



# Summer Adventures

Nature • History • Culture • Wildlife



Norway • Iceland • Sweden • Finland  
Greenland • Spitsbergen • Denmark  
Faroe Islands • Romania

2015-16



## The Nordic Experience

### WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOU

In an era when many tour operators like to pretend that they know the world, we are proud to remain specialists in the Nordic region. Others may dabble in this area, but for us, it is our heart and soul, even our life. We travel there regularly, we keep abreast of all new developments, and we never lose our passion for an area that makes few concessions to a mass market. The local people are individualists and expect their visitors to be the same.

Our brochure highlights what we feel is the best that any region can offer, but since the majority of our travel plans are tailor-made it is unlikely that any single itinerary is repeated. Whether you have three weeks to spare and want to explore by train, car, boat or even horseback, or you simply want a long weekend of luxury in one of Scandinavia's major cities, our staff will be happy to organise whichever you prefer and hundreds of other possibilities too.

We are of course totally independent. When we book your hotel, excursions or tour, it is because we feel it suits your needs best, and not because we need to promote one product over another. Neither are we biased towards one country over another. Each has its different attractions and we will make sure that what is booked matches your requirements.

Our wide range of hotels suit all budgets and locations. The city hotels are close to the centre to make sightseeing accessible and convenient. Our countryside accommodation ranges from historic hotels and lodges to charming B&B's and Rorbua (traditional fishermen's huts). Both urban and rural, our hotel selection takes advantage of the distinctive landscapes, wildlife and cultural experiences the Nordic countries provide.

### REGIONAL DEPARTURES and UPGRADED ACCOMMODATION

The prices in the brochure are based on departures from London and lodging in a standard room (unless otherwise stated). However, we do understand the convenience of flying from an airport close to home and the benefits of an upgraded room. With more regional departures to Scandinavia than ever we will be delighted to explore all options and tailor any tour to suit your personal requirements. Likewise, we can upgrade your accommodation to incorporate superior, deluxe and suite categories.



### PEACE OF MIND

Finally, any tour you book with us is financially secured (however far in advance you book) because we hold an ATOL licence (No 6558) and are members of ABTA (No W879X). In simple terms this means that in the unlikely event of our insolvency either the CAA or ABTA will see to it that if you were on holiday at such time, you could continue, or alternatively any money you had paid in advance of a tour would be refunded.



# The Nordic Summer Experience

As the spring equinox passes a vast summer adventure playground opens up. This area stretches from Greenland in the west right across to the Norwegian border with Russia in the east, round the Baltic, from Helsinki to Stockholm, and all points in between. The Nordic region has endless forests, innumerable lakes, elegant cities, glaciers, geysers, and waterfalls. Flora and fauna flourish in the endless summer days, providing unique opportunities to view Arctic wildlife and in turn, this thriving culinary larder inspires gastronomic feasts that have become the envy of the world.

## WHAT'S NEW THIS SUMMER

Each year we take a fresh look at our past itineraries, re-visit destinations to check that they continue to offer authentic experiences and check back on our client feedback to see what can be improved. Above all we try to search out new, exciting and different encounters. Highlights include:

### ICELAND

We have a wider choice of pre-bookable excursions ranging from helicopter tours, to subterranean exploration of hidden lava caves. There are 3 new escorted tours including a culinary extravaganza, travelling off the beaten path in west Iceland and a flexible escorted tour of the south.

### GREENLAND

With no roads connecting any towns or settlements in Greenland, the coastal passenger ship MV Sarfq Ittuk is a vital lifeline operating along the west coast. Join the ship as it follows the shoreline from Ilulissat in the North to Qaqortoq in the green and fertile south.

### NORWAY

Norway has some of the most celebrated rail journeys and National Tourist Routes in the world. Our adaptable tours reveal the best of these and take advantage of the extensive train, plane, road and ferry networks on offer.

### SPITSBERGEN

The sun never sets from April to August enabling round the clock experiences that will delight wildlife enthusiasts and nature lovers. Expedition cruises take you deep into the realm of the Polar Bear whilst adventures close to the capital Longyearbyen reveal glaciers, abandoned settlements and a wilderness like no other.

### SWEDEN

Pristine forests, crystal clear lakes, stylish cities and an envious outdoor lifestyle are all hallmarks of stylish Sweden. We reveal hidden gems including the island of Gotland, the Lakes and Locks of the Gota Canal and travelling by train through the charming countryside.

### FINLAND

Follow the route of the Kings and Czars, have an encounter with a Brown Bear or get lost in the lakes and endless forests of the east. There is a purity and natural beauty just waiting to be discovered.

### Contents

### Pages

Iceland experiences	04 – 17
Greenland experiences	18 – 20
Spitsbergen experiences	21 – 24
Norwegian experiences	25 – 35
Swedish experiences	36 – 39
Faroes & Finland experiences	40 – 41
Romania Experiences	42 – 44
Need to know	45 – 47



## Brief Encounter Reykjavik

It may be one of Europe's smallest capitals, but it certainly puts many others to shame with its wealth of attractions. In close proximity are geysers, caves, hot springs and glaciers. The city centre, with its many galleries, museums and monuments, reflects the cultural and creative diversity of Iceland's small population (321,000). Buildings owe more to nature than to architects. The Hallgrímskirkja Church, which overlooks the whole town resembles as a gigantic piece of molten lava. The plethora of restaurants pride themselves on crafting culinary delights from an abundance of locally sourced products.

Our brief encounter to Reykjavik is designed to be flexible. Choose your hotel and combine with any one of our excursions and adventures detailed on pages 6-7 to create your ideal stay. Upgrade to a **Luxury Encounter** which includes private airport transfers, a fine hotel and an indulgent treat at the Blue Lagoon.

### YOUR TOUR

**Day 1 UK – Reykjavik** Scheduled flight from UK to Keflavik Airport. Transfer to and check in at your chosen hotel (see opposite page for our favourites).

**Day 2 & 3 Reykjavik & beyond.** Take your pick from our extensive range of safari excursions (p6-7) and make the most of your stay. There is plenty for both first time and returning visitors. Must do's are the Golden Circle which comes in coats of many colours; the south coast's waterfalls, black sand beaches and Jokulsarlon lagoon. Take a thrilling ride in a Super Jeep or helicopter. Climb on top of a glacier or delve into lava caves. See puffins and whales or ride an Icelandic horse. Half day, full day and evening excursions are also detailed on our website.

**Day 4 Reykjavik – UK** Depending on your return flight you may have time for last minute sightseeing or shopping. Alternatively stop off at the Blue Lagoon on the way to the airport for your return flight home.

### UPGRADE TO A LUXURY ENCOUNTER

You will enjoy a private transfer from Keflavik Airport to the Borg Hotel. The Borg is considered to be Reykjavik's finest hotel and our Luxury Encounter includes a 3-night stay at this leading property on a bed & breakfast basis. Room upgrades are available and for an extra special stay you could consider one of the Tower Suites which has a 360° view of the city. The days are free for optional excursions. In keeping with your deluxe experience you may wish to consider a private helicopter or Super Jeep tour both of which offer an exhilarating and different view of Iceland. Your private return airport transfer will stop off at the Blue Lagoon where entry, towel, bathrobe and a Blue Lagoon cocktail await. You have the option to upgrade to the Executive Lounge for a truly indulgent experience.

#### A Brief Encounter – WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Return scheduled flights from a choice of regional airports
- Return airport/hotel shuttle transfer
- 3 nights hotel accommodation
- Lodging in twin room(s) with private WC/shower
- Breakfasts throughout

\* We can arrange a shuttle airport transfers via the Blue Lagoon on arrival or departure at a supplement.


 Price from **£775**pp

June – September

### THE CENTRUM HOTEL

A stylish modern hotel with an exterior sympathetically in keeping with the surrounding clapboard buildings. It's located in a quiet enclave in the heart of the old city and close to restaurants and shops. During construction of the property the remains of a Viking longhouse from the Settlement period along with Iceland's oldest human remains were found. These now form part of an exhibition in the hotel. All 89 rooms are furnished and fitted in a Scandinavian minimalist but warm style and have private WC/shower, radio, TV, telephone. Free Wi-Fi.

- City Centre • Quiet location • Café/bar • Restaurant serving Icelandic cuisine



### HOTEL HOLT

The wood panelled walls, original Icelandic art, leather Chesterfields, wine cellar, library and bar give this small family owned hotel an eclectic and homely feel. Just a few minutes from the city centre, it has a deserved reputation for personal service and fine dining. There are 39 twin & double rooms along with 12 suites. All are styled with cream linen; regency pink carpets and mahogany furniture and have private WC/shower (bath tubs in the suites) mini bar, satellite TV, hairdryer, mini safe, telephone and free Wi-Fi.

- Close to the city centre • Larger than average rooms • Houses the largest privately owned art collection in Iceland.



### PLAZA HOTEL

This modern hotel is in a great location. Situated next to 'Ingolfstorg', the main square in the heart of the old city and just minutes walk from all the major attractions and close to the National Gallery and all that Reykjavik has to offer. Representing excellent value the 180 rooms are furnished with simple contemporary oak furnishings and all have private WC/shower, mini bar, TV, free Wi-Fi. Buffet breakfast is served on site and there are a myriad of restaurants, bars & cafés within walking distance for dining later.

- Ideal location • Plaza bar with floor to ceiling windows • Northern Lights wake up service in season



### HOTEL BORG

Hotel Borg has quickly become one of Reykjavik's landmark properties. Originally built in 1930 the hotel pays homage to its Art Deco past and oozes elegance and charm where original features are combined with contemporary fittings. Award winning chef Volundur Volundarson presides over the kitchen which serves breakfast, lunch and dinner and is a favourite for its flavourful and fresh cuisine. 56 rooms contain custom made furniture, satellite TV, en-suite WC/Shower and free Wi-Fi.

- Iconic building opposite Icelandic parliament • Character property • Tower Suite with 360° view of the city





## Excursions: Reykjavik & Beyond

The world's most northerly capital offers a treasure trove of culture and history, a wealth of wildlife, culinary delights and dazzling natural wonders. Take a thrill seeking Super Jeep ride, view the geysers and glaciers and volcanic activity up close and personal from above or below. Watch for whales, seek out the puffins or ride an Icelandic horse. These are some of our recommendations for excursions with any visit to Reykjavik:

### GOLDEN CIRCLE CLASSIC

An all-day scenic extravaganza. First stop are the landscapes south of Lake Pingvallavatn before the National Park Pingvellir. From there continue to Gullfoss, the Golden Waterfall, with its foaming, thundering waters forming a mist of glacial waters that you can feel. Continue to the Geyser area with its spouting water geysers and bubbling mud pots with time for lunch (payable locally). Return to Reykjavik via the cathedral at Skalholt, the extraordinary crater Kerid and the greenhouse community Hveragerdi. Daily. Hotel pick-up 08.00. Duration 8½ hrs. Price from **£55 pp**

### REYKJAVIK SIGHTSEEING

Get your bearings in and around Reykjavik. This tour includes the most significant places in the capital and the surrounding towns including the presidential residence, the thriving harbour town of Hafnarfjörður, a scenic treasure and home to the 'hidden folk'. Enjoy a birds-eye view of Reykjavik from Perlan and the Hallgrímskirkja church. The Old harbour & town and the geothermal heated outdoor swimming pools in Langardalur. Daily. Hotel pick-up: 08.30. Duration: 2½ hrs. Price from: **£35 pp**

### REYKJAVIK BY FOOD

Learn about Icelandic food traditions and take this guided tour around Reykjavik's streets & restaurants tasting some of the delicious and sometimes unusual culinary customs. As you stroll the streets you will stop at selected restaurants and cafés where your host will introduce you to authentic tastes of Iceland including local beers, cheeses, meats and fish. Wed, Thu & Fri. Meeting point: ITM information Center, Bankastræti 2 at 12.00. Duration: 3 hrs (1½ hrs walking, 1½ hrs tasting) Price from: **£68 pp**

### GOLDEN CIRCLE EVENING

You will see all the 'musts' under an evening sky giving a different perspective on some of Iceland's most iconic images. You will visit Pingvellir National Park to witness the power of what two tectonic plates do to the landscape. It was also the original meeting spot of the Icelandic Parliament. Continue to the magnificent Gullfoss waterfall with the last stop being the amazing spouting Geysers before returning to Reykjavik. Daily 1 Jun – 20 Aug. Hotel pick-up 18.30. Duration 5 hrs. Price from **£55 pp**.

### WHALE WATCHING

Whale watching boat, Rósin (The Rose), offers a fast and luxurious whale watching experience, which takes you to the spotting area in the quickest possible time. There is a comfortable heated seating area with large windows, ample decks and onboard café. During puffin season (1 May – 20 Aug) you sail past the islands of Akurey and Lundey, inhabited by thousands of puffins. Daily. Up to 5 departures during high season. Hotel pick-up. Duration: 2-2½ hrs. Price from: **£45 pp**.

### SEA ANGLING

These sea angling tours are perfectly suited to both experienced fishermen and those who simply wish to relax and enjoy the beautiful surroundings. You will head out to Faxaflói Bay. During season you will also pass the puffin islands on your way to the fishing grounds. Experienced staff usually spot fish in a flash. The Captain & crew are always on hand for advice and some entertaining stories. Keep your catch or BBQ on-board. Daily departures – 01 May to 31 Aug at 17.00. Hotel pick-up. Duration: 2½ – 3 hrs. Price from: **£55 pp**.



### THE LAVA TRAIL ON HORSEBACK

This guided horse trek takes you along lava fields and hillside tracks previously used by their Viking ancestors. Particularly suitable for novices or those with rusty equestrian skills, the Icelandic horse is famed for its even temper and unique gait which gives a particularly smooth ride. You will transfer to the riding centre where on arrival you will be supplied with; riding hat, boots, waterproof outdoor and tack. Home-made lunch at the riding centre included. Daily. Hotel pick up 08.30/12.45. Duration: 3 hrs. (1½-2 hrs riding). Price from: **£75 pp.**

### SUPER JEEP CLASSIC

Something of an Icelandic phenomenon, the Super Jeep makes any excursion more thrilling. For part of this trip you will travel across wild barren landscapes and plunge through icy streams on your journey around the Golden Circle. This includes the National Park Þingvellir, the Geyser area and the golden waterfall of Gullfoss before continuing on to Langjökull for an optional snowmobile tour on top of the glacier (additional cost). You will return via the cathedral at Skalholt, the crater Kerid and the greenhouse community Hveragerdi. Year round: Tues, Thu & Sat. Hotel pick-up: 08.30 Duration: 8-9 hrs. Price from: **£199 pp.**



### SUPER JEEP VOLCANO HAT TRICK

The skilled drivers and guides of the Super Jeep take you off road and along rough mountain tracks to the foot of Mount Hekla – the most active volcano in Iceland, the Kerid crater as well as the Stora Eldborg volcano in this scenic hat trick. This full day tour invites you to experience some of the best views and nature that Iceland has to offer. Year round. Min. 4 people. Hotel pick-up: 09.00. Duration: 9-10 hrs. Price from: **£245 pp.**

### SOUTH COAST & JOKULSARLON GLACIAL LAGOON

This coach tour takes you along Iceland's beautiful south shore through charming villages and passing Iceland's biggest volcano to Jokulsarlon Glacial Lagoon. The Glacial Lagoon temporarily traps huge blocks of ice that have calved from Europe's largest glacier before they drift out into the open ocean. You will board an amphibious vehicle capable of travelling on land and water for a unique view of these natural sculptures – before returning to Reykjavik. Available Apr – Oct. Hotel pick-up: 07.30. Duration: 14 hrs. Prices from: **£199 pp.** \*Available from early May dependent on ice conditions

### GEOTHERMAL HELICOPTER TOUR

A helicopter tour gives you a view of Iceland's volcanic landscape like no other. Its subterranean energy is on full view as you fly over geothermal hot springs, colourful mountain ranges, power plants, lava fields and craters. You land far away from the crowds and make a brief stop to witness the raw, primeval forces rising up from the earth beneath. On the return journey you will fly over Reykjavik for an aerial view of the city. Available year round (min 3 passengers Sep-Apr). Meeting point: Reykjavik Domestic Airport Duration: 40-75 mins. Prices from: **£230 pp**



### WESTMAN ISLANDS DAY TRIP

Fly from Reykjavik Domestic Airport by plane to the volcanic island of Heimaey in the Westman Islands archipelago where you will be taken on an escorted coach tour to witness a volcanic crater, still warm lava and half buried houses resulting from the island's infamous 1973 volcanic eruption. After the tour you have free time to explore at your leisure or take an optional boat tour (additional cost/summer only). Available year round. Meeting point: Reykjavik Domestic Airport at 07.15 w/days or 10.30 wkds Duration: 10 hrs. Prices from: **£295 pp.**

### TAKE A WALK ON THE WILDSIDE

A glacier walk is a great way to experience Icelandic nature. Just east of the famous Eyjafjallajökull volcano and 2 hours from Reykjavik lies Solheimajokull. After a safety demonstration you will be led by experienced guides on a safe and easy glacier walk on crampons up onto the ice field. You will explore ridges and deep crevasses and learn more about these disappearing giants. On the way back there is a stop at the picturesque waterfalls, Skógafoss and Seljalandsfoss. Available daily. Hotel pick-up: from 08.30. Duration: 9-10 hrs. (3½ hrs on the ice) Bring your own lunch. Hiking boots can be rented. Prices from: **£120 pp.**



### ICELAND FROM BELOW

A more demanding excursion that will give you a unique view of Iceland's most spectacular lava tube caves and craters. You will enter through narrow cave entrances which reveal extraordinary scenes of colour, stalactites and lava formations. Wide and high in some places, narrow and low in others you will need to be able to walk on uneven surfaces and at times crawl through narrow gaps. Experienced guides, overalls, light mittens & helmet provided. Good walking shoes recommended. Year round: Sat & Sun. Hotel pick-up: 12.30. Duration: 3 hrs. Price from: **£60 pp.**



## The Scenic South with Reykjavik

Price from **£1135**pp

May – September

Immediately immerse yourself in Southern Iceland's unique cocktail of sights, by choosing to stay in one of our idyllic country retreats. Days can be spent exploring the region before returning each night to the comfort of our recommended hotels, each of which, offer fine dining, hot tubs, spa's, exceptional service and strikingly scenic locations. Complete this Icelandic short break by then swopping the countryside for the charm of Reykjavik and an injection of city chic.

### THINGS TO SEE AND DO

The hotels that we have chosen (p13) are located in the heart of Southern Iceland allowing you complete flexibility in choosing what style of hotel suits you and where and when you wish to spend your days. Highlights of the region include:

#### THE GOLDEN CIRCLE

A 'must do' for every visitor to Iceland. See Gullfoss waterfall with its unique 90° turn, the Geysir area, after which this natural phenomenon is named, and where Strokkur still spouts impressively. Last but not least Thingvellir, where the early Vikings set up the world's first parliamentary assembly on the junction of the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates.

#### SKOGARFOSS AND SELJALANDSFOSS

Seljalandsfoss spills straight off the Fell side dropping into a shallow pool behind which you can stand. Skógarfoss similarly drops straight down into the pool below. Stand on the gravel river bed watching your surrounding world disappear in white mist.

#### THORSMORK

Travelling inland is Thorsmork. Largely covered by the ash from the Eyjafallajökull eruption in 2010 nature rapidly reclaimed the area and returned it as a summer haven. It is once again one of Iceland's most popular hiking areas with numerous marked trails and magnificent views whatever the weather.

#### WESTMAN ISLANDS

Dubbed 'Pompeii of the North' following the volcanic eruption in 1973, Vestmannaeyjar on the island of Heimaey in the Westman Islands was largely destroyed. View the ongoing project to recover some of the 400 buildings that were covered by the lava and ash. Take a walk and enjoy the still warm earth that surrounds Eldfell or a boat tour of the uninhabited islands. Travel as a foot passenger or take your car on the ferry which operates up to 5 departures a day in the summer and takes just 30 minutes from Landeyjahöfn.

#### DYRHOLAEY & VIK

Visit the birdcliffs at Dyrhólaey and the black sand beaches near Vík. Reynisfjara, with its basalt caves, is particularly memorable.

### YOUR TOUR

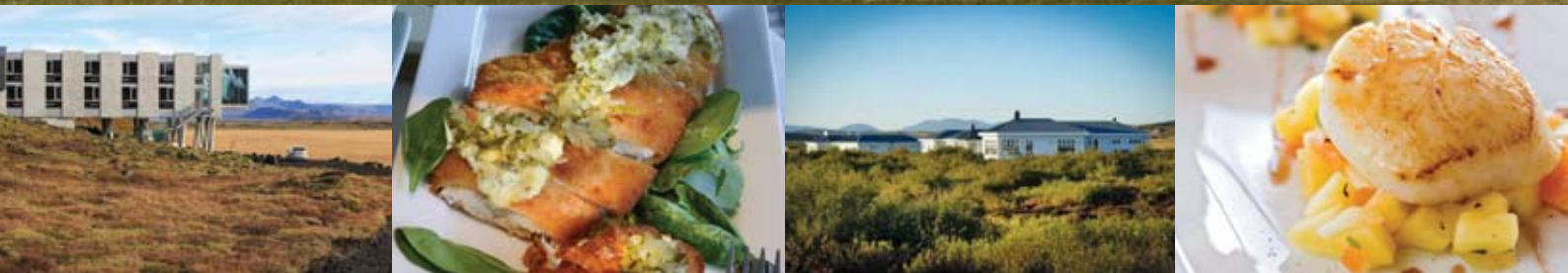
**Day 1 UK – Keflavik** Scheduled flight to Keflavik. Collect your hire car at the airport and drive to your chosen hotel for 3 nights.

**Days 2 & 3** At leisure to explore your surroundings.

**Day 4 Reykjavik** Drive to Reykjavik for a final night at the Hotel Centrum.

**Day 5 Reykjavik – UK** Enjoy Reykjavik or depart for a morning bathe in the Blue Lagoon before continuing to Keflavik for your return flight to the UK.





### HOTEL GRIMSBORGIR

The unassuming exterior of this property cleverly conceals a hidden delight. Situated in Grimsnes and on the banks of the river Sog, this boutique hotel consists of 10 luxury apartments each with their own private hot tub and 14 superior hotel rooms. Reflecting the calm and tranquil surroundings, the décor oozes Scandinavian style country chic. The fully equipped apartments range from 2 bedroom studios to 4 bedroomed properties, which are ideal for larger families or a group of friends. The hotel rooms each have their own terrace and access to 4 hot tubs overlooking the surrounding mountains and countryside. The hotel offers impeccable service and attention to detail. The restaurant presents traditional Icelandic and gourmet meals using, where possible, locally sourced products. All of this combines to make the perfect country retreat and base for your break.

- 90 minutes from Keflavik Airport • Elegant and chic • In the heart of the Golden Circle • Gourmet dining



### HOTEL RANGA

Built in log cabin style with 4 star hotel luxury, Hotel Ranga has just 51 rooms and suites and is a perfect jumping off point for South Iceland's major scenic attractions. There is a choice of accommodation ranging from comfortable and spacious standard rooms to deluxe options and themed suites. All offer great views, flat screen tv's and free Wi-Fi should you tire of nature's surroundings. The hotel has several outdoor geothermal hot tubs, a lounge bar and a restaurant with a signature dish made with Icelandic lamb and lobster as well as making the most of its proximity to one of Iceland's finest salmon rivers. Set in lush meadowland against a backdrop of Mount Hekla with Eyjafjallajokull in the distance, Hotel Ranga offers ample opportunity just to sit back and relax and let the world go by.

- 60 minutes from Keflavik Airport • Atmospheric • Perfect location for South Iceland's attractions • Acclaimed gourmet restaurant



### HOTEL ION

Partly sitting on cantilevered pillars on the slopes of Mount Hengill which rises from one of Iceland's most active geo-thermal lava fields, the Ion perfectly blends eco-style and luxury. Indoors, everything is minimalist Scandinavian chic with furniture, tables, wall decor and even the hot pool fashioned in rectilinear shapes. Natural concrete walls and extensive floor to ceiling picture windows showcase the surrounding views. There is a mixture of standard and deluxe rooms equipped with hard wood flooring, down duvets, Wi-Fi, TV, hairdryer, kettle and the added luxury of bathrobes and slippers. The restaurant and striking Northern Lights bar offer menus of fresh local ingredients cooked with a twist. You can also book a restorative spa treatment following your day's exertions.

- 75 minutes from Keflavik Airport • Modern design • Close to Thingvellir National Park • Award winning Northern Lights Bar



### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Return scheduled flights from a choice of regional airports
- 3 nights hotel accommodation at your chosen hotel
- 1 night at the Centrum Hotel, Reykjavik
- Lodging in twin room(s) with private WC/shower
- Breakfasts throughout
- 4 days (4 x 24hrs) car hire including, unlimited mileage; theft protection and collision damage waiver insurance; all local taxes and airport collection/drop-off charges
- Complimentary GBP navigation system and road map



## Highlights of Iceland

Price from **£1195**pp

May – September

Iceland's southwest corner has some of its most dramatic natural attractions. At Vík, on the island's southern tip is Dyrholaey's bird cliff promontory, from whence black sand beaches fringed with ocean foam stretch as far as the eye can see. Also visit Gullfoss, Geysir and the Pingvellir valley with its faults and fissures at the junction of the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates.

### YOUR TOUR

**Day 1 UK – Keflavík** Scheduled flight to Reykjavík. Transfer on arrival to the nearby Northern Light Inn for an overnight stop with time for a bathe in the Blue Lagoon before dinner.

**Day 2 Keflavík – Vík** After breakfast, transfer back (15 minutes) to Keflavik to collect your hire car and set off along the South coast towards Vik. Recommended stops along the route include Seljalandsfoss behind which you can walk or the naturally heated pool at Seljavellir for a quick dip and Dyrholaey bird cliffs. Overnight at Dyrholaey Hotel for 2 nights.

**Day 3 Skaftafell and Jokulsarlon** Drive along the southeast coast across bridges fording dramatic outwash plains interspersed with black sand beaches and lava fields. Together with a walk in Skaftafell Park or snowmobile ride on Solheimajokul, the highlight of the day is undoubtedly Jokulsarlon Glacial Lagoon.

**Day 4 Vík – Hekla** Drive up to the Geysir area, where Strokkur spouts impressively every 5 to 10 minutes. Alongside there are steaming fumaroles, hot springs and pools, some of which are a dark muddy grey whilst others are a translucent turquoise. Continue onwards to Gullfoss, the golden waterfall, where the glacial river Hvita plummets 32 metres before twisting and tumbling down a large gorge. Overnight at Hotel Hekla.

**Day 5 Hekla – Reykjavik** After breakfast visit Skalholt Cathedral and the Pingvellir Valley and continue to Reykjavik. Return hire car and overnight at Hotel Plaza or similar.

**Day 6 Reyjavik – UK** Time for some last minute shopping before transfer back to Keflavik and return flight to UK.



#### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Return scheduled flights from a choice of regional airports
- 5 nights hotel accommodation as per itinerary
- Lodging in twin room(s) with private WC/shower
- Breakfasts throughout
- 5 days (5 x 24 hrs) Group A car hire including unlimited mileage, theft protection, CDW and all applicable taxes.
- Free GPS navigation system and road map.



## Southern Highlights and The Magic of Myvatn

Price from **£1495**pp

June – August

Discover South Iceland's most iconic attractions including Gullfoss and Geysir's hot springs combined with the dramatic landscape of Iceland's Lake Myvatn, an area of surreal water-filled volcanoes, boiling mud pots and sculpted lakeside lava formations. Add to this some whale watching in Reykjavik and Husavik and a bathe in the famed Blue Lagoon and you will have all the ingredients for a holiday of extraordinary contrasts.

### YOUR TOUR

**Day 1 UK – Keflavik** Scheduled flight to Keflavik. Transfer on arrival to and overnight at Hotel Centrum for three night stay.

**Day 2 Whale Watching** Enjoy an educational and interactive trip aboard the Roisin learning about and searching for whales. The Roisin is equipped to take you to the whale spotting area located just 20-30 minutes from the Old harbour in Reykjavik. Spend the remainder of the day at your leisure.

**Day 3 Golden Circle Excursion** Explore the landscapes south of Lake Pingvallavatn before reaching Pingvellir. Visit Gullfoss with its foaming, thundering waters invariably over-arched with a rainbow before continuing to the Geysir area with its spouting geysers and bubbling mud pots with time for lunch (payable locally). Return to Reykjavik via the cathedral at Skalholt, the extraordinary crater Kerid and the greenhouse village of Hveragerdi.

**Day 4 Reykjavik – Akureyri** Self transfer to the domestic airport for an early morning flight to Akureyri. You will be met at the airport and a shuttle transfer will take you to the village of Reykhalid with a stop at Godafoss Waterfall. Afternoon at leisure. Overnight at Hotel Reynihlid or Reykhalid for three nights.

**Day 5 Myvatn Excursion** Morning at leisure. Afternoon guided excursion to Krafla mountain and the explosive crater, Hverir's bubbling sulphur mud pots and Dimmuborgir's towering lava formations.

**Day 6 Whale Spotting Excursion** Afternoon journey to Husavik for a 3-hour trip out into the bay on a traditional oak built trawler, whose hull design

provides a gentle bulwark against the swell.

Minke whale is the most common species but recently the Humpback Whale is also frequently sighted. Skjálfandi Bay is also the natural habitat to Puffins and Arctic Terns. You also have the option to visit the Whale Museum, displaying full-size whale skeletons, a Folk Museum and other interesting sites.

**Day 7 Akureyri – Reykjavik** Free time to explore the Myvatn area further. Late afternoon departure by bus to Akureyri airport for early evening scheduled flight to Reykjavik. Self transfer to and overnight at Hotel Centrum.

**Day 8 Reykjavik – UK** Transfer to Keflavik airport via the mystical Blue Lagoon for a bathe and then to Keflavik airport. Return flight to UK.

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Return scheduled flights from selected regional departures
- All airport/hotel transfers
- 7 nights hotel accommodation as per itinerary
- Lodging in twin room(s) with private WC/shower
- Breakfasts throughout
- All internal transport by scheduled bus & plane as detailed in itinerary
- Guided excursions as per itinerary
- Blue Lagoon entrance including bathing fee, bathrobe and towel.

\*Flight schedule may dictate amended itinerary.

NB Reykjavik domestic airport transfers on days 4 and 7 are payable locally.



## A Grand Motoring Tour of Iceland

Discover the whole of Iceland from its signature highlights in the south to its dramatic eastern fjords; from Myvatn's mystical marvels in the north to the serenity of Snafellsnes in the west. A complete and comprehensive tour of the entire island with fascinating excursions available in every quadrant.

### YOUR TOUR

**Day 1 UK – Reykjavik** Fly from a choice of regional airports to Keflavik. Collect your hire car on arrival, drive to and overnight at Hotel Fludir for 2 nights.

**Day 2 Fludir** Spend a day savouring south Iceland's attractions: the Geysir geothermal area with its hot springs, fumaroles stained yellow with sulphur and Thykkhverir, the viscous hot springs. Visit Gulfoss, whose waters flow down a 3 step staircase before plunging in two stages down a crevice at right angles to the flow of the river, and Pingvellir, home to Althing the oldest parliament in the world and an important part of Icelandic culture.

**Day 3 Fludir – Vik** Drive down to and along the south coast stopping at Seljandsfoss and Skogafoss, possibly detouring up to Myrdalsjokull for a glacier snowmobile ride before arriving at Dyrholaey. Overnight at Hotel Dyrholaey.

**Day 4 Vik – Skaftafell** Drive along the southeast coast with its vast outwash plains forded by bridges and Skeidararsandur, as well as the black sands of the Skeidarsandur glacier before arriving at the edge of Skaftafell National Park. Overnight at Fosshotel Nupar.

**Day 5 Skaftafell – Seydisfjörður** The highlight of this day's journey is the Jokulsarlon Glacier Lagoon, undoubtedly one of Iceland's 'wow factor' sights. Continue driving along the still gravelled section of route 1 overhung by rhyolite crags contouring the indented coastline dotted with fishing villages before descending to Seydisfjörður. Overnight at Hotel Aldan.

**Day 6 Seydisfjörður – Myvatn** Vast, seemingly endless deserts of glacially crushed rock are the hallmark of the day before arriving at the contrastingly lush Lake Myvatn area. Overnight at Hotel Reykjahlid or Reyhnilid for 2 nights.



**Day 7 Myvatn** Time to explore the extraordinary scenery and wildlife of the area. Notable sights include the wooded headland at Hofdi with its lava pillars, the contorted black towers of Dimmuborgir, the pastel coloured Námafjall ridge with its steamy surroundings and the smouldering, sulphurous Krafla caldera. If you travel further afield you can discover there are the multi-hued houses that hug the mountainside by the fishing village of Husavik, from where you can go whale spotting, the unusually wooded canyon at Asbyrgi, Dettifoss the largest waterfall in Europe and the somewhat forgotten Godafoss with its wide curtain fall.

**Day 8 Myvatn – Saudarkrokur** Drive to Akureyri, through the Oxnadalsheidi pass and then round to Laugarbakki for a night at Gauksmyri Lodge in the heart of horse breeding country.



Price from **£2495**pp

May – September

**Day 9 Laugarbakki – Isafjördur** Take the road across to Blonduos and follow the fjord road through some of the country’s most verdant countryside, then continue via Steingrímsfjarðarheiði to Isafjördur for 2 nights at Hotel Edda.

**Day 10 Isafjördur** Time to explore one of Iceland’s most remote towns. Once home to a prosperous fishing industry, the decline has thrown up some quirky alternatives including swamp mud football!

**Day 11 Isafjördur – Grundarfjördur** Drive south to Dynjandi or Fjallfoss (a series of 7 waterfalls with a combined height of 100m) and then along the northern side of the Snæfellsness peninsula, dropping in on Stykkisholmur and finally to Grundarfjördur for 2 nights at Hotel Framnes.

**Day 12 Grundarfjördur** A ‘take your pick’ day. Birdwatch on Breidafjördur bay, take the car round to the vertiginous bird cliffs at Arnarstapi (the hike between there and Hellnar is beautiful) or climb up on to Snæfellsjökull glacier. The choice is yours.

**Day 13 Grundarfjördur – Reykjavík** Journey along the southern shore of the peninsula to Bogarnes, where the Settlement Centre is a good place to catch up on the Sagas that Iceland is known for. Head south to Reykjavík for a final night at Hotel Centrum.



**Day 14 Reykjavík – UK** After breakfast, leave relatively early for the Blue Lagoon and a relaxing dip before dropping off your hire car and return flight to the UK.



**WHAT'S INCLUDED**

- Return scheduled flights from selected regional departures
  - 13 nights hotel accommodation as per itinerary
  - Lodging in twin room(s) with private WC/shower
  - Breakfast throughout
  - 13 days (13 x 24 hrs) Group C car hire including unlimited mileage; theft protection, CDW and all applicable taxes
  - Entrance to the Blue Lagoon including bathrobe & towel
  - Complimentary GBP navigation system and road map
- \* Flight schedule may dictate amended itinerary.



## A Walk on the Wild Side

Price from **£1995**pp

June – September

Enjoy a week hiking in the rugged scree scarred countryside of Iceland's eastern coast where the mountains meet the Atlantic in a tapestry of secluded coves, moss clad valleys, pastel coloured rhyolite mountains, narrow fjords and black sand beaches. This trail is suitable for anyone able to go for a brisk 3-4 hour walk.

### YOUR TOUR

**Day 1 Reykjavik** Scheduled flight to Keflavik Airport and transfer for overnight at the Plaza Hotel, located in the city centre.

**Day 2 Borgarfjordur (16km)** Self transfer to Reykjavik's domestic airport for an hour's flight to Egilsstadir. You'll be met and transferred to the 'Elf House' in Borgarfjordur, just an hour's drive from the airport and your base for the next 6 nights. This family owned B&B has 30 comfortable en-suite rooms and a restaurant serving delicious home-cooked, locally sourced food. The afternoon passes with an easy 16km hike beginning with a visit to the puffins at Borgarfjordur then walking through the Brunavik pass strolling along black sand beaches before returning via the Hofstrandarskard pass and colourful Helgargil canyon. Dinner is served each evening at the B&B.

**Day 3 Stapavik to Njardvik (11km)** Today you will hike along Selfljot river to the seashore. From Stapavik it is an easy hike along Gonguskord pass, which was the main route between Borgarfjordur and Fliotsdalsherad valley for 1000 years.

**Day 4 Breidavik (15km)** Start with an easy hike over moors and gravelly ground before reaching Breidavik. The Rhyolite Mountains along the way display an incredible range of pastel colours. After a short stop you will hike up to Gagneidid ridge for fabulous views over the area.

**Day 5 Borgarfjordur Valley (12km)** Begin the day exploring Breidavik's old turf house, concert hall and local fish factory. You will hike on unmarked sheep trails in the valley of Borgarfjordur, up to 'the Dark Valley' and 'Glacier Valley' under the Door Mountains. Walk through the elf community of Lobbuhraun and their home in Dimmidalur valley.

**Day 6 Stourd (16km)** Today is the most challenging walk due to the gravelly terrain and scree. The day's hike starts by going up and crossing Geldingafjall. Excellent views perhaps even as far as Vatnajokull glacier and Mt. Snæfell. Decend to Stourd, where calm turquoise-coloured basins of icy water lie hidden among the huge boulders then either opt for the hike along to Dyrfjoll or down the valley below Rjupnafell peak.

**Day 7 Myvatn (5 hrs drive & 4 hr hike)** A drive towards Myvatn area with sightseeing along the way including the powerfull Dettifoss waterfall and a hike in the smoking lava of Leirhnjukur. Continue onwards to the Hverir area with bubbling mud and smoking steam then on to Myvatn Lake and the geothermal nature bath. You will return to Egilsstadir for your evening flight back to Reykjavik and final night at the Plaza hotel.

**Day 8 Reykjavik – UK** Time for last minute sightseeing or a relaxing soak in the Blue Lagoon before your return flight to the UK.

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Return scheduled flights from a choice of regional airports
- Return internal flights from Reykjavik to Egilsstadir
- Airport/Hotel & local transfers
- 7 nights hotel/guesthouse accommodation as per itinerary
- Lodging in twin room(s) with private WC/shower
- Breakfasts throughout. 6 x lunches. 5 x dinners
- Experienced guides on all hikes



## Horse Trailing and Trekking

Price from **£1725**pp

June – September

Follow in the footsteps of Icelandic Vikings and travel on horseback, opening up the opportunity to travel through terrain not normally accessed by walking or driving. The horses are renowned for their patience and sweet nature and are therefore an excellent choice for novices and experienced equestrians alike. The following itinerary is just one of a choice of small group tours for those with a basic knowledge of horsemanship. Other tours will appeal to more proficient riders.

### YOUR TOUR

**Day 1 UK to Keflavik** Scheduled flight from a number of UK airports to Keflavik, where you will take the airport shuttle to the Plaza Hotel in Reykjavik, in the heart of town.

**Day 2 Harnarfjord** Following a hearty breakfast you will be driven to the Ishestar Horse Riding Centre, just 9km from the centre of Reykjavik. The Centre will provide you with warm jackets, rainwear, boots and helmets after which you will meet your first horse and will be given instruction on the five different “gaits” (speeds) the horse has mastered. Your 20 km tour starts with a leisurely ride along the Thjorsa River so that you and your horse can get to know each other. Accommodation for two nights is at Fosses Farm, in an area of gentle hills with a dramatic mountain backdrop. Lunch and dinner are included.

**Day 3 Hvitardalur** Prepare your packed lunch from the plentiful breakfast buffet. Today's tour of 30 km is a trail across lush agricultural country with a picnic lunch at the corral where sheep are rounded up each autumn. The horses stay behind at the farm and you drive back to Fossnes with time to relax in the outdoor hot tub before a hearty dinner.

**Day 4 Gullfoss** Your 25 km trek will take you through a deep canyon and soaring mountains to the Gullfoss waterfall and to the Geyser hot spring area. Two nights at Kjoastadir Farm in twin rooms with en-suite facilities.

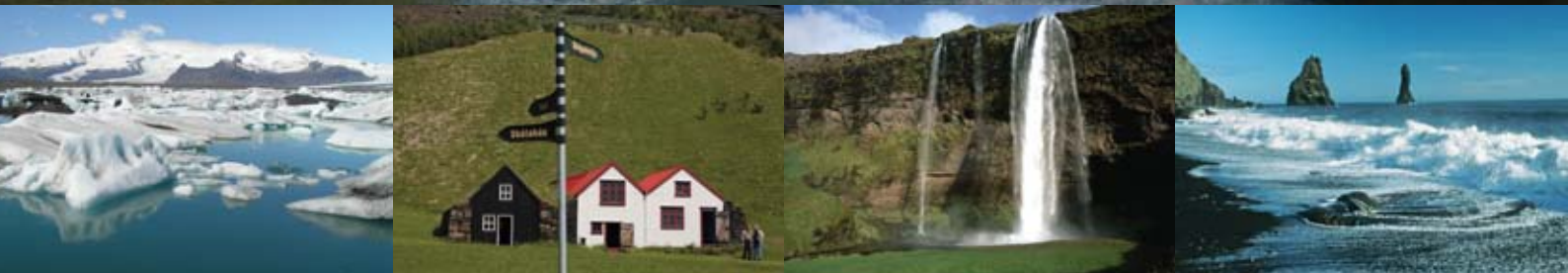
**Day 5 Geysir** The 20 km trail takes you through birch forests up into the richness of the wild mountain flowers, with views to match. You do have the option to take a snowmobile drive on Langjokull Glacier (supplement applies).

**Day 6 Reykjavik** After breakfast a transfer will take you back to Reykjavik, where you will check into the Reykjavik Hotel and have the remainder of the day and evening at your leisure or for further optional excursions. We would be happy to suggest tours for you to contrast with the previous 4 days riding.

**Day 7 UK** Breakfast at leisure and enjoy some time before your return airport shuttle takes you to Keflavik for your return flight home. Do ask if you wish to stop off at the Blue Lagoon on the way (supplement applies).

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Return scheduled flights from a choice of Regional airports
- Airport/Hotel shuttle and local transfers
- 6 nights accommodation in hotel/B&B accommodation as per itinerary
- Breakfasts throughout. 4 x lunches. 4 x dinners
- Rainwear, saddle bag & riding helmet during horse trek



## Escorted Tours

One of the benefits of an escorted tour is letting someone else handle the day to day arrangements whilst you concentrate solely on enjoying the moment. The hallmarks of a good escorted tour includes travelling with like-minded people and knowledgeable guides who will help you make the most of your experience. Visit places that you would not normally have access to as well as participate in activities you may not have normally considered.

### THE BEST OF SOUTH ICELAND

This is an escorted tour for people that don't do escorted touring. It cleverly combines convenience with a level of independence. It offers a balance between excursions and optional extra's so you can choose if you wish to have more free time or be more independent of the group. Dining is also flexible.

**Day 1 UK – Keflavik** Scheduled flight from UK to Keflavik. Transfer to and overnight at the Hotel Plaza, Reykjavik for 1 night.

**Day 2 South Shore** Meet your fellow travellers for today's highlights, which include the famous Eyjafjallajokull volcano, Skogafoss waterfall and the narrow Seljalandsfoss waterfall, which you can walk behind. There is an optional glacier walk or visit Skogar village with the guide. Hella Hotel is your base for the next 5 nights. Dinner is at your choice of local restaurants.

**Day 3 Pjorsardalur** Today you will drive alongside one of Iceland's most active volcanoes, Mt Hekla. You will also visit Hjalparfoss waterfall, the Viking farm ruins at Stong and enjoy a leisurely hike to Gjain, a green oasis in an otherwise rocky, barren moon landscape. Dine at leisure.

**Day 4 Vatnajokull National Park or At Leisure** Today is free or you can join an optional day tour to the southern part of the Vatnajokull National Park, home of Europe's largest glacier and the captivating Jokulsarlon glacier lagoon.

**Day 5 Westman Islands** Take a short ferry ride to the Westman Islands, where the 1973 eruption almost destroyed the island and town of Heimaey. There is a coach and walking tour, which will allow you to explore bird cliffs,

walk up the volcano crater and visit "Pompeii of the North", a volcanic excavation project.

**Day 6 Golden Circle** Today visit three of Iceland's most iconic images: Gullfoss waterfall, Geysir hot springs and Thingvellir National Park.

**Day 7 Reykjanes Peninsula** Your return to Reykjavik is via Reykjanes Peninsula with its diverse geological features including the hot springs of Krysuvik, mountains, lava fields, and moon landscapes. You will also see amazing bird cliffs and travel through colourful fishing villages before concluding the tour back in Reykjavik with a late afternoon city tour. Overnight at the Hotel Plaza.

**Day 8 UK** Depending on your flight home you may have time for some last minute shopping or stop off at the Blue Lagoon before transfer and your flight home to the UK.

Price from **£1496**pp

Saturdays, June – August

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Return flights from a choice of regional airports
- Return airport/hotel transfers
- 7 nights hotel accommodation as per itinerary
- Lodging in twin room(s) with private WC/shower
- Breakfasts throughout
- Excursions as described with optional excursions at a supplement.




 Price from **£2520**pp

June – August

## ICELAND'S WEST SIDE STORY

This escorted tour takes you off the beaten track in west and northwest Iceland. Journey along amazing coastlines and fjords, cross the central highlands and discover myths and legends of Iceland's stirring history.

**Day 1 UK to Reykjavik** Fly to Reykjavik and transfer to your hotel for a night in the capital before meeting your fellow travellers.

**Day 2-3 National Park & Glacier** Highlights include Thingvellir National Park and Monster truck glacier excursion then warm up at Deildartunguhver, Europe's most powerful hot spring. Overnights in Borganes and Hellnar.

**Day 4-5 Bird watching** These days involve charming fishing villages, bird watching and fermented shark tasting as well as a visit to the reconstructed and living Viking museum at Haukadalur, home of Eirik the Red. Stay in a lodge located in an area that can document its existence back to the 9th and 10th century. Two nights at the Vogur Country Lodge, West Iceland.



**Day 6-8 Seals and Sagas** A seal-watching cruise and exploration of the Vatnsnes and Trollaskagi peninsula's where legend has it giant trolls reside. Deserted fjord valleys', turf farms, churches and one of the oldest trading ports in Iceland pepper these days interspersed with the Saga tales and myths. Three nights in Saudarkrokur.

**Day 9-10 Highlands** Travel through the interior highlands and experience one of Europe's last wildernesses. This region is shrouded in mystery. End the tour with some of the more iconic images of Iceland with Gullfoss and Strokkur. A special visit to learn of the Icelandic horse is followed by a relaxing visit to the Blue Lagoon before returning to your accommodation for a final night in Reykjavik. Overnights in Hveragerdi and Reykjavik.

**Day 11** Today you should have time for a leisurely breakfast before the transfer back to Keflavik airport and your flight home.

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Return scheduled flights from a choice of regional airports
- 10 nights accommodation in en-suite twin accommodation
- 1 night in twin accommodation with shared facilities
- Breakfasts throughout, 1 x lunch, 5 x dinner
- Transfers and excursions throughout - please see our website for more details


 Price from **£3385**pp

September

## A CULINARY TOUR OF ICELAND

Travel the breadth of Iceland sampling delicious and authentic Icelandic dishes combined with spectacular sightseeing and scenery. As well as visiting speciality farms, café's and restaurants you will be staying in a variety of accommodation whose emphasis is always on providing a gastronomic feast of locally sourced and fresh ingredients including seafoods, meat dishes, and many other delicacies.

**Day 1-2 UK – South Iceland** Arrive at Keflavik and transfer to Hotel Centrum for one night. Meet up with your guide and fellow travellers the following day when you will travel along the dramatic south coast of Iceland, stopping at a number of specialist farms before the first stop and a home cooked game meal.

**Day 3 Hofn** Heading east towards Vatnajokull, Europe's largest glacier and Skaftafell National Park where a short walk to the Svartifoss waterfall and a visit to Jokulsarlon Glacier Lagoon will summon up an appetite for a lunch of Arctic Char and traditional Icelandic pancakes. Dinner at a local langoustine restaurant accompanied by beer brewed from 1000 year old ice.

**Day 4 East Coast** The east coast of Iceland offers yet another landscape and locals make the most of an abundance of reindeer, wild mushrooms and berries.

**Day 5 Skalanes** Moving on to Seydijordur where you catch & eat your lunch. The afternoon is spent enjoying these peaceful surroundings before helping the chef gather and prepare this evening's meal, which is subsequently smoked in a hole in the ground.

**Day 6 Myvatn** Iceland's highest farm north of Vatnajokull glacier has a surprising speciality. After the highlights in the vicinity of Lake Myvatn. Dinner is served in a cowshed café.

**Day 7 Laugarvatn** A spectacular drive via the barren mountain track Sprengisandur, you'll relax in the geothermal steam baths by Lake Laugarvatn before dinner that evening.

**Day 8 Borgarfjordur** Tour the highlights of the Golden Circle with added gourmet stops along the way.

**Day 9 Reykjavik** The Snaefellsnes peninsula is rich in sea and birdlife which you will see from your boat and taste with a special Viking Sushi dish. Learn about and taste the Greenland shark washed down with a glass of Brennivin before returning to Reykjavik and a farewell dinner at one of Iceland's top restaurants Fiskfelagid.

**Day 10 UK** Time for some last minute purchases before your transfer back to the airport and your flight home.

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Return scheduled flights from a choice of regional airports
- 9 nights accommodation in en-suite twin accommodation
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner (except on first night)
- Transfers and excursions throughout - please see our website for more details.

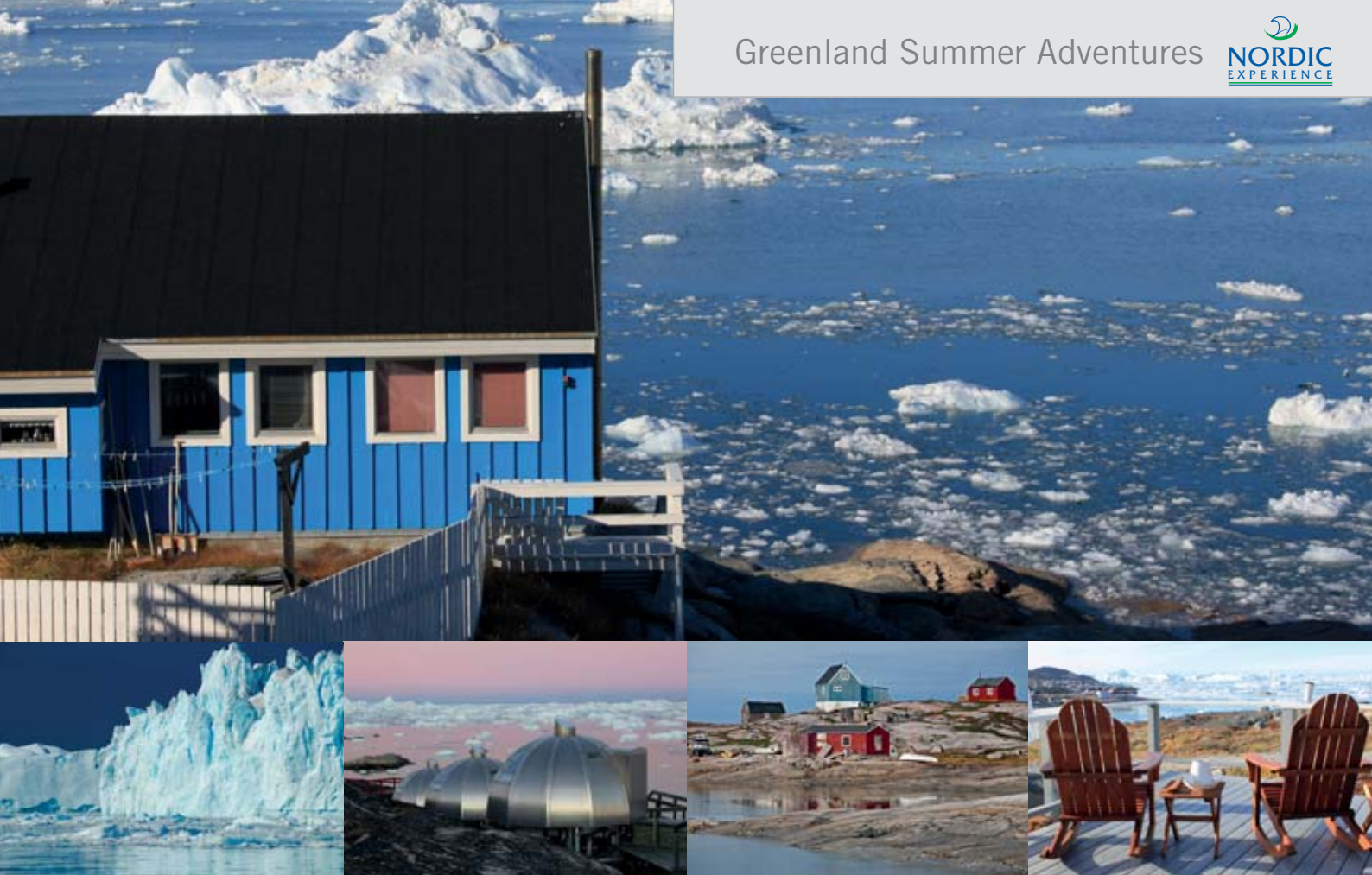


## Our Greenland Experiences

A trip to Greenland is always going to be unlike any other. A population of fewer than 57,000 live on a land mass 80% covered in ice and almost 10 times the size of Great Britain. The coastal fringe is indented with glacial valleys, fjords with calving glaciers at their edge and icebergs drifting leisurely out to sea. Greenland is more than just ice. It is teeming with flora and fauna including whales, seals and walrus as well as the mighty musk ox and white-tailed eagles.

Greenland's fleeting summer runs from June to August but the shoulder months of May and September are no less dramatic. Wildlife is prolific with white-tailed Eagles, Reindeer, Whales, Seals, Musk Oxen and Arctic Foxes. Flora bursts into life carpeting the ground with a riot of colour. The midnight sun casts shadows across colossal icebergs, soaring mountains and vibrantly coloured settlements. There are no roads linking any of the towns in Greenland so any travel is by sea or air. This is reflected in our experiences which will give you a true insight into the lives of the people who have lived and survived in this remarkable landscape.





## Ilulissat – The Town of Icebergs

Price from **£2495**pp

May – Mid September

Located on the west coast of Greenland and 250 km north of the Arctic Circle, Ilulissat is perched on the edge of the UNESCO World Heritage site of Ilulissat Icefjord. Colossal icebergs ebb and flow creating a majestic icescape that is forever changing. View this breathtaking environment from the sea or the sky, witness the power of a calving glacier, gain an insight into the lives of the Greenlandic people, bear witness to their unique culture and learn of the history that dates back hundreds of years.

### YOUR TOUR

**Day 1 UK – Keflavik** Fly to Keflavik. Transfer to & overnight at Hotel Reykjavik Natura. The evening is free for you to enjoy the sights.

**Day 2 Reykjavik – Ilulissat** Self-transfer to the Reykjavik domestic airport for your flight to Ilulissat. You will be met by your local guide and taken to the Hotel Arctic. Later, you will have a guided walk around the town. This is followed by a welcome dinner in the gourmet restaurant 'Ulu', which serves a gastronomic delight of finest Greenlandic cuisine.

**Day 3-5 Ilulissat** Day at leisure for your chosen excursions. Experience icebergs at close range on a midnight cruise or take a full day trip to the Eqip Glacier. Visit ancient and isolated settlements. Meet the local population (human and canine). Whale watching, helicopter tours and fishing trips take place in a truly remarkable and unique setting.

**Day 6-7 Ilulissat – UK** Fly back to the UK via an overnight stop in Reykjavik.

### OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

**The Icebergs of Sermermiut** Take a leisurely walk along the UNESCO designated Ilulissat Icefjord to Sermermiut, where traces of old Eskimo cultures can be seen. Admire the carpet of wildflowers, berries and heather that surround the boardwalk whilst the ever present icebergs provide the backdrop. 3 hrs. Refreshments included. **£43 pp**

**Midnight Cruise to the Ice Fjord** Enjoy the captivating sight of the midnight sun reflecting on the giant icebergs as you cruise between these towering frozen monoliths. Enjoy a Martini on the 'real rocks'. Outside the midnight sun season (22 May – 24 Jul) this excursion operates as an evening cruise, where the beautiful sunset reflecting across the icebergs is no less spectacular. 3 hrs. **£86 pp**

**Eqip – The Calving Glacier** A cruise deep into the fjord to the imposing Eqip Glacier. As icebergs lazily pass by you may even spot some whales. Once you arrive at the 5km wide glacier face you will hear the thunderclaps of the constantly moving glacier and even witness chunks of ice tumbling down into the turquoise waters below. The tour concludes with a visit to a former trading station, where you will enjoy a delicious 2-course lunch. 8 hrs. **£245 pp**

**Rodebay Hunter's Settlement** Journey by boat to the small settlement of Rodebay (pop. 40). Take a guided walk through the village before lunch at the old trading station. 6 hrs. **£160 pp**

**Heli Sightseeing** Fly over mountains, lakes and running streams as well as the Icefjord for a bird's eye view of the stranded icebergs. 20 mins flying time. **£175 pp**

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Return scheduled flights from a choice of regional airports to Reykjavik
- Return scheduled flights from Reykjavik to Ilulissat
- 6 nights hotel accommodation in twin room(s) with private WC/shower
- Airport to hotel return transfers at Keflavik and in Ilulissat
- Breakfasts throughout and 2 dinners at the Hotel Arctic
- Services of Destination Guide in Greenland



## Greenland from the Sea

Price from **£4155**pp

July – August

There are no roads linking any of the towns and settlements in Greenland so travelling by boat is central to the Greenlandic way of life. The coastal passenger ship, 'Sarfaq Ittuk', sails along the west coast between Ilulissat in the North and Qaqortoq in the green and fertile South, connecting these isolated communities, reuniting families and delivering essential goods. This is a slice of authentic Greenland, up close and personal, showcasing the variety that this vast land has to offer.

### YOUR TOUR

**Day 1 UK – Reykjavik** Scheduled flight to Reykjavik, transfer and overnight at Hotel Reykjavik Natura.

**Day 2 Reykjavik – Ilulissat** Fly into Ilulissat, the 'Town of Icebergs' where you will transfer to Hotel Arctic, your base for the next 3 nights. Following check-in you will take a guided city walk followed by a welcome dinner and briefing on your programme for the week.

**Day 3-4 Ilulissat** These days are free for optional excursions. See p21 or our website for full details of what you can experience in this exceptional location.

**Day 5 MV Sarfaq Ittuk** Late afternoon board the MV Sarfaq Ittuk. Life on board is relaxed. Whilst sailing towards the archipelago you can sit on deck, in the viewing lounge or at Cafe Sarfaq, whilst keeping an eye out for sightings of bowhead and humpback whales. The boat stops at Aasiaat (pop. 3000), whose old town is home to a local museum as well as a community hall decorated with paintings by world-renowned Danish painter, Per Kirkeby.

**Day 6 At Sea Sisimiut & Maniitsoq** The journey continues southwards in open water and through narrow straits. You will find it hard to drag yourself away from the unfolding landscape. Your onboard guide will give lectures about different aspects of Greenland, and also conduct walking tours of today's ports of call, which are Sisimiut, known for its colourful wooden houses, whilst further south is Maniitsoq, where Alpine peaks rise 2km straight out of the sea and which are home to abundant birdlife.

**Day 7 At Sea** An early arrival in Nuuk, the capital city. You can choose to take a guided bus tour of the town or wander at your leisure. The National Museum of Greenland, home to the Qilakitsoq Mummies, which date back to 1460. Whilst in port, the old harbour area is also worth a visit before sailing onwards to Qeqertarsuaq and its population of 240 people.

**Day 8 At Sea** Today the ship reaches southern Greenland, which is known for its fertile and mild climate. Depending on the season the flowers will be blooming, and you will easily understand why the Vikings chose to settle down in this beautiful area.

Today's seaport visits include Paamiut and a short stay in Narsaq, before arriving to Qaqortoq, at which point you will leave the ship and check into a local hotel for the night.

**Day 9 Reykjavik** Following a short city tour of Qaqortoq, transfer via boat through Eric's Fjord to Narsarsuaq for your flight to Reykjavik Domestic airport and overnight at the Hotel Reykjavik Natura.

**Day 10 UK** Time to squeeze in some last minute shopping or sightseeing before transferring to Keflavik for your return flight home.

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Flights from London to Ilulissat and Narsarsuaq to London (via Reykjavik)
- 5 x breakfasts and 2 x dinners
- Accommodation in twin bedded room(s)/cabins with private WC/Shower
- Outside cabin on-board MV Sarfaq Ittuk and services of onboard guide
- Airport/Hotel transfers at Keflavik, Ilulissat and Narsarsuaq.



## Our Spitsbergen Experiences

Follow in the footsteps of many an intrepid Arctic Circle explorer when you visit this extraordinary archipelago renowned for Polar Bears and stunning glacial landscapes. The sun never sets from April to August offering round the clock daylight experiences that will delight wildlife enthusiasts, nature lovers and those with a spirit of adventure.

Spitsbergen is the largest of Svalbard's islands and whose capital, Longyearbyen, is the most northerly point in the world served by scheduled flights.

Longyearbyen, which was once a mining town, provides a comfortable base for trips out into the wilderness. It boasts several hotels and museums whilst the population of 2000 also enjoy the unique duty free status of the islands with several hospitable bars. Also inhabited are the Russian mining town of Barentsburg and Ny Ålesund, whose proximity to the Pole has made it the departure point for many North Pole Expeditions.

Originally exploited by hunters and miners for the abundance of natural resources, National Parks and Nature Reserves now protect this largely untouched wilderness. The stunning scenery is a photographer's paradise, where the majestic scenery makes for dramatic backdrops and landscapes.

For botanists Spitsbergen offers some 200 species of flora whilst ornithologists can revel in some of the world's most spectacular birdlife including breeding colonies of Atlantic Puffin, Little Auk, Brunnich's Guillemots, Grey Phalarope (resplendent in their summer plumage), Ivory and Sabine's Gulls, Long-tailed Skua and King Elder.

If you take one of our expedition cruises partway round the archipelago, the arctic mammals are the stars of the show. This is Polar Bear country and you will have a good chance of seeing females with their cubs searching for food alongside walrus hauled out on sand banks and grazing Svalbard reindeer. Other highlights include spotting Beluga and Bowhead whales in the water as well as the elusive Arctic fox on land.





## Adventures in Spitsbergen

Price from **£1195**pp

May – August

Experience the outdoor thrills of Spitsbergen. Take a zodiac cruise to the Bird Mountain, hike up a glacier, cruise down the fjord to Barentsburg, kayak on Adventurefjorden or trek over to Kap Linne from Longyearbyen, the jumping off point for some of the 19th century Arctic explorers. The fact that the streets have no names and it is customary to check your gun in at the door (along with your shoes) just adds to the frontier feel of the world's northernmost city.

### YOUR TOUR

#### LONGYEARBYEN

**Day 1 UK – Oslo** Fly to Oslo and overnight at the Comfort Hotel Runway, Gardermoen Airport, Oslo.

**Day 2 Oslo – Spitsbergen** Fly onwards from Oslo to Longyearbyen. Self transfer to the Trappers Lodge for 4 nights. Built with reclaimed driftwood in a traditional rustic trapper's style and furnished with arctic bric-a-brac, the Trappers Lodge is a warm and welcoming retreat in this remote destination.

**Day 3 – 5 Longyearbyen** Choice of optional excursions.

**Day 6 Spitsbergen – UK** Self transfer to Longyearbyen airport for your return flight back to the UK (via Oslo).

### PRE-BOOKABLE EXCURSIONS

#### BOAT TRIP TO BARENTSBURG AND ESMARK GLACIER

Sail past the calving glacier of Esmark. Guided tour of the Russian mining town of Barentsburg. Photo safari along the teeming bird cliffs. Lunch on board. 9-10 hrs. Mon, Wed, Fri & Sat at 08.30 hrs. **£195 pp**

#### BOAT TRIP TO PYRAMIDEN AND THE NORDENSKIOLD GLACIER

A close-up view of the cathedral looking Tempelfjellet and the Nordenskiold glacier. Visit the abandoned Russian mining town of Pyramiden. Lunch on board. 9-10 hrs. Tue, Thu & Sun at 08.30. **£195 pp**

#### TREKKING TO TROLLSTEINEN VIA LARSBREEN

A combined hiking and glacier walk. Lunch below Trollsteinen at 849m above sea level. Return via the Longyear glacier. Uneven and steep in places and walking on rugged surface is required. Mountain boots essential. 6 hrs. Tue, Thu & Sat at 14.00 **£88 pp**

**ISFJORD SAFARI TO FUGLEFJELLA AND HJORTHAMN** In an open Zodiac the tour heads for Fuglefjellet (the Bird Mountain) where thousands of nesting sea birds can be seen in June and July. 3 hrs. Mon, Wed, Fri, Sun at 09.00 Sat & Sun at 16.00 **£100 pp**

**KAYAK TRIP TO HJORTHAMN** An exciting paddle in sturdy kayaks on Adventfjorden. 7 hrs. Mon, Wed, Fri & Sat at 09.00. **£120 pp**

**DOG SLEDDING ON WHEELS** Eager polar dogs pull specially-made wheeled sleds. You get to mush as well as enjoy close-up views of the flowers and the fauna of Advent Valley. 3 hrs. Daily June – November at 09.15/15.00 **£115 pp**

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Return scheduled flight(s) from Heathrow to Longyearbyen via Oslo
- 1 nights hotel accommodation at Comfort Hotel Runway, Gardermoen Airport, Oslo
- 4 nights hotel accommodation at Trappers Lodge
- Lodging in twin room(s) with private WC/shower
- Breakfasts throughout



## Spitsbergen Expedition Cruises

Price from **£5185**pp

July – August

These expedition cruises, specifically designed for small groups, allow you to visit the remotest destinations normally only accessed by boat. Experience spectacular scenery, fascinating flora and fauna including polar bears, walrus and a myriad of seabirds. Expert guides are intent on delivering an active shore programme as well as conducting informative and educational on-board lectures.

### YOUR EXPEDITION CRUISE

**Day 1 Oslo** Scheduled flight to Oslo. Overnight at Comfort Hotel Runway, Gardermoen Airport, Oslo.

**Day 2 Oslo – Longyearbyen** Early morning flight from Oslo to Longyearbyen. Opportunity to stroll around this former mining town before transferring to your ship for an early evening departure out of Isfjord.

**Day 3** Zodiac along the sculpted front of the 14th of July Glacier. Brännich's Guillemots nest, Arctic Foxes patrol and Bearded Seals cruise the fjord. Later, sail to Ny Ålesund, the launching point for many an expedition to the North Pole. Barnacle and Pink-footed Geese as well as Arctic Terns reside here.

**Day 4** Sail to the mouth of Leifdefjorden and go ashore on the tundra island of Andøya. Later, sail alongside the impressive Monaco glacier, a favourite feeding spot for thousands of Kittiwakes whilst occasional Polar Bear are spotted.

**Day 5 & 6** The northernmost landing is at Phippsøya, located in the Seven Islands north of Nordaustlandet. At 81° north, just 540 miles from the geographic North Pole, Polar Bear inhabit this region, along with Walrus and Ivory Gull. Savour the atmosphere, surrounded by pack ice, and absorb the spectacular surroundings.

**Day 7** Hinlopen Strait is home to Seal, Polar Bear, and Ivory Gull. Navigate the ice floes of Lomfjordshalvøya in zodiacs. Land at Augustabukta. Explore the polar desert of Nordaustlandet, next to the world's third largest ice cap. Walk along coastline covered in smooth rocks, sculpted over thousands of years whilst possibly encountering Walrus.

**Day 8** Visit an old trapper's hut on Barentsoya, and walk across the tundra in search of reindeer. Later, land on a beach littered with whale bones as well as tree trunks, which have drifted here from Siberia. Climb to the rim of a narrow

gully where, during nesting season, the base of the cliffs is patrolled by Arctic Fox and Polar Bear.

**Day 9** Cruise the spectacular Hornsund, surrounded by towering mountain peaks. There are 14 magnificent glaciers in the area and very good chances of encounters with seals and Polar Bear.

**Day 10** At Ahlstrandhalvøya there remains piles of Beluga skeletons, a legacy of earlier exploitation. Fortunately, they can still be seen locally and there is a good chance of spotting a pod.

**Day 11** Return to Longyearbyen and disembark for the transfer to the airport and the flight home (via Oslo).

### YOUR SHIPS

Both the 'Ortelius' and the 'Plancius' offer simple but comfortable cabins (all outside facing and en-suite) and carry a maximum of 116 passengers. Small enough to allow a degree of flexibility for the vessels to change course or have zodiacs ready in no time to seize the moment amongst the ice-floes and their wildlife.

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Return flights from Heathrow to Longyearbyen via Oslo
- 1 night hotel accommodation at Comfort Hotel Runway, Gardermoen Airport, Oslo
- 9 nights onboard ship in twin porthole cabin
- All meals on board ship including daytime snacks, coffee and tea
- All shore excursions and activities by Zodiac throughout expedition cruise
- Programme of lectures by naturalists and leadership by experienced expedition staff



Price from **£3955**pp

July 2015

## A Viking Voyage

This educational voyage initially follows in the wake of the Vikings who, 800 years ago, sailed north from Iceland arriving at the 'cold edge' of Svalbard. The route passes by Jan Mayen, one of the most isolated islands in the world, offering a rare opportunity to see this volcanic outpost, where a tiny population man a weather station. It is the weather that forms the theme of this inaugural voyage, with experts conducting lectures on climate related topics as you also navigate the west coast of Spitsbergen.

### YOUR TOUR

**Day 1 UK – Reykjavik** Fly to Keflavik Airport and transfer to and check in to the Plaza Hotel, Reykjavik

**Day 2 Reykjavik** Morning at leisure before afternoon embarkation. Our vessel, MS Fram, is designed for sailing in Polar waters. Carrying up to 275 passengers it is small enough to bring you closer to nature but large enough to have the comfort of a number of lounges, a gym and even jacuzzis on deck.

**Day 3 Isafjordur** First stop is the capital of the Westfjords. Isafjordur has a long history of trading and is home to Iceland's oldest dwelling. Take a stroll around the town and admire the diverse architecture.

**Day 4 At sea** As you travel across the open ocean, the on-board team of experts will conduct lectures where climate related themes will prevail.

**Day 5 Jan Mayen** Jan Mayen is dominated by the spectacular and still active 2277m volcano, Beerenberg. There are no natural harbours and alighting here is always determined by weather conditions. MS Fram and the expedition team will do their best to land on the shores of this outpost.

**Day 6 At sea** Reflect on yesterday's experiences and to prepare for Spitsbergen. On board you will learn why Spitsbergen is such a symbol for climate change and why the area is considered a global thermometer.

**Day 7 Ny-Ålesund** is one of the northernmost year-round communities and the starting point for many historical attempts to reach the North Pole. It is also the location for the most sophisticated marine laboratory in the world at this latitude.

**Day 8 North West Spitsbergen National Park** Dependent on ice conditions MS Fram will attempt to cross the 80th parallel, something which would have been inconceivable a couple of decades ago. Keep your eyes open for Walrus, Whales and Polar Bears.

**Day 9 Isfjorden** is the largest fjord system in Spitsbergen, almost slicing the island in half. Here you can observe the giant bird cliffs. After finding a suitable bay the last expedition landing will take place followed by a special party, the 'Polar Barbeque', on the deck of MS Fram.

**Day 10 Longyearbyen** The capital of Svalbard has around 2000 inhabitants and is very much an Arctic outpost. Even so, it has modern amenities such as a hospital, school, university and power plant. The University Centre is focused on natural sciences conducting several prestige projects. Self-transfer to Trappers Lodge for 2 nights.

**Day 11 Longyearbyen** Day at leisure to further explore and participate in a number of additional excursions - see page 22.

**Day 12 UK** Enjoy your final morning in this absorbing region before your return flight to the UK (via Oslo).

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 9 nights accommodation on board MS Fram on a full board basis
- Inside twin bedded en-suite cabin
- 1 nights accommodation in Reykjavik at the Plaza Hotel including breakfast
- Keflavik Airport/Hotel shuttle transfer
- All lectures and excursions as described
- Flights are additional and schedule may determine additional hotel accommodation pre/post expedition cruise





## Our Norwegian Experiences

Welcome to an almost mystical land of shimmering fjords and towering mountains cloaked in sweeping pine and spruce forests that stretch all the way northwards to Lapland in the Arctic Circle. Encounter remote lands where the Sami people still live a life in a world apart. In spring, orchards blossom in the country's southern fertile valleys giving way in summer to melt water cascading in gossamer threads down vertiginous mountain sides.

Along the rugged coastline, Hurtigruten's passenger carrying ships sail each and everyday, stopping to deliver post and packets at 32 different ports between the Hanseatic town of Bergen in the south and Kirkenes on the Russian border. A meandering network of roads crisscross the smooth rock topped mountains and plunge down valleys. Tranquil lakes glisten green and blue in the sunlight. Across the great mountain range between Oslo, the 'Viking Capital', and Bergen, the 'Gateway to the Fjords', the Bergensbanen train cruises along its tracks providing spectacular views of a mountain canopy stretching as far as the eye can see.





## Across the Roof of Norway with Mountain & Fjord add-ons

The Bergensbanen is one of the great rail journeys of the world: Europe's highest railway line climbs up to 4000 feet across the barren, snow flecked Hardangervidda mountain plateau before descending through lush valleys to the coast. You can enjoy it in a single day, stop off in the mountains or take the Flåm mountain spur down to the Sognefjord. For many years this has been our most popular tour to Norway.

Our 5,6 & 7-day variations allow you to enjoy a stay in a magical fjord-side retreat. In addition, all our itineraries can be extended by a day or more in any given location.

### OSLO

Oslo has undergone a transformation, which started with the opening of the new Opera House and regeneration of the now cosmopolitan waterfront. Still paying homage to its maritime roots the city blends old with new whilst blending with the surrounding fjord, hills and forest. Don't miss the Viking ship Museum or the Vigeland Sculpture Park.

### BALESTRAND

Nestling beside an emerald green fjord, the village of Balestrand is something of a Norwegian icon with its backdrop of snow-capped mountains and sweeping vistas. Take one of the numerous mountain walks and a day trip to the Fjaerland Glacier is highly recommended.

### FLÅM

Situated in the deepest part of the Aurlandsfjord and surrounded by steep mountainsides, cascading waterfalls and deep valleys, Flåm is a perfect place to pause and soak up the atmosphere of this idyllic location. A visit to Steigstein viewpoint is a must.

### BERGEN

Situated in the heart of Fjord Norway, this charming Hanseatic harbour town nestles in the embrace of its seven mountains and a lattice of fjords. Bryggen, the medieval quayside, and Troidhaugen, the home of Edvard Grieg, are probably the best known attractions. The view from the top of Mount Fløyen on a clear day is breathtaking.

Price STANDARD **£869**pp  
Price SUPERIOR **£1035**pp

## ACROSS THE ROOF OF NORWAY – BERGENSBANEN

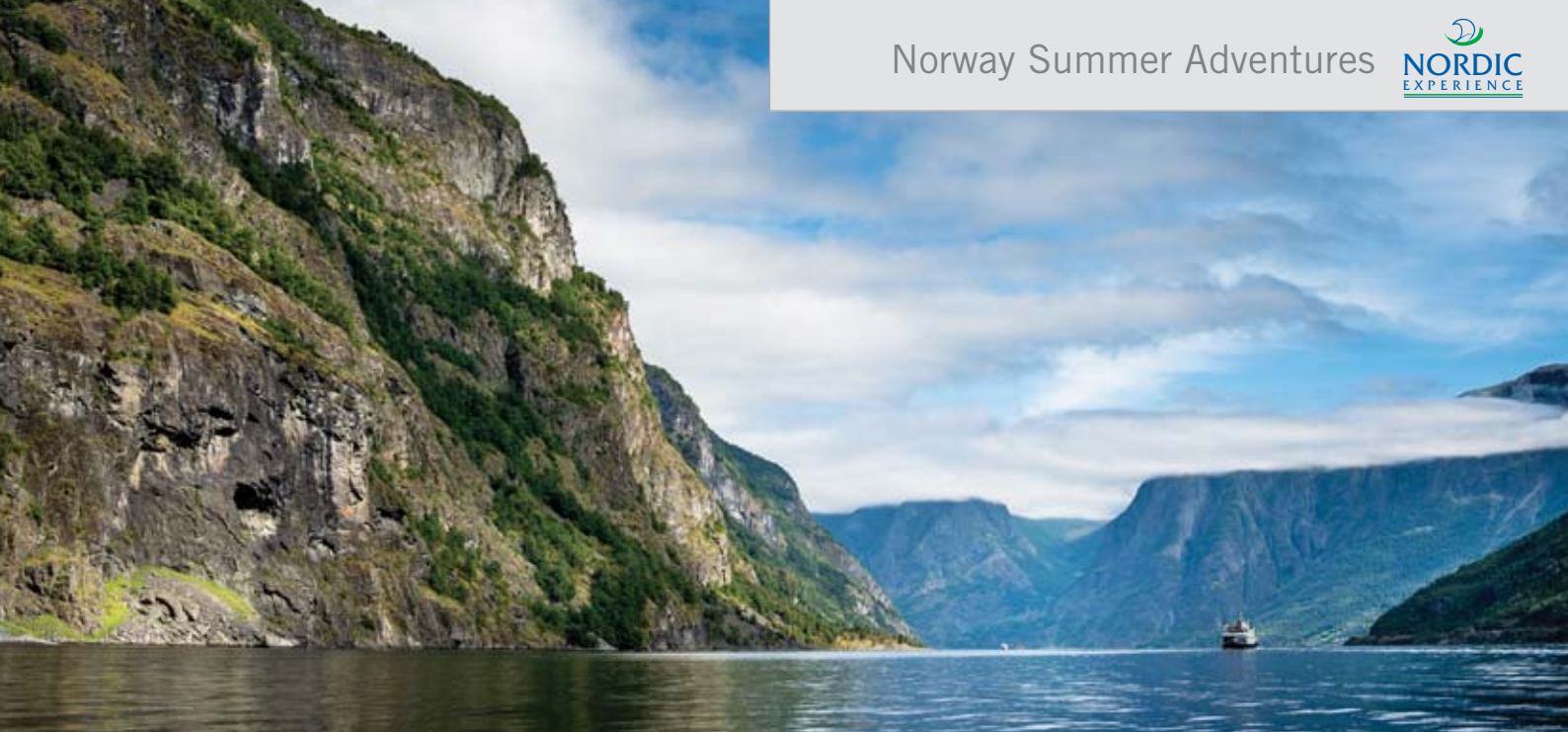
**Day 1 UK – Oslo** Scheduled flight to Oslo for 2 nights at the Clarion Collection Hotel Bastion (standard) or The Thief (superior).

**Day 2 Oslo** All day to enjoy the many attractions this capital has to offer. Take a guided city tour, explore the many museums, shop till you drop, or simply wander around at your leisure.

**Day 3 Bergensbanen** Take the train 'Across the Roof of Norway' to Myrdal for the steep descent along the 20 km mountain railway to Flåm. Continue by ferry along the Aurland and Naerøy fjords to Gudvangen; bus to Stalheim for a view over the mountains before travelling onwards to Voss to pick up the Bergensbanen down to Bergen. Two nights at the Grand Hotel Terminus (standard) or Clarion Collection Hotel Havnekontoret (superior).

**Day 4 Bergen** The 'Gateway to the Fjords' is filled with attractions. Take the funicular up Mount Fløyen, stroll around The UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site of Bryggen, choose your lunch at the fish market, take a fast ferry into the fjords or visit the home of Edvard Grieg.

**Day 5 Bergen – UK** Morning at leisure before self transfer to Flesland airport for return flight to UK.



Price STANDARD **£1020**pp  
Price SUPERIOR **£1235**pp

May – September

Price STANDARD **£1099**pp  
Price SUPERIOR **£1410**pp

June – August

## ACROSS THE ROOF OF NORWAY – FLÅM

**Day 1 UK – Oslo** Scheduled flight to Oslo for 2 nights at the Clarion Collection Hotel Bastion (standard) or The Thief (superior).

**Day 2 Oslo** Explore the capital. Stroll along the regenerated waterfront. Walk on the roof of the architecturally acclaimed Opera House. Delve into Arctic Polar expedition history with a visit to the Fram Polar Ship museum or visit the Norwegian Folk Museum.

**Day 3 Flåm** Depart on the famous Oslo – Bergen railway as far as Flåm, where you break your journey for an overnight stay in this charming village. Take a leisurely walk through the hamlet, browse the Flåmsbana Museum and replenish your batteries with some fresh mountain air. A spectacular panorama can be experienced from the Steigstein viewpoint. Overnight at Flåmsbrygga Hotel (standard) or the Freitheim Hotel (superior).

**Day 4 Bergen** Resume your journey to Bergen starting with a fjord cruise from Flåm to Gudvangen, travelling along the Naerøyfjord. You will continue by coach down the spectacular 13 hairpin bends of Stalheimsleiva before arriving in Voss for the train to Bergen. Two nights at the Grand Hotel Terminus (standard) or the Clarion Collection Hotel Havnekontoret (superior).

**Day 5 Bergen** There are plenty of attractions in this Hanseatic town. Bryggen, Mount Fløyen and the fish market all contribute to this colourful and lively destination.

**Day 6 UK** Morning at leisure before your return flight back to the UK.

## ACROSS THE ROOF OF NORWAY – BALESTRAND

**Days 1 & 2 UK – Oslo** As per Across the Roof & Flåm itinerary

**Day 3 Bergensbanen** Early morning departure west by train to Myrdal followed by the experience of the Flåm railway, one of the world's steepest railway lines and a feat of engineering. Continue by fjord express boat across the Sognefjord to Balestrand. Two nights at the Midtnes Hotel (standard) or Kviknes Hotel (superior).

**Day 4 Balestrand** Spend the day relaxing in the picturesque fjord village or take the ferry along the Fjaerlandfjord to the edge of the Jostedalsglacier. Visit Urnes Stave church or cross the fjord for a high speed RIB wildlife safari.

**Day 5 Balestrand – Bergen** Continue by fjord express boat along Sognefjord before turning south along the coast to Bergen for 2 nights at Grand Hotel Terminus (standard) or Clarion Collection Hotel Havnekontoret (superior)

**Day 6 Bergen** At leisure to see the many sights, or why not take the funicular railway up Mount Fløyen for a walk on one of the many marked paths.

**Day 7 UK** Morning at leisure before your return flight back to the UK.

### ACROSS THE ROOF OF NORWAY – WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Flights from London to Oslo and Bergen to London return
- 4,5 or 6 nights hotel accommodation as per itinerary
- Lodging in twin room(s) with private WC/shower
- Breakfasts throughout. Light buffet suppers at Clarion Collection Bastion, Oslo & Clarion Collection Havnekontoret, Bergen. Dinner in Flåm when overnighing.
- Internal rail/bus and ferry travel from Oslo to Bergen as described.



Price from **£950**pp

1 Jun – 31 Aug

## A Coastal Combination

Begin your short break in Bergen where mountain meets fjord in impressive style. This charming and colourful city embraces its surroundings and offers a fascinating array of activities, museums, culture and cuisine. Set sail with Hurtigruten, the Norwegian ferry service that has connected coastal communities for over 120 years. You will be hugging the coastline on your overnight journey north to Ålesund, a town famed for its distinctive Art Nouveau architecture and envious location at the entrance to the Sunnmøre fjords and the spectacular Geiranger fjord.

### YOUR TOUR

**Day 1 UK – Bergen** Fly to Bergen and self-transfer to the Grand Hotel Terminus for 2 nights.

**Day 2 Bergen** Free time to enjoy Bergen your way. You may wish to take the funicular or cable car up to the top of Bergen's surrounding mountains for some impressive views and trekking. Try some delicacies at the Fish Market, or buy a bun from Baker Brun. Take the tram to Troidhaugen, the home of Edvard Grieg. Join the throngs exploring the Hanseatic wharf, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and symbol of Bergen's 11th century cultural heritage.

**Day 3 Hurtigruten** Your Hurtigruten ship leaves early evening giving another full day to explore the maze of perfectly preserved wooden houses and cobbled streets of Bergen or delve into the art museums that fill four buildings in the city centre. Embark for the overnight journey to Ålesund. Dinner is served as you cruise the coast with the view made all the more enjoyable as a result of the long summer evenings.

**Day 4 Geiranger & Ålesund** You arrive quayside in the morning but stay on board the ship for a day cruise into the mighty Geiranger fjord. Lunch is included. There is an optional excursion to disembark at Geiranger and take a dramatic and panoramic return coach journey to Ålesund. Overnight at Hotel Brosundet for 2 nights

**Day 5 Ålesund** Day free to explore at leisure. This can be on foot, by bike or on an exciting sea safari. Public buses and ferries can also take you further

afield to Briksdal Glacier or consider hiring a car for more flexibility and independence.

**Day 6 UK** Direct flights operate to London Gatwick enabling you to enjoy another full day at leisure before returning to the UK.



#### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Return flights London Gatwick to Bergen, Ålesund to London Gatwick
- 4 nights hotel accommodation as per itinerary
- Lodging in twin room(s) with private WC/shower
- Bergen - Geiranger - Ålesund sailing on board Hurtigruten in an unspecified inside twin cabin
- Breakfast throughout, 1 x lunch and 1 x dinner aboard Hurtigruten


 Price from **£815**pp

April – September

## BERGEN – THE GATEWAY TO THE FJORDS

Using Bergen as your base discover spectacular scenery including the thrilling Stalheimsleiven, the famous Flåm railway and landscapes of the incredible Aurlandsfjord. Your excursion to Hardangerfjord, is no less spectacular with gushing waterfalls and lush green valley's creating a constantly changing panorama all the while embracing the cultural heritage of Norway's second city.

**Day 1 UK – Bergen** Fly from the UK to Bergen. Self-transfer to your chosen hotel. Grand Hotel Terminus (standard). Clarion Collection Havnekontoret (superior).

**Day 2 Bergen** Day at leisure. Take a trip up the Fløybanen Funicular for a fabulous view across Bergen and buy lunch from the Fish Market.

**Day 3 Norway in a Nutshell** Take the train from Bergen to Voss, where a connecting coach transports you to Gudvangen via the breathtaking Stalheimsleiven hairpin road. Continue by ferry on the Aurlandsfjord and Naerøyfjord to Flåm. Board the famous railway that meanders through the valley past cascading waterfalls and mountain peaks. You return from Myrdal to Bergen via the main Bergen line.

**Day 4 Hardangerfjord** The second longest fjord in Norway is home to fruit farms, the romantic Steindalsfossen and Norway's largest waterfall, Vøringsfossen. Start your journey by bus to Norheimsund. Connecting ferries then take you to the sleepy hamlets of Eidfjord and Ulvik before returning by rail via Voss to Bergen.

**Day 5 Bergen – UK** Time for some last minute shopping and sightseeing before self-transfer to the airport and your return flight to the UK.

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Return flights from London Gatwick to Bergen
- 4 nights hotel accommodation at chosen hotel
- Lodging in twin room(s) with private WC/shower
- Breakfast throughout.
- Afternoon waffles & light buffet supper (Clarion Collection properties only)
- Excursions on day 3 & 4 as described

 Price from **£1115**pp

June – August

## ÅLESUND, GEIRANGER AND THE ATLANTIC ROAD

The journey is as spectacular as the destination on this self-drive break. Enjoy Art Nouveau Ålesund and the spectacular scenery of Geirangerfjord. Drive two designated National Tourist Routes. Wind your way along the dramatic Trollstigen road to Andalsnes then hug the ocean's edge on the Atlantic Road where a stay in a hotel on its own private island forms a fitting finale.

**Day 1-2 UK – Ålesund** Fly to Ålesund where you'll be staying at the Hotel Brosundet for 2 nights. Day 2 is at leisure to enjoy this picturesque town.

**Day 3-4 Geiranger** Collect your hire car and head to Hellsylt for the ferry that takes you into the heart of Geirangerfjord. You have two nights at the Hotel Union to enjoy this remarkable location.

**Day 5 Andalsnes** The winding hairpin bends of Trollstigen have long been one of the world's most spectacular driving experiences. Continue to Andalsnes for an overnight stay, where you can enjoy the Rauma Railway and the towering vertical rock face of 'Trollveggen'. Overnight at the Aak Hotel, Andalsnes.

**Day 6-7 Averøy** Head back towards the ocean via Molde, the setting for a panoramic view of the 222 snow topped peaks of Romsdalfjord. Continue to the Atlantic road, where eight striking bridges connect Bud to Kristiansund on a highway that snakes across the sea. Two nights are spent at the historic HåHolmen Havstuer a hotel located on its own private island,

**Day 8 UK** Take a leisurely drive back to Ålesund, return your hire car in time for your return flight home.

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Return flights from London to Ålesund
- 7 nights hotel accommodation as per itinerary
- Lodging in twin room(s) with private WC/shower
- Breakfasts throughout. 2 x dinners Hotel Union, Geiranger.
- Ferry from Hellsylt – Geiranger
- Transfer to/from Håholmen Havstuer
- 6 days (6 x 24hr) Group B car hire including unlimited mileage, theft protection and CDW.
- Touring map and Norway guide.



## Midnight Sun Experience

Price from **£745**pp

May – August

Witness the extraordinary phenomena of the 'Midnight Sun' visible from the top of Mount Floya in Tromsø, Norway's 'Paris of the North'. The sun never sets between 20 May and 22 July then barely dips below the horizon between May – August meaning that you can enjoy endless days in the world's most northerly university town.

### YOUR TOUR

**Day 1 UK – Tromsø** Fly to Tromsø and transfer via airport shuttle bus to the Clarion Collection Hotel With for 3 nights.

**Day 2 Tromsø** Day at leisure and for optional excursions. Take an evening visit by cable car to Storsteinen on Mount Floya for an Arctic inspired feast at the Fjellstau Café, an excellent spot for a dramatic view whatever the season.

**Day 3 Tromsø** Day at leisure and for optional excursions. Enjoy a light supper at the hotel and, if you are travelling between 01 June and 15 August we have included a Midnight Sun concert at the Arctic Cathedral with choral music and traditional folk music.

**Day 4 UK** Transfer to airport for return flight to UK

### EXTEND YOUR STAY

Explore further. Hire a car and drive out to Senja, an island renowned for an exciting and varied landscape that often rivals Lofoten for its natural beauty. Wildlife is also in abundance. Sea Eagles, Golden Eagles, reindeer and lynx populate this region. Stay in the tranquil setting of Hamn I Senja, for 2 nights to appreciate this region. From **£335 pp**

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Return flights from London Gatwick to Tromsø.
- Return airport/hotel transfers
- 3 nights accommodation at Clarion Collection Hotel With
- Twin bedded harbour view room with WC/shower
- Breakfast and afternoon waffles throughout, 3 light buffet suppers
- Entrance to Midnight Sun concert.

### OPTIONAL ADDITIONAL EXCURSIONS

#### MIDNIGHT SUN ADVENTURE BY RIB BOAT

Set out under the midnight sun for Gåsvaer, a small uninhabited island in the midst of the Norwegian Sea. You can expect to see porpoise, seals and sea eagles along the way. Go ashore and explore the beautiful white coral sand beaches and church, returning to Tromsø at 01:30. Daily 01 May-15 Sep. Min 5 people. Pick-up: Tromsø Harbour (in front of Kaia Bar) 23.00 Duration 2½ hrs. Price from: **£140 pp.**

#### SEA BIRDS, SEALS AND EAGLES RIB SAFARI

Head out towards the open sea by RIB and explore the seascape surrounding Tromsø, stopping at various locations along the way known for local wildlife. Daily 01 May – 15 Sep. Pick-up: Tromsø Harbour (in front of Kaia Bar) 13.30 Duration 2½ hrs. Price from: **£169 pp.**

#### GLACIER HIKING

An hours drive and 2½ hr hike takes you to the Steindal Glacier. Following a safety briefing embark on a 3-4 hr. journey over the glacier. A reasonable degree of fitness is required. Daily from June-first snowfall. Pick-up: Radisson Blu 07:15 Duration 14 hrs. Price from: **£180 pp.**

#### NORDIC HUSKY HIKE

Meet 300 Alaskan huskies and hike along with some of them, accompanied by an experienced guide. Back at the wilderness centre you will be served a simple lunch followed by coffee and cake by the fire. Mon, Wed, Fri from 01Jun – 31Aug. Pick-up: Radisson Blu 09.00 Duration 5 hrs. Price from: **£110 pp.**



## The Lofoten Islands

Price from **£1435**pp

May – September

Drive and discover the unique archipelagos of Lofoten and Vesterålen with their spectacular glacial rock formations dominating the seascape. Clustered burgundy and white fishing hamlets cling to the coastline. Observe the abundant wildlife including whales, seals and birdlife. Walk along beaches more suited to the Caribbean and appreciate the natural surroundings that has inspired artists down the centuries.

### YOUR TOUR

**Day 1 UK – Vesterålen** Fly to Evenes (via Oslo). Collect your hire car and drive to Sortland. Overnight at the Sortland Hotel for 3 nights.

**Day 2 – 3 Vesterålen Islands** A perfect location for whale watching can be found at Andenes. Follow the Andøya National Tourist Route along the west coast, which also runs alongside one of Norway's finest and longest sandy beaches.

**Day 4 Sortland – Svolvaer** After breakfast take the scenic rv 82 stopping off at the Hurtigruten museum at Stokmarknes. Board the Melbu – Fisebol ferry and continue on to Svolvaer. Overnight for 4 nights at Svinøya Rorbuer.

**Days 5 – 7 Lofoten Islands** Visit Refsvikhula, a cathedral like cave with 3000 year old wall drawings. Drive to Moskenes where 140 different species of birds have been spotted. View the outdoor sculptures at Flakstad, Moskenes, Rost, Vestvagoy and Vagen, which form part of the Artscape Nordland project. Visit the Lofotr Viking Museum detailing a 1,000 history of this area.

**Day 8 Lofoten – UK** Drive back to Evenes airport. Return hire car before return flight back to the UK.

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Return flights from London Heathrow to Evenes (via Oslo)
- 7 nights hotel accommodation as per itinerary
- Lodging in twin room(s) or Rorbu with private WC/shower and breakfast
- 8 days (8 x 24hrs) Group B car hire including unlimited mileage, theft protection and CDW. Touring map & Norway guide to the end of above bullet point (after the CDW)

### OPTIONAL ADDITIONAL EXCURSIONS

#### WHALE WATCHING IN ANDENES

The coast of Andenes provides a stable source of food for the sperm whale that is routinely spotted. Regular visitors also include Minke, Orca and Humpback whales. A guided museum visit is also included. Up to 4 departures daily May – Sep. Pick-up Andenes Lighthouse Duration: 1½-4 hrs. depending on boat and departure time. **£120 pp.**

#### TROLLFJORD AND SEA EAGLE SAFARI BY RIB OR BOAT

Choose to travel by RIB or by boat and sail through some of the most beautiful fjord landscapes in Norway. Trollfjord is surrounded by soaring mountains and its narrow entrance is just 100m wide. Your guide will be looking out for the sea eagles that frequent this area. Departures daily May – Sep. Pick up Svolvaer main square. Duration 1.5 – 4 hrs. depending on boat and departure time. **From £85 pp.**

#### OTHER OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

Lofoten is deemed one of the most picturesque destinations in the world and offers a host of activities. We can arrange **Guided Sea Kayaking** where you paddle amongst skerries and alongside sandy beaches. Try your hand at **Arctic Surfing** at Unstad beach, where white sands combine with turquoise blue water. **Climb Solvaergeita**, a granite monolith that dominates the town of Svolvaer. Or play a round of **Golf under the Midnight Sun** on the only course in the world to offer 24 hr. daylight for 2 months of the year.



## Glaciers, Geirangerfjord and Lake Loen

Price from **£1959**pp

May – September

This tour has been chosen for scenic content, easy driving distances, and opportunities for excursions both en-route and at stopover points. Stay in the heart of Hardangerfjord within easy reach of the Barony Rosendal and Folgefonna glacier. Explore the inner reaches of Naerøy and Sognefjord on your way to Solvorn and the Jostedalbreen glacier. Continue up to Dalsnibba before plunging down to Geiranger and onwards to the turquoise green waters of Lake Loen. Cap off this itinerary of dramatic mountain landscapes, glaciers, fjords and tranquil lakes with a final night on the lush shores of Balestrand.

### YOUR TOUR

**Day 1 UK – Bergen** Fly from London to Bergen. Collect your hire car at the airport and overnight at Clarion Collection Havnekontoret.

**Day 2 Utne** Take time to enjoy more of Bergen before driving to Utne (route includes 2 ferries payable locally) and a stay in one of Norway's oldest hotels in the heart of Hardangerfjord. Detours can include a visit to the tranquil Barony Rosendal or a challenging drive to the tip of the Folgefonna glacier. Overnight at Utne Hotel.

**Day 3 Solvorn** Take the ferry to Kvandal. Continue onwards through the mountain village of Voss to Stalheim. Choose your route to Solvorn. Take the old road to Gudvangen for a leisurely ferry journey across and along the Sognefjord to Kaupanger. Alternatively, take the Aurlandsvegen National Tourist Route also known as the 'Snow Road', across the mountains. In Solvorn we strongly recommend a visit to the Jostedalbreen glacier. Walk into the Austerdal valley where a guide can take you across to where the glacier tongues of Loke, Odin and Tor (named after Norse Gods) meet for a spectacular view of 'Europe's finest ice scenery'. Overnight at Walaker Hotel.

**Day 4 Lom** Drive to Lom. Follow the serpentine road across the Sognefjell and down through Bøverdalen. There are detours possible along the way to see Urnes Stave Church and the waterfall at Morkkidsdal. Overnight at Fossheim Tourist Hotel.

**Day 5-6 Geiranger** Drive to Geiranger, following the road past Donfoss and Pullfoss waterfalls. A detour above Nibbeveien Road with its 10 hairpin curves to Dalsnibba offers breathtaking views. In Geiranger walk behind Storseterfossen

waterfall; drive up Ornevegen's for breathtaking views or enjoy the 'Golden Route' to Andalsnes. Two nights at Union Hotel.

**Day 7-8 Loen** Begin the day by taking the ferry across the Geirangerfjord, with its precipitous rock faces and tumbling waterfalls. At Hellesylt, follow the road down to Loen for two nights at Hotel Alexandra. The following day is free for you to enjoy the tranquility of Lake Loen or to take a trip to Briksdal glacier at the end of the Olden Valley.

**Day 9 Balestrand** Drive to Moskog and over the mountains for the serpentine descent to Dragsvik and round to Balestrand. Overnight at Kviknes Hotel.

**Day 10 Balestrand – UK** Drive back to Bergen along the northern shore of the Sognefjord to Lavik for the ferry to Oppedal and onwards to Bergen airport. Drop your hire car before your return flight to UK.

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Return flight from London to Bergen
- 9 nights hotel accommodation as per itinerary
- Lodging in twin room(s) with private WC/shower
- Breakfasts and dinner throughout (light buffet supper in Bergen)
- Rooms with Fjord view in Geiranger and Balestrand
- 10 days(10x24hr) Group B car hire including unlimited mileage, theft protection and CDW
- All ferries are payable locally.





## Norwegian Lapland under the Midnight Sun

Price from **£1865**pp

May – September

Fjords adorned with towering granite walls contrast with endless open tundra on this self-drive tour that takes you through the exquisite vastness of Norwegian Lapland and to the North Cape, where the Midnight Sun can be seen from mid-May to the end of July. Explore a region with a rich cultural heritage. Tiny colourful fishing villages scatter the coast and have supported an industry that has been thriving for centuries. Whereas the roaming indigenous Sami people have established their parliament here ensuring language and traditions survive. This is a journey of discovery.

### YOUR TOUR

**Day 1 UK – Alta** Fly to Alta (via Oslo). Collect hire car and overnight at the Thon Hotel Alta. The town is justifiably proud of their stunning new Cathedral of the Northern Lights, whose exterior is reminiscent of the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao.

**Day 2 North Cape** Drive north to Russenes and along the Porsangerfjord, through the North Cape tunnel to Karnøyvaer and Hotel Arran in Honningsvåg. Drive to the North Cape to see the Midnight Sun.

**Day 3 Kjøllefjord** At leisure to explore the island of Mageroya and its capital Honningsvåg before departure on the Hurtigruten to Kjøllefjord. Early evening arrival. Overnight at Foldabruket, a former fish processing warehouse.

**Day 4 Kongsfjord** At leisure in Kjøllefjord where you can try your hand at fjord fishing for King Crabs. Once again board Hurtigruten for a late afternoon departure to Berlevåg, arriving at 21.45. The light evenings makes the half hour drive along the beautiful ocean road to Kongsfjord a delight. Two nights in Kongsfjord Guesthouse.

**Day 5 Kongsfjord** Spend the day at leisure to soak up the peace and beauty of this small community. Walk in the unspoilt natural surroundings, visit the King Crab aquarium, go deep sea fishing or scuba diving. Take a trip to the seal colonies, swim and snorkel in the Arctic Ocean, go ashore on a small island for a walk or just relax at the charming Kongsfjord Guesthouse.

**Day 6 Berlevåg and Karasjok** After breakfast continue the journey across the wide mountain plains to Tana bru and along the Norwegian/Finnish border to Karasjok. Continue to Sven Engholm's Husky Farm for 2 nights. Overnight in the totally unique

log houses, hand built by Sven himself.

**Day 7 Karasjok** Spend the day at leisure. Visit the Sapmi Park, the Sami parliament, the National Museum for Sami Culture and the Sami Art Centre or just 'chill out' with Sven and his friendly dogs.

**Day 8 Alta** Leave Karasjok and drive to Alta, making a short detour to Kautokeino where the Sami culture is evident. Continue on to Alta and the Thon Hotel for the final night of your northern Norwegian experience.

**Day 9 UK** Morning at leisure. Visit the Alta museum, a UNESCO World Heritage site with northern Europe's largest and richest collection of rock carvings (some dating back 6,500 years). Drive to Alta airport and return hire car before mid-afternoon flight back to the UK (via Oslo).

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Return flights from London to Alta (via Oslo)
- 8 nights accommodation at hotels/cabins as specified in the itinerary
- Lodging in twin room(s) with private WC/shower, except in Foldebruket and Sven Engholm's Husky Farm
- Breakfasts throughout
- 9 days (9x24hrs) Group B car hire including unlimited mileage, theft protection and CDW
- Deck passage and car space from Honningsvåg to Kjøllefjord and from Kjøllefjord to Berlevåg
- Road map and Norway guide



## Rail and Sail

Price from **£1645**pp

May – September

Norway has some of the most celebrated rail journeys in the world. This independent trip enables you to travel on four routes, The Bergensbanen running between Bergen and Oslo across the Hardangervidda mountain plateau, the Flåm Railway (one of the world's steepest railways) and finally, the Dovre & Rauma Railway lines, less well known but just as dramatic. We have added an overnight on board another Norwegian treasure, Hurtigruten, whose vessels have connected coastal communities for over 140 years. This is a trip where the journey is an adventure.

### YOUR TOUR

**Day 1 UK – Bergen** Fly into Bergen and self-transfer to the Grand Terminus Bergen for 2 nights.

**Day 2 Bergen** Day at leisure to explore this vibrant and colourful Hanseatic town. Take the funicular 'Fløibanen' for fantastic views over Bergen.

**Day 3 Bergensbanen** Today you will embark on a tour that showcases the best of this scenic region as well as two of the most notable train journeys. Depart from Bergen by taking the train to Voss. Continue by bus to Gudvangen via the spectacular 13 hairpin bends of Stalheimsleiva. At Gudvangen a fjord cruise takes you across the Aurland & Naerøfjords to Flåm where you board the Flåm Railway. This 20km line is an engineering feat as well as one of the most picturesque journeys in the world. On reaching Myrdal you will change trains to the Bergen Line – travelling across one of Europe's highest mountain plateaus then gradually descending into Oslo. through rolling hills and lush and fertile farmland. Self transfer to the Clarion Collection Hotel Bastion for 2 nights.

**Day 4 Oslo** Today is at leisure and free for you to enjoy cosmopolitan Oslo. Stroll along the rejuvenated waterfront, visit the architecturally renowned Opera House or immerse yourself in Norwegian history and culture at one of the many museums.

**Day 5 Andalsnes** Today you will travel on the Dovre and Rauma Railways. Departing Oslo Central, the Dovre Railway initially winds its way through rolling hills and lush farmlands, to the mountain station of Dombås, where you change for the Rauma Railway. Here you will pass by Trollveggen a 3500m high vertical granite wall of rock, travel over Kylling Bridge, possibly the most photographed bridge in Norway and through the horseshoe tunnel of Stavern, arriving at the picturesque town of Andalsnes. Overnight at the Hotel Aak.

**Day 6 Trondheim** The return journey to Dombås along the Rauma Railway offers another opportunity to soak up the stunning landscape before continuing across Dovrefjell National Park to Trondheim for 2 nights at the Clarion Collection Hotel Bakeriet.

**Day 7 Trondheim** Today is at leisure. Nidaros Cathedral along with the Trøndelag Folk Museum are just two of the many attractions to enjoy in this 1000 year old city.

**Day 8 Hurtigruten** This morning board your Hurtigruten ship and sail along the coast towards Bergen. Long summer days means that you will have panoramic views the whole way including the 222 partially snowclad mountain peaks at Molde. Lunch and dinner included. Overnight on board your ship.

**Day 9 Bergen – UK** The ship continues its journey arriving in Bergen just after lunch leaving you plenty of time to return to the airport for your flight home.

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Return flight London to Bergen
- 7 nights hotel accommodation as per itinerary
- 1 night in an unspecified inside cabin aboard Hurtigruten
- Lodging in twin room(s)/cabin with private WC/shower
- Breakfasts throughout
- Lunch and dinner on board Hurtigruten
- Breakfast at all hotels
- Rail from Oslo - Andalsnes including Rauma Railway
- Rail from Andalsnes – Trondheim including the Dovre Railway
- Norway in a Nutshell Bergen - Oslo including the Bergensbanen & Flåm Railway



## Hurtigruten – A Classic Journey North

Price from **£2275**pp

**Geiranger extension**  
(2 Jun – 1 Sep)

Hurtigruten has been an integral part of Norwegian life for over 140 years, connecting coastal communities between Bergen in the South to Kirkenes on the Russian border in the North with a total of 34 ports of call. Departures are daily and year round with each season presenting unrivalled views of the landscape, insights into rural life and boundless wildlife spotting opportunities.

### YOUR TOUR

**Day 1 UK – Bergen** Fly to Bergen and we will arrange a private transfer to your hotel, the Clarion Collection Havnekontoret, located by the UNESCO World Heritage site of Bryggen, for 1 night.

**Day 2 Bergen and Hurtigruten** You have the day to enjoy Bergen, where there are so many sightseeing opportunities within easy walking distance of the city centre including the Fish Market, the Funicular railway to Mt. Fløyen and Bryggen. Self-transfer to the Hurtigruten quayside for the early evening sailing out through the skerry littered archipelago. Accommodation in chosen cabin, breakfast, lunch and dinner included throughout the sailing.

**Day 3 Ålesund & Geiranger** A morning arrival in the beautiful town of Ålesund, famed for its Art Nouveau buildings. The ship continues to Geirangerfjord, where you will disembark for a guided excursion up Ørneveien (Eagle Road), travel on and on the picturesque Eidsdal to Linge ferry, pass through the Gulbrands Gorge and complete the trip with an exhilarating drive down the 11 hairpin bends of the Trollstigen Pass, eventually joining the ship again in Molde.

**Day 4 Trondheim** This exciting university town is home to Nideros Cathedral, built over the burial site of Saint Olaf, the 11th century Norwegian king. Alternatively, you could choose to visit the ancient fortress island of Munkholmen.

**Day 5 Arctic Circle and Lofoten Islands** Cross the Arctic Circle which, during this time marks the southern extremity of the Midnight Sun. Early evening arrival at Svolvær, the capital of the Lofoten Islands. The landscape here is dominated by jagged peaks and, white sandy beaches and a coastline dotted with small red Rorbuer (Fisherman Cottages) and Stock-

Fish racks. There is a choice of excursions including a worthy visit to the Viking Museum.

**Day 6 Tromsø** The Capital of the North has a fantastic history and is surrounded by wilderness. Indulge in some local 'wildlife' by way of a whale watching excursion or a husky walk. Alternatively, wander at leisure and take the cable car into the surrounding mountains for some spectacular views.

**Day 7 Honningsvåg – North Cape** Disembark in Honningsvåg for a journey to the North Cape where, between mid-May and end of August, the sun never sets. Along the way you may see grazing herds of reindeer and the small camps of the indigenous Sami. There is plenty of time to absorb the surrounding view of mainland Europe's most northerly point.

**Day 8 Kirkenes** Your arrival at Kirkenes signals the end of this memorable voyage. Before you leave take a trip to the Russian border, learn Arctic bushcraft or view the feathered friends that pass east to west through the migratory corridor. On arrival in Oslo transfer to the Hotel Thief for 1 night.

**Day 9 Oslo** Enjoy a day sightseeing in the capital before transferring to the airport for your flight home.

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Flight London – Bergen, Kirkenes – Oslo, Oslo – London
- Private transfer from Bergen Airport – Hotel
- 2 nights hotel accommodation in twin room(s) with private WC/shower
- 7 nights full board on Hurtigruten in an unspecified outside twin cabin with WC/shower
- 1 x Trollstigen & Geirangerfjord excursion (02Jun-01Sep)
- 1 x North Cape excursion
- Breakfasts throughout. Waffles and light buffet supper in Bergen.



## Our Swedish Experiences

Part of Sweden's charm lies in the elegant homesteads, towns and cities which, like the population, embrace the surrounding countryside. In the capital you are never more than a few minutes from the tranquillity of the sea or a restive rural retreat. Stockholm shimmers, surrounded by 24,000 islands. Gothenburg is a gastronomic delight. Explore the medieval and modern sights of Gotland or Malmö whilst a journey north reveals a region blossoming under the midnight sun.

Travelling around Sweden is effortless. An extensive local, national and international rail network with comfortable and efficient trains cover the country from Malmö in the South to Swedish Lapland high above the Arctic Circle along with swift connections from east to west.

Driving offers you added freedom and enables you to explore off the beaten track. There are no tolls and traffic jams are rare. Instead rolling hills, endless forests, unspoiled landscapes and mountain expanses unfold in front of your eyes.

Discover the heartland of Sweden from a different perspective by cruising along the Gota Canal which passes through 66 locks, over 8 lakes and across 2 seas and along 1 river, connecting Gothenburg and Stockholm.

Ferries traverse the 3,218 km coastline and can take you far into the Stockholm and Gothenburg archipelagos as well as across to the islands of Öland and Gotland, revealing charming islands and captivating communities that embrace their surroundings.





## Images of Sweden

Price from **£1235**pp

May – September

Drive and discover Sweden from stylish Stockholm in the east to the gastronomic delights of Gothenburg in the west. Along the way take in Darlana, a region with a rich artisan heritage and considered more Swedish than ABBA and IKEA. Continue onwards to the landscapes lying between Lake Vattern and Bohuslan's skerry (small uninhabited rocky islands) littered coast. The route is carefully designed to enable you to see as much as possible along the way together with hotel stops at a mix of country hotels famed for their culinary prowess and outstanding locations.

### YOUR TOUR

**Day 1 UK-Stockholm** Fly from London Gatwick to Stockholm, self-transfer to city centre and overnight at Hotel Reisen for 2 nights.

**Day 2 Stockholm** Must see and do's are Gamla Stan with its cobbled alleyways and eclectic mix of medieval and Hanseatic buildings, Östermalm for retail therapy, the Vasa warship museum for a dose of maritime culture and Konditori Vete-Katten for the cinnamon bun to end all cinnamon buns! On your doorstep is also the 24,000 island archipelago and an armada of boats ready to take you out for an hour, a day and anything in between; and Uppsala with its exquisite Cathedral and botanical gardens laid out by Linnaeus.

**Day 3 Filipstad** Collect hire car and drive west via Eskilstuna and Örebro to the village of Filipstad just north of Lake Vanern and in the heart of Darlana. 2 nights at Henrickehammars Manor. Dating back to 1700 the house stands in its own grounds by the edge of a small lake.

**Day 4 Filipstad** Depending on how much driving you fancy visit to Borlangae or Falun on Lake Silja, home to the eponymous wooden horse; walk and/or fish in the nearby Malingsbo Nature Reserve with its hundred lakes or visit Motola on Lake Vattern.

**Day 5 Trollhattan** Drive south via Karlstad and alongside the western side of Lake Vanern to Trollhattan for a night at the Albert Kitchen & Hotel. Dine whilst overlooking the falls and ladder of water locks lifting the steamers from the Gota Canal up to the lake.

**Day 6 Gothenburg** Drive direct to Gothenburg or detour out to the Bohuslan coast with its numerous offshore islands for a final night at the Elite Plaza. Between arriving and leaving foodies should take in the food markets of Saluhallen and Feskekörka. Wherever you choose to eat (try the seafood platter at Fiskegrogen) the fish is to die for. If time permits the Old Dutch area around the centre is best seen from the sea in a Paddan canal steamer.

**Day 7 Goteborg** Morning free before self transfer to Landvetter airport, drop off hire car and return flight to UK.

**Customize This Tour** You may want to extend your stay or add a location to this itinerary: if so please just ask for a revised routing and supplement.

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Return flights London-Stockholm//Gothenburg-London
- 6 nights accommodation at hotels specified in itinerary
- Lodging in twin room(s) with private WC/shower
- 5 days (5 x 24 hrs) Group B car hire including unlimited mileage, theft protection, CDW and all applicable local taxes
- Breakfasts throughout
- 3-course dinner at Henrickehammars Manor and 6-course dinner at Albert Kitchen & Hotel
- Road map and mini guide book



## Lakes and Locks on the Gota Canal

Price from **£2095**pp

May – September

Travel from coast to coast in grand style on a 19th century Gota Canal steamer. Enjoy some of Sweden's most picturesque scenery whilst drifting through the tranquil countryside, across her great lakes and through a network of 66 locks. Dine on stylish cuisine in a stateroom once graced by royalty and join in the included shore excursions along the way. Complete your trip with time in Gothenburg and Stockholm.

### YOUR ACCOMMODATION

#### THE STEAMERS

The Juno, Wilhelm Tham and Diana were built specifically for the Gota Canal. The oldest dates from 1874 and all the steamers have been meticulously maintained and restored preserving the authentic atmosphere of a bygone era. The National Maritime Museum has recognised all three boats for their historical importance.

#### ON BOARD

Each steamer has an antique dining room and saloon faced in mahogany and serves food to die for. Above deck there's a surprising amount of open space with deck chairs and wicker seats in which to relax and watch the day go by. The destinations and excursions all add to this quintessential Swedish experience.

#### CABINS

Each cabin is small but perfectly formed. Orient-Express style compartments each with a hand basin and decorated to reflect the original Art Nouveau elegance. The WC/shower facilities are in the adjacent corridor. Differences in price reflect standard of furnishings, natural light (picture window or port hole) and height above waterline rather than any differences in facilities.

### YOUR TOUR

**Day 1 & 2 Gothenburg** Fly to Gothenburg and transfer to your hotel for 2 nights. You have a further day to discover Gothenburg's secrets.

**Day 3 – 5 Gota Canal** Your ship departs early morning for your 4-day journey across Sweden. Highlights include the impressive lock staircase in Trollhättan; Sweden's smallest ferry in Töreboda; Karlsborg Fortress, Motala, the capital of the Gota Canal; The convent church of Vreta and the Viking community of Birka, Sweden's first town.

The chef and his team conjure up delicious breakfasts, lunches and dinners and your on-board guide keeps you fully informed of the day to day itinerary.

**Day 6 – 7 Stockholm** On arrival in Stockholm transfer from the quay to the Hotel Reisen, located on the waterfront, in the heart of the Old Town. The following day is free to explore Stockholm at your leisure.

**Days 8 UK** Transfer back to the airport for your flight home.

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Return flights London-Gothenburg and Stockholm-London
- 4 nights hotel accommodation in Gothenburg and Stockholm as per itinerary
- Lodging in twin room(s) with private WC/shower. Ship accommodation has shared facilities
- Breakfasts throughout
- 3 nights on board the Gota Canal in a CAT C cabin.
- Tea/coffee, 2-course lunch and 3-course dinner daily on board the Gota Canal
- Services of Gota Canal tour guide
- All excursions whilst on board


 Price from **£1215**pp

May – September

### GOTLAND – SWEDEN'S SUMMER SECRET

Gotland is one of Sweden's best kept secrets. Wander through the cobbled streets of the medieval walled city of Visby, see the mysterious Raukars on Fårö. Days on Gotland pass peacefully in an idyllic haze of soft sandy beaches and pristine nature. Complete your trip with a break in Stockholm.

**Day 1 UK – Visby (via Stockholm)** Pick up your hire car and check into the Clarion Hotel Wisby for 3 nights.

**Day 2 Gotland** Explore the medieval city of Visby, surrounded by a 3km wall dating back to the 13th century and still with 27 of its 29 towers remaining. Visby's cultural heritage and charm is reflected throughout the cobbled streets. The whole island is a nature reserve and a car affords you the flexibility to explore further. Deserted sandy beaches beckon or call on one of the islands 90 ancient churches.

**Day 3 Fårö** Day at leisure. We strongly recommend taking the free ferry (5 mins) to Fårö, former home of Ingmar Bergman. Explore the rocky western edge and the soft sandy beaches of the eastern shoreline. Visit Langhammers beach and the 'Raukars', eerily fashioned natural limestone monoliths dating back several ice ages.



**Day 4 Stockholm** Return your hire car before taking the short flight to Stockholm. Self transfer to the Hotel Reisen, located on the waterfront in Gamla Stan for 2 nights.

**Day 5 Stockholm** Day at leisure. Stroll through this picturesque city built on and surrounded by over 20,000 islands. A visit to the Vasa Museum housing the only, almost fully intact, 17th century ship to be salvaged is included.

**Day 6 UK** Savour your last day in the 'Capital of Scandinavia' before returning to the airport and your flight home.

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Return flights from London Heathrow to Visby (via Stockholm)
- 5 nights hotel accommodation as per itinerary
- Lodging in twin room(s) with private WS/shower
- Breakfasts throughout
- 4 days (4 x 24 hrs) Group B car hire including unlimited mileage, theft protection, CDW and all applicable local taxes
- Entry into the Vasa Museum, Stockholm


 Price from **£600**pp

April – September

### A TALE OF THREE CITIES

A fast, efficient Scandinavian rail network links three contrasting cities. Let the train take the strain whilst indulging in the café culture of Copenhagen, immersing yourself in Malmö, and taking stock of 'The Capital of Scandinavia', Stockholm.

**Day 1 UK – Copenhagen** Fly to Copenhagen and transfer to the First Hotel TwentySeven for 2 nights.

**Day 2 Copenhagen** Copenhagen is billed as the happiest capital city in the world. Visit the popular tourist areas of Tivoli and Nyhavn with its rich choice of museums reflecting the culture and art of the city. Cuisine is central to life here so be prepared to loosen your belts.



**Day 3 Malmö** Make your way to the train station for the short journey across the Öresund Bridge that links Denmark to Sweden. An engineering feat, the structure has the longest underwater tube tunnel and cable-stayed main span in the world. Check into the Clarion Collection Temperance Hotel for 2 nights.

**Day 4 Malmö** Less crowded than its more famous neighbours but no less exciting with designer shops, beautiful scenery and delicious food. The Turning Torso and Modern Museet, represents the modern contemporary style that sits comfortably alongside the traditional areas such as Lilla Torg.

**Day 5 Stockholm** A high speed train propels you through endless forests and small villages to Stockholm in just 4.5 hrs. Check into the Clarion Collection Tapto for 2 nights.

**Day 7 Stockholm** There is something special in never being more than 5 minutes from the waterfront. Ferries scuttle between the city's islands, each with their own attractions. Grand public buildings contrast with the cobbled streets of Gamla Stan.

**Day 8 UK** Return to the airport for your flight home.

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Return flights from London-Copenhagen and Stockholm-London
- 6 nights hotel accommodation as per itinerary
- Lodging in twin room(s) with private WC/shower
- Breakfasts throughout
- 2nd class train travel & seat reservation between Copenhagen-Malmö and Malmö-Stockholm



## The Faroe Islands – The Classic Circle

Price from **£1565**pp

April – October

The Faroe Islands form an 18-piece jigsaw adrift in the north Atlantic between Iceland and Scotland and is a place where old traditions and customs are still upheld. The Classic Circle self-drive tour introduces you to spectacular scenery comprising of soaring cliffs and a coastline sculptured by the unrelenting onslaught of the sea, as well as the unique nature and rich cultural history that inhabit these islands.

### YOUR TOUR

**Day 1 Vagar** Fly to Vagar Airport and pick up your hire car before exploring the island of Vagoy. We recommend you visit the small village of Gasadalur, enjoy the impressive view over Tindhølmur and don't miss the beautiful waterfall that runs in to the ocean. Overnight in Vagoy.

**Day 2 Eysturoy** Make your way north to the island of Eysturoy. Along the way you could take boat trip to the Vestmanna birdcliffs. Continue to Tjørnuvík, surrounded by steep mountains and see the impressive Giant and the Witch. Then travel on to beautiful surroundings of Eidi which enjoys a wonderful view of Slettaratindur, Faroes highest mountain. Overnight in Eysturoy.

**Day 3 Eysturoy** Enjoy a day in Gjøgv, known for its unique natural harbour. Maps detailing local hikes are available in the village hotel. Overnight in Eysturoy.

**Day 4 Northern Islands** Drive through the sub-sea tunnel to the town of Klaksvík. From here it is possible to explore the other Northern Islands. Víðá has the most Northern village in the Faroes, stop off for a meal at the local restaurant. Overnight Northern Islands.

**Day 5 Torshavn** We recommend a visit to the island of Kunoy where there is a beautiful panoramic view of the island of Kalsoy and where legend has it a plank from Noah's Ark lies high up on the mountain. Back on Eysturoy, you will visit a private home in Saldarfjørður for coffee and cake. Overnight in Torshavn.

**Day 6 Sandoy** Visit the island of Sandoy, also called the Saga Island. It has a wealth of history and some wonderful nature. You'll take the ferry from Gamlaraeði to Skopun then drive through and stop at the colourful villages of

Dalur, Husavík and Sklavík before returning to Torshavn. Overnight in Torshavn.

**Day 7 Vagoy** Spend the day in Torshavn. Do not miss the village of Kirkjubour, which is the Faroe Islands historical and cultural centre. The farm here is home to a family who have lived there for 17 generations. Overnight in Vagoy.

**Day 8 UK** Return your rental car to the airport before returning to the UK.



### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Return flights London to Vagar, Faroe Islands (season may dictate via Copenhagen)
- 7 nights hotel accommodation as per itinerary
- Lodging in twin room(s) with private WC/shower
- Breakfasts throughout
- 8 days (8 x 24 hrs) Group B car hire including unlimited mileage, theft protection, CDW and all applicable local taxes)
- Private home visit with coffee and cake





## Our Finnish and Baltic Experiences

Finland is without doubt the country of the Midnight Sun casting late evening landscapes with a blood orange glow. It is also the land of the golden cloudberries; 188,000 lakes and endless pine forests. It is a place which has inspired architecture and where the sauna is a daily ritual. Long summer days implore you to spend every possible hour outside living as close to nature as possible.

You can choose your experience to be tranquility itself exploring idyllic towns and areas that are steeped in history that reflect the legacies of numerous cultures over the centuries. Or embrace the more eccentric side of the sport loving Finns with a spot of boot throwing, wife carrying, mosquito slapping, mobile-phone throwing, swamp football, sauna endurance contests to name but a few. Discover the close links Finland has with the neighbouring Baltic States through trading routes dating back to the 10th and 11th centuries.

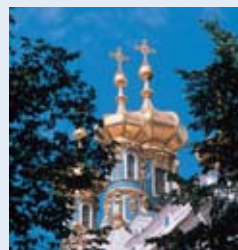
### The Pearls of Eastern Finland – 10 days



Uncover the legacy of Eastern Finland with its wild and romantic forests, foaming white rapids, onion domed architecture and Karelian cuisine. Along the way drift along by boat to savour the lakes at Tervo, cruise on Lake Saimaa and, for the full Monty, take a trip into Russia proper.

PRICES FROM **£1065**<sub>pp</sub>

### The route of Kings and Czars – 8 days



Follow the route of the Kings and Czars along the Baltic Hansa Trail from Stockholm. Travel through the Åland Islands to Turku, the ancient capital of Finland and ending in Helsinki 'Daughter of the Baltic'. Highlights include a cruise through the Stockholm archipelago and a stay in Mariehamn.

PRICES FROM **£1195**<sub>pp</sub>

### A Baltic Odyssey – 11 days



Discover four of the Baltic Sea's contrasting capitals: Riga with its medieval old Town, Stockholm justifiably dubbed 'Beauty on Water'; Helsinki with its unique blend of East and West and Tallinn, the small but perfectly formed Hansa port with its narrow cobbled streets. In between you cruise overnight on Tallink Silja's luxurious ships.

PRICES FROM **£1250**<sub>pp</sub>

### Brown Bear Adventure – 4 days



Encounter the European bear in its natural environment. On this exciting discovery tour you travel to the heart of the Taiga forest, close to the Russian border spending alternative nights in comfortable hotel accommodation and a night in a hide – giving you the maximum chance of seeing these resplendent creatures.

PRICES FROM **£1069**<sub>pp</sub>



## Romanian Experience – A Director’s Choice

Following an enthralling visit to Bucharest John Bennett, Director at Nordic Experience, was determined to explore the country of Romania in more depth. His travels, which form the basis for our exclusive **‘Romania with Cristina’** tour, revealed a beautiful land of exciting contrasts, rich history, legends, and medieval fortresses and villages set amongst rolling green meadows and snow-capped mountains. Based on her own recent travels, Sue McAlinden, General Manager at Nordic Experience, also recommends a journey on the ‘Danube Express’ between Istanbul and Budapest via Bulgaria and Romania.

### ABOUT CRISTINA

Cristina is our own highly experienced and quality conscious escort available throughout your stay. With 18 years in travel, her dedication, local knowledge and personal attention to detail will enrich your Romanian experience.



### ROMANIA WITH CRISTINA

Our first Romanian Experience offers an exclusive, chauffeur-driven tour with private escort and tour showcases Bucharest and Transylvania.

Cristina will first delight in introducing you to the vibrancy of Bucharest with its stately buildings and tree-lined avenues. You will then pass through the Carpathians, into Transylvania, a land, filled with medieval fortresses, Gothic churches and renaissance buildings where time has stood still. Stay in personally selected hotels and a small historic residence and enjoy the rich heritage and noble past of this land of contrasts.





Price from **£1495**pp

May – September

## YOUR TOUR

**Day 1 Bucharest** Fly from London to Bucharest where you will be met by Cristina and taken by private transfer to your hotel. Enjoy a light lunch at a traditional restaurant, before a walk and drive taking in the sights of the city, including a visit to the Fine Arts Museum. End the day with a hunters' dinner at a local game restaurant. Overnight at the 5\* Grand Hotel Continental.

**Day 2 Dragasani-Sibiu** Admire the looming Carpathian Mountains as you are driven to a private vineyard for lunch with wine tasting and cellar tour. In the afternoon stroll down the medieval cobbled streets of Sibiu, flanked by traditional, red-roofed houses. Be true of words on the Bridge of Lies lest it collapses! The day concludes with a visit and dinner at the country Palace of Baron Samuel von Bruckenthal. Overnight at the 4\* Hotel Forum Continental in Sibiu.

**Day 3 Biertan – Sighisoara** A day of Transylvanian sights begins in Biertan with its fortified church before proceeding to Sighisoara, one of a few still inhabited 13th century fortresses in Europe. Explore the romantic citadel with its iconic Clock Tower guarding the little square with its cobbled passageways and historic houses. Tonight you will enjoy a Prince's dinner, in the house where Vlad the Impaler is said to have been born. Overnight at the 5\* Fronius Residence, a beautifully restored 7-bedroom boutique hotel within the Fortress.

**Day 4 Saschiz – Viscri – Rupea – Brasov** Spend the morning visiting the fortified church at Saschiz and the medieval village of Viscri, a UNESCO heritage site favoured by Prince Charles. After lunch visit the recently restored fortress at Rupea, before heading to Brasov with its beautiful Town Hall square, and famous Black Church. Overnight at either the 4\* Chambers' n Charm boutique hotel or the 4\* Belvedere Hotel.

**Day 5 Bran – Busteni – Sinaia – Bucharest** Visit the famous Castle of Bran, the inspiration for Bram Stoker's "Dracula", before taking lunch in Busteni at Cantacuzino Castle. The afternoon brings a special treat with a visit to the iconic, neo-renaissance Peles Castle, the summer palace of King Charles I of Romania. This splendid building is a fitting finale to our Romanian showcase tour as we return to Bucharest for a memorable old time gala dinner at Locanta Jaristea. Overnight at the 5\* Grand Hotel Continental.

**Day 6 UK** Leisurely breakfast before private transfer to Airport and return flight to London.



### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Return flights from London to Bucharest
- Chauffeured car and private transfers throughout
- Private local English speaking host
- Vineyard and cellar tour with lunch and limited edition wine tasting on Day 2
- Accommodation in hotels per itinerary
- Lodging in twin room(s) with private WC/shower
- Breakfasts throughout
- From price based on 4 people travelling.



Price from **£6285**pp

June 2015

## The Transylvanian – Istanbul to Budapest

Enjoy the vibrant cultures, ancient architecture and spectacular scenery of South Eastern Europe on this exclusive rail journey travelling in some of the finest rail accommodation in Europe. The privately owned Golden Eagle-Danube Express twists and turns from Istanbul to Budapest (and visa versa) slicing through the heart of Transylvania whilst revealing a region steeped in medieval history and mountainous landscapes.

### YOUR TOUR

**Day 1 Istanbul** Fly into Istanbul where you will be transferred to the 5\* Pera Palace Hotel Jumeirah, for 2 nights. Enjoy a welcome reception dinner and meet your fellow travellers.

**Days 2 – 3 Istanbul** A guided city tour ensures you see Istanbul's historic sites including the Blue Mosque, Hagia Sophia and Topkapi, with its exotic buildings overlooking the Golden Horn. You will also visit the Grand Bazaar. Late afternoon on Day 3 you join the *Golden Eagle - Danube Express* and begin your rail adventure to Budapest.

**Day 4 Kazanlak & Veliko Turnovo** Arrival in Kazanlak, where you visit the Shipka Memorial Church and a Thracian tomb. Lunch as the train climbs over the Shipka Pass and travels onwards to Veliko Turnovo, Bulgaria's ancient capital, nestled in a magnificent mountain setting. Tour the superbly preserved medieval Tsarevets Hill and Castle. Relax in the Lounge Car before dinner, as the train heads across the Romanian border.

**Day 5 Brasov & Sighisoara** Overnight the train climbs over the Carpathian Mountains arriving into Brasov for a tour of Bran Castle, popularly known as Dracula's Castle. Returning to the train for lunch, the train continues onto Sighisoara, a World Heritage site rumored to be the birthplace of Dracula and one of the best-preserved fortified medieval towns in Europe. Dinner is served as the train crosses the Great Hungarian Plain.

**Day 6 Kecskemét & Budapest** The final day on-board sees the opportunity to explore the fascinating city of Kecskemet, before the train heads, steam-hauled, to Lajosmizse for a spectacular 'Pusztá' horse show. Late afternoon

arrive into Budapest Nyugati Station where there is a welcome reception in the Royal Waiting Room before transferring for a 2 night stay in the 5\* Four Seasons Hotel Gresham Palace.

**Day 7 Budapest** The old city of Buda and the imposing Royal Palace, dominates the city with stunning views across the Danube. Your city tour includes the Royal Palace, St. Mathias Church and a panoramic view of the city from Gellert Hill. You will also see the Citadel, the Opera House and St Stephen's Cathedral. Rest of day at leisure. This evening you will enjoy a farewell dinner cruise.

**Day 8 Budapest** Following breakfast you will be transferred to the airport for your return flight home.

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Return flights from London to Istanbul
- 4 nights hotel accommodation as described
- 3 nights on board the Golden Eagle – Danube Express
- Lodging in twin room(s) and Deluxe cabin(s) with private WC/shower
- Breakfast throughout
- Lunch on Days 4,5 and 6 with quality international wines, local beers and soft drinks
- Dinner each evening with quality international wines, local beers and soft drinks
- Tea/Coffee plus alcoholic drinks served in the Lounge Bar on board the Golden Eagle-Danube Express
- All city tours, excursions and transfers as described

\* Continuing engineering works associated with the new Bosphorus tunnel could mean that the train starts on the outskirts of Istanbul.

## BROCHURE DESCRIPTIONS

The descriptions of areas and hotels in this brochure have been compiled as a result of inspection by our staff or agents and checked to ensure they are accurate. However, changes may occur after the date of publication. In addition there may be occasions when accommodation owners, proprietors of facilities etc. may decide to withdraw some of the facilities. These are regrettably beyond our control and we therefore reserve the right to change the particulars at any time before we confirm your booking. We will inform you of any such change at the time of booking, or, if you have already booked, you will be contacted before your departure if there is time. Public holidays particularly Christmas, New Year and religious festivals may also affect the availability of centre and hotel facilities.

## MINIMUM NUMBERS

Certain tours require a minimum number of people to enable them to operate. We will check whether these minimum numbers have been reached no later than ten weeks before the relevant tour departure date. We shall inform you immediately if the minimum number necessary has not been reached for your tour and in that event we reserve the right to cancel your holiday and refund all monies which you have paid to us.

## CORRESPONDENCE

If you make your booking through a travel agent, all communications between you and Nordic Experience must be through that travel agent. If you book your tour direct with us we will send all correspondence direct to you. Please quote the reference number shown on your invoice in any communication.

## HEALTH, VISAS AND DOCUMENTS

a) You must ensure that you and all members of your party have a valid passport and visas and any inoculations and health certificates for all countries to be visited. Your passport must be valid for at least six months following your arrival at your foreign destination.

b) We will offer reasonable assistance and advice as to how to arrange such items, but we cannot in any circumstances

be responsible if any member of your party is not permitted to enter any country. You should therefore make necessary arrangements well in advance of your departure date. For FCO advice contact [www.gov.uk/knowbeforeyougo](http://www.gov.uk/knowbeforeyougo) or ABTA Consumer Helpline on 020 3117 0599.

## SPECIAL REQUESTS

If you have any special request, (e.g. dietary requirements or a need for special assistance), please inform us. We will always do our best to meet such requests but cannot guarantee to do so, and in no circumstances will any such request be accepted by us so as to form part of our contractual agreement.

## BOARD & TRANSFERS

All our tours include open style Scandinavian buffet breakfasts. These will include cereal, juices, fresh rolls, bread, cheeses and cold meats. Picnic or snack lunches and buffet suppers are provided where indicated in the price panel sub text and itinerary. Transfers are included where indicated in the price panel or in your tailor-made travel pack. Otherwise they are payable locally and are by public transport, fly bus services or taxi.

## ACCOMMODATION

The nature, style and standard of accommodation we use for our tours varies according to country, location and itinerary: please check the thumbnail sketches provided in each case. In respect of hotels we do not endorse any local star rankings since they do not, in our opinion, provide an accurate reflection of style, atmosphere or location. Please note the description 'twin room' refers to a twin bedded room and that a shower rather than a bathtub is the norm throughout Scandinavia. Whilst some hotel rooms can take an extra bed this will invariably result in the room being cramped. In some areas/countries single rooms may be inferior in standard to twin rooms.

## CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

Many of the tours in this brochure depend for their successful accomplishment on suitable climatic and weather conditions both prior to and during operation. Air temperature, sea state,

cloud cover, rainfall and terrain conditions are just some of the factors that can effect the operation of excursions, visibility of natural phenomena and sightings of wildlife. Tour validity and excursion/safari dates are given in good faith based on our experience and that of our suppliers. However we, or our agents, may have to change itineraries or cancel excursions at any time prior to departure or during a tour. If we do so, it is with your interest in mind and we regret the necessity of having to point out that we do not accept any liability for compensation in respect of such changes or cancellations.

## CLOTHING

Temperatures in the Nordic countries and Northern Europe can vary considerably from day to day or even in a day and conditions can change unexpectedly and rapidly; the terrain is often hazardous and ground conditions frequently difficult. You should take suitable clothing with these conditions in mind particularly good quality wind/rain proof outerwear; strong walking shoes or boots, gloves and sufficient and varied clothes to enable you to 'layer up'. Many of our tours, particularly in Iceland and Greenland, involve walking or medium grade hiking and you may find it useful to invest in a good pair of boots, broken in well before departure. If you're in any doubt as to what to take, we're always happy to talk it through with you.

## YOUR TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

We will normally send all your travel documents and itineraries to either yourself or your travel agent approximately two to three weeks before your departure. PLEASE check them carefully. In some cases, the timings may have changed from those on your holiday confirmation, and the correct timings will appear on the tickets themselves, or on accompanying documentation.

## TOUR PRICES

Full details of what is included in the price of your tour are shown in the panel on the relevant tour page. Prices are per person based on two people sharing a room unless otherwise specified and include all applicable taxes and mandatory charges. This brochure was published in 2014. Prices can change according to availability and seasonality and will be reconfirmed at the time of booking by way of a Confirmation Invoice.

## INSURANCE COVER

It is the responsibility of each passenger to decide whether and to what extent you should have insurance cover against risks of travel and to judge the suitability and adequacy of any cover and its terms, which may be offered to you by Nordic Experience or any other source.

We strongly advise that your travel is covered by comprehensive travel insurance that protects your safety and travel enjoyment. If you already have such insurance, or prefer to buy it from a third party then all we ask is that you notify us of the name of your insurer when you complete your booking form. The alternative cover should be at least as good as, if not better than our policy. Alternatively, we are

able to provide travel insurance covering the destinations and pre-booked activities featured in this brochure.

Nordic Experience an appointed Representative of Campbell Irvine Ltd. We are able to provide travel insurance covering all the destination and pre-booked activities featured in this brochure. Campbell Irvine Ltd is a specialist Insurance Brokers whose cover is provided by AmTrust Europe Ltd. Campbell Irvine are authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority. Their registration number can be checked on the fsa's register by visiting fsa's website at [www.fsa.org.uk/register](http://www.fsa.org.uk/register) or by contacting them on 0800 111 6768.

## IMAGE CREDITS

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Oddleiv Apneseth/Bergen Tourist Board, Fiam valley-Rolf M Sorensen/Visit Flam, Floyen/visitnorway.com •p28 The Bergen Wharf-Robin Strand/Bergen Tourist Board, Aurlandsfjord-Morten Rakke/Visit Flam, Trollhaugen, Bergen-Per Nybo/Bergen Tourist Board, Vigeland Sculpture Park-Rod Costa at Vigeland-museet/ visitoslo, Fish Market, Bergen-Terje Rakke at Nordic Life AS/ Fjord Norway, Aurlandsfjord-Paal Bugge/visitnorway.com •p29 Couple & Geirangerfjord-Frithjof Fure/Bergen Tourist Board, Hurtigruten ship/Hurtigruten •p30 Midnight Sun over Tromso, Dog Sledding-CH/visitnorway.com, RIB boat-Ernst Furuhatt/ nordnorge.com, Cable car over Tromso-Baard Loeken/nordnorge.com •p31 Beach at Ramberg-CH/visitnorway.com, Svinoya Rorbua-Tommy Simonsen/Svinoya Rorbua, Geiranger-Per Eide/visitnorway.com •p32 Rosendal Barony, Utne Hotel-Sue Mcalinden/Nordic Experience •p33 North Cape, Cathedral of the Northern Lights-CH, Eggum-Terje Rakke, Rock Carvings in Alta-CH, Birds in Finnmark-Johan Wildhagen/visitnorway.com •p34 The Rauma Railway & Trollveggen-Leif Johnny Olestad, Bakklundet in Trondheim-CH, Nidaros Cathedral-CH/visitnorway.com, Vigeland Sculpture Park-Heidi Thon at Vigeland-museet/ visitoslo •p35 Boat in Geiranger, Passengers on deck, View from Eagles Nest, Hurtigruten, Food on board, North Cape/ Hurtigruten •p38 Diana Exterior-Rikke Lind, Guests on board-Ola Marklund, Meal in restaurant-Claes Westlin, Close up of lock-Ola Marklund/Gota Kanal, Bergsslussar/Gota Kanal •p42 Romanian Athenaeum, Bucharest, Stairs, Roadside Fruit Stall, Grand Continental, Bucharest-John Bennett/Nordic Experience •p43 Houses on Fortress Square, Sighisoara-Sue McAlinden, Cristina-John Bennett, Pusza Horse Show-Sue Mcalinden, Danube Express Exterior-Sue Mcalinden/Nordic Experience. Additional thanks to Visit Finland, Visit Iceland, Iceland Travel, Special Tours, Blue Lagoon, Countryside Hotels and Golden Eagle.



# Booking Conditions

## 1. WHEN BOOKING

When you make your booking you must complete a booking form, accepting on behalf of all your party the terms of these booking conditions, and pay the appropriate deposit. If booking through a Travel Agent all monies paid to that agent are held by them on our behalf at all times. A contract will exist as soon as we issue our confirmation invoice. This contract is made on the terms of these booking conditions, which are governed by English Law, and the jurisdiction of the English Courts. You may however, choose the law and jurisdiction of Scotland or Northern Ireland if you wish to do so.

## 2. PAYING YOUR BALANCE

The balance of the price of your tour must be paid at least ten weeks before your departure date. If the balance is not paid in time we reserve the right to cancel your tour, retain your deposit, and apply the cancellation charges set out in paragraph 4 below.

## 3. AMENDING YOUR BOOKING

If, after our confirmation has been issued, you wish to change to another of our tours or change the departure date, we will endeavour to make any such change, provided the request to do so is received in writing from the person who signed the booking form or from your Travel Agent at least ten weeks before departure. This must be accompanied by a payment of £50 to cover administration costs. Alterations cannot normally be made within ten weeks of departure and any such request for an alteration will be treated as cancellation of the original booking and subject to the cancellation charges set out in paragraph 4 below. Please note that certain travel arrangements cannot be changed after a reservation has been made and any alteration will then incur a 100% cancellation charge and be treated as a new booking.

## 4. IF YOU CANCEL YOUR BOOKING

You, or any member of your party, may cancel your tour at any time providing that the cancellation is made by the person signing the booking form and is received by us in writing. As this incurs administrative costs, we will retain your deposit and apply cancellation charges up to the maximum below:

PERIOD BEFORE DEPARTURE WITHIN WHICH WRITTEN CANCELLATION IS RECEIVED BY US	AMOUNT OF CANCELLATION CHARGE SHOWN AS A MAXIMUM PERCENTAGE OF THE TOUR PRICE
More than 71 days	Deposit only
70-42 days	50%
within 42 days	100%

## 5. PROBLEMS

If you have a problem during your holiday, please inform the relevant supplier (e.g. hotelier, excursion operator, etc.) immediately, who will endeavour to put things right on our behalf. If your complaint is not resolved locally, please follow this up within 28 days of your return home by writing to us at 39 Crouch Street, Colchester CO3 3EN giving your booking reference and other relevant information to help us identify the problem(s) you encountered. It is strongly recommended you communicate any complaint to the supplier of the services in question and if possible keep a written account of having done so. If you fail to follow this simple procedure we will have been deprived of the opportunity to investigate and rectify your complaint whilst you were on tour and this may affect your rights under this contract.

As members of ABTA (membership number W879X) we are obliged to maintain a high standard of service to you by ABTA's Code of Conduct and it is unlikely that you will have a complaint that cannot be settled amicably between us. However, disputes arising out of, or in connection with, this contract which cannot be amicably settled may be referred to arbitration under a special scheme which is arranged by ABTA and administered independently. It is a simple and inexpensive method of arbitration on documents alone with restricted liability on you for costs. The upper limit on claims is £5,000 per person and £25,000 per booking form. The scheme doesn't apply to claims which are solely in respect of physical injury or illness of their consequences. It can however deal with claims which include an element of minor injury or illness subject to a limit of £1,500 on the amount the arbitrator can award per person in respect of this element. You request for arbitration must be received by ABTA within eighteen months of the date of return from holiday. For injury and illness claims, you can request the ABTA Mediation Procedure and we have the option to agree to mediation. Further information on the Code and ABTA's assistance in resolving disputes can be found on [www.abta.com](http://www.abta.com).

## 6. SURCHARGES

We reserve the right to alter the prices of any arrangement featured in our brochure or on our website. You will be advised of the current price of any arrangement you wish to book before your contract is confirmed.

Changes in transportation costs, including fuel costs, taxes or fees chargeable for services such as landing taxes or embarkation or disembarkation fees at ports and airports and exchange rates mean that the price of your travel arrangements may change after you have booked, but there will be no change within 30 days of your departure.

However we will absorb and you will not be charged for any increase equivalent to 2% of the price of your travel arrangements, which excludes insurance premiums and any amendment charges. You will be charged for the amount over and above that, plus an administration charge of £1.00 per person together with an amount

to cover agents' commission if applicable. If this means that you would have to pay an increase of more than 10% of the price of your travel arrangements, you will have the option of accepting a change to another arrangement if we are able to offer one (if this is of equivalent or higher quality you will not have to pay more but if it is of lower quality you will be refunded the difference in price), or cancelling and receiving a full refund of all monies paid, except for any amendment charges. Should the price of your arrangement decrease due to the changes mentioned above, (by more than 2% of your invoice paid) then any refund due will be paid to you. However, please note that travel arrangements are not always purchased in local currency and some apparent changes have no impact on the price of your travel due to contractual arrangements.

Should you decide to cancel for this reason, you must exercise your right to do so within 14 days from the issue date printed on your final invoice.

## 7. CANCELLATION AND VARIATION TO ARRANGEMENTS

It is unlikely that we will have to make any changes to your arrangements, but we do plan them many months in advance. Occasionally changes occur, but most are minor, and we will advise you or your travel agent at the earliest possible date. Flight timings and carriers in the brochure are subject to change as a result of airline procedures. Final details will be shown on your tickets and/or in the accompanying documentation. If a major change becomes necessary, we will inform you or your travel agent as soon as reasonably possible if there is time before departure. When a major change occurs (such as the alteration of your outward/return flights by more than 12 hours, changes of hotel or a reduction in the standard of accommodation), provided it does not arise from circumstances amounting to force majeure (see below), you will have the choice of either accepting the change, taking another available arrangement from us, or cancelling your arrangement and receiving a full refund. In the interests of our clients, we reserve the right to cancel itineraries, or to substitute alternative accommodation, if the arrangement, unamended, would then in our opinion suffer, or be in some way impracticable. However, in no case will we cancel your arrangement less than ten weeks before the scheduled departure date except for reasons of force majeure or failure on your part to pay the final balance (circumstances amounting to force majeure include war, the threat of war, riot, civil strife, industrial dispute, terrorist activity, natural or nuclear disaster, fire, adverse weather conditions, or withdrawal of suppliers facilities) We may cancel your holiday before this date if e.g. the minimum number of clients required for a particular travel arrangement is not reached. If your holiday is cancelled or we are unable to provide the arrangement booked you can either have a refund of all monies paid or accept an offer of alternative travel arrangements of comparable standard from us, if available (we will refund any price difference if the alternative is of a lower value). In some cases we will pay compensation (see below). If we cancel or make a major change and you accept a refund, we will consider an appropriate refund of your travel insurance premiums if you can show that you are unable to transfer or reuse your policy. If we cancel or make a major change we will pay compensation as detailed below except where the major change or cancellation arises due to reasons of force majeure. The compensation that we offer does not exclude you from claiming more if you are entitled to do so.

Period of notification of change before scheduled departure date  
Compensation per person

More than 60 days	Nil
60-43 days	£10
42-29 days	£20
28-15 days	£30
14-0 days	£40

In accordance with EU Regulation 2111/2005 we are required to advise you of the airline operating your flight/connecting flight/transfer which we do by detailing this on your confirmation invoice. Any changes to the airline used after you have received your tickets will be notified to you as soon as possible and in all cases at check-in or at the boarding gate. Such a change is deemed to be a minor change. Other examples of minor changes include alteration of your outward/return flights by less than 12 hours, changes to aircraft type, change of accommodation to another of the same standard.

## 8. OUR RESPONSIBILITY & LIABILITY TO YOU

If the contract we have with you is not performed or is improperly performed by us or our suppliers we will pay you appropriate compensation if this has affected the enjoyment of your travel arrangements. However we will not be liable where any failure in the performance of the contract is due to either you or a third party unconnected with the provision of the travel arrangements and where the failure was unforeseeable or unavoidable; or unusual and unforeseeable circumstances beyond our control, the consequences of which could not have been avoided even if all due care had been exercised; or an event which we or our suppliers, even with all due care, could not foresee or forestall. Our liability, except in cases involving death, injury or illness will be limited in accordance with and/or in an identical manner to (a) The contractual terms of the companies that provide the transportation for your travel arrangements and (b) Any relevant international convention, for example the Montreal Convention in respect of travel by air, the Athens Convention in respect of travel by sea, the Berne Convention in respect of travel by rail and the Paris Convention in respect of the provision of accommodation, which limit the amount of compensation that you can claim for death,

injury, delay to passengers and loss, damage and delay to luggage. We are to be regarded as having all benefit of any limitation of compensation contained in these or any conventions.

Although we do not control or operate any airlines, own any coaches, hotels or other facilities mentioned in our brochure, or directly employ staff of those organisations, we do take all reasonable steps to ensure that such organisations maintain standards which are acceptable to us within the bounds of possibility in each locality. No third party has the authority to make, on our behalf, any promise or representation to you concerning our tour or travel arrangements. We do not accept liability for any such arrangements changed without our consent, or make any refund for unused travel, accommodation vouchers or excursion vouchers other than at our absolute discretion.

The texts of the transport companies' contractual terms, or international conventions are available on request.

Under EU law (Regulation 261/2004) you have rights in some circumstances to refunds and/or compensation from your airline in cases of denied boarding, cancellation or delay to flights. Full details of these rights will be publicised at EU airports and will also be available from airlines. However reimbursement in such cases will not automatically entitle you to a refund of your holiday cost from us. Your right to a refund and/or compensation from us is set out in clause 6. If any payments to you are due from us, any payment made to you by the airline will be deducted from this amount. If your airline does not comply with these rules you should complain to the Civil Aviation Authority on 020 7453 6888 or email: [passengercomplaints@caa.co.uk](mailto:passengercomplaints@caa.co.uk). Further details can be found at [www.caa.co.uk/passengerrights](http://www.caa.co.uk/passengerrights).

## 9. YOUR RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY TO US

In accepting a booking and entering in to a contract with us you are provided with statutory protection under English and European Law and various International Treaties. In providing you with such protection you agree to satisfy our conditions for so doing. In particular we accept no responsibility for any claims for compensation that would have been met under the terms of the Personal Travel Policy we offer in relation to the programmes and tours featured in this brochure or any tailor made variations to them, irrespective of whether you take such policy or not.

When on any tour featured in this brochure you agree to abide by any advice given by our accompanying courier and/or any of our agents locally. You further accept and agree to accept your responsibility as being 'in loco parentis' for any children under the age of majority travelling with you and appearing on your Booking Form. In respect of all safaris, excursions and activities you further accept responsibility both for yourself and any accompanying children for listening and/or reading instructions given to you both on usage of equipment (including but not limited to equipment used in connection with animals), health and safety.

## 10. ASSISTANCE WHILST ON TOUR

If the contract we have with you is not performed or is improperly performed as a result of failures attributable to a third party connected with the provision of the services, or as a result of failures due to unusual and unforeseeable circumstances beyond our control, the consequences of which could not have been avoided even if all due care had been exercised, or an event which we or our suppliers, even with all due care, could not foresee or forestall, and you suffer an injury or other material loss, we will offer you such prompt assistance as is reasonable in the circumstances.

## 11. LOCALLY BOOKED EXCURSIONS & SAFARIS

For any excursion or safari that you book locally, your contract will be with the operator of that excursion or safari and not with us irrespective of whether the operator is one used by us or not. We do not accept responsibility for the provision of any such excursions or tours or for anything that happens during the course of its provision by the operator.

## 12. FINANCIAL PROTECTION & STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

The Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 require us to provide security for the monies that you pay for any tours booked with us and for your repatriation in the unlikely event of our insolvency. We provide this security by way of an ATOL 6558 administered by the Civil Aviation Authority and a bond held by ABTA. For further information please see [www.abta.com](http://www.abta.com). When you buy an ATOL protected air holiday you will receive an ATOL Certificate. This lists what is financially protected, where you can get information on what this means for you and who to contact if things go wrong. The CAA will ensure that you are not stranded abroad and will arrange to refund any money you have paid to us for an advance booking. For further information visit the ATOL website at [www.atol.org.uk](http://www.atol.org.uk) We are a member of ABTA, membership number W879X and are obliged to maintain a high standard of service to you by virtue of their Code of Conduct.

## 13. OTHER TERMS

The conditions, terms and obligations outlined in this brochure and on our website [www.nordicexperience.co.uk](http://www.nordicexperience.co.uk) under the heading "the small print" shall be deemed to be included within these conditions. Nordic Experience is a trading name of Colchester Travel Ltd with whom your contract is and which is governed by English Law and the jurisdiction of the English Courts.



## Booking Form

DEPARTURE DATE	DEPARTURE POINT	RETURN DATE	TOUR TITLE

TITLE	FIRST NAME	SURNAME	DATE OF BIRTH (IF UNDER 18)

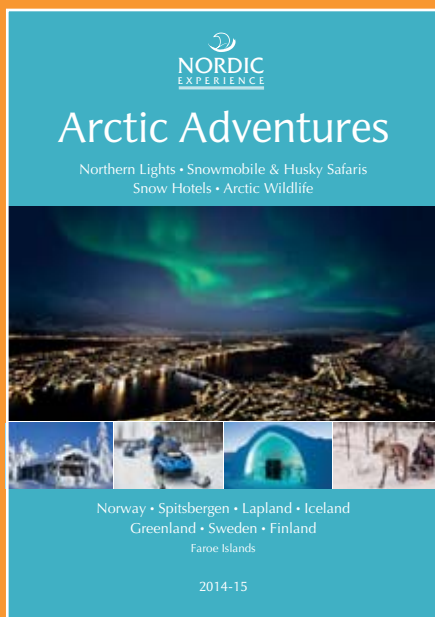
CLIENT'S ADDRESS OR ABTA AGENT'S STAMP	
AGENT'S ABTA NO	AGENT'S REF
CLIENT'S EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
Daytime .....	
Evening.....	
Mobile.....	
Next of Kin.....	

SPECIAL REQUESTS

I ENCLOSE A CHEQUE PAYABLE TO NORDIC EXPERIENCE OR GIVE CREDIT CARD AUTHORITY FOR:	
Deposits (£150 minimum per person travelling depending on tour booked)	£ <input type="text"/>
Total Amount (if within 10 weeks of departure)	£ <input type="text"/>
Travel Insurance Premiums (see page 15 for rates)	£ <input type="text"/>
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE</b>	£ <input type="text"/>
I certify that I am authorised to make this booking on behalf of all those named above and that I am responsible for ensuring payment of all monies due in respect of this booking. I have read and accept the Company's 'Booking Conditions' and 'Small Print' as being incorporated within the terms of the contract between us.	

I WISH TO PAY BY: CREDIT CARD/DEBIT CARD
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Deposit(s) only <input type="checkbox"/> Deposit(s) & Insurance Premiums <input type="checkbox"/> Confirmation invoice total (if within 10 weeks of departure) <input type="checkbox"/> Balance 10 weeks before departure
Card Number: <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
Expiry Date: <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> CC Security Code:* <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
Start Date: <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Issue No.* <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
Signed: <input type="text"/>
<small>There is no charge for payments made by Debit Card; Credit Card payments are surcharged at 2.4%; American Express payments at 3.6%. *for security reasons may be telephoned through</small>

I understand that it is a condition governing acceptance of this booking that I and all others named on this form are covered by comprehensive travel insurance. If I decline to take Nordic Experience's recommended policy covering the arrangements featured in this brochure, I agree to indemnify the Company as to any costs that might arise which would otherwise have been met had such insurance been in place.	
My alternative travel insurers are:	
<input type="text"/>	
Signed:	Date:
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>



[www.nordicexperience.co.uk](http://www.nordicexperience.co.uk)



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