

### Australia 1300 888 225 New Zealand 0800 440 055 info@odysseytraveller.com

#### From £4,958 <sub>GBP</sub>

Single Room  $\pounds5,458$  GBP Twin Room  $\pounds4,958$  GBP

Prices valid until 30th December 2024

10 days

Finland, Norway

Level 2 - Moderate Activity

## Northern Lights Small Group tour | Visit Norway and Finland

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Oct 10 2024 to Oct 19 2024

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## Northern Lights Small Group Tour

Odyssey offers easy, convenient, and relaxed <u>escorted small group</u> <u>tours</u> across Arctic circle and beyond. We explore <u>Norway</u> and <u>Finland</u> fairy-tale natural beauty in winter, their heritage, and world famous cities, all with some truly spectacular scenery along the way. This and more is all waiting to be explored on one of Odyssey's small group tours to view the Northern lights, designed for the senior traveller, and led by experienced, and enthusiastic like minded people



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Experience the <u>Northern Lights</u> with our Northern Lights small group tour in the outermost regions of Finland and Norway – from Saariselkä to Tromsø, high up beyond the <u>Arctic circle</u>. This vacation with Odyssey Traveller will give you the best chance of hunting down the <u>Aurora</u> <u>Borealis (Northern Lights)</u>, both by sea and by land. Along the way you also have the opportunity to try a variety of winter activities. These include a reindeer safari, husky dog sledding and snowmobiling whilst also learning about the Sami people and the Vikings.

## **Northern Lights Tour Itinerary**

We start our tour in the wonderful capital of <u>Finland</u>, <u>Helsinki</u> and spend time to visit all the must-see attractions of the city. Then we transfer to Saariselkä, where we enjoy a sleigh ride (sledge pulled by snowmobile) and catch the first glimpse of the Northern Lights. We then cross the border to <u>Norway</u> and visit Karasjok, the Sami capital (the Sami are the people indigenous to the area). Next day we are headed to North Cape, the northernmost point of Europe situated on Magerøya Island. We then travel back south to reach <u>Tromsø</u>, where we enjoy a Northern Lights safari taking us away from the city giving us the best chance to catch the Aurora borealis.

Of course everyone would like to document this once in a lifetime opportunity so Odyssey Traveller have you covered with an article on <u>Photographing the Northern Lights</u>. You can also read our FAQs which answers the most common questions about the Northern Lights.

You can learn more about <u>Finland</u> and <u>Norway</u> with our country profile where all other tour departures are listed as well. If you are interested in visiting <u>Scandinavia</u>, we offer tours to <u>Denmark</u>, <u>Iceland</u>, <u>Greenland</u>, about <u>Scandinavian Design</u> visiting several countries, or you could take the <u>Trans-Siberian Railway from Helsinki to Irkutsk</u>.

For more details on this tour, click the 'Top 5' or 'Itinerary' buttons above! If you're keen to experience this tour, <u>please call</u> or <u>send an</u>

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email. Or, to book, simply fill in the form on the right hand side of this page.

# External articles to assist you on your visit to see the Northern Lights

- The Complete Guide to the Northern Lights
- 17 Best Places to See the Northern Lights in 2020
- Northern Lights: What Causes the Aurora Borealis & Where to
  See It
- Why Do the Northern and Southern Lights Differ?
- Space weather
- How to Photograph Northern Lights

## **Highlights**

- 1. Experience the aurora borealis (Northern Lights)
- 2. Visit Tromso, the capital of the Arctic
- 3. Experience seven nights in the Arctic circle
- 4. Visit the Royal & Ancient Polar Bear Society Museum
- 5. Study the rock art in the UNESCO listed Alta Museum (if weather permits)

## Itinerary

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Locations: Helsinki

#### **Overview:**

We make our way individually to the hotel. We meet for a welcome dinner and program orientation this evening.

#### Accommodation:

Sokos Hotel Presidentti or similar

#### Day 2

Locations: Helsinki

**Overview:** 

Today, we enjoy a panoramic, half-day tour of Helsinki. Meals: B

#### Accommodation:

Sokos Hotel Presidentti or similar

#### Day 3

Locations: Saariselkä

#### **Overview:**

Today, after breakfast, we transfer to the airport to fly to Ivalo airport. From there, we transfer to Saariselkä. In the evening, we enjoy a Northern Lights journey by sleigh ride (sledge pulled by snowmobile). We travel to the nearby fell district to see the beautiful fell scenery and, if lucky and the sky is clear, experience the extraordinary and bewitching Northern Lights.

Meals: B

#### Accommodation:

Santa's Hotel Tunturi Oy or similar

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Locations: Saariselkä

#### **Overview:**

Today is at own leisure, and during the day you are able to choose from one of the many optional winter safaris on offer. Meals: B/D

#### Accommodation:

Santa's Hotel Tunturi Oy or similar

#### Day 5

Locations: Karasjok

#### Overview:

In the morning, after breakfast, we begin our journey to Karasjok. On the way, we stop at Inari and visit the Siida Sami Museum. The Sami are a people indigenous to the area, and the museum showcases their culture and history. We then continue north west, crossing the border into Norway, and shortly afterwards arrive in Karasjok, the Sami Capital. This town has strong ties to Sami culture, and is home to the Sami parliament, "Samediggi". Meals: B/D

#### Accommodation:

Scandic Karasjok or similar

#### Day 6

Locations: Honningsvåg

#### Overview:

After an early breakfast, we depart the hotel and head to North Cape. Travelling through the North Cape tunnel, we reach the Magerøya Island on which the North Cape is situated. Subject to weather conditions, we visit the North Cape cliff itself. We visit the North Cape Hall, which is a visitor centre at Europe's northernmost point, mostly inside a cliff, with cinema, bar & restaurant. Meals: B/D

#### Accommodation:

Scandic Honningsvåg or similar

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Locations: Alta

#### **Overview:**

Today, we head south and travel back along the Porsanger fjord bound for Alta, "The Northern Lights city of Norway". In the afternoon, we visit the Alta Museum to see the expositions about the local history of northern lights. The remainder of the day is free (optional Northern Lights excursion available). Meals: B

#### Accommodation:

Scandic Alta or similar

#### Day 8

Locations: Tromsø

#### Overview:

Today, drive along the Arctic fjords bound for Tromsø, former starting point of many North Pole expeditions. We enjoy free time before embarking on an evening Northern Lights safari at the Aurora Camp. Enjoy the convenience or our Northern Lights visit only 25 minutes away from downtown Tromsø. You will be served hot drinks and you can grill sausages over an open fire in side a Sami Tent (lavvo) while you wait for the lights. Outside you can lay down on reindeer skins or sit on chairs while you scout the dark sky for the lights. Your guide will answer any questions you may have and while there is is no guarantee of the Northern Lights, however visiting the 300 Alaskan huskies is well worth it.

In the evening you will head back to Tromsø and enjoy a traditional sami reindeer stew (Biidos). Meals: B/D

#### Accommodation:

Thon Hotel Polar or similar



Locations: Tromsø

#### **Overview:**

Today we enjoy a day at own leisure in Tromsø, where we have the opportunity to take an optional snowmobile safari, husky safari or many more exciting excursions. We come together in the evening for a farewell dinner. Meals: B/D

#### Accommodation:

Thon Hotel Polar or similar

#### Day 10

Locations: Tromso

#### Overview:

After breakfast at the hotel, we say our farewells and the program draws to a close. Meals: B

## **Inclusions / Exclusions**

#### What's included in our Tour

- 9 nights accommodation.
- 9 breakfasts, 6 dinners.
- Flight (economy class) from Helsinki to Ivalo (near Saariselkä).
- Transport and field trips as indicated.
- Tour leader for the duration of the tour.
- Services of local English speaking guides.
- Service charges and gratuities.

#### What's not included in our Tour

• International Flights.

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- International comprehensive travel insurance.
- Meals not specified in itinerary.
- Items of a personal nature like laundry and phone calls.

#### Level 2 - Moderate

Participants must be able to carry their own luggage, climb and descend stairs, be in good health, mobile and able to participate in 3-5 hours of physical activity per day, the equivalent of walking/hiking up to 8 kilometres on uneven ground.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any requests for further information about this tour or any others offered by Odyssey Travel.

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