In Brief

Tromsø is a well-known base for Northern Lights hunting and during this 5-night stay, you’ll search for the display by minibus, during Aurora glamping and at two guided Aurora camps. During the day, you’ll meet a traditional reindeer herder and experience dog sledding.

Our Opinion

“Tromsø is high above the Arctic Circle but it still has a very vibrant atmosphere with plenty of city highlights. That being said, you don’t have to travel far to get out into the countryside and into some seriously good Northern Lights territory. The Aurora hunting activities are fabulous and are operated by expert local guides.”

Caitlin Varley
What's included?

- **Transfers:** return airport transfers, transfer from Tromsø to the camp and from the camp to Sommarøy
- **Accommodation:** 2 nights at the Scandic Ishavshotel, 1 night at the Arctic Glamping Camp and 2 nights at the Sommarøy Arctic Hotel
- **Meals:** 5 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 3 dinners
- **The following activities are included in the holiday:** minibus Aurora hunt, Sámi culture and reindeer experience, dog sledding safari, 2 x guided Northern Lights activities *(the order of activities is subject to change)*
- Fully qualified guides and instructors during activities.
- Cold weather clothing for the duration of your stay in Tromsø and Sommarøy*, as well as for the dog sledding at the camp

*Please note that boots are not included in Sommarøy*

Trip Overview

Tromsø sits approximately 350km above the Arctic Circle. It is known as the ‘Capital of the Arctic’ and has much to offer visitors. There’s a fantastic culinary scene, some fascinating Arctic heritage and many local attractions to enjoy. Whilst the city is at the heart of the Aurora Zone, it is away from the city lights that the best displays are found and, as the city is surrounded by Arctic wilderness, you don’t have to travel far to witness some amazing Aurora displays.

To maximise your Northern Lights viewing potential, we have included three guided Aurora activities in this five-night break. You split your time between the city, an amazing Aurora Camp and the stunning island of Sommarøy and each offers its own Northern Lights appeal.

From Tromsø you will hunt by minibus, allowing you to cover greater distances and outrun any localised cloud cover to hopefully capture a display.

A real Aurora hunting highlight, however, is a night of luxury glamping in a wilderness camp on the island of Kvaløya, roughly 40 minutes from Tromsø. The camp is set in dramatic natural surroundings.
and the deluxe tents have panoramic windows so if you are lucky, you may witness the Northern Lights from the comfort of your bed! During your stay, you will also enjoy a 40-minute dogsled safari for yet another unforgettable experience.

You will then spend two nights at a dedicated Aurora Camp on the stunning island of Sommarøy which has very little light pollution.

The island of Sommarøy will introduce you further to the dramatic scenery of Northern Norway. This fishing community retains its traditions and charm. We have left your time relatively free on the island so you can explore at your own pace. If you would like to include additional activities, please see the ‘Personalise’ section of the holiday page for more details.

Image credits: Tromsø Adventure, Sommarøy Arctic Hotel, Tromsø Outdoor, Ch, Wungenz Foap, Gaute Bruvik, Bard Loken/VisitNorway

Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY 1 ARRIVAL AND WELCOME

Following your arrival at Tromsø Airport, you will be transferred to your hotel in the city. We would recommend getting an early flight if possible as the ‘Capital of the Arctic’ is a vibrant place and there is much to explore. The culinary scene here is great, so we recommend visiting a local restaurant and sampling some of the Arctic delicacies.

Upon arrival, you will also receive your cold weather clothing, which will be delivered to the hotel.

If you cannot wait to begin your search for the Northern Lights, a reindeer-pulled Aurora sleigh ride is perhaps the perfect introduction to this part of the world. Please see the ‘Personalise’ section of the holiday page for further details.

Included Meals: None

DAY 2 REINDEER AND SÁMI CULTURE EXPERIENCE AND MINIBUS AURORA HUNT

After breakfast, you will take a short transfer for a chance to engage in something more traditional (the transfer takes approximately 45 minutes. The meeting point is only a very short walk from your hotel.). Reindeer herding remains an integral part of Sámi culture, and today you will meet with a local herder at their camp. You will learn a great deal about the lives of the herders and their animals and there will also be the chance for you to feed the reindeer. A reindeer sleigh ride is also included (approximately 30 minutes and two people per sled). Lunch will be served in a lavvu (traditional tent) and tales will be told around a campfire. You will be out for around four to five hours in total.
This evening, you will enjoy your first Northern Lights hunt via minibus. The mobility provided by the vehicle allows you to cover greater distances and hopefully escape any localised cloud cover. Your knowledgeable guide will determine where the best possible viewpoint might be, based on the weather and solar activity forecasts. Throughout, you should keep your eyes towards the northern skies for any flickers of colour as the Aurora can potentially appear at any moment. This activity lasts between five to seven hours in total and the pick-up location is only a short walk from your hotel.

If you would like to try Aurora hunting by boat, then it is possible for you to upgrade your minibus hunt for a Northern Lights dinner cruise (supplement applies). Please ask one of our Travel Experts for more information.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

**DAY 3**

FREE DAY, ARCTIC AURORA GLAMPING AND HUSKY SAFARI

This morning you can enjoy breakfast at the hotel before checking out and securely storing your luggage at the hotel until your departure later in the afternoon.

This morning and early afternoon, you will have some free time in Tromsø before being transferred to the remote wilderness camp for your Aurora glamping experience. You can go for a wander or, alternatively, book additional activities. Please see the ‘Personalise’ section of the holiday page for further details. (Please note that the cold weather clothes need to be returned to Tromso Outdoor today. It’s only a short walk from your hotel).

The camp is approximately 40 minutes from Tromsø and is located in stunning natural surroundings on the island of Kvaløya, away from the lights of the city. It is ideal Aurora viewing territory and spending the night in such surroundings really is a privilege. The pick-up point for the transfer is only a short walk from the hotel.

The adventures are not over for today, however, as you will explore the winter landscape during a dogsled safari. Huskies are synonymous with this part of the world and meeting the dogs is always a holiday highlight. Following on from a full safety briefing, your expert guide will lead the way on the trail, which will take you through the forest and towards the coastline. You will travel two people per sled (you can change drivers half way). You will be out for approximately 40 minutes.

Afterwards, you will enjoy a delicious dinner in the camp’s central cabin. Your hosts use local, seasonal ingredients in their food, so be prepared for some very tasty local treats. The warming fire creates a cosy atmosphere, but you should try and draw yourself away in order to keep a lookout for the Northern Lights, either outside or from your cosy tent.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

**DAY 4**

GUIDED DRIVE TO SOMMARøy AND GUIDED AURORA CAMP

Following breakfast at the camp, you will depart on a guided scenic drive to the island of Sommarøy.
Northern Norway is known for its stunning fjord landscapes which are simply jaw-dropping. Today you will follow the coastline, which is flanked by mountains, as your local guide imparts some of their local knowledge and you enjoy the views. The drive is approximately one hour in duration.

After arriving on the island, there will be some free time for you to settle into your accommodation at the Arctic Hotel and explore the village. Sommarøy remains a strong fishing community and the thriving harbour is always a hive of activity and a fascinating place to visit. Lunch will be enjoyed at the hotel.

If you would like to relax before your Aurora activity, then the hotel does have an outdoor hot tub with stunning views which you can add to your holiday. Please see the ‘Personalise’ section of the holiday page for full details.

During the evening you will enjoy dinner in the restaurant before a visit to a nearby Aurora Camp with a local expert guide. Sommarøy has very limited light pollution, so should the conditions be favourable, you won’t have to venture very far to see a potential display. Your guide will use their local knowledge and experience to entertain you during the evening, and hopefully, your efforts will be rewarded. The duration of the activity is approximately five hours. Cold weather clothing will be provided for your time in Sommarøy, however boots are not included, therefore please make sure to bring your own along.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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DAY 5

FREE DAY AND GUIDED AURORA CAMP

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast, before having the day free to explore the island of Sommarøy.

Sommarøy has some beautiful beaches and these are particularly picturesque in winter when the sand can be covered in snow. There is a strong sense of community here and people are typically very happy to share information about life on the island with visitors.

If you want to learn to more about the local community you can add an additional guided walk of Sommarøy to your holiday. The details of all the activities available can be found in the ‘Personalise’ section of the holiday page.

During the evening, you will enjoy another meal in the hotel restaurant prior to your second, and final, Aurora Camp. Once again you will be accompanied by an expert guide who will lead you to the Aurora Camp. With a little luck, the conditions will be favourable and the Northern Lights will dance and bid you farewell. The duration of the activity is approximately five hours.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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DAY 6

DEPARTURE

Following breakfast, you will be transferred* back to the airport in time for your flights home. If you
would like to extend your stay then we can arrange this for you. Please contact one of our Travel Experts for further information.

*Please Note:* your return transfer is scheduled to leave Sommarøy at 9:00am or 2:30pm. If you require an earlier or later transfer, supplements will apply. Please contact one of our Travel Experts for more information.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast

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**Personalise this tour**

**Our pick**

**Northern Lights Dinner Cruise**

Departing from the harbour in Tromsø, you will set out across the water on a catamaran in search of the Northern Lights. The boat is 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 out at sea so the skies are dark for Aurora viewing, but you are still able to enjoy Tromsø from a wonderful new perspective as you look back at the illuminated city.

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

The onboard guide’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 clothing is provided and the activity will last for around three hours in total.

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**Image Credit:** Konrad Konieczny/www.nordnorge.com

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**Other options**

**ACTIVITIES**

Speak to us on 01670 785 012
bookings@theaurorazone.com
RIB Wildlife Safari (Tromsø)

Cruise over the beautiful waters on a wildlife spotting tour where you could see reindeers, elk, white-tailed and golden eagles, king eider and little auks.

Your tours start with a short (approximately 20 minutes) transfer to Kvaløyvågen where you will be given your warm clothes and safety instructions before stepping on board the RIB boat. As well as the wildlife, you will see more of the stunning surroundings.

Duration: Approximately 5 hours

Historical City Walk (Tromsø)

Uncover the fascinating history of Tromsø during this guided walking tour. You will visit the oldest parts of the city as well as the famous Polar museum with brilliant information on the northern part of Norway. The tour will finish in an authentic pub for more history and fun facts.

Duration: Approximately 2.5 hours

Available: Wednesdays and Saturdays

The meeting point is only a short walk from your hotel.

Photography by Konrad Konieczny/Nordnordge
Aurora Reindeer Sleigh Ride

Reindeer are synonymous with the Arctic Circle and reindeer-pulled sleighs were historically used by the Sámi people to travel between villages. This is a wonderful experience for those who want to experience some of the traditions of Sámi culture and encounter reindeer up close. It is also an opportunity to escape the lights of Tromsø and perhaps witness a Northern Lights display.

You will travel to a remote camp, deep in the wilderness and in an ideal location from which to watch the Aurora should conditions be favourable. Travelling two people per sled you will then enjoy a safari by reindeer-pulled sleigh (approximately 30 minutes), keeping watch on the skies above and enjoying the magic of the experience.

A hearty meal (typically a reindeer stew – vegetarian option available) will be served after the sleigh ride and will be followed by traditional Sámi tales and a joik performance (traditional singing).

The activity will take place just outside the city of Tromsø at the same destination as your reindeer feeding and Sámi culture activity, which is part of the agenda.

This activity will last for around five hours in total and the meeting point is only a short walk from your hotel.

Guided Walk on Sommarøy

A guided walking tour of Sommarøy will introduce you to the local community and the age-old fishing traditions which still exist to this day. You will walk down to the quayside and experience the hustle and bustle of the harbour before making your way to the centre of the village and stopping at the museum and handicraft centre.

The tour will also include a visit to the Kaillkrâa which is a traditional coffee shop where some of the locals have a personal hook where they hang up their coffee cups when they leave.
Northern Lights Adventure with Tesla

You’ll be picked up in central Tromsø by your own exclusive Tesla Model X with certified driver and guide. What better way to search for one of nature’s greatest wonders than in a zero-emission, eco-friendly and environmentally clean car equipped with a glass roof.

You will be given an introductory talk where you’ll receive your warm suits for the night, followed by a short lesson in Northern Lights forecasting and photography. You’ll then have a brief introduction to our Tesla Model X. This powerful performance car can cruise the winter conditions with ease, taking you to locations out of the light pollution and on the road to the Northern Lights.

Our professional guides know the area well and will explain the science and history behind the Aurora so you get the true insider knowledge. They’ll also help you with your camera settings so you can capture the adventures of the night.

You’ll enjoy a meal at one of our favourite local restaurants as well as drinks and snacks throughout the evening.

With so many ways to try and see the Aurora in Tromsø, the Tesla tour gives you the option to have a more private and environmentally-friendly experience of the magical display.

**Availability:** 15th September – 31st March

**Price:** to be confirmed

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Image Credit: Pukka Travel

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

The following accommodation is included in the trip:

Included Accommodation

Scandic Ishavshotel (Nights: 1-2)

Situated right by the quayside, you’ll only have to walk approximately 50 metres from the Hurtigruten ferry to reach this hotel with fantastic views. The Ishavshotel has a lovely modern design with free Wi-Fi, a restaurant and bar area.

Northern Lights hunt via minibus

Seeking out the Northern Lights via minibus allows you to venture further away from artificial light to the best possible Aurora viewpoints. This fantastic Aurora hunt is run by knowledgeable guides who will check the weather and solar activity beforehand and then determine the best possible location for witnessing this spectacular display as it dances over the autumn landscapes.

Hot drinks and snacks will be served and the activity will last for around five to seven hours.

Image credit: Ricardo Torres

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Hotel Facilities

- The location is this hotel’s real selling point - just a 4-minute walk from the famous Polar Museum and close to other attractions in the city.
- The hotel’s restaurant uses delicious local ingredients and the breakfast buffet is award-winning.
- There is free WiFi available throughout the hotel.
- The Scandic shop on site is open 24 hours.

GUEST ROOMS

TWIN/DUOUBLE ROOMS: the hotel offers 214 hotel rooms each equipped with a TV, fridge and tea and coffee making facilities. Some of the hotel rooms have a lovely view of the harbour and many guests enjoy watching the Hurtigruten ships sail into port whilst en route north or south.

Awaiting images

Wilderness Camp North Tour (Nights: 3)

Wilderness Camp North Tour is an amazing glamping experience, located on the island of Kvaløya, only forty minutes from Tromsø. The tents are pretty luxurious with a large, cosy double or twin beds and they have panoramic windows which provide views of the landscape and of the sky. You can potentially witness the Northern Lights whilst tucked up in bed. The tents are spacious and there is a seating area from which to enjoy the views whilst having a hot drink or some fresh fruit from the minibar.

The camp is set in a genuinely wild location, with dramatic mountain peaks surrounding a snow-covered valley. There is a central cabin where you will enjoy home-cooked meals, prepared using fresh ingredients.

There are no showers at the camp, but there is a water pump which provides fresh water whenever you need it.

Facilities
• Enjoy the space and luxury of the tent which has a paraffin heater, a seating area and fantastic views of the northern skies from the windows
• Sample fresh local produce and delicacies such as reindeer or fish soup which are particular favourites in Northern Norway
• The central cabin is an ideal location in which to relax with a hot drink whilst enjoying the silence of the surrounding wilderness. It is equipped with a fireplace to ensure a cosy atmosphere
• There is very little light pollution in the area, so the Aurora viewing potential is excellent

Room Type

EXCLUSIVE TENT: the luxurious tents are equipped with large, cosy double or twin beds and are both bright and spacious. There are windows which provide fantastic views of the northern skies and the surrounding landscape. Each tent has a seating area, coffee and tea making facilities and a minibar with fresh fruit provided. There are toilets in a separate building and a water pump which gives access to fresh water whenever you need it.

Sommarøy Arctic Hotel (Nights: 4-5)

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.

The Specifics

**Holiday group size (approximate)**

Speak to us on 01670 785 012
bookings@theaurorazone.com
Minimum 2 and maximum 24 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

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.

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