**

See availability

PLACES TO SEE IN THE SURROUNDING AREA

I'll tell you all about them in the following pages, with all the details, but in one day from Bergen you can discover:

- A *cruise on the Osterfjord* and to Mostraumen
- The village of Alversund, reachable by boat
- Flam and its little train
- The Naeroyfjord
- The stave churches
    - Undredal
    - Borgund
    - Hopperstad
- Odda
- Hardangerfjord





Flam and its little train

ACTIVITIES AROUND BERGEN

- Cruise on the **Naeroyfjord** + the train from **Flam** in one day,
    - *Info and booking*

- Cruise on the **Naeroyfjord** + the view from **Stegastein**
    - *Info and booking*

- **Norway in a Nutshell**: the classic fjord tour (Naeroyfjord, Flam, Aurlandsfjord, Stegastein) in one day from Bergen, with boat and train
    - *Info and booking*

- **Cruise** to discover Osterfjord and Mostraumen
    - *With the Rodne company*

- Discover Bergen by **Segway**
    - A guided tour on wheels

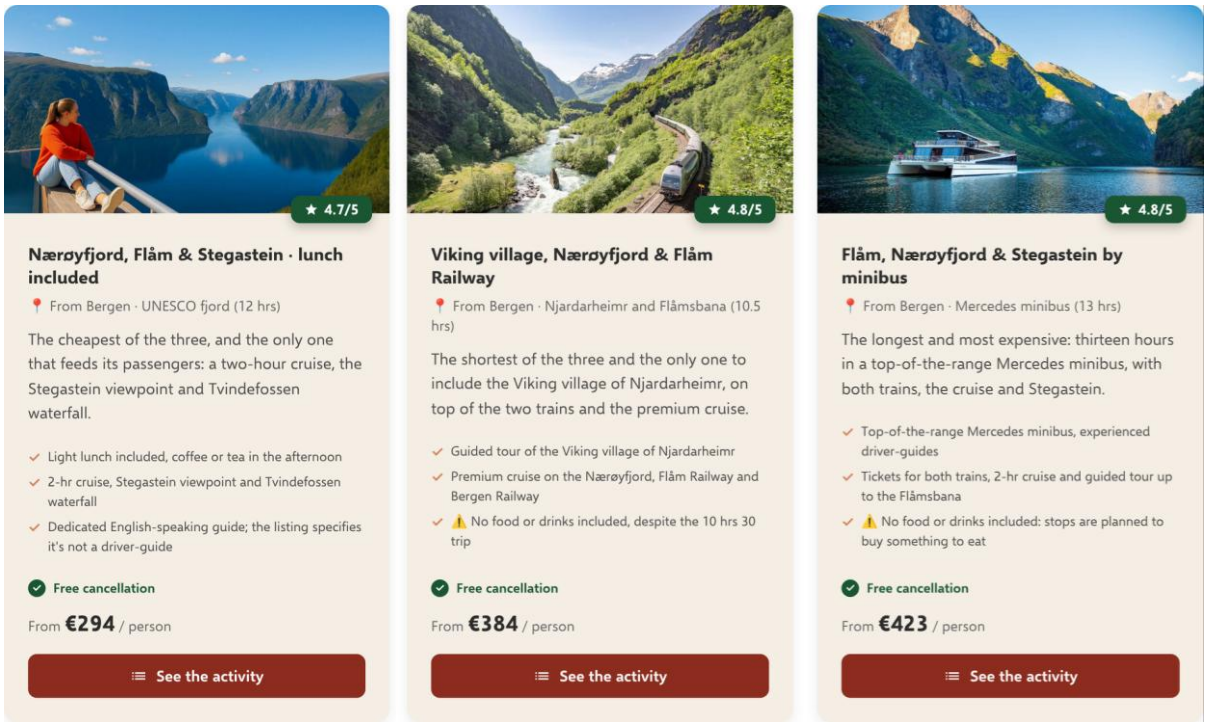
ALL THE CRUISES AROUND BERGEN AND THE FJORDS

Full article on *all the one-day fjord cruises around Bergen*

- **Bergen - Flam**:
  - from early May to late September
  - 5 h 30 for the one-way trip
  - Goes through the Sognefjord, the Aurlandsfjord and then arrives in Flam
  - Around €120
  - *Info and booking*

- The Naeroyfjord
  - From Gudvangen to Flam or the other way around
  - Two fjords: Naeroyfjord and Aurlandsfjord
  - The trip takes 2 h
  - Prices start from 625 NOK
  - Book a bus to get back to the starting point
  - *Info and booking*

- If you want to leave from Bergen and **go through a tour or an agency**, then you have several options to discover the Naeroyfjord on a day trip:
  - The Naeroyfjord + the Flam train
    - ***info and booking***
  - The cruise on the Naeroyfjord + the viewpoint at Stegastein in Aurland
    - ***info and booking***



- **The Kaupanger - Gudvangen ferry**
  - One of the most beautiful ferry rides in the country
  - Three fjords: Sognefjord, Naeroyfjord and Aurlandsfjord
  - The trip takes 2 h 20
  - Prices start from 2200 NOK for 1 car and 5 people
  - *Info and booking*

- **Bergen – cruise on the Osterfjord and Mostraumen**
  - Departure point: Bergen
  - The Osterfjord and the strait of Mostraumen
  - The trip takes 4 h
  - The price is around €70
  - *Info and booking*



- **Bergen – Fjaerland**
  - Fjaerland is one of the most beautiful places in the country
  - ferry from Bergen to Balestrand on the superb Sognefjord, then a small tourist boat from Balestrand to Fjaerland
  - visit to the Norwegian Glacier Museum
  - visit to the Bøyabreen glacier
  - day of 13 h
  - price around €235
  - *Info and booking*

ONE-WEEK ITINERARY IN THE FJORDS FROM BERGEN (BY CAR)

If you have a car (*compare carefully before renting*) and want to discover the best of the fjords and Bergen, here's an itinerary with stunning views all the way and plenty of flexibility.

I won't describe it in full, because you can find absolutely *all the details in this article*, but here are the main points, day by day

DAY 1 – Bergen

- *Guided tour* of the city (~2 h)
- A stroll through the centre and along the waterfront
- The Fløibanen funicular up Mount Fløyen
- **Night in Bergen** — *Citybox* (budget, ~€88) · *Radisson Blu Royal* at Bryggen (my favourite, ~€120) · *Bergen Børs* (to treat yourself, ~€185)



DAY 2 – Bergen

- Bryggen early in the morning
- The Hanseatic Museum
- The Bergenhus Fortress
- **Night** in Bergen (*same hotel*)






DAY 3 – Bergen

- *Cruise to Mostraumen* (Osterfjord, half a day)

- Afternoon: Nordnes and Nøstet
- Fantoft Stave Church
- Optional: the Heit Bergen floating sauna
- **Night** in Bergen (*same hotel*)





DAY 4 – Bergen → Fjærland (by car, ~250 km)

- The Tvindefossen waterfall
- Stalheimskleiva on foot
- Hopperstad Stave Church
- Vangsnes–Hella ferry
- The Bøyabreen glacier
- **Night** in Fjærland — *Fjærland Fjordstove Hotell*





DAY 5 – Fjærland → Aurland

- The stave church at Kaupanger
- Lærdal and Borgund Stave Church
- Snøvegen (or the Lærdal Tunnel)
- The viewpoint at Stegastein
- Night in Aurland or Flam — *Winjum Hostel Stegastein* (handy, nice view) · *Hotel Aurlandsfjord* (to treat yourself)



DAY 6 – Flåm / Nærøyfjord / Undredal

- The Flåm–Gudvangen cruise (back by shuttle bus or boat)
- The village of Undredal
- Scenic road to Skjerdal
- Night in Aurland or Flam (same hotel)



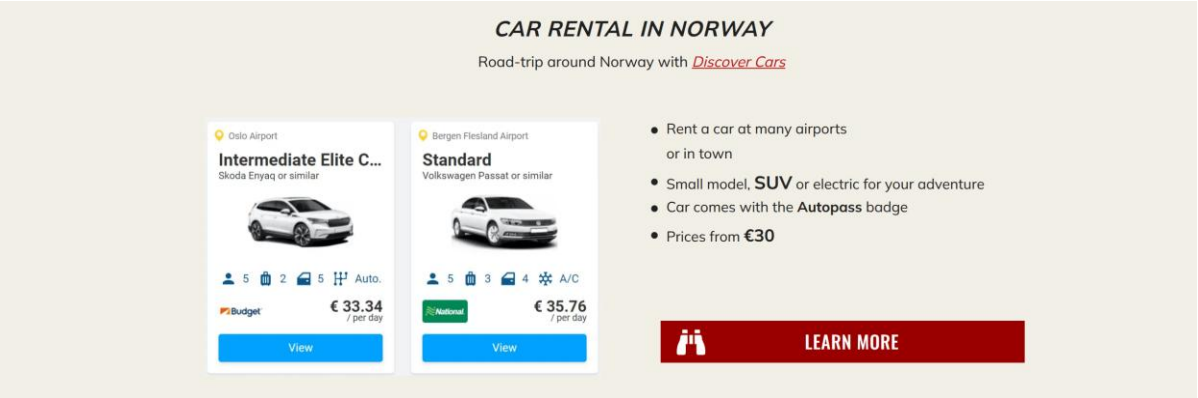


DAY 7 – The Flåm Railway

- Flåmsbana up to Myrdal
- Back down on foot / by bike / by zipline
- Drive to Bergen or the airport
- Last night in Bergen (back at the hotels from the start)







BERGEN WITHOUT A CAR

You don't need to have a car to enjoy Bergen and its immediate surroundings. In Bergen itself, a car is actually pointless. You might think it's essential for exploring the nearby fjords, but it isn't! Proof below.

A day in the fjords from Bergen

As we saw earlier, there are several cruises from Bergen that let you discover the region's fjords:

- The *cruise on the Osterfjord*, really nice and super convenient from Bergen. But not the most spectacular compared with the others (and not expensive either, since you stay in Bergen)
- The *cruise between Bergen and Flam*. This one you book directly with the operator: it's not really a tourist boat, it's a regular transport boat. The trip is great, but it's long. 5 hours between Bergen and Flam, so 10 hours round trip, but given the route, it's worth it! (not bookable in winter)
- The *Hardangerfjord*, a day on the water: 2 hours to a little village, 3 h 30 there, and back along the same really pretty route through the fjords
- A *day trip to Fjaerland* through the fjords and past the glaciers. I love this one, because it's a little-known place and yet it's magnificent! Don't skip Fjaerland, car or no car. This one doesn't run in winter.

But let's be honest, the fjord you're really after is **the NAEROYFJORD**, one of the two most beautiful fjords in Norway (by my own entirely arbitrary vote).

To visit the Naeroyfjord from Bergen, you can go with an agency that handles everything (we'll look at that on the next page), or make the bookings yourself. Here's what that looks like. It's a packed day, but you get the cruise in a single day.

Step	Times	Booking
🚆 Train Bergen → Voss	08:29 → 09:41	vy.no
🚌 Bus Voss → Gudvangen (VY456)	10:00 → 11:05	Norway's best
🚢 Cruise Gudvangen → Flåm	12:00 → 14:00	Norway's best
🚌 Bus Flåm → Bergen (VY450 / NW420)	~15:10 → ~18:05	vy.no / nor-way.no

Norway in a Nutshell – the Naeroyfjord and the Flam Railway in one day from Bergen

To visit the Naeroyfjord from Bergen in a single day, there are some fantastic combo tours. It's not cheap, but it's great.

- **Making the bookings yourself**

So, first of all, you can make all the bookings yourself. It involves lots of different sites, and here are the recommended times to see the Naeroyfjord, the Flam Railway and the Stegastein viewpoint. It makes for a big day.

Step	**Times**	**Booking**
🚆 Train Bergen → Voss	08:29 → 09:41	vy.no
🚌 Bus Voss → Gudvangen (VY456)	10:00 → 11:05	Norway's best
🚢 Cruise Gudvangen → Flåm	12:00 → 14:00	Norway's best
🔭 Bus Stegastein (round trip)	14:30 → 15:50 (arrival at the viewpoint 15:00, about 20 min there)	Norway's best
🚂 Flåmsbana Flåm → Myrdal	16:50 → 17:35	vy.no (combined ticket with the next train)
🚆 Train Myrdal → Bergen	18:49 → ~21:16	same

- **Going through an agency**

Now, if you don't want the hassle, you can go through an agency that will make all the bookings for you. You don't have to do a thing. And there are several programmes available, so let's have a look.

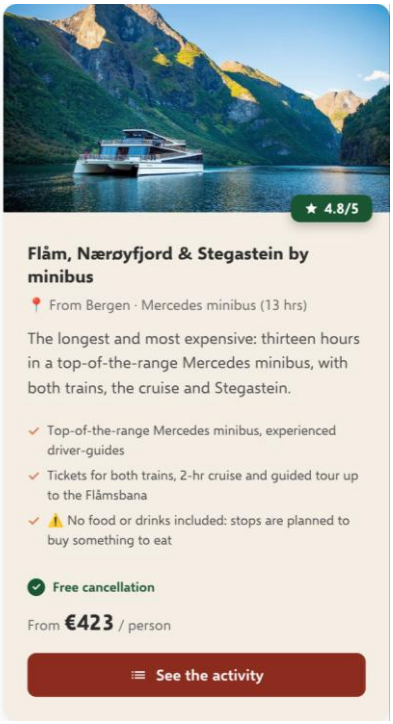
Package	The Flåm Railway	Cruise on the Nærøyfjord	Stegastein	Viking village	Meal			
Option 1 Cruise + Stegastein	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	from ~$329	12 h	4.7/5
Option 2 Train + cruise	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	from ~$430	10.5 h	4.8/5
Option 3 the full package	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	from ~$473	13 h	4.8/5

So you see, 3 nice options depending on whether you want:

- Mainly the cruise, plus the Stegastein viewpoint over the fjord (superb)
- The cruise and the Flam Railway (with the Viking village of Gudvangen as a bonus)
- The full package: the 3 most important sights, i.e. the Naeroyfjord, the Flam Railway and Stegastein
    - *You can see the descriptions and book using the links below*







One-week itinerary in Bergen and the fjords without a car

With a week in Bergen, even without a car, you can make the most of it and do something pretty amazing, seeing fjords and magnificent scenery.

GENERAL INFO

- *From the airport to the city centre*

You can take the tram, which is really handy if you're staying in the centre and don't have too much luggage. Otherwise you can *book a taxi in advance* with Booking: it costs about €90 and the driver waits for you on arrival.
You'll find all the info in this article.

- *Where to stay in Bergen*

Without a car, you really should stay in the city centre. Everything is super easy on foot, the neighbourhoods are really cute, and you won't need to take the tram to get around or to your activities.

  - To treat yourself, have a look at the *Charmante Hotel*, which really lives up to its name
  - To be at Bryggen right by the water, go for the *Radisson Blu*
  - On a budget, it's the *City Box Bergen* in the centre
  - For plenty of charm, *this wooden house* is the one for you
  - *Discover all the best places to stay in Bergen in this article*



DAY 1 – EXPLORING THE CITY

We'll start off nice and easy. Obviously you want to see the most beautiful places in Bergen, and you're right! Here's what I suggest for a first day:

- In the morning, head to **Bryggen**, because there are fewer people around and there are some nice little shops, so take your time. Normally you can go up to the upper floors too
- In the afternoon, go and visit **Bergenhus** Fortress, one of the oldest and best-preserved fortresses in Norway. OK, it's been partly destroyed and rebuilt over the years, but it's still pretty interesting.
    - Alternatively, take *a guided tour of the city*! It's a great way to get a feel for the history of this Hanseatic city. Some tours also take you around the fortress.



DAY 2 – A BOAT TRIP THROUGH THE FJORDS

To warm up, book a boat trip out to Mostraumen and into the Osterfjord. Not expensive, really fun. Then, if the weather's nice, head up to
Floyen, the viewpoint overlooking the city, via the **funicular**



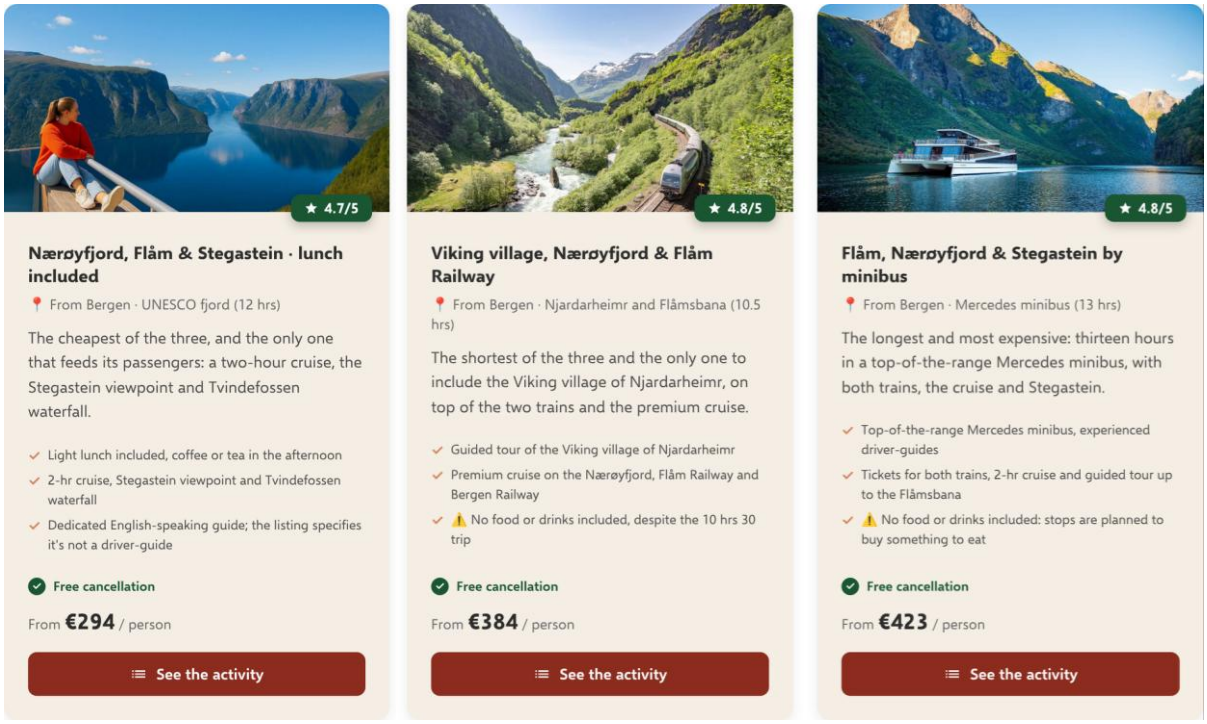
DAY 3 – DISCOVERING THE FJORDS

This is THE day of your stay. With the cruise on the Naeroyfjord, the Flam Railway and, why not, the Stegastein viewpoint overlooking the Aurlandsfjord. And for that, I'm suggesting two options. In one day or in two.

- **OPTION 1 – THE ONE-DAY VISIT**

It's packed but very doable, it's a popular day out. In one day you can choose one of the following 3 options:

- Mainly the cruise, plus the Stegastein viewpoint over the fjord (superb)
- The cruise and the Flam Railway (with the Viking village of Gudvangen as a bonus)
- The full package: the 3 most important sites, the Naeroyfjord, the Flam Railway and Stegastein
    - *You can read the descriptions and book using the links below*



- **OPTION 2 – THE TWO-DAY VISIT**

Here, rather than one very full day doing everything (great, mind you, but a tad intense), I suggest splitting it all over two days, and even adding a bit more! (well yes, you're not there to twiddle your thumbs)

DAY 1

- You take the Bergen → Myrdal train in the morning
- Then the Myrdal – Flam train, the famous one
- Once in Flam, you can take the boat on the Naeroyfjord
- And the bus to get back to Flam
- You spend the night in Flam, for example at the *Flam Marina*.

DAY 2

- From Flam, I suggest a trip out to *Borgund, Stegastein and Laerdal* (not possible in winter)
- Then you head back nice and easy to Bergen by bus

The advantage of the two-day version is that you see more, but at a gentler pace. You only do the train one way, not a return trip, and you also get to discover Borgund, which is magnificent.

But it means making the bookings yourself, taking another hotel, packing your bags and all that. But honestly, it's worth it.



DAY 4 – A BIT OF CULTURE

If you didn't go for the 2-day fjord option, then here's what I suggest for this day:

- Take the tram early in the morning to **the Fantoft stave church**. It's a reconstruction, but it has a really interesting history. Check the opening hours beforehand, because they're a bit chaotic, let's say
- Get back on the tram and carry on to Edvard Grieg's house, **Troldhaugen**. I'm not making this up: it's said to be an immersive pilgrimage to the heart of Norwegian cultural identity, blending classical music, history and idyllic scenery. Edvard Grieg, the country's most famous composer (he wrote the music for Peer Gynt, including the famous Morning Mood, you definitely know it), lived there for 22 years. He even called the estate his “best opus so far”. A very beautiful house, great decor, it's interesting and the view is fantastic
- Then head back to the city centre, still by tram. And go and explore the **Nordnes peninsula**, the spot I find the prettiest in Bergen. Lots of little lanes lined with wooden houses, it's really pretty, as typical as it gets and hardly anyone around.





DAY 5 – DISCOVERING THE HARDANGERFJORD / TROLLTUNGA / FOLGEFONNA

Once again, two options. One for water lovers, another for walkers (well, it depends on the season, obviously):

- I suggest you head off to explore the very pretty *Hardangerfjord*, considered Norway's orchard (ok, along with the Valldal area), on a day cruise
- Or go and discover the superb *national park of Folgefonna*, see glaciers and hike up to the lakes
- Or, if the season allows, go and do *the hike to Trolltunga*







DAY 6 – NATURE, SIGHTSEEING AND SHOPPING

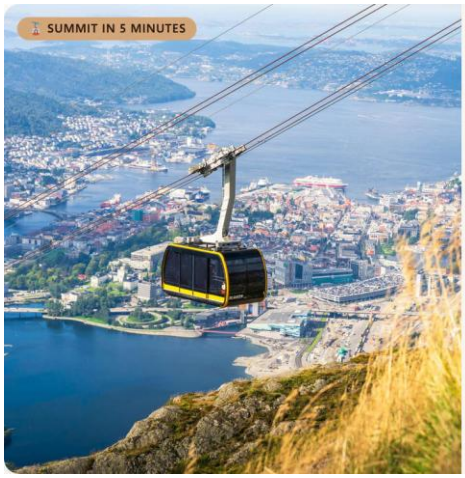
On the last day, if you fancy some nature, I'm not going to suggest yet anooother cruise, but rather going up *Mount Ulriken* to walk on the heights above Bergen. You take a cable car and the view is absolutely insane.

If you haven't made the most of the city yet, then keep wandering around the little neighbourhoods, take your time. Nordnes, yes, but also Nostet or Nedre Fjellsmauet. In short, loads of wooden houses, and all of them pretty!

And for shopping, I admit I have a soft spot for the little shops in Bryggen. There are some nice, original products, I find. Otherwise, the wool jumpers are great but cost an arm and a leg.







Bergen: Ulriken cable car, return ticket

★★★★½ **4.5/5 · Very highly rated** · 1,279 reviews · valid all day · wheelchair accessible

A cable car to the top of Ulriken, Bergen's highest mountain, above the tree line, with views over the city, the fjords and the islands, and waymarked trails for all levels. Ulriken Express bus from the fish market from April to September, tram line 2 the rest of the year.

Lots of trails to do once at the top, with vast landscapes to explore! — Lisa, France

- Spectacular view in clear weather · café and restaurant at the top
- Easy access, even without hiking gear
- ⚠ Little point in low cloud, book at the last minute · voucher to exchange at the ticket desk · tickets also sold on site

Free cancellation

From **€47**

See availability

ALL THE ACTIVITIES IN BERGEN

Guided tours of Bergen



Walking tour with Martin

📍 Tourist office, Strandkaien · (2 hrs)

The best rated of the three and the cheapest: two hours in the centre in a small group, with a guide who gives the tour its name.

- ✓ Professional guide, small group, departs from the tourist office
- ✓ 4.9/5 from 1,601 reviews, the best score of the three
- ✓ ⚠ Wear good shoes · the tour can be fully booked

Free cancellation

From **€30** / person

See the activity



Bergen, past and present

📍 From central Bergen · (2 hrs)

The most tried and tested of the bunch with 2,439 reviews, led by a licensed, certified guide, on the history of the Hanseatic city.

- ✓ Licensed, certified guide, small-group tour
- ✓ 4.9/5 from 2,439 reviews: an excellent score on a volume that makes it reliable
- ✓ ⚠ Two meeting points depending on the option chosen · not suitable for people with reduced mobility

Free cancellation

From **€34** / person

See the activity



Walking tour & ferry ride

📍 Tourist office, Strandkaien · (2 hrs)

The only one of the three that takes to the water: the ferry ticket is included, so you see the city from the fjord.

- ✓ Ferry tickets included, scenic crossing as part of the tour
- ✓ Guide and small group, designed for a first visit to Bergen
- ✓ ⚠ Only 485 reviews, far fewer than the other two · not wheelchair accessible

Free cancellation

From **€43** / person

See the activity



Gray Line hop-on hop-off bus · 24 hrs

📍 Bergen · ticket valid for 24 hours

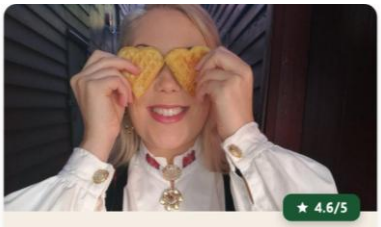
To get around at your own pace for a whole day, with an audio guide on board and a handful of discounts on the city's attractions.

- ✓ 24-hr ticket, Wi-Fi, audio guide and headphones provided
- ✓ Linked discounts: 10% on the Beffen ferry, 20% at the Fisheries Museum and the Aquarium, reduced rate at Magic Ice
- ✓ ⚠ 3.8/5 from 580 reviews: that's low, travellers are far from convinced by the service

Free cancellation

From **€42** / person

See the activity



Food and culture walk

📍 Tourist office, Strandkaien · Bergen Base Camp (3 hrs)

Three hours of traditional tastings between the alleyways and the fish market, with enough along the way to replace a proper meal.

- ✓ Tastings of traditional food and drinks, the equivalent of a meal
- ✓ Local guide, group of 12 people max, suitable from age 5
- ✓ ⚠ English-speaking guide only · minimum 2 participants for the tour to go ahead

Free cancellation

From **€138** / person

See the activity



A taste of Bergen & Fløibanen funicular

📍 Tourist office, Bergen · I Love Bergen (8 people max)

Thirteen tastings in five restaurants in the centre, and the Fløyen funicular included in the ticket: the full version of the food tour.

- ✓ 13 tastings across five local restaurants, cider tasting with an alcohol-free option
- ✓ Return Fløibanen funicular tickets included, licensed guide, 8 people max
- ✓ Fully accessible for people with reduced mobility, from age 5

Free cancellation

From **€206** / person

See the activity

🚢 Cruises & fjords



Mostraumen · the original cruise

📍 Torget, Bergen · Osterfjord and Mostraumen (3.5 hrs)

4.7 from over ten thousand reviews: a safe bet, this is the boat trip to do if you only do one from Bergen.

- ✓ Return cruise along the Osterfjord to the Mostraumen strait
- ✓ Spacious cabin, access to the sun deck and audio guide on board
- ✓ ⚠️ Food and drinks on sale on board, not included

Free cancellation

From **€86** / person

See the activity



Mostraumen by premium RIB

📍 From Bergen · Modalen and Mostraumen (2.5 hrs)

The same fjord, but at water level and an hour shorter: a premium RIB rather than a cabin boat.

- ✓ 2 hrs 30 safari on a premium RIB
- ✓ Experienced captain giving commentary, audio guide between the highlights
- ✓ Warm flotation suit, life jacket and safety equipment provided

Free cancellation

From **€143** / person

See the activity



Fjærland glacier & Sognefjord

📍 Departs Bergen · Sognefjord and Bøyabreen glacier (13 hrs)

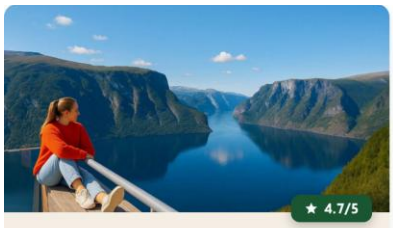
The most complete trip from Bergen: the Sognefjord cruise, the Bøyabreen glacier and two stops along the way. Thirteen hours, a big day out.

- ✓ Cruise on the Sognefjord and detour into the Fjærlandsfjord
- ✓ Norwegian Glacier Museum and view of the Bøyabreen glacier tongue
- ✓ Hopperstad stave church (1130) and Tvindefossen waterfall

Free cancellation

From **€328** / person

Discover the glacier



Nærøyfjord, Flåm & Stegastein · lunch included

📍 From Bergen · UNESCO fjord (12 hrs)

The cheapest of the three, and the only one that feeds its passengers: a two-hour cruise, the Stegastein viewpoint and Tvindefossen waterfall.

- ✓ Light lunch included, coffee or tea in the afternoon
- ✓ 2-hr cruise, Stegastein viewpoint and Tvindefossen waterfall
- ✓ Dedicated English-speaking guide; the listing specifies it's not a driver-guide

Free cancellation

From **€294** / person

See the activity



Viking village, Nærøyfjord & Flåm Railway

📍 From Bergen · Njardarheimr and Flåmsbana (10.5 hrs)

The shortest of the three and the only one to include the Viking village of Njardarheimr, on top of the two trains and the premium cruise.

- ✓ Guided tour of the Viking village of Njardarheimr
- ✓ Premium cruise on the Nærøyfjord, Flåm Railway and Bergen Railway
- ✓ ⚠️ No food or drinks included, despite the 10 hrs 30 trip

Free cancellation

From **€384** / person

See the activity



Flåm, Nærøyfjord & Stegastein by minibus

📍 From Bergen · Mercedes minibus (13 hrs)

The longest and most expensive: thirteen hours in a top-of-the-range Mercedes minibus, with both trains, the cruise and Stegastein.

- ✓ Top-of-the-range Mercedes minibus, experienced driver-guides
- ✓ Tickets for both trains, 2-hr cruise and guided tour up to the Flåmsbana
- ✓ ⚠️ No food or drinks included: stops are planned to buy something to eat

Free cancellation

From **€423** / person

See the activity

Adventure & outdoor



★ 4.9/5

Kayaking around the Øygarden islets

📍 Øygarden, from Bergen · (4.5 hrs)

The only one of the three that gets you out on the water, with the shuttle from the tourist office and a snack with local apple juice.

- Pick-up and drop-off at the Bergen tourist office
- Waterproof gear provided, snack with local apple juice
- ⚠️ Not allowed for under-8s, pregnant women, people with reduced mobility or anyone over 110 kg

Free cancellation

From **€172** / person

See the activity



★ 4.9/5

Folgefonna & Bondhus glacial lake

📍 Folgefonna National Park, from Bergen · (10.5 hrs)

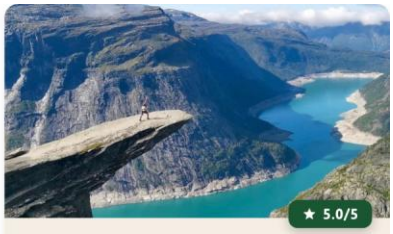
Ten and a half hours to the glacial lake, with a picnic served at the water's edge and the ferry crossings included.

- Picnic lunch by the glacial lake
- All ferry crossing costs included
- First-aid-trained guides, 988 reviews at 4.9/5

Free cancellation

From **€189** / person

See the activity



★ 5.0/5

Trolltunga & Hardangerfjord

📍 Jondal, from Bergen · (14 hrs)

Fourteen hours to get all the way to the Troll's Tongue, the most photographed rock in Norway, with the Hardangerfjord and the Sørfjord en route.

- Departure from Bergen, access to the Trolltunga route, meal included
- Visit to the Hardangerfjord and the Sørfjord during the day
- ⚠️ Only 48 reviews · hiking boots, technical clothing, rucksack and water to bring

Free cancellation

From **€289** / person

See the activity



★ 8.6/10

Fløyen funicular

📍 Fløibanen station, Bergen

Under ten minutes to climb Mount Fløyen and see Bergen from above: it's the city's classic, and it's genuinely worth it.

- Return ticket, e-ticket on your phone
- Wheelchair accessible, pets allowed
- ⚠️ NON-REFUNDABLE and non-changeable · price shown in dollars by Civitatis · rated out of 10, not 5

From **US$15.57** / person

See the activity



★ 4.5/5

Ulriken cable car

📍 Haukelandsbakken, Bergen

The highest of Bergen's seven mountains for under fifty euros: the views are sweeping and the trails start from the summit.

- Return ticket for the cable car
- Access to waymarked hiking trails from the summit
- ⚠️ 4.5/5 from 1,279 reviews: just decent · exchange voucher at the desk · food and drink extra

Free cancellation

From **€47** / person

See the activity



★ 4.8/5

Bondhus glacial lake & Folgefonna

📍 Hordaland county, from Bergen · (10.5 hrs)

The most complete of the three: two crossings of the Hardangerfjord, Steinsdalsfossen waterfall, Rosendal and the glacial lake, hot lunch included.

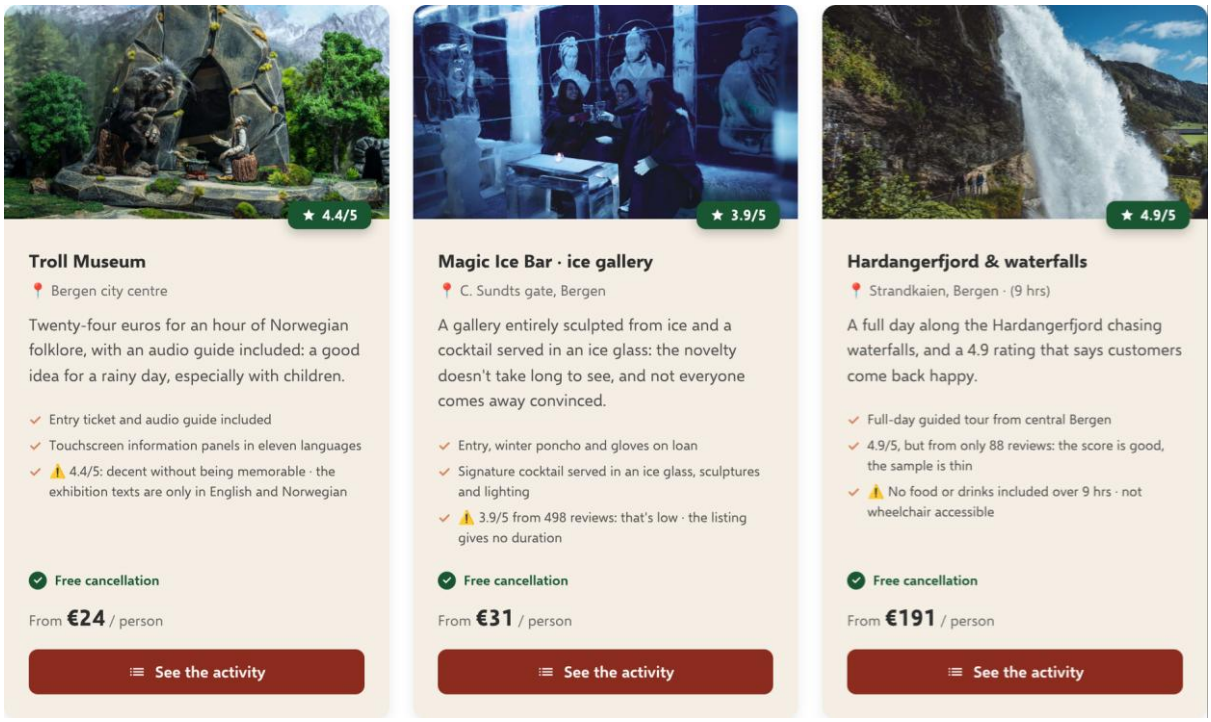
- Hot lunch, two ferry crossings and all costs included
- Bondhus glacial lake, Steinsdalsfossen waterfall and Rosendal on the same day
- Hotel pick-up and drop-off included · 4.8/5, a safe bet

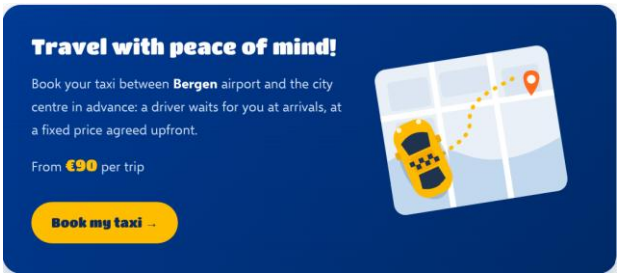
Free cancellation

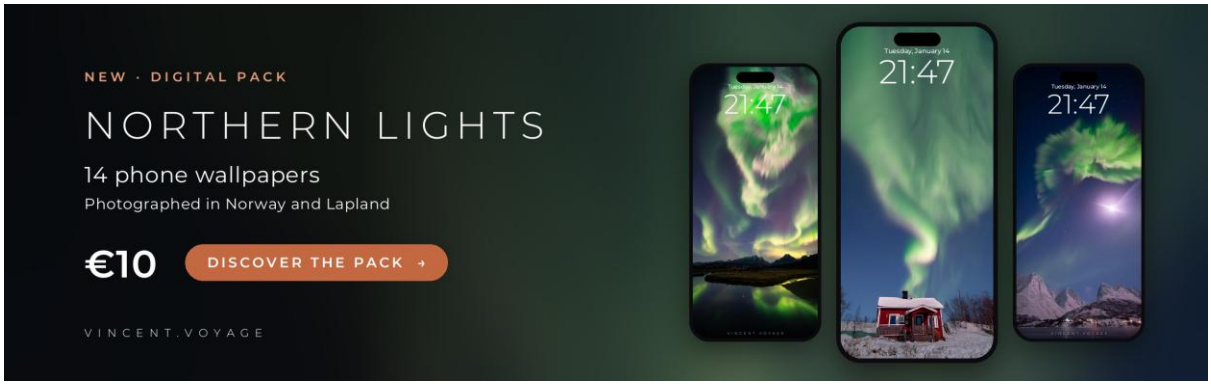
From **€212** / person

See the activity

Experiences & transfers







WHERE TO STAY IN BERGEN

Here's a summary table of the accommodations featured here. If you want more info, you'll find the card for each place just below!

Hotel	Neighborhood	Price / night	Rating	Link
Our favorites				
Kong Oscars Apartments	Historic center	€130	9.1/10	→
Clarion Hotel Admiral	Facing Bryggen	€130	8.4/10	→
Hotel Park Bergen	Near Nygårdsparken	€165	8.6/10	→
Bergen Børs Hotel	Vågsallmenningen	€194	8.7/10	→
Radisson Blu Royal Hotel	Foot of Bryggen	€123	8.4/10	→
Det Hanseatiske Hotel	On Bryggen UNESCO	€152	8.5/10	→
Home Hotel Bryggen	Facing the harbour	€199	8.6/10	→
Home Hotel Havnekontoret	Slottsgaten 1	€212	8.8/10	→
Family & apartments				
Charming Bergen House	Sandviken	€114	9.3/10	→
Veversmauet Apartments	Centre, 250 m from station	€120	8.9/10	→
Nordnes – Amazing view of Bryggen	Nordnes, 8th floor	€213	9.0/10	→
Nygårdsgaten Apartments	Centre · 100 m²	€400	9.2/10	→
Treat yourself (luxury)				
Grand Hotel Terminus	Opposite the station	€172	8.6/10	→
Bergen Børs Hotel	Vågsallmenningen	€194	8.7/10	→
Skostredet Hotel & Spa	Skostredet lane	€198	8.8/10	→
Opus XVI	Vågsallmenningen 16	€273	9.1/10	→
Charmante Skostredet Hôtel	Skostredet · 5★	€217	9.1/10	→
Value for money				
Citybox Bergen City	Nygårdsgaten	€97	8.1/10	→
Magic Kløverhuset Harbour Hotel	Strandgaten 15	€108	8.3/10	→
Ole Bull Hotel & Apartments	Ole Bulls plass	€109	8.6/10	→
Scandic Torget Bergen	Fish Market	€110	8.2/10	→
Budget options				
City Hostel Bergen	Kong Oscars gate	€30 / bed	8.3/10	→
Bergen Hostel Montana	Hills above Bergen	€40 / bed	8.6/10	→
Scandic Neptun	Walckendorffsgate	€79	7.9/10	→
Citybox Danmarksplass	Solheimsgaten	€80	8.4/10	→
Nordnes				
Comfort Hotel Bergen	Strandgaten 190	€108	8.1/10	→
Klosterhagen Hotel	Heart of Nordnes	€116	8.6/10	→

Heimen Hotel	Entrance to Nordnes	**€118**	**8.2/10**	→
Bergen Beds Apartments Urban Escape	Holbergsallmenningen	**€150**	**9.1/10**	→
Outside Bergen				
Fjellhagen	Bjørkheim (1 hr)	**€123**	**9.3/10**	→
Quality Hotel Edvard Grieg	Sandsli	**€147**	**8.3/10**	→
Cottage in Bekkjarvik	Bekkjarvik (60 km)	**€180**	**9.7/10**	→
Floating Villa Bergen	Katlavika	**€500**	**9.3/10**	→
Near the airport				
Thon Hotel Bergen Airport	Flesland	**€147**	**8.1/10**	→
Scandic Flesland Airport	Flesland	**€147**	**8.6/10**	→
Comfort Hotel Bergen Airport	Flesland	**€152**	**8.4/10**	→
Clarion Hotel Bergen Airport	Flesland	**€196**	**8.5/10**	→

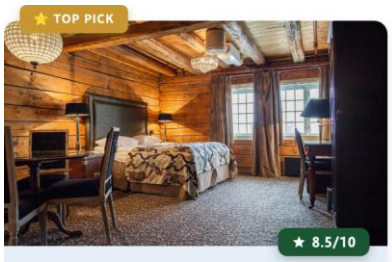


Is this guide useful to you?

It's *free* and it'll stay that way. If you'd like to help me keep it going, you can use the links in this guide or in the articles: it doesn't cost you a penny more. Or you can buy me a virtual coffee, it really makes my day :)

Activities · Hotels · Car · Buy me a coffee (€5)

The best places to stay in Bergen



Det Hanseatiske Hotel

📍 Bryggen · inside the Hanseatic houses

Four-star hotel set in the wooden houses of the Hanseatic quarter, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. You sleep in Bryggen itself, not just next door.

- Location 9.7 and comfort 9.0, the best scores of the trio
- Rooms described as spacious, clean and full of character
- Welcome and tips from reception often mentioned in reviews

From **€126** / night

See availability



Radisson Blu Royal Hotel

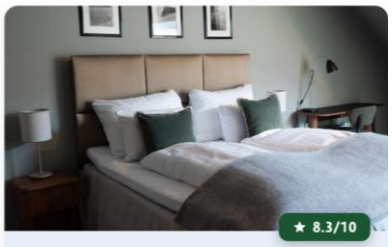
📍 Dreggsallmenningen · at the far end of Bryggen

Large four-star at the end of Bryggen, with the most reviews in Bergen, a gym, indoor parking and a paid airport shuttle. Breakfast very widely praised.

- Location 9.6, historic harbour and museums on foot
- Breakfast buffet called superb by many guests
- Value for money 8.1 from nearly nine thousand reviews

From **€128** / night

See availability



Clarion Hotel Admiral

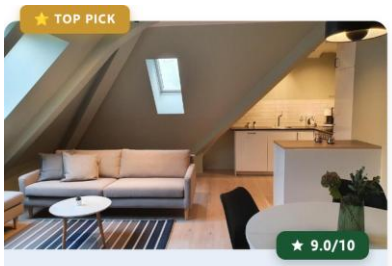
📍 Vågen quay · facing Bryggen

Hotel on the Vågen quay, directly opposite Bryggen, with balconies overlooking the harbour in some rooms. The Social Bar & Bistro restaurant occupies the ground floor.

- Location 9.5: direct view of Bryggen from the quay
- Breakfast and location mentioned together in reviews
- Value for money 7.8: the lowest score of the trio

From **€130** / night

See availability



Kong Oscars Apartments

📍 Historic centre · a few minutes from the harbour

Apartments of around fifty square metres in the historic centre, with equipped kitchen and washing machine. Self check-in, and the best score in this whole Bergen selection, from a thinner sample.

- Cleanliness and comfort both at 9.3, location 9.6
- Apartments called spacious, central and well equipped
- Only 494 reviews: the smallest sample of the eleven

From **€130** / night

See availability



Hotel Park Bergen

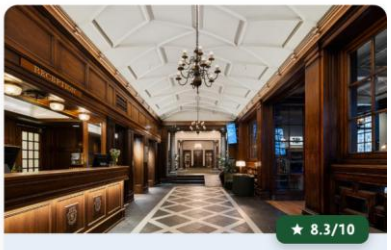
📍 Nygårdsparken · away from the tourist heart

Charming family hotel spread across two late nineteenth-century buildings, furnished with antiques. Staff rated 9.2, but the most out-of-the-way location in this selection.

- Staff 9.2 and cleanliness 9.0, home-made coffee and cake all day
- Unique rooms furnished with antiques, original parquet floors
- No children, 18 minimum age, and no lift

From **€140** / night

See availability



Grand Hotel Terminus

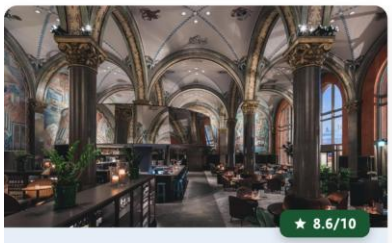
📍 Zander Kaaes gate · right next to the station

Historic hotel right next to the station, with a renowned whisky bar and its restaurant. The largest number of reviews in this whole Bergen selection.

- Staff 9.1 and location 9.4, station right next door
- Breakfast seen as a smart move given Bergen prices
- Nearly four thousand reviews: the 8.3 score is very solid

From **€172** / night

See availability



Bergen Børs Hotel

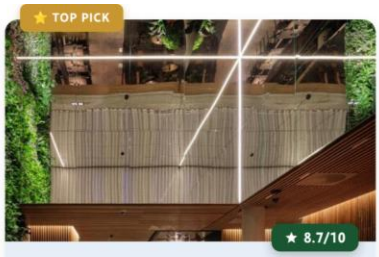
📍 Vågsallmenningen · heart of the centre

Former Stock Exchange turned boutique hotel, with two restaurants and a cocktail bar in a vaulted cellar. Location rated 9.7, in the heart of central Bergen.

- ✓ Location 9.7 and comfort 9.2, right in the centre
- ✓ Breakfast served in a room described as grand
- ✓ Value for money 8.0 and rooms deemed minimalist

From **€194** / night

See availability



Skostredet Hotel & Spa

📍 Skostredet · cobbled lane in old Bergen

Five-star boutique hotel on a cobbled lane in old Bergen, with sauna, hammam and treatments. The best score of this trio, from over two thousand two hundred reviews.

- ✓ Cleanliness and comfort both at 9.2, location 9.6
- ✓ Spa described by guests as a real bonus
- ✓ Value for money 8.2: five stars come at a price

From **€198** / night

See availability



Home Hotel Bryggen

📍 Bryggen · facing the harbour and quays

Hotel facing Bryggen, with harbour views from some rooms and self-service coffee and tea at all hours. Breakfast and a light evening meal included depending on the package.

- ✓ Location 9.6 and staff 9.0, facing the Bryggen quays
- ✓ Cleanliness and breakfast very consistently praised
- ✓ The priciest of the trio for the lowest score: 8.4

From **€199** / night

See availability



Home Hotel Havnekontoret

📍 Slottsgaten · on the quays, near Bryggen

Former harbour master's building from 1921, converted into a hotel on the quays. Coffee, tea and an evening buffet included in the rate, and the best-rated welcome in the whole selection.

- ✓ Staff 9.4: one of the warmest welcomes of the twelve addresses
- ✓ Location 9.7, views of Bergenhus and the harbour
- ✓ Value for money 8.3 for over two hundred euros

From **€212** / night

See availability



Charmante Skostredet Hôtel

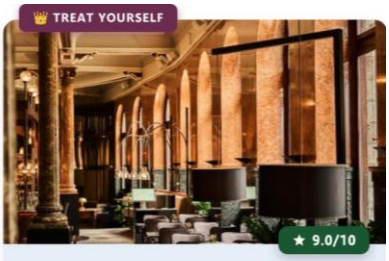
📍 Skostredet · five-star in the historic centre

Five-star hotel on Skostredet lane, with unapologetically kitsch, very polished French decor. The best score in the whole Bergen selection, from nearly a thousand reviews.

- ✓ Comfort 9.6, cleanliness and staff 9.5, location 9.7
- ✓ Spacious rooms and decor praised in reviews
- ✓ Value for money 8.8, the best of the three

From **€215** / night

See availability



Opus XVI

📍 Vågsallmenningen · historic centre

Five-star member of Small Luxury Hotels, set in Edvard Grieg's former family home. Clean Scandinavian decor, lounge bar and music room, right in Bergen's historic centre.

- ✓ Location 9.8: the best score of the twelve addresses
- ✓ Cleanliness and comfort 9.4, lobby and bar very elegant
- ✓ Value for money 8.3: two hundred and seventy-three euros a night

From **€273** / night

See availability

Excellent value for money



Citybox Bergen City

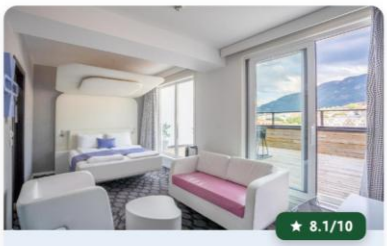
📍 Nygårdsgaten · by the university and Torgallmenningen

Norwegian budget concept with no traditional reception: online booking and self check-in. Functional, clean rooms, five hundred metres from Torgallmenningen and a kilometre from Bryggen.

- Location 9.0, the property's best score
- Cleanliness and comfort 8.4, nearly seven thousand reviews
- Value for money 7.9: the rate climbs fast in summer

From **€97** / night

See availability



Magic Kløverhuset Harbour Hotel

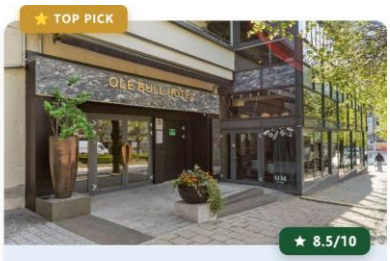
📍 Strandgaten · on the harbour, 400 m from Bryggen

A member of Radisson Individuals, set in the former Kløverhuset department store on the harbour. Some rooms overlook the quays, and Bryggen is four hundred metres away.

- Location 9.6: one of the best in the selection
- Staff and comfort at 8.6, Sjø restaurant on site
- Value for money 7.9, the weak point in reviews

From **€108** / night

See availability



Ole Bull, Best Western Signature Collection

📍 Ole Bulls plass · heart of the centre

Hotel rooms and apartments with kitchenette, on Ole Bulls plass, in the very centre of Bergen. The best score of the three for just a few euros more.

- Staff 9.0 and location 9.6, the best of the trio
- Equipped apartments, handy for longer stays
- Value for money 8.3, the highest of the three

From **€109** / night

See availability

For travellers on a budget



City Hostel Bergen

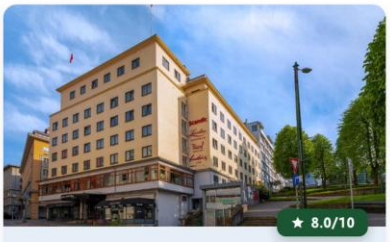
📍 Kong Oscars gate · between station and centre

Hostel five minutes from the station, with dorms, private rooms, a shared kitchen and individual lockers. The cheapest bed in the whole Bergen selection.

- Location 9.4, the property's best score
- Thirty euros for a dorm bed, private rooms cost more
- Cleanliness and staff at 8.4 from over four thousand reviews

From **€30** / night

See availability



Scandic Neptun

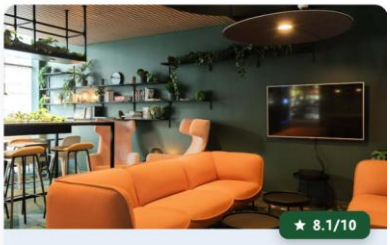
📍 Walckendorffsgate · centre, near the theatre

A Scandinavian chain with few surprises, five minutes' walk from Bryggen and Torgallmenningen. Norwegian art collection in the corridors and buffet breakfast depending on the rate booked.

- Location 9.3, five minutes' walk from Bryggen
- Staff 8.5, the property's best score
- Value for money 7.9 and facilities 8.0, nothing special

From **€79** / night

See availability



Citybox Bergen Danmarksplass

📍 Solheimsgaten · ten minutes from the centre by tram

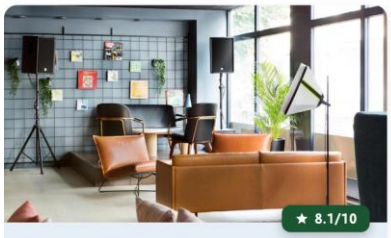
Bergen's second Citybox, a hundred metres from the Bybanen tram, which reaches the centre in ten minutes. Same budget concept, but better rated than the central one.

- Cleanliness 8.7 and comfort 8.6, above the central Citybox
- Location 8.3: out of the centre, the tram is essential
- Over seven thousand reviews for under a hundred euros

From **€80** / night

See availability

Staying on the Nordnes peninsula



Comfort Hotel Bergen

📍 Nordnes · where the peninsula begins

No-frills Comfort concept, colourful Scandinavian decor and modern rooms, at the start of the Nordnes peninsula. Bryggen is a ten-minute walk along the harbour.

- ✓ Staff 8.9, the property's best score
- ✓ Location 9.0, a ten-minute walk from Bryggen
- ✓ Value for money 7.9, the lowest of the trio

From **€108** / night

See availability



Klosterhagen Hotel

📍 Nordnes · in the old monastery garden

Small, charming hotel in the garden of the former St Michael's monastery, in a quiet spot on Nordnes. The best-rated welcome in the whole selection, ten minutes from the centre.

- ✓ Staff 9.4: the warmest welcome of the twenty-four addresses
- ✓ Cleanliness and comfort at 8.8, location 9.4
- ✓ Value for money 8.4, fair for this area

From **€116** / night

See availability



Heimen Hotel

📍 Nordnes · where the peninsula begins

Family-run hotel at the start of Nordnes, decorated with original paintings and sculptures. Pets allowed, family rooms and a lift, with harbour views from some rooms only.

- ✓ Location 9.2 and staff 8.6, the strong points in reviews
- ✓ Family rooms, lift and pets allowed
- ✓ Value for money 7.8, the lowest in the selection

From **€118** / night

See availability

Renting an apartment for families



Charming Bergen House

📍 Sandviken · just past Bryggen

Entire forty-three-square-metre house in old Sandviken, with one bedroom, a sofa bed and a terrace on an inner courtyard. The best score in the whole selection.

- ✓ Comfort 9.7, staff 9.7, value for money 9.6
- ✓ Pets allowed and accessible for guests with reduced mobility
- ✓ Location 8.9 and only 123 reviews

From **€114** / night

See availability



Veversmauet Apartments

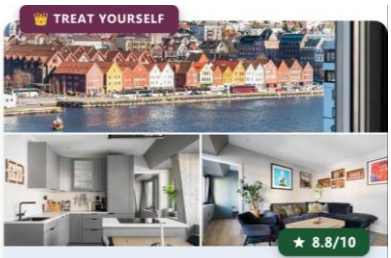
📍 Centre · 250 m from Bergen station

Studios and one-bed flats with kitchenette and washing machine, two hundred and fifty metres from the station. Balconies in some one-bed flats, and over a thousand reviews to reassure you.

- ✓ Location 9.7, the property's best score
- ✓ Cleanliness and comfort 9.2, kitchenette and washer
- ✓ Value for money 8.7 from over a thousand reviews

From **€120** / night

See availability



Nordnes – Amazing view of Bryggen

📍 Nordnes · eighth floor, facing Bryggen

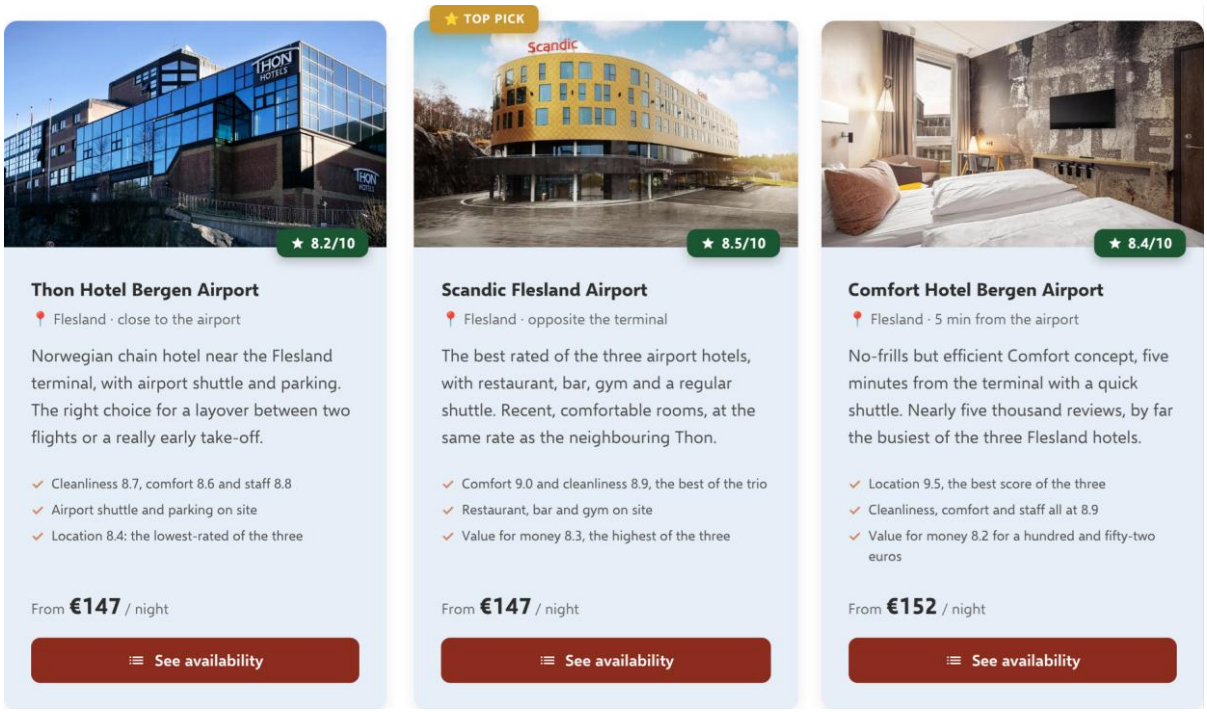
Sixty-square-metre apartment on the eighth floor, two bedrooms for four people, panoramic views of Bryggen and the sea. Indoor parking and a fully equipped kitchen.

- ✓ Location 9.7 and cleanliness 9.2, the best scores
- ✓ Two bedrooms, four people, indoor parking
- ✓ Only seventy-five reviews: still a thin sample

From **€213** / night

See availability

Staying near Bergen airport





In the following article, you'll find all the places to stay in Bergen

WHERE TO EAT

You can eat really well in Bergen (ok, it's not exactly cheap), here are a few examples:

- Pingvinen – Norwegian, and not too pricey
- The market on the harbour – keep in mind it's pricey, but the fish and seafood dishes are great
- Bryggeloftet - Norwegian
- Spisekroken - Norwegian
- Savanna - African
- Marg & Bein - Norwegian
- Fjellskål – seafood
- Enhjørningen Fiskerestaurant – seafood



HOW TO GET THERE AND GET AROUND

- Nearest **train** station: Bergen (obviously).
  - Bergen is perfectly connected to the rail network. The Oslo–Bergen line is one of the most beautiful train rides in the world. You can also hop off at Myrdal to head down to Flam
  - For routes and tickets, head to Vy.no

- **Airport** closest to the islands:
  - Bergen Flesland, 15 km to the south
    - In the following article I give you *all the transport options between Bergen airport and the city center*
      - Tram: line 1, 40 minutes, cheap
      - Bus: Flybussen, 20 minutes, goes straight to the center, convenient but pricier
      - Taxi: expensive for the distance but reliable
      - Driver: you can book a taxi to be waiting for you at the airport (*info and booking*)
  - Compare flights and airlines, prices vary enormously from one day to the next. I use *Booking Flights*, which I find very reliable thanks to its price prediction tool.
  - AIR FRANCE has direct flights

- There are bus options, both in town and in the surrounding area. **Journey planner**:
  - https://entur.no/

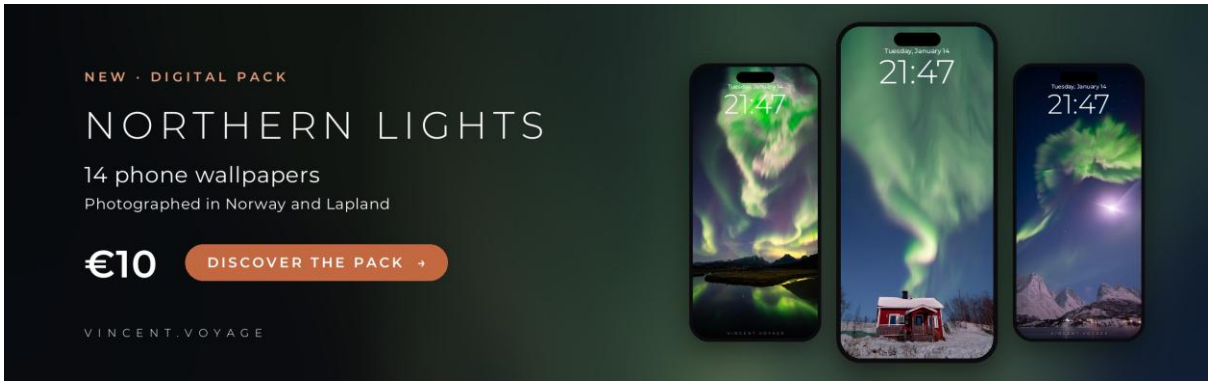
  - In town, public transport is free if you have the Bergen Card
  - In town, you can mostly get around on foot, the city center is small

- The starting point for many cruises
  - The famous Hurtigruten:
    - The famous cruise to Kirkenes
    - The port-to-port routes
  - Compare all the cruises in Norway
    - *Sometimes the direct link doesn't work, so you have to filter by Hurtigruten or the "Northern Europe" section*

- Renting a **car**:
  - For Bergen itself, you don't need to have a car. Plus, parking is difficult. However, as soon as you want to explore the surrounding area, a car comes in handy
  - There are car rental agencies in
    - Bergen airport
    - City center (Hertz)

You absolutely must COMPARE prices and reviews. I use *Discover Cars* or *Booking.com*, both very reliable with no nasty surprises. But using two to compare is really useful. Yes, you need to compare the comparison sites.





THE FJORD REGION FROM THE LYSEFJORD TO ALESUND

Full article here

MAP OF THE NORWEGIAN FJORDS

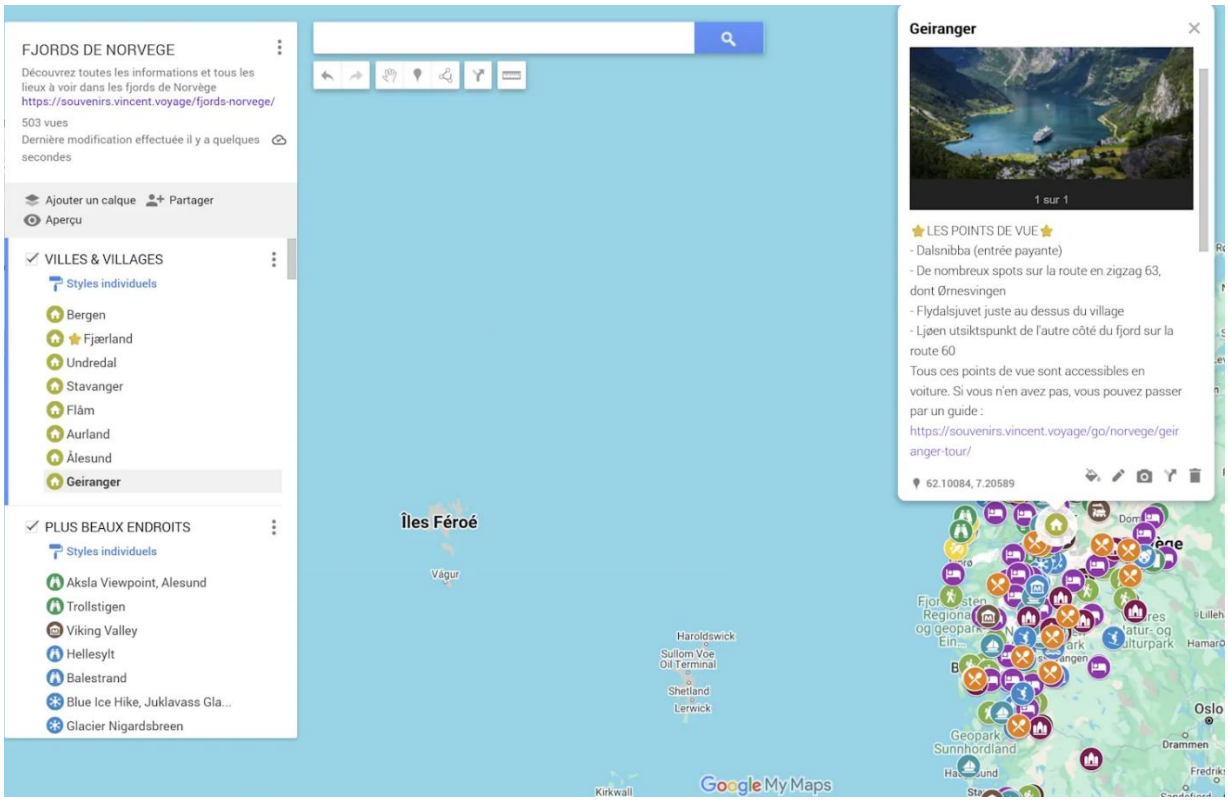
Here, in one place, are all the essentials you need to plan your stay in the Norwegian fjords.

In this interactive map created with Google Maps, you have access to:

- All the most beautiful spots and panoramas
- The scenic routes
- The activities
- The fjord cruises
- Accommodation, both great-value finds and more comfortable options
- Dozens of hikes
- The waterfalls
- And the restaurants and cafés

It works with a system of layers, and in the following article I explain *how to use the map*

⭐ *Click here to access the map!* ⭐



PLACES TO SEE IN THE FJORD REGION

You should know that the fjord region is really big. From the southwest (Stavanger) to Alesund, roughly speaking.

- **Stavanger** and its surroundings
  - Lysefjord
  - Trolltunga
  - Prekeistolen
  - Odda
- **Bergen**
  - See the previous section
- **Naeroyfjord** (take the boat to Flam)
- **Flam** and its railway
- **Fjaerland**
  - Ideal for slowing down in an idyllic setting
- **Stave churches** (Viking wooden churches)
  - Roldal
  - Hopperstad
  - Undredal
  - Borgund
  - Kaupanger
  - **Urnes**
  - Lom





- **Glaciers**
  - Nigardsbrenn
  - Kjenndalsbreen
  - Briksdalsbreen

- **Geiranger**
  - The fjord cruise from Hellesylt (the route from Valldal has been discontinued)
  - The viewpoint at Dalsnibba
  - The Ørnevegen

- **Alesund**
  - Runde island to see the puffins
  - The city center, very Art Nouveau in style
  - The Atlantic Road

- **Trollstigen**



- The park of **Dovrefjell**
  - Mainly to see the musk oxen

- **Stryn**
  - and Lovatnet in particular just next door, with crazy views and roads

- The road over the **Sognefjell**
  - Perhaps the most beautiful road in Norway

- The **Snoveggen**

ACTIVITIES IN THE FJORD REGION

- **Geiranger**
  - Ferry Geiranger – Hellesylt (with or without a car)
  - Sightseeing cruise Hellesylt – Geiranger - Hellesylt
  - Cruise Alesund – Geiranger – Alesund (9 h)
  - Discover Geiranger and its surroundings

- **Alesund**
  - The Trollstigen road from Alesund
  - See the puffins on Runde (no guide needed)
    - From May to September
  - Seeing the magnificent Hjørundfjord

- The train from **Flam**
  - Information and booking with NorwaysBest
  - Flam from Bergen (with the Naeroyfjord and Stegastein)
  - Cruise from Flam to Gudvangen

- The **Nigardsbreen**
  - A walk on the glacier with the guides from Jostedalen Breførarlag




The Geirangerfjord

Is this guide useful to you?



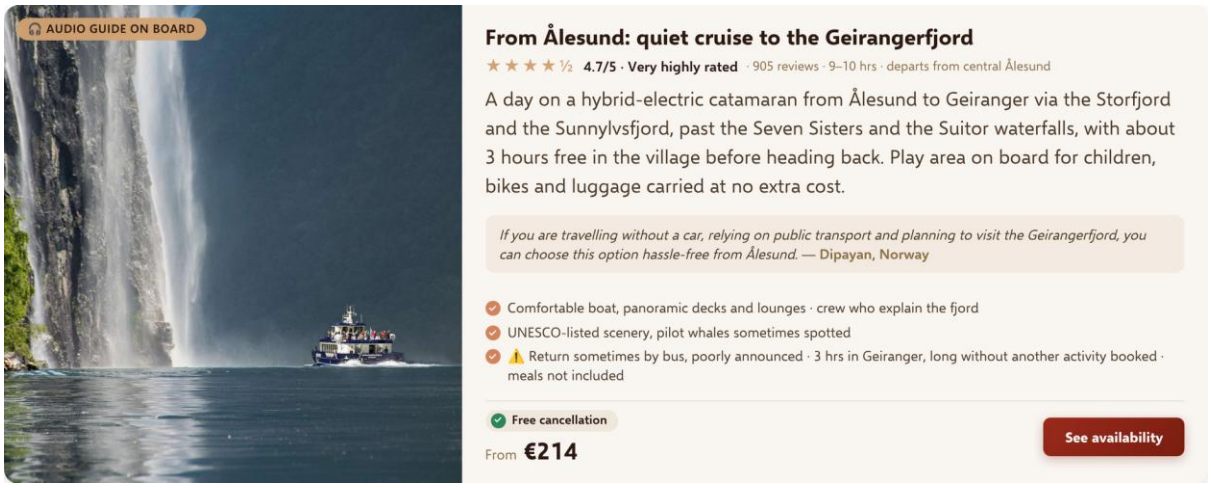
It's *free* and it'll stay that way. If you'd like to help me keep it going, you can use the links in this guide or in the articles: it doesn't cost you a penny more. Or you can buy me a virtual coffee, it really makes my day :)

Activities · Hotels · Car · Buy me a coffee (€5)

The most beautiful cruises in the Norwegian fjord region

wow! You'll feel how immense they are, and how beautiful it is!

There are loads of them all over the region; here are the ones I think are essential. The hardest part is choosing.









Flåm: classic Nærøyfjord cruise to Gudvangen

Lustrabaatane ferry · 2 hrs · one way

Two hours aboard a traditional ferry between Flåm and Gudvangen, along the UNESCO-listed Nærøyfjord, where the cliffs rise to 1,761 m and the fjord narrows to under 500 m near the village of Bakka. Departs from Flåm quay; the trip can also be done the other way from Gudvangen.

- Audio guide and cafeteria on board
- In winter, a different boat from summer, which sometimes breaks the fjord ice
- ⚠ One way only, Gudvangen–Flåm return to arrange (bus) · food and drinks not included · reduced timetable out of season

Free cancellation

From **€51**

See availability



Norled ferry Bergen → Flåm via the Sognefjord

★★★★ **4.2/5 · TripAdvisor** · 5 hrs 30 · departs 8am, Strandkai (Bergen)

The classic crossing between Bergen and Flåm up the Sognefjord, the longest fjord in Europe. Spectacular scenery, stops in small coastal villages, waterfalls tumbling down the mountains. The most immersive way to travel between the two.

- Norled express boat · stops at Balestrand, Vik, Leikanger, Aurland
- One way or return (2 hrs in Flåm before the 15:30 return)
- Discounts for children, students 18-29 and seniors 67+ · April-October season

Official Norled tickets · no extra charge

From **€113**

See availability



Bergen: Osterfjord cruise to Mostraumen

★★★★½ **4.7/5 · Very highly rated** · 10,511 reviews · 3 hrs 30 · departs from the fish market

Half a day from Bergen harbour, past the houses of Bryggen, then through the Osterfjord to the narrow Mostraumen strait and its strong currents. Pastries from a Bergen bakery and coffee for sale on board.

The ferry slowed down and stopped at various points, letting passengers out onto the front deck to get some air and take in the scenery, which was simply incredible. — **Karen, UK**

- Very smooth sailing, no seasickness · heated lounge and upper deck
- A good trip even in the rain, with fuller waterfalls
- ⚠ Commentary hard to hear, especially outside · audio in English and Norwegian · fully booked on some summer days

Free cancellation

From **€85**

See availability

ALESUND

Along with Bergen, it's the prettiest town in Norway, and on top of that it's unique thanks to its Art Nouveau architecture built after a fire that destroyed almost the entire town.

A very pleasant town, it's the northern gateway to the fjords, especially since you're close to everything (Geiranger, Trollstigen…).

The town, which you can explore in more depth *in this article*, is small, but ideal for taking a bit of time after your fill of roads and emotions in the fjords.





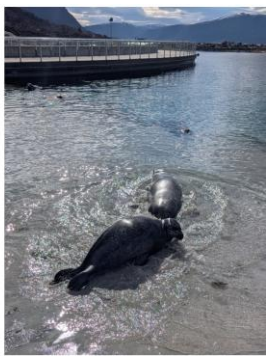
What to visit in Alesund and nearby

- The viewpoint on Mount Aksla
- The aquarium
- A visit to the Art Nouveau Centre
- See the Sunnmore museum, an open-air museum about Norwegian rural life
- Take a *guided tour of the center*
- Runde island, home to the puffins in particular, from April to early August
- Godoy island and the Alnes lighthouse
- The Troll Road (Trollstigen)





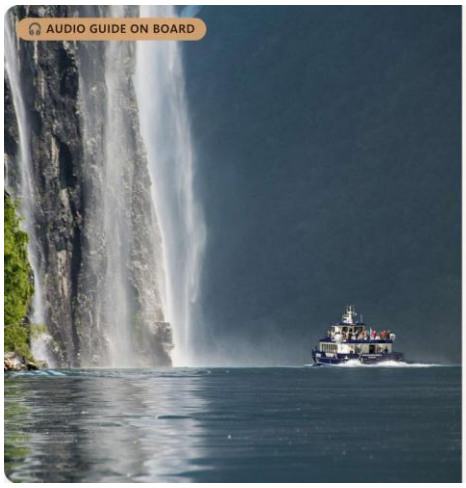




Things to do

There are plenty of activities on offer, especially **the cruises**. Two of them are genuinely must-dos:

- The round trip to Geiranger on a silent boat
- The cruise on the Hjorundfjord, one of the most beautiful yet least-known fjords in Norway



From Ålesund: quiet cruise to the Geirangerfjord

★★★★½ **4.7/5 · Very highly rated** · 905 reviews · 9–10 hrs · departs from central Ålesund

A day on a hybrid-electric catamaran from Ålesund to Geiranger via the Storfjord and the Sunnylvsfjord, past the Seven Sisters and the Suitor waterfalls, with about 3 hours free in the village before heading back. Play area on board for children, bikes and luggage carried at no extra cost.

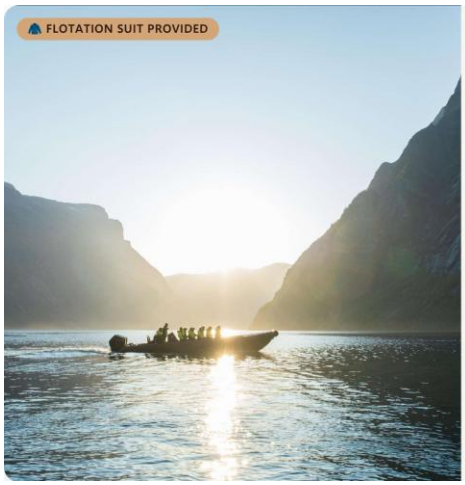
If you are travelling without a car, relying on public transport and planning to visit the Geirangerfjord, you can choose this option hassle-free from Ålesund. — Dipayan, Norway

- Comfortable boat, panoramic decks and lounges · crew who explain the fjord
- UNESCO-listed scenery, pilot whales sometimes spotted
- ⚠ Return sometimes by bus, poorly announced · 3 hrs in Geiranger, long without another activity booked · meals not included

Free cancellation

From **€214**

See availability



Ålesund: RIB safari in the Hjørundfjord

★★★★★ **4.8/5 · Exceptional** · 254 reviews · 1 hr 45 · departs from central Ålesund

A fast ride from Ålesund to the Hjørundfjord, framed by the peaks of the Sunnmøre Alps, with photo stops below the cliffs, the waterfalls and the farms clinging to the slopes. Meet at the harbour 15 min beforehand, gloves and goggles on loan.

It was an extraordinary experience. Would I do it again? YES! In fact, I didn't want to get off when we got back to the starting point. — Claire, UK

- Funny, informative guide-skipper · pilot whales sometimes spotted
- Gets as close as possible to the cliffs and waterfalls
- ⚠ Open boat, wind and spray · not advised with back problems or seasickness · little detail on the programme beforehand · English-speaking guide

Free cancellation

From **€143**

See availability

If you feel like getting a bit of exercise, there's something really cool. You can **go kayaking** in the canals of Alesund



Ålesund: guided sea kayaking tour

★★★★★ **5/5 · Top rated** · 3 reviews · 2 h 30 or 6 h · Uteguiden

Paddle a stable kayak around Ålesund to discover its Art Nouveau architecture from the water, an unusual angle. Two options: the classic 2 h 30 accessible to the whole family, or a 6 h day with a hike and Norwegian lunch for sportier teens and adults.

- Classic 2 h 30 (7 km · ages 5+ · 16 max) or 6 h (10 km + 4 km hike · ages 13+)
- Wetsuit + life jacket + paddle + spray skirt + dry bag · paddling briefing included
- ⚠ Guides in English/Norwegian · strict cancellation (but weather guarantee)

Weather guarantee

From **81 €**

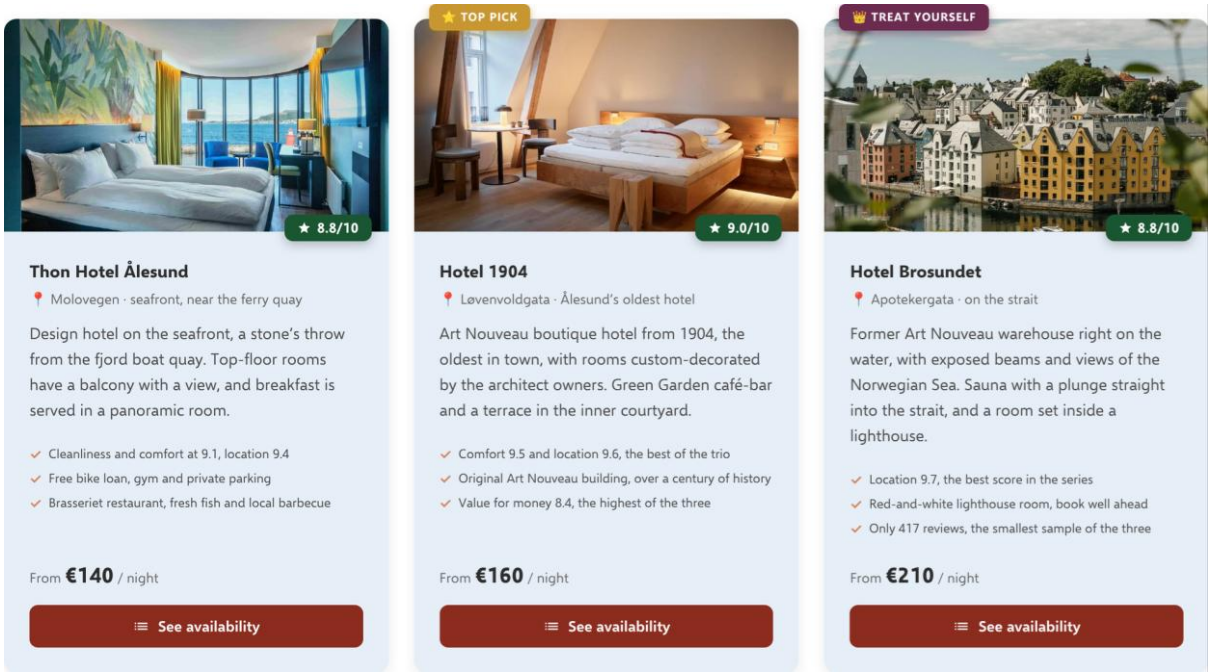
Check availability

Finally, if you don't have a car but want to explore the surrounding area and the famous **Troll Road**, then you can absolutely do it from Alesund with a tour operator.



Where to stay in Alesund

There are lots of lovely little hotels in town, especially in the streets with Art Nouveau architecture. In high season it's rather expensive. Outside summer, it's really much cheaper than the rest of Norway.



FIND YOUR DREAM PLACE TO STAY IN ÅLESUND

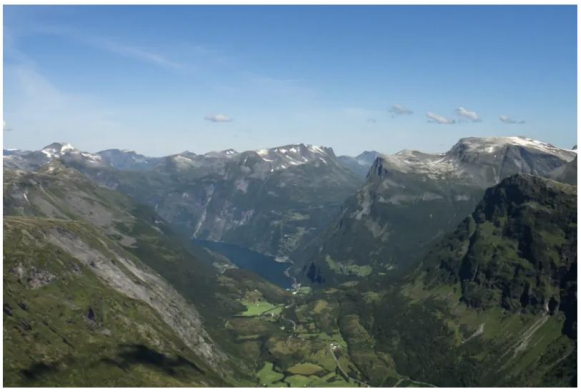
GEIRANGER

So yes, it's probably the most touristy fjord in Norway, and cruise ships do come here. But there's a reason for that: it really is truly beautiful! So don't hesitate, go!

All around the fjord there are superb viewpoints, beautiful hikes and even water activities.

The different viewpoints over Geiranger

- **Ljøen utsiktspunkt**, a viewpoint on the Hellesylt side, letting you see the Geirangerfjord in all its depth
- **Ørnesvingen** on the famous road 63 that zigzags down into the fjord; it's the best-known platform, but there are others on other bends that also offer superb views
- **Flydalsjuvet**, a crazy view above the village of Geiranger that lets you take in the whole fjord
- **Dalsnibba**, a magnificent view, further away, offering a superb panorama over the whole valley with the fjord in the background! Note there's an entrance fee (but it's worth it!)
- **Skageflå**, accessible via a hike of 4 h there and back, superb view!



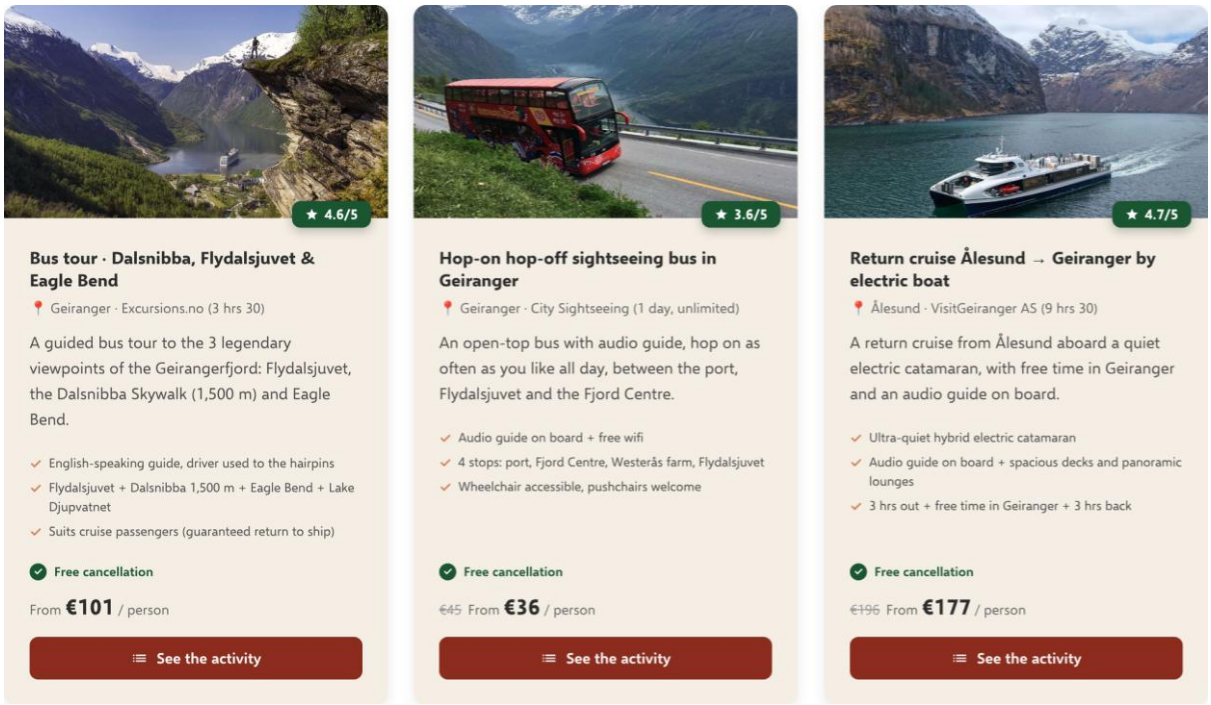


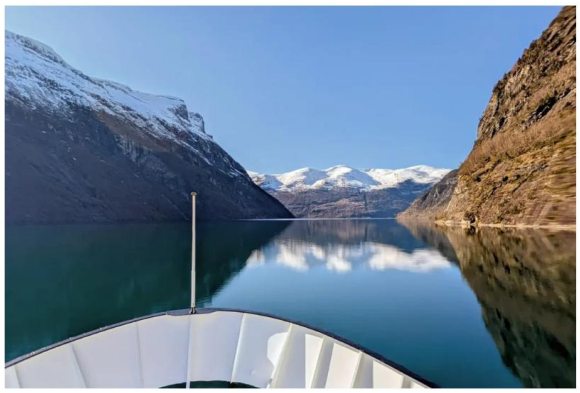


Visiting Geiranger and its surroundings without a car

If you want to discover Geiranger, its fjord and its viewpoints, and you don't have a car, there are several options:

- You can explore the area by **minibus** with a guide
  - *Info and booking*
- You can take a cruise on the Geirangerfjord **from Alesund**
  - *Info and booking*
- A cheaper option: if you're in Geiranger you have the **sightseeing bus** which takes you past the main spots
  - *Info and booking*

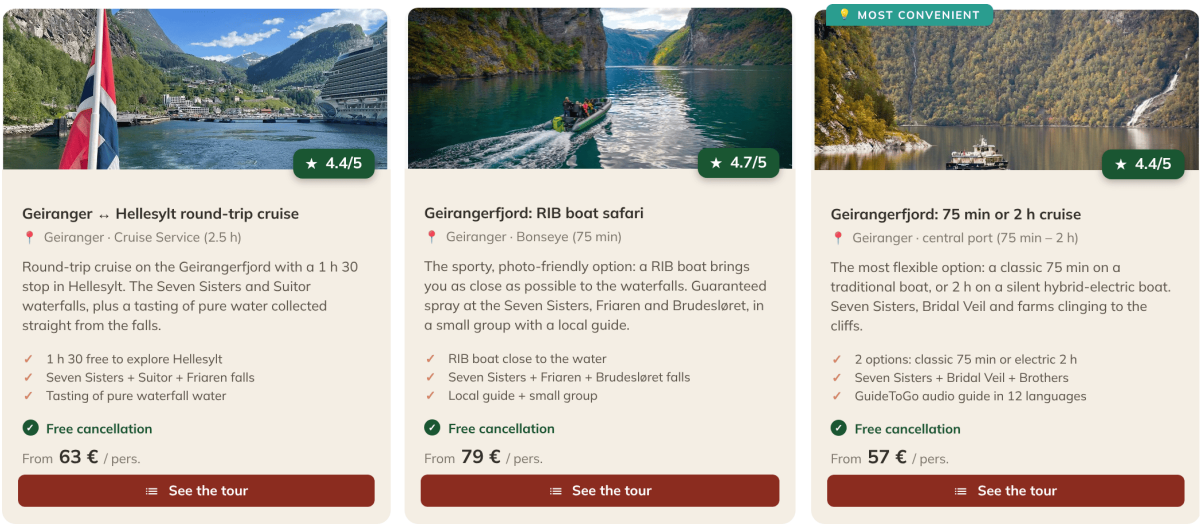






Activities and cruises to try

- Discover the Geirangerfjord on a sightseeing boat cruise
  - *Info and booking*
- Take a RIB boat ride on the fjord at Geiranger
  - *Info and booking*
- Go kayaking on the fjord
  - *Info and booking*
- If you're traveling by car, you can take the ferry between Geiranger and Hellesylt to continue your journey towards Stryn
  - *Info and booking*





Where to stay in Geiranger

What's great about Geiranger is that with a setting like this, you're guaranteed an insane view of the fjord. And the accommodation on offer really doesn't disappoint! Here are a few little recommendations. Just know that it's best to book ahead in high season, and prices can double in July and August, gulp!

I'm going to show you some lovely hotels, some hytte, campsites — in short, something for every taste!



Hotel Utsikten

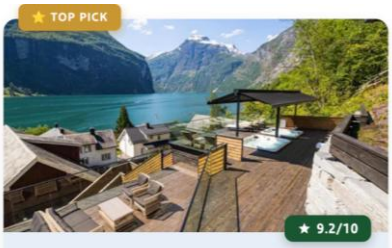
📍 Geiranger · perched above the village, 1.3 km from the centre

Historic hotel perched above the village, looking down on the Geirangerfjord from the rooms and the large lounge. Norwegian cuisine and buffet breakfast included in the rate.

- Staff 9.6: the warmest welcome of the six addresses
- Location 9.6, a bird's-eye view from the rooms
- Value for money 8.0 and only 789 reviews

From **€150** / night

See availability



Grande Fjord Hotel

📍 Geiranger · on the fjord, 2 km from the centre

Four-star hotel right on the edge of the Geirangerfjord, with a panoramic restaurant on the sixth floor, hot tub and sauna. Free shuttle to Geiranger village included in the rate.

- The best score of the six addresses, from 2,863 reviews
- Staff and comfort at 9.5, location 9.6
- Value for money 8.6, the highest in the selection

From **€170** / night

See availability



Union Geiranger Resort & Spa

📍 Geiranger · village centre, overlooking the fjord

Large spa hotel directly overlooking the Geirangerfjord, with three pools including a heated outdoor one, a sauna, a hot tub, three restaurants and a vintage car museum open to guests.

- Comfort 9.3, cleanliness 9.2 and location 9.5
- Three pools, full spa, massages and hammam
- Value for money 8.0 for three hundred and eighteen euros

From **€318** / night

See availability



Hole Hytter

📍 Hole · up high, 3 km from the centre

The iconic red grass-roofed cabins, perched high up with a terrace and panoramic views over the Geirangerfjord. The Flydalsjuvet viewpoint is five hundred metres away.

- Location 9.8, the best score of the six addresses
- Value for money 8.7 and over a thousand reviews
- Kitchenette, furnished terrace and free private parking

From **€130** / night

See availability



Vinje Camping Geiranger

📍 Geirangervegen · 1.5 km from the centre

Seven well-equipped chalets set between waterfalls and mountains, with fjord-view balconies. Covered campfire, playground and a bouncy pillow to keep the kids busy on site.

- Staff 9.6, the warmest welcome in the series
- One- or two-bedroom chalets with kitchenette
- Kiosk in high season, fresh bread and free parking

From **€140** / night

See availability



Grande Hytteutleige og Camping

📍 Ørnevegen · on the UNESCO-listed fjord

Cottages right on the shore of the World Heritage-listed Geirangerfjord, with fireplace, coffee machine and a small beach just below. At the foot of the Eagle Road.

- Location 9.7 and staff 9.4, the strong points
- Small private beach on the fjord shore
- Value for money 8.2, the lowest of the three

From **€190** / night

See availability

FLAM

A major stop in the Norwegian fjords. A legendary UNESCO-listed fjord, a railway line considered one of the most beautiful in the world, and breathtaking scenery. Welcome to Flam! (*check out the full article on Flam*)





The Flam Railway - Flamsbana

- This train runs the Flam – Myrdal route (one-way or round trip)
- It makes several trips every day
- You need to book several weeks in advance for high season (July and August)
- The trip takes 50 min one-way (if you do the round trip, you spend 30 min in Myrdal and the return also takes 50 min)
- Prices for the round trip start at NOK 675 (one-way from NOK 399)
- To buy your tickets, you have two options:
    - The *Norway's Best* website for buying the round trip
    - The *Norwegian VY trains website* for one-way or round trip
    - Do **NOT** book through the likes of RailNinja, they resell the tickets at a huge markup.





A cruise on the Naeroyfjord

An absolute must! For me it's the most beautiful fjord in Norway (and they have quite a few). The cruise goes from Gudvangen to Flam (or the other way round) and sails along the Naeroyfjord and the Aurlandfjord.

- The cruise lasts 2 h
- You depart from Gudvangen or Flam
- The return trip is either by boat or by bus
- Price: NOK 640 one-way, NOK 960 round trip
- 2 departures a day in winter, 4 in summer (*prices and timetables here*)
- Book on *Norway's Best*







Flåm: classic Nærøyfjord cruise to Gudvangen

Lustrabaatane ferry · 2 hrs · one way

Two hours aboard a traditional ferry between Flåm and Gudvangen, along the UNESCO-listed Nærøyfjord, where the cliffs rise to 1,761 m and the fjord narrows to under 500 m near the village of Bakka. Departs from Flåm quay; the trip can also be done the other way from Gudvangen.

- Audio guide and cafeteria on board
- In winter, a different boat from summer, which sometimes breaks the fjord ice
- ⚠ One way only, Gudvangen–Flåm return to arrange (bus) · food and drinks not included · reduced timetable out of season

Free cancellation

From **€51**

See availability



Bergen: Flåm Railway + Nærøyfjord + Stegastein, return by train (13 h)

★★★★★ **4.9/5 · Exceptional** · 9 reviews · 13 h · luxury minibus

The most complete Norwegian fjord experience from Bergen: a 2 h cruise on the Nærøyfjord aboard an electric boat, the dizzying Stegastein platform (650 m above the fjord), the mythical ride on the Flåm Railway then return by train via Myrdal. Luxury minibus on the way out for flexible stops (Dale, Tvindefossen).

- Nærøyfjord cruise (electric boat) + Flåm Railway + Stegastein
- Luxury minibus out, Flåm-Myrdal-Bergen train on the way back
- Tvindefossen waterfall, village of Dale and a stop in Flåm included

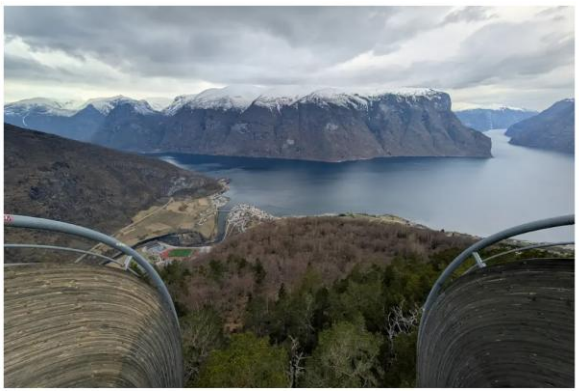
Free cancellation

From **389 €**

Check availability

The viewpoint at Stegastein

One of the most beautiful viewpoints in the country, with a crazy view over the Aurlandsfjord, reached either from the Snovegen or from the village of Aurland (15 min from Flam by car). Don't forget to stop at an even better viewpoint a few bends further down.





Seeing Stegastein from Flam without a car

If you don't have a car and you're staying in Flam, you can absolutely still come and see the Stegastein viewpoint by bus:

- The *Eidfjord Shuttle Bus*, €44, several buses a day
- The buses from *Norway's Best*, €44, several buses a day

Or with a tour company that will take you to see Borgund church, Stegastein and the village of Laerdal.

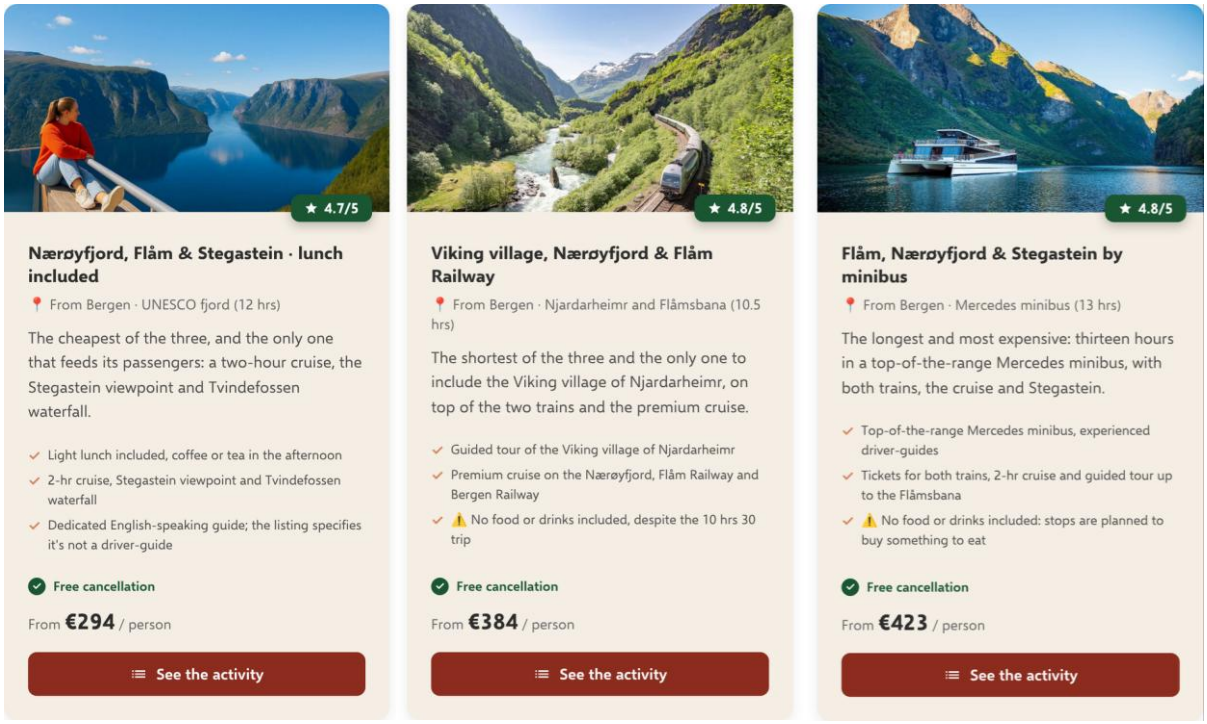
- *More information*



From Bergen: Flam Railway + Cruise on the Naeroyfjord

If you're in Bergen and fancy a package combining the Flam Railway + a cruise on the Naeroyfjord as a day trip (returning to Bergen), it's totally doable! There are 3 options, some include Stegastein, others don't. Here are the 3 options, with prices

- OPTION 1: Cruise on the Naeroyfjord, a visit to Flam village (not the train), the Stegastein viewpoint. €294, *More info*
- OPTION 2: Cruise on the Naeroyfjord, the Viking village of Gudvangen, the Flam Railway. €384, *more info*.
- OPTION 3: Cruise on the Naeroyfjord, the Flam Railway, the Stegastein viewpoint. €420, *more info*





Other cruises to Flam or Gudvangen

- The **Bergen – Flam** cruise, 5 h along the Sognefjord then the Aurlandfjord. Available one-way or round trip
  - *Info and booking*

- Norway's most beautiful ferry ride, between **Kaupanger and Gudvangen**, running only from May to September. 2 h 30, from NOK 599
  - *Info and booking*



Is this guide useful to you?



It's *free* and it'll stay that way. If you'd like to help me keep it going, you can use the links in this guide or in the articles: it doesn't cost you a penny more. Or you can buy me a virtual coffee, it really makes my day :)

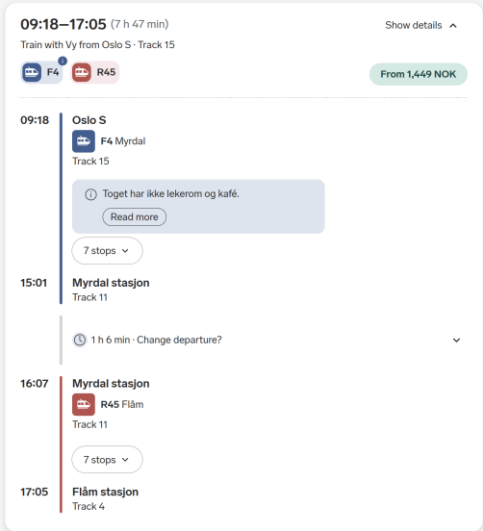
Activities · Hotels · Car · Buy me a coffee (€5)

Getting to Flam from Bergen

- By **train**, with Bergen – Myrdal – Flam (a superb route), almost 3 h, from NOK 678
- By **bus**: the VY450, around 2 h 30
- By **boat**: the Bergen – Flam route, along the Sognefjord and the Aurlandfjord. A 5 h trip, available one-way or round trip
  - *Info and booking*
- With a **tour company** for a cruise on the Naeroyfjord and the Flam Railway
  - *Info and booking*
- **Combo**: take the train to Voss, then the bus from Voss to Gudvangen, then the boat from Gudvangen to Flam via the Naeroyfjord

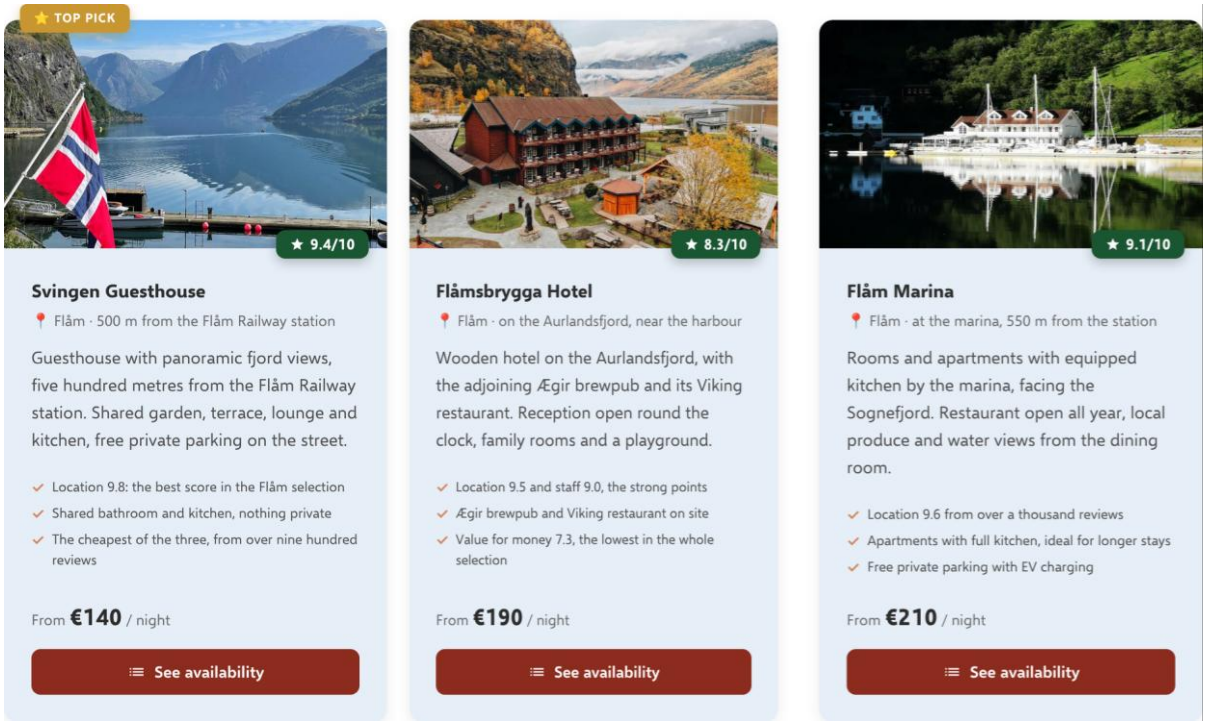
Getting to Flam from Oslo

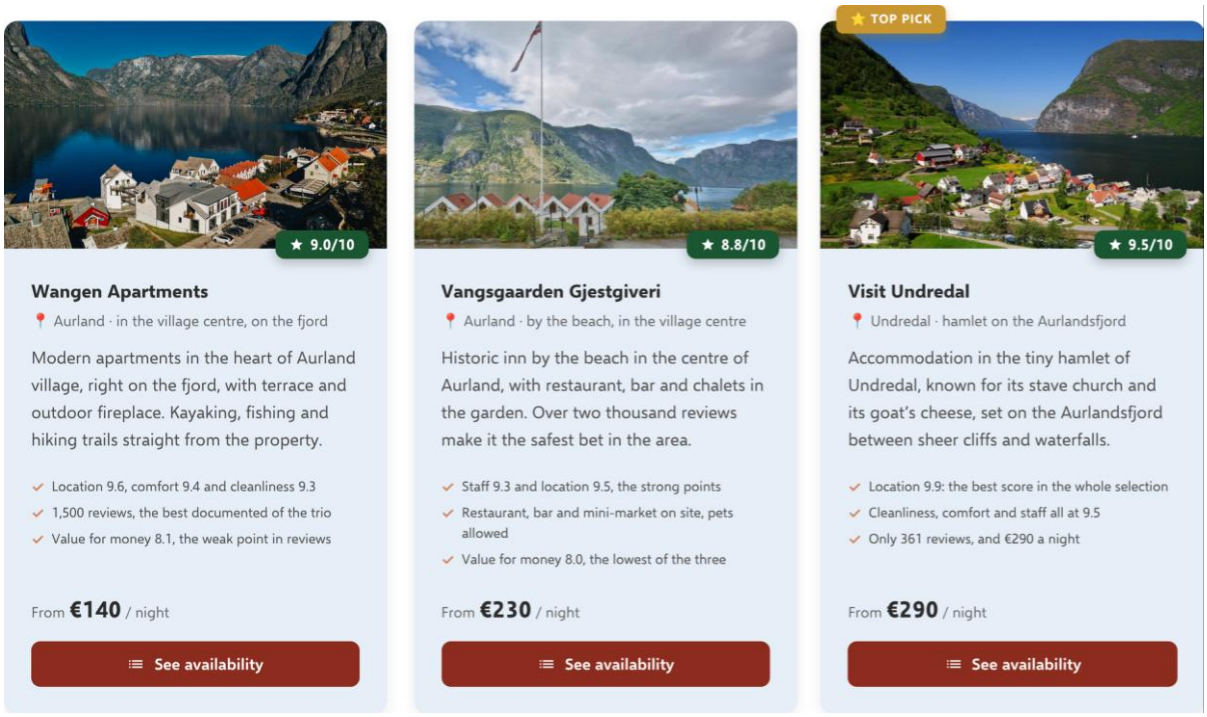
- You can take the Oslo – Myrdal – Flam train
  - Book your tickets on the *Norwegian VY trains website*
- There's the VY450 bus, which takes 7 h



Where to stay in Flam

Between Flam, Undredal and Aurland, there are some superb options, most of them with insane views over the fjord. However, prices climb in summer and above all the accommodation gets snapped up fast, so don't hesitate to book well in advance! It's beautiful, but it costs an arm and a leg!





What to see near Flam

Not far away, there are some superb places to discover

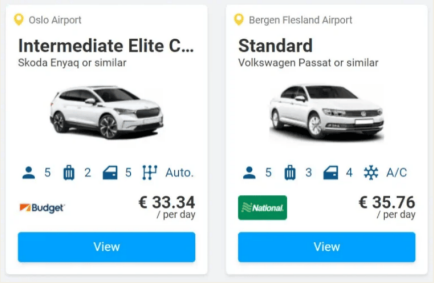
- The Viking church of Borgund
- The Viking church of Urnes
- The scenic road Snovegen
- The road tunnel at Laerdal, the longest tunnel in the world
- Undredal and Aurland with the viewpoint at Stegastein
- ***Visit Borgund and Stegastein from Flam!***
    - *Info and booking*





CAR RENTAL IN NORWAY

Road-trip around Norway with *Discover Cars*



- Rent a car at many airports or in town
- Small model, **SUV** or electric for your adventure
- Car provided with the **Autopass** badge
- Prices from **30€**

LEARN MORE

2-WEEK ITINERARY IN THE FJORDS

In the Bergen section, I gave you a one-week itinerary starting from the Hanseatic city. Here, I'm presenting *a 2-week itinerary* from *Bergen* to *Alesund*. What I did, and what I loved doing.

This itinerary is done by car. You either rent the car at the airport at the start, or on the 2nd day in the city centre. *Compare before you rent*.

This is the quick version of the itinerary; I won't go into detail here. For all the details and more chit-chat, check it out *in this dedicated article*.

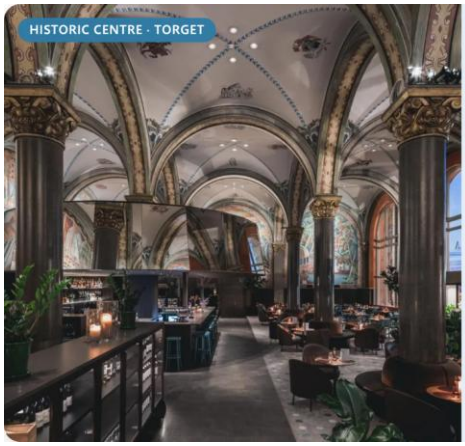
DAY 1 – Arriving in Bergen

- Airport → centre by Flybussen (~30 min) or Bybanen line 1 (~45 min, cheaper) if you haven't rented a car at the airport
- Visit Bryggen, the Hanseatic quarter (UNESCO)
- Stroll behind the harbour to Vågsbunnen and the opera
- Dinner at the fish market (Torget) or at Bryggeloftet & Stuene
- **Night in Bergen** — *Citybox* (budget, ~€88) · *Radisson Blu Royal* in Bryggen (my favourite, ~€120) · *Bergen Børs* (to treat yourself, ~€185)









Bergen Børs Hotel, in the former 1862 Stock Exchange

★★★★½ 8.6/10 · Superb · 1,842 reviews · location 9.7/10 · comfort 9.2/10

A boutique hotel right in the centre of Bergen, 140 m from the fish market and 450 m from the Fløibanen funicular. Breakfast is served beneath the painted vaults of the Frescohallen. The Flybussen airport bus stop and the tram are a few steps away.

A dream location on Bergen harbour, with a superb view of the city's iconic houses. — Ludovic, France

- Exceptional breakfast buffet, praised in almost every review · three restaurants and a bar on site
- Very comfortable beds, upgrades often offered on arrival · staff attentive to small requests
- Small rooms with little storage, especially in the modern wing · no parking, about NOK 200/day in a public car park

From **€190** / night

See availability

DAY 2 – Bergen in depth *(on foot)*

- Morning in Nordnes + Bergen Aquarium
- Lunch at Torget
- Afternoon: Hanseatic Museum (or Schøtstuene) and the Fantoft stave church if it's open
- End the day with the Fløibanen (Mount Fløyen)
- *Night in Bergen* (*same hotel*)





DAY 3 – Bergen → Fjærland *(car + ferry, ~225 km)*

- Voss, then the Tvindefossen waterfall (110 m)
- The plateau of Vikafjellet
- Stavkirke (stave church) of Hopperstad, in Vik
- Vangsnes–Hella ferry across the Sognefjord (15 min)
- *Night in Fjærland* — *Fjærland Fjordstove Hotell* (family-run hotel from 1937 on the edge of the fjord, from ~€280) or *this lovely house*





DAY 4 – Fjærland and its glaciers *(short drives, ~30 km)*

- Norsk Bremuseum (Norwegian Glacier Museum)
- The glacial lake at Bøyabreen and Supphellebreen
- The hike to Flatbrehytta (5 h return) for keen walkers
- Den Norske Bokbyen (the book town), kayaking, floating sauna
- *Night in Fjærland* (*same hotel*)







DAY 5 – Fjærland → Stryn/Loen *(car, ~110 km)*

- The Fjærland Tunnel (6.4 km), Skei, Olden
- The Briksdalsbreen hike (about 3 km each way, 1 h 30–2 h return) or the electric troll cars
- Waterfalls along the way, lunch at the Briksdal Adventure Café
- *Night in Loen — Hotel Alexandra* (an institution, spa + pool, fjord view)

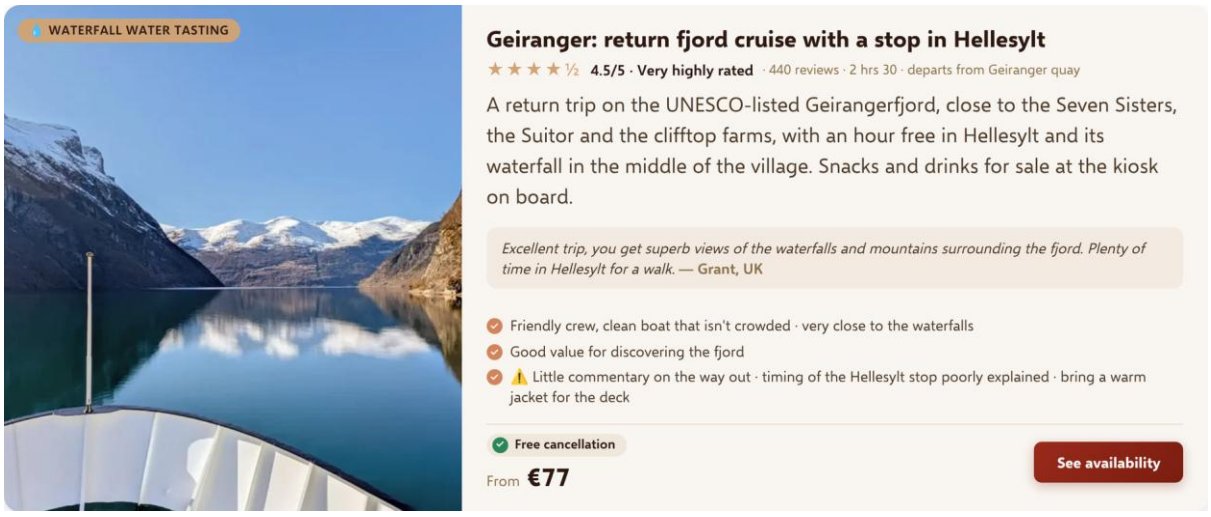


DAY 6 – Loen, Lovatnet and the Nordfjord *(short drives, ~50 km)*

- Loen Skylift (cable car up to Hoven, 1,011 m)
- The Loen via ferrata
- Lake Lovatnet and the road to Kjenndalsbreen, the MS Kjenndal II boat
- *Kayaking* or *a RIB boat on the Nordfjord*
- *Night in Loen* (*same hotel*)

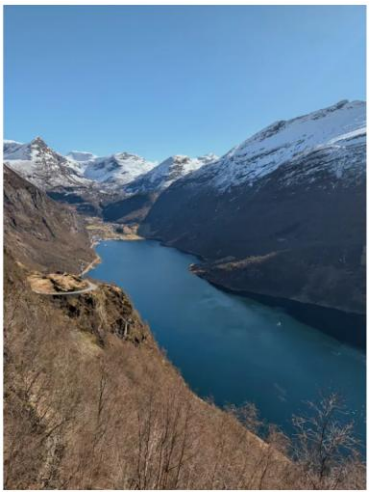
DAY 7 – Stryn → Geiranger *(car + Hellesylt–Geiranger ferry, 1 h 15)*

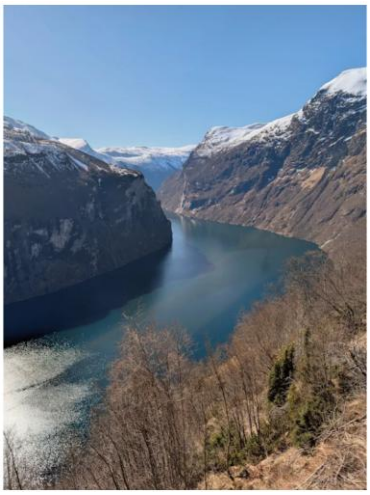
- Hellesylt and its waterfall
- The viewpoint at Ljøen
- Cruise on the Geirangerfjord: the Seven Sisters, the Suitor, the Bridal Veil, the Knivsflå and Skageflå
- Ørnesvingen (Eagle Road) and Flydalsjuvet
- *Night in Geiranger* — *Hotel Union* (the great classic, spa + view) · *Grande Fjord Hotel* (right on the fjord)

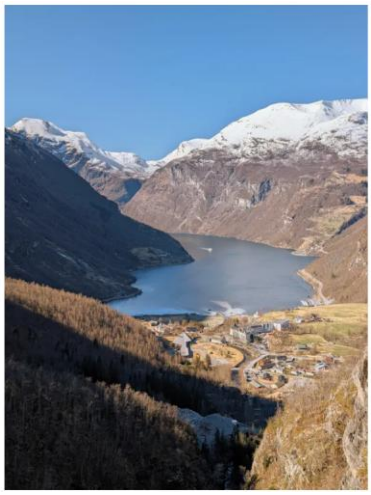


DAY 8 – Geiranger, staying put

- Dalsnibba Skywalk (1,500 m, toll road ~€30/car)
- The hike to Storseterfossen (1 h 30 return) or Skageflå (4 h return)
- Norsk Fjordsenter
- Kayaking or a RIB boat
- *Night in Geiranger* (same hotel)









DAY 9 – Geiranger → Ålesund via Trollstigen *(car + Eidsdal–Linge ferry ~10 min, ~210 km)*

- The strawberries of Valldal (mid-June to August)
- Gudbrandsjuvet (Corten steel walkways)
- Trollstigen (11 hairpin bends, viewing platform, Stigfossen waterfall)
- Trollveggen Visitor Center, sunset on Mount Aksla
- ***Night in Ålesund*** — Hotel Brosundet (my favourite, a former Art Nouveau warehouse, ~€180) · Quality Hotel (good value for money, ~€100), Hotel 1904 (a treat, ~€168)

DAY 10 – Art Nouveau Ålesund *(on site / day trips, ~30–80 km)*

- Mount Aksla (418 steps, or by car, which is easier)
- The Art Nouveau centre (Kongens Gate, Apotekergata, Kirkegata)
- Take your pick: Alnes (on Godøy island), Runde (the puffin island, if it's the right time of year), Atlanterhavsparken, a sea safari or kayaking
- *Night in Ålesund* (*same hotel*)







DAY 11 – Ålesund → Lom via the Strynefjellsvegen *(car + Magerholm–Sykkylven ferry, ~255 km, ~6 h)*

- Storfjorden, the Strandafjellet cable car if you think you'll have time
- Hellesylt, Stryn
- Gamle Strynefjellsvegen (Fv258, the 1894 road), Grotli
- Lom Stavkyrkje
- *Alternative:* via Dombås, Dovrefjell (musk oxen) and Rondane (~4 h 30)
- ***Night in Lom*** — *Fossheim Turisthotell* (a classic from 1897, 100 m from the stave church, ~€140) · *Røisheim* (my favourite, a former coaching inn from the 1700s, ~€275)



DAY 12 – Lom → Solvorn via Sognefjellet and Urnes *(car + Solvorn–Urnes ferry ~20 min, ~165 km)*

- Lom Stavkyrkje (interior, from 9 am)
- The Sognefjellet road (pass at 1,434 m): Mefjellet, Fantesteinen, Sognefjellshytta
- Fortun Utsiktspunkt, Lustrafjord
- Urnes Stavkyrkje (c. 1130, the oldest one)
- ***Night near Sogndal***: *Mlodge* (superb view over the valley) · *Best Western* (comfortable + good breakfast)





DAY 13 – Sogndal → Flåm via Borgund and Stegastein *(car + Mannheller–Fodnes ferry 15 min, ~150 km)*

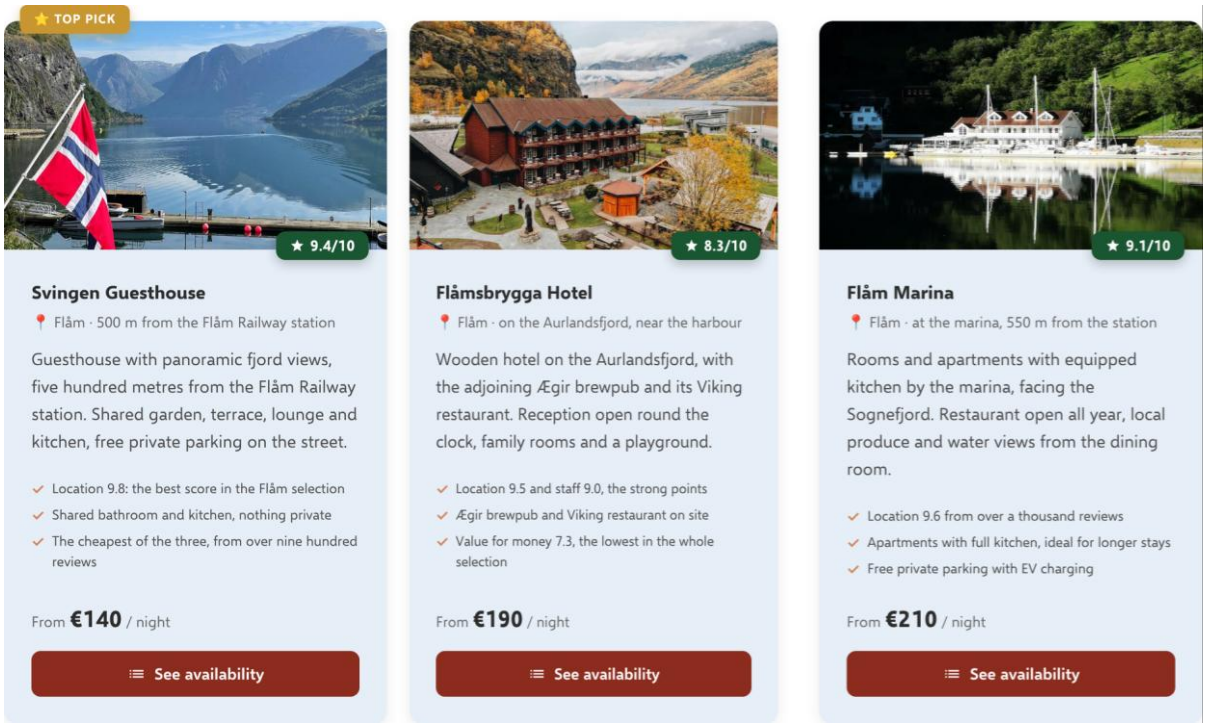
- Gamle Lærdal (the old village)
- Borgund Stave Church (c. 1180)
- Snøvegen (the Aurlandsfjellet scenic road, 1,300 m)
- The Stegastein viewpoint (650 m), Aurland, dinner at the Ægir brewpub
- ***Night in Flåm/Aurland*** — Flåm Marina & Apartments (my favourite, ~€210, books up fast) · Svingen Guesthouse (fjord view) · Vangsgaarden Gjestgiveri in Aurland (by the water)





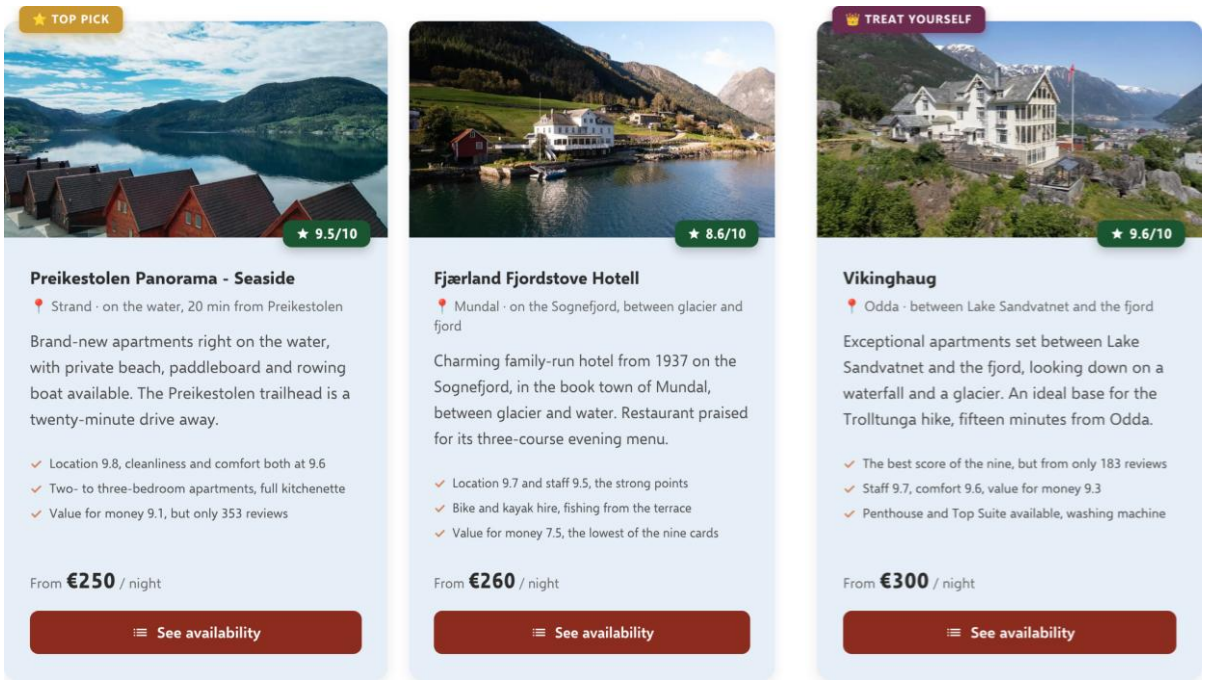
DAY 14 – Flåm → Bergen *(train + cruise + bus + car, ~165 km)*

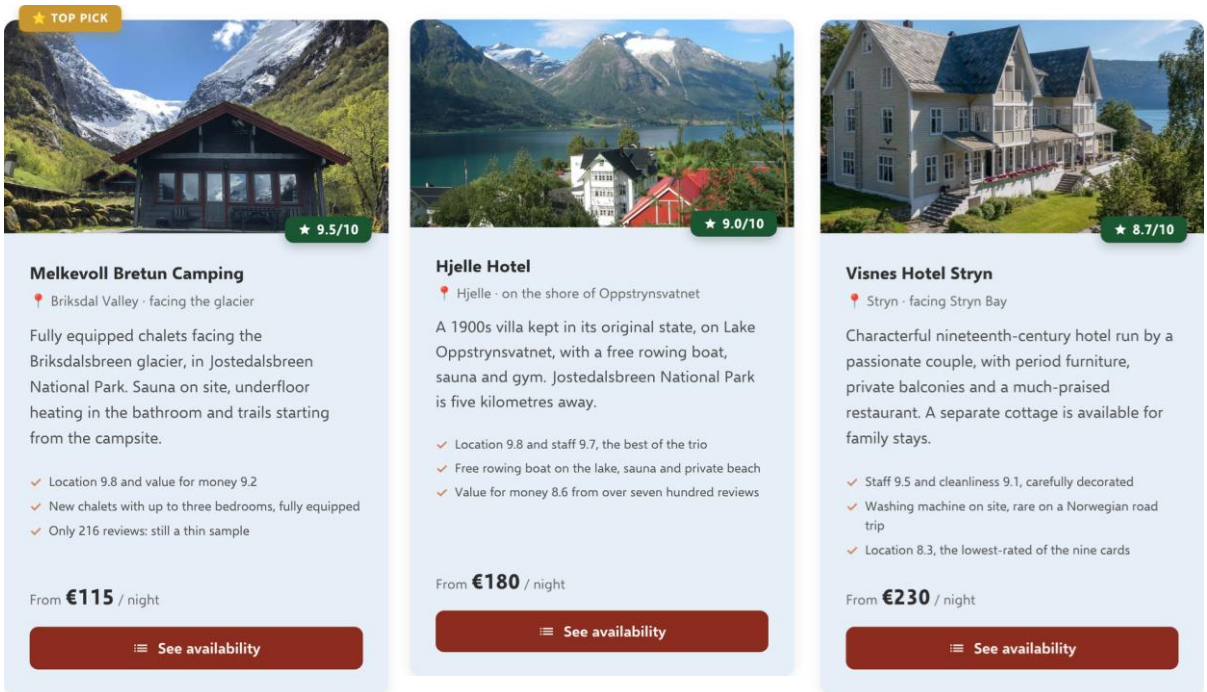
- Flåmsbana from Flåm to Myrdal (stop at the Kjosfossen waterfall)
- Cruise on the Nærøyfjord Flåm → Gudvangen (~2 h, electric boats), back by bus
- Tvindefossen, Stalheim on the way
- Back to Bergen / Bergen-Flesland airport

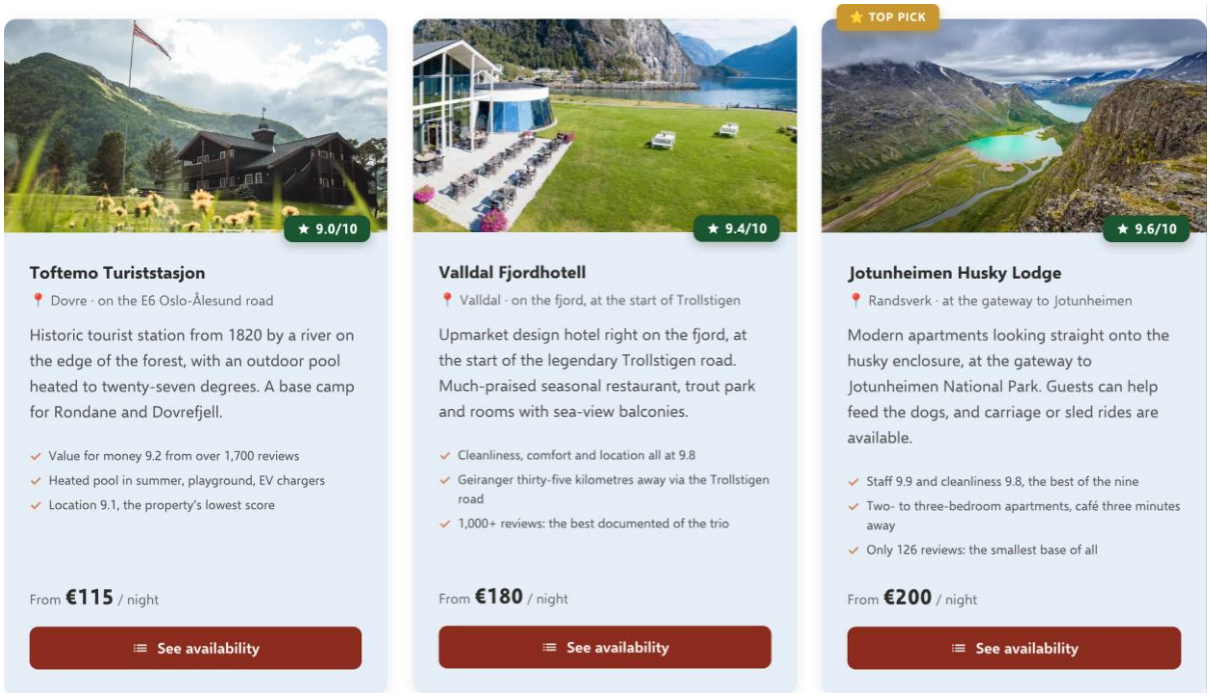


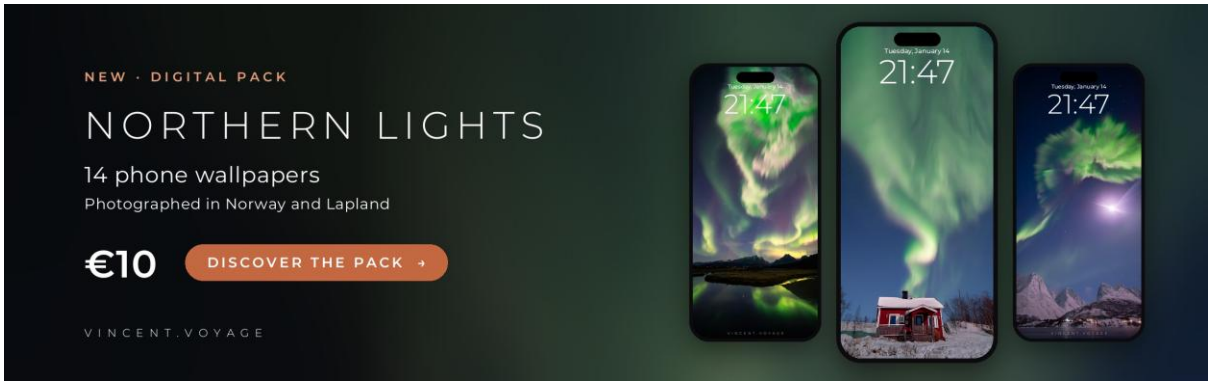
WHERE TO STAY IN THE FJORD REGION

So earlier I gave you my accommodation picks for Alesund, Flam and Geiranger. Except that the region is huge and there are plenty of other great places to stay. Here's a small selection. The spots I'd recommend basing yourself in are Fjaerland, Lom, Eidfjord… let's take a look!





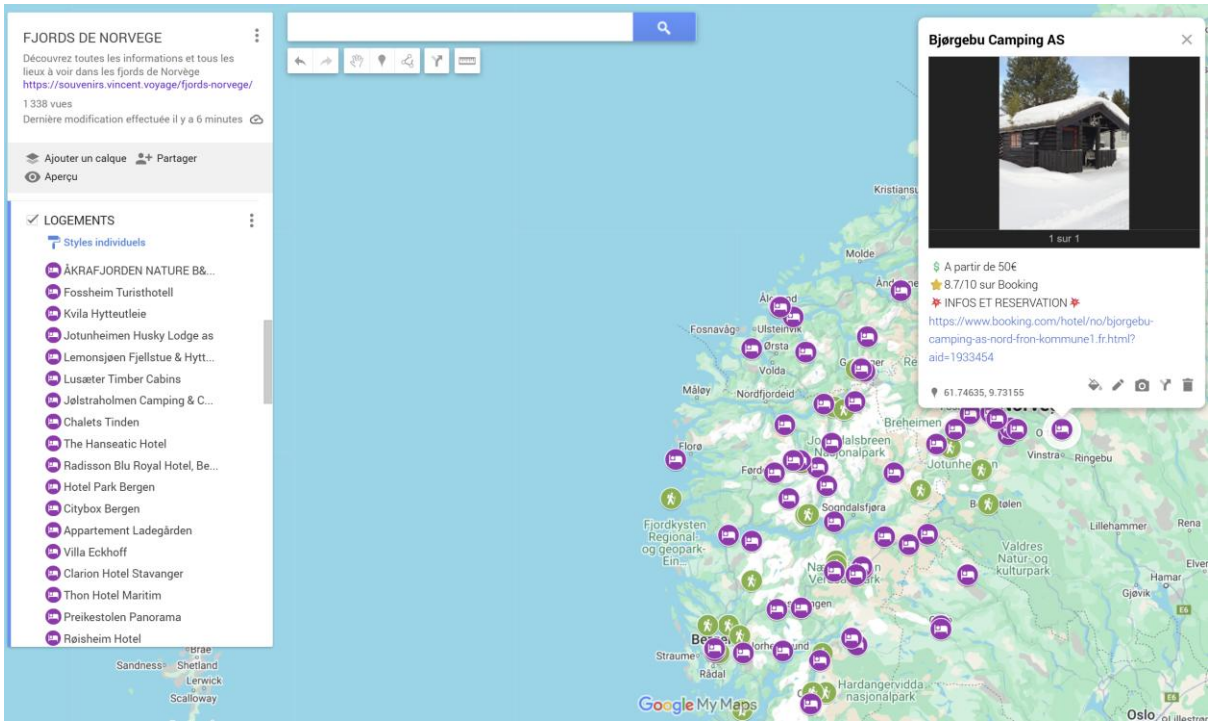

★ 9.0/10
Toftemo Turiststasjon
Dovre · on the E6 Oslo-Ålesund road
Historic tourist station from 1820 by a river on the edge of the forest, with an outdoor pool heated to twenty-seven degrees. A base camp for Rondane and Dovrefjell.
Value for money 9.2 from over 1,700 reviews
Heated pool in summer, playground, EV chargers
Location 9.1, the property's lowest score
From €115 / night
See availability
★ 9.4/10
Valldal Fjordhotell
Valldal · on the fjord, at the start of Trollstigen
Upmarket design hotel right on the fjord, at the start of the legendary Trollstigen road. Much-praised seasonal restaurant, trout park and rooms with sea-view balconies.
Cleanliness, comfort and location all at 9.8
Geiranger thirty-five kilometres away via the Trollstigen road
1,000+ reviews: the best documented of the trio
From €180 / night
See availability
TOP PICK
★ 9.6/10
Jotunheimen Husky Lodge
Randsverk · at the gateway to Jotunheimen
Modern apartments looking straight onto the husky enclosure, at the gateway to Jotunheimen National Park. Guests can help feed the dogs, and carriage or sled rides are available.
Staff 9.9 and cleanliness 9.8, the best of the nine
Two- to three-bedroom apartments, café three minutes away
Only 126 reviews: the smallest base of all
From €200 / night
See availability


NEW · DIGITAL PACK
NORTHERN LIGHTS
14 phone wallpapers
Photographed in Norway and Lapland
€10
DISCOVER THE PACK →
VINCENT.VOYAGE
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21:47

On the Norwegian fjords map, you have access to a much wider selection of accommodation all over the region, with prices and ratings.

To see only the accommodation, as on the map below, just turn off all the other layers!

⭐ *Click here to access the map!* ⭐



Is this guide useful to you?



It's *free* and it'll stay that way. If you'd like to help me keep it going, you can use the links in this guide or in the articles: it doesn't cost you a penny more. Or you can buy me a virtual coffee, it really makes my day :)

Activities · Hotels · Car · Buy me a coffee (€5)

HOW TO GET THERE AND GET AROUND

- Nearest **train** station:
  - Bergen / Flam / Myrdal
  - For routes and tickets, head to Vy.no

- **Airports** that are the most convenient:
  - **Bergen**
  - **Alesund**
  - **Stavanger**
  - Oslo can be a good alternative, taking the train from there to Bergen
  - Compare flights and airlines, prices vary enormously from one day to the next. I use *Booking Flights*, which I find very reliable.

- Quite a few buses in the area. **Journey planner**:
  - https://entur.no/

  - Plan ahead, as there aren't necessarily many daily connections

- Exploring the fjords on a **cruise**
  - The famous Hurtigruten
  - Compare all the cruises in Norway
- Taking the various **ferries** and fjord crossings
  - Usually done without a reservation
  - You pay with Autopass
  - The Geiranger–Hellesylt and Lauvvik–Lysebotn routes are the most popular and require arriving very early
  - The journey planner ENTUR also includes the ferries

- Renting a **car**:
  - You can rent cars in the major cities and at the airports. So Stavanger / Bergen / Alesund / Oslo

You absolutely have to COMPARE prices and reviews. I mainly use two sites: *Discover Cars*, a safe bet, and *Booking.com*, with no nasty surprises.



O S L O

Full article here

OSLO AT A GLANCE

Most beautiful spots to see in the city

- The park of Vigeland
- The new waterfront, from the Opera to Aker Brygge
- The city center, from the Domkirke to the National Theatre

3 Best museums

- *FRAM*
- *Norwegian Folklore*
- *Kon Tiki*

3 Best activities

- *A guided tour of Oslo*
- *A cruise through the archipelago*
- *An intro to snowshoeing*

3 Best places to stay

- *Karl Johan Hotel*
- *Clarion Hotel Oslo*
- *City Box Oslo*

3 Favorite restaurants

- *Den Glade Gris*
- *The Salmon*
- *Rorbua Aker Brygge*

3 Cafés to unwind

- *Fuglen*
- *Café Provence*
- *Tullins Cafe*

Car rental comparison sites

- *Discover Cars*
- *Booking.com*

Best time to visit

- Oslo can easily be visited all year round
- From late April to September, it's really lovely

How long to enjoy the city

- Central Oslo with just the essential museums takes 2 full days
- 3 days let you enjoy it more and see more museums
- In a week you can visit both Oslo and Bergen

PLACES TO SEE IN OSLO

Oslo is a really pleasant city. It's not an imperial city like the great European capitals, and it doesn't have the architecture of Copenhagen or Stockholm, but wandering around is a real treat, especially in nice weather. I recommend the historic center, the new waterfront, Vigeland Park, the area around the Royal Palace. For the wooden houses and old-fashioned Oslo, you need to go to Gamlebyen. And of course the many museums!

The various museums in Oslo

Oslo has some ultra-interesting museums, especially for getting to know and soaking up Norwegian culture

- **FRAM**, the polar expedition museum (a must, really)
  - Tickets and information



- The **Nobel** Peace Museum
  - Tickets and information

- The **Viking Ship** Museum (closed for renovation)
  - Information

- The Ski Museum, by the **ski jump at Holmenkollen**, with a superb view over the city
  - Information

- **Kon Tiki**, about crossing the Pacific on an Inca raft. An odyssey that's hugely famous in Norway and Peru
    - Tickets and information



- The Norwegian **folklore** museum, to understand Norwegian life
    - Tickets and information

- The **Nobel** Peace Center (I'll admit I was a tad disappointed)
    - Tickets and information

- The **Viking Ship** Museum (closed for renovation)
    - Information

- The Ski Museum, at the **ski jump in Holmenkollen**, with a superb view over the city. It doesn't sound very sexy put like that, but everyone says it's great
    - Information

- The Norwegian **Maritime Museum**
    - Tickets and information

- The **National Museum**
    - Tickets and information

- The **Munch Museum**
    - Tickets and information

- →**OSLO PASS**

Other sights and neighbourhoods to see in Oslo

Museums are great, but thankfully there's more to Oslo than that. The city centre is small but nice, there are little neighbourhoods to explore, and the waterfront.

- The **Royal Palace**, but the interior is only open in summer

- The **fortress** of Akershus

- The park of **Vigeland**
  - And its little museum
- The peninsula of **Bygdoya**
  - It's home to all the main museums, but Bygdoya is a really lovely place for a stroll, with even a few small beaches
  - You get there via the shuttle boat by the city hall



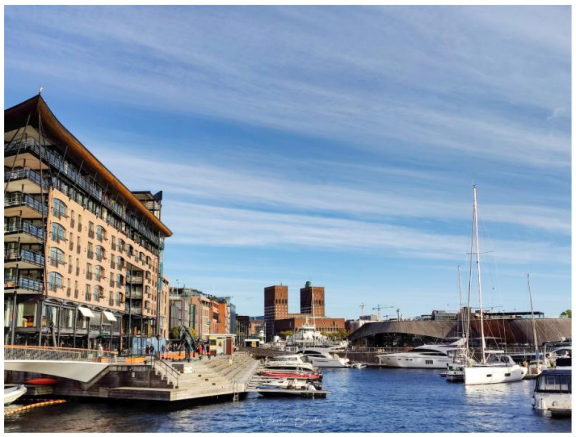
- The **historic** city center
    - From the Opera to the Castle via Banksplassen
    - The cathedral
    - Stortinget / Karl Johan Gate

- The new waterfront of **Aker Brygge**









THINGS TO DO IN OSLO

The Oslo Pass – the pass that's almost a must

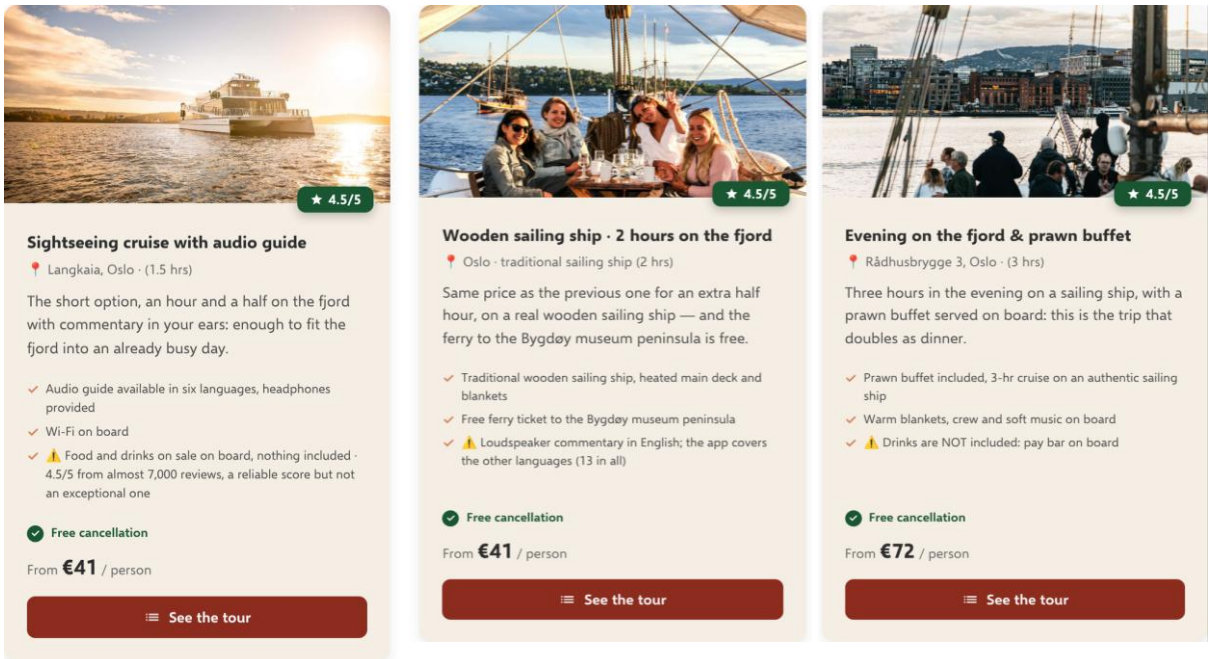
Almost, because if you're not doing any museums, it won't be any use to you

- 1 day: €53 adult / 2 days: €77 adult / 3 days: €90
- Entry to all museums included
- Access to all public transport in zones 1 and 2
- Access to the boat that goes to the museums
- *Info and booking*



Taking a boat trip around the archipelago

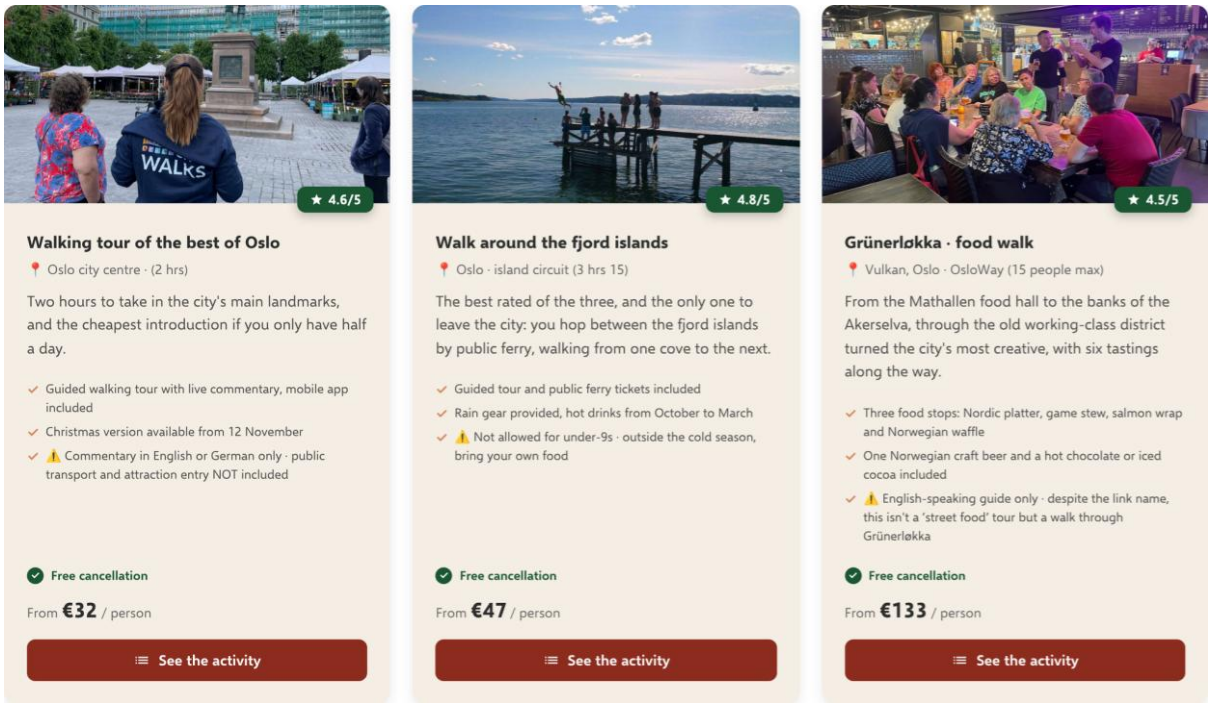
Ok, it's not as impressive as the fjords of Geiranger or Flam, but a boat trip through the Oslo archipelago is great fun. Especially if you've packed some drinks and nibbles!



The various guided tours in Oslo

nooo, I haven't brought up food yet).

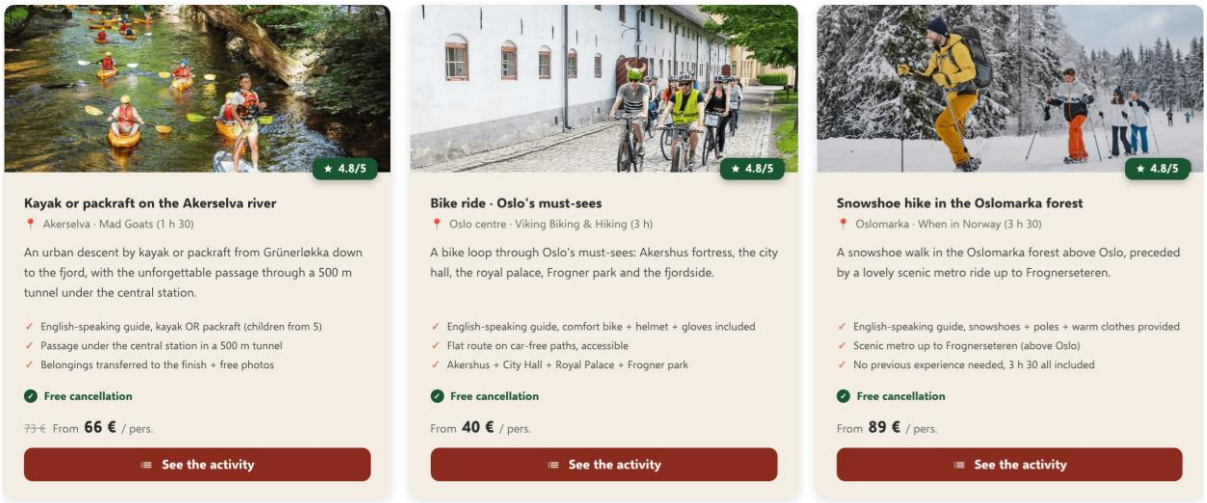
- *A **Free tour** of Oslo (you pay what you want!)*
- *A 2 h guided tour of the **main sights** of the city*
- *A food tour to discover the (more or less strange) culinary specialties of Norway*
- *A 3 h excursion **by bike** to explore Oslo*
- *There are also the **sightseeing buses***

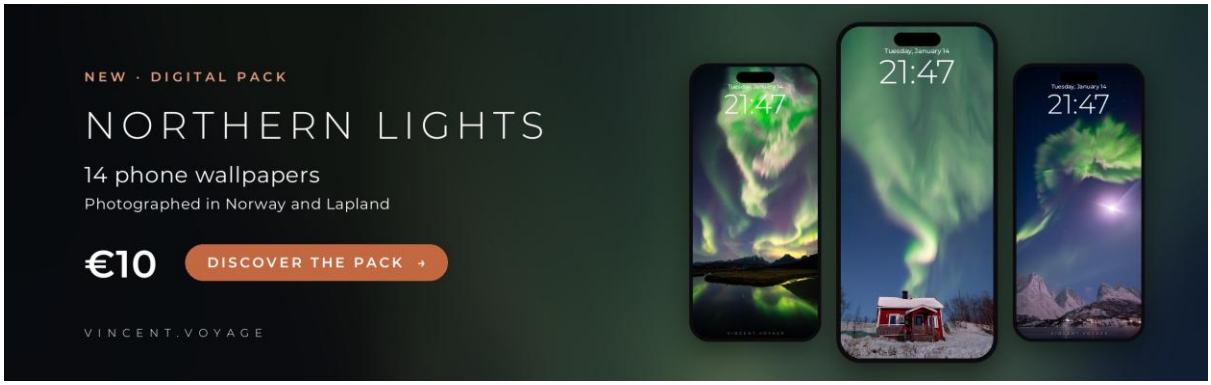




3 sporty activities in Oslo

Summer or winter, you're bound to find something you fancy to stretch your legs!

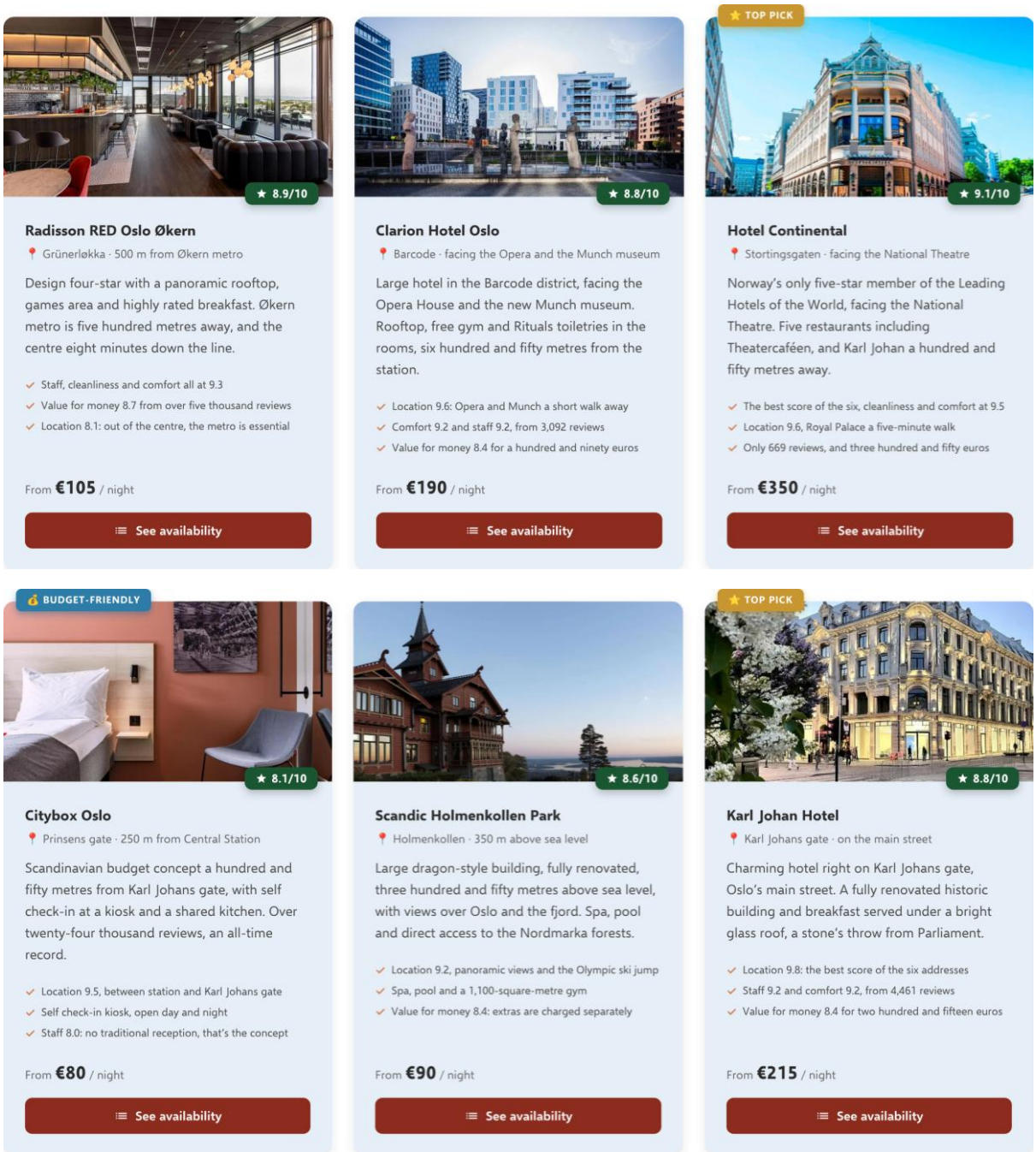




WHERE TO STAY IN OSLO

Oslo is an expensive city for accommodation. Really. There are a few options at almost reasonable prices, especially off season and outside summer, but I recommend booking early. That said, it's expensive, even mid-range, but what you get is really quite good. Good bedding and a good little breakfast, you won't be disappointed. Here are a few examples.

My 6 favorite hotels in Oslo



3 hotels in Oslo's historic centre

It's a bit of a hoity toity neighborhood, the hotels are often set in historic buildings, you're close to everything, it's classy, but it comes at a price.



★ 8.1/10

Grand Hotel Oslo

📍 Karl Johans gate 31 · Historic palace · location 9.7/10

Oslo's legendary palace hotel on Karl Johans, with the Grand Café where Ibsen was a regular, an indoor pool, a spa and the Eight rooftop bar on the top floor.

- ✓ Historic building on Karl Johans (Nobel Peace Prize)
- ✓ Heated indoor pool + Artesia spa + gym
- ✓ Eight rooftop bar & the iconic Grand Café

Free cancellation

From **170 €** / night

Check availability



★ 8.6/10

Thon Hotel Opera

📍 Dronning Eufemias gate · 100 m station · Opera 300 m

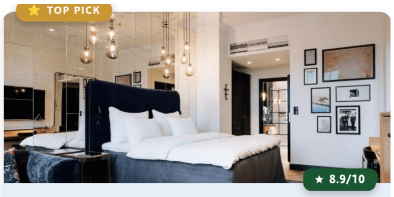
Convenience at its best: 100 m from the station for the airport express train, 300 m from the Opera for strolls along the fjord, with a fabulous breakfast.

- ✓ Central station 100 m (direct airport express train)
- ✓ Opera & fjordside 300 m away, location 9.7/10
- ✓ 4th-floor gym with view terrace, Chromecast in the room

Free cancellation

From **170 €** / night

Check availability



TOP PICK

★ 8.9/10

Amerikalinjen

📍 Jernbanetorget · opposite the station · location 9.8/10 (Oslo's top)

The design boutique hotel in the former headquarters of the Norwegian America Line shipping company, with a cocktail bar, an intimate jazz club and a 24/7 gym.

- ✓ Opposite the station (300 m), Karl Johans steps away
- ✓ Intimate New York-style jazz club + cocktail bar
- ✓ 24/7 gym, Finnish sauna, Nespresso in the room

Free cancellation

From **300 €** / night

Check availability

<u>3 places to stay with excellent value for money</u>



BUDGET OPTION

★ 8.5/10

Bob W Oslo Sentralen

📍 Kirkegata · 450 m station · location 9.7/10

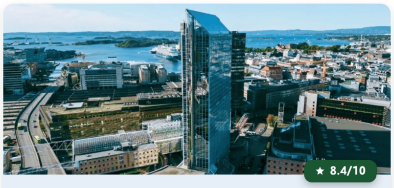
The self-service design boutique hotel with phone-code check-in, fully equipped modern rooms and a refillable coffee maker/kettle in every studio.

- ✓ Self check-in by phone code (24/7)
- ✓ 17-24 m² studios with coffee maker and kettle refills
- ✓ 24/7 WhatsApp support, gym access included

Free cancellation

From **110 €** / night

Check availability



★ 8.4/10

Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel

📍 Sonja Henies Plass · 100 m station · 37-floor tower

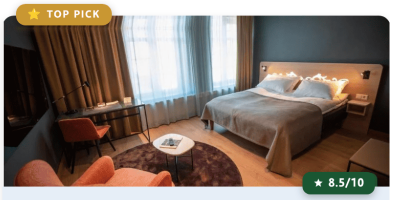
The 37-floor tower right by the station, with an indoor pool, a spa with sauna and the Top Restaurant on the 31st floor for dinner facing the Oslofjord.

- ✓ Central station 100 m (airport express train)
- ✓ Indoor pool + sauna + steam bath + massages
- ✓ Top Restaurant & Bar on the 31st floor (panoramic fjord view)

Free cancellation

From **120 €** / night

Check availability



TOP PICK

★ 8.5/10

Hotell Bondeheimen

📍 Kristian IVs gate · 100 m Karl Johans · location 9.6/10

The address for a taste of the real Norway: the Kaffistova restaurant with potato dumplings and salmon, the Heimen craft shop and a « superb » breakfast.

- ✓ Kaffistova restaurant (traditional Norwegian cuisine)
- ✓ Heimen craft shop on site (guests' discount)
- ✓ Karl Johans 100 m + National Theatre next door

Free cancellation

From **140 €** / night

Check availability

3 budget-friendly places to stay in Oslo

Luckily, it's possible to stay in Oslo without breaking the bank. It's basic but does the job very well, as we saw with the Citybox, among my favorite hotels. These ones are also very good for their category.



Smarthotel Oslo

📍 St. Olavs gate · next to Karl Johans · Royal Palace 400 m

Oslo's smart concept: compact, well-designed mini rooms with premium Dux bedding, digital check-in and a 24/7 self-service kiosk.

- ✓ Royal Palace 400 m, Karl Johans 2 min on foot
- ✓ National Theatre & Airport Express 2 min on foot
- ✓ Premium Dux bedding, digital check-in, 24/7 kiosk

✓ **Free cancellation**

From **80 €** / night

Check availability



Anker Hotel

📍 Storgata · hipster Grünerløkka district · 900 m station

The traveller's address in the lively Grünerløkka district: bright colourful rooms, a lobby with a bar and a small garden, self-service check-in and on-site parking.

- ✓ Grünerløkka (bars, hipster cafés) 15 min on foot
- ✓ Colourful 18-20 m² rooms, on-site parking
- ✓ Lobby bar + small garden, family rooms for 5

✓ **Free cancellation**

From **80 €** / night

Check availability



Comfort Hotel Børsparken

📍 Tollbugt · 350 m central station · location 9.5/10

The best location for the price: 3 min from the station and 500 m from the Opera, with a top-floor balcony overlooking the port and a CrossFit room on site.

- ✓ Central station 3 min away (airport express train)
- ✓ Top-floor balcony with port view + terrace
- ✓ CrossFit gym + 24/7 reception bar

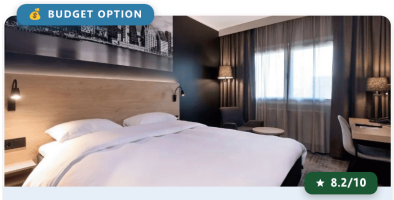
✓ **Free cancellation**

From **80 €** / night

Check availability

Staying near Oslo Airport Gardermoen

There are plenty of options for sleeping right by the airport. The best are the two Radissons, since they're literally a 2-minute walk away (well, mostly the Blu — the Red is 5 min away). The others are a few minutes away by shuttle, they're much cheaper, and really quite good!



Park Inn by Radisson Oslo Airport West

📍 Museumsvegen · 6 min by car from the airport · shuttle 80 NOK

The smart budget option around Gardermoen: soundproofed rooms, the Cockpit restaurant on site and an airport shuttle every 20 min from 4 am.

- ✓ Airport shuttle every 20 min (4:18 am-0:50 am, 80 NOK)
- ✓ Breakfast from 4 am (ideal for early flights)
- ✓ Soundproofed 18 m² rooms + Cockpit restaurant

✓ **Free cancellation**

From **80 €** / night

Check availability



Radisson RED, Oslo Airport

📍 Henrik Ibsens veg · 5-10 min walk terminal · location 9.4/10

4-star design 5-10 min on foot from the airport via a covered walkway, with air-conditioned 22 m² rooms and the RBG Bar and Grill brasserie on site.

- ✓ 5-10 min walk to the terminal via a covered walkway
- ✓ Air-conditioned 22 m² rooms, Nespresso in superior rooms
- ✓ GAMO Bar & Grill restaurant + gym on site

✓ **Free cancellation**

From **140 €** / night

Check availability



Radisson Blu Airport Hotel

📍 Hotelvegen · linked direct to the terminal · location 9.6/10

Unbeatable in practice: linked directly to the terminal by a pedestrian walkway (3 min), very comfortable soundproofed rooms and breakfast from 5 am.

- ✓ Direct pedestrian walkway to the terminal (3 min)
- ✓ Oslo Airport station 200 m (train to the centre in 20 min)
- ✓ Breakfast from 5 am + soundproofed 22 m² rooms

✓ **Free cancellation**

From **145 €** / night

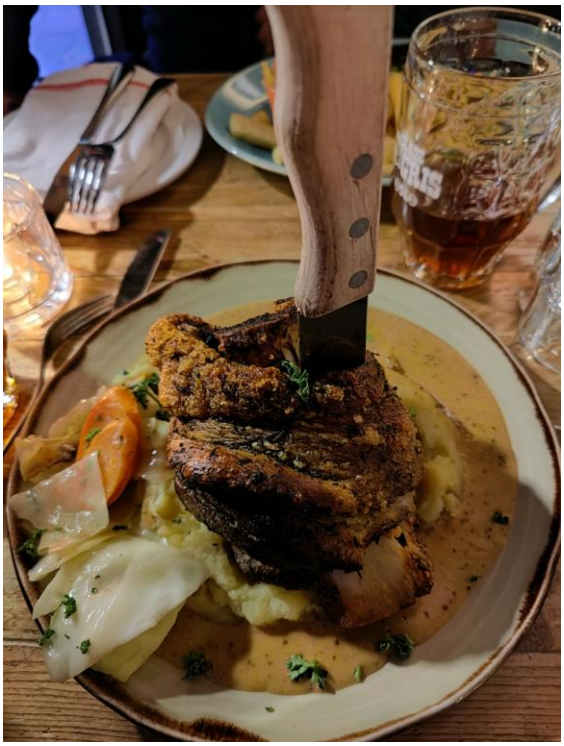
Check availability

FIND YOUR DREAM STAY IN OSLO!

WHERE TO EAT

Likewise, restaurants are expensive in Oslo, but you can eat incredibly well!

- Lots of great restaurants around Aker Brygge
  - The Salmon, unsurprisingly a restaurant all about… salmon
  - Døgnvill Burger
  - *Rorbua Aker Brygge*
  - Eataly, pretty good
  - The Paradis ice cream parlor
- Den Glade Gris, all about pork (with a fantastic ham hock)
- Statholderens mat og vinkjeller, Michelin-starred (get that credit card ready!)



HOW TO GET THERE AND GET AROUND

- Nearest **train** station:
  - Oslo Central station
  - For routes and tickets, head to Vy.no

- **Closest** airport:
  - Oslo Gardermoen (*find out how to get to the city center from the airport*)
    - *And here, find out where to stay near Oslo airport*
  - Plenty of direct flights from France and Belgium
  - To get from the airport to the city center, take the Flytoget train (faster but pricier) or the VY train (slower but cheaper)
  - Compare flights and airlines — prices vary enormously from one day to the next. I now use Booking Flights, which I find very reliable thanks to its price-prediction tool.

- **Getting around** the city center
  - Several metro and tram lines
  - Covered by the *OSLO PASS*
  - The **RUTER** app to buy transport tickets

- Quite a lot of public transport in the surrounding area. **Journey planners**:
  - General: https://entur.no/
  - Within Oslo: Ruter.no
    - The Ruter app for buying tickets and checking maps

- Arriving by **ferry** from abroad
  - Hirtshals (Denmark) – Larvik (the main one)
  - Kiel (Germany) - Oslo
  - Frederikshavn (Denmark) - Oslo
  - Copenhagen (Denmark) – Oslo
  - Compare ferries with Direct Ferries

- Renting a **car**:
  - You don't really need a car in Oslo. Public transport is good and parking is expensive. However, to get out and explore the region or go further afield, it works really well.
  - All the big brands are there, either at the airport or at the central station and in the city center. So it's impossible to recommend one in particular
  - You absolutely have to **COMPARE** prices and reviews. I mainly use *Booking.com*, reliable and with no nasty surprises. But these days I still book a lot through ***Discover Cars***
- Car rental with **GETAROUND**
  - Very reliable, with lots of choice in Oslo
  - Sign up and get €15 off your first rental

THE VIKING CHURCHES

Full article here

WHAT ARE THE VIKING CHURCHES OF NORWAY

All over the country, especially in the center, you'll find churches that are unique in the world: the stave churches, stavkirke, typical of the Vikings after their conversion to Christianity:

- 28 churches remaining
- The oldest are 900 years old
- Beautifully carved
- A smell of tarred wood still lingering centuries later



WHERE TO FIND THESE CHURCHES

- The Google maps map with all the locations can be found here

- Oslo region
  - Gol – Norwegian folklore museum (Oslo)
  - Høyjord – south of Drammen
  - Flesberg – west of Oslo

- Bergen region
  - **Fantoft** – in Bergen, a reconstruction of the church that burned down in 1992
  - **Urnes** – a UNESCO World Heritage site
  - Hopperstad – on the shores of the Sognefjord
  - Undredal – next to Flam
  - Kaupanger
  - **Borgund** – one of the most famous and most impressive

- Southwest of the country, between Oslo, Bergen and Stavanger
  - Røldal – not far from Odda
  - Eidsborg – in Telemark
  - Heddal – in Telemark
  - Rollag
  - Nore
  - Uvdal

- Center of the country
  - Torpo
  - Hedalen
  - Reinli
  - Garmo – in Lillehammer
  - Hore
  - Lomen
  - Hegge
  - Ringebu
  - Lom

- Between Alesund, Kristiansund and Trondheim
  - Rødven – next to Andalsnes
  - Kvernes – next to Kristiansund
  - Grip – in Kristiansund
  - Haltdalen – in Roros



WHO AM I

Well then, I'm Vincent, from the blog Vincent Voyage (super original, right?!) In love with Norway and the Nordic countries for many years now, I spend several months a year up there enjoying the calm of the region and its fantastic landscapes, all under the northern lights of course.

I'm also a travel blogger, specializing in Norway, the northern lights but not only! I love Iceland just as much as the castles of the Loire Valley. I have a passion for Myanmar and Peru, and dream of going back to New Zealand.

This blog is mainly here to show that it's simple. Traveling is simple, and I try to answer all the questions I once asked myself. Because whatever questions you have, you're not the first to ask them, so I'll do my best to make your trip easier 😊

Very recently, I've also started offering northern lights tours around Tromso, Senja and the Lofoten Islands.

And I suggest the following articles:

- Discover Norway
  - Tromso
  - Senja
  - Lofoten Islands
  - Bergen
  - Oslo
  - The Fjords of Norway
- Discover Iceland
- Discover Finnish Lapland
- Everything you need to know about the northern lights



Is this guide useful to you?

It's *free* and it'll stay that way. If you'd like to help me keep it going, you can use the links in this guide or in the articles: it doesn't cost you a penny more. Or you can buy me a virtual coffee, it really makes my day :)

Activities · Hotels · Car · Buy me a coffee (€5)

SOCIAL MEDIA

You can find me on several social media platforms:

- ***Instagram***: photos and videos mainly about Norway and the northern lights. Account: Vincentvoyage



- **My page on Facebook**: photos and videos but not only that! I share my work and the work of others, and it's an easy place to chat with the community. It's a really simple way to interact, and I often ask people's opinions on various topics there. Account: Vincentvoyage.



You can contact me at contact@vincent.voyage

And if you're not there already, you can join us in the Facebook group about Norway , we're not far off 40,000!

HOW TO SUPPORT THE BLOG AND THE FREE CONTENT

Contrary to what some might think, blogging and photography are not my job. It's a passion I pursue in my free time. The advantage is that I don't want it to become a job, precisely so I don't lose that freedom and that passion (plus, I love my "real" job and have no intention of quitting it).

I try to make the blog earn a little money while being as transparent as possible with my readers.

I don't work with tourist offices, I don't run any ads; everything you see here in this guide, if I've tested it, it means I paid for it and enjoyed it. So you won't have any problem with the honesty of my reviews 😊

If I haven't tested something, it means I've checked that the reviews were good and that the quality was truly there.

As for monetizing the blog and the guide, there are sometimes affiliate links. This means, and it's completely transparent for you, that if you use some of my links to book with *booking* or *getyourguide* for example, you won't pay any more and I receive a small percentage. I insist on this: **you will not pay any more**.

I refuse to work with certain partners who inflate prices in exchange for a higher commission. So EVERYTHING I suggest here has been checked to make sure you get the lowest price with a trusted partner. I generally make sure you have free cancellation so you don't end up stuck.

So, to support the blog and help it pay for itself, you can use the links provided in the guide.

But you can also, if you're travelling elsewhere, use these generic links when you plan your trips, and even bookmark them for later. It still won't cost you any more, and I'll get that small commission. A huge thank you in advance! 😊

If you enjoyed this free guide, you can also leave a little something on *Buy Me a Coffee*, a site for supporting creators, or *buy my wallpaper pack* for mobile phones with 14 superb photos!

