



Kirkenes - Northern Lights And the Snowhotel



HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group

VISITING: Norway

BROCHURE CODE: 5202

DURATION: 3 nights

In Brief

Travel to Kirkenes and enjoy some unique Arctic experiences. During three nights, you'll experience the best of this frontier land when you go dog sledding, ice fishing and Northern Lights hunting. There's even a visit to the famous Snowhotel.

Our Opinion

“ Kirkenes is a unique destination and this short break offers you the chance to see all of the main highlights. For me, one of the best experiences is the combination of the snowmobile tour, king crab fishing and Northern Lights hunt. Spending an evening in a delightfully wild setting and gorging on the freshest king crab is magical enough but if the Aurora appears overhead it becomes utterly exceptional. ”

Alex Charlton

The Specifics

Holiday group size (approximate)

Approximately 2 - 24 people

Group Size

We always try to provide an approximation of the group size you can expect to be with for the duration of each of our holidays. It may be that you are joined by others for parts of your holiday (such as transfers and particular activities) but the above number reflects those you can normally expect to be with from beginning to end. If group size is something which is particularly important to you, please speak to our Travel Experts and they can suggest the best holidays for you.

Tailor-made holiday group sizes will vary for all activities as will the group size for any additional activities you book.

Minimum and maximum age

If a specific minimum age applies to this holiday, it can be found in the Key Facts box on the holiday Overview page.

Unless otherwise stated in the in the Key Facts box on the holiday Overview page, the minimum age for participation in an Artisan holiday is typically 8 years old (there may be younger children in some destinations who have booked with other companies). If an adult-only environment is important to you, then please contact our Travel Experts and they will advise on the best dates and destinations for you. If you are looking for a holiday designed specifically for families then please see our sister company www.activitiesabroad.com

Itinerary amendments

The order of activities listed in this agenda is provided for guidance only, your final and detailed itinerary will be provided either with your final travel documents (which are uploaded into your online account around a week prior to departure) or upon arrival.

Guides & Safety

When partaking in any activity, it is imperative that everyone in your group listens very closely to the instructions provided by the guide and that they are abided by at all times. Our guides are experts in their field and no one knows the environment better than these highly knowledgeable and experienced providers.

Prior to starting any activity, please make it clear to your guide if there is any element of the safety briefing you are unsure of or would like to clarify before you set off.

Our guides will always take local conditions into account when considering whether an activity can go ahead. This is, in part, why your itinerary is subject to change at short notice. This rarely happens, however, if it does, we will always endeavour to reschedule the activity for later in your holiday. If this is not possible then the cost of the activity will be refunded to you when you return home.

Our guides' word on activities is always final and your safety is their principal concern at all times; please respect their decisions. By following their instructions, your safety and enjoyment during each activity will be greatly enhanced.

NB: In order to participate in our holidays, all guests must be able to understand instructions given in English. These instructions may be delivered verbally or in writing and will include vital safety information and ongoing instruction during activities.

Pregnancy

If you are pregnant at the time of booking your holiday or you discover you are pregnant prior to your departure, firstly – congratulations! Secondly – please tell us as soon as possible. This situation does frequently arise and we are able to advise you both from our own first-hand experience and from discussing this at length with our expert local partners who have experience in this area. The more notice you can give us the better, in order to suggest any adaptations to the itinerary you have booked which will reduce the risk to both mother and baby. Please contact our customer service team for more information. <https://www.artisantravel.co.uk/about-us/contact-us>

Experience and Fitness

Most of the activities we offer have been designed for beginners who have no prior experience and are of all age ranges and fitness levels. Our guides provide expert advice, tuition and instructions prior to any activity going ahead. Activities are designed to be enjoyed and not endured, but some, such as cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, do require a more basic level of fitness than, for example, riding on a snowmobile. If you have any questions, then please contact one of our Travel Experts who can provide first-hand advice.

The only holidays which are not as suitable for complete beginners are the multi-night safaris which involve several days in wilderness cabins travelling by either snowmobile or husky safari. Again, this all depends on the individual taking part, but some prior experience and understanding of these types of activities can be very helpful.

Financial Protection

We know that your holiday will be one of the most important investments you make in a year and we understand how important it is for you to know that you are financially protected and that your money is secure. Alongside our ATOL financial protection (ATOL 6865) you may book with confidence as we are a fully bonded member of ABTA (ABTA number Y6261). This means that you have the benefit of

ABTA's code of conduct and your money is fully protected regardless of whether we are arranging your flights for you or not. We also offer our clients our 'Peace of Mind Promise' to really put your mind at ease. Please see the following link for full details: <https://www.artisantravel.co.uk/about-us/financial-protection>

Responsible Travel

Responsible Travel is at the heart of our business and our approach is based on ensuring that our holidays are environmentally, socially and economically responsible. We work in some of the most pristine environments in the world and with suppliers who we class as friends; protecting and providing for both is central to our ethos. Full details of our Responsible Travel Policy can be found on our [website](#).

Tipping

At your discretion, you may wish to tip your guides at the end of your stay as a gesture of appreciation for their efforts during your holiday.

Medical History and Advice

We want our holidays to be accessible as they can be and will do our best to accommodate any special requests and requirements where possible. We have a wide range of holidays and destinations and so our travel experts will help find the best holiday for you.

In order to give us the best possible chance to do this we ask that if you or any member of your party has any medical condition or disability which may affect your holiday or has any special requirements, that you tell us at the time of enquiry or booking. You must also promptly advise us if any medical condition or disability which may affect your holiday develops after your booking has been confirmed. You may need to provide a doctor's note and proof of insurance in some cases as the health and safety of our clients is absolutely paramount.

In providing this information you are allowing us to work with our expert local partners to ensure that your whole party can enjoy the holiday. By letting us know in advance we can discreetly work with you to adapt any part of the holiday which may potentially be challenging. Being able to prepare for this in advance makes an incredible difference to what we can offer and minimises any impact on your party and the rest of the group.

Unfortunately, if you choose not to share this information with us in advance then it may limit some or all of the itinerary you have booked, and we cannot be held accountable for any additional costs or missed activities resulting from this.

Insurance

Insurance is not included in your holiday, but it is a pre-requisite to travelling with us. You will need to ensure that you have cover for all the activities that you will be participating in during your holiday.

It is extremely important that you take out a suitable travel insurance policy at the time of booking. Plans do sometimes change, and you will need this policy should you need to cancel your holiday.

If you are struggling to find a suitable policy then details of our preferred provider, who will cover you for all the activities we offer, can be found on our website by [clicking here](#). Please note that this policy is available to EU residents under the age of 75 only.

The UK Foreign Office Advice

Our clients' safety is at the centre of everything we do, and our operations team continually assesses and monitors the destinations we feature. We carry out thorough risk assessments and work closely with all of our suppliers to continually follow best practice. For up to date travel advice the UK government offers its [Travel Aware website](#) as well as the advice detailed below.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office Advice

We receive all updates from the [Foreign and Commonwealth Office \(FCO\)](#) with regards to travel advice and we always ensure that we follow this advice in our operations. The FCO issues travel advisories for countries based on a very wide range of factors. They may provide notification about things as simple as a football match and crowds, or they may go so far as to advise against all travel to a region. We ask all our clients to refer to the relevant [Travel Advice by Country](#) for the destinations they are visiting in order to make an informed decision on the safety of the destination based on the details provided. It also provides vital information regarding entry requirements, embassy information, local laws and customs as well as specific safety and health. Guests should take responsibility for keeping themselves up to date with this advice. Please also ensure that, if you are transiting through another country, you have read the advice and meet the entry requirements for that destination too.

The FCO travel advice is applicable to British Passport Holders. Most governments will issue their own travel advice for a region and, if you are not a UK resident then you can find some helpful links below:

Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade <http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/>

New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade <http://www.safetravel.govt.nz/>

Canadian Consular Affairs Bureau <http://voyage.gc.ca/>

The U.S. Bureau of Consular Affairs <http://travel.state.gov/content/travel/english.html>

If the FCO deems that there is an unacceptable level of risk for UK citizens then, together with the government, they may issue an advisory against all travel to a region or country. If such an advisory is published, then we will act accordingly, and this may require the cancellation, curtailment or amendment of a holiday itinerary. These decisions are made on the basis of ensuring our clients' safety and will affect all clients on the holiday, regardless of their nationality.

If one of our local experts suggests an amendment due to a situation which develops locally then we may also take the decision to amend an itinerary appropriately.

If we have to cancel your holiday prior to departure you will be offered the option of an alternative trip (where any price difference will either be refunded to or covered by you) or a full refund of the monies paid.

If we have to curtail a holiday, then you will be refunded for any costs for the elements we have been unable to deliver, where we have been able to secure a refund from our suppliers. If we must reroute a holiday, then any basis for refund is determined on a case by case basis and dependent on whether the central holiday experience was provided or not.

Booking activities locally

Additional activities can be booked locally in almost all our destinations. However, as per our booking conditions, we cannot be held responsible for any injury or loss incurred through participation in activities which are booked at your destination outside of our holiday itinerary (see our 'Terms and Conditions' for further details).

When arranging any such activity please always ensure that safety is your primary concern.

In some of our destinations, you can borrow or hire equipment for use in your free time. You do so entirely at your own risk. You must ensure that you are properly prepared, have the necessary equipment and knowledge (maps, etc) and ensure that where applicable, you follow marked routes. We recommend discussing your plans with the local teams who will be able to advise on the most suitable options for you.

Always let the reception/guide know where you are planning to go and take a torch and mobile phone (with the hotel/guide's phone number stored). It is also a good idea to leave your contact number and the time you expect to return to the hotel should the hotel need to contact you.

Brexit information for British Passport holders

For the most up to date information on how the UK's departure from the EU may affect your holiday please [click here](#) to view our Brexit information for British Passport holders.

Snowmobile Safety

If your holiday includes snowmobiling or the chance for you to add on this activity, then please read this important information.

Driving a snowmobile should be considered the same as driving a hire car. The owner of the vehicle will have third-party motor liability cover in place which complies with the local legislation and extends to include hire and reward. If you (as the hirer of the snowmobile during any safari) injure someone or damage someone else's property (including another snowmobile), then the owner's third-party liability cover will cover such risks.

Any damage to the snowmobile you are riding will also be covered under the owner's motor insurance policy; however, you as the driver will have to cover the policy excess. In most cases, this will be somewhere between £500 - £1,500 (the equivalent in local currency) but it can vary.

To our knowledge (and we have searched extensively) there is no insurance policy that will cover you for this excess and it cannot be waived. In some cases, it may be possible to pay to lower this, but this is rare and always arranged locally. Ask the guides if you have any queries regarding the excess, etc.

Snowmobile accidents are rare, but the driver should take extra care throughout. You will, of course, be provided with a full briefing on how to use a snowmobile. However, if you are unsure of any instructions or any aspect of operating a snowmobile, then you must ask a guide for clarification immediately.

Whether you are driving or riding as a passenger, you must ensure that your travel insurance provides full cover for snowmobiling. This includes medical costs in the event you sustain an injury requiring medical treatment overseas. If you are a UK resident travelling in the EU, you should also ensure that you carry your EHIC card (European Health Insurance Card).

Drivers of snowmobiles should be in possession of a full driving licence. The minimum age for driving a snowmobile varies, but for insurance purposes, you generally need to be 18 years old to drive a snowmobile. You must ensure that anyone who may be required to drive a snowmobile takes a valid driving licence on holiday (either the old paper licence or the new photo card licence). This is not necessarily to show your instructors or guides, but for spot checks by police which occur regularly. There are strict rules governing snowmobiles and alcohol consumption and therefore alcohol should not be consumed at all before participating in a safari.

If you are unable to drive a snowmobile, then you may not be able to take part in a safari, however, you may be offered the chance to travel as a pillion passenger on another machine if you agree to do so. If this option is not available, then in some cases the guide may be able to arrange for a sled to be pulled for you behind their own machine.

Those under the age of 16 will normally travel in a sled pulled by the guide's snowmobile. If sleds are unavailable, as is the case with some safaris, older children may be able to ride as pillion passengers. Discretion may be applied in resort by our expert guides based on the individual child. Please note for Canada and the US different rules and regulations may apply.

Norway FAQs

Useful words and phrases in Norwegian

We always encourage our clients to respect the lives of local inhabitants by learning a few important words, hello, goodbye, please, thank you etc.

English	Norwegian
Yes	Ja
No	Nei
Please	Var så snill
Thank you (very much)	(Tusen) takk
Good Morning	God morgen (or just "hei")
Good Afternoon	God ettermiddag (or just "hei")

Good night	God kveld (or just "hei")
Goodbye	Farvel (more common; "hade" or "hade bra")
How are you?	Hvordan har du det?
Fine thanks and you?	Fint, takk. Hvordan har du det?
do you speak English?	Snakker du engelsk?

Do they speak English in Norway?

You will find that the vast majority of Norwegians will speak excellent English as it is taught in all schools, and guides and staff on the trips will no doubt enjoy conversing in English with you. However, we would urge you to learn a few basic words in Norwegian as it is not only an interesting language but will no doubt enamour you to the locals!

What is the temperature like in Norway?

The temperature in Norway can vary hugely depending on where you are in the country and what time of year it is. As the majority of our trips are based in North Norway in the counties of Nordland and Finnmark, the weather and temperatures discussed here will be focused on these regions.

During the winter months the north coast of the country is not as cold as other countries of the same latitude as the Gulf Stream serves to keep temperatures mild as well as increasing rainfall.

Along the hugely long coastline of Norway, winters tend to be nowhere near as cold as locations in Northern Finland and Sweden. For example, between November and March the average temperature in Lofoten is around 0°C. Summers here are mild also, with an average temperature of around 15°C.

The far north east of the country has a sub-arctic climate similar to Finnish Lapland with average winter temperatures dropping to around -15°C in Karasjok and Kirkenes and summer temperatures of around 10°C.

The warmest time of year to go is between late June to early August, where temperatures reach highs of 25-30°C. If you are in Northern Norway from the middle of May to the end of July you will be lucky enough to witness the Midnight Sun.

How dark will it be in Norway?

Due to its high latitude, the north of Norway has large seasonal variations in daylight.

During the deep winter months of December to late January, the sun will not rise above the horizon, leading to the landscape being immersed in unique blue tinged polar light. It is never pitch black at this time of year however as any light there is will be reflected off the snow. A distinct advantage of the long hours of darkness is that it provides a greater opportunity to glimpse the Northern Lights.

As the season progresses, the daylight hours will start to increase rapidly by around four hours a month until the 24 hour daylight of June which will showcase the wonderful phenomenon of the Midnight Sun.

The daylight variation here adds to the charm of the region and ensures that any time of year has its own appeal.

How expensive is Norway?

Norway is probably the most expensive of all the Scandinavian countries with high prices for food, drink and accommodation. This is all due to high taxation, which may seem unfair to outsiders but ensures that Norway is one of the most generous welfare states in the world and has a higher average wage for its residents.

When visiting Norway you should be prepared to pay more for your purchases, in particular alcoholic drinks which are heavily taxed. We do not offer any all-inclusive trips, so drinks must be paid for directly with the hotel.

What is the currency in Norway?

The currency in Norway is the Norwegian Krone (abbreviated as NOK). Bank notes are available in values of 50, 100, 200, 500 and 1000 kroner and coins are in 1, 5, 10 20 kroner.

Major credit cards are accepted in most places and these are usually the easiest and most secure way to pay for your items. In order to pay or withdraw cash with your credit or debit card it requires that you have a card with chip and PIN (Personal Identification Number). The older magnetic-strip cards (usually found in the USA) are not commonly accepted.

In remote locations, cash machines are not common so we would advise you to either take cash with you or make use of the cash machines at the airport.

What is the food like in Norway?

In city locations such as Tromsø, the culinary scene is incredibly modern, international and varied and there are a huge and popular range of restaurants to choose from.

In its traditional form, Norwegian cuisine, in similarity to other Scandinavian countries is developed largely from the natural surroundings of its sea, mountains and wilderness.

With a coastline, covering more than 25000km it is not surprising that fish and seafood dominate Norway's culinary scene. A traditional Norwegian dish which is now a major international export is smoked salmon and this will be commonly found throughout the country. Cod, sardines, herring and mackerel are also widely featured.

In the coastal regions, Lutefisk is also a famous snack. Here fish is hung out to dry on huge drying racks, using a method that has been in practice for thousands of years.

The northern coastal regions, in particular Kirkenes, are renowned for freshly caught King Crab dishes. These creatures were introduced to the Barents Sea by Russia during the 1960s to provide a valuable catch for Soviet fishermen. Served as a delicacy, they have flourished and spread along the coast.

The diversity of Norway's landscape also provides a natural habitat to a range of sheep, elk, reindeer and woodland fowl, which are commonly used in recipes throughout the country.

The mild summers also allow plants to ripen at a slower pace (infusing fruit and vegetables with rich flavour). In particular, crushed juniper and lingonberries are used to complement a variety of dishes.

What kind of plugs do I need in Norway?

Norway uses the Northern European two-pronged plug (type C), so you will need an adaptor if travelling from the UK.

Flight schedule changes and connecting transportation

On your documentation, we will confirm your flight schedule. Sometimes the flight number, routing and timings might change prior to your departure. If the change is classed as a significant change then we will contact you to discuss this. Please see our booking conditions for details.

Flight schedule changes can impact on your pre and post-holiday travel arrangements if these have been booked separately to your holiday. We strongly recommend that you do not book transport (such as trains or transfers), car parking or non-connecting flights to the departure point for your holiday until you have received your final confirmed travel times when your final travel documents are issued. We are not responsible for the effect of any schedule change on your pre or post travel arrangements. We strongly recommend that you do not purchase non-flexible or non-refundable tickets to avoid cancellation and penalty charges.

Booking your own flights - cancellation disclaimer

If you have chosen to book your own flights, then you will need to wait until we confirm to you that the holiday departure has met the minimum numbers required to run (if applicable to your chosen holiday). Once the holiday is guaranteed to run, you will be informed and you can then make your arrangements.

If transfers are included in your holiday, please ensure that any potential flights will be met by our standard transfers (speak to one of our Travel Experts for advice) otherwise private transfer supplements may be applicable. Once your flights are booked, please send us a copy of your detailed flight itinerary.

Please be aware that most tickets are non-refundable in the case of cancellation. For this reason, we strongly advise you check the rules of the ticket and check the limitations of your cancellation insurance before booking. We cannot be held liable, in the unlikely eventuality that we should be forced to cancel or amend your trip, for losses incurred relating to any flight booking you have made.

Special requests & in-flight meals

Due to the remote locations of our holidays, flight availability can be exceptionally limited. To ensure

that you can travel on the seats that we have pre-allocated to a certain holiday, flight options might be restricted. Please discuss this with our Travel Sales Experts at the time of booking.

Generally, we are unable to assign specific seating on flights although we can make requests on your behalf. We cannot guarantee this and if a request is unable to be actioned then this is not classed as a breach of contract on our part.

If your booking allows for online check-in then you should do so as early as possible to ensure you are allocated seats next to your travelling companions. Details regarding this will be provided in your final travel documents which will be provided approximately one week prior to travel.

If you require special seats or assistance at the airport due to a medical condition, reduced mobility or disability, then please let us know at the time of booking (or as soon as possible prior to travel if the issue occurs after booking). You may be required to provide written confirmation of your fitness to travel from a doctor.

Domestic flights and those within Europe, may not provide meals or snacks onboard so it is always worth remembering this if you are due to land late in the evening when opportunities to buy food may be limited.

We always forward any dietary requirements to the airlines, but we cannot guarantee the availability of the chosen diet onboard. You may want to consider bringing your own food to guarantee there will be something you will be able to eat. This is the approach our staff with dietary requirements take when flying within Europe.

Terms and Conditions

Our full booking terms and conditions can be found on our website: <https://www.artisantravel.co.uk/booking-conditions>