



TAILOR-MADE DESTINATIONS

Winter Voyage to Norway (Christmas & New Year)

Experience the spectacular Norwegian coast, the aurora borealis, Christmas markets and wonderful Yuletide celebrations, on this 15-day festive voyage to Norway aboard the MS Maud, departing from Dover, UK



22 December: Depart from Dover

Board the MS Maud at approx. 15:00. Pick up your complimentary expedition jacket, settle into your cabin and get to know the MS Maud, your home from home for the next 15 days. After a short safety drill, you are free to take in the sea air and enjoy the panoramic views as you start your journey towards the snow-covered landscapes of Norway.

23 December: “Little Christmas Eve” en route to Norway

Today you will have time to enjoy the facilities and relax as you approach the Norwegian Coast. As Norwegians enjoy their main Christmas festivities on the 24th, or Christmas Eve, the 23rd of December has something of a special status as “Little Christmas Eve”!

24 December: Egersund on Christmas Eve

The first stop of your voyage will be in Egersund, a pretty harbour town on the southern coast of Norway. Arriving this morning, you’ll have much of the day free to explore the town and its harbour, which will be decorated in traditional Christmas fashion.

Some of the best-preserved wooden houses in Norway are found in Egersund. Many have been converted into small specialty shops, which sit comfortably side by side with private homes – as you explore, you might like to stop and enjoy a glass of mulled wine or other local treats!

Your Financial Protection

All monies paid by you for the air holiday package shown [or flights if appropriate] are ATOL protected by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 3145.

For more information see our booking terms and conditions.

The older parts of the town are of special historic interest, in particular the Hauen area, where houses, workshops and outhouses are all jumbled together, creating an eclectic mix of styles. The beautiful 17th century cruciform church is Egersund's oldest building, and on most days is open to visitors; you may have the opportunity to attend a service or choir concert here to celebrate Christmas Eve. Elsewhere in Egersund, the tiny chocolate factory serves delicious gourmet treats which make ideal gifts.

Return to ship in the afternoon and continue sailing north. In the evening, your captain will navigate to calm waters where you can enjoy a special Christmas dinner, in which the menu will be a replica of the Christmas dinner explorer Fridtjof Nansen enjoyed in 1893. Your chefs will prepare a delicious meal of oxtail soup, fish terrine, tender reindeer with lingonberry sauce, stewed cloudberry and kransekake – a traditional Norwegian sweet made of almonds. All washed down with a glass or two of local akevitt (snaps) and beer!



25 December: Christmas in Fjaerland

Today is the day when most guests onboard the MS Maud will celebrate Christmas. The location couldn't be more magical for this special day, as you cruise deep into the Fjaerland fjord to arrive at the tiny hamlet of the same name. This glacier village is where the Sognefjord meets Jostedalsglacier, the largest glacier on the European continent. Several outlet glaciers flow in many directions and in Fjaerland you are very close to two of these outlet glaciers – the views are marvellous!

You'll have plenty of time to stroll around the village. If the weather permits, you can also choose to take part in a winter hike or enjoy an optional kayaking trip with your expedition team.

As the day closes, return to the ship for a delicious meal in beautiful surroundings.

26 December: Cruise towards the Arctic

Today will be spent at sea with plenty of time to relax and enjoy the views as you sail through Helgeland towards the Arctic. You can expect fabulous scenery en route – of the Norwegian coast, its many small isles, and of the Seven Sisters mountain range. You'll also pass Torghatten Mountain, a famous landmark owing to the distinctive natural hole through its centre. These mountains are woven into many Nordland fairy tales, which abound with stories of frozen trolls and other mythical creatures hidden in their depths!



This evening, as you sail through the polar night, you will experience the “blue hour”, when the winter sun falls below the horizon and the residual light is reflected off the white snow and blue sea, creating a wonderful blue light. As you move closer to the Aurora Zone, your expedition team will be on hand, providing talks and advice on how to capture the best northern lights images.

27 December: Svolvær, Lofoten Islands

You officially cross the Arctic Circle early this morning, and in the tradition of Norwegian sailors, you will be invited out on deck for a special ceremony organised by the expedition team!

The scenery as you approach the Lofoten Archipelago is a photographer’s dream. From a distance, the islands appear as if a huge wall of mountains and dramatic peaks rising up out of the sea, but as you get closer, you’ll sail past beautiful beaches and working fishing villages nestled in sheltered coves. The views are all the more dramatic if the aurora is swirling above.

You can expect to arrive in Svolvær, the largest town in Lofoten, early this afternoon. Your first image as you enter the harbour of Svolvær will be the rows of fishing huts (Norwegian “rorbuer”) and wooden drying racks that line the shore. This is where locally caught fish is dried and turned into stockfish, a prized local delicacy.



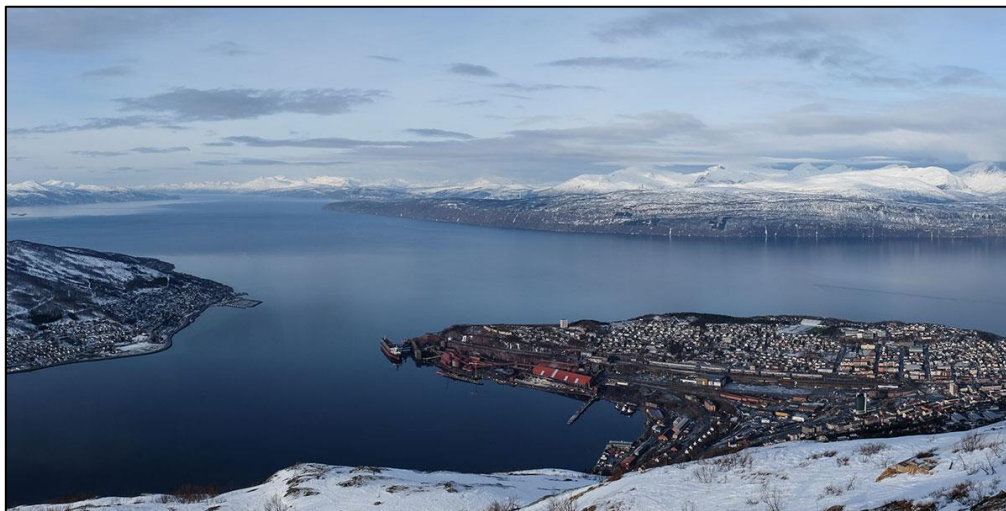
The afternoon will be free to explore Svolvær independently or to join a guided activity. One possibility is to rent a kicksled for a traditional ride through the town (powered by kicking the

ground!) Other optional guided excursions include snowshoeing or hiking in the spectacular Lofoten scenery, lit by headlamps and perhaps the Northern Lights. Or you may prefer to simply enjoy a leisurely stroll around the town with its many galleries and shops. If shops are open, this is a great place to buy delicious local caviar! A visit to the Magic Ice Bar is also highly recommended; this former warehouse is filled with ice sculptures depicting Lofoten life and Viking culture.

28 December: the historical port of Narvik

Arrive into the port of Narvik this morning.

Narvik has a spectacular setting on a peninsula surrounded by three fjords – the Rombaken, Ofotfjord and Beisfjord – and mountains which shelter the town and its popular ski slopes from the powerful coastal winds.



Narvik is a relatively modern town with a thriving outdoor sports centre specializing in skiing, paragliding and diving. Yet its modern face belies a longer history. Narvik took form in the 19th century, when the town was established to handle the iron ore brought by train from northern Sweden. Its iron ore docks, walkways, cranes and funnels are immediately conspicuous, and give the town a ‘frontier’ Arctic feel. Narvik was also of great importance for Germany during the Second World War. If you’ve an interest in this era, you might consider a visit to the War Museum, where you can view exhibits and artifacts from the 1940s, including many related to ‘Operation Wilfred’, a pivotal moment in the war in which British and Allied forces sought to liberate the town from the Nazis.

Later you may enjoy browsing the town’s shops, galleries and restaurants. If the weather is kind, you can also take a cable car to the top of Mount Narvik for wonderful views of the town adorned in Christmas lights. Optional excursions include guided hikes, snowshoeing and kayaking.

29 December: Northern Lights in Alta

Alta, the turning point of your expedition, lies in the vast wilderness of Troms and Finnmark country, well above the Arctic circle at 70 degrees north. Indeed, Alta is one of the northernmost towns in the world, and one of the best places to see the northern lights, as the town is situated directly below the Auroral Oval, known for its consistent auroral activity.

Arriving into Alta early this afternoon, you’ll stay in the town until after midnight so that you can enjoy the star-filled night sky and watch for the Aurora.



While in Alta, you'll also enjoy a tour of the Northern Lights Cathedral, which, with its modernist architecture and spiral belfry, stands out as one of the most distinctive features of the town's skyline. The cathedral houses an interactive exhibition that chronicles Northern Lights research in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. As part of your visit, you will be treated to a classical concert in the cathedral to mark the festive season.

Alta is also part of the traditional lands of the Sami, whose livelihoods revolve around semi-nomadic reindeer herding. During the course of the day, you will have the option to take an excursion to a Sami Village located along the Kautokeino River, where you can experience Sami culture and food.

30 December: Tromso – Gateway to the Arctic

Your adventure continues as you sail to Tromso, often referred to as the "Gateway to the Arctic".

While en route to Tromso this morning, the MS Maud's deck is the perfect spot to look out for humpback whales, who are frequent visitors to these waters owing to the abundant herring. The expedition team will be on hand to alert you to any sightings.

Arriving in Tromso around lunchtime, you'll spend the rest of the day and early evening exploring its fascinating history and culture. Tromso's most iconic building is the Arctic Cathedral, which can be seen from the harbour. Another highlight is the Polar Museum, which provides a fascinating look at the lives of the early trappers and explorers, such as Fritjof Nansen and Roald Amundsen.



If time allows, a ride on the Fjellheisen cable car (421m) to Mt. Storsteinen will provide fabulous views of the islands, fjords, mountains and sea.

31 December: Reine, Lofoten Islands

Reine is one of the most photographed locations in Norway, and the perfect place to spend New Year's Eve. Here the red painted, and often snow-covered rorbuer (fishermen's cabins) sit beneath dark granite mountains. Tall Reinebringen, at 450 metres, is the most distinctive of the

surrounding peaks, though there are several others. If the Northern Lights are active, the photo opportunities are even more spectacular!



Included today is a bus ride to Å, a small and beautifully-preserved fishing village. At the heart of the village is the Norwegian Fishing Village Museum, which provides an insight into Lofoten fishing culture over the last 250 years.

Later, return to Reine where there may be opportunities to join optional activities, such as a hike with the expedition team or kayaking.

Leaving Reine, you cross Vestfjorden to calm waters for a special New Year's Eve dinner. Among the delicious food provided will be caviar, king crab, beef, salmon and nut roast, with an aquavit sorbet to round off your meal. At midnight, you may be treated to both fireworks and the northern lights in the skies above – a fantastic way to see in the new year!



01 January: Relaxing at sea

Today is spent relaxing at sea. There will be plenty of time to enjoy the ship's facilities, including the explorer's deck, sauna, hot tub, or to book a massage.

02 January: Kalvag – the 'Frozen Bay'

Today's stop will be in Kalvag, one of the most remote fishing villages on the rugged North Sea coast of Norway.

The name Kalvag means “frozen bay”. Owing to the location, it is not always possible to land here, but provided a safe landing can be made you can expect an enthusiastic welcome from the villagers of this picturesque village. Enjoy a walk along the old waterfront, with its wooden wharf and salting warehouses. If time allows, you may like to join an optional hike or kayaking excursion.

03 January: Mosteroy and Klosteroy

You'll arrive this morning in Mosteroy and Klosteroy, the final stop of your Norwegian journey. These are two of the many islands that lie off the city of Stavanger.

Mosteroy is a small island whose economy is centred on fishing and agriculture. Pretty hamlets are scattered around the island, which is connected by bridge to Klosteroy. The even smaller island of Klosteroy is home to the historic Utstein Abbey and the 800-year-old Utstein Church, Norway's best-preserved medieval monastery.

NB. Landing on Mosteroy and Klosteroy is dependent on the weather, as the islands are very exposed. Weather permitting, you will land in the morning and will be offered optional excursions for walking and winter kayaking with the expedition team.

04 January: Homeward bound

Today is your final day at sea. Revisit the highlights of your trip and enjoy the facilities onboard the MS Maud as the vessel makes its way back to Dover.

05 January: Arrive Dover

Arrive back in Dover, where you disembark at approx. 9am this morning.



Your vessel: the MS Maud

The MS Maud will be re-launched in the Summer of 2021 as a refurbished, hybrid-powered, environmentally-friendly vessel with dramatically reduced CO2-emissions and fuel usage. Part of the Hurtigruten fleet, MS Maud can carry 530 passengers in a choice of four cabin/suite categories, including polar inside, polar outside, Arctic superior and expedition suite. All categories include ensuite bathroom, double beds (some rooms can be converted to twin beds), and TV. The polar cabins have outside views, while the Arctic superior suites located on the middle deck have a large seating area and the spacious Expedition suites have seating areas, coffee-making facilities and mini-bars.

The MS Maud has a choice of three restaurants all serving excellent food. Restaurant Anne is the main dining room, Fredheim Restaurant offers light meals and fast food, while the Lindstrom serves gourmet meals for both lunch and dinner.

Onboard facilities include an observation deck with enormous windows to make the most of the views, a fitness centre with outdoor gym and hot tubs, a well-stocked library, and a science centre with interactive learning tools. There is also a playroom for children.

Please see price guide on next page.

Booking Information:

Please see the price guide on our [Winter Voyage to Norway overview page](#) for available departure dates and rates. Alternatively, contact us directly on info@ganeandmarshall.com or 01822 600 600 for the latest availability, and for information on any currently-available special offers.

Includes:

- 15-day cruise on the MS Maud – price based on two sharing an inside cabin (other cabin categories are available).
- Onboard facilities including hot tubs, panoramic sauna, outdoor and indoor gyms.
- All meals while aboard the ship, including beverages (house beer and wine, soft drinks, and mineral water).
- A selection of included excursions, during which you will be accompanied by an English-speaking expedition team.
- Escorted landings with small expedition boats.
- Complimentary wind and water-resistant expedition jacket. Trekking poles, head lamps and walking poles available if necessary.
- Programme of lectures by experienced expedition staff and an onboard photographer.

Excludes:

- Pre- and post-travel arrangements
- Transfers to / from the vessel at itinerary start and finish
- Meals ashore
- Some activities are at additional cost
- Insurance
- All items of a personal nature
- Tips

This cruise is organised and operated by **Hurtigruten**, a leading specialist in cruise holidays. As agents for Hurtigruten, Gane and Marshall can help you secure the best rates on all Hurtigruten departures, 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 from another operator, please let us know and we'll do our best to match or beat them!