



New Year Lights at Sommarøy



HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group
VISITING: Norway

BROCHURE CODE: 28006
DURATION: 4 nights

In Brief

Celebrate the New Year in Northern Norway with two nights in the vibrant city of Tromsø and two nights on the tranquil island of Sommarøy. Go on dedicated Aurora hunts during the evenings and spend your days learning about the Sami culture and exploring the area in search of the fascinating local wildlife.

Our Opinion

“ *This is a perfectly-formed New Year break which combines the peaceful tranquillity of Sommarøy and the excitement of Tromsø. One of the highlights for me was meeting the reindeer and learning more about the Sámi culture, but obviously, the main reason for travelling this far north in winter is to chase the Aurora. It doesn't take long to escape the lights of the city and Sommarøy has very little light pollution, so if conditions are favourable, you have an excellent chance of seeing the Aurora Borealis. Is there a better way to end the year than to witness the dancing lights?* ”

Katharina Rogalski



What's included?

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

- **Transfers:** return group airport transfers and transfers to and from activities
- **Accommodation:** 2 nights at the Clarion Hotel The Edge and 2 nights at the Sommarøy Arctic Hotel
- **Meals:** 4 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 2 dinners (including New Year's Eve Dinner)
- **Included activities:** RIB wildlife and local culture safari, Northern Lights hunt by minibus, reindeer feeding and sleigh ride with Sámi culture, Aurora Camp, guided walk on Sommarøy, New Year's Eve dinner and fireworks celebrations **(order subject to change)**
- Cold weather clothing is provided for the duration of your stay at Sommarøy, but during the activities only in Tromsø
- Fully qualified guides and instructors during activities

Trip Overview

Celebrate the New Year with an escape to Northern Norway on this four-night holiday combining both the vibrant city of Tromsø and the island of Sommarøy. Northern Norway is prime Aurora hunting territory and if conditions are favourable, festive fireworks might not be the only lights you will witness in the Northern sky.

Tromsø is 350km north of the Arctic Circle and away from the city there is very little light pollution. During your stay, you will enjoy a Northern Lights hunt by minibus which will take you out into the Norwegian countryside to the best possible viewpoint. On Sommarøy, you will visit a nearby Aurora camp and watch for the lights by a cosy campfire. Both activities are run by expert guides who have a vast amount of local knowledge and experience when it comes to seeking out the Aurora Borealis.

The Sámi people have inhabited the northern parts of Scandinavia for generations and they have a fascinating culture which is entwined with reindeer herding. We have included a reindeer feeding and Sámi culture activity which will allow you to see these iconic animals up close whilst also learning about the lives of the herding families. A short sleigh ride is also included.

You will also gain an appreciation for Nordic wildlife, with a RIB (rigid inflatable boat) tour on the Arctic waters. Northern Norway has a diverse marine life and there are numerous species of whale which you may be lucky enough to spot at this time of year. The whale season usually runs between November and January and species include the humpback whale and the orca. You may also spot white-tailed eagles, seals and various species of seabird. You will also make a stop at a local island to learn about the culture of the area.

The tranquil island of Sommarøy has approximately 400 residents and a strong history in fishing. A guided walk will show you the local community and the thriving harbour.

You will also celebrate New Year on Sommarøy and the celebrations include a festive buffet, live music and fireworks. If you are lucky, the Northern Lights may make an appearance too!

Image credits: Sommaroy Arctic Hotel, Ole C Salomonsen, Konrad Konieczny, Nord norge



Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY
1

ARRIVAL AND WELCOME

Once you have arrived at Tromsø Airport*, you will be transferred to The Edge Hotel based in the heart of the city.

After checking in, you can venture out into the city of Tromsø, the self-proclaimed 'Capital of the North', where there are many restaurants and cafes to enjoy.

***A note on flights:** flights are not included in the holiday price; however, our Travel Experts will happily provide a quotation and book them on your behalf.

Included Meals: None

DAY
2

RIB WILDLIFE AND LOCAL CULTURE SAFARI AND NORTHERN LIGHTS HUNT BY MINIBUS

Following breakfast, you will be collected a short walk away from your hotel and transferred out to your departure point (approximately 50 minutes away) where you will be taken out on the Arctic waters for a wildlife and local culture safari. Large numbers of herring move into these parts for the winter, attracting a rich range of wildlife from October to March. This includes seabirds, seals, dolphins and, sometimes, whales. The whale season usually runs between early November to the end of January and the species of whales you might be lucky enough to spot include humpback, fin whales and orcas. Your tour will be on a RIB (rigid inflatable boat) which takes you on a fast-paced ride out to sea. You will stop at the island of Gåsvaer where you will visit a small church and learn about the local culture. Hot drinks and snacks will be served and the tour lasts for approximately five hours, including transfers.

After a free afternoon and early dinner in Tromsø, you will be collected for your inaugural Northern Lights hunt. The pick-up point for this tour is a short walk away from your hotel. Travelling by bus you can cover greater distances and escape from any light pollution. The tour will be led by an expert guide who will use the latest solar and weather forecasts to take you to the most suitable vantage point. If you are lucky enough to catch a display then your guide will be on hand to help provide photography tips. Warm clothing is provided and hot drinks will be served during the activity. You will be out for around six to eight hours.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY
3

REINDEER FEEDING AND SLEIGH RIDE WITH SÁMI CULTURE AND AURORA CAMP

After breakfast, you will check out of your room (your bags can be left at reception for collection later) and then head out of Tromsø to meet with a traditional Sámi reindeer herding family. The Sámi culture is of huge importance to the region and in turn, the reindeer are intrinsically linked to the Sámi way of life; today is designed for you to gain an understanding of these all-important ties.

At the Sámi camp, you can learn a little about the Sámi people, their heritage, their culture, their past and perhaps what lies in their future. You will be able to feed the reindeer and enjoy a sleigh ride. A hot lunch is included and you will be out for approximately four to five hours, including transfers. The pick-up point for this activity is a short walk away from your hotel.

Returning to Tromsø, you will have some free time before your transfer to Sommarøy later this afternoon. You can wait in the hotel's lounge, or perhaps you'll want to explore more of Tromsø. At approximately 4.30 pm, you will be transferred to the Sommarøy Arctic Hotel, which is an hour away. Once here, you will be kitted out with cold weather clothing for the duration of your stay on the island.

After a delicious dinner at the hotel, you will accompany a local guide to a nearby Aurora camp. Sommarøy is a very small community of around 400 people and therefore there is very little in the way of light pollution. You don't generally have to travel far to escape any light pollution and, if conditions are favourable, you have an excellent chance of witnessing the Northern lights. You will be out for

approximately three to five hours and hot drinks and snacks are provided.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
4

GUIDED WALK ON SOMMARØY, NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER AND FIREWORKS

Following breakfast, you will enjoy a guided walk on Sommarøy. which will give you an insight into the local community. You will stop at the museum and handicraft shop, before making your way to the local church and the King's Park. The duration of the walk is approximately one hour. A well-deserved lunch will be enjoyed back at the hotel.

During the evening, you will welcome in the New Year, enjoying live music and a festive buffet, featuring all kinds of Norwegian specialities. There will, of course, be fireworks to add a sparkle to your celebrations and with a bit of luck, the Northern Lights may grace you with their presence.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
5

DEPARTURE

Sadly, it is time to say goodbye to Sommarøy and Northern Norway. Following breakfast, you will be transferred* to Tromsø Airport for your flights home.

***Please note:** depending on your flight time, you will depart Sommarøy at either 9 am or 2.30 pm; these are set, scheduled times. If you require an earlier or later transfer, supplements will apply. Please contact one of our Travel Experts for more information.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Personalise this tour

Our pick



Northern Lights dinner cruise

Departing from the harbour area of Tromsø, you will set out across the water via catamaran in search of the Northern Lights. The boat is charmingly comfortable with a viewing deck and a heated lounge for you to enjoy as you set off slowly across the water. There is no artificial light pollution on the water and regardless of whether the Northern Lights do appear you will still be able to enjoy Tromsø from a wonderful new perspective and you will be able to see the illuminated Arctic Cathedral and Bridge.

Dinner is a traditional Norwegian supper (usually fish based), served in the boat's indoor area whilst you wait for the Northern Lights to hopefully appear in the dark skies above you.

Your host's knowledge about the city and its surroundings, as well as their many years of experience of the Northern Lights, will make for a very memorable experience.

Cold weather clothes are provided.

Image credit: Patin

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

Speak to us on 01670 785 012
bookings@theaurorazone.com



- 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>