

Lofoten in Fall

The Golden Colors of Norway

September 11 to 23, 2025



Lofoten Archipelago

SAFARI OVERVIEW

Embark on a mesmerizing cruise through the Lofoten archipelago, a jewel of the Arctic, located 200km north of the Arctic Circle. Immerse yourself in a world where rugged mountains soar above crystal-clear fjords and charming fishing villages whisper tales of Viking legends. As autumn paints the landscape with vibrant hues of crimson and gold, the region transforms into a breathtaking tapestry of fall colors. Explore on foot with exhilarating hikes through its rocky terrain, where each trail leads to hidden gems—pristine lakes, secluded beaches, and panoramic vistas that stretch as far as the eye can see. As night falls, keep an eye on the sky for a chance to see the Northern Lights dancing above. This voyage invites you on an unforgettable adventure through the Lofoten archipelago to bring you closer to the heart of this extraordinary Arctic paradise.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Sail through dramatic Arctic fjords, renowned as some of the most stunning in the world.
- Journey aboard a small ship, offering exclusive access to hidden fjords that larger vessels can't reach.
- Photograph the breathtaking fall landscapes with guidance from leader, Scott Davis.
- Experience eight days of invigorating excursions in an intimate small group.
- Revel in the opportunity to witness the Northern Lights transform the night sky.

LEADER: Scott Davis.

DAYS: 13, including estimated travel time. 9 nights aboard the ship.

GROUP SIZE: 12.

SHIP: Norway Ship. See the *Ship* section on page 3.

COST: \$8,000 per person, single occupancy for lower deck cabins and double occupancy for main deck cabins, not including airfare. See the *Costs* section on page 5.

Date	Description	Accommodation	Meals
Sep 11	Travel to Norway.		
Sep 12	Arrive in Svolvær, Norway.	Thon Hotel Lofoten, Svolvær	—
Sep 13	Embark on the ship in Svolvær.	On board our ship	B, D
Sep 14–21	Voyage through the Lofoten Archipelago with opportunities for active landings and extraordinary landscape photography.		B, L, D
Sep 22	Disembark in Svolvær for flights home.		B
Sep 23	Arrive home.		

LEADER



Scott Davis

Scott is a professional photographer (www.scottdavisimages.com/) specializing in wildlife, nature, and travel. Originally trained as a wildlife and marine biologist, his research and photo assignments took him to the far corners of the globe. National Geographic, BBC, Animal Planet, and renowned magazines have used his photography. His patience for teaching and love of capturing the essence of his subjects make him one of our most popular tour leaders.

SHIP

We chose the most well-equipped and comfortable vessel in the small ship class which enables you to explore and photograph channels and inlets other ships simply cannot navigate. The ship is equipped with Zodiacs for cruising and shore excursions. Enjoy excellent scenic viewing from a large, dual-level observation deck at the front, and large windows in the social areas. The spacious and comfortable lounge provides room to relax, gather socially, edit photos, and attend informative lectures. You have your own private cabin for lower deck cabins (or shared for main deck cabins), all with private bathroom facilities. With only twelve passengers, this ship is perfect for exploring places bigger ships cannot navigate. See the *Deck Plan* on page 9.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Sep 11 ~ Travel to Svolvær, Norway

Travel to Norway from home.

Sep 12 ~ Arrive in Svolvær

Arrive in Svolvær, Norway. Our local agent will transfer you from the airport to the hotel for your overnight stay before boarding the ship tomorrow. If you would like to arrive earlier, we can arrange divergent airport transfers and extra nights.

Svolvær, situated on the island of Austvågøya, is the capital of the Lofoten Islands, known for its picturesque harbor and rich maritime heritage. Officially becoming a city in 1918, the centuries-old fishing settlement's ties to the cod fishing industry were a keystone to their local economy since the Viking Age. The city offers a mix of outdoor adventures, cultural experiences, and culinary delights.



Svolvær
© Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris

Sep 13 ~ Embark on your ship

Immerse yourself in the charm of this breathtaking town by exploring one of the many walking and hiking trails, enjoying local art and culture at Galleri Lofoten, or uncovering the past at the Lofoten Krigsminne Museum before boarding the ship in the evening.

Sep 14–21 ~ Voyage through the Lofoten Fjords

Begin your journey through the fjords of the Lofoten Archipelago with opportunities to land ashore, Zodiac cruise, and view stunning landscapes from the deck of the ship.

Due to the expeditionary nature of our voyage, specific stops cannot be guaranteed. Flexibility is paramount in expedition travel; our itinerary depends on the conditions.

Ulvägen

Navigate through the Raftsundet Strait, between the islands of Hinnøya and Austvågøya, where dramatic landscapes and the calls of sea eagles guide your way. Anchor at the enchanting island of Store Molla and hike from south to north, immersing yourself in the wild beauty of the terrain. Discover the hidden gem of Ulvägen, a quaint village with charming Norwegian houses set against a backdrop of rugged mountains, dense forests, and stunning coastlines. If the season is favorable, experience foraging for blueberries, mushrooms, and cranberries.

Ile de Skrova

The Island of Skrova, often referred to as the Hawaii of Lofoten, is a hidden gem with vibrant charm and stunning scenery. This island in Northern Norway will captivate you with its white sandy beaches, crystal-clear turquoise waters, and dramatic mountain views. Steeped in rich fishing and whaling heritage, Skrova offers an authentic taste of island life with its small wooden houses and welcoming local community. Climb to the island's highest peak, where you'll be rewarded with one of the most impressive panoramas of the

archipelago and the chance to spot fish eagles. If you prefer not to climb the summit, the coastal path is also beautiful and allows you to visit the breathtaking beaches on the northern shores of the island.

Trollfjord and Henningsvaer

Sail towards Trollfjord, a steep and narrow fjord that epitomizes the rugged beauty of the Lofoten Archipelago. Take in the towering walls as you drift through the passage before disembarking at the base of the fjord to begin your trek to Trollfjordhytta. This hut-like cabin serves as a refuge by the lake where you'll have the chance to immerse yourself in the untouched wilderness and spot local wildlife. As evening approaches, you'll continue your adventure to Henningsvaer, a picturesque, small fishing island nicknamed the Venice of the Arctic. Visit the village, a hub for local art galleries, unique craft shops, and lively cafes that capture the essence of Arctic culture.



Ile de Skrova
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Reine (Queen)

Navigate along the coast to Reine (Queen), where traditional red fishing cabins (rorbu) are nestled amidst tall peaks along and a striking coastline. Discover the enchanting fjords of Queen's inner bay, where cascading waterfalls and majestic vistas await. Enjoy an afternoon walking tour at the foot of the spectacular steep cirques, then journey to tranquil Bunesfjord where a scenic pass offers sweeping views of the Atlantic. This paved road at the pass connected the houses to the fishing grounds in ancient times. If the tide is favorable, stroll along the beach to collect beautiful shells as souvenirs of your unforgettable adventure.



Reine
© Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris

Vaeroy

Cruise to Vaeroy, a remote and beguiling island in the southern reaches of the archipelago known for its rich birdlife, acting as a sanctuary for thousands of seabirds. You will go ashore for a walk on the beach before taking a small, winding path to observe the coast and its impressive cliffs. For those seeking a thrill, tackle the ascent of Mahornet, a striking mountain peak offering a challenging hike and breathtaking 360° views from the summit.

Nusfjord

Explore Nusfjord, a historic village classified as a Unesco World Heritage Site, where traditional wooden structures and picturesque views will transport you back in time. Take the coastal path that leads to the peaceful village of Nesland. Adventure to the nearby lakes with alluring views overlooking the village. After soaking in all the beauty and history, return to Svolvaer, concluding your enriching journey through the captivating Lofoten Archipelago.



Nusfjord
© Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris

Sep 22 ~ Disembark and flights home

In the morning, the group will disembark the ship in Svolvaer and be transferred to the airport for flights home or into town if you depart later in the day.

Sep 23 ~ Arrive home

COSTS (ALL COSTS ARE IN US DOLLARS)

Cost

Type	Cost per Person
Trip Cost, single occupancy on lower deck*	\$8,000
Trip Cost, double occupancy on main deck	\$8,000
*Single occupancy aboard the ship, but double occupancy at Svolvaer hotel.	

Costs are per person, single occupancy for lower deck cabins and double occupancy for main deck cabins, not including airfare. See *Included* and *Not Included* sections for more details.

If you are a single traveler, we will find a roommate for you at the Thon Hotel Lofoten, but if we cannot find you a roommate, we will not charge you a single supplement. If you prefer a single room for your included night in the hotel, it's an additional cost and is subject to availability.

We cannot guarantee a specific cabin number, but if changes occur, we will assign a cabin of equal or greater value.

Payment Schedule

Payment	Due Date	Amount per Person
Deposit	Due now to reserve your space	\$1,500
Final	April 4, 2025	Remaining Balance

Payments are due based on the schedule above. All reservations require a deposit to confirm reservation of your space.

Cancellations

Refunds are given depending on the time left before departure according to the following table. Through February 3, 2025, the cancellation fee of \$300 per person can be applied toward another trip if reserved within six months of the canceled trip's departure date. Cancellations are non-transferable.

Dates	Forfeited Amount per Person
On or before February 3, 2025	\$300 (see terms above)
February 4 to March 3, 2025	10% of trip cost
March 4 to April 3, 2025	40% of trip cost
On or after April 4, 2025	100% of trip cost

Included

- Carbon offsets for the duration of this trip.
- All leaders, transport, park entry fees, landing fees, and permits for all activities unless described as optional.
- Accommodations (double occupancy, singles extra) for the night of September 12 in Svolvaer.
- Nine nights on board the ship.
- Meals from breakfast on September 13 through breakfast on September 22, except meals listed in *Not Included* section.
- Transfers on September 12 between the Svolvaer Airport and Thon Hotel Lofoten and on September 22 from the dock to the Svolvaer Airport.
- Trip Planning Materials – information about entry requirements, flights, packing, gratuities, etc.

Not Included

- Carbon offsets for your flights to/from this trip.
- All airfare, airport and departure taxes, and excess baggage fees. Round-trip airfare is approximately \$1,500 to \$3,000 between the US and Svolvaer, depending on origin.
- Passport and visa fees.
- COVID tests.
- Lunch in Svolvaer on September 13.
- Divergent airport transfers (arranged by us) and extra hotel nights.
- Gratuities – tipping is always discretionary. However, we suggest budgeting about \$20 to \$25 per participant per day for 9 days with your ship crew (about \$180 to \$225 total per participant).
- Mandatory [emergency evacuation insurance](#).
- Optional [trip cancellation insurance](#).
- Items of a personal nature such as laundry, telephone calls, medical costs or hospitalization, room service, alcoholic and other beverages, items not on the regular menu, etc. If you have special dietary needs, please indicate them on your Traveler Form.

SIGN UP

Please contact us first to check availability, reserve your space, and obtain a Traveler Form. To confirm your reservation, we require a deposit and signed form from each participant.

Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris

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WhatsApp: (408) 741-5330 | Skype: CheesemansEcologySafaris

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OTHER DETAILS

Climate

In September the Lofoten Archipelago is a transitional month and experiences cool temperatures ranging from 46 to 55 °F (8 to 13°C). Weather conditions can be variable with a mix of cloudy, rainy, and occasionally sunny days, so it's best to be prepared for all situations. Windy conditions can also be common, especially near the coast. This month also marks the beginning of the Northern Lights season, offering potential sightings on clear nights.

Fitness Level

This trip involves a mix of moderate hiking, coastal walks, and optional ascents in varied terrain. For your safety and full enjoyment of this tour, you should be able to hike for at least 3 to 5 hours on uneven and sometimes steep terrain, including rocky paths, coastal trails, and forested areas. Good stability is also important for your safety and enjoyment as you navigate uneven ground, including potentially wet, muddy, or slippery surfaces due to weather variability. Some of the hikes will also involve ascending moderate inclines with significant elevation gain before arriving at the point of 360° panoramic views. Please contact us if you have any health concerns that may make this trip challenging.

Motion Sickness

Don't let a fear of motion sickness keep you away! Even those who have experienced seasickness reported that the incredible wildlife and overall experience were well worth the temporary discomfort. If you are susceptible to seasickness or are concerned that you might be, please come prepared! The key to avoiding seasickness is to act before you experience nausea. Do your own research and consult your doctor before taking any medications. A good night of sleep, eating well, limiting alcohol, and using your favorite seasickness remedy is sufficient for most travelers. Find more information on our [Coping with Seasickness](#) webpage (this information is applicable to any form of motion sickness) and contact us if you have any questions.

Flights

Detailed logistical information is included in the Trip Planning Materials we will send you.

Flights you book

- Arrive in Svolvær, Norway (SVJ) by 11:59pm on September 12.
- Depart from Svolvær, Norway (SVJ) after 10:00am on September 22.

Terms and Conditions

Read our current [Terms and Conditions](#).

Conservation

Our company ethos has always regarded conservation as inseparable from responsible tourism. We struggle with the dilemma that traveling worldwide expends climate-changing carbon. However, we wholeheartedly believe that traveling with us will cultivate your passion for conserving our beautiful world while stimulating

each destination's local economy. We encourage you to explore the various ways in which Cheesemans' operates within this context:

- **Ecotourism and Conservation for Norway.**
- **Cheesemans' Trips are Carbon Neutral.**
- **Offsetting your Travel to/from our Trip:** We ask you to pledge to offset the carbon emissions for your travel to and from our trips. You can purchase offsets with most airlines (Delta includes them automatically), use our handy [carbon calculator](#) and donate to Sustainable Travel International, or contribute to your favorite offsetting organization.

FAQS

Why travel on a small ship?

With only twelve passenger cabins, our ship is smaller than most cruise ships in Norway, allowing you to travel farther into smaller inlets. Our small group size gives you the flexibility to seize the moment and enjoy special experiences and allows you to receive plenty of individual attention.

Are we guaranteed to see the Northern Lights?

We cannot 100% guarantee the Northern Lights will be observed as we cannot control the conditions, however, being in the proper place at the right time helps. Our flexible itinerary allows the ship to seek out the best viewing areas by night and northern Norway is a great destination to be in September to seek out the natural phenomenon. In addition, Norway's Arctic is one of the best places to witness the Aurora Borealis and 2024 is predicted to be an exceptional year.

There are also forecasts available and the Kp Index is considered the most reliable. Measured on a scale of 0 to 9 with, 0 indicating low auroral activity and 9 being extremely high, the Geophysical Institute of University of Alaska-Fairbanks offers a [website](#) to view auroral activity and up to 27 day forecasts in all the auroral regions of the world, including Europe and the areas of Norway in which you will be.

How do I photograph the Northern Lights?

There is a little bit of trial and error involved, but your leader and professional photographer, Scott Davis, is there to provide tips and guidance as needed. It is important to remember that no two aurora events are the same and there are many variables involved. Be prepared and know that your camera settings may change from one night to the next. An attitude of exploration, experimentation, and having fun as part of the process are key to your success!

DECK PLAN



Deck plan and cabin sizes are not to scale and shows the number of beds, not actual bed arrangement.

Cabins 101, 102, 107, and 108 have one twin bed with a private bath.

Cabins 103–106, 109, 110, 201, and 202 have one double bed with a private bath.