HURTIGRUTEN
Norwegian Coastal Express

The Original Coastal Express

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 the length of what is considered to be the world's most beautiful coastline.

In this document, you will find important information about things you need to do before you go, what we recommend you pack, the experience when 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 do this.

You will receive one more mail from us approximately 2-4 weeks before your departure. This will contain your tickets for 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: 020 8846 2666
Email: uk.sales@hurtigruten.com
Web: hurtigruten.co.uk/norwegian-coastal-express/

Kind regards
Your Hurtigruten team

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Frequently asked questions »

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What to pack

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, hat, gloves, woolly jumper, scarf, winter boots, and pull-on spikes (for sale on board).

Spring – cover all bases
As you are likely to encounter three seasons during one sailing in spring, it's important to pack well and layer up. We advise bringing a woollen jumper, warm socks, a thick scarf, winter boots, warm, waterproof trousers and jacket, a hat and gloves.

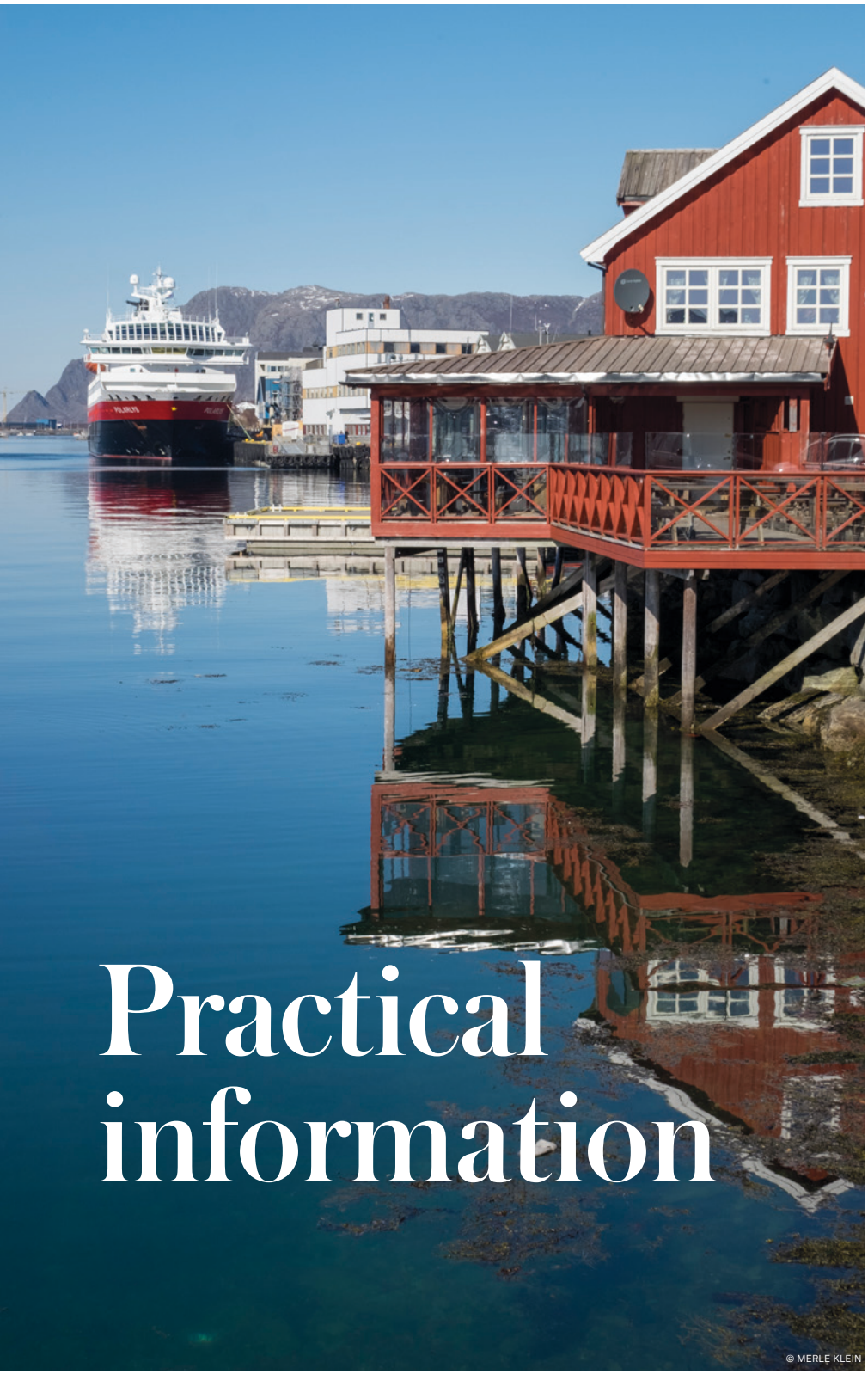
Summer – Summer attire
Summer weather along the coast can be changeable, so in addition to t-shirt, shorts and sandals, it's wise to pack a warm jumper, light jacket (water-resistant), thin hat and gloves, and hiking shoes.

Autumn – lots of layers
While the sun may be shining, you can also expect cooler weather during the autumn months. Make sure to pack thin layers and some warm clothes – a woolly jumper, wind and waterproof jacket and trousers, 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 trousers
- [ ] Passport and/or ID card (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

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 award-winning digital magazines and webinar.

Explore from home »

Travel documentation

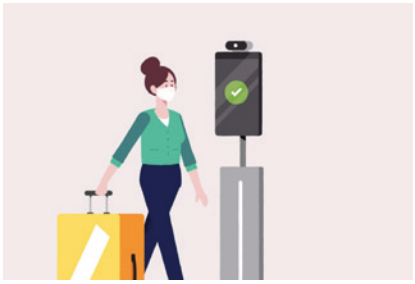
Need to know what the required formalities are, or review your travel documents? For your convenience, we have gathered all information about travel documentation in one place.

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, many of whom live locally, will be by your side as part of your voyage with us, showing you their home and sharing their stories with you.

© ØRJAN 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 special to them. Through their hands-on experience of Norway and the Norwegian coast, you'll be able to learn insights and key facts about the landscapes, culture, and way of life here.

From near and far

Many of our Coastal Experts are local Norwegians, born and raised on the coast and elsewhere in Norway. They'll be able to tell you their childhood memories of our ships, what our service has meant 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. You can learn about what drew them to Norway and to working on The Coastal Express. See the coast through their eyes as they pick out details about life here, perhaps sharing interesting anecdotes about their experiences of Norwegian culture.

Enriching your experience

Coastal Experts enhance your voyage with in-depth knowledge of the local culture, nature, science, and history; an understanding they've treasured up over years. You'll see that they have a range of specialist, well researched topics in their repertoire, ready to share 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 small photography programme 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 provide an intimate and personal perspective to your journey with us. You'll sense their passion whether they're busy talking about points of interest out on deck or animatedly telling stories over a relaxed drink at evening gatherings.

Meet our Coastal experts »

Your home at sea

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

Laidback lifestyle
As your home away from home, your small and intimate ship enjoys a casual, informal ambience. 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. This is where you can feel at home and walk around all day in your loungewear if you like.

You'll also find our staff to be friendly and helpful. Many of them live in the areas we sail through and will happily share nuggets of local insider knowledge with you.

Detox and de-stress
Get away from it all by joining us at sea on a coastal voyage, leaving cares and concerns behind. Many like to take the opportunity to undergo 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'll naturally fall into the soothing rhythm of daily life on the ship. Fully relaxed and reset, the stress that was previously weighing on you may melt away into a distant memory.

Bask in the views
Your surroundings are the star of the show on your voyage with us. Watch the ever-changing landscape go by from the ship's expansive outdoor decks, which are also the ideal spot for witnessing the Northern Lights in winter or the Midnight Sun in summer. You can also enjoy a soak in one of two outdoor hot tubs, admiring the views while the bubbles work their magic.

Throughout the ship, you'll notice how we bring the outside in with impressive floor-to-ceiling windows – in the lounge, the restaurants, the gym, and even the sauna. So, you can have a workout, steam your pores, tuck into your meal, sip cocktails at the bar, all the while missing none 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. This area features wide windows offering stunning views of the coastal scenery. With it being the site of the ship's bar, it is the natural, social hub of the ship.

Come here to sink into an armchair with a drink, swap stories, and get to know your fellow shipmates. You can also opt to nestle into a quiet, cosy nook with a book, either in the lounge or in the many other seating areas found 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 harmonise with the landscapes outside. Likewise, your bed boasts fine linen 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.

© JAN LILLEHAMRE/TRYM IVAR BERGSMO/ØRJAN BERTELSEN/SHUTTERSTOCK/HURTIGRUTEN PHOTO COMPETITION

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

© AGURTXANE CONCELLON

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 cloudberries 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 Nässlander 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.

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.

© GUEST IMAGE/HURTIGRUTEN

Tying people together
To your delight, you'll see that the Norwegian coastline is a maze of mountains, criss-crossed by thousands of fjords, and dotted with innumerable islands. While this landscape makes for exceptionally beautiful scenery, it also means travelling by land can be 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 Hurtigruten Coastal Express shines. We brave all kinds of weather in all seasons - wind, rain, snow, and storms - to act as a lifeline for the people living in communities on the coast. Through us, these coastal communities are no longer isolated or alone. Instead, they are connected to ports and to 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 the fjords and in between the islands, stitching together the social fabric that has made the Norwegian coast what it is today. Local knitting clubs meet up on our ships. Romantics come aboard to celebrate anniversaries, and 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 and our ship colours of white, red, and black are as iconic to Norwegians as red buses are to Londoners and yellow cabs to New Yorkers. Ask anyone on the coast and they'll have fond stories to tell you about us from over the years.

Alongside locals
For you, our connection to the people on the Norwegian coast means you'll be travelling with Norwegians who also sail with us. Maybe you'll get chatting to a local entrepreneur travelling for business, or see multi-generational families on a short holiday, or hear the excited chatter of children on a school trip. Don't be surprised either to see whole local football teams travelling on our ships on their way to matches. This makes for an entirely authentic experience. Everything you see is real. Just pure, unfiltered life on the Norwegian coast, as genuine and honest as it comes.

Inimitable intimacy
Sailing with us, you'll realise that the close relationship we share with the coastal communities we've been sustaining from generation to generation isn't something that can ever be copied. We've grown up together with these communities, supporting one another through the tough times as well as the good. We're family, and nothing can replace that.

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

Discover wildlife

© PER LILLEHAGEN

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.

Wildlife in Norway »

Committed to the future of the coast

True sustainability is the balance between the environmental, the economic, and the social. 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 of phasing in biofuel use, produced from organic waste. By 2023, we'll implement new green tech upgrades, which together with biofuels will cut CO_2 emissions by up to 25% and NOx 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 »

© OLE MARTIN WOLD

© GENNA ROLAND

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 sit 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 voyage 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 voyage, 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 programmes.