



Photo: Bjørn Eide

VESTERÅLEN

Kingdom of the whales

The Vesteraalen archipelago is a magnificent set of islands with the most stunning natural surroundings. This is a place that really brings you back in time to what life was like hundreds of years ago. The fishing industry is by far the largest in Vesteraalen. Due to the rich supply of fish this is also where you will find the magnificent whales. The Vesteraalen islands is home to whales all year round. Northern Lights appear with the advent of the dark season and as we approach summer the midnight sun graces us with its presence. In the Vesterålen archipelago there is something new around every bend and over every bridge. White sand beaches, sculptural mountain peaks, fjords and endless ocean views take your breath away.

ATTRACTIONS/EXCURSIONS

WHALE SAFARI
Vesterålen is located on the edge of the continental shelf, where the nutrient-rich ocean is a primary feeding ground for whales. This geographical privilege makes the area perfect for whale safaris. Here one can experience some of the world's largest sea mammals at close range.

INGA SAMI SIIDA
Our guests are welcome to experience the exotic native Sami culture. We tell you the stories about our Sami culture, myths and magic, herding reindeers, and the daily life of the arctic reindeers and their exciting properties. You will experience Joik (The traditional song of the Sami people) while seated around the warm, cozy fireplace inside our lavvu, enjoying the special atmosphere.

NYKSUND
Nyksund is a former fishing village which was abandoned for many years, but today it is one of the most important tourist attractions in Vesterålen. Nyksund is now a vibrant little village, but one can still see and experience how people lived 100 years ago.

SCENIC EIDSFJORD
Our main goal for this tour is Eidsfjorden. Here we learn about the rich herring fisheries during the late 1800's and the typical Northern Norwegian combination of farming and fisheries, «Fiskarbonden». In its glory days Eidsfjord inhabited as much as 10 000 people, but today only about 100 people live here.

NORTHERN LIGHTS
The Aurora Borealis, also called the Northern Lights, is only visible in in the Northern Hemisphere in the period from September to April. We can offer more than one excursion where we go looking for these incredible phenomena, you will hopefully get memories of a lifetime.

BIRD AND SEAL SAFARI
Come with us on a safe and fun RIB-boat trip in stunning environments. We will be visiting the bird-mountain Anda outside Stø, offering several species of seabirds nesting in the vertical mountain wall. You will be able to see birds like the white-tailed eagles, puffins, razorbills, guillemots, kittiwakes, cormorants, gannets, arctic skua, theist and other boreal sea birds. You may take photos or just enjoy the fantastic bird life Anda has to offer you! We might also be able to see different kinds of whales if we are lucky! Later we will set course to the seal shards where the seals often relax on the rocky ground.



Photo: Øystein Lunde Ingvaldsen

HURTIGRUTEN MUSEUM
The land docked MS Finnmarken (1956) is a monument on Norwegian Coastal history, docked in the town centre of Stokmarknes, Vesterålen. Stokmarknes is the birth place of the Hurtigruta coastal express operations, wich has been operated since July 1893. The Hurtigruten operations has connected Norway, both inland and coast, north and south, and is still a vital, very important way of communication. You are welcome aboard MS Finnmarken, to see and feel former life along the coast. You will meet with history of sailors and pioneers, passengers and people along the coast of Norway, from Bergen to Kirkenes. Visit the bridge, old cabins, exhibitions, the café (which is serving drinks and meals) and the rest of the ship as well. Take part in guided tours and learn why the Hurtigruta holds such a strong position with the Norwegian people. Even a part of DS Finnmarken (1912) is available to our visitors.



Photo: Trym Ivar Bergsmo

MINI CONCERT IN THE NEPTUNE TANK
A unique concert in the old fish container tank. The sound carries for more than 23 seconds, surrounding you totally and creating sounds no technical equipment can. We combine this concert, which last for about 25 mins, with other activities on the Hadsel Island.

TROLLFJORD CRUISE AND SEA EAGLE SAFARI
Few fiords can compete with Trollfjord. It's 3 km long, with a 70 m wide opening surrounded by steep mountainsides. Nature here is terrifyingly dramatic. And we can almost guarantee a close sighting of the magnificent Sea Eagle!
MIDNIGHT SUN
The phenomena midnight sun is when the sun doesn't go under the horizon, so you can see the sun 24 hours a day. This phenomenon is only from the end of May to the end of July between the polar circles and the poles. It's absolutely fantastic to watch, and it's a memorable moment.



Photo: Marten Brill

FISHING TRIP
Our experienced skipper will take you on a fishing trip in and around Sortland and on the Sortland Strait and nearby locations. The guest are provided with fishing rods from the boat. We have chances to catch fish from small to tens of kilos, depending on the season. In the winter, cod and pollock are plentiful.

VISIT A REAL FISH FARM
Are you curious about Norwegian food production? Do you want to learn about our coastal history and the industrial revolution of the Norwegian fishing industry and aquaculture? Akvakultur i Vesterålen is an adventure center for Norwegian aquaculture, where you can get a unique insight into the production of salmon in one of Norway's most beautiful regions. A visit takes around 2,5 hours and includes:
A RIB-boat ride to the fish farm
A guided tour in our exhibition
A tasting of our smoked fish products, from our own production

PORT OF VESTERÅLEN (SORTLAND)
Position: N 6842 E 1526, UTM 0517007 7620922
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Contact person: Mr Einar Glad Hansen
E-mail contact person: egh@sortland-havn.no
Phone contact person: +47 905 89 308
Distance from pilot station: Boarding ship in ocean near Melbu
Pilot channel: Ch. 12-16
Port VHF channel: Ch. 12-16
Barents Watch: https://nais.kystverket.no/point/15.41382_68.6982

TOURIST INFORMATION
Website: www.visitvesteralen.com
E-mail: turistinfo@visitvesteralen.no
Phone: +47 761 11 480
Location: Rådhusgata 11 8400 Sortland
Local Guide service: Discover Vesterålen
Which languages: NO / EN / DE - other on request

PORT INFORMATION
Designated cruise quay: Sortland Terminalkai
ISPS: Yes
Maximum ship length: 270 m
Maximum ship draft: 8,5 m
Maximum beam: N/A
Maximum air draft: N/A when arriving via Hadsselfjorden
Bollard strength (certification): 50 ton
Tidal movement: 1,5 m - 2,4 m

ANCHORAGE/ TENDER (YES OR NO) Yes
Max size: No limitation
Ship tenders allowed: Yes
Type of bottom: Sand
Depth: 35 m
Distance from anchorage to tender pier: 1 NM

PORT SERVICES
Gangway available: N/A
Tugboats: On request
Crew facilities: N/A
Bunkers delivery: On request
LNG bunkering: N/A
Waste handling: On request
Grey water: On request

SUSTAINABILITY
Shore Power: N/A
EPI: On request
ESI: On request
Max ship per day: 1
Max passenger per day: 3000
Restrictions in harbour: N/A

GENERAL INFORMATION
Turnaround facilities: N/A
Terminal/Restrooms in pier area: Yes
Shuttle bus: N/A
Parking place for buses: 14 places
Public transportation close by port: Yes
Distance from port to airport: 22 km
Distance from port to city centre: 250 m
Distance from port to nearest hospital: 30 km

Quay	Water depth	Length	Height	Fenders	Shore Power	Grey Water	Max Ship size
Terminalkai T1 - T5	5 7,5 - N 8,5 m	438	N/A	Rubber tires	No	On request	270 m

