



Travel period
Daily departures, all year

Duration
6 days

Classic Voyage South

→ Kirkenes - Bergen

From Arctic wilderness to UNESCO heritage city charm – think of your southbound voyage as the ultimate journey. You begin in Kirkenes, gateway to the Barents region and close to the Russian border. As we head westward and turn south, you see some of the world´s most beautiful islands and coastal mountains travelling towards the milder fjord climate and cosy charm of Bergen.



- Experience magical Lofoten in the daytime
- See the magnificent coast of Helgeland in the daytime
- Enjoy breakfast on North Cape (apart from winter)
- Stay active and adventurous by joining our exciting sea and land based excursions

The itinerary

Learn more about what you will experience on the Classic Voyage South. The day-by-day programme will give you a few ideas about what you can see and do on your coastal voyage, but bear in mind that this itinerary is just an indication of what you can experience. After all, this is a sailing where the elements rule and weather conditions might vary, which is why every expedition with us is unique.



All year
Departs from
Kirkenes, Norway

DAY 1



Capital of the Barents Region
Location: Kirkenes

Kirkenes is known as the capital of the Barents region and gateway to the east. The Russian border is a just few miles away. You may find it intriguing that the local road signs are written in both Norwegian and Russian. Depending on the season, there are many ways to visit the Russian frontier. Travel either by bus (all year), enjoy a riverboat safari, or join an action-packed trip on ATV/quad-bikes. Kirkenes also boasts several fascinating small museums recounting the remarkably rich history and heritage of this remote region.

Spending time in Kirkenes before your sailing provides the opportunity to take part in numerous adventurous activities into the Arctic environment. In winter and spring, you can join several activities and excursions, for example, exploring the **Arctic wilderness on a snowmobile** and driving over a frozen fjord. During the trip, your guides tell you about the history of the region, the extreme Arctic climate and the area ´s unique wildlife. On our **dog-sledge adventures**, huskies eagerly transport you across the frozen Arctic landscape. In summer, you can join the excursion where you catch and eat giant king crab from the Barents Sea.

Southbound and down
As the ship starts its voyage south, you can first enjoy lunch followed by views of the surrounding Arctic landscape on deck or from the panorama lounge. As we depart Kirkenes, you’ve only seen half of what our voyage along the Norwegian coastline has to offer. Prepare yourself for many new experiences. The ports previously visited by night on the northbound journey are now seen by day.

In the afternoon, the ship again docks at [Vardø, Norway’s easternmost port](#). Weather permitting, we may invite you to experience ice bathing in the Arctic Ocean. On board in spring, there is a presentation about shorebirds residing along the Nordic coastline. Heading south, we cruise along the Varanger peninsula to Båtsfjord, before reaching Berlevåg in the evening. The latter town is home to one of Norway’s most famous male choirs, consisting mainly of local fishermen.

DAY 2



Surrounded by excitement
Location: Mehamn - Tromsø

In the middle of the night, we dock at [Mehamn](#), where it is possible to join an **unforgettable snowmobile trip** through one of Europe's most extreme and exciting natural areas during winter time. Experience snow-clad valleys, fresh winter air and perhaps the mesmerising [Northern Lights](#) in the clear, starry sky.

At [Honningsvåg](#) you can join an excursion that features **breakfast at North Cape** and the discovery of hidden parts of Finnmark along the way between May and October. Before stopping in Hammerfest, you can enjoy an 'energy coffee' and short introduction to Melkøya - the world ´s northernmost natural gas terminal'. [Hammerfest](#) was founded in 1789, and over

time became Norway's polar capital serving as a base for hunting expeditions into the High Arctic. Here you can see the UNESCO-listed Meridian Column, erected in 1854 to commemorate the first precise geographic measurement of the globe. In winter, you can also join a mini-mountain expedition to experience the Arctic outdoors and learn about local polar hero and cook, Adolf Henrik Lindstrøm.

We continue south to Øksfjord. After crossing open water, we make a brief stop at the old trading post of Skjervøy. In spring, we sail through the beautiful **Lyngenfjord**, surrounded by the snowy peaks of the Lyngen Alps: Here, you might get a taste of fresh locally-caught prawns.

We then dock at **Tromsø**, just in time to enjoy a magical midnight concert at the Arctic Cathedral. In summer, you can join a midnight excursion, under the Midnight Sun, to explore Tromsø by sea in a RIB boat. Alternatively, a walk around the town provides you the chance to enjoy a local brew at one of the city´s many friendly pubs.

Optional excursions on this day :

- 00:45 - 03:00, [Snowmobile trip in the polar night \(Mehamn-Kjøllefjord\)](#) - 08 Dec - 17 May
- 05:30 - 11:30, [Breakfast at the North Cape \(Honningsvåg- Hammerfest\)](#) - 08 May - 07 Oct
- 10:50 - 12:35, [The northernmost town in the world \(Hammerfest\)](#) - 06 Aug - 08 Apr
- 10:45 - 12:15, [Mountain hike in Hammerfest \(Hammerfest\)](#) - 08 Jun - 07 Nov
- 10:55 - 12:40, [Into the ice \(Hammerfest\)](#) - 08 Nov - 22 Mar
- 24:00 - 01:15, [Midnight Concert in the Arctic Cathedral \(Tromsø\)](#) - All year
- 23:50 - 01:20, [Arctic Midnight Adventure \(Tromsø\)](#) , 08 May - 31 May (from 2019)

All times are estimates and subject to change.

DAY 3



Lofoten, where nature amazes

Location: Tromsø - Stamsund

We arrive at **Harstad** this morning, where you have the opportunity to participate in one of the classic excursion programmes: A taste of Vesterålen. Experience history, beautiful scenery and a selection of breathtaking sites that include a visit to Trondenes Church, one of Norway's premier cultural heritage sites from the late Middle Ages.

Those who choose to stay on board can admire views of this old church as we sail towards the **Risøyrenna**, a shallow 7-metre-deep channel made especially for Hurtigruten in the 1920s to provide an 'inside route' between Harstad and Sortland. The sand banks along the Risøyrenna are visible through the clear, green water.

The island groups of **Lofoten and Vesterålen** offer some of the most stunning scenery you will see during the entire coastal voyage. The Lofoten region is renowned for its natural beauty with steep mountains, wild nature and small, picturesque fishing villages. The daylight sailing route through the Lofoten Islands is a highlight for many of our guests.

Risøyhamn is a small village with only 200 inhabitants, and we make a short stop here to deliver passengers, groceries and mail. As a springtime tribute to the region´s fishing history, our chef shows how to fillet the catch of the day on deck. We then continue south via Sortland to **Stokmarknes**, where **Hurtigruten was founded more than 120 years ago**. Go ashore and pay a visit to the Hurtigruten museum here. Continuing southwards, it looks like we are sailing straight into the mountain wall, but we inevitably slip through an opening leading to the narrow Raftsund. This 20-km passage between Lofoten and Vesterålen takes you through mountains soaring 1,000 metres directly out of the sea.

Trollfjord and the Lofoten islands

Now we reach the spectacular **Trollfjord**, only 2 km long and 100 metres wide, surrounded by majestic mountains. If the weather and time permit – the captain makes a detour into the fjord. Steep cliffs hug the ship´s sides and the dramatic landscape conjures fairy tale images of an imaginary land of trolls. **Trollfjord is also the realm of the sea eagle**.

Just north of the fjord, a smaller vessel awaits to take you out to see this magnificent bird up close on an optional sea eagle safari. To join the safari, you transfer to a smaller tour boat before we reach the Trollfjord. **The ship turns**

around in the narrow fjord, a magnificent sight in its own right! The eagle safari begins after leaving the Trollfjord, passing

through narrow channels flanked byn be viewed. These beautiful, rare birds of prey circle the boat a few times before we toss fish into the sea for them to grab and devour. Be sure to bring a camera!

Reaching [Svolvær](#), you can choose from several excursion options. Join our Lofoten Islands tour to learn more about the fishing communities, beautiful scenery and art from this area. You can join a horseback ride and experience a sunset trot through powdery white sand on a beach along the Norwegian Sea. If you want more of an adrenaline rush, join one of our high-octane excursions by RIB.

Lofoten is known for its excellent fishing, and in winter and spring you can **join a fishing trip** to try your luck at catching cod. If you prefer dry land, a guided fishing village walk provides in-depth insights into the history and culture. From Svolvær, we continue on to Stamsund, where we see the majestic peaks of the huge Lofoten wall. We leave Lofoten during the evening and set course for the mainland.

Optional excursions on this day :

- 08:15 - 12:30, [A taste of Vesterålen \(Harstad- Sortland\)](#) - All year
- 16:30 - 18:25, [Sea Eagle Safari \(Trollfjord - Svolvær\)](#) - 24 Mar - 15 Oct
- 15:00 - 17:30, [Vesterålen and Lofoten by RIB \(Stokmarknes-Svolvær\)](#) - 15 May - 31 Aug
- 18:50 - 22:20, [Lofoten Islands \(Svolvær- Stamsund\)](#) - 09 Apr - 31 Aug
- 18:30 - 22:00, [Lofoten by horse \(Svolvær - Stamsund\)](#) - All year
- 18:30 - 20:00, [RIB-adventure in Lofoten \(Svolvær\)](#) - 09 Jun - 08 Sep
- 18:45 - 20:15, [Fishing village tour \(Svolvær\)](#) - 01 Sep - 08 Apr
- 18:45 - 20:15, [Fishing in Lofoten \(Svolvær\)](#) - 09 Apr - 08 Jun

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DAY 4



Enjoy a date with the Seven Sisters

Location: Bodø - Rørvik

Crossing the Arctic Circle at 66°33’N is an important ‘rite of passage’. Today we celebrate the event out on deck with a `taste´ of Arctic tradition – **a spoonful of cod liver oil**. As we sail along the [Helgeland coast](#), you pass hundreds of islets, fertile farmland and steep granite walls rich in local lore. On deck you can see the strange mountain [Torghatten](#) (rising 258 m above sea level), famous for its distinctive hole right through the middle. The hole is 160 m long, 35 m high and 20 m wide, and was created during the ice age.

Another highlight is sailing past the [Seven Sisters mountain range](#). All seven mountains are between 900 and 1,100 m high, and it is easy to understand how these ‘ladies’ influenced ancient myths. The story goes that there were seven troll sisters, the daughters of King Sulis, who kept them under strict control. One night, when the king fell into a deep sleep, the seven maidens sneaked out. Vågekallen, who was eager for a wife, was lying in wait. He pursued the sisters, who fled southwards down the coast. Several other trolls joined the chase to either capture or rescue them. When night turned to morning, the troll sisters and their pursuers were petrified as the sun turns all trolls to stone. They all became the rocks and mountains that today make the Helgeland coastline **one of the most beautiful places on earth**.

Next we make a short stop at Nesna, an idyllic old trading post before moving on to [Sandnessjøen](#). The UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Vega Islands is close to Sandnessjøen and can be visited on an optional excursion during summer. This unique cultural landscape consists of dozens of islands. The UNESCO designation was awarded due to the unique interaction between the eider duck and island population. Learn how the fishermen and farmers have cultivated a centuries-old symbiotic relationship with the ducks, and how it continues to contribute to a livelihood of eiderdown harvesting and making down-filled duvets.

As we arrive in [Brønnøysund](#), you can join the excursion to visit to the Norwegian Aquaculture Centre near Brønnøysund for an informative tour and taste of fresh salmon from April throughout October.



In cod we trust

Location: Trondheim - Ålesund

Today provides another opportunity to explore the city of [Trondheim](#). Back on board, the ship heads out into the majestic Trondheimsfjord, which is 170 km long and up to 25 km wide. Like all other [Norwegian fjords](#), it is deep, plunging to 577 m.

As we sail along the coast, you realise the importance of fish to Norwegian coastal communities. [Kristiansund](#)’s location has steadily provided the town with a wealth of opportunities in the fishing, shipbuilding and oil industries. Kristiansund is today regarded as Norway’s ‘dried cod capital’ because of its long-time export of salted dry fish. Here you can join an excursion to the renowned [Atlantic Road](#), one of Norway’s most visited tourist destinations. It is 8.2 km long, built on a total of eight bridges and surrounded by picturesque landscapes and open sea.

Another interesting excursion is to the Bergtatt marble mine, which includes entering a mountain and sailing across an illuminated subterranean lake, before enjoying a meal in the mine ´s ‘Grand Hall’. Those choosing to stay on board at Kristiansund will experience the ship ´s crossing the open sea on our way to [Molde](#), known as Norway ´s ‘City of Roses’. Along the way you see see the steep, grey, pointed peaks of the Romsdal Alps.

Optional excursions on this day :

- 08:00 - 09:50, [Trondheim with Nidaros Cathedral \(Trondheim\)](#) - *All year*
- 07:45 - 09:45, [The hidden rooms of Nidaros Cathedral \(Trondheim\)](#) - *All year*
- 16:45 - 21:20, [The Atlantic Road \(Kristiansund- Molde\)](#) - *11 Apr - 10 Sept*
- 16:45 - 21:15, [Bergtatt- Magnificent marble mine \(Kristiansund-Molde\)](#) - *15 Sept - 30 Apr*

All times are estimates and subject to change.



Final chapter of the fairy tale

Location: Bergen

During the night, the ship calls at Ålesund, Torvik, Måløy, as the world’s most beautiful voyage draws to a close. Before we dock in Bergen, there are some nautical miles of fascinating scenery ahead of us, including the picturesque Nordfjord below the enormous Jostedal Glacier. Here the fjord widens to the east and forges 90 km inland to Loen and Olden.

The rugged coastal areas are a striking contrast to the inner fjord regions where the wind is gentler and less rain falls. Fertile fruit orchards and glacial fingers stretch towards glistening lakes and gushing rapids. This landscape has its own distinctive charm and you are encouraged to experience it. In the morning, we call at [Florø](#), a modern coastal seaport that is also the

Sogn og Fjordane region ’s oldest town and Norway’s westernmost community. Despite constant changes, the city of Florø has maintained its special features.

A few nautical miles south of Florø, we navigate the mouth of the mighty Sognefjord, and enjoy superb views of this magnificent island-studded coastline en route. Finally, you disembark in Bergen, taking with you memories of a unique journey filled with unforgettable experiences and meetings with local people, wildlife and stunning nature. Unfortunately, **all good things must come to an end**, but we hope to see you on board for new adventures in the very near future.

If you still haven’t gotten enough of Norway, we highly recommend our land adventures in Bergen or Oslo to experience more Norwegian cuisine, culture and scenery.



Location
Bergen, Norway