

Arctic Norway

Orcas & Northern Lights: Arctic Winter Expedition

November 18 to 28, 2026



Borealis
© Stefan Froehlich

SAFARI OVERVIEW

Embark on an unforgettable ship-based expedition through **northern Norway**, where **Arctic magic** comes alive. This journey offers the chance to witness the mesmerizing **northern lights** dancing across polar skies and observe **orcas and humpback whales** feeding in the fjords—one of nature's most powerful spectacles. As conditions allow, venture ashore for exhilarating winter adventures to feel the rush of snowmobiling across Arctic terrain and explore the stark beauty of the north on foot with guided hikes. Capture **once-in-a-lifetime** wildlife photography, guided by **Scott Davis**, a professional photographer and Cheesemans' co-owner, as you cruise through **prime whale-watching** locations. Each day's itinerary adapts to the weather and sea conditions, ensuring a flexible and immersive experience that embraces the wild, ever-changing rhythms of the high north.

WHY CHOOSE THIS EXPEDITION?

- **Orca & Humpback Whale Watching in Arctic Waters:** Observe these magnificent marine mammals feeding on herring in the fjords.
- **Experience the Northern Lights at Peak Season:** Witness and photograph the breathtaking Aurora Borealis dancing across the Arctic sky in one of the world's best viewing locations.

- **Exclusive Small-Ship Expedition:** Travel aboard a well-equipped, ice-strengthened vessel, allowing for intimate wildlife encounters and unparalleled photography opportunities.
- **Thrilling Winter Activities:** Snowmobile across frozen terrain and enjoy a traditional Arctic sauna after a day of adventure.
- **Expert Photography & Expedition Leadership:** Learn wildlife and landscape photography techniques from a professional photographer and Arctic expedition leader.

LEADER: Scott Davis.

DAYS: 11, including estimated travel time. 7 nights aboard the ship.

GROUP SIZE: 12.

COST: \$8,900 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
Nov 18-19	Travel to Tromsø, Norway. Arrive in the Arctic gateway city for an overnight stay.		
Nov 20	Board Your Arctic Expedition Ship & Embark. Explore Tromsø before embarking on your voyage.	Aboard our ship	D
Nov 21–Nov 26	Fjord Exploration & Wildlife Encounters. Explore remote fjords for six days in search of orcas and humpback whales feeding on massive herring swarms. Cruise in Zodiacs offering unforgettable wildlife experiences not available to larger ships. Capture stunning photos of snow-covered peaks, frozen fjords, and Arctic wildlife, while the low winter sun casts a golden glow over the landscape. Experience the magic of the Northern Lights, either from the ship’s dual-level observation deck or ashore, as the Aurora Borealis paints the Arctic sky in vibrant colors. Discover the charm of remote Norwegian fishing villages and immerse yourself in Sami culture and time-honored fishing traditions.		B, L, D
Nov 27	Disembark in Tromsø & Fly Home.		B
Nov 28	Arrive home.		

LEADER



Scott Davis

Scott is a professional photographer specializing in wildlife, nature, and travel. Originally trained as a wildlife and marine biologist, his research and photo assignments have taken him to the far corners of the globe and all seven continents. National Geographic, BBC, Animal Planet, NY Times, 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. He has extensive experience working in the polar regions having led expeditions and guided in both Antarctica and Svalbard for 15 seasons. His great fondness for these remote polar regions is evident in every expedition he leads, and he loves sharing this enthusiasm with all his guests.

SHIP

We've selected the most well-equipped and comfortable vessel in its class for this expedition. Designed specifically for small group polar exploration, the ship features an ice-strengthened hull and shallow draft, allowing it to navigate narrow channels and remote inlets that are inaccessible to larger vessels. You'll enjoy intimate wildlife encounters and scenic cruising from a fleet of Zodiacs used for shore landings and water-level photography. The ship also offers a spacious dual-level observation deck at the bow and large viewing windows in the lounge and dining areas—perfect for wildlife watching and enjoying the dramatic Arctic landscapes. Onboard, the comfortable lounge serves as a hub for relaxing, reviewing photos, and joining naturalist-led lectures and discussions. Accommodations include private cabins on the lower deck (or shared main deck cabins), all with en-suite bathrooms. With a maximum of just twelve passengers, this vessel provides an exclusive and immersive experience, allowing us to explore remote places that larger ships simply can't reach. See the *Deck Plan* on page 9.



DETAILED ITINERARY

Nov 18–19 ~ Travel to and arrive in Tromsø, Norway

Fly to Tromsø, Norway, the capital of the **Arctic Circle** and the starting point of your Norwegian wildlife expedition. This vibrant city, surrounded by snow-covered peaks and fjords, is renowned for its **Northern Lights** displays and rich polar history. Arrive by November 19, allowing time for an overnight stay before boarding your ship the following day.

Nov 20 ~ Embark on our ship

Enjoy the morning at leisure, exploring Tromsø's lively waterfront, Arctic Cathedral, and bustling markets. Meet your expedition leader and transfer to the port, where you'll board your small expedition ship, specially designed for **polar exploration** and **wildlife viewing**. After settling into your cabin, set sail into the **fjords of Arctic Norway**, where the adventure begins. The waters around this region are very calm compared to the Antarctic. During this in-depth exploratory expedition, you will have ample opportunities to Zodiac cruise, land ashore, hike, participate in wintertime activities, and view the natural wonders and wildlife from the decks of our ship.



Tromsø

Nov 21–26 ~ Voyage through and explore Norway's Arctic waters, fjords, and coastlines

Spend six days immersed in Norway's Arctic wilderness, navigating deep fjords and remote coastal waters in search of **orcas** and **humpback whales** feeding on herring swarms. Witness these powerful marine predators hunting in synchronized movements, creating a breathtaking spectacle just meters from your Zodiac.



Orcas
© Scott Davis

Each day, enjoy a mix of wildlife encounters, adventure excursions, and expert-led photography sessions. The low-angle winter sun casts golden hues across the icy landscapes, making for **stunning photography** opportunities. As night falls, venture onto the ship's dual-level observation deck or land

ashore to witness the **Northern Lights** illuminating the **Arctic sky** in vibrant shades of green, blue, and purple.

Beyond wildlife, immerse yourself in **thrilling Arctic activities**:

- **Snowmobiling Adventure** – Explore **backcountry trails and frozen landscapes**, taking in the Arctic's pristine beauty.
- **Traditional Sauna Experience** – Unwind in a **steaming Arctic sauna**, a perfect way to warm up after a day in the polar cold.
- **Visit Remote Fishing Villages** – Step ashore in **isolated Arctic communities**, learning about **Norwegian fishing traditions** and Sami culture.

Flexibility is key to expedition travel, as our itinerary is guided by weather, sea, and ice conditions. Our focus is on photographing and observing Arctic wildlife, particularly whales, as well as experiencing the region's striking landscapes, all while adhering to Norway's local wildlife regulations. Traveling with a small group allows us to

adjust our schedule to fully take advantage of wildlife encounters, staying as long as needed to capture the perfect photographic moment based on animal behavior. Optional excursions, such as snowmobiling, are available based on your comfort and interest. If you prefer not to participate in a specific activity, we kindly ask that you let us know in advance so we can plan accordingly.

Nov 27 ~ Disembark and flights homeward

Return to Tromsø, where your **Arctic expedition** comes to an end. After breakfast, disembark the ship and transfer to the airport for your flight home or onward travel.

Nov 28 ~ Arrive home

Arrive home, carrying unforgettable memories of Arctic Norway’s wildlife, landscapes, and celestial wonders.

COSTS (ALL COSTS ARE IN US DOLLARS)

Cost

Type	Cost per Person
Trip Cost, single occupancy on lower deck	\$8,900
Trip Cost, double occupancy on main deck	\$8,900

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.

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	\$2,000
Final	June 11, 2026	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 April 10, 2026, 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 April 10, 2026	\$300 (see terms above)
April 11 to May 10, 2026	10% of trip cost
May 11 to June 10, 2026	40% of trip cost

On or after June 11, 2026	100% of trip cost
---------------------------	-------------------

Included

- Carbon offsets for the duration of this trip.
- All leaders, transport, park entry fees, landing fees, dock and port fees, and permits for all activities unless described as optional.
- Seven nights on board our ship.
- Meals from dinner on November 20 through breakfast on November 27.
- A group luggage transfer from town to the ship on November 20.
- Guided snowmobiling tour excursion, equipment, and instruction.*
- Evening at a traditional hot sauna with libations.*
- Trip Planning Materials – information about entry requirements, flights, hotel recommendations, packing, gratuities, etc.

*Your participation in these excursions is optional, however all activities are included in trip cost; please let us know in advance if you do not wish to participate in certain activities so we can plan ahead.

Not Included

- Carbon offsets for your flights to/from this trip.
- All airfare, airport and departure taxes, and excess baggage fees.
- Passport and visa fees.
- Meals and lodging in Tromsø, before and after the expedition.
- Airport and hotel transfers and any extra hotel nights.
- Gratuities – tipping is always discretionary. However, we suggest budgeting about \$300 to \$350 total per participant for the ship's crew, accepted in Euros or USD (not Kroner). Scott will collect the tip at the end of the trip.
- 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 beverages aboard the ship unless noted otherwise in the itinerary, 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](#)

Email: info@cheesemans.com

WhatsApp: (408) 741-5330

Phone: (800) 527-5330 or (408) 741-5330

OTHER DETAILS

Climate

You will visit the Arctic at the beginning stages of the Polar Night Season. Due to high mountain ranges, you may not see the sun rise at all as it sits just at or below the horizon line, but there are still a few hours of beautiful pink and golden light that give subtle twilight light. Expect temperatures in the upper 20s°F (-2°C) at night and mid 30s°F (2°C) during the day. Skies are usually variable with a mix of clear and cloudy days. Weather patterns can be highly variable, so bring appropriate gear to handle a mix of conditions including wind, snow, and rain.

Fitness Level

You must be able to get in and out of the Zodiacs from the ship, via a short four-foot rope ladder with wooden rungs spaced about a foot apart, with staff assisting above you from the ship and below you on the Zodiac. Some upper body strength and coordination is required. Once ashore, you must also be able to get in and out of the Zodiacs onto the beach. You'll have opportunities for a range of activities from easy, short hikes to longer, more vigorous hikes and activities for those interested. There are various roads and trails along the coasts and villages and most terrain is not too technical, however spikes, winter boots, and poles are recommended, and snow depth can affect the level of difficulty. Most walks are less than a mile and often loop. Please contact us if you have any health concerns that may make this trip challenging.

Accommodations

Land accommodations are not included in the trip cost, and you are welcome to stay at any hotel in the area. This allows for maximum flexibility and freedom of choice in your arrival to Tromsø. We will provide you a list of recommended hotels in your Trip Planning Materials that offer a mix of good value, comfort, and ideal location close to the meet-up location on embarkation day. If you are concerned about the standard of accommodations being below your expectations, please ask us before booking.

Motion Sickness

Don't let a fear of motion sickness keep you away! For all but the most sensitive, seasickness is rarely a problem in this region. It's a good idea to bring medication if you get seasick or are unsure, but you may find that you do not need it after a couple days once you have your "sea legs." 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 Tromsø, Norway (TOS) by 11:59pm on November 19.
- Depart from Tromsø, Norway (TOS) after 12:00pm on November 27.

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 just twelve passenger cabins, our ship is significantly smaller than most cruise vessels in Norway, giving us the ability to access narrow inlets and more remote areas. Traveling with a small group allows for greater flexibility, more intimate wildlife encounters, and personalized attention throughout the journey.

Are we guaranteed to see the Northern Lights?

While we can't guarantee sightings of the Northern Lights, as they depend on natural conditions beyond our control, being in the right place at the right time significantly improves your chances. Our flexible itinerary allows the ship to adjust course in search of the best nighttime viewing locations. Northern Norway, especially in late November, offers excellent opportunities to witness this awe-inspiring natural phenomenon, and the Arctic region is considered one of the best places in the world to see the Aurora Borealis.

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?

Capturing the aurora involves a bit of trial and error, but your leader and professional photographer, Scott Davis, will be there to offer tips and support along the way. Keep in mind that no two aurora displays are the same—each night brings different conditions and variables, which means your camera settings may need to change accordingly. A mindset of curiosity, flexibility, and enjoyment will go a long way in making the experience both successful and memorable.

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.