

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Please see our 'Voyages In Search of the Northern Lights and Winter Adventures' brochure for more comprehensive general information.



### TIPPING

Unlike many cruise companies, Hurtigruten has a non-tipping policy on all ships. However, if you feel that individual crew members should be rewarded for providing exceptional service, this is entirely at your discretion and by no means obligatory.

### MONEY

Norwegian currency is used. Visa, American Express, Master Card and Diners Card are all accepted as means of payment.

### ON BOARD PRICES

The voyage includes breakfast and dinner, with coffee/tea. Beverages and other refreshments during the day are not included. Below you will find a list of sample prices of some items available. Prices are in pounds Sterling. Please note that the prices shown are approximate only and based on the latest information available to us.

#### Café

Tea/Coffee: £2.70      Bottled water: £3.60

#### Bar/Dining Room

Bottled beer (0.33 litres): £4.80      Glass of wine: £6.90  
Bottle of wine from: £32.00

### LUGGAGE

The luggage allowance is 44lbs/20kgs per person. In addition you may take one piece of hand luggage weighing no more than 5kg. You may want to bring a small rucksack for excursions as well.

### CLIMATE AND CLOTHING

Along the coast the Gulf Stream keeps the temperatures warmer than inland Norway, with summer temperatures reaching the low 20°C and winter hovering just above zero.

Our life on board the ship is a fairly relaxed affair, so there is no need to pack anything too formal. Comfortable clothing is more important for relaxing in. During the day and for our on-shore excursions, clothing which can be layered is best.

A warm waterproof jacket, gloves, hat, scarf and fleeces/woollen sweaters are necessary for excursions as well as comfortable boots or shoes with a rubber sole and good support. You may also wish to bring something to relax in during the evening.

### LIFE ON BOARD

Is relaxed and casual with the aim of gaining a greater understanding of the heritage and culture of this region, as well as enjoying the convivial

company of your fellow passengers. Our theme voyages have the unique element of a guest expert and on board sessions are designed to maximize the enjoyment and knowledge of your chosen subject, as well as all aspects of the areas we visit.

### DRESS CODE

Comfortable clothes suitable to the area you are travelling in are recommended for excursions and landings. We recommend that you bring casual clothes and comfortable shoes to wear on board and although some passengers may choose to wear smart/casual at dinner you are by no means obliged to do so.

### SAFETY

All ships are fitted with the necessary safety equipment and passengers are required to take part in safety briefings when scheduled. In order to comply with maritime security requirements that apply to all ships and ports worldwide, passengers, crew and visitors to the ship may be subject to security screenings. We appreciate your patience and understanding whenever such screenings are required.

### VALUABLES

The ship is not equipped with safety deposit boxes. However, jewellery, money and other valuables can be handed in at the reception for safe-keeping in the ship's safe. Hurtigruten does not accept responsibility for the loss of money or other valuables kept in cabins.

### EQUIPMENT

A good set of binoculars is useful, as are sufficient film, extra memory cards for your camera and spare batteries. We recommend you to bring double what you think you will need. Remember to pack good quality sunglasses, as in the cooler northern climates the sun can still be a major factor in your trip. An alarm clock may also be useful, as will waterproof bags to protect your camera equipment and binoculars.

Remember to pack adequate supplies of any prescription medicine you may need. Should you feel it necessary you may also wish to bring something for seasickness.

### RECOMMENDED READING

Lonely Planet Guide: Norway  
Rough Guide: Norway  
Pat Watkins: Fellowship of Ghosts  
Erling Storrusten: Hurtigruten: The World's Most Beautiful Sea Voyage

# ASTRONOMY VOYAGE

3 February and 11 March 2010 • Tromsø – Kirkenes – Tromsø  
MS Trollfjord/MS Midnatsol • 5 Days from £985



Join this Arctic adventure and discover the stark beauty, isolated communities and majestic coastline of Troms and Finnmark, Norway's most remote, northern regions. The entire duration of this eventful voyage is spent above the Arctic Circle, increasing your chances of seeing the incredible Aurora Borealis.

### Voyage Highlights:

- Enjoy the Norwegian Coastal Voyage with daily tuition and instruction from our on board expert
- Cruise the spectacular fjords of Norway's dramatic coastline
- Visit the 'Capital of the Arctic', Tromsø
- Travel to Europe's northern extremes at Honningsvåg with the option to visit the North Cape

Following this voyage's popularity in 2009 we are delighted to offer two more Astronomy Voyages in 2010. Accompanying you will be the renowned astronomer Dr John Mason. Through a series of lectures and a guided tour of the Arctic night sky from the deck of the ship, Dr Mason will bring the world of stars, planets and meteors closer whilst also exploring the numerous myths and legends linked to the constellations in our skies. During the four day voyage we will also hope to see the magic of the Northern Lights or "Dawn of the North" as it's poetically called. It is here, far above the Arctic Circle, that you get the best chance of catching a glimpse of this spectacular celestial phenomenon.

### Your lecturer on board – Dr John Mason

An applied physicist by profession, Dr John Mason has been actively involved in science for over 30 years, with astronomy, astrophysics and space technology as his main interests. Before his current position as Principal Lecturer at the South Downs Planetarium in Chichester, Dr Mason was Visiting Lecturer at Imperial College, London and has lectured at several colleges within the University of London.

He has been a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society since 1976, and is a full member of the International Astronomical Union.

He lectures extensively in the UK and overseas on a wide range of scientific topics and is a frequent broadcaster on radio and television, having appeared many times with Sir Patrick Moore on BBC TV's The Sky at Night.

Among his many overseas trips as lecturer are tours to observe solar eclipses, the polar aurora and major meteor showers to destinations as diverse as Alaska, Australia, Chile, China, Egypt, Hawaii, India, Indonesia, Libya, Mongolia, Scandinavia, Siberia and South Africa.

During the voyage a range of fascinating lectures will take place. Below you can see some of the topics that may be covered during the trip. Most of them will take place in the conference room on board while others will take place on the deck of the ship with the night sky being our screen.

# ASTRONOMY VOYAGE – VOYAGE ITINERARY

## DAY 1

Arrive in Tromsø, the capital of the Arctic. Tromsø is a lively university town and has been the starting point of many polar expeditions. Geographically, it is blessed with a girdle of peaks reminiscent of Switzerland and making it one of the most pleasant coastal towns in the region. In the afternoon you will join your ship for a four day voyage to Kirkenes and back. **(D)**

## DAY 2

Early this morning you will call at Hammerfest, the world's most northerly town. Hammerfest was built on the back of the fur trade and local fishing industry. Remaining largely ice-free during the winter months due to the effect of the Gulf Stream, it was an ideal base during WWII for the German Navy. From Hammerfest you will continue to the largest fishing village in the Finnmark region, Honningsvåg, which was completely rebuilt after the Second World War and, at 71° north, is the best port of call to the North Cape. On arrival in Honningsvåg, you will have time to explore the town before dining onboard the ship. After dinner you will be transferred to the North Cape for spectacular celebrations as you count down into the New Year. You will overnight onboard the ship in Honningsvåg. **(B, D)**

## DAY 3

The vistas become more dramatic as the ship approaches the most northerly port of call, Kirkenes. Just 10 kilometres from the Russian border, this vibrant little town survives quite

well in these remote regions on the proceeds of mining and sawmills, and by catering for the Russian fishing fleet. Take the opportunity to join an excursion to the Russian border or try your hand at snowmobiling before we bid farewell to Kirkenes and start our return voyage to Tromsø. (Please see below for excursion descriptions and prices). **(B, D)**

## DAY 4

Enjoy another day sailing along the Arctic coastline during which we will make stops at remote settlements, revisit Honningsvåg and Hammerfest, and enjoy the beautiful scenery. You will reach Tromsø just before midnight where you will be transferred to a comfortable, centrally located hotel for an overnight stay. **(B, D)**

## DAY 5

This morning there is the option of joining a thrilling dog sledging excursion across the open plains of Tromsø (pre-bookable, please see details overleaf). Alternatively, you can visit the Polar Museum or Polaria, a centre that enables you to learn about and explore Arctic life. In the afternoon your transfer brings you back to Tromsø airport for your return flight to the UK. **(B)**

**B** = Breakfast, **D** = Dinner



## OPTIONAL SHORE EXCURSIONS

### HONNINGSVÅG – NORTH CAPE £72pp

An unforgettable experience travelling from Honningsvåg across the sub-arctic landscape to North Cape Hall, carved into the side of a cliff on top of the North Cape Plateau. Explore the North Cape tunnel, the unique chapel and the post office, where postcards are franked with a North Cape postmark.

### KJØLLEFJORD – SCOOTERTRIP IN LAPLAND £198pp

After being properly kitted out and receiving some driving instructions from our guides, this spectacular snowmobile adventure journeys across the snow covered wilds of Finnmark to the Hurtigruten quay in Mehamn (weather permitting). Driving licence required.

### HUSKY ADVENTURE – KIRKENES £99pp

Enjoy an exhilarating Alaskan Husky-dog ride across the open plains of Northern Norway located near the Snow Hotel and beside Gabba Reindeer Park. Accompanied by experienced mushers who compete in dog races, this excursion takes you on a thrilling adventure through picturesque surroundings. With only two passengers to a sled and a musher guide, you have an opportunity to steer or you can

simply sit back and enjoy the ride. Afterwards, hot drinks are served around a log fire and you will have a chance to visit the reindeers and explore the Snow Hotel.

### THE RUSSIAN BORDER – KIRKENES £32pp

A short tour takes you to the border with Russia, providing a distant glimpse of the intriguing lands that lie to the east.

### KIRKENES SNOW HOTEL – KIRKENES £42pp

Visit the Gabba Reindeer Park where the Snow Hotel is situated. Enjoy a guided tour of the hotel with the beautifully decorated snow suites before taking a drink in the Ice bar. Afterwards there will be time to meet the reindeer before you head to Gabba restaurant to warm up by the fire and enjoy a snack.

### SNOWMOBILE SAFARI – KIRKENES £109pp

Drive a snowmobile across the frozen sea (instructions given). On your return relax in a traditional dwelling and enjoy an introduction to the everyday life of the Sami. Warm clothing is provided. Driving licence required.

### DOG SLEDGING – TROMSØ £135pp

Travelling in winter gives an opportunity to join this exhilarating excursion by Husky sleigh. Starting from the Tromsø Wilderness Centre on Kvaløya Island, this thrilling adventure ends with a hot drink in a lavvo (Sami tent) around the open fire.

### ARCTIC CITY WALK – TROMSØ £25pp

You are met by your guide for a fascinating walk around this historical and cultural city, during which you visit the Polar Museum, the Catholic Church and explore the Capital of the Arctic's busy streets.

### REINDEER SLEDGING – TROMSØ £120pp

Join this brand new excursion to Risvika, outside Tromsø, for a thrilling reindeer sledging excursion. Whilst sledging through the Norwegian winter landscape, the only thing you will hear are the reindeer bells, making this a peaceful experience. After the sledging you will be taken to the lavvo (Sami tent) for a warm meal and a chance to experience how the Sami lived their lives.

*In Kirkenes and Tromsø, due to time constraints, you can only do one excursion.*

## LECTURES ON BOARD

### DISCOVERING THE ARCTIC SKY:

Head out on deck where this fascinating talk brings the salient aspects of the Arctic night sky to life. Learn about the brightest stars, distant constellations, and the myths and legends associated with the cosmos. In the event that the Northern Lights put on a show or a brilliant meteor flashes across the sky, expert guidance and commentary will be on hand.



### IN SEARCH OF THE NORTHERN LIGHTS:

The extraordinary beauty, colour and movement of the Aurora Borealis shimmering against the backdrop of a star-studded Arctic sky has mesmerised, fascinated and inspired humans since time immemorial. Join our onboard expert to understand what causes this colourful, rippling, ethereal phenomenon, learn about the myths and lore associated with them, and find out how best to observe them.

### POSTCARD FROM MARS:

Mars is a dynamic planet with giant volcanoes and vast canyons, polar ice caps and dust storms, and, just possibly, habitats suitable for primitive life. Scientists have recently confirmed the existence of deep caverns on Mars; cave systems that would be an ideal habitat for life if it exists there. Two rovers, Spirit and Opportunity, have been gathering information there since January 2004 and have confirmed that although Mars is dry and bitterly cold today, water once flowed on its surface. Pictures from orbiting spacecraft have revealed large amounts of ice beneath the planet's surface and evidence for rivers, lakes and even flash floods on Mars. And last year, a new spacecraft, Phoenix, landed to explore a region near Mars' North Pole for the first time, digging down into the subsurface ice. By way of this intriguing talk, your onboard experts will explore all of this and more, bringing the Red Planet to life!

### OUR TURBULENT SUN:

Explore the extraordinary activity of our nearest star – the Sun. From the searing heat of the Sun's core, the source of its energy, heat and light, we journey outward to the solar surface and beyond to the tenuous solar atmosphere. We shall also examine the Sun's ever changing activity from the relatively quiet times of solar minimum to the spectacular outbursts at solar maximum, and the dark sunspots which can pockmark its face.



3 February and 11 March 2010	
Inside cabin	£985
Outside cabin	£1050

No single supplements.  
Above prices are in £s per person based on two people travelling together sharing a twin cabin/room.  
**Your holiday price includes:** Economy class return flights between London Heathrow and Tromsø (via Oslo) including applicable taxes and surcharges, voyage Tromsø – Kirkenes – Tromsø in chosen cabin type including half board, 1 night in Tromsø including breakfast, transfers as applicable.  
**Not included:** Travel insurance, optional excursions, luggage handling.  
Flight from Manchester also available. Departing 10 Mar 2010 including one extra night in Tromsø pre voyage prices from £1095. All prices include current fuel surcharges.