

North Norway Whale Safari

In search of the aurora borealis and the Humpback Whale



Explore the northern Norwegian coastline in search of humpback whales and the aurora borealis on this seven-night Arctic winter cruise.

Every year, shoals of herring journey south from the Barents and Norwegian Seas to spawn near the Norwegian islands of Senja and Uloya, where they are preyed upon by humpback whales and orcas. Stopping to refuel before continuing their journey south, it is not uncommon to see a humpback breaching to get his fill of the shoal, while orcas hunt in packs and white-tailed eagles swoop in for their share.

In winter, the amount of daylight is limited but during the dark hours you'll have the chance to see the Northern Lights, or aurora borealis. This spectacular phenomenon can only be seen when the sky is dark and clear. The voyage will offer ample opportunities to admire the aurora borealis from the remote bays where you weigh anchor each evening.

During this 8-day cruise you will sail aboard the s/v Rembrandt van Rijn, an historic schooner that is perfectly suited for sailing among the islands and narrow fjords of northern Norway. The Rembrandt van Rijn offers good open deck viewing areas and accommodates a maximum of 33 guests in its 16 cabins.

Day 1: Board your ship in Tromso

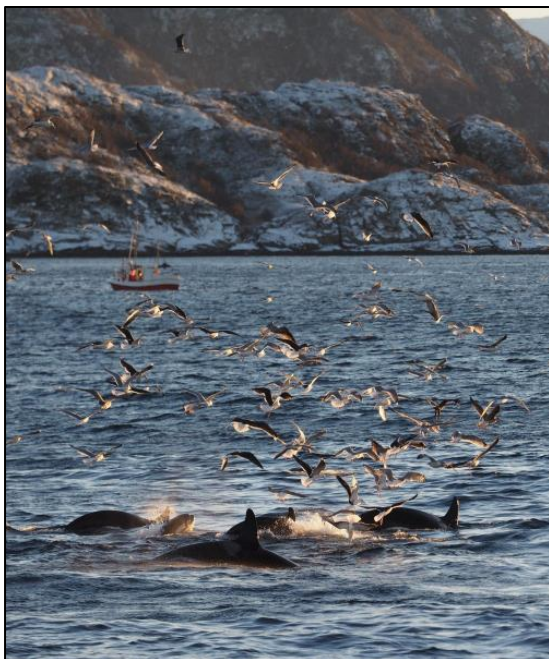
Your journey begins in the town of Tromso, sometimes referred to as the 'Paris of the North' on account of its romantic setting and lively street scene. Your vessel, the s/v Rembrandt van Rijn, will be waiting in Tromso harbour, ready to set sail late this evening.



Late this evening, you set sail from Tromso. Depending on the weather and the movement of the herring shoals, you will travel either south-west towards Senja, Norway's second largest island, notable for its spectacular fjords, islets, and mountains; or north-east to Kvaenangen fjord and the island of Uloya.

Boarding & Departure

Your vessel, the s/v Rembrandt van Rijn, will be docked in Tromso port throughout the day, and you are free to board anytime this afternoon. Please ensure you board by 5pm latest. Once you have checked in, the rest of the afternoon is free for you to explore Tromso, before retreating to your cabin on board the Rembrandt ready for departure this evening.

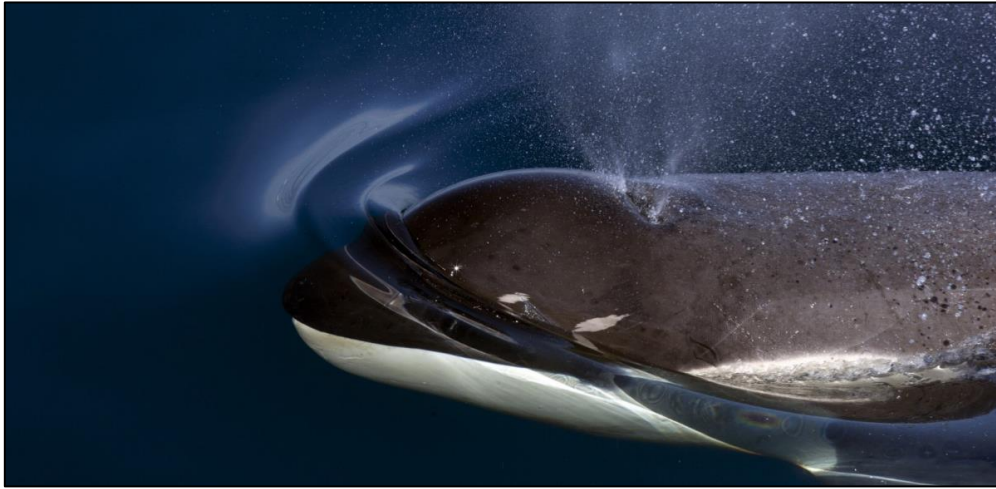


Days 2 - 6: Whale-watching

The next five days will be spent sailing along the coast of Senja and Andfjorden, or alternatively, to the northern fjords of Ullsfjorden, Lyngen and, ultimately, Kvaenangen. In this region of Norway, various species of whale, including orca, sperm and humpback, are frequently sighted in the early winter months, as they follow the herring shoals north into the Arctic Circle. The route you take will ultimately depend on the weather conditions, the amount of daylight during the voyage, and the expected location of the whales.

During the cruise, the ship crew will be on the lookout for humpback whales and orcas. Near Andenes, along the edge of the continental shelf, sperm whales are also known to dive particularly deep to feed on giant squid.

You may also see the rare white-tailed eagle, one of the largest birds of prey in Europe, which feeds on the large shoals of herring.



Each day, your vessel will moor in the afternoon at one of the many scenic fishing villages that still thrive in northern Norway. On the route around Senja, these stops might include Skrolsvik, Andenes, or Gryllefjorden; if travelling to Kvaenangen fjord, you are likely to moor at Skjervoy, Seglvik, Reinfjord and Burfjord. Once the sun has set, you can enjoy short hikes along the coast – with luck, clear skies and favourable conditions will allow you to see the aurora borealis.

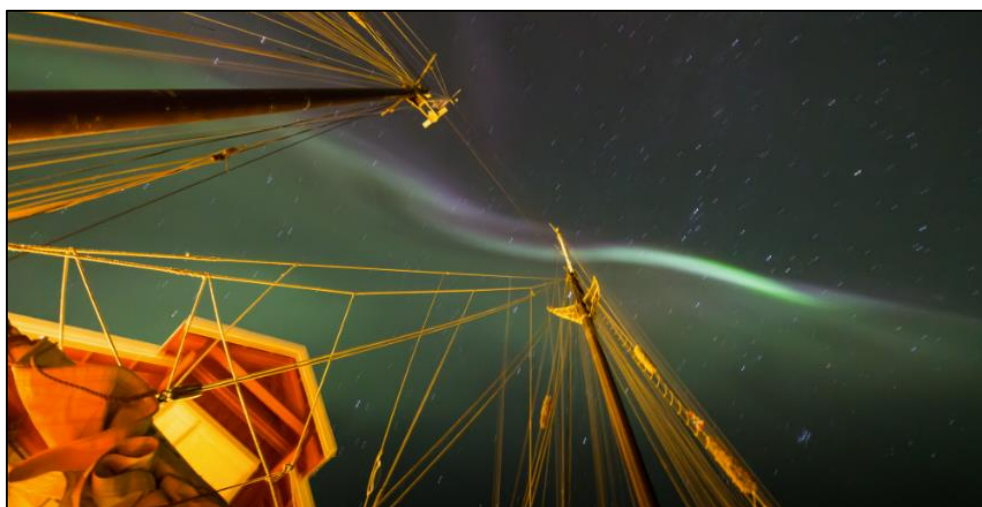
Day 7: Return Tromso

Today will see you return to Tromso, typically arriving mid-afternoon. The rest of the day is free for you to explore the town independently. You might like to pay a visit to the Arctic Cathedral, and/or enjoy a ride on the Fjellheisen cable car for stunning views of Tromso and its surrounds from Mt Storsteinen.

Be sure to return to the vessel in time for supper and your last night on board.

Day 8: Disembark in Tromso

After spending the last night on board, you disembark on day eight with memories that will accompany you wherever your next adventure lies.



Your journey ends in Tromso. We can help with your onward transfer arrangements and accommodation in Tromso/Oslo if required.

Booking Information:

Please see the price guide on our [North Norway Whale Safari overview page](#) for a list of available departure dates and rates. Alternatively, please contact Sarah@Ganeandmarshall.com for the latest availability, dates and information on any currently-available special offers.

Includes:

- 8-day Arctic cruise aboard the s/v Rembrandt van Rijn
- All meals, snacks, tea & coffee while aboard the ship
- All shore excursions and activities
- All service taxes and charges
- Program of lectures by noted naturalists and expeditioners

Excludes:

- International flights
- Pre- and post-travel arrangements
- Transfers to / from the vessel
- Passport and visa expenses
- Meals ashore
- Insurance
- All items of a personal nature
- Tips

This cruise is organised and operated by **Oceanwide Expeditions**, a leading specialist in Arctic and Antarctic cruises. As agents for Oceanwide, Gane and Marshall can help you secure the best rates on all Oceanwide cruises, taking advantage of any special offers available at the time of your booking. We strive to keep our rates as competitive as possible, so if you see this cruise available for a lower rate elsewhere, please let us know and we'll do our best to match or beat the price!

Please note: this itinerary is for guidance only. Your programme may vary depending on local weather conditions, the availability of landing sites, and opportunities to see wildlife. The final itinerary will be determined by the Expedition Leader on board your vessel. Flexibility is paramount for expedition cruises.