

Epic Norwegian Northern Lights Trip December 2025

Saturday, December 20, 2025

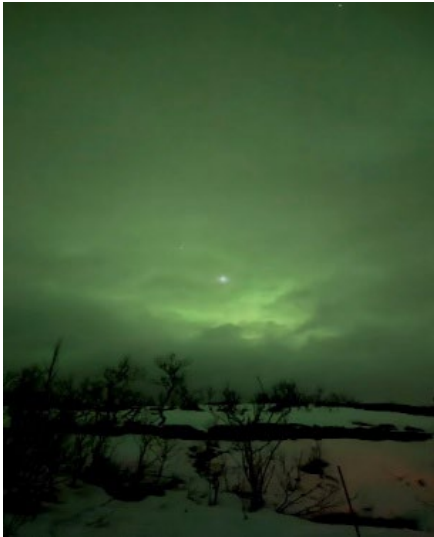
NYC to Norway

We got up around 8:30am, Arianna made blueberry muffins and made me a great egg sandwich. We went to Target for supplies and my favorite deli for Philly cheesesteak. It took about an hour to get to Newark Airport. I had 3 great experiences to set the tone for a fabulous trip. First, even though the TSA officer looked mean, she turned out to be very pleasant and wished us a happy holiday. I met a dad with his son, both with ginger colored hair, I told him that only 2% of the population is ginger. He did not know that...and was impressed that I did. I then met a sweet girl who was going to a ski camp in Sweden. Our seat (Row 40 out of 50) was okay during the 7.5 hour trip to Oslo where we arrived at 8am.

Sunday, December 21, 2025

Tromsø

Tromsø is actually pronounced Trumzuh. It is spelled TROMSØ and is pronounced like U sound as in burn. In Norway, their greeting is Hi, Hi. Their form of currency is NOK (Norwegian Krona) and the exchange rate is about 1/10. So, a Coke is \$4.90, about 490 NOK. They do not have Diet Coke in Norway. Sadly, I had to do without it for about 10 days. The flight from Oslo to Tromsø was 2 hours, we got there at 1:30pm and the sun set at 1:15pm. Four months out of the year, the sun rises at 9:30am and sets 3 hours later. It was bizarre being outside during the day in total darkness. During our 3 days in Tromsø, it was between 32-37°F. Our Airbnb in Tromsø was big, comfortable and very Nordic with heated floors. We had dinner at a small café, a 10 minute walk from our AirBnB. Our first trek for the Northern Lights was 1.5 hours from Tromsø. At first we didn't see anything but then the universe shined upon us, the clouds broke, the rain stopped and we saw the magnificent light show. The best part cannot be described, it must be experienced, because our eyes don't see northern lights like a camera. We had a campfire on the snow where we ate freeze-dried chicken curry. In addition to our own clothes, they gave us boots and a puffy jumper that looked like a mechanic's uniform. We took many pictures that started out as colorless blobs in the sky, but the camera shows the awesome lights in green, blue, gray color. We got back at 130am.



AB Lights with the moon in center



View of the sky with campfire in foreground



The Northern Lights come alive!

Monday, December 22, 2025

Tromsø

We slept until 9:30am and Arianna made breakfast. Then we all went to the gym, yes, on vacay. We walked around the city center, about 5 miles. We got Chase his much appreciated sweater from Dale of Norway. So glad he liked it. We all tried reindeer, whale and moose sausage. Yeah, no thank you. They have shops called 7/23 which is just like our 7-Eleven, open from 7am to 11pm. We then headed out with Irene, our guide from Spain and Volchok, our driver from Poland, for our second adventure to the northern lights. This included a 2.5 hour trek into Finland, just shy of where [Norway, Finland & Sweden converge geographically](#). It was colder 29°F, dryer and clearer. We had a camp fire on frozen [Lake Kilpisjärvi](#). We also drank a warm hot drink, a Norwegian specialty [Black Currant](#), which was actually banned in the US for over 100 years. We got back to the Airbnb at about 2:30am.



View from our Airbnb Window



Tromsø at mid-day



Campfire at [Lake Kilpisjärvi](#) in the snow



Aurora Borealis in all its glory from our campfire



The Aurora Borealis Northern Lights come alive!

Tuesday, December 23, 2025

Tromsø

We headed out at 10am and stopped at [Ohal & Mac Brewery](#), for beer and reindeer hot dogs. I don't drink beer and the hotdog sucked, but it was the oldest brewery in Norway. We walked downtown and sent postcards to Karen, Chase's former au pair and Pablo in Escondido. We went to a bakery and were told in no uncertain terms to take off our spikes, removing and putting them back on was an ordeal but we complied. However, I was really angry when I saw others who flagrantly disobeyed the rules and kept their spikes on. I went to the clerk and told them that any/all rules should be complied with by EVERYONE. I agree the spikes (\$15) were a smart buy and they really did work well in the snow, because there was so much snow, ice and sleet, but they were very difficult to put on. We went to the northernmost McDonald's. Then on to [Pust Sauna/Polar Plunge](#). Afsar, Arianna & Chase did it 3 times, I did not but rather played photographer for all those who did. We went to [Magic ICE](#), an ice bar, where 3 rooms were ice, with reindeer skins on benches, ice sculptures and a drink served in an ice cup. It was \$120 for a 15 minute stay...we say we were tourist trapped on this, but we went to say we had gone. After our 2 previous treks to the lights, turns out the best night for the Auroras was the last night, which was free. Arianna took a great video of the dancing lights; we saw them for at least an hour as we were walking around town looking for a place to eat and found [Fullsteam](#). Arianna wanted a reindeer burger, but alas they were out. Chase had reindeer stew, Afsar and I shared a vegetable stew. We went to a midnight concert at [Tromsø Cathedral](#). Afsar & Arianna fell asleep and we took Uber home because it was raining, snowing and 32°F.



Mid-day in Tromsø



[Pust Sauna/Polar Plunge](#)



[Magic ICE](#)



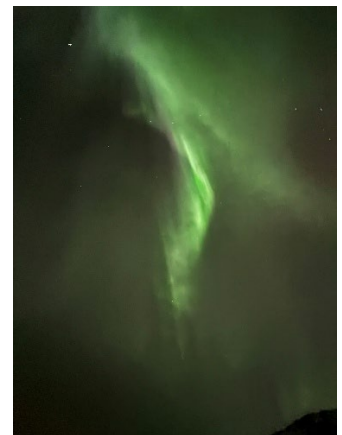
My Polar Bear Protector



View from Tromsø to the Mountains



Aurora Borealis



[Incredible Dancing Lights](#)



City of Tromsø



Tromsø Harbor



Tromsø Mountain

Wednesday, December 24, 2025

Tromsø/Bergen

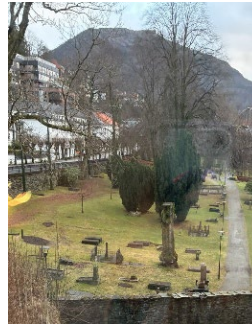
Today, we were up before 8am to catch the plane to Bergen. The flight was smooth and uneventful and we got to Bergen at 1:15pm. We then took a light rail to [Zander K](#), which was connected to the airport. It took about 45 minutes. We got settled and immediately saw the view from our room, which happened to be a cemetery that was established in 1837. We ventured out at 5pm, to see the city of [Bergen](#), which was pretty empty because it was Christmas Eve and all the shops, most restaurants and markets were closed. On our walk we saw a city lake, some unusual trees called Pollarded Plane Trees and the Fish Market all lit up in red. The Bryggen Wharf was established in about 1360AD. The timber wharves and warehouses are now a UNESCO site. We went to the [Cross Church](#), which was very cool, the priest and community were very welcoming. They had dinner for anyone who wanted to come, which really embraced the spirit of Christmas. We had dinner at [Leela, an Indian restaurant](#) and met this totally cool, waiter who was from Crete in Greece. He let us in without reservations, since there were a lot of places that were all reserved. There was no snow and it was 33°F.



Zander K Hotel



Zander K Lobby, Bar & Restaurant



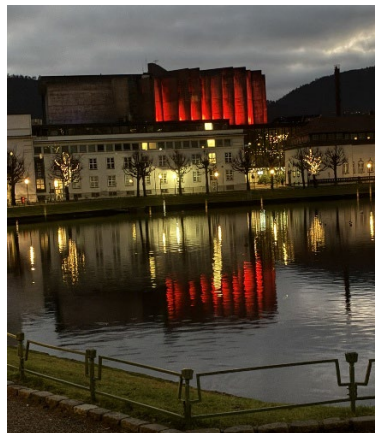
View from room



Our Cozy Room



Pollarded Plane Tree



Fish Market Lit Up in Red



Bergen's City Lake



My Protector



Bryggen Harbor



Bryggen's Alley Ways



[Cross Church](#)



Indian Restaurant [Leela](#)

Thursday, December 25, 2025

Bergen

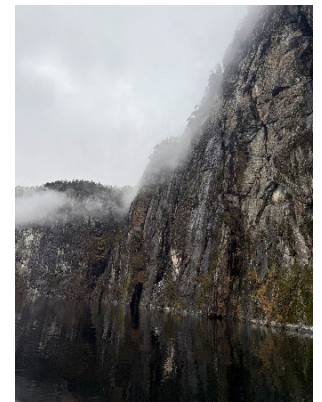
Christmas morning, the hotel had a great breakfast bar with tons of food, including bagels and lox, caviar, bread, potatoes, pancakes, oatmeal, meat, eggs, bacon and all kinds of salads. We met and spoke to a waiter from Greece and came to Norway for his girlfriend who he had met while she was on vacation in Greece. After breakfast, we went to Bryggen Wharf and caught the 2.5 hour [Mostraumen Fjord Cruise](#). The scenery, the crystal clear water, the Fjords, the sights were breathtaking. Afterwards we went to [St. Mary's Church](#), built in the mid-12th century. We took the [Fløibanen](#) funicular to [Mt.Fløyen](#), approximately 1,050 feet above the city, for a spectacular view. We hiked to [Lake Skomakerdiket](#), which was literally like looking into a mirror because the water was so clear. We had cinnamon rolls at [Godt Brod](#). We stopped at [Amundsen Whiskey Bar](#) (largest in Norway with hundreds of different kinds of Whiskey) because Chase & Afsar love Whiskey. Perhaps it is an occupational hazard but I am fascinated by death, graves and events surrounding them, so because it was so close, we went to the [Assistentkirkegården](#), the graveyard behind Zander K, established in 1837. One grave was disturbed, which was weird because these graves are from the 1800s. We had dinner at the hotel, [Matbaren](#), where we had a lively conversation. We went to bed at 9:30pm because we were all exhausted.



Arianna at the Bryggen



Bryggen Wharf & Harbor



The Fjords



The Majestic Fjords



[St. Mary's Church](#)



[Fløibanen](#) funicular to [Mt.Fløyen](#)



[Lake Skomakerdiket](#)



[Amundsen Whiskey Bar](#)



[Assistentkirkegården](#)

Friday, December 26, 2025

Bergen/Oslo

We woke up at 5am and walked the luggage to the train across the hotel and got seats together to Voss, where you might think Voss water comes from, but it actually comes from [Vatnestrøm](#), about 250 miles away. Then by bus to [Gudvangen](#), a small village located on the Fjords. At first, there was no cruise because of ice on the water, so we took a bus to [Flåm](#) in about 20 minutes. Then it turned out that there was a cruise, so we went. There was a cloud crossing the Fjord, which was stunningly beautiful. It was about 37° all day. We took a train to [Myrdal](#) and had to wait about 1.5 hours for the train to Oslo, the perfect amount of time to learn and play [Euchre](#), a highly complex bidding card game introduced to us by Chase.



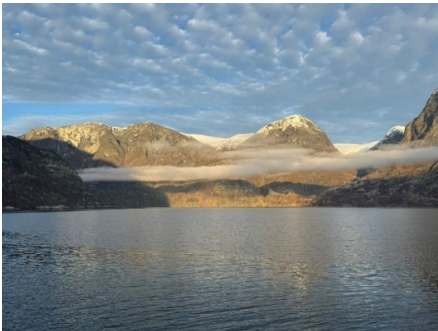
Norwegian Fjords



Arianna



Cruise Ship in the Fjords



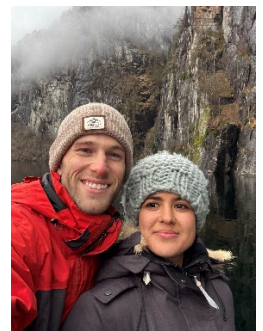
Cloud resting just above the water



Crystal Clear Seawater with Jellyfish



Myrdal



Chase & Arianna



Arianna amongst the Fjords



The Majestic Fjords



Norwegian Towns in the Fjords



Beautiful Sunset in Norway's Fjords

Saturday, December 27, 2025

Oslo

We arrived in Oslo at Midnight and walked 5 minutes to [Scandic Hotel Oslo City](#). After a breakfast feast in the hotel, we started our trek to the [Oslo Opera House](#) and Munch Museum, where [Edvard Munch's](#) *Scream* is. Then on to the awe-inspiring [Oslo Nobel Peace Center](#). There are about 350 yearly submissions made by only a select few allowed to nominate. One winner is named and awarded the prize at [Oslo Town Hall](#) on December 10, the anniversary of Alfred Nobel's death. Once the Prize is bestowed, the honor cannot be transferred, sold or conveyed to anyone. We had lunch at a pub where we had a Norwegian language lesson from the bartender. Then on to [Norway's Royal Palace](#) to discover the [Royal Family of Norway](#). We visited [Oslo Christmas Market](#) full of snow, souvenirs, a Ferris wheel and Norwegian delicacies. We walked down [Karl Johans gate](#), where everyone was shopping and enjoying the weather. We visited [NIO](#) along [Karl Johans gate](#) because both Afsar & Chase own stock. We saw the [University of Oslo Law Faculty](#) and [National Theatre](#). After our 6 mile city trek, we ended up for drinks and appetizers at [Amerikalinjen](#), where we met yet another waitress from Greece, a sure sign that Greece is our next adventure. It was the perfect end of a stunning trip full of scenic beauty and colorful memories.



Scandic Hotel Oslo City



Our Cozy room



Oslo City Center



Our Hotel



Oslo Opera House



Munch Museum



The colorful wharf



Restaurants galore along the wharf



City Hall



Nobel Peace Center



[Nobel Peace Prizes](#)



Oslo Law School



[Oslo Christmas Market](#)