



The Original Coastal Express

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Dear guest,

Thank you for choosing to travel with us. We are as excited as you are about your voyage along the Norwegian coast. This will be a grand adventure discovering what is considered to be the world's most beautiful coastline.

In this document, you will find important information about what you need to do before you go, what we recommend you pack, the experience while on board, and what to expect.

Clicking on the underlined links in the document will take you to our website, where you can find further details. Please make sure that you have an Internet connection to link to our website.

You will receive one more email from us approximately 2–4 weeks before your departure. This will confirm your itinerary and flights.

We very much look forward to welcoming you on board. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions:

Reservations: +18665520371

Email: usbooking@hurtigruten.com

Web: hurtigruten.com/norwegian-coastal-express/

Kind regards,
Your Hurtigruten team

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[Frequently asked questions »](#)

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What to pack



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The four seasons in Norway are very distinct, here are the packing tips for each season.

Winter – wrap up warm

It can get very cold along the coast during winter, so we recommend you pack base and mid layers, as well as a thick winter jacket, a hat, gloves, wool sweater, scarf, winter boots, and pull-on spikes (crampons) (for sale on board).

Spring – cover all bases

As you are likely to encounter three seasons when sailing in spring, it's important to pack well and layer up. We advise bringing a woolen sweater, warm socks, a thick scarf, winter boots, warm, waterproof pants and jacket, a hat, and gloves.

Summer – Summer attire

Summer weather along the coast can be changeable, so in addition to t-shirts, shorts, and sandals, it's wise to pack a warm sweater, light jacket (water-resistant), a thin hat and gloves, and hiking shoes.

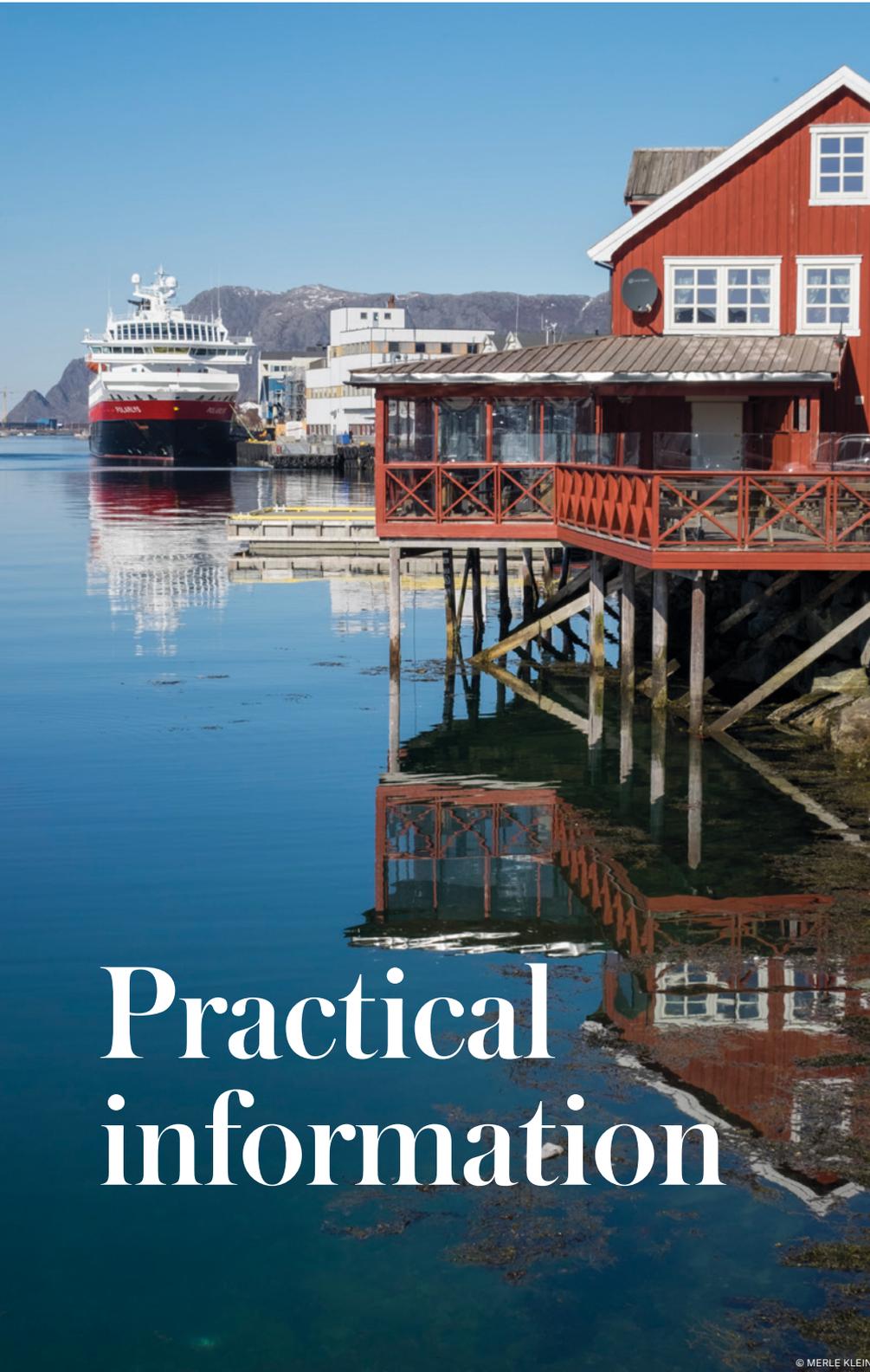
Fall – lots of layers

While the sun may be shining, you can also expect cooler weather during the fall months. Make sure to pack thin layers and some warm clothes – a wool sweater, wind and waterproof jacket and pants, a hat, gloves, and light hiking boots.

In addition to your “ordinary” packing list (toiletries and necessary basic clothes), we recommend these items for your voyage:

- Binoculars
- Warm underlayers and mid layers
- Polarized sunglasses and sunscreen
- A camera (in a waterproof bag)
- A memory card with a large capacity
- Wind and water-resistant pants
- Passport (also applies to Scandinavian citizens)
- Worn-in walking boots to use outdoors
- Swimwear for use in our on-deck pool and hot tubs
- A pair of casual shoes for use onboard

[What to bring on your trip to Norway »](#)



Practical information

© MERLE KLEIN

Wish to be more prepared?

We have collected a variety of practical information you might want to know before your travels along the Norwegian coast with Hurtigruten.

[Practical information »](#)

Home of Hurtigruten

Uncover the gems of the stunning Norwegian coast and learn more about the truly unique experience of travelling on the Norwegian Coastal Express in our pre-recorded webinar.

[Explore from home »](#)



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Travel documentation

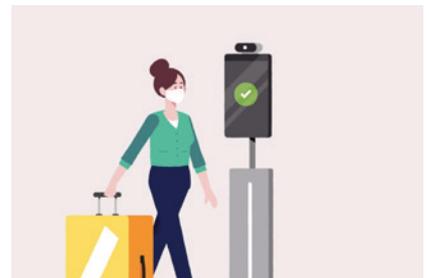
Need to know what the required formalities are, or review your travel documents? For your convenience, we have gathered all information about travel documentation in one place.

[Travel documentation »](#)

Hurtigruten ships have been a fixture on the Norwegian coast since 1893. Today, our ships sail to the Arctic and Antarctica, and many destinations in between. On each ship you will find modern facilities carefully blended with true character.

[Discover our fleet »](#)

Your adventure is safe with us



We care deeply about your safety, health and wellbeing. This is as true now as it has always been ever since we first began sailing in 1893, perhaps even more so. We've introduced several new procedures throughout all our ships, designed to keep you safe.

[Our safety policy »](#)



Lounging in style

We care about you and your visit to our home. That's why we do everything we can to make your experience as smooth and as enjoyable as possible, even before you set foot on the ship.

If you're starting your voyage with us from the city of Bergen, we have a treat in store for you: our new guest lounge.

Before boarding your ship, you'll be able to relax in this beautifully furnished area, decorated in the same style as our ships for a seamless experience from land to sea.

Take a load off in the many comfortable chairs and sofas. Meet and chat to your fellow travellers. Connect to free Wi-Fi and plug into USB chargers and sockets.

A large interactive touchscreen table at the entrance will show detailed information about any bookable optional excursions, while short

films of the voyage highlights play on screens throughout the lounge.

We know you might also get a bit peckish before boarding, so we're taking care of your tummy in the lounge with a complimentary buffet of hot drinks and light refreshments that will whet your appetite for the meals you'll be savouring on the ship.

Step into our office



Experts on the Norwegian coast will be by your side as part of your sailing with us, showing you their home and sharing their stories with you.

© RJAN BERTELSEN

No guidebook, website, or mobile app can replace the human connection of having one of our Coastal Experts point out places on the coast that are special to them. Through their hands-on experience in Norway and along the Norwegian coast, you'll gain insight and learn about these landscapes, culture, and way of life.

From near and far

Many of our Coastal Experts are local Norwegians, born and raised on the coast and elsewhere in Norway. They can tell you their childhood memories of our ships, what our service means to their coastal community, and maybe how they've had generations of their family connected to us, either as crew or as passengers. Other Coastal Experts may have lived in Norway

for several years, perhaps coming from the same country as you. Learn about what drew them to Norway and to work on the Original Norwegian Coastal Express voyage. See the coast through their eyes as they offer details about life here and share interesting anecdotes about their experiences with Norwegian culture.

Enriching your experience

Coastal Experts enhance your cruise with in-depth knowledge of the local culture, nature, geology, and history. This is knowledge they've built up over years. Their repertoire includes a range of specialized and well-researched topics. They are ready to share these with you in lectures and presentations on board, on deck, and ashore.

Amateur photographers will be pleased to know that Coastal Experts also run a photography program on board. Certified by Canon, the short, informal course is designed to give you the tips you need to capture the coast in all its glory, including how to shoot the illustrious Northern Lights (should they occur).

Dedicated to what they do and to the Norwegian coast, Coastal Experts add an intimate and personal perspective to your journey. Their passion is palpable, whether they're on deck talking about points of interest or telling animated stories over a beverage at an evening gatherings.

A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding an open book. A dog's head and front paws are resting on the person's lap. The person is wearing a dark jacket. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a blue and white patterned surface.

Your home at sea

Our ships are designed to make your cruise as relaxing and comfortable as possible. Sit back, enjoy the stunning views, and feel your worries fade away.

© CECILIE OWREN / HURTIGRUTEN

Laidback lifestyle

This small and intimate ship is your home-away-from-home and has a casual, informal atmosphere. Take our dress code, for example. We don't have one. The local Norwegians who travel with us don't dress up for dinner, so you don't need to either. Feel at home. You can even walk around in loungewear all day, if you feel like it.

Our staff is friendly and helpful, as you will see. Many of them live in the areas we sail through and happily share their local insight.

Detox and de-stress

Joining us at sea on a coastal cruise and leave your cares behind. Many take the opportunity for a digital detox, freeing themselves from the persistent pings of emails and text messages.

As we sail past sparkling fjords, picturesque islands, and calming mountain scenery, you will naturally fall into the soothing rhythm of daily life on the ship. Fully relax, reset, and

let the stress that weighs on you melt away.

Bask in the views

Your surroundings take center stage on your cruise with us. Watch the ever-changing landscape slide by from the ship's expansive outdoor decks, which are also ideal for witnessing the northern lights in winter or the midnight sun in summer. Enjoy a soak in one of two outdoor hot tubs and admire the views while the bubbles work their magic.

Throughout the ship, you'll notice how our interior is a continuation of what you see outdoors, with impressive floor-to-ceiling windows in the lounge, restaurants, gym, and even the sauna. So have a workout, cleanse your pores, have a bite to eat, have a cocktail at the bar, all while enjoying all of the spectacular scenery outside.

Enjoy the ship's lounge

One of the best places to unwind on the ship is the Explorer Lounge &

Bar. It features wide windows and stunning views of the coastal scenery. The ship's bar is here, so it is naturally the social hub of the ship.

Sink into an armchair with a drink, swap stories, and get to know your fellow shipmates. You could also nestle into a cozy nook with a book in the lounge or in the many other seating areas around the ship.

Home suite home

The simple, Scandinavian-designed rooms are an appealing mix of clear-cut lines, polished surfaces, and natural materials that harmonize with the landscapes outside. Likewise, your bed includes fine linens and smooth, soft duvets, keeping you warm and snug as you sail off to sleep.

Closer to the Norwegian coast

Discover some of the highlights you might experience on your voyage along the Norwegian coast. Our ships are uniquely designed to explore the Norwegian coastline in the most comfortable way. Whichever season you choose to sail with us, our voyages offer an exhilarating means of getting close to nature – and to Norway.



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The fjords

The fjords formed when the glaciers of the Ice Age retreated. Norway is fortunate enough to have a warm sea current running along its coastline. As a result, the fjords are virtually ice free – and ready to be explored.

The Arctic Circle

The magic number 66° 33' marks this line, the Arctic Circle, north of which the midnight sun shines. Above the line, you can see the sun 24 hours a day throughout the summer – or the Northern Lights in the winter, weather permitting.

North Cape

About 2102 km from the North Pole, you will find one of Norway's most popular attractions. At 71°10'21", North Cape is known as the northernmost point on the European main-land.

Lofoten and Vesterålen

Lofoten is a group of islands in Nordland County, while Vesterålen lies just north of Lofoten. These neighbouring archipelagos offer some of the most incredible scenery on the planet.

Finnkirka

Finnkirka is a dramatic cathedral-shaped sea cliff. This unusual creation of nature is an ancient sacrificial site for the indigenous Sámi tribes.

[Coastal highlights »](#)

Did you know?

2008 was the year Norway awarded a knighthood to a king penguin Brigadier Sir Nils Olav III.

X is the length of Norway's coastline. It's impossible to measure how long it really is.

9 miles from the Russian border is the town of Kirkenes. Kirkenes is actually as far east as Cairo.

2 is the number of official forms of written Norwegian: bokmål and nynorsk.

In 1980's Norway introduced the use of salmon as a sushi ingredient to Japan.

NORWAY'S Coastal Kitchen

FRESH AND
LOCAL FOOD

Your voyage with us is also about experiencing authentic local cuisine. Our chefs use fresh ingredients sourced from suppliers all along the coast, giving you a true taste of Norway.

The finest Norwegian produce

Our Norway's Coastal Kitchen trades with over 50 farms, fisheries, bakeries, butchers, cheesemakers, distilleries, and ice-cream innovators, supporting local, home-grown businesses.

Some of our food suppliers have existed here for centuries and are well known, cherished brands in Norway. Others are family-run farms passed from generation to generation, full of personal history. We also give a helping hand to new ventures and start-ups.

By trading with food suppliers on the coast, we help to secure vital jobs. The benefits of this in turn emanate out to individual families, to remote communities, and up to the local economy as a whole.

Sustainable and seasonal

You can look forward to being treated to a range of seasonal Norwegian dishes in our on-board restaurants.

Winter is the main season for seafood like soft flaky skrei, fresh shrimp, and delectable king crab. Guests sailing with us in autumn will delight in the distinctive flavour of cloudberry in the desserts we serve during this period.

Many of our ingredients are delivered to our ship at half the ports we visit, and

a lot of produce comes from sustainable suppliers and eco-farms found all along the coast.

Not only does the minimal transport mean fresher ingredients for your dishes, it also cuts down on the energy and emissions involved in refrigerating them. By carefully managing supply and seasonality, we believe cuisine can and should be kind to the planet while still tasting authentic and amazing.

Green and vegan

We are as passionate as you are about eating healthily and sustainably, without sacrificing flavour. For those vegetarians and vegans among you, our chefs have got you covered with a three-course plant-based meal that changes each day of your voyage.

These menus have been crafted by skilled chefs in a way that will entice even the staunchest meat lovers over to the green side. Expect gourmet dishes like borlotti bean casserole, vegan pancakes, oven-baked pears, beetroot à la Bourguignon, strawberry sorbet, and vegan chocolate mousse.

Culinary Ambassadors

We're cooking up an exciting partnership with two award-winning Head Chefs from the Norwegian coast, Astrid Næsslander

and Halvar Ellingsen, to enhance our menus and inspire the next generation of Norway's Coastal Kitchen chefs.

Working closely with our own Head Chef Øistein Nilsen, these two Culinary Ambassadors will do what they do best: craft locally inspired, sustainably produced, and delicious seasonal dishes, which will be unique to our voyages.

Cuisine that brings you closer

Through our Coastal Guides and optional excursions, learn about regional specialities, how food is at the heart of local life, and listen to the life stories of brewers, chefs, and farmers.

In our on-board restaurants, you can enjoy freshly caught Arctic char from Sigerfjord in Vesterålen, award-winning cheeses from Aalan farm in Lofoten, and succulent king crab from Troms and Finnmark county. As you do so while sailing the area where these delicacies come from, you'll have a deeper appreciation for just how bountiful the "pantry" of the Norwegian coast is.



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[Learn more: Norway's Coastal Kitchen »](#)

Alongside locals



At the core of our existence and our history are people. We are here for those who live along Norway's coast and for you who come to experience its authentic, everyday life.

Bringing people together

To your delight, you'll see that the Norwegian coast is a maze of mountains, crisscrossed by thousands of fjords and dotted with innumerable islands. This landscape makes for exceptionally beautiful scenery, but also makes traveling by land difficult, especially the higher up in the Arctic you go. As an example, out of the 34 ports we call at, only three of them link to the train network.

This is where the Original Norwegian Coastal Express shines. We brave all kinds of weather, in all seasons (wind, rain, snow, and storms) and act as a lifeline for people living in coastal communities. We make sure these coastal communities are no longer isolated. Instead, they are connected to ports and people along almost the entire length of the country. And through your visits, they are connected to the rest of the world.

The tapestry of life

For almost 130 years, our ships have been weaving through fjords and in between islands, stitching together the social fabric that has made the Norwegian coast what it is today. Local knitting clubs meet on our ships. Romantic couples come aboard to celebrate anniversaries. It's a tradition in some families to enjoy their Christmas lunch with us.

People on the coast know the time of day just by the sight of our ships on the horizon. We have become a household name in Norway, and our ship colors of white, red, and black, are as iconic to Norwegians as red buses are to Londoners and yellow cabs to New Yorkers. Anyone on the coast will have fond stories to tell about us from over the years.

Alongside locals

For you, our connection to people on the Norwegian coast means you'll be

traveling with Norwegians, who also sail with us. Chat with a local entrepreneur traveling for business, see multi-generational families on a short holiday, or hear the excited chatter of children on a school trip. Don't be surprised to see whole local soccer teams traveling on our ships on their way to their games. It's an entirely authentic experience. Everything you see is real. It is pure, unfiltered life on the Norwegian coast—as genuine and honest as it comes.

Unmatched intimacy

Sailing with us, you'll see that the close relationship we share with the coastal communities we've sustained for generations isn't something that can be copied. We've grown with these communities and have supported one another through the tough times and the good times. We're family. Nothing can replace that.

The wildlife along the Norwegian coast is as varied as the coast itself.

Discover wildlife



Go wild in Norway

Add some of the world's most magnificent wildlife to Norway's stunning landscape, and you can easily see why it's one of the best destinations in the world. From the predatory white-tailed eagles that rule the sky to the whales along the coast – Norway is a wilderness of peerless beauty.

A whale of a time

On your Norwegian expedition, you'll have a chance to see the exotic wildlife of the far north from whales to king crab in pristine surroundings. The plankton blooms caused by long summer days attract various whale species, including pilot, minke, orca, humpback, and sperm whales. Seeing these creatures heave their huge frames acrobatically out of the water is always a highlight.

Iconic animals

You might see one of Norway's most beloved animals, the majestic reindeer. As long as their surroundings are calm and still, they will happily graze around you and even pose for photos if their Sámi owners are nearby. Norway also has a spectacular array of bird species including adorable puffins, nicknamed the 'clowns of the sea'. Fifteen different bird of prey species are found here including the mighty white-tailed eagle.

The fish that built Norway

For more than a thousand years, Vikings produced and ate dried cod, even using it for trade. This makes it Norway's oldest export. The word skrei comes from the Norse word skreið which means 'fish that wanders'. And wander it does.

Every winter and spring, cod migrate in large numbers to the Norwegian coast, sustaining important livelihoods for locals. Dry fish production and trade still thrives in Norway today, such as in the Lofoten Islands.

Remember that these are natural habitats, so we can't guarantee that certain animals will appear during your trip. Mother Nature will do as she pleases, and no sightings can be set in stone.

Committed to the future of the coast

True sustainability is the balance between the environment, the economy, and social aspects. Everything we've done for the past 130 years has been to serve, nurture, and care for Norway's coast. Our mission: to preserve our beautiful home for generations to come.

In 2018, we banned all unnecessary single-use plastic, and are proud to be the first cruise line in the world to do so. Our Norway's Coastal Kitchen concept draws from sustainable producers along the coast, meaning minimal food miles and energy used on refrigeration.

All our ships on the Norwegian coast can plug into ports for emission-free power. We've also begun the process to phase in biofuel use, produced from organic waste. By 2023, we'll implement new green tech upgrades, which together with biofuels will cut CO₂ emissions by up to 25% and NO_x emissions by 80%. We'll continue to implement pioneering solutions with the aim of bringing emissions from our ships on the coast down to zero.

Our tireless service on the Norwegian coast is a lifeline for the 34 coastal communities we connect. We provide employment for people along the coast, and our partnership with local businesses leaves lasting benefits to the economy here. This is sustainable, small-scale tourism at its best.

Visit [our sustainability web page](#) »



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Hurtigruten foundation

We established the Hurtigruten Foundation in 2015 to make a difference to important projects around the world, including the Norwegian coast.

The total funds we've donated so far add up to well over four million Norwegian Kroner across 34 initiatives in ten countries.

You can do your part by hanging a Green Stay tag on your cabin door during your cruise to tell us that your cabin doesn't need cleaning that day. This helps us save on water, cleaning products, and energy. For every day you hang a Green Stay tag during your cruise, we give 5 NOK to the Hurtigruten Foundation. The Foundation then funds various projects along the coast, such as beach clean-ups, hiking paths, and art programs.