

Arctic Norway

Orcas, Humpbacks, & Northern Lights

November 10 to 20, 2027



Orca

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 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:** Watch these magnificent marine mammals feed on herring in the fjords.
- **Northern Lights at Peak Season:** See and photograph the Aurora Borealis dancing across the sky from one of the world's premier viewing locations.
- **Small-Ship, Ice-Strengthened Expedition:** Travel aboard a well-equipped vessel built for polar conditions, offering close-up wildlife encounters and outstanding photography opportunities.
- **Winter Adventure Activities:** Snowmobile across frozen terrain and unwind in a traditional Arctic sauna after a day of exploration.

LEADER: Lizza Boitard-Thomas

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

GROUP SIZE: 12.

COST: \$9,500 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 10–11	Travel to Tromsø, Norway. Arrive in the Arctic gateway city for an overnight stay.		
Nov 12	Board Your Arctic Expedition Ship & Embark. Explore the beauty of Tromsø before embarking on your voyage.	Aboard our ship	D
Nov 13–18	Fjord Exploration & Wildlife Encounters. Spend six days exploring remote Arctic fjords in search of orcas and humpback whales feasting on massive herring swarms. Zodiac cruising offers wildlife encounters simply not possible from larger ships. Capture striking photos of snow-capped peaks, frozen fjords, and Arctic wildlife as the low winter sunbathes the landscape in golden light. Experience the magic of the northern lights, whether from the ship's dual-level observation deck or from shore, as the aurora borealis lights up the Arctic sky in shifting color. Discover the charm of remote Norwegian fishing villages and get a glimpse into Sami culture and centuries-old fishing traditions.		B, L, D
Nov 19	Disembark in Tromsø & Fly Home.		B
Nov 20	Arrive home.		

LEADER

Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris carefully selects leaders who are experts in their field to ensure that your experience is the best it can be. One leader will provide a range of expertise for your trip.



Lizza Boitard-Thomas ~ Expedition Leader

Originally from Brittany, France, Lizza built her early career around ocean conservation and marine mammal research, including cetacean bioacoustic studies and sea excursions in the Iroise Sea. After moving to the Alps, she discovered a passion for ornithology and alpine wildlife, eventually becoming a certified mountain guide. Today, she divides her time between sea and mountains, working as a cetologist guide on cruises in Norway and the Mediterranean while also leading mountain excursions year-round, sharing her deep knowledge of wildlife along the way.

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 10–11 ~ Travel to and arrive in Tromsø, Norway

Your Arctic adventure begins with a flight to Tromsø, Norway, often called the capital of the Arctic Circle and once known as the Paris of the North. Ringed by snow-dusted peaks and dramatic fjords, this lively city is

famous for its northern lights viewing and deep polar heritage. Arrive by November 11, giving yourself an overnight in town before boarding the ship the next day.

Nov 12 ~ Embark on our ship

Spend a relaxed morning wandering Tromsø, taking in the harbor, the striking Arctic Cathedral, and the local markets. You'll meet your expedition leader in the late afternoon before transferring to the port to board your small expedition ship this evening. Once you've settled into your cabin, we embark into the fjords of Arctic Norway and the expedition officially begins. Compared to Antarctic waters, this region tends to be notably calmer. Over the course of this expedition, you'll have plenty of chances for Zodiac excursions, shore landings, hikes, winter activities, and wildlife viewing right from the ship's decks.

Nov 13–18 ~ Voyage through and explore Norway's Arctic waters, fjords, and coastlines

For six days, we'll navigate Norway's remote fjords and coastal waters, observing orcas and humpback whales as they hunt herring in massive feeding swarms. These encounters can bring you within meters of whales working together in coordinated pursuit — a truly striking sight from the Zodiac.

Days will blend wildlife sightings, guided excursions, and photography instruction from our onboard naturalist. The Arctic's low winter sun paints the icy terrain in warm gold tones, ideal for capturing dramatic images. Once evening arrives, head up to the ship's two-tier observation deck, or step ashore, to watch the aurora borealis ripple across the sky in shades of green, blue, and violet.

Beyond whale watching, the region offers plenty of ways to experience Arctic life firsthand:

- **Snowmobiling adventure** – Ride through backcountry trails and snow-blanketed terrain, taking in views found nowhere else.
- **Traditional sauna experience** – Warm up the Nordic way with a steaming sauna session after a day out in the cold.
- **Visit remote fishing villages** – Go ashore in small, isolated communities to learn about Sami heritage and generations-old fishing customs.



Orca
© Mary Ann Fernandez



Humpback Whale
© Stefan Froehlich

As with any expedition, our route stays flexible and responsive to weather, sea state, and ice conditions. Wildlife sightings, whales in particular, along with the region's dramatic scenery, guide our daily plans, always within Norway's wildlife protection guidelines. Because our group is small, we can linger wherever the action is

best, giving photographers time to wait for that perfect shot. Activities like snowmobiling are optional; if you'd rather sit one out, just let us know ahead of time so we can plan accordingly.

Nov 19 ~ Disembark and flights homeward

We return to Tromsø, marking the close of your Arctic voyage. After breakfast, you'll disembark and transfer to the airport for your flight home or onward journey.

Nov 20 ~ Arrive home

Touch down at home with a head full of memories — Arctic wildlife, dramatic landscapes, and the glow of the northern lights.

COSTS (ALL COSTS ARE IN US DOLLARS)

Cost

Type	Cost per Person
Trip Cost, single occupancy on lower deck	\$9,500
Trip Cost, double occupancy on main deck	\$9,500

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 3, 2027	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 March 31, 2027, 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 March 31, 2027	\$300 (see terms above)
April 1 to April 30, 2027	10% of trip cost
May 1 to June 2, 2027	40% of trip cost
On or after June 3, 2027	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 12 through breakfast on November 19.
- A group luggage transfer from town to the ship on November 12.
- 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.

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.
- Gratuities.
- 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.

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.

Please wait to book your flights until you receive confirmation from your Coordinator that the minimum number of participants has been met to operate the trip. If you choose to book flights before receiving this confirmation, we strongly recommend purchasing flight cancellation insurance to protect your investment.

Flights you book

- Arrive in Tromsø, Norway (TOS) by 11:59pm on November 11.
- Depart from Tromsø, Norway (TOS) after 12:00pm on November 19.

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 the 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.