

CruiseNorway

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SILVER CLOUD'S 17-DAY NORWEGIAN FJORDS AND RUSSIA CRUISE ROUNDTRIP COPENHAGEN, DENMARK JULY 30 – AUGUST 16, 2011

Date	Day	Port	Arrive	Depart
30 Jul 2011	Sat	Copenhagen, Denmark		6:00 PM
31 Jul 2011	Sun	Day At Sea		
01 Aug 2011	Mon	Ålesund, Norway	8:00 AM	11:00 PM
02 Aug 2011	Tue	Geiranger, Norway	8:00 AM	5:00 PM
03 Aug 2011	Wed	Day At Sea		
04 Aug 2011	Thu	Harstad, Norway	8:00 AM	11:00 PM
05 Aug 2011	Fri	Tromsø, Norway	8:00 AM	6:00 PM
06 Aug 2011	Sat	Honningsvåg (North Cape)	8:00 AM	2:00 PM
07 Aug 2011	Sun	Murmansk	8:00 AM	11:00 PM
08 Aug 2011	Mon	Day At Sea		
09 Aug 2011	Tue	Archangel	6:00 AM	
10 Aug 2011	Wed	Archangel		Noon
11 Aug 2011	Thu	Day At Sea		
12 Aug 2011	Fri	Hammerfest	8:00 AM	4:00 PM
13 Aug 2011	Sat	Day At Sea		
14 Aug 2011	Sun	Kristiansund, Norway	8:00 AM	2:00 PM
15 Aug 2011	Mon	Day At Sea		
16 Aug 2011	Tue	Copenhagen, Denmark	7:00 AM	

COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

Wonderful Copenhagen is a city of canals, copper-roofed buildings and manicured parks. This famous Baltic seaport is one of Europe's loveliest capitals and the seat of the oldest monarchy in the world. Home to nearly one quarter of Denmark's population, Copenhagen is a focus for commerce, culture, industry and cosmopolitan atmosphere. Although Vikings and fishermen knew this site for years as Havn (Harbor), the founding of Copenhagen dates from 1167, when the warrior-bishop Absalon established a citadel here. As commerce flourished, the name was changed to Kobenhavn (Merchants' Harbour); in 1443, it was appointed the capital of Denmark.

A century later, Christian IV began the building program that became the basis of the modern city. In 1660, Frederik III graced the city with its first

royal palace, Amalienborg, for his queen, Sophie Amalie. Many of these structures still exist; the taller ones remain the dominant features on what is a refreshingly low skyline.

Visitors to Copenhagen cannot help being impressed by the magnitude of attractions. As the locale of Hans Christian Andersen's enchanting tale of The Little Mermaid, Copenhagen has become Denmark's fairy-tale city. Its impressive theaters, museums and churches are of interest to many visitors; the best-loved attractions include the world-famous Tivoli Gardens, the Langelinie Harbor with its statue of The Little Mermaid, and the busy shopping promenade known as Strøget. Shopping and dining opportunities are endless. Tours of the Carlsberg Brewery as well as the Royal Copenhagen china factory are equally popular with visitors. It is an easy city to get around, with most of the activities and sights contained in and around the central sector.

Pier Information

The ship is scheduled to dock at Langelinie Pier. It is about 1.5 miles (2.4 km) to the city centre. Metered taxis are generally available pier side.

Shopping

The major shopping area is the pedestrian street known as Strøget in the centre of city. Here, a wide range of merchandise can be found from Royal Copenhagen porcelain, Georg Jensen silver and Nordic knits to Baltic amber jewellery. Ask in the stores about the Value Added Tax (VAT) and your eligibility for a refund. The local currency is the Danish Kroner - DKK.

Cuisine

A favourite is the traditional 'smørrebrød', the open-faced sandwich topped with any of hundreds of options. Fish, particularly herring prepared in many different ways, goes well with the popular and famous local beers, Carlsberg & Tuborg. Danish pastries and a good cup of coffee in one of the many cafés make a nice break from shopping and sightseeing.

Other Sites

Changing of the Guard

This colourful event takes place every day at Amalienborg Palace at 12:00 noon.

Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek

Opened in 1897 by brewer Carl Jacobsen, this exceptional museum affords the opportunity to enjoy art displayed in classical style.

National Museum

The museum contains interesting sections devoted to Denmark, from the Ice Age through the Viking period. Other exhibits include costumes and domestic items from the Middle Ages.

The Resistance Museum

A collection of objects relating to the Danish resistance movement of 1940-1945 can be seen here.

Louisiana Museum

Modern art is exhibited in a setting well worth the journey to Humlebæk village north of Copenhagen. The museum, housed in a 19th-century villa, harmoniously combines art, architecture and the natural landscape.

ALESUND, NORWAY

The coastal town of Ålesund is the commercial capital of the Møre og Romsdal district. But more importantly, it is noted for its characteristic Jugendstil (Art Nouveau) buildings, which some claim make Ålesund one of the most beautiful towns in Norway. This Art Nouveau style emerged when the town was completely rebuilt after a devastating fire in 1904 destroyed nearly 800 buildings and left 10,000 residents homeless. It is said that the fire started by a tipped oil lamp. Rebuilding was carried out with the help of many young, foreign architects who added their own flourishes to the architectural blend of German Jugendstil and Viking roots.

Today, narrow streets are crammed with buildings topped with turrets, spires and gables that bear decorations of dragonheads and curlicues. As one of the few remaining Art Nouveau towns in the world, in 1998 Ålesund was awarded the coveted Houens National Memorial Prize for the preservation of its unique architecture. The town centre is crowded onto a narrow fishhook-shaped peninsula. Without space to expand farther, most of the approximate 38,000 residents live scattered across surrounding islands and peninsulas. In addition to a picturesque fishing port along the old harbour "Brosundet," Ålesund boasts one of the largest facilities in Norway for the export of dried and fresh fish.

Come ashore and enjoy this delightful place with its whimsically decorated buildings that give Ålesund its unique ambiance and distinctive character valued by residents and visitors alike.

Pier Information

The ship is scheduled to dock at Storneskaaien/Prestebrygga pier. The town centre is within easy walking distance. Metered taxis are generally available at the pier.

Shopping

Enjoy browsing for Norwegian handicrafts and knitwear with the distinct Norway design. Shops along the pedestrian street and in the shopping mall are no more than 500 yards from the pier. Opening hours are from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (shopping malls are open until 8:00pm. Saturday 1000 am to 2:00 pm and malls to 6.00 pm). The local currency is the krone.

Cuisine

For lunch ashore, there are a number of good restaurants. The obvious choice is fresh fish and seafood. A mixed fish and shellfish platter is popular at the typical fish restaurants.

Other Sites

Atlantic Sea Park

Located about two miles west of Ålesund, this unique Sea Park is built into a large stretch of coastal area with fishing stands, hiking trails, bathing sites and outstanding diving venues. It features large aquariums teeming with ocean life from up and down the Atlantic. Fish feeding is daily at 1:00 p.m.

Ålesund Museum

The exhibits at this museum concentrate on the history of seal hunting, fishing, shipping, the fire of 1904, German occupation during World War II and the town's distinctive Jugendstil architecture. The museum opens at 11:00 a.m.

Ålesund Church

The church was built in 1909 in Norman style. It boasts splendid frescoes and beautiful stained-glass windows. The gable windows behind the organ were an inauguration gift from the German Emperor Wilhelm II.

Municipal Park

Locally known as Byparken, it features a statue of Rollo, which was presented to the people of Ålesund from the city of Rouen in 1911. The park

also has a monument dedicated to Kaiser Wilhelm II who made major contributions to the rebuilding of Ålesund after the Great Fire in 1904.

GEIRANGER, NORWAY

The Geirangerfjord is a branch of the Synnølvfjord, which in turn is a branch of the mighty Storfjord. The Geirangerfjord thrusts its way ten miles (16 km) inland and the views are spectacular - towering mountains, farms clinging to the steep mountain side and the fjord itself. Waterfalls with names such as the Suitor, the Bridal Veil and the Seven Sisters plunge down the mountain sides. The Geirangerfjord is on UNESCO's list of World Heritage Natural Sites.

At the head of the fjord lies the beautiful and small village of Geiranger with no more than 220 inhabitants. Kings, queens, emperors and hundreds of thousands of tourists have made Geiranger one of the most visited places in Norway, with the first cruise ship arriving as early as 1869. In the summer time, the village awakens from winter's slumber and the town centre is bustling with life.

Pier Information

The ship anchors in Geiranger and the landing stage is right in the village centre. There are pay phones, kiosks, shops and cafes within walking distance. In Geiranger, there are a very limited number of taxis available.

Shopping

There are several souvenir shops and art galleries in the tiny village centre selling knitted goods, postcards, souvenirs, jewellery, art and more. The local currency is the Norwegian Krone.

Cuisine

There are cafés in the village centre and restaurants in the many hotels in the area.

Other Sites

The Geiranger area offers splendid attractions:

Dalsnibba Summit

Viewpoint at approximately 4,875 feet (about 1500 metres) above sea level.

Flydalsjuvet Gorge

One of the most photographed motifs in Norway.

Eagles Bend

Zigzag road with eleven bends, the upper bend is the Eagles Bend Viewpoint. See views of the Pulpit and the Seven Sisters waterfall.

Skageflå and Blomberg Farms

These can be seen from the ship upon entering or leaving Geiranger and are located on the steep mountain side; so steep is the mountainside that the children had to be tied to the trees to prevent them from falling down. The farms are no longer inhabited.

Geiranger Fjord Centre

Here exhibits tell the story of the fjord and its people. Within walking distance, guests must walk uphill walk on an unpaved roadway.

HARSTAD, NORWAY

The small town of Harstad located on Norway's largest island, Hinnøya, is surrounded by craggy, snow-topped mountains. With about 22,000 inhabitants, Harstad grew into a successful and productive herring and fishing port during the 19th century. Today, the engineering industry also plays an important part in the local economy, with shipbuilding and repair yards servicing regional and visiting ferry and fishing fleets. As a result, the sprawling docks present a tangle of supply ships and cold storage plants.

Harstad's greatest attraction is the Trondenes Church dating from the 13th century. Originally built as a fortress church, its design incorporates massive, 70-inch-thick walls. Since its early history, the church was used as a local gathering place.

One of the town's proudest achievements is its school for the experimental growing of flowers and vegetables. The school is the world's northernmost of its kind. Surrounding Harstad is important farmland, serving as the breadbasket for northern Norway and supplying nearby marketplaces with seasonal fruits and vegetables.

Harstad's pretty setting of hilly streets, rainbow-colored wooden houses and splendid mountain views attracts a sizeable crowd each summer, especially during the annual International Music Festival held here.

Pier Information

Your ship is scheduled to dock at the Harstad Pier within walking distance

of the city center. Taxis are generally available.

Shopping

Stroll through the town center and look for local souvenirs such as hand-knit sweaters and traditional troll figurines. The local currency is the kroner.

Cuisine

Fish is the traditional mainstay of the Norwegian diet. Should you just wish a snack, you might enjoy a pastry and coffee, or an open-faced sandwich and a local beer.

TROMSO, NORWAY

Tromsø is a city and municipality in the county of Troms, Norway. The area has been inhabited since the end of the ice age, and the Sámi culture is the first known culture of the region. Norwegian culture had reached the area around 800 CE, when sources tell of Ohthere's Viking settlement somewhere south of today's Tromsø. The first church on the island of Tromsøya was erected in the 13th century, and the area one of Denmark-Norway's very northernmost territories not contested by Russia. During the 1600s, Denmark-Norway solidified its claim to the northern coast of Scandinavia and during this period a redoubt, Skansen, was built. Tromsø was issued its city charter in 1794 by King Christian VII. The city was established as a municipality January 1.

Most of Tromsø, including the city centre, is located on the small island of Tromsøya in the county of Troms, 217 miles (350 km) inside the Arctic Circle. The island is connected to the mainland by the Tromsø Bridge and the Tromsøysund Tunnel, and to the island of Kvaløya by the Sandnessund Bridge. The city is warmer than most other places located on the same latitude, due to the warming effect of the Gulf Stream, with an average January temperature of -4°C , but it's still quite cool in the summer, with a 24-hour average of 12°C in July.

The city centre of Tromsø contains the highest number of old wooden houses in North Norway, the oldest house dating from 1789. The Arctic Cathedral, a modern church from 1965, is probably the most famous landmark in Tromsø. The city is a cultural centre for its region, several festivals taking place in the summer. The largest football team in the city, Tromsø I.L., plays in the Norwegian Premier League.

Pier Information

The ship goes alongside in Tromsø. The town centre is within walking distance and the main street is Storgata.

Shopping

There are several souvenir shops in the town selling knitted goods, postcards, souvenirs, jewellery, art and more. Many of the shops are located in Storgata Street and there is also a shopping mall in the town centre. The local currency is Krone.

Cuisine

There are several cafes and restaurants in the town centre.

Other Sites

The Polar Museum

The Polar Museum is devoted to the city's past as the centre for Polar sea catches and the starting points for Arctic expeditions. The world's northernmost botanical garden contains hardy plants from six continents. Aquariums with seals and fish from the region, along with a wonderful multi-media presentation on Svalbard, are attractions at Polaria, a knowledge-based experience and adventure centre for the Polar regions.

The Cable Car up Storsteinen

420 metres above sea level, it offers breathtaking panoramic views over the city and, if you are lucky, of the Midnight Sun or the Northern Lights.

The Perspective Museum

Located in the city centre, it has exhibitions on the city's past and present.

HONNINGSVÅG (NORTH CAPE), NORWAY

Though Honningsvåg's location is 48 miles (77 km) closer to the North Pole than Hammerfest, its official designation as a village rather than a town puts a restriction on the title of the world's northernmost town. Basically a fishing village, Honningsvåg draws travellers primarily because of its proximity to the North Cape. The Nordkapp, as it is called in Norwegian, is considered Europe's northernmost point located a mere 21 miles (34 km) from Honningsvåg. The road to the Cape slowly twists its way through the tundra, with mostly bare rocks on either side. Some sections resemble a stark, lunar landscape. From June to October, the scant vegetation provides

grazing land for some 5,000 reindeer. Do not be surprised if you see them wandering right up to the road.

Originally a sacrificial site of the Sami (Lapp) people, the North Cape was named by the English explorer Richard Chancellor in 1553, as he drifted along the Norwegian coast in an attempt to find the Northeast Passage. He failed, but the trade route he opened to Russia brought the Cape to the attention of others. Louis Philippe of Orleans, later king of France, visited during his Scandinavian exile and was followed in 1873 by Norwegian King Oscar II, whose visit opened the site to become a popular tourist destination.

Honningsvåg, located on the southeast coast of the island of Magerøy, sits in the middle of a treeless, windswept terrain surrounded by snow fences to protect it from avalanches. Its fine harbour makes up for the bleak environment. An interesting museum in the community and exhibition centre, called Nordkapphuset, depicts the local history and culture.

Pier Information

The ship is scheduled to dock close to the centre of town. Souvenir shops and the Nordkapphuset Information Centre and Museum can easily be reached on foot. Taxis are generally available at the pier. Be sure to negotiate the fare and any waiting time charges with the driver before setting off.

Shopping

Storgatan is Honningsvåg's main street, along which most of the shops can be found. Typical souvenir items include hand-knit sweaters, pewter, traditional handicrafts, and items depicting Norway's popular troll characters, immortalized in numerous legends. The local currency is the krone.

Cuisine

Fresh fish from the fjord, smoked salmon and game are the local specialties. Coffee and pastries are also wonderful on a cold day.

Other Sites

Almost all visitors to this area come specifically to visit the North Cape, which charges a visitor's fee to enter the Cape area and for the use of the facilities at the North Cape Hall.

Nordkapphuset

This museum features interesting displays depicting the local history and culture.

MURMANSK, RUSSIA

Homeport of Russia's nuclear-powered icebreakers, Murmansk enjoys a unique location halfway between Moscow and the North Pole, and 120 miles north of the Arctic Circle. As the main city of the Kola Peninsula, its origins began as a tiny settlement and Arctic trading post. In 1916, under pressure from the British to establish a support port, Murmansk was founded. Thanks to a current of the Gulf Stream, the port is ice-free year-round.

The permanent Russian population periodically experiences additions from temporary residents that are lured to the city by high pay for work in fish processing plants and ship repair installations.

With "Polar Night" lasting all of December and most of January, when nonstop darkness lies over the city, life takes on a glum outlook.

There are few exciting events, except for the Festival of the North, when the Sami people come to town to compete in traditional games. This annual celebration has been in existence since 1934.

The city is situated on three levels that consist of the port, the center and the surrounding heights, which are dominated by housing blocks. Lenin Prospekt, the main thoroughfare, is bisected by a huge stadium. Murmansk boasts a few small museums, but outside of the city stretches only the endless tundra.

Please Note: The tourism infrastructure in this port is limited. Guests are therefore encouraged to participate in the organized excursions.

Pier Information

The ship is scheduled to dock at the Sea Terminal. Distance to the town center is a little over 1 mile. Taxis are only permitted at the main gate to the port. It may be difficult finding English-speaking drivers. There is no guarantee that drivers speak English.

Shopping

Souvenir items can be found in shops along Lenin Prospekt. For additional

shopping you may want to check the department stores “Wave” and “Eldorado.” The Museum of Local History also features a nice gift shop. Normal shopping hours are from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. The local currency is the ruble.

Cuisine

The main fare found on most menus is fish, especially cod. Seasonally, reindeer meat is offered. You may want to try severyanka, tasty local chowder. There is no lack of restaurants catering to a wide range of tastes.

ARCHANGEL/ARCHANGELSK, RUSSIA

Archangel, population approx. 375,000, lies on both banks of the Northern Dvina river near its exit into the White Sea in the far north of European Russia. Arkhangelsk was the chief seaport of medieval Russia.

Early history

The area where Arkhangelsk is situated was known to the Vikings as Bjarmaland. Ohthere from Hålogaland told from his travels circa 800 of an area by a river and the White Sea with many buildings. This was probably the place later known as Arkhangelsk. According to Snorri Sturluson there was a Viking raid on this area in 1027, led by Tore Hund.

In 1989, an unusually rich silver treasure was found by the mouth of Dvina, right next to present day Arkhangelsk. It was probably buried in the beginning of the 12th century, and contained articles that may have been up to 200 years old at that time.

Most of the findings are made up by a total of 1.6 kg (3.53 lb) of silver, mostly coins. Jewelry and pieces of jewelry hail from Russia or neighboring areas. Most coins were German, but there was also a smaller number of Kufan, English, Bohemian, Hungarian, Danish, Swedish, and Norwegian coins.

It is hard to place this find historically until further research is completed. There are at least two possible interpretations. It may be a treasure belonging to the society outlined by the Norse source material. Generally such finds, whether from Scandinavia, the Baltic area or Russia, are closely tied to well-established agricultural societies with considerable trade activity.

Alternatively, like the Russian scientists who published the find in 1992, one may see it as an evidence of a stronger force of Russian colonization than previously thought.

Novgorod Russians arrive

In the 12th century, the Novgorodians established the Archangel Michael Monastery in the estuary of the Northern Dvina.

The main trade center of the area at that time was Kholmogory, located slightly downstream where the rivers Dvina and Pinega meet. Written sources indicate that Kholmogory existed early in the 12th century, but there is no archeological material to illuminate the early history of the town. It is not known whether this settlement was originally Russian, or if it goes back to pre-Russian times. Centrally in the small town it is today, the so called Gorodok can be found, a large mound of building remains and river sand. However this has not been archeologically excavated.

Norwegian-Russian conflict

Arkhangelsk came to be important in the rivalry between Norwegian and Russian interests in the northern areas. From Novgorod, the Russian interest sphere was extended far north to the Kola peninsula in the 12th century. However, here Norway enforced taxes and rights to the fur trade. A compromise agreement entered in 1251 was soon broken.

In 1411, Yakov Stepanovitch from Novgorod went to attack Northern Norway. This was the beginning of a series of clashes, and in 1419 Norwegian ships with 500 soldiers entered the White Sea. The "Murmaners", as the Norwegians were called (cf. Murmansk), plundered many Russian settlements along the coast, among them the Archangel Michael monastery.

Novgorod managed to drive the Norwegians back. However, in 1478 the area was taken over by Ivan III and passed to Muscovy with the rest of Novgorod Republic.

Trade with England, Scotland and the Netherlands

In 1553, three English ships set out to find the Northeast passage to China in 1553; two disappeared, and one ended up in the White Sea, eventually coming across Arkhangelsk. Ivan the Terrible found out about this, and brokered a trade agreement with the ship's captain. Trade privileges were

officially granted to English merchants in 1555, leading to the founding of the Company of Merchant Adventurers, which began sending ships annually into the estuary of the Northern Dvina. Dutch merchants also started bringing their ships into the White Sea from the 1560s. Scottish and English merchants dominated in the 16th century; however, by the 17th century it was mainly the Dutch that sailed to the White Sea area.

Founding and further development

In 1584, Ivan ordered the founding of New Kholmogory (which would later be renamed after the nearby Archangel Michael Monastery).

At the time access to the Baltic Sea was still mostly controlled by Sweden, so while Arkhangelsk was icebound in winter, it remained Moscow's almost sole link to the sea-trade. Local inhabitants, called Pomors, were the first to explore trade routes to Northern Siberia as far as the trans-Ural city of Mangazeya and beyond.

In 1693, Peter I ordered the creation of a state shipyard in Arkhangelsk. A year later the ships Svyatoye Prorochestvo (Holy Prophecy), Apostol Pavel (Apostle Paul) and the yacht Svyatoy Pyotr (Saint Peter) were sailing in the White Sea. However he also realized that Arkhangelsk would always be limited as a port due to the five months of ice cover, and after a successful campaign against Swedish armies in the Baltic area, he founded Saint Petersburg in 1704.

In 1722 Peter I decreed that Arkhangelsk should no longer accept goods more than it was sufficient for the town itself (for the so-called domestic consumption). It was due to the tsar's will to shift all international marine trade to St. Petersburg. This factor contributed a lot to the deterioration of Arkhangelsk that continued up to 1762 when this decree was canceled.

Arkhangelsk declined in the 18th century as the Baltic trade became ever more important. In the early years of the 19th Century, the arrest and prolonged detention by the Russian authorities of John Bellingham, an English export representative based at Arkhangelsk, was the indirect cause of Bellingham later assassinating British Prime Minister Spencer Perceval. Arkhangelsk's economy revived at the end of the 19th century when a railroad to Moscow was completed and timber became a major export. The city resisted Bolshevik rule from 1918 to 1920 and was a stronghold of the anti-Bolshevik White Army supported by the military intervention of British-led Entente forces along an Allied expedition, including a North American contingent known as the Polar Bear Expedition.

During both World Wars, Arkhangelsk was a major port of entry for Allied aid. During World War II, the city became known in the West as one of the two main destinations (along with Murmansk) of the Arctic Convoys bringing supplies to assist the Russians who were cut off from their normal supply lines.

Today, Arkhangelsk remains a major seaport, now open year-round due to improvements in icebreakers. The city is primarily a timber and fishing center.

Architecture and monuments

Mikhail Lomonosov came from a Pomor village near Kholmogory. A monument to him was installed to a design by Ivan Martos in 1829. A monument to Peter I was designed by Mark Antokolsky in 1872 and installed in 1914.

A maritime school, technical university, and a regional museum are located in the city. After its historical churches were destroyed during Stalin's rule, the city's main extant landmarks are the fort-like Merchant Yards (1668–84) and the (1701–05). The Assumption Church on the Dvina embankment (1742–44) was rebuilt in 2004.

A remarkable structure is also Arkhangelsk TV Mast, a 151 meters (495 ft) tall guyed mast for FM-/TV-broadcasting built in 1964. This tubular steel mast has six crossbars equipped with gangways, which run in two levels from the mast structure to the crossbars. On these crossbars there are also several antennas installed.

An unusual example of local "vernacular architecture" was the so-called Sutyagin house. This 13-story, 44-metre (144 ft) tall residence of the local entrepreneur Nikolai Petrovich Sutyagin was reported to be the world's, or at least Russia's, tallest wooden house. Constructed by Mr. Sutyagin and his family over 15 years (starting in 1992), without formal plans or a building permit, the structure deteriorated while Mr. Sutyagin spent a few years in prison on racketeering charges. In 2008 it was condemned by the city as a fire hazard, and the courts ordered it to be demolished by February 1, 2009. On December 26, 2008, the tower was pulled down, and the remainder of the building was dismantled manually by the early February.

(Source Wikipedia)

HAMMERFEST, NORWAY

The world's northernmost town suffers from brutal winters when night lasts for several months. To brighten the situation, Hammerfest purchased a generator in 1891 from Thomas Edison, making it the first town in Europe to have electric street lights.

In addition to the constant struggle against the harsh elements in this inhospitable region, Hammerfest suffered from a devastating fire in 1891 and destruction by retreating German forces at the end of World War II. Each time, the town was stubbornly rebuilt with the result that today Hammerfest is a surprisingly bright and rather elegant town with an open and unique atmosphere.

The main hub is around the harbor and Strandgatan, the town's main street that runs parallel to the quay. With the frequent arrival of coastal steamers, an array of supermarkets, cafés and some surprisingly chic clothing and souvenir shops cater to the tourists stopping here on the way to the North Cape.

The most notable attractions include the Meridian Column, erected in 1852 in memory of the first survey to determine the earth's exact size and shape, and the fountain in the town hall square, a gift from the former U.S. Ambassador to Norway, Charles Ulrick Bay (1946-1953) whose mother was born in Hammerfest. The town is also home to the Royal and Ancient Polar Bear Society, featuring exhibits illustrating the story of Hammerfest as a trapping center.

The main source of income is based on fish, with the Findus fish processing plant being the town's principal employer. Offshore oil wells also help greatly to support the local economy.

Pier Information

The ship is scheduled to dock close to the center of town. The harbor area and the main street, Strandgatan, are the major hubs of activity, all within walking distance from the pier.

Shopping

Strandgatan features a number of chic clothing and souvenir shops. Stalls along the harbor offer Sami regional handicrafts. Look for the whimsical troll figures that come in all shapes and sizes, making popular souvenirs. The local currency is the kroner.

Cuisine

Join the locals and try the delicious shellfish sold and eaten straight from the stalls along the wharf.

Other Sites

Major attractions and sights are included in the organized excursions. In addition, it is fun to leisurely explore the world's northernmost town. Take a stroll around the harbor area and Strandgatan.

KRISTIANSUND, NORWAY

Located halfway up the long Norwegian coast, Kristiansund is spread out across a swathe of rocky islands with its main cove centered on Nordlandet, Gomalandet/Kirklandet and Innlandet, all linked together by bridges.

Founded in 1742 as a trading port, Kristiansund retains an old town area around the harbor where a customs house, warehouses, merchants' dwellings and various museums recall the trades that ensured Kristiansund's prosperity.

The modern section boasts a lively market place and brightly painted houses giving the town an attractive appearance. As the home port to a large fleet of fishing vessels, seafood provides the basis of much of the local economy. With about 17,500 inhabitants, Kristiansund's small town atmosphere and friendly attitude of the people make it a pleasant place to visit.

Outside of Kristiansund, visitors enjoy traveling the coastal route, known as the Atlantic Highway, which utilizes a series of bridges that connect the various islands.

Pier Information

The ship is scheduled to anchor off Kristiansund. Guests will be taken ashore via the ship's tenders. Taxis are generally available at the landing pier, located within walking distance of the town center.

Shopping

Markensgate, a pedestrian street about a block away, is the central shopping area where you can find some of the typical Norwegian souvenirs and

handicrafts. The closest money exchange can be found at the bank by the ferry terminal. The local currency is the kroner.

Cuisine

Dried cod is used in a variety of recipes. Around the quayside are a few cafés and snack bars for light meals.