



Tromsø - Autumn on Sommarøy



HOLIDAY TYPE: Flexible Dates
VISITING: Norway

BROCHURE CODE: 26025
DURATION: 4 nights

In Brief

This 4-night autumn break combines Tromsø, the cosmopolitan 'Capital of the Arctic' with the peaceful island life of Sommarøy. You'll explore the fjords on a RIB boat, go on two dedicated Northern Lights hunts, and enjoy leisurely walks to admire the autumnal nature.

Our Opinion

“ One of the most memorable moments of my autumn visit to Norway was the drive to Sommarøy. The fjords, the islands, the mountains; all combine to make a breathtaking landscape. The island itself is picture perfect and I was stunned by the white sandy beaches– they looked like beaches you might find in the Caribbean rather than the Arctic. Up until this point, I was more than content, but to then witness the Aurora dance over the ocean was beyond expectations. When it appeared, I literally forgot how to function normally and was rooted to the spot. ”

Andy Marshall



What's included?

ALL OF THE ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES LISTED BELOW ARE INCLUDED IN THE HOLIDAY PRICE

- **Transfers:** return airport transfers
- **Accommodation:** 2 nights at Clarion Hotel The Edge in a standard double/twin room, 2 nights at the Sommarøy Arctic Hotel in a standard double/twin room
- **Meals:** 4 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners
- **Activities:** guided RIB boat trip, Aurora hunt by minibus, guided walk on Sommarøy, guided Northern Lights trip to the island's Aurora Camp (order subject to change)
- Fully qualified guides and instructors during activities

Trip Overview

Autumnal Aurora displays equal those of winter, particularly when you view them from somewhere such as Sommarøy. On this island in Northern Norway, the lights can suddenly appear from behind the mountains before reaching out and dancing above the sea. A strong Aurora can even cast a reflection on the water's surface, giving you two displays for the price of one.

Your holiday begins in the city of Tromsø, which is often referred to as the 'Capital of the Arctic'. Tromsø is no sleepy town; it is a vibrant hive of activity and offers many attractions. There are some seriously good eateries, a thriving cafe and shopping culture as well as the world's most northerly aquarium and the imposing Arctic Cathedral which dominates the city skyline.

Tromsø is predominantly built on a large island linked to the mainland, and the city's boundaries are marked by the fjords and mountains which surround it, meaning that the wilderness is always within easy reach. During your stay, you'll have time to explore the city and will be treated to a thrilling RIB wildlife tour. The boat will travel just off Tromsø where the views will have you reaching for your camera. There is a rich marine life in this area, including seals and various seabirds.

As most Aurora hunters know, city lights do not allow for the best Northern Lights viewing and so we have also included a dedicated Aurora hunt by minibus on your second night in town. Your expert local guide will lead the chase using the latest weather forecasts and solar activity readings to

determine your route.

From Tromsø, you continue to the island of Sommarøy where a mix of white sandy beaches (think tropical bays but with less heat), charming fisherman's cottages and rugged hills and mountains await you. The bright colours of the buildings tone wonderfully with the vibrant colours of autumn.

Sommarøy is about getting away from it all so your time here will be spent at a relaxed pace. You'll enjoy a guided walk on the island and a visit to an Aurora Camp on your first night here. There will also be some free time for you to soak up your surroundings and hunt for the Aurora on your second day. Famed for its Northern Lights displays, you don't have to venture far to witness the lights here if conditions are favourable.

In short, this autumn break gives you the chance to take in a cosmopolitan Arctic city and the wonderfully peaceful island of Sommarøy, whilst enjoying some carefully chosen [activities](#) and dedicated Aurora hunts.

***Please note:** for all activities, there will be a short walk to the pick-up points. Please speak to one of our Travel Experts for details.

Image credits: Sommarøy Arctic Hotel & Tromsø Adventure



Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY
1

ARRIVAL AND WELCOME

Today you will arrive in Tromsø, where a taxi will be waiting to take you to your hotel. This is a lively, cosmopolitan city with a vibrant mix of restaurants and shops as well as fascinating attractions such as the Polar Museum to enjoy. We would highly recommend an early arrival (or we can help you arrange an extended stay at the start or end of your holiday) in order to maximise your time here. Our travel experts have spent many a happy day exploring Tromsø and will be happy to make recommendations.

Please note that the order of activities within your itinerary is subject to change and the agenda below should be used as a guide only.

Included Meals: None

DAY
2

RIB BOAT TRIP AND MINIBUS HUNT FOR THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

After breakfast at your hotel, you will join your local guide for a RIB (rigid inflatable boat) wildlife tour which will explore the islands around Tromsø. RIBs are designed to move fast, so this is an adventurous boat tour out to sea. Once out at sea, you will be afforded with breath-taking views back to the city and the surrounding fjords.

Your boat ride will stay close to Tromsø. There is an abundance of wildlife in this area, including seabirds and seals so keep your camera close. You will be out for approximately 45-60 minutes on the water. Hot drinks and snacks will be waiting for you on your return to the harbour.

Following the tour, you will return to the city for the remainder of the afternoon. As darkness falls you will embark on your first Aurora hunt. The minibus used provides the mobility required to escape the city lights and to outrun any localised cloud cover. Your guide will use their knowledge along with the latest solar activity and weather forecasts to determine the best route for your search. You will be out searching for approximately six to nine hours.

As a natural phenomenon, the Northern Lights can appear at any time creating a wonderful sense of anticipation (which is all part of the fun). You'll keep your eyes fixed on the skies as you explore the region with the mountains silhouetted around you. Hopefully, your efforts will be rewarded.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY
3

GUIDED WALK OF SOMMARØY AND AURORA CAMP

Following breakfast, you will leave Tromsø and make for the small island of Sommarøy. It is not often that the transfer is part of the highlights but the drive to Sommarøy is breathtaking, showcasing the mountain and fjord landscape which is highlighted with autumn colours. The hotel's shuttle will leave Tromsø at approximately 10:30 this morning. Private transfer upgrades are possible for a supplement.

Sommarøy has strong fishing traditions and the village is often a hive of activity as vessels make their way in and out of the small harbour. The beaches are strangely reminiscent of more tropical climates with white sands and crystal-clear water; it is only the cooler temperatures and the colourful fishermen's cottages which give their location away.

You will enjoy a leisurely guided walk of the island today, enjoying the friendly welcome provided by this small fishing community. Your guide will give you an insight into life on the island both past and present.

This evening you will enjoy dinner before setting off with your guide to an Aurora camp which offers views out across the water. It is from here that you can sometimes witness the most spectacular Aurora displays as the lights can appear from above the mountains and stretch out overhead, reflecting in the sea in front of you.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
4

FREE DAY

Today you will have the opportunity to explore at your leisure. The value of having free time in Sommarøy should not be underestimated and it has the ability to really make you relax and unwind. There are a number of ways in which to maximise your time here and perhaps one of the most highly recommended options is to walk to the top of Hillesøy Mountain, which offers panoramic views of the surrounding area. The most difficult part of the hike is coming down, not because of the terrain, but because it is hard to take your eyes away from the view.

Alternatively, a simple stroll along the white sandy beaches is a fantastic way in which to enjoy the tranquil atmosphere. With only a small number of inhabitants, the pace is slower than you are likely to experience and is something to be savoured.

Dinner will be enjoyed at the hotel restaurant this evening.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
5

DEPARTURE

Following breakfast will be transferred to the airport* having witnessed a slice of the Norwegian coast and hopefully the Northern Lights. If you still have a thirst for the hunt, then you can extend your stay in Tromsø and we can arrange additional activities for you. Please speak to one of our Travel Experts for a quotation.

***Please note:** the return airport transfer from Sommarøy is scheduled to depart at 9 am. For any departures outside this time, a private transfer supplement will apply.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Personalise this tour

Our pick



Northern Lights husky hike

You will be transferred to a local husky farm, where you will be introduced to its many furry residents. Following that, you will take some of the dogs for a walk, wandering through the outdoors and admiring the surrounding nature. Be prepared, as the Northern Lights might make an appearance at any time!

You will reach a campfire where you can sit and wait for a display. A traditional Sámi meal will be served inside a comfy tent, and you will have a chance to watch short films - one about the Northern Lights, the other about

how the huskies from this farm have participated in the 1000-mile Iditarod, the longest dogsledding race on earth.

Duration: approximately 5 hours

Available: from 23rd October until 30 November

Other options

ACTIVITIES



Guided daytime walk

Explore more of Sommarøy's sights and learn about its fascinating history with this walking tour in the company of an expert guide.

You'll visit some of the island's highlights, including the local museum, church, park and local store whilst learning facts about the area. You can also ask the guide any questions you may have.

Duration: 1 hour

Credit: Royston Bok



RIB tour to Hekking Lighthouse

Visit one of the oldest lighthouses in Norway when you travel via RIB to the north side of Senja to see Hekking Lighthouse. For years, it has been an important signpost for ships coming into Tromsø which you will appreciate as you approach it on the RIB. Once you reach the lighthouse, you will have time to step off the boat and explore the area.

Duration: 2 hours (approx. one hour at the lighthouse)



Northern Lights Sailing

Chase the Northern Lights from a unique vantage point at sea onboard a catamaran.

You will set sail from Kirkegata 1 in Tromsø and pass through the stunning fjords, away from the city lights and in search of the Aurora. A professional skipper will help you in your quest, advising you on what to look out for in the dark sky. If the Northern Lights start to appear, you will have one of the best viewpoints in the city.

The catamaran is well-equipped with a comfortable heated saloon, toilets and safety suits so you will stay dry and warm. You can enjoy drinks and a homemade fish soup from the day's fresh catch. You will return to Tromsø at approximately 12:30am.

Duration: Approximately 3 hours, including transfers

Image Credit: Pukka Travels



Northern Lights Husky Sledding on Wheels (Sept-Oct)

Today you will get to meet the friendly dog sledding team, located at their camp just 35 minutes away. As the deep snow hasn't settled yet, you can enjoy the dog sledding experience on wheels as you travel into the Arctic night. Each buggy has space for two people and you will have the opportunity to switch drivers during the activity.

After meeting the dogs and receiving full instructions, you will set off into the wilderness in search of the Aurora.

Returning to the camp later in the evening, a campfire will be lit and you will enjoy warm drinks and snacks as you keep an eye on the starry sky for the Auroras. Your knowledgeable guide will tell you all about the lives of the dogs, as well as his experience in dog sledding while you wait in hope for the Northern Lights to make their appearance.

You will be transferred back to Tromsø at approximately 12am.

Duration: Approximately 6 hours, including transfers.

Credit Active Tromso



Northern Lights Dog Sledding on Snow (Nov)

Dog sledding and Northern Lights hunting are two of the most-loved Arctic experience and tonight, you will experience both in one trip (if the Aurora conditions are favourable).

Your evening starts with a transfer to the dog sledding camp, around 35 minutes away from where you will meet with your expert guide and loyal team of dogs.

After receiving full instructions on how to mush, you will set off into the night, keeping an eye on the sky at all times in search of the Aurora. You will travel two people per sled, with the chance to swap drivers during the activity. The sled ride will last approximately two hours and upon your return to the camp, you will have time to thank your dogs before enjoying warm drinks and snacks around the campfire. As you swap stories of the night's adventure, your guide will also be helping you search the skies for the Northern Lights. You will return to Tromsø at approximately 11 pm.

Duration: Approximately 6 hours, including transfers

Please note this trip is suitable for those with good fitness levels.

Image Credit: Active Tromso

Included Accommodation

Clarion Hotel - The Edge (Nights: 1-2)



Situated right in the centre of Tromsø, the Clarion Hotel The Edge puts you in a prime location to explore the 'Paris of the North' and is an excellent base to transfer to your memorable activities.

Hotel Facilities

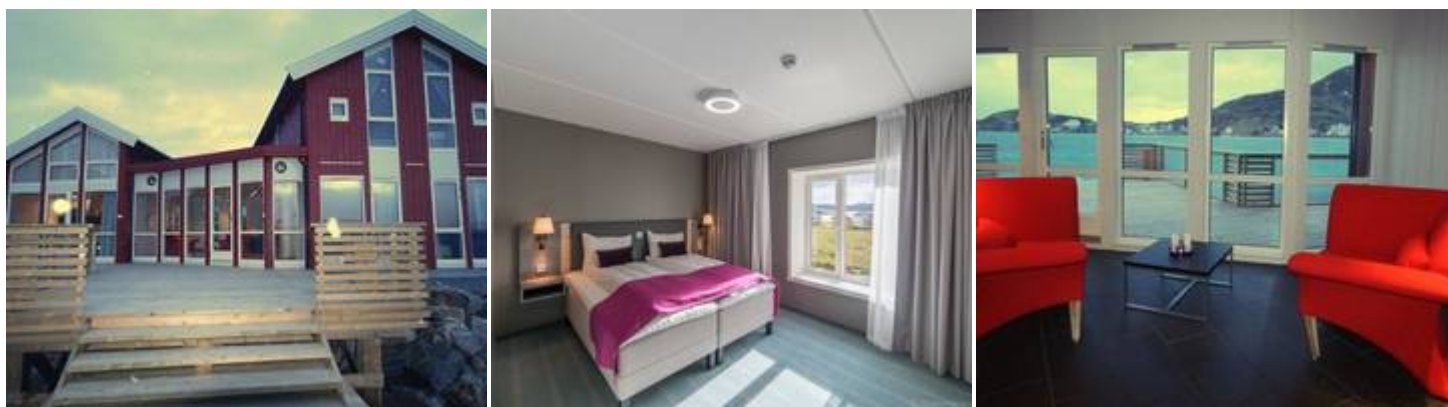
- Enjoy great views of the brilliant architecture of the city as it reflects in the waters just outside the hotel or head to the 11th-floor sky bar – the only one of its kind in the city – for a vista like no other
- The hotel puts great emphasis on being eco-friendly and is built with an environmental classification A.
- Keep up with your fitness in the onsite gym with stunning sea views
- Enjoy tastes of Manhattan made using Arctic ingredients in the 'Kitchen and Table' restaurant

Room Facilities

- Twin/Double Rooms: the hotel offers standard double rooms as well as a standard twin room (two single beds). All rooms are ensuite and come with WiFi, minibar, iron and ironing board.
- Deluxe Double/Junior Suite/Family Room: for larger groups, we can offer an upgrade to a deluxe double (sleeps up to 3 persons) or a junior suite or family room for 4 people.

NB: The hotel is cash-free. They take payment by credit or debit card and accept all major international cards.

Sommarøy Arctic Hotel (Nights: 3-4)



Overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, in the traditional fishing community of Sommarøy, this hotel offers a location with breath-taking views across the water. A recent full renovation and extension (which was completed in 2017) also ensures world-class facilities as well as plenty of Nordic charm.

The small island of Sommarøy ('summer island') is a thriving community with an active fishing industry so you can be sure of a genuine coastal experience and plenty of freshly caught delicacies to enjoy at meal times.

The hotel is located around 45 minutes from Tromsø yet its remote location provides a true sense of escape. Despite offering 155 rooms in total (with various room/apartment options) the hotel still has an intimate feel and guests will frequently spend evenings socialising in the bar or keeping watch for the Northern Lights together.

Hotel Facilities

- Relax in the hotel's seaside bathhouse which features a woodfired sauna and spacious hot tub. The hotel also boasts an outdoor hot tub with excellent views of the sea and night's sky
- The hotel has a wine lounge which features a glass wall overlooking the harbour and a central fireplace. This can be booked for small groups or is sometimes open for everyone.
- The bar offers an excellent wine list and you can sample a drink from the hotel's own vineyard in Italy
- The hotel offers free private parking to all guests
- Breakfast, which is included in your stay, is served within the on-site lobby restaurant which uses fresh local ingredients where possible
- The 24-hour reception team will be happy to assist you in booking additional activities or pointing out local sights

Guest Rooms

DOUBLE/TWIN/SINGLE STANDARD ROOMS: the hotel has 15 standard rooms in total. These are all located on the ground floor of the original building and offer an ensuite shower room, free Wi-Fi, TV, desk, hairdryer and a seating area.

DOUBLE/TWIN STANDARD-PLUS ROOMS: there are 14 standard-plus rooms which have the same amenities as standard rooms but are located on the upper floor of the hotel with the majority offering sea views. These require a minimum of two people.

SUPERIOR BALCONY ROOM: located in the new hotel wing, the superior balcony rooms are all warmly decorated in a modern Nordic fashion and offer double or twin beds as well as an en-suite shower room, free Wi-Fi, TV, desk, hairdryer and a seating area. Each has a balcony with sea views. There are 42 superior balcony rooms in total

SUPERIOR BALCONY SUITE: the hotel has 3 comfortable and spacious balcony suites in the new wing of the hotel which have one double/twin and one single bedroom as well as a large living area and balcony. The ensuite bathroom has a bathtub, shower and hairdryer. The suites have tea and coffee making facilities and free Wi-Fi

FISHERMAN'S COTTAGES: each fisherman's cottage (Rorbu) is furnished in a cosy Norwegian coastal style and located around a two-minute walk from the hotel. There are four 3-bedroom cottages for up to 6 guests, each featuring a kitchen, lounge and two shower rooms/toilets.

Image credits: Sommarøy Arctic Hotel

The Specifics

Holiday group size (approximate)

Minimum 2 people; maximum 20 people (approximately)

Group Size

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

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

Minimum numbers required for a holiday to operate

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

Minimum and maximum age

If a specific minimum age applies to this holiday, it can be found in the Key Facts box on the holiday Overview page.

Unless otherwise stated in the Key Facts box on the holiday Overview page, the minimum age for participation in an Aurora Zone holiday is typically 12 years old (there may be younger children in some destinations who have booked with other companies). If an adult-only environment is important to you, then please contact our Travel Experts and they will advise on the best dates and destinations for you. If you are looking for a holiday designed specifically for families then please see our sister company www.activitiesabroad.com.

Itinerary amendments

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

Terms and Conditions

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