

FOLLOW THE LIGHTS 2017-2018

SMALL GROUP ESCORTED DEPARTURES

15 DAYS/14 NIGHTS

DEPARTS: Bergen, Norway

2017: Oct 26; Nov 6, 17, 23, 28; Dec 4, 26

2018: Jan 6, 11, 22; Feb 2, 8, 13, 24; Mar 2

Bentours has put together a unique 15 day tour series, especially designed to give you the opportunity to see the Northern Lights for yourself. The Northern Lights – or Aurora Borealis – are a natural phenomenon often seen in northern latitudes during the winter months.

But, there's far more to experience in this magical winter wonderland as you will discover on a six night cruise through Norway's picturesque fjords heading north destined for the Arctic Circle. Later, the tour takes in Finnish Lapland where you experience an overnight stay in a specially heated glass igloo. Imagine lying back and gazing into the night sky – who knows – you may have another chance to see those Northern Lights. Our tour finishes in Helsinki, Finland after a full day excursion to the medieval town of Tallinn in Estonia.

Please remember the Northern Lights are a natural occurrence, visibility is subject to weather conditions and sightings are never guaranteed. However, our carefully planned itinerary and knowledgeable guides will give you the best possible chance.

Highlights of this outstanding tour include:

- A full complement of "optional excursions". These will be made available 6 months prior to the tour departure date
- A night in a unique glass igloo, where you can lie in bed and gaze at the stars (and if you're lucky, the Northern Lights)
- Discovering the Sami culture and remarkable Arctic wildlife of Finnish Lapland
- A visit to Rovaniemi, the home of Santa Claus and one of Finland's best areas for winter activities
- A traditional husky dog sled or wagon ride through the arctic wilderness
- Visit to a traditional reindeer farm either on day 8 or day 10
- A relaxing 6 night Hurtigruten cruise along the coast of Norway, by far the best way to experience the country's stunning fjords and historic coastal towns
- A day trip to the medieval town of Tallinn in Estonia
- The services of a Bentours' tour escort throughout the journey

Spaces on these extraordinary tours are strictly limited. Call Bentours to reserve your place today!

Contact us on 1800 221 712 or res@bentours.com.au | bentours.com.au

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Day 1 ARRIVE BERGEN (Norway)

Make your own way to the hotel or have Bentours arrange a private transfer. Tonight there is an opportunity to meet with your tour guide and fellow travellers to hear about our exciting tour over a welcome drink.

Meals Included: None

Overnight: Clarion Admiral Hotel (or similar)

Day 2 BERGEN – NORWEGIAN COASTAL VOYAGE

(DAY 1 OF NORWEGIAN COASTAL VOYAGE)

This morning is at leisure. This afternoon depart from the hotel with your English speaking guide on a 4 hour tour of Bergen; pass St. Mary's Church & Haakon Hall, walk around the colourful and picturesque fish markets and old Hanseatic wharf at Brygge. Visit Trolldhaugen, the home of Norway's most famous composer Edvard Grieg (1843 - 1907). Trolldhaugen consists of the Edvard Grieg Museum, Grieg's villa, the hut where he composed music and his gravesite. The tour ends at Bergen pier where we board our Norwegian voyage (no portage service is available at Bergen pier). The ship departs Bergen and heads north towards Florø and Alesund.

Meals Included: Breakfast & dinner on board

Overnight: On-board coastal cruise ship MS Trollford or MS Finnmarken

Day 3 ALESUND

(DAY 2 OF NORWEGIAN COASTAL VOYAGE)

We navigate the skerries and islands further north before reaching Ålesund, renowned for its beautiful Art Nouveau architecture. Leaving Ålesund we head north towards Trondheim.

Meals Included: Breakfast, lunch & dinner on board

Overnight: On-board coastal cruise ship MS Trollford or MS Finnmarken

Day 4 TRONDHEIM

(DAY 3 OF NORWEGIAN COASTAL VOYAGE)

Arrive early in the morning into Trondheim, with time to explore Norway's first capital. Look out for the storehouses along the river built on wooden stilts that are a colourful contrast to the pure white snow that covers the city during winter.

Meals Included: Breakfast, lunch & dinner on board

Overnight: On-board coastal cruise ship MS Trollford or MS Finnmarken

Day 5 ARCTIC CIRCLE & LOFOTEN ISLANDS

(DAY 4 OF NORWEGIAN COASTAL VOYAGE)

As we cross the Arctic Circle the hunt for the Arctic light begins, along with your chance to learn more about the Aurora Borealis. Later enter the dramatic and narrow Raftsund, and if the weather and ice conditions allow, sail to the entrance of the famous Trollfjord.

Meals Included: Breakfast, lunch & dinner on board

Overnight: On-board coastal cruise ship MS Trollford or MS Finnmarken

Day 6 TROMSO

(DAY 5 OF NORWEGIAN COASTAL VOYAGE)

After a morning stop in Finnsnes we continue to the Arctic capital Tromsø. Perhaps take part in one of the optional excursions here today.

Meals Included: Breakfast, lunch & dinner on board

Overnight: On-board coastal cruise ship

Day 7 HONNINGSVAG & THE NORTH CAPE

(DAY 6 OF NORWEGIAN COASTAL VOYAGE)

Honningsvåg is the nearest port to the North Cape - at 71° 10' 21" N, only 2,000 kilometres from the Geographical North Pole. Continue on to Kjøllefjord where you might see the Northern Lights on a clear, starlit sky.

Meals Included: Breakfast, lunch & dinner on board

Overnight: On-board coastal cruise ship MS Trollford or MS Finnmarken

Day 8 KIRKENES – SAARISELKA (Finland)

Admire dramatic coastal vistas as we approach Kirkenes where we disembark in the morning (no portage service is available at Kirkenes pier).

Taking a short drive through Kirkenes we learn more about its history, have a quick stop at the Russian border and make our way towards Finnish Lapland.

We arrive into the small village of Inari and visit the SIIDA Sami museum.

After the visit, we continue to Saariselka and check-in to our accommodation for a two night stay.

Meals Included: Breakfast on board & dinner in hotel

Overnight: Kakslauttanen Arctic Resort or Santa's Hotel Tunturi (or similar)

Important note: Tours departing between 26 October 2017 and 4 December 2017 stay at the Kakslauttanen Arctic Resort in a log cabin. Tours departing between 26 December 2017 and 02 March 2018 stay in a superior room at Santa's Hotel Tunturi.

Day 9 SAARISELKA

Today enjoy a visit to a husky farm and ride a husky wagon or sled (weather depending). The barking



of enthusiastic dogs will welcome you! The head musher will talk about the life and training of these Arctic animals and you will have the chance to take some amazing photos of the breath-taking arctic scenery. A light lunch is also included.

Meals Included: Breakfast, lunch & dinner

Overnight: Kakslauttanen Arctic Resort or Santa's Hotel Tunturi (or similar)

Day 10 OVERNIGHT IN A GLASS IGLOO

Today we move to our glass igloo overnight experience.

Staying overnight in a glass igloo feels like sleeping in the open, but inside the igloo it is just as warm and cosy as a hotel. Staying in an igloo gives ideal conditions for watching the Northern Lights and enjoying starry skies.

Meals Included: Breakfast & dinner

Overnight: Kakslauttanen Arctic Resort or Arctic Snow Hotel & Igloos

Important note: Tours departing between 26 October 2017 and 4 December 2017 stay at the Kakslauttanen Arctic Resort in a glass igloo. Tours departing between 26 December 2017 and 02 March 2018 stay at the Arctic Snow Hotel & Igloos (Sinetta) in a glass igloo.





Santa's Village



North Cape



Bergen

Day 11 ROVANIEMI (Finland)

Today we travel to the Arctic Circle to visit the enchanting Santa's Village, before continuing to Rovaniemi, the home of Santa Claus.

Meals Included: Breakfast & dinner

Overnight: Santa's Hotel Santa Claus (or similar)

Day 12 ROVANIEMI

Today is a free day to explore the small city of Rovaniemi on your own, or participate in one of the optional excursions which will be advised to you 6 months prior to your departure.

Meals Included: Breakfast

Overnight: Santa's Hotel Santa Claus (or similar)

Day 13 ROVANIEMI – HELSINKI

Leaving the hotel this morning we transfer to the station and catch the train to Helsinki, the capital of Finland. On arrival we will be transferred to our hotel for check-in.

Meals Included: Breakfast

Overnight: Sokos Hotel Presidentti (or similar)

Day 14 HELSINKI – DAY EXCURSION TO TALLINN (Estonia)

Today we have a full day excursion to the medieval town of Tallinn in Estonia. Take the ferry across to Tallinn to enjoy a combined bus and walking tour of the most interesting parts of the city. Stops will include the baroque Kadriorg Park, Song Festival Grounds and the seaside district of Piriita. Walk through the winding, cobblestoned streets of the Old Town, cross Toompea Hill, before continuing to the Palace of Toompea that today houses the Estonian Parliament 'Riigikogu'. Visit Aleksander Nevskij Cathedral and the Dome Church. There will be time at leisure in Tallinn before boarding our ferry to return to Helsinki. We will farewell the tour tonight with dinner at a local restaurant in Helsinki.

Meals Included: Breakfast & dinner

Overnight: Sokos Hotel Vaakuna (or similar)

Day 15 DEPART HELSINKI (Finland)

Our tour ends after breakfast at the hotel - no transfers have been included but we can offer these at an additional cost.

Meals Included: Breakfast

THE TOUR COST

	Twin	Single
2017:		
Oct 26	\$6595	\$8995
Nov 6, 17	\$6395	\$8595
Nov 23, 28; Dec 4	\$6595	\$8795
Dec 26*	\$6895	\$9195

2018:

Jan 6, 11, 22	\$5995	\$8195
Feb 2, 8, 13, 24; Mar 2	\$6395	\$8595

Cabin Upgrades: (subject to availability)

Arctic Superior Middle Deck	\$215	\$325
Arctic Superior Upper Deck	\$315	N/A

*Dec 26 upgrade costs on request. Prices are per person.

INCLUSIONS

- 6 night Hurtigruten Coastal Voyage in outside cabins including breakfast, lunch and dinner on board
- 8 night's accommodation in 4 star hotels
- Transport in first class coaches as per the itinerary
- Train from Rovaniemi to Helsinki
- Fully guided from Bergen to Helsinki
- Breakfast daily, 6 lunches, 11 dinners
- Local sightseeing with English speaking guides including entrance fees
- Taxes, service and reservation charges
- Porter service where possible at hotels

EXCLUSIONS

- Any service not specifically mentioned in "inclusions" or the itinerary
- Arrival and departure transfers
- Tips and gratuities
- Optional excursions
- Additional fees & entrances for optional excursions
- Meals & beverages other than those specifically mentioned
- Porter service at igloos, Bergen & Kirkenes ports
- Items of a personal nature (laundry, mini bar, room extras etc.)

Polar Outside – Standard Outside Cabin (Approx. 7-13 m²)

Outside cabin with facilities. Separate beds, one bed can be turned into a sofa (some with upper and lower berths). Located on lower deck of the ship.

Arctic Superior – Middle Deck (Approx. 7-13 m²)

Outside cabin with facilities. Separate beds, one bed can be turned into a sofa. Located on middle deck of the ship.

Arctic Superior – Upper deck (Approx. 7-13 m²)

Outside cabin with facilities. Separate beds, one bed can be turned into a sofa, table. Located on upper decks of the ship.

Contact us on 1800 221 712 or res@bentours.com.au | bentours.com.au

*Terms and conditions apply. See www.bentours.com.au for full details, or talk to one of our specialists on 1800 221 712.

WHY CHOOSE BENTOURS



A DESTINATION SPECIALIST

- With over 35 years of experience in Scandinavian, Greenland, Arctic, Baltic, Russian and Antarctic travel, Bentours has been specialising in this niche market longer than anyone else in Australia.
- We boast a dedicated team of expert and passionate consultants, all of whom have travelled extensively and are happy to recommend and construct tailored itineraries.
- Our product managers handpick and/or create a variety of the best tours and accommodation, ensuring a high standard for all budgets throughout your trip.
- Bentours has formed strong relations with a respected network of travel industry contacts, working closely with a variety of local operators to maximise experience.

WIDE VARIETY OF PRODUCTS

- Bentours offers a large range of group, private and independent travel options, allowing you to select the style and pace of journey that works for you.
- Our brochures contain a small sample of Bentours' product offering. Please contact us if you can't find what you're looking for – our team will be happy to find (or create) the ideal holiday for you.

BACKING OF COX & KINGS

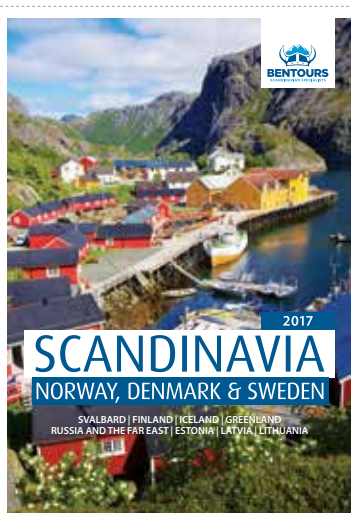
- Bentours is a trusted part of Cox & Kings – the world's longest-established travel company, with a heritage spanning more than 255 years.
- Cox & Kings global buying power means our guests enjoy excellent value and unparalleled customer choice, flexibility and highly personalised service.

COMPETITIVELY PRICED

- Bentours has some of the best-value cruises, expeditions and tours around. If you happen to find a cheaper product elsewhere, simply let us know and we will endeavour to match the quote.

A LOCAL TOUCH

- We use local guides that know their destination intimately, giving travellers a genuine insight into each region's culture and people.
- Our local representatives take the worry out of travel by offering 24/7 support in case of emergency.



Bentours is proudly part of the Cox & Kings group of companies.

Australia

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Bentours is Australia's leading Scandinavian, Polar and Expedition cruising specialist for over 35 years. See our brochures for a full range of our exciting destinations.

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