



Senja - Island Auroras



HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group

VISITING: Norway

BROCHURE CODE: 26019

DURATION: 4 nights

In Brief

Senja showcases many of Norway's highlights and this 4-night break is designed to encapsulate them all. You'll look out for an array of marine life during a boat tour and at night, you'll search for the Northern Lights from a hot tub, Aurora Lighthouse and a snowshoe walk. All this with a fantastic mountainous fjord backdrop.

Our Opinion

“ *There is something really special about Senja. I loved my visit there because it allowed me to see a completely different side to Arctic Norway. As much fun as activities like husky and snowmobile safaris are, Senja has a number of unexpected 'hidden gem' activities such as their wonderful wildlife safari. While the main reason for travelling to Senja is usually the Northern Lights, I'm rarely surprised when our clients come back astonished at just how much more this part of the world has to offer.* ”

Jono Archer



What's included?

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

- **Transfers:** arrival transfer from Bardufoss Airport; transfer to Finnsnes and Hurtigruten or Express Ferry ticket to Tromsø port; transfer to Tromsø Airport
- **Accommodation:** 3 nights small suite accommodation at Hamn i Senja, 1-night standard double/twin room at Clarion Hotel The Edge
- **Meals:** 4 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 3 dinners
- **The following activities and equipment are included:** guided sightseeing, two visits to the Northern Lights Lighthouse, wildlife boat safari, snowshoe hike for the Northern Lights, one visit to the outdoor hot tub and sauna, Hurtigruten or Express Ferry transfer to Tromsø (**order subject to change**)
- Cold weather and protective clothing are included during activities at Senja
- Fully qualified guides and instructors during activities

Trip Overview

To know Senja is to love Senja (or at least that's the case in our office!). The small hotel of Hamn is set right on the harbour of a sheltered bay which eventually leads out to the vast Norwegian Sea. Regardless of when you visit, it is an idyllic and timeless setting with panoramic views of the harbour, which was used by fishermen for hundreds of years.

The location of the hotel, right on the water's edge and away from almost all artificial light pollution, could not be better for viewing the Aurora Borealis. Sitting right in the heart of the Aurora Zone at a latitude of 69.41 degrees (anything north of 63/64 is normally considered in the zone), sometimes, you need do no more than just walk outside the hotel to see a display if the conditions are right.

During your two daytime activities, your guided walk and wildlife boat safari, an abundance of incredible animals can be spotted. These include the likes of seals, soaring eagles and other birdlife. If you are travelling from January onwards, there is also the chance that you may spot a whale during your boat trip, but this very much depends on where the vital herring travel. Sightings are not as common as they once were, so please do not expect a whale watching tour.

In contrast to the remote and peaceful setting of Hamn, the final day of your holiday sees you transported to the relative hustle and bustle of one of the world's most northerly cities: Tromsø. You will arrive in style on the iconic coastal steamer Hurtigruten or via Express Ferry, before exploring the city at your own pace for the remainder of your stay. Tromsø needs no introduction to Aurora enthusiasts; it is regularly listed as one of the best places in the world as a base to see the Northern Lights.

What we like about Tromsø is that there is so much to see and do during the day. A particular favourite is the cable car. In just four minutes you find yourself at an altitude of 421 metres with views to rival the very best in the world. Where else can you see the urban sweep of Tromsø - "The Paris of the North" – fjords, mountains and dozens and dozens of archipelago islands fading gradually into the ocean from just one vantage point? The word spectacular can very often be used unjustifiably but when it comes to describing the views from the Storsteinen Mountain it is barely adequate.

Another favourite pastime is to visit Mack's Ølbryggeri which is one of the world's most northerly breweries (one opened in Ilulissat, Greenland in 2013 which was a mere 50 metres further north but pride of most northerly place goes to the brewery opened in Svalbard in 2015). We always recommend this place for a friendly welcome, fascinating history, the 67 different beers available and some delicious and reasonably priced food. The brewery runs daily tours at 15.30 for those wishing to enjoy the full beer appreciation experience.

Image credits: Hamn i Senja, Christine Matthews/Guest image/Hurtigruten, Reiner Schaufler, Cesar Martinez/Guest image/Hurtigruten, Rolf von Criegern/Guest image/Hurtigruten, www.Hurtigruten.co.uk

Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY
1

ARRIVAL, WELCOME TO SENJA AND NORTHERN LIGHTS LIGHTHOUSE

You will be met at Bardufoss Airport* and driven to your hotel on the north-west side of the island of Senja. It's a journey of around 90 minutes and as you watch the islands and fjords glide by, it will become increasingly hard to believe that you were embroiled in the hubbub of a busy airport earlier in the day.

After a warm welcome at the hotel, you will have some free time to check into your rooms and just gaze out the windows (you will see what we mean when you arrive!) before dinner is served in the hotel restaurant.

Our friends at Hamn I Senja came up with the Northern Lights Lighthouse concept. Essentially, it is a traditional northern cabin known as a kota which sits on raised land behind the hotel. From this vantage point, you can enjoy 360° views across the fjords as well as the Arctic sky above. If the Northern Lights are visible then you will almost certainly be able to see them from the lighthouse. There is also hot berry juice to drink and reindeer skins to relax on. All in all, it's a pretty civilised

approach to Northern Lights viewing.

A note on flights: flights are not included in the holiday price so that the best available fares and most appropriate schedules can be found at the time of booking. This route is served by both low cost and scheduled airlines and our Travel Experts will happily provide you with a quote and arrange flights on your behalf.

* This holiday is designed to fly into Bardufoss and out of Tromsø. If you would prefer to arrive and depart from the same airport please get in touch and we will help arrange transfers to allow you to do this.

Included Meals: Dinner

DAY
2

GUIDED SIGHTSEEING, OUTDOOR HOT TUB & SAUNA AND NORTHERN LIGHTS LIGHTHOUSE

After breakfast, you will meet your expert local guide and depart by car along the National Tourist Route on Northern Senja. This is one of only 18 such routes in Norway which have been granted the coveted 'National Tourist Route' status to reflect the exquisite nature of the surrounding area. On your journey from the airport yesterday you will have enjoyed a short taste of just why it has been recognised as one of Norway's most outstanding and, indeed, astounding routes.

You will visit the remote white sandy beach of Ersfjorden and make other stops at viewpoints and places of interest which may well have just passed you by without your guide's local knowledge. You will be out exploring for approximately two hours before returning to your hotel for lunch.

This afternoon you will have some free time to relax or take a short walk before your evening meal is served in the hotel restaurant.

Included in the price of your trip is one visit to the hotel's quirky outdoor hot tub and sauna. The hot tub is set in an old fishing boat located just next to the hotel. The team at Senja are, quite rightly, very proud of what they claim to be "The world's first outdoor hot tub in a boat!". Their promise is that this is not only a unique concept but also an unforgettable experience

The hot tub boat is available to book any time up to 23.00 and can hold up to 15 people. It is great fun and also fully licensed so you can enjoy a glass of wine or beer whilst hopefully gazing at the Northern Lights. One of our members of staff, Amy, actually sat out in the hot tub while a blizzard raged around her. Protected by warm bubbling water and a woolly hat, there was no way she was going to abandon her glass of wine for a mere flurry of snow!

Amy strongly recommends it as an unforgettable experience but she does add a note of warning. Getting out of the 38°C hot tub to take those six steps to the sauna took an awful lot of willpower!

Later this evening we have included entry to the Northern Lights Lighthouse. If you were not lucky enough to enjoy an Auroral display last night then this could be your moment. If you did see the Aurora last night, it's time to relax and enjoy the view because the Northern Lights are ever-changing and no two displays are the same.

If you have an interest in photography is it possible to upgrade your activity this evening to a

Northern Lights photography workshop. Suitable for complete beginners (or those with more experience) you will learn some of the really interesting skills and techniques which are required to successfully capture the Aurora.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
3

LANDSCAPE AND WILDLIFE SAFARI AND SNOWSHOE SEARCH FOR THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

Superlatives just fail to describe the dramatic scenery of the Arctic Norwegian Coastline. Hamn I Senja is set right in the heart of one of our very favourite parts and today you will be able to discover a different perspective during your wildlife boat safari. Your guide will take you out to some of the completely unspoilt beaches and coves located a short cruise from the hotel where you are most likely to be able to enjoy some of the wonderful birdlife and also seals who call this special part of the world home. You will be out on the water for approximately an hour and a half and hot drinks will be served during the trip.

You will return to the hotel in time for lunch and your last afternoon is free to relax and just enjoy the striking land and seascapes.

After dinner, you will try one of the oldest ways of travelling in Arctic Norway: snowshoeing. Walking with snowshoes on for the first time feels like strapping a couple of tennis rackets to your feet. It does take some time to get used to, but once you have found your feet (as it were) there are very few places you cannot go! The guide will provide a full safety briefing and the whole group will travel at a slow and leisurely pace. This activity is designed to allow you to try something new and have some fun along the way, lasting approximately 3 hours. The beauty of using snowshoes is that it does not take much time or effort to head away to a great Aurora vantage point. Then, it is just a case of waiting and hoping that the Northern Lights will appear and reward your efforts.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
4

HURTIGRUTEN OR EXPRESS FERRY TO TROMSØ AND OVERNIGHT

After breakfast, you will be transferred to the port of Finnsnes which is around an hour from the hotel. Once there you will board the iconic Hurtigruten Coastal Steamer or the Express Ferry to Tromsø.

Hurtigruten began operating this service because, at that time, boat transport along the coast was infrequent and extremely slow. Many companies would not sail at night because there were only 28 lighthouses protecting almost 500 miles of coastline. This meant that boats could only operate during the day and it could take weeks to ferry people and goods along the coast. In 1893 the first Hurtigruten boat was brought into service and offered weekly departures along the coastal route. Nowadays, it is an integral part of the infrastructure of these small islands and their inhabitants. Hurtigruten's fleet now boasts 13 vessels and there are daily departures along the stunning Norwegian coastline.

You will board the Hurtigruten vessel or Express Ferry at around 11.30. Our top tip here is to wrap up

warm and find a spot outside, or, at the very least, next to a window. This is much more than just a transfer; it allows you a taster of this iconic route which has repeatedly been voted as the most dramatic cruise route in the world. If you are travelling via Hurtigruten, you can buy lunch on board, otherwise, there are plenty of restaurant and café options on arrival in Tromsø.

You will arrive at Tromsø this afternoon and take the short and very easy walk to the hotel (approx. 200 metres) to check into your accommodation. Please note a transfer is not included but we can arrange one in advance at a supplement. Just ask our Travel Experts for a quote.

The afternoon has been left free for you to explore this charming town at your own pace. We have already mentioned a few of our favourite things to do in the overview for this holiday but another 'must do' are the Botanical Gardens. It's a longish walk (approx. 40-minutes) or the hotel can assist you in arranging a taxi (payable locally) to the most northerly botanical garden in the world. Whilst it is home to many thousands of plant species from all over the world the gardens' speciality is plants from the Polar Regions or the high mountains. Entry is free (very rare in Norway!) and the gardens are all outdoors so please wrap up warm.

Tonight, you may wish to sample some of the local nightlife by visiting some of the bars or restaurants. Alternatively, we can book an additional Northern Lights activity if you want to really maximise your chances of seeing the Aurora. Please see the '[Personalise](#)' section for your options but our two top tips here are the Northern Lights Hunt by Minibus or Northern Lights Catamaran. Our Travel Experts will be delighted to discuss them with you in greater detail.

Included Meals: Breakfast

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| DAY 5 | DEPARTURE |
|----------|-----------|

Wow, what a holiday! Hopefully today you will be feeling fully revitalised by your time spent on Senja and in Tromsø but, sadly, it's time to head to the airport for your flights home.

Don't worry though, we completely understand. Northern Norway is completely addictive! Just get in touch with us to discuss your next adventure. Perhaps you will visit a different region of Norway where you will discover new activities and a completely different landscape. Or, for a quite startling contrast, how about a summer trip to witness the same postcard views but this time as they are bathed in the glorious 24-hour daylight of the Midnight Sun.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Personalise this tour

Our pick



Northern Lights dog sledding safari (Tromsø)

Search for the Northern Lights as you glide across the snow, with your team of huskies leading the way; this is a true Arctic highlight.

You'll be collected a short distance from your hotel in Tromsø and transferred to the camp where you'll meet the friendly huskies and be shown how to control your sled and team of dogs, before heading off on an exciting safari lasting approximately 2 hours.

Returning to the camp, a campfire awaits, along with a warm drink and snacks. You'll then head back to Tromsø, arriving at approximately 11pm.

Please note that a good level of fitness is required to take part in this activity.

Duration: 6 hours in total (Approximately, including transfers and depending on weather conditions. 2 hours of dog sledding).

Available: 4:45pm

Minimum 2 participants

Other options

ACTIVITIES



Northern Lights Chase

Tonight takes you out of the city lights in search of an incredible Northern Lights display.

Travelling by minibus allows you to outrun any potential cloud cover and go further in search of the Northern Lights. Your guide will use the weather forecast and their expert knowledge to determine the best location for potential viewings.

Upon arrival at your chosen spot, you will keep warm by the campfire and enjoy warm drinks and a local meal as your guide helps you look for the lights. If conditions are favourable and they do make an appearance, you can also get tips on how to capture the moment on camera. Your guide will also be

taking photos which will be provided to you. The activity starts at 6pm.

Duration: Between 6 and 9 hours depending on weather conditions and including transfers.

Image Credit: Ricardo Torres



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

(Please Note that is only available until 11th March.)

Image Credit: Pukka Travels



Reindeer Camp Dinner with Northern Lights Watch

Go in search of the Northern Lights whilst gaining an authentic insight into the Sámi people - the only indigenous people of Europe.

Your evening starts with a transfer to a local reindeer camp where you will meet with traditional herders who will tell you all about their lives here. The Sámi reindeer herders will introduce you to their animals and you will have the chance to feed them.

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

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

A minimum of 2 people is required for this activity to run.



Arctic Ocean bathing

Going swimming in the Atlantic Ocean is not something that any sane person would normally have on their wish list during a holiday. At Hamn they have invested in some state of the art survival suits which will keep you afloat and surprisingly warm and dry in this unique activity!

Some people wish to just lie back and float around whilst gazing at the stunning scenery around them whilst others may wish to splash about and enjoy some competitions and races – the harbour is big enough for everyone to enjoy this remarkable experience in their own way.

Image credit: Hamn i Senja



Body rafting in a maelstrom

A short boat ride from the hotel there is a small ocean inlet which creates a maelstrom (a whirlpool naturally created by a current in the sea or in a river) with a top speed of around 7 knots. Once you have reached the inlet you will enter the water (wearing an insulated survival suit which will also keep you afloat and normally almost completely dry!).

This activity is completely safe and suitable for all levels of fitness and swimming skill. You will be accompanied the whole time by qualified guides and a boat with a skipper who will follow your journey as you lie back, relax and just go with the flow (quite literally). There is something very freeing about completely letting go and enjoying the truly stunning scenery as you float along with the current. You just have to look at the pictures in the gallery for this holiday to see the backdrop to this magical activity.

Please note: there is a minimum of 4 participants for this activity.

Image credit: Hamn i Senja



Northern Lights photo course (1.5 hours)

If you would like to learn more about how to capture the majestic Aurora Borealis on film (which is not as easy as you may think) then this photo course may be an ideal add-on to your trip. A local expert will assist you in setting up your camera and offer some of the tips used by the experts to give you the best chance of coming back from your trip with some pictures to really wow your friends and family!

Image credit: Hamn i Senja

TRIP EXTENSIONS



Extra night at Senja

There are few places we can think of as more relaxing and tranquil as Senja. If you are looking for somewhere just to get away from the world, recharge your batteries and unwind then this would be very high on our list.

The fantastic food and extremely comfortable accommodation mean that you will want for nothing during your time here.

There are also some additional activities which can be arranged if you would like to repeat an activity or try something new, be it fishing or body rafting Senja has plenty to keep everyone busy!

Please contact our Travel Experts for a quotation.

Included Accommodation

Hamn i Senja (Nights: 1-3)



Hamn i Senja can be found on the island of Senja - an idyllic Norwegian fishing village, surrounded by dramatic mountainous scenery. This perfect, peaceful location is an absolute must for those with a genuine appreciation of natural beauty. As Norway's second-largest island after Hinnøya, Senja can be found midway between Tromsø and Harstad and offers its guests a beautiful array of diverse island scenery with spectacular views of the surrounding fjords, islets and mountains.

The name 'Hamn' means harbour and the location that Hamn i Senja resides within has roots dating back to the 1880s as a traditional and plentiful fishing village. There is a wonderful historical feel as well as a perfect peaceful location directly on the harbour front.

Hotel Facilities

The hotel was recently refurbished so offers a high standard of modern facilities for its guests.

- A stylish restaurant where you will enjoy a delicious range of home-cooked meals (including freshly caught local fish)
- The Cognac Saloon is the hotel's on-site bar which is open during reception/restaurant hours so guests can enjoy a coffee and chat with friends or relax and wind down with a cognac later on in the evening
- For those moments where you wish to relax you can enjoy the sauna and sauna chamber
- Free Wi-Fi is available throughout the public areas and in all the bedrooms

A range of activities can be added to your trip via the hotel such as fishing, body rafting, boat trips and whale watching trips.

Guest bedroom types

Small suite: These come with either a double or twin bed and en-suite bathroom facilities, as well as a kitchenette with small seating area. Other amenities include a television, hairdryer and free Wi-Fi. Larger apartments are available for bigger groups, however, a supplement will apply.

Image credits: Hamn i Senja, Christina sonvilla

Clarion Hotel - The Edge (Nights: 4)



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.

The Specifics

Holiday group size (approximate)

Minimum 2, maximum 24 (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>