

# Alta - Aurora Hunting Adventure



**HOLIDAY TYPE:** Small Group

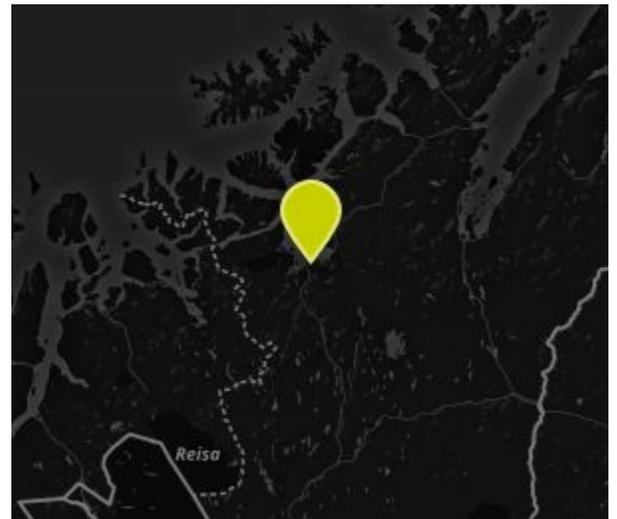
**VISITING:** Norway

**BROCHURE CODE:** 27006

**DURATION:** 4 nights

“ Knowing exactly the best places to see the Northern Lights invariably comes down to local knowledge and experience. Every holiday provided by The Aurora Zone has been designed in conjunction with our local partners in Finland, Sweden, Norway and Iceland to ensure that we are providing the best possible Aurora hunting experience. Similarly, during daylight hours when you are not Aurora hunting, we want you to experience the absolute best of your chosen destination. To achieve this goal, we have again engaged local experts and guides to ensure that your entire stay is an unforgettable experience. ”

Ali Mclean





## Key facts

Pace: Active

### In Brief

Spend 4 nights in Alta, Norway enjoying a mixture of Arctic and Aurora adventures. Experience different daytime activities including snowmobiling, snowshoeing and ice fishing. At night, you'll take advantage of this 'City of the Northern Lights' as you hunt for a display, during dog sledding and reindeer safari.

## Our Opinion

*“Photographing the Northern Lights with an expert makes for some truly tangible memories which you can return to again and again. Add to this the fast-paced fun of snowmobiling and dogsledding - along with the quieter experiences of snowshoeing, ice-fishing, and Sami culture – and you have a magnificent four nights ahead of you. It’s amazing to think that you can fit so much to do in such a short holiday duration!”*

Amy Hope



## What's included?

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

- **Transfers:** return airport transfers
- **Accommodation:** 4 nights accommodation in a double/twin hotel rooms
- **Meals:** 4 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 1 dinner
- **Activities:** Northern Lights hunt, snowmobile safari, entry to Sorrisniva Igloo Hotel and 3-course meal in the award-winning restaurant, evening reindeer sleigh ride and Aurora hunt, snowshoeing, ice fishing, evening husky safari (**order subject to change**)
- Local expert guides on hand throughout your holiday
- Cold weather clothing during most activities (excludes fat bike trip and tour of Alta and Northern Lights hunt)
- **A note on flights:** whilst flights are **not** included in the holiday price, our team will happily provide a quote and arrange them for you. Simply ask one of our Travel Experts for details of the available options from your preferred departure airport. Our team will offer you the best available flights and fares.

## Trip Overview

Alta is a fascinating city and an excellent base from which to explore the fjords and mountains of this corner of Northern Norway. With its own Igloo Hotel and an exceptional Aurora reputation, it's a wonderful base for a short break.

This four-night holiday is packed with experiences which will give you access to remote and beautiful landscapes, an insight into the culture of the Sámi people of Norway and the chance to experience some activity highlights and unforgettable experiences. The focus in the evenings is on searching for the Aurora Borealis and, as Alta is named the 'City of the Northern Lights', you are in a prime location.

One of the key Aurora activities is a Northern Lights hunt on your arrival day in Alta. With a local expert guiding you and using the latest forecasts you will be in the best possible hands. You will also enjoy an Aurora reindeer sleigh ride and evening husky safari.

A key highlight is the chance to meet some of the local Sámi people and hear something of their culture and traditions before enjoying a short reindeer sleigh ride. Other activities in the itinerary include snowmobiling, snowshoeing and ice fishing, as well as a visit to the wonderful Sorrisniva Igloo Hotel.

To add the proverbial cherry on top, we can also arrange for you to spend the night in a snow room at the Igloo Hotel. Full details on the upgrade can be found in the '[Personalise](#)' section of the holiday page. We have also left plenty of free time for you to tailor your trip with activities to suit you. Choose from our extensive list in our '[Personalise](#)' section.

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Image credits: Terje Rakke/Nordic Life, Casper Tybjerg, CH - Visit Norway, Innovation Norway, Sorrisniva Igloo Hotel, Roger Johansen, Jørn Losvar - Sorrisniva Safari, Trygve Nygård/www.glod-alta.no

## Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY  
1

### Arrival and Northern Lights Hunt

Upon arrival in Alta, a local guide will meet you at the airport and transfer you to your centrally-located hotel.

After you have had some time to settle in, we recommend you enjoy an early dinner as your Northern Lights hunt will kick off your holiday at around 7 pm.

You will be picked up by your expert guide for this inaugural Northern Lights activity and your host will consult solar activity and weather charts prior to commencing the chase, in order to choose the best possible route for your journey this evening.

You will be given an insight into how the Northern Lights are caused during a brief overview of the science behind them as you travel deep into the wilds. With a little luck, the Aurora will shine and welcome you to Norway in style. This activity lasts around four hours in total.

**Included Meals:** None

DAY  
2

### Snowmobile Safari, Igloo Hotel (Optional Overnight) and Evening Reindeer Safari

Today we get you straight out and exploring the wilderness with a thrilling snowmobile safari to a wonderful viewpoint. You will travel in pairs and as the trail is around 10km each way, you will have the chance to swap drivers at the midpoint (assuming both have a full driving license). During the safari, your guide will serve some hot drinks and a snack in a traditional Lavvo (a traditional tent) before heading back to Alta on the specially marked snowmobile trails. Including transfers from the city, you will be out for around 3 hours in total.

Full instruction will be provided before you set off. Please note that in order to drive a snowmobile you should be over 18 years old and have a full driving licence.

You will have a couple of hours to yourself this afternoon and so you can explore at leisure and enjoy lunch in one of the restaurants or cafes in town.

Later in the afternoon, you will be transferred to Sorrisniva, home of the famous Sorrisniva Igloo Hotel. Upon arrival, you will have the chance to explore the hotel's rooms and suites, admiring the ice art and sculptures as you go.

You are then in for a culinary treat in the warm restaurant here as you enjoy a delicious three-course meal. The menus typically feature many fine local delicacies which are chosen from the rich variety of seafood and wild produce available in the region. The chefs here have won awards for their innovation and use of traditional ingredients with some added modern flair.

After dinner, you will enjoy a wonderful taste of Sámi culture and the chance to enjoy a reindeer sleigh ride whilst keeping watch for the Northern Lights. Your Sámi hosts will provide an insight into their traditions, history and what they feel the future holds. You will meet some of their reindeer and travel in a reindeer-pulled sleigh under the night sky. Warm drinks and snacks will top off the evening and will be served around the fire in a traditional Sámi tent or lavvo.

You then have a choice of whether you would like to return to Sorrisniva for an unforgettable stay in a snow room or whether you would prefer to head back to your hotel. For details of the overnight stay experience please see the '[Personalise](#)' section of the holiday page.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

DAY  
3

Snowshoeing, Ice Fishing and Evening Husky Safari (Optional Overnight at Husky Centre)

Today you will be heading out for a trio of wonderful activities as you enjoy some of the most traditional Lappish pastimes.

First on the agenda for today is a snowshoe hike in the forests around Alta. Your guide will show you how to strap on the snowshoes before you set out on a leisurely hike. Throughout your exploration, in the deep snow, you will be shown any animal tracks as well as some of the local flora and fauna.

At the midway point, you will stop to enjoy a spot of ice fishing. Here you will start by drilling a hole through the thick ice, before dropping a line down and waiting for the fish to bite. As you patiently fish, your guide will prepare a campfire lunch before you head back on your snowshoes to the hotel.

To top off an already exciting day, this evening you will get to experience one of the real highlights of any active visit to Norway, a dog sled safari.

At a local husky farm, you will meet with the musher and be introduced to the dogs. A full briefing will follow, and you will be shown how to handle a team and the sled. The dogs will make their desire for the trail apparent as they eagerly bark in anticipation. As soon as you release the brake on the sled, however, they do fall silent and focus on the task at hand. Travelling in pairs you will each take turns standing and sitting on the sled as you travel along the Alta River Valley. As any remaining light begins to fade, your head torches will help you to navigate along the route behind your guide. You will cover around 15km during the safari.

Back at the base, you have the choice of once again heading back to your hotel or spending a remarkable night at the husky farm in their 'glamping' accommodation. At the farm you can enjoy dinner in the dining room, relax with fellow travellers and take a dip in the hot tub before snuggling up in your insulated and heated lavvo. For more information, please speak to one of our Travel Experts.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

DAY  
4

Free Day and Aurora Boat Safari on Alta Fjord

After breakfast, today has been left free for you to tailor your time. Browse our extensive list of unbelievable experiences in the 'Personalise' section. You could enjoy a RIB safari to see more of the Altafjord, try skiing, or spend some time learning all about Alta with a guided walking tour.

This evening you are in for a final Aurora hunting treat as you head out onto the waters of Alta Fjord for a boat tour. Setting off in the evening in a small boat, you have the chance of witnessing the Northern Lights from a unique perspective (warm suits are included (excludes boots)). You will be on the boat for around two hours in total, if you would like to spend more time on the water then it is possible to upgrade to a four-hour cruise, please ask our travel experts for more information.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY  
5

Departure

Sadly, today you must bid farewell to Norway and head home. You will be transferred to the airport in good time for your return flights.

If you would like to extend your time here in Norway or would like to perhaps spend a night or two in Oslo on your way home then either can be arranged, simply talk to one of our Travel Experts for further details.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast

## Included Accommodation

### Scandic Hotel Alta (Nights: 1-4)



Located in the centre of Alta, the Scandic Hotel is the ideal base from which to explore this area of Northern Norway. With a range of visitor attractions quite literally on your doorstep, you will not have to venture too far to enjoy the sights and sounds of this Arctic town.

Just across from the hotel is The Northern Lights Cathedral which we would highly recommend you visit during your trip. Also, just a short walk from the hotel, you will come to the Markedsgata shopping street where you can indulge yourself should you wish.

### Hotel facilities

- The Scandic is modern and comfortable. It offers a stylish and contemporary restaurant which combines both a café and an à la carte restaurant
- The hotel bar, Nordlys, is ideal for relaxed drinks after a busy day enjoying activities
- Recharge your batteries and feel the warmth in the hotel's on-site sauna which is available for guests to use on request

### Guest room types

**Twin/double rooms:** You will stay in either a standard double or twin bedroom with an en-suite shower room. The bedrooms come equipped with a table and seating area, wooden floors, TV, hairdryer, telephone and complimentary Wi-Fi.

Image credits: Scandic Hotel Alta

## The Specifics

### Holiday group size (approximate)

Minimum 2 - maximum 20 persons (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 group size 2; maximum 22 (approximately)

### 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](#).

### Guides & Safety

When partaking in any activity, it is imperative that everyone in your group listens very closely to the instructions provided by the guide and that they are abided by at all times. Our guides are experts in their field and no one knows the environment better than these highly knowledgeable and experienced providers.

Prior to starting any activity, please make it clear to your guide if there is any element of the safety briefing you are unsure of or would like to clarify before you set off.

Our guides will always take local conditions into account when considering whether an activity can go ahead. This is, in part, why your itinerary is subject to change at short notice. This rarely happens, however, if it does, we will always endeavour to reschedule the activity for later in your holiday. If this is not possible then the cost of the activity will be refunded to you when you return home.

Our guides' word on activities is always final and your safety is their principal concern at all times; please respect their



decisions. By following their instructions, your safety and enjoyment during each activity will be greatly enhanced.

**NB: In order to participate in our holidays, all guests must be able to understand instructions given in English. These instructions may be delivered verbally or in writing and will include vital safety information and ongoing instruction during activities.**

## Minimum and maximum age

The minimum age for this holiday can be found in the dates and prices section of the holiday page, under 'Terms'.

For some activities and transfers, you may be joined by other guests and this may include some of a younger age than stated. Any younger participants will be fully supervised, and the guides will ensure that their participation takes place only if the activities will be unaffected.

Very few hotels have a minimum age and there may be families staying at them with younger children, especially during the holiday periods. We do have some itineraries and destinations which are guaranteed to be adult-only, so if this is important to you please speak to one of our Travel Experts.

## Booking Activities Locally

Additional activities can be booked locally in almost all our destinations. However, as per our booking conditions, we cannot be held responsible for any injury or loss incurred through participation in activities which are booked at your destination outside of our holiday itinerary (see our 'Terms and Conditions' for further details).

When arranging any such activity please always ensure that safety is your primary concern.

In some of our destinations, you can borrow or hire equipment for use in your free time. You do so entirely at your own risk. You must ensure that you are properly prepared, have the necessary equipment and knowledge (maps, etc) and ensure that where applicable, you follow marked routes. We recommend discussing your plans with the local teams who will be able to advise on the most suitable options for you.

Always let the reception/guide know where you are planning to go and take a torch and mobile phone (with the hotel/guide's phone number stored). It is also a good idea to leave your contact number and the time you expect to return to the hotel should the hotel need to contact you.

## Medical History and Advice

We want our holidays to be accessible as they can be and will do our best to accommodate any special requests and requirements where possible. We have a wide range of holidays and destinations and so our travel experts will help find the best holiday for you.

In order to give us the best possible chance to do this we ask that if you or any member of your party has any medical condition or disability which may affect your holiday or has any special requirements, that you tell us at the time of enquiry or booking. You must also promptly advise us if any medical condition or disability which may affect your holiday develops after your booking has been confirmed. You may need to provide a doctor's note and proof of insurance in some cases as the health and safety of our clients is absolutely paramount.

In providing this information you are allowing us to work with our expert local partners to ensure that your whole party



can enjoy the holiday. By letting us know in advance we can discreetly work with you to adapt any part of the holiday which may potentially be challenging. Being able to prepare for this in advance makes an incredible difference to what we can offer and minimises any impact on your party and the rest of the group.

Unfortunately, if you choose not to share this information with us in advance then it may limit some or all of the itinerary you have booked, and we cannot be held accountable for any additional costs or missed activities resulting from this.

## Pregnancy

If you are pregnant at the time of booking your holiday or you discover you are pregnant prior to your departure, firstly – congratulations! Secondly – please tell us as soon as possible. This situation does frequently arise and we are able to advise you both from our own first-hand experience and from discussing this at length with our expert local partners who have experience in this area. The more notice you can give us the better, in order to suggest any adaptations to the itinerary you have booked which will reduce the risk to both mother and baby. Please contact our customer service team at **info @ theaurorazone . com** for more information.

## Experience and Fitness

Most of the activities we offer have been designed for beginners who have no prior experience and are of all age ranges and fitness levels. Our guides provide expert advice, tuition and instructions prior to any activity going ahead. Activities are designed to be enjoyed and not endured, but some, such as cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, do require a more basic level of fitness than, for example, riding on a snowmobile. If you have any questions, then please contact one of our Travel Experts who can provide first-hand advice.

The only holidays which are not as suitable for complete beginners are the multi-night safaris which involve several days in wilderness cabins travelling by either snowmobile or husky safari. Again, this all depends on the individual taking part, but some prior experience and understanding of these types of activities can be very helpful.

## Snowmobile Safety

If your holiday includes snowmobiling or the chance for you to add on this activity, then please read this important information.

Driving a snowmobile should be considered the same as driving a hire car. The owner of the vehicle will have third-party motor liability cover in place which complies with the local legislation and extends to include hire and reward. If you (as the hirer of the snowmobile during any safari) injure someone or damage someone else's property (including another snowmobile), then the owner's third-party liability cover will cover such risks.

Any damage to the snowmobile you are riding will also be covered under the owner's motor insurance policy; however, you as the driver will have to cover the policy excess. In most cases, this will be somewhere between £500 - £1,500 (the equivalent in local currency) but it can vary.

To our knowledge (and we have searched extensively) there is no insurance policy that will cover you for this excess and it cannot be waived. In some cases, it may be possible to pay to lower this, but this is rare and always arranged locally. Ask the guides if you have any queries regarding the excess, etc.

Snowmobile accidents are rare, but the driver should take extra care throughout. You will, of course, be provided with a full briefing on how to use a snowmobile. However, if you are unsure of any instructions or any aspect of operating a snowmobile, then you must ask a guide for clarification immediately.

Whether you are driving or riding as a passenger, you must ensure that your travel insurance provides full cover for snowmobiling. This includes medical costs in the event you sustain an injury requiring medical treatment overseas. If you are a UK resident travelling in the EU, you should also ensure that you carry your EHIC card (European Health Insurance Card).

Drivers of snowmobiles should be in possession of a full driving licence. The minimum age for driving a snowmobile varies, but for insurance purposes, you generally need to be 18 years old to drive a snowmobile. You must ensure that anyone who may be required to drive a snowmobile takes a valid driving licence on holiday (either the old paper licence or the new photo card licence). This is not necessarily to show your instructors or guides, but for spot checks by police which occur regularly. There are strict rules governing snowmobiles and alcohol consumption and therefore alcohol should not be consumed at all before participating in a safari.

If you are unable to drive a snowmobile, then you may not be able to take part in a safari, however, you may be offered the chance to travel as a pillion passenger on another machine if you agree to do so. If this option is not available, then in some cases the guide may be able to arrange for a sled to be pulled for you behind their own machine.

Those under the age of 16 will normally travel in a sled pulled by the guide's snowmobile. If sleds are unavailable, as is the case with some safaris, older children may be able to ride as pillion passengers. Discretion may be applied in resort by our expert guides based on the individual child. Please note for Canada and the US different rules and regulations may apply.

## What to take

### Standard Packing List

For each and every one of our holidays, we will provide you with a list of items that you need to take with you when you travel. These will vary depending on the country you are visiting and the time of year. Country-specific packing information can be found below. This information will also be uploaded to your online account at the time of booking.

There are however some items which, irrelevant of your holiday, you need to make sure that you pack.

Speak to one of our Travel Experts, call us on 01670 785012, or email **info@theaurorazone.com**

- Passport and visas: please see our passport and visa section for more information.
- Final travel letter: this contains vital information and your emergency contact numbers.
- Airline tickets: approximately 10 days to one week prior to your departure your tickets will be uploaded into your online account for you to print and download (if we are arranging your air travel).
- Trip dossier: this contains vital information. The order of all itineraries is subject to change however and you will be provided with your final itinerary upon arrival at your destination.
- Travel insurance: this is a pre-requisite for travelling with us. Please see our section on Travel Insurance for further details.
- Full driving licence: if you are hiring a car or wanting to drive a snowmobile then please ensure that you take your licence with you. You either need to take your old paper licence or the photocard part of the new licence.
- Money or credit cards: most major credit cards are accepted in our destinations. However, we would

recommend you avoid depending on American Express or Diners Club as these are less widely accepted. Cash points are not generally available in our destinations. It is worth advising your bank that you are travelling overseas to ensure that you do not have issues using your cards abroad.

- Glasses/Contact Lenses if required: you are going to see some spectacular places and it would be a shame to miss any of it!
- First aid kit and medication: you should always carry a first aid kit with you when you travel and ensure that any medication you require is carried in your hand luggage. You will need to ensure that you have the relevant accompanying documentation for any medication and that it complies with all of the rules and regulations regarding items that you are allowed to carry on board an aircraft.
- Toiletries: although some accommodation may provide the basics this is not the norm and so you should take all that you need with you.
- Chargers for cameras and phones.
- Travel plug adapters: suitable for the country you are visiting.
- Luggage: please see your flight confirmation for your luggage allowance. Suitcases are fine for travelling, but if your trip includes an overnight safari you will need to pack your belongings into a soft large backpack or bag that can be easily transported on a sled. On such trips luggage should be kept to a minimum as space in the wilderness cabins is limited. Any items that you do not wish to take with you can be stored at the hotel.

## Specifically for this trip

### Clothing – the essentials

**What to travel in:** You should travel in comfortable clothes and sensible shoes with a good grip. If you have access to a hat and gloves in your hand luggage this is advisable. We recommend dressing for a cold winter day in the UK and having a warm jacket available to you on arrival. Generally, you only need to cross from the airport terminal to the transfer vehicle but you should be prepared.

**What we provide:** As many of our holidays in Norway also include time in towns or cities then the cold weather clothing is not provided for the duration of your stay and you will need warm clothing appropriate for exploring these areas. For any activity we include in the itinerary you will, however, be provided with all appropriate winter clothing for the duration of the activity. Winter clothing will not be provided for any bus tours, etc.

### Winter Holidays

As many of our holidays in Norway are based in slightly more built up areas, it is not necessary to include the heavy duty winter clothing for you to keep for the duration of your stay. Cold weather clothing will, however, be provided for you for each of the daytime activities and any evening excursions which are 'activity-based' such as snowmobiling, dog sledding, etc. Winter clothing is not normally provided for any bus tours or activities including a special meal (for example visiting Sorrisniva Igloo Hotel in Alta for a gourmet dinner). If the clothing is not included it may be possible to request it in advance (supplements may apply). The clothing provision is clearly outlined in the 'what's included' section of the holiday page and if you would like any more detailed information then please contact our Travel Experts.

### What you need to take:

During the winter months, guests should take warm, comfortable clothing and we also suggest the following items which we find very useful when travelling to Norway. The majority of these items are applicable to the autumn months as well as conditions can be exceedingly changeable. We recommend taking the following items with you:

**Thermal underwear:** Forget sartorial elegance and invest in some thermal long johns and long-sleeved tops to wear under your overalls. You should take more than one set if you are travelling for a week as you will wear them every day.

**Sweaters:** Wool is the best material. We recommend wearing one or two such garments in sub-zero temperatures.

They give you added flexibility should temperatures drop or rise.

**Fleece jacket:** A fleece is an excellent addition to your winter clothing and provides excellent flexibility and warmth.

**Gilet:** Either a fleece or down gilet is always a good item to pack as during activities it will keep your body warm during any stops or when sitting on a snowmobile or husky sledge.

**Wind and waterproof outer layers:** These items are essential as a top layer to your clothing. You need a wind and waterproof outer layer under which you can fit layers appropriate to the temperatures. Ski clothing could also be a good alternative if you prefer as it is less bulky than the equipment provided for activities and provides good thermal properties.

**Tracksuit bottoms or walking trousers:** These are ideal for relaxing in the evenings and an excellent additional layer for under your overalls and over your thermals. Please do not take Denim jeans to wear during activities; they are not appropriate during the very cold temperatures.

**Socks:** Again, wool is the best material. You should take several pairs - both thin and thick.

**Mittens & Gloves:** Our local partners recommend mittens over gloves for taking part in activities as they keep your hands warmer but we also recommend a thin pair of gloves which can be worn when taking pictures at night and also outside of activities. You should also have access to gloves in your hand luggage on arrival.

**Hat:** Hats may be available to borrow for activities however we recommend taking your own just in case and also for outside of the activities. You should take something that covers your ears fully and provides protection from the cold wind should you require it.

**Glove liners and hand warmers:** Thin glove liners can provide an excellent extra layer of warmth on really cold days as they fit easily underneath mittens. Hand warmers can be excellent for added comfort, especially during longer or night time activities.

**Sturdy shoes or boots:** You will be provided with winter boots for activities but we recommend taking alternatives that are suitable for snowy/icy conditions. Shoes or boots with good grip are essential for the icy conditions (you may want to consider adding some additional shoe grips/crampons but these should be packed into your hold luggage). To save space you may want to travel in the boots (minus the additional grips). Foot warmers can also be very useful in colder temperatures.

**Thermal neck warmer:** A neck warmer (fleece tube or similar) is excellent for keeping out the cold and keeping your neck and face warm.

**Balaclava:** Freshly washed balaclavas are occasionally provided by our activity providers but we would also recommend taking your own as they can be very handy in cold temperatures and make activities such as snowmobiling much more enjoyable.

**Head torch:** These can be very useful especially if you want to be out Aurora hunting. Ensure you have enough battery life or spare batteries with you.

**Slippers and warm comfy clothes:** These are excellent for lounging around in after a day of winter activities. Scandinavians generally are quite informal and it is not uncommon for people to remove their outdoor winter boots upon entry to smaller accommodations or cafés.

**Swimwear:** Some destinations have swimming pools or hot tubs so be sure to take your swimwear. Although swimwear is generally not worn in saunas in the Nordic countries we find many clients like to take theirs with them to wear.

**Ski goggles:** Although not essential these are especially useful during husky safaris and if you wear glasses or contact lenses. They provide excellent protection from the cold, snow and wind should you need it.

**Small rucksack:** You should take a small rucksack to carry any extra clothing during activities and plenty of water and snacks if required.

**Sunglasses:** The glare of the sun on snow can be blinding and so you should ensure that you have a good pair of sunglasses that are practical for the activities. In late December and early January, this is less of a problem as the sun is rarely above the horizon during this period.

**Suntan lotion and lip balm:** You need to take these products with you but you should always take the advice of your guide before applying them. At very low temperatures guides will recommend the best course of protection as products may freeze and it can be dangerous to have these on the skin. High factor sun cream which is waterproof is best. Those which are designed for skiing tend to be ideal as they are designed for doing activities in cold and snowy conditions.

**Tissues:** These are very useful during safaris, as are wet wipes (although unless you keep them close to your body they will freeze!).

**What to wear in the evenings:** This depends a little on the holiday you choose but the vast majority of our destinations are very relaxed and people are there to enjoy the Great Outdoors and stay warm when outside. Typically all restaurants outside of the cities are very relaxed and casual.

If you are dining out in a city such as Tromsø for example, there are some high-end restaurants available and so you may prefer to take some smarter attire. The city hotels are also fairly relaxed with jeans/smart casual being the choice of many.

### Camera

You won't want to miss out on the photo opportunities so here are a few hints!

- Ensure you have plenty of film or memory card space before you set off
- Make sure you remember your battery charger and a travel adapter
- Ensure you have spare batteries as they will be difficult to replace in more remote areas (and probably more expensive!)
- Batteries perform poorly in cold temperatures so take multiple batteries and store the spares in a warm place (a pocket next to your body is ideal). NiCad and Li-ion have better performance characteristics than alkaline batteries but are still affected. There are some restrictions on carrying certain Li-ion batteries onboard aircraft. Please see the IATA website for current and up to date information:  
[http://www.iata.org/whatwedo/cargo/dangerous\\_goods/pages/lithium\\_batteries.aspx](http://www.iata.org/whatwedo/cargo/dangerous_goods/pages/lithium_batteries.aspx)

### Equipment included and provided by our local partners during the husky safari, snowmobiling and snowshoeing only:

**Thermal overalls:** These overalls are the ultimate in insulated outdoor gear. They are big, cosy and designed specifically for the Arctic. You will be given either a one-piece suit or a two-piece set to wear. This is your outer clothing under which all your additional layers will go so they tend to be fairly loose fitting.

**Winter boots:** The boots are large, well insulated and very sturdy. They are generally worn slightly larger than normal as you need to allow air to move around the boots as well as needing ample room for thick socks.

**Please note:** During tours including more than one accommodation you will need to hand back the cold weather clothing when checking out of the accommodation and upon check in at your next destination new clothing will be reissued to you then.

We do suggest a list of clothing and equipment to bring with you which will make your stay more comfortable and help you get maximum enjoyment out of your time in Norway.

## Additional items for Norway

### Clothing – the essentials:

#### What to travel in:

You should travel in comfortable clothes and sensible shoes with a good grip. If you have access to a hat and gloves in your hand luggage this is advisable. We recommend dressing for a cold winter day in the UK and having a warm jacket available to you on arrival. Generally, you only need to cross from the airport terminal to the transfer vehicle but you should be prepared.

#### What we provide:

As many of our holidays in Norway are based in slightly more built up areas, it is not necessary to include the heavy duty winter clothing for you to keep for the duration of your stay. Cold weather clothing will, however, be provided for you for each of the daytime activities and any evening excursions which are 'activity-based' such as snowmobiling, dog sledding, etc. Winter clothing is not normally provided for any bus tours or activities including a special meal (for example visiting Sorrisniva Igloo Hotel in Alta for a gourmet dinner). If the clothing is not included it may be possible to request it in advance (supplements may apply). The clothing provision is clearly outlined in the 'what's included' section of the holiday page and if you would like any more detailed information then please contact our Travel Experts.

#### What you need to take:

During the winter months, guests should take warm, comfortable clothing and we also suggest the following items which we find very useful when travelling to Norway. The majority of these items are applicable to the autumn months as well as conditions can be exceedingly changeable. We recommend taking the following items with you:

**Thermal underwear:** Forget sartorial elegance and invest in some thermal long johns and long-sleeved tops to wear under your overalls. You should take more than one set if you are travelling for a week as you will wear them every day.

**Sweaters:** Wool is the best material. We recommend wearing one or two such garments in sub-zero temperatures. They give you added flexibility should temperatures drop or rise.

**Fleece jacket:** A fleece is an excellent addition to your winter clothing and provides excellent flexibility and warmth.

**Gilet:** Either a fleece or down gilet is always a good item to pack as during activities it will keep your body warm during any stops or when sitting on a snowmobile or husky sledge.

**Windproof and waterproof outer layers:** These items are essential as a top layer to your clothing. You need a windproof and waterproof outer layer under which you can fit layers appropriate to the temperatures. Ski clothing could also be a good alternative if you prefer as it is less bulky than the equipment provided for activities and provides

good thermal properties.

**Tracksuit bottoms or walking trousers:** These are ideal for relaxing in the evenings and an excellent additional layer for under your overalls and over your thermals. Please do not take Denim jeans to wear during activities; they are not appropriate during the very cold temperatures.

**Socks:** Again, wool is the best material. You should take several pairs - both thin and thick.

**Mittens & Gloves:** Our local partners recommend mittens over gloves for taking part in activities as they keep your hands warmer but we also recommend a thin pair of gloves which can be worn when taking pictures at night and also outside of activities. You should also have access to gloves in your hand luggage on arrival.

**Hat:** Hats may be available to borrow for activities however we recommend taking your own just in case and also for outside of the activities. You should take something that covers your ears fully and provides protection from the cold wind should you require it.

**Glove liners and hand warmers:** Thin glove liners can provide an excellent extra layer of warmth on really cold days as they fit easily underneath mittens. Hand warmers can be excellent for added comfort, especially during longer or night time activities.

**Sturdy shoes or boots:** You will be provided with winter boots for activities but we recommend taking alternatives that are suitable for snowy/icy conditions. Shoes or boots with good grip are essential for the icy conditions (you may want to consider adding some additional shoe grips/crampons but these should be packed into your hold luggage). To save space you may want to travel in the boots (minus the additional grips). Foot warmers can also be very useful in colder temperatures.

**Thermal neck warmer:** A neck warmer (fleece tube or similar) is excellent for keeping out the cold and keeping your neck and face warm.

**Balaclava:** Freshly washed balaclavas are occasionally provided by our activity providers but we would also recommend taking your own as they can be very handy in cold temperatures and make activities such as snowmobiling much more enjoyable.

**Head torch:** These can be very useful especially if you want to be out Aurora hunting. Ensure you have enough battery life or spare batteries with you.

**Slippers and warm comfy clothes:** These are excellent for lounging around in after a day of winter activities. Scandinavians generally are quite informal and it is not uncommon for people to remove their outdoor winter boots upon entry to smaller accommodations or cafés.

**Swimwear:** Some destinations have swimming pools or hot tubs so be sure to take your swimwear. Although swimwear is generally not worn in saunas in the Nordic countries we find many clients like to take theirs with them to wear.

**Ski goggles:** Although not essential these are especially useful during husky safaris and if you wear glasses or contact lenses. They provide excellent protection from the cold, snow and wind should you need it.

**Small rucksack:** You should take a small rucksack to carry any extra clothing during activities and plenty of water and snacks if required.

**Sunglasses:** The glare of the sun on snow can be blinding and so you should ensure that you have a good pair of sunglasses that are practical for the activities. In late December and early January, this is less of a problem as the sun is rarely above the horizon during this period.

**Suntan lotion and lip balm:** You need to take these products with you but you should always take the advice of your guide before applying them. At very low temperatures guides will recommend the best course of protection as products may freeze and it can be dangerous to have these on the skin. High factor sun cream which is waterproof is best. Those which are designed for skiing tend to be ideal as they are designed for doing activities in cold and snowy conditions.

**Tissues:** These are very useful during safaris, as are wet wipes (although unless you keep them close to your body they will freeze!).

**What to wear in the evenings:** This depends a little on the holiday you choose but the vast majority of our destinations are very relaxed and people are there to enjoy the Great Outdoors and stay warm when outside. Typically all restaurants outside of the cities are very relaxed and casual.

If you are dining out in a city such as Tromsø for example, there are some high-end restaurants available and so you may prefer to take some smarter attire. The city hotels are also fairly relaxed with jeans/smart casual being the choice of many.

### Camera

You won't want to miss out on the photo opportunities so here are a few hints!

- Ensure you have plenty of film or memory card space before you set off
- Make sure you remember your battery charger and a travel adapter
- Ensure you have spare batteries as they will be difficult to replace in more remote areas (and probably more expensive!)
- Batteries perform poorly in cold temperatures so take multiple batteries and store the spares in a warm place (a pocket next to your body is ideal). NiCad and Li-ion have better performance characteristics than alkaline batteries but are still affected. There are some restrictions on carrying certain Li-ion batteries onboard aircraft. Please see the IATA website for current and up to date information:

[http://www.iata.org/whatwedo/cargo/dangerous\\_goods/pages/lithium\\_batteries.aspx](http://www.iata.org/whatwedo/cargo/dangerous_goods/pages/lithium_batteries.aspx)

## Flights & Transportation

### Special requests & in-flight meals

Due to the remote locations of our holidays, flight availability can be exceptionally limited. To ensure that you can travel on the seats that we have pre-allocated to a certain holiday, flight options might be restricted. Please discuss this with our Travel Experts at the time of booking.

Generally, we are unable to assign specific seating on flights although we can make requests on your behalf. We cannot guarantee this and if a request is unable to be actioned then this is not classed as a breach of contract on our part.

If your booking allows for online check-in then you should do so as early as possible to ensure you are allocated seats next to your travelling companions. Details regarding this will be provided in your final travel documents which will be provided approximately one week prior to travel.

If you require special seats or assistance at the airport due to a medical condition, reduced mobility or disability, then please let us know at the time of booking (or as soon as possible prior to travel if the issue occurs after booking). You may be required to provide written confirmation of your fitness to travel from a doctor.

Domestic flights and those within Europe, may not provide meals or snacks onboard so it is always worth remembering this if you are due to land late in the evening when opportunities to buy food may be limited.

We always forward any dietary requirements to the airlines, but we cannot guarantee the availability of the chosen diet onboard. You may want to consider bringing your own food to guarantee there will be something you will be able to eat. This is the approach our staff with dietary requirements take when flying within Europe.

## Flight schedule changes and connecting transportation

On your documentation, we will confirm your flight schedule. Sometimes the flight number, routing and timings might change prior to your departure. If the change is classed as a significant change then we will contact you to discuss this. Please see our booking conditions for details.

Flight schedule changes can impact on your pre and post-holiday travel arrangements if these have been booked separately to your holiday. We strongly recommend that you do not book transport (such as trains or transfers), car parking or non-connecting flights to the departure point for your holiday until you have received your final confirmed travel times when your final travel documents are issued. We are not responsible for the effect of any schedule change on your pre or post travel arrangements. We strongly recommend that you do not purchase non-flexible or non-refundable tickets to avoid cancellation and penalty charges.

## Booking your own flights - cancellation disclaimer

If you have chosen to book your own flights, then you will need to wait until we confirm to you that the holiday departure has met the minimum numbers required to run (if applicable to your chosen holiday). Once the holiday is guaranteed to run, you will be informed and you can then make your arrangements.

If transfers are included in your holiday, please ensure that any potential flights will be met by our standard transfers (speak to one of our Travel Experts for advice) otherwise private transfer supplements may be applicable. Once your flights are booked, please send us a copy of your detailed flight itinerary.

Please be aware that most tickets are non-refundable in the case of cancellation. For this reason, we strongly advise you check the rules of the ticket and check the limitations of your cancellation insurance before booking. We cannot be held liable, in the unlikely eventuality that we should be forced to cancel or amend your trip, for losses incurred relating to any flight booking you have made.

## UK foreign office advice

Our clients' safety is at the centre of everything we do, and our operations team continually assesses and monitors the destinations we feature. We carry out thorough risk assessments and work closely with all of our suppliers to continually follow best practice. For up to date travel advice the UK government offers its [Travel Aware website](#) as well as the advice detailed below.

### The Foreign and Commonwealth Office Advice

We receive all updates from the [Foreign and Commonwealth Office \(FCO\)](#) with regards to travel advice and we always ensure that we follow this advice in our operations. The FCO issues travel advisories for countries based on a

very wide range of factors. They may provide notification about things as simple as a football match and crowds, or they may go so far as to advise against all travel to a region. We ask all our clients to refer to the relevant [Travel Advice by Country](#) for the destinations they are visiting in order to make an informed decision on the safety of the destination based on the details provided. It also provides vital information regarding entry requirements, embassy information, local laws and customs as well as specific safety and health. Guests should take responsibility for keeping themselves up to date with this advice. Please also ensure that, if you are transiting through another country, you have read the advice and meet the entry requirements for that destination too.

The FCO travel advice is applicable to British Passport Holders. Most governments will issue their own travel advice for a region and, if you are not a UK resident then you can find some helpful links below:

Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade <http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/>

New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade <http://www.safetravel.govt.nz/>

Canadian Consular Affairs Bureau <http://voyage.gc.ca/>

The U.S. Bureau of Consular Affairs <http://travel.state.gov/content/travel/english.html>

If the FCO deems that there is an unacceptable level of risk for UK citizens then, together with the government, they may issue an advisory against all travel to a region or country. If such an advisory is published, then we will act accordingly, and this may require the cancellation, curtailment or amendment of a holiday itinerary. These decisions are made on the basis of ensuring our clients' safety and will affect all clients on the holiday, regardless of their nationality.

If one of our local experts suggests an amendment due to a situation which develops locally then we may also take the decision to amend an itinerary appropriately.

If we have to cancel your holiday prior to departure you will be offered the option of an alternative trip (where any price difference will either be refunded to or covered by you) or a full refund of the monies paid.

If we have to curtail a holiday, then you will be refunded for any costs for the elements we have been unable to deliver, where we have been able to secure a refund from our suppliers. If we must reroute a holiday, then any basis for refund is determined on a case by case basis and dependent on whether the central holiday experience was provided or not.

## Norway

Below you will find the specific link for the current FCO advice for the country/countries that you are visiting which is applicable to British passport holders only. It is vital that you read this as early as possible as the content includes details on entry requirements, embassy information, local laws and customs as well as specific safety and health advice.

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/norway>

Most governments will issue their own travel advice for a region and, if you are resident outside of the UK, then you can find some helpful links below:

Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade <http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/>

New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade <http://www.safetravel.govt.nz/>

Canadian Consular Affairs Bureau <http://voyage.gc.ca/>

The U.S. Bureau of Consular Affairs <http://travel.state.gov/content/travel/english.html>

## The finer details

### Financial Protection

We know that your holiday will be one of the most important investments you make in a year and we understand how important it is for you to know that you are financially protected and that your money is secure. Alongside our ATOL financial protection (ATOL 6865) you may book with confidence as we are a fully bonded member of ABTA (ABTA number Y6261). This means that you have the benefit of ABTA's code of conduct and your money is fully protected regardless of whether we are arranging your flights for you or not. We also offer our clients our 'Peace of Mind Promise' to really put your mind at ease. Please see the following link for full details:

<https://www.theaurorazone.com/about-us/financial-protection>

### Responsible Travel

Responsible Travel is at the heart of our business and our approach is based on ensuring that our holidays are environmentally, socially and economically responsible. We work in some of the most pristine environments in the world and with suppliers who we class as friends; protecting and providing for both is central to our ethos. Full details of our Responsible Travel Policy can be found on our [website](#).

### Insurance

Insurance is not included in your holiday, but it is a pre-requisite to travelling with us. You will need to ensure that you have cover for all the activities that you will be participating in during your holiday.

It is extremely important that you take out a suitable travel insurance policy at the time of booking. Plans do sometimes change, and you will need this policy should you need to cancel your holiday.

If you are struggling to find a suitable policy then details of our preferred provider, who will cover you for all the activities we offer, can be found on our website by [clicking here](#). Please note that this policy is available to EU residents under the age of 75 only.

### Terms and Conditions

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

### Itinerary amendments

The order of activities is always subject to change and guests will be provided with their final itinerary upon arrival. The trip dossier is standard to the holiday and does not account for any amends, additions or personalisation to an itinerary. Clients should refer to their booking documents for this information.

The order of activities listed in this agenda is provided for guidance only, your final itinerary will be provided on arrival.

# Terms & Conditions

## Terms

### Minimum age

The recommended minimum age for participation in our itinerary is 10 years old, however, for some activities and transfers, you may be joined by other guests and this may include some of a younger age than stated. Any younger participants will be fully supervised and the guides will ensure that their participation takes place only if the activities will be unaffected.

Very few hotels have a minimum age and there may be families staying at them with younger children, especially during the holiday periods. We do have some itineraries and destinations which are guaranteed to be adult-only, so if this is important to you please speak to one of our Travel Experts.

To drive a snowmobile, you must have a full driving licence and be over 18 years old.