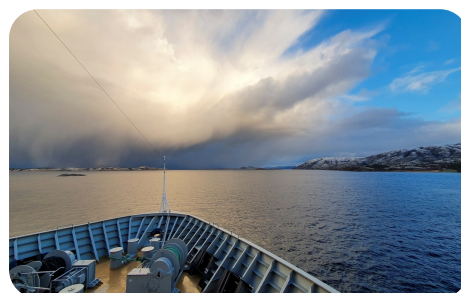




MS Nordkapp at the quay in Kirkenes | Credit: Ruedi Häfelfinger | Hurtigruten



## SCANDINAVIA AND ICELAND

# CLASSIC ROUNDTRIP VOYAGE FROM BERGEN (TOUR CODE: 13521)

<b>STARTS AND ENDS</b> in Bergen	<b>TRAVEL PERIODS</b> 22 Nov 23 - 31 Oct 24	<b>EXPERIENCE</b> Cruising	<b>TRAVEL STYLE</b> Ocean Cruising
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Embark on the Classic Roundtrip Voyage from Bergen, spanning 12 days. Immerse yourself in the captivating allure of Norway's coastline and have the opportunity to witness the awe-inspiring phenomenon of the Northern lights!

## Highlights

- Bask in spectacular scenery any season of the year as we sail past more than **100 fjords and 1,000 mountains**
- Discover our full scenic route with **34 ports** visited twice, northbound and southbound, allowing you to really get to know the heart and soul of Norway's coastline
- Spend half your voyage on an **Arctic tour of Norway**, maximising your chances of seeing the Northern Lights in winter, or enjoying 24 hours of daylight under the Midnight Sun in summer
- Take your pick from seven to nine optional hikes and the complete list of optional seasonal excursions – more than 70 in total – to enhance your coastal experience

As we follow our scenic route and cruise Norway's coastline, most of the ports we visit by night northbound are revisited by day southbound, allowing you to discover majestic fjords, mountains, cosmopolitan cities, market towns, and isolated hamlets.

Remember you also have our full range of more than 70 optional seasonal excursions to tailor each day of your journey the way you want.



## INCLUSIONS

- 12-day voyage in cabin category of your choice
- Full board (breakfast, lunch and dinner) from Norway's Coastal Kitchen
- Captain's dinner and a farewell event
- English-speaking Tour Leader on board
- Introductory photo presentations, camera adjustment and tips & tricks, photo and film footage from the voyage
- Onboard lectures and presentations on history, biology, geography, geology and culture that provide context to your voyage and help you understand the destinations you will experience
- Port presentations providing destination insight

## ITINERARY

Your voyage starts in Bergen, the second-largest city in Norway and gateway to the fjords. Founded in 1070 AD, Bergen boasts architecture influenced by prosperous 14th-century German trading organisation, the Hanseatic League.

If you've time before your ship departs, visit the UNESCO-listed wharfs of the colourful **Bryggen** district, now an artisan quarter complete with cobblestone streets. Just across the street is the famous **Fish Market** which serves delicious seafood. There's also the **Fløibanen funicular** which takes you up to the top of **Mount Fløyen** for views of the city.

Before boarding, you can relax in our comfortable guest lounge at the terminal. Once aboard, enjoy the first of many delicious meals made from fresh coastal produce as we depart Bergen and sail the old Viking route along Hjeltefjord.

Time in port:

- Bergen: 14:45 - 20:30

Dinner

Day **2**

## Florø - Molde

Enjoy early morning in the **Nordfjord** near Torvik. We then sail past West Cape for our approach to Ålesund.

In the summer, we set our course for the **spectacular UNESCO-listed Geirangerfjord**, passing some of the most magnificent scenery Norway has to offer. Once in the fjord, you might get to see the famous Seven Sisters waterfalls cascading down the cliffs.

In autumn, we explore Hjørundfjord, hidden away in the Sunnmøre Alps. There'll also be a call at the scenic village of Urke to gaze at the view of thousand-year-old farms, the fjord, and the lush mountainsides.

The last port of the day is Molde. In summer, there might just be enough daylight to see the amazing view of 222 mountain peaks across the fjord, called 'the **Molde Panorama**'. From mid-June to late August, the streets and gardens here will be adorned with the sight and scent of roses of all shades, living up to Molde's nickname as '**The City of Roses**'.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day **3**

## Kristiansund - Rørvik

This section of the voyage sees us enter the Trøndelag region of Norway, marked by crumpled hills, fields dotted with farmsteads, and low-lying coastal settlements.

Founded by Viking king Olav Tryggvason in 997, **Trondheim** today is Norway's third-largest city and a mix of historic buildings and a vibrant student population. You'll have three hours to explore Trondheim and its array of highlights, either by yourself or on one of the optional excursions we offer.

In the afternoon, the ship sails northwest, passing the ochre-coloured **Kjeungskjær Lighthouse**, islets, and rocky reefs. After that, we head towards charming Rørvik.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day **4**

## Brønnøysund - Lofoten archipelago - Svolvær

We cross the **Arctic Circle** early in the morning, beginning your Arctic tour of Norway. We mark the moment with a traditional ceremony that's sure to wake you up.

Above the Arctic Circle, you can see the sun 24 hours a day in summer, while in winter, your chances of seeing the **Northern Lights** greatly improve.

At 10am, we call into Ørnes, near to Norway's second-largest glacier, Svartisen. The pier here is popular for the Love Bench where sweethearts have declared their lasting romance with a padlock. We then sail to Bodø, the second-largest city in

Northern Norway, overlooked by the Børvass peaks. Admire fabulous street art or join an optional boat excursion to Saltstraumen, the world's most powerful maelstrom.

#### Welcome to Lofoten

That afternoon, the ship enters the Lofoten archipelago. The 1,000 metre-high Lofoten Wall is a stunning sight that seems to stretch for miles on the horizon. **Stamsund** is home to one of the largest fishing fleets in the islands and busiest between January and April when Arctic cod, known locally as skrei, swim from the Barents Sea in the north down to Vestfjord to spawn.

Come evening, when you see rows of traditional fisherman's huts on stilts, known as rorbuer, you've arrived in the pretty harbour of **Svolvær**, the main town of the Lofoten Islands.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day **6**

## Stokmarknes - Skjervøy

We dock into **Harstad** just after 07:00. You can go for a peaceful early morning stroll around town.

The ship will then continue to **Finnesnes** which connects the beautiful **island of Senja** via the impressive Gisund Bridge. Keep on the lookout for a variety of seabirds with several colonies nearby, including puffins.

#### Gateway to the Arctic

We then sail to the historic Arctic exploration capital of Tromsø where you'll have four hours to explore the city or join an optional excursion. Along the waterfront you'll find **Polaria**, a centre exhibiting environmental research in the Arctic with a small aquarium. Take your pick from the many shops and restaurants in the city centre, including **Mack Brewery** and favourite local watering hole **Ølhallen pub**. There are also cafés offering delicious cinnamon buns where baristas create innovative coffee art. Across the fjord from where the ship docks, you should be able to see the iconic **Arctic Cathedral** with its beautiful stained-glass mosaic.

Leaving Tromsø in the early evening, we head north for the trading post of **Skjervøy**, founded in 1622. On our way, we'll pass the Lyngen Alps which rise majestically from the sea.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day **7**

## Øksfjord - Berlevåg

The ship reaches the town of **Hammerfest** on the island of Kvaløya early in the morning. In summer, the island has herds of **reindeer** migrating here in their thousands.

You'll know we've reached **Havøysund** when you see the wind turbines of the landmark Havøyglaven wind farm which produces enough electricity to power 6,000 local homes.

We arrive at Honningsvåg mid-morning, portal to the **North Cape** where a globe monument marks the top of continental Europe. An optional excursion will take you to North Cape from Honningsvåg by bus, passing herds of reindeer on the way, depending on the season.

#### Sámi heartlands

Near the entrance of Kjøllefjord village, look out for the striking, building-like rock formation **Finnkirka**, an ancient sacrificial site once used by the indigenous Sámi. You can join an Optional Tours (extra cost) to meet local Sámi, learn about their life reindeer herding, and listen to *joik* folk songs.

#### Continuing North

We reach our northernmost port of call, **Mehamn**, in the evening. If visiting in the months of February and March, you might spot tons of cod drying on outdoor wooden racks called *hjell*, mainly destined for export. The ship then sets off for **Berlevåg**. On the way, we pass the tall Slettnes Lighthouse, the northernmost mainland lighthouse on Earth.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## Mehamn - Tromsø

We make stops at **Mehamn** and **Kjøllefjord** during the night before early morning visits to Honningsvåg and Havøysund.

In the early afternoon, you'll spend time in **Hammerfest**, which has the largest population on a list of the world's northernmost settlements. See the UNESCO-listed Meridian Column, shop for souvenirs at the Polar Bear Society, or take the path behind the town to the viewpoint atop Mount Salen.

We continue cruising Norway's coastline south to Øksfjord and then to Skjervøy, surrounded by mountain peaks. We've been docking at this vital fishing port since 1896. If you're visiting in winter, you might spot orcas and humpback **whales** that gather here to feed on herring.

As we make our way to **Tromsø**, you might also glimpse views of the Lyngen Alps which boast some of the highest peaks in all of Norway. We dock at Tromsø just before midnight. In the summer months, you can stroll around the still busy city in glorious 24-hour daylight.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## Tromsø - Stamsund

After Finnsnes early in the morning, the ship calls at Harstad where the white-washed Trondenes Church, the world's northernmost medieval stone church, sits on the peninsula.

Next is our smallest port of call **Risøyhamn** and then **Sortland** where the landscape slowly transforms from hills to 1,000-metre-high mountains.

Stokmarknes is where Captain Richard With began The Coastal Express in 1893. Visit **Hurtigrutemuseet**, a ship-in-a-bottle building that chronicles our legacy, centred around retired ship MS Finnmarken from 1956.

Sailing along **Raftsund**, the Captain may choose to take the ship into tiny Trollfjord if the weather allows. The mountain walls will look so close you'll think you can reach out and brush them! To exit the fjord, the ship will rotate 180 degrees on the spot, then sail back out. Remember to look out for sea eagles here too.

Leaving Lofoten

We reach **Svolvær** in the evening. The huge mountain that sits above the town is named the Svolvær Goat due to its supposed resemblance. See if you agree! The ship then sails for Stamsund, eventually passing the giant granite cliffs of the Lofoten Wall.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## Bodø - Rørvik

The ship calls at **Bodø** in the small hours of the morning and then Ørnes at 07:00. We then cross over the Arctic Circle just after breakfast. Commemorate the moment with a tradition of tasting a spoonful of good ol' Norwegian cod liver oil! We make a short stop at **Nesna** before sailing on to **Sandnessjøen**, gateway to the magnificent Helgeland Coast.

Admire the stunning landscape of the **Seven Sisters mountain range**, with peaks up to 1,100m high. The tale goes that seven beautiful troll princesses, fleeing from an unwanted suitor, got caught out as the sun rose, turning them into the seven beautiful mountains you see today.

You'll also not want to miss views of **Torghatten Mountain**, with the distinctive hole in it. There is a local legend as to why and how this mountain came to have such a hole. Make sure you ask your Coastal Experience Team about it!

We reach **Brønnøysund** mid-afternoon. Explore the bustling marina on a walk along Havnegata. In the centre of town is Brønnøy Church: a stone church in the Neo-Gothic style dating back to 1870. Our last stop of the day is the cosy fishing port of **Rørvik** in the picturesque **Vikna archipelago**.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## Trondheim - Ålesund

Spend the morning in **Trondheim** and visit the sacred **Nidaros Cathedral**, resting place of St. Olav. Then, walk to **Gamle Bybro** bridge for a photo opportunity over **Nid River**.

Then, sail past beautiful island scenery and some of Norway's smallest communities before exploring **Kristiansund** and **Molde**.

We dock at **Kristiansund's** harbour in the late afternoon. The town is spread over three islands and known for being Norway's "Bacalao Capital" for the salted cod that's dried on the surrounding cliffs, called *klippfisk* in Norwegian. Take a walk around the cobblestone streets of the old town and tour the lively port. You can also head up to the old watchtower at **Varden viewpoint** for a lovely panorama.

The penultimate port of the day is **Molde** where you can spot the tops of the **Romsdal Alps**. Nicknamed "The City of Roses", flowers should be in bloom between mid-June and late August.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## Ålesund - Bergen

Our Norwegian coastal cruise together, at least this time, will reach its end later today. During the previous night, we'll call at Ålesund and Torvik. On our approach to Maløy, you might catch a glimpse of the northbound Coastal Express if you're up early enough.

You'll have a chance to glimpse **Nordfjord**, under the enormous **Jostedal Glacier**, mainland Europe's largest. The ship then docks at Florø in the morning where you can take in the harbour and marina. Leaving Florø, you'll spot **Stabben Lighthouse**, a favourite subject for photographers. There's also stunning views to enjoy as we cross the mouth of **Sognefjord**, the longest and widest fjord in the whole of Norway.

As we reach our final port in the afternoon, the ship will navigate through the last islands and skerries of our Norway scenic route, and sail down **Hjeltefjord** to arrive into **Bergen**. Sadly, it's time to say farewell to the Captain, crew, and fellow guests.

Breakfast

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

Danish, Swedish, Norwegian, Icelandic, and Faroese

### LOCAL CURRENCY

Danish Krone (DKK)

- Please note that the day-by-day programme will give you a few ideas about what you can see and do on your voyage, but bear in mind that this itinerary is just an indication of what you can experience. After all, this is a sailing where the elements rule and weather conditions might vary, which is why every voyage with Hurtigruten is unique.
- Additionally, not all cabin categories are available for all departures.
- Please make sure you have warm underlayers and mid layers clothing for the voyage.
- **Check-in:** In Bergen, embarkation is from 16.00, with departure at 20.30.
- **Check-out:** Normal check-out from cabins is at 12.00. It is possible to buy a later check-out at the reception if it is available (on-site)

### Excluded

- International airfares and taxes
- Domestic airfares and taxes, unless otherwise specified in our holiday package
- Visa expenses, processing and issuance fees
- Meals other than as specified in our holiday package
- Travel Insurance or expenses of a personal nature (mini-bar, phone call, laundry, etc.),
- Tips or gratuities to guides, drivers, porters, hotel, restaurant or boat staff, etc.
- Or any other travel expense that has not been included in our holiday package
- Optional excursions
- Luggage handling
- Hikes with the Hurtigruten Guides