



Rediscover the
meaning of travel

Tour Notes

Lofoten Island Explorer – Self-drive tailormade

Tour Duration – 9 Days



Tour Rating

Fitness ●●○○○ | Off the Beaten Track ●●○○○ | Culture ●●●○○ | History ●●●○○ | Wildlife ●●●○○

Tour Pace

Moderate

Tour Highlights

- ✓ Marvel at the raw natural beauty of the stunning Lofoten archipelago
- ✓ Travel day by day at your own pace, stopping at leisure to imbibe the superb vistas
- ✓ A flexible itinerary that can be tailored to include alternative or lengthier stops
- ✓ Stay in traditional Rorbuer accommodation
- ✓ Explore the archipelago from tip to toe
- ✓ Optional excursions on leisure days from kayaking to sea eagle safaris





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Tour Map Lofoten Island Explorer



Tour Essentials

Accommodation:	Comfortable accommodation (hotels and traditional rorbuer) with private bathrooms
Included Meals:	Daily breakfast at the accommodation
Group Size:	Private self-drive tour
Start Point:	Harstad
End Point:	Harstad
Transport:	Private hire car
Country Visited:	Norway



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Lofoten Islands Explorer – Self-drive tailor made

Charming small communities are very much at the heart of the archipelago of the Lofoten and Vesterålen islands. Although situated well inside the Arctic Circle, these magical islands do not experience the extreme cold temperatures one may assume, and make the archipelago ideal for outdoor exploring. This is a land where nature is at its most impressive, a land of staggering beauty, enhanced by ever changing weather and light. On this self-drive adventure, take your time in travelling through this timeless land, stopping at your leisure to drink in the majesty of the endless panoramic splendor. The choice is yours to climb craggy peaks, meander in sheltered bays, wander in tiny fishing villages or take optionally, take to the glassy waters to imbibe the perfection from a different perspective. Experience the islands from top to toe!

Tour itinerary notes

The itinerary has been planned so that you can enjoy the islands at a moderate pace. As this is a self-drive tour however, you are free to take detours as you wish

Tour Guide

This is a self-drive tour and therefore is not guided. However, where mentioned in the itinerary it is possible to book optional activities which will be guided.

Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive in Harstad

Arrive in Harstad. On arrival you will collect your vehicle from a pre-arranged location. Accommodation will be in a comfortable small-scale hotel in the centre of Harstad. No meals are included today.

Day 2: Harstad – Andenes (Approx. overall driving distance today is 185km)

After breakfast, start your adventure heading north from Harstad towards Andenes through the verdant Vesterålen islands. On your way to Andenes, enjoy the spectacular valleys and the small hamlets located on the shores of the fjords and feel free to stop and enjoy the views at your leisure. We recommend taking the route through Kvæfjord, and therefore taking the short ferry-crossing (not included) between Refsnes and Flesnes. Overnight comfortable hotel in Andenes. (B)

Day 3: Andenes – Svolvær (Approx. overall driving distance today is 210 km)

After breakfast, drive from Andenes towards Svolvær “the capital” of the Lofoten Islands. Take your time, once again enjoying how the ever changing light transforms the landscape. We recommend making a stop in the old trading centre of Stokmarknes and optionally visit the Norwegian Coastal Express Museum (not included). End the day in the port town of Svolvær which has a bustling atmosphere in a picturesque setting, and is a good base for exploring later today and for your leisure day tomorrow. Your accommodation for the next 2 nights will be in a traditional style rorbuer. (B)

Day 4: Svolvær at leisure – optional activities

Today is given over to your own leisure to explore the islands at your leisure from Svolvær as your base. Breakfast at the hotel and your day can be enjoyed at leisure as you explore the Lofoten Islands. There are also an abundance of activities that can be pre-booked for you as well, from nature hikes, sea eagle safaris and sea kayaking amongst others. Please contact us if you would like to tailor activities today. Overnight in a traditional style rorbuer. (B)



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Day 5: Svolvær – Reine (Approx. overall driving distance today is 120 km)

After breakfast at your hotel, continue your Lofoten Islands exploration, now heading to the far southern extent of the islands. We recommend a stop in Nusfjord, a wonderfully old and authentic fishing village in a wonderful setting flanked by dramatic mountains. After spending some time here, continue to Reine, arguably the most beautiful village of the Lofoten. Your accommodation for the next 2 nights will be in a traditional style rorbuer. (B)

Day 6: Reine at leisure

Enjoy your day at leisure exploring the southern extent of the region. If you wish to continue exploring, we recommend taking the short distance further south still to visit Å, a small village close to the tip of archipelago. The village contains boathouses more than 150 years old. Other activities that can be organised from Reine include kayaking, trekking or hiring bikes. Overnight in the traditional rorbuer. (B)

Day 7: Reine - Henningsvaer (Approx. overall driving distance today is 115km)

After breakfast, start your journey back north through the archipelago to beautiful Henningsvaer, located attractively amongst several small islands. It is known as one of the prominent active fishing villages and is renowned for its traditional architecture. We recommend optionally a visit to Gallery Lofoten which contains excellent paintings from a period renowned as a golden age in Norwegian art. Otherwise simply enjoy the atmosphere of the village and take a walk around the harbour. Overnight in a traditional rorbuer. (B)

Day 8: Henningsvaer – Harstad (Approx. overall driving distance today is 180km)

Your final day is spent driving back to Harstad. Accommodation this evening will be a central comfortable hotel. (B)

Day 9: Departure from Norway

Drive to the agreed location to drop of your vehicle, and this is where the services will end. (B)

Tour inclusions/exclusions

Inclusions:

All accommodation as per the itinerary
Private vehicle rental with full tank on pick up
Daily breakfast

Excluded:

International flights
Travel Insurance
Visas if applicable
Meals not stated in the itinerary
Drinks
Items of a personal nature
Optional excursions on leisure days



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Important Information

Foreign Office Travel Warnings

We constantly monitor the advice posted by the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). In particular we will always advise clients of any travel warnings. At this time there are no warnings in place for areas visited on this tour.

It should be noted that this information applies to British citizens. Other nationals are asked to check the current position of their respective government.

Accommodation and Meals

Hotel Check-in Times

As a general rule most hotels will allow guests to check-in from 2pm. Please note that the price of your tour does not include guaranteed early check-in. Therefore, please advise us if you would like to ensure that your room is available for an earlier arrival.

Accommodation Rating

Rooms on this tour will be of a comfortable standard with private bathrooms in good central locations.

Food and Drink

Daily breakfast is included only.

Dietary Requirements

If you have any special dietary requirements you must notify us at the time of booking. Whilst we will make every effort to cater for you, we cannot guarantee that this will be possible.

Budgeting for your Tour

You will need some extra money to cover meals and drinks not included in the tour price, any optional sightseeing, souvenirs and items of a personal nature such as laundry.

Food

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Lunch £15 (average)

Dinner £25 (average)

Drink

The prices for drinks can vary greatly depending upon location and the prices detailed below are an average guide. In general, you would expect that drinks purchased in a supermarket or local bar to be less expensive, whilst drinks in an upmarket bar or restaurant may be more expensive.

Bottle of Beer £5 – £7 (average)

Bottle of Water £2 - £3 (average)





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Money and currency

ATM Availability: ATMs are available at your overnight stops

Credit and Debit Card Acceptance: Cards are widely accepted

Local Currency: Norwegian Krone (NOK)

Recommended Currency for Exchange: GBP, Euros and US Dollar

Travel Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Undiscovered Destinations that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country and be valid for the entire duration of your holiday.

Visa Information

UK, US and Australian passport holders do not need a visa for travel in Norway.

As immigration requirements can change without notice it is essential that you check the latest information with your nearest embassy, consulate or visa agency. It is important to check the requirements both at the time of booking and again at the time you pay your balance.

Passports

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, valid for at least six months after the date of return to your country of residence.

We strongly advise that your passport contains a minimum of two blank pages, as this may be a requirement of the local immigration authorities. In addition, certain countries will stipulate that the two blank pages are opposite each other. If you are unable to meet these requirements you may be refused boarding by your airline or denied entry by the immigration authorities.

For specific information about the requirements for your destination please check with the country's embassy or consulate. Alternatively UK citizens can visit www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice .

Vaccinations and Protection

We strongly recommend that you contact your doctor's surgery or a specialist travel clinic for up-to-date information and advice regarding the necessary vaccinations. For a visit of less than one month, almost certainly you will be advised to have immunisations against the following: Diphtheria and Tetanus, Hepatitis A, Typhoid and Meningitis.

The legal status and regulation of some medicines prescribed or purchased in your home country can be different in other countries. If you're travelling with prescription or over-the-counter medicine, read this guidance from NaTHNaC on best practice when travelling with medicines. For further information on the legal status of a specific medicine, you'll need to contact the embassy, high commission or consulate of the country or territory you're travelling to.



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Preparing for your tour

Climate

In the Arctic region of Norway the summers are short, cool, and mostly cloudy and the winters are long, cold, snowy, windy, and overcast. However the weather can change quickly and often the light is magnificent, especially above the Arctic Circle. From late May until July, above the arctic circle it will still be light at midnight. In the Lofoten Islands the climate is more maritime, and despite the northerly latitude, temperatures do not get as cold in the winter as the mainland.

Clothing

In general we would recommend that you bring warm and comfortable clothes and shoes. Layer your clothing so that you can easily regulate your temperature by removing or adding layers. For travel in the Arctic region more information is provided below:

Clothing - Spring and summer (May – August)

In early summer (May – June) it can be wet and cold, so a good idea is to bring thin under layers and a light wind and rainproof jacket when exploring on foot. The weather in July – August tends to be better, but the same range of clothing applies, especially if you intend to go on activity based excursions.

Clothing - Autumn and winter (September – April)

Warm clothing is key to a good and comfortable visit to the Arctic region. We would recommend thin under layers together with thicker layers of warm and dry sweaters and jackets. Do not forget to bring warm shoes, gloves, scarves and hats.

Vehicle Hire

The tour is priced on the basis of a VW Golf or similar sized vehicle. Insurance (excess applies) and unlimited mileage is included in the price. Optional extras include navigation and extra drivers. You need to have had your license for at least 1 year. Driving is on the right-hand side of the road in Norway.

Equipment and What to Bring

The first thing on your list should be a first aid kit. Whilst there is no undue cause for alarm, travellers are best advised to travel well-prepared: adequately immunized, with sufficient supplies of prescription drugs, along with a medical kit. Suncream/sunblock is a must. Insect repellent, including a bite spray will also be useful to have. It is usually advisable to bring a torch/head torch in case of any electricity outages.

Footwear

Comfortable walking shoes are recommended in the Lofoten Islands where the weather is changeable and it is likely you will be spending a good deal of time in the outdoors.

Electric Supply & Plugs

Countries visited on this tour have an electrical supply that is 220V/50 Hz and plugs usually have two flat or round pins. We would recommend that you bring a universal travel adapter as there can be exceptions to the above.

Tour Itinerary Versions

Please ensure that you have an up-to-date copy of these tour notes immediately before you travel, as from time to time our itineraries may be amended, either for operational reasons or in response to feedback from customers. You will be informed of any major changes to your tour but small changes may just be added to these tour notes. These tour notes were updated 17th July 2020.