Cruise Details

Name:	Christmas Adventure Northern Lights Norway: Days Of Discovery In A White Winter Wonderland
Reference:	HAPAGNAT2900
Operator:	Hapag-Lloyd Cruises
Cruise Type:	Ocean
Cruise Rating:	Expedition
Ship:	HANSEATIC nature
Regions:	Northern Europe
Departs On:	19 Dec 28
Departs From:	Hamburg
Arrives On:	03 Jan 29
Arrives At:	Hamburg
Cruise Nights:	15
Total Vacation Days:	16

Itinerary

Day 1: Hamburg (Germany)

Arrives On: 19 Dec 28

Day 3: Bergen (Norway)

Bergen welcomes you to a Scandinavian gem. Over the years, the city's wealth has been built on seafaring, trade and fishing. Today, the city's past is reflected in the Hanseatic quarter of Bryggen with its narrow streets: with its colourful, historic merchants' houses lined up next to one another on the quayside, the area has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Mount Floyen, one of the city's seven hills, rises up to 300 m (984 ft) above the centre – on a walk you will see from the top why Bergen is known as the "gateway to the fjords".

Arrives On: 21 Dec 28

Day 4: Ålesund (Norway)

Alesund lies nestled in a picturesque location on the Norwegian coastline, spread over several islands and surrounded by fjords. You can see the harmony between people and nature here from the top of Mount Aksla: after the effort of climbing up around 400 steps, you will be rewarded with amazing panoramic views. Are you interested in getting to know the city in more detail? Take a stroll through the charming streets and lanes of the city centre and discover the hidden gems of its impressive architecture: the entire city was rebuilt in the art nouveau style after a devastating fire in 1904. More than 400 listed buildings invite you to take the time to discover the many interesting architects' quotes on the facades.

Arrives On: 22 Dec 28

Day 5: Trondheim (Norway)

Hungry for adventure or thirsty for knowledge? Trondheim sates both. In the city where Norwegian kings were crowned, you will feel like you have been transported back to the Middle Ages. Old warehouses line the banks of the Nidelva River and horse-drawn carriages rumble through the streets. The city's main landmark, Nidaros Cathedral, reveals Trondheim's Gothic beauty. One of the most magnificent churches in Scandinavia, it has been an important place of pilgrimage for centuries as the tomb of the national saint, King Olav Haraldsson. The cathedral is adorned with around 5,000 sculptures. Will you be able to spot Bob Dylan or other famous faces among them?

Arrives On: 23 Dec 28

Day 6: Svartisen Glacier (Norway)

Covering a surface area of 370 km² (143 mi.²), Svartisen is Norway's second-biggest glacier. No other mainland glacier comes this close to sea level. Its name is derived from the old Norwegian "svartis" meaning "black ice", although the glacier reveals amazingly bright blue tones rather than black. When less air is trapped in the ice, it will appear darker and more blue in colour. Your experts will be at your side to tell you more about this and other background information. Depending on ice and snow conditions, take a hike to the tongue of ice to admire this work of nature or enjoy the breathtaking panoramic views of the glacier from the glacial lake.

Arrives On: 24 Dec 28

Day 7: Svolvær (Norway)

Skerry landscape, stockfish archipelago and expedition territory: the Lofoten Islands impress with dramatic landscapes and idyllic fishing villages. See what life is like here on the main island of Austvagoya and in its main town, Svolvaer. Once the ship has docked, take a stroll around the little town. Everywhere you go, you will see frames for drying stockfish, which is exported all over the world from the archipelago. Rather than the town itself, it's the symbiosis with the surrounding

mountains that makes this place so appealing. Its main landmark is the mountain of the same name, Svolvaer, with two rocky peaks standing a good 1.5 m (5 ft) tall at the top. The extraordinary light and colour here have attracted many artists to settle in the town. Experience the spectacle of this centre of art and light – as creative as the Northern Lights which will perhaps also put on a show for you in the night sky.

Arrives On: 25 Dec 28

Day 8: Tromsø (Norway)

Once described by seafarers and polar explorers as the “Paris of the North”, Tromso has not lost any of its charm to this day. A lively city in idyllic natural surroundings. Playground of the midnight sun in summer and dance floor of the Northern Lights in winter. The city’s landmark, the Arctic Cathedral, is a prime example of how strong an influence the Arctic has on the city’s architecture. Aluminium-coated concrete panels give the roof its striking design, making it look as if ice floes have been pressed up on both sides. The 23 m (75 ft) high stained-glass window is also impressive. The exhibitions at the Polaria centre and the Arctic fish and other species at the aquarium will enhance your knowledge of the polar habitat. A number of museums bring to life the legendary polar explorers, for whom Tromso was the “gateway to the Arctic”.

Arrives On: 26 Dec 28

Day 9: Honningsvåg (Norway)

The rugged beauty of the countryside, combined with the powerful waves in the sea, create an unforgettable atmosphere when your ship cruises off the legendary North Cape. The most northerly point on the European mainland is on a majestic cliff 307 m (1,007 ft) above the ocean. The North Cape is a geographical point, as well as a symbol of the spirit of adventure that will also come to life in you.Honningsvag is the maritime centre of the North Cape region. Its colourful houses are huddled together on the slopes of the local mountain, Storfjellet, which stands at a height of around 300 m (984 ft). Walk from the port to the little shops and restaurants offering Nordic specialities or visit the church built in 1885. When the town was destroyed by German occupying forces in 1944, only the whitewashed church remained undamaged. Take a hike in the surrounding hills to appreciate the idyllic sight of the town today. Honningsvag is also the starting point for reaching the legendary North Cape, where a huge globe symbolically marks the end of the European mainland. The geographical location so far north makes it the perfect place for seeing the Northern Lights.

Arrives On: 27 Dec 28

Day 10: Alta (Norway)

Exceptional weather conditions and the remarkably clear sky have made the region around Alta an ideal place to observe and study the Northern Lights ever since the 18th century. The first Northern Lights observatory was built in the 19th century in the charming little town right at the end of the Altafjord. The Northern Lights Cathedral, with its bell tower spiralling up into the sky, is also worth a visit. The architecture of the building was inspired by the lights in the sky and has a similarly undulating appearance from all sides. Compare for yourself: the aurora borealis can be observed in clear weather in the surrounding area. Alta is the perfect starting point for numerous outdoor activities*.

Arrives On: 28 Dec 28

Day 12: Torghatten, Toget Island (Norway)

Norway is legendary in the truest sense of the word. Many of its impressive landscapes are closely linked with legends and Norwegian mythology. A particularly fascinating story comes to life when your ship heads for Torghatten, the striking mountain with a hole in the middle. According to legend, this hole was created when the King of the Somna's hat was pierced by an arrow fired by a wild troll prince. See it for yourself when you walk through the hole and enjoy breathtaking views of the surrounding coastal scenery and the sea. Your team of experts on board will explain the actual story behind the special geological feature.

Arrives On: 30 Dec 28

Day 13: Geiranger (Norway)

Your small expedition ship will also take you to the famous Geirangerfjord as it hugs the coastline. The UNESCO World Heritage Site seems unreal and will draw you under its spell with its majestic mountains and cliffs rising up to 1,000 m (3,280 ft) out of the water. Numerous waterfalls plunge into the fjord, including the "Seven Sisters" with a drop of 250 m (820 ft). Legend has it that the "Suitor" waterfall on the opposite bank had its eye on the beautiful sisters, but its desires remained unfulfilled because of the fjord that kept them apart. Out of frustration, it took to the bottle, which is now apparently reflected in its shape like a liquor bottle. You too will be intoxicated by the sight of this natural wonder, which will stay in your memory forever.

Arrives On: 31 Dec 28

Day 14: Stavanger (Norway)

Stavanger is proof of how colourful and picturesque history and monuments can be. In the old town centre, Gamle Stavanger, you will find a collection of narrow cobbled streets and small, white-painted, lovingly decorated wooden houses from the 18th and 19th centuries, which give the historic centre a special kind of charm. Stavanger Cathedral, built in 1125, is Norway's only medieval church to have kept its original architecture in the Anglo-Norman Gothic style. The city

also has an interesting story to tell about the history of seafaring and oil extraction. On a walk through its narrow streets, soak up the casual, almost Mediterranean atmosphere in the boutiques, galleries and cafes. Stavanger is the starting point for exploring the impressive Lysefjord.

Arrives On: 01 Jan 29

Day 16: Hamburg (Germany)

Arrives On: 03 Jan 29

For more information on this cruise, please call +44 (0)1202 767926.

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