

# YOUR GUIDE TO THE AURORA BOREALIS

*Considered the greatest show on earth, viewing the Aurora Borealis is high on many travellers' list of must do experiences. We have listed a few of our favourite places to view the Northern Lights, however it is worth keeping in mind the further you go from any light pollution, the better your experience will be!*



## WHEN TO GO

The lights can generally be viewed between September and April when you can also enjoy winter activities such as dog sledding, snow mobile tours, skiing, snow shoeing, and igloo building.

## ACCOMMODATION & CRUISING

Options include traditional chalets, igloos and of course the famous ice hotels which are carefully reconstructed every year. Stay at least 2 to 3 nights to increase chances of seeing the Aurora. Norwegian coastal cruising is also a great way to experience the lights.

## WHAT ARE THE NORTHERN LIGHTS?

An Aurora is caused by collisions between electrically charged particles from the sun and gases in our atmosphere such as oxygen and nitrogen. The lights are seen in areas around the magnetic poles of the northern (Aurora Borealis) and southern (Aurora Australis) hemispheres.

The most common Auroras are pale yellow-green, produced by oxygen molecules about 100km above the earth. Rare all-red Auroras are produced by high-altitude oxygen at heights of up to about 320km. Nitrogen produces blue or purple-red Auroras.

## WHERE CAN YOU SEE THE AURORA?

Focusing on the Nordic regions:

- Sweden (*Abisko National Park*)
- Norway (*Alta, Tromsø, Trondheim, Svalbard*)
- Finland (*Finnish Lapland*)
- Iceland (*around Reykjavik, the Westfjords, north Iceland, Akureyri*)
- Greenland (*Outskirts of Nuuk, Kangerlussuaq, Disko Bay, East Greenland*)

# SCANDINAVIA

## OUR TOP PLACES TO VISIT



### SWEDEN

Sweden offers visitors an incredible aurora experience especially in Abisko National Park which is located 195km inside the Arctic Circle. One of the largest National Parks in Sweden, the park sits within a bowl of mountains protecting it from cloud or rain along with a 70km long lake which creates a consistent clear skies – otherwise known to the locals as ‘the blue hole’. For the best chance at Aurora viewings it is worth taking the chairlift to the Aurora Sky Station which is located within the park 900m above sea level with little light and sound pollution.



### FINLAND

In northern Lapland the lights can be seen on approximately 200 nights a year. In the city of Rovaniemi you won't have to walk far from the city centre to find a great spot with the Aurora visible in the evening with little interferences from artificial light. For travellers looking for unique ways to experience the lights, Finland offers Aurora flights, ice floating, igloo stays, reindeer & husky tours. The warmest option would have to be the igloo village at Kakslauttanen Arctic Resort in the Finnish Lapland. Accessible by flight from Helsinki, these en-suite, glass-roofed igloos are specially designed to not frost or steam up. Located in forest clearings, enjoy beautiful vistas of the lights.



### NORWAY

Travellers wishing to experience the Aurora in Norway can travel to Alta known as ‘The City of the Northern Lights’. The world's most northern ice hotel, Sorrisniva is accessible from the city of Alta. Here guests have the choice of ice bedrooms which are carefully carved each year by locals and artists. The hotel also features an ice bar, ice chapel for weddings and numerous beautifully lit ice sculptures. Tours to view the Northern Lights can be done by reindeer sled with a local Sami Guide including a stop at a local lavvo (Sami Tent) for coffee and snacks by the fire – a very romantic setting for Aurora viewing! Cruising is another excellent way to experience this region. Hurtigruten offers unique small-ship and land-based adventures and authentic Nordic journeys.



### WHEN TO GO

The best time to see the Northern Lights around or inside the Arctic Circle is anytime between September and April. The further south you go, the shorter the Aurora season will be.

## NORDIC ISLANDS

### OUR TOP PLACES TO VISIT

#### ICELAND

*Iceland has an incredibly unique landscape of thundering waterfalls, lava fields, glacial lagoons, and black sand deserts which makes Aurora viewing even more spectacular!*



For visitors staying in Reykjavik it is possible to view the lights, however as the city is quite widespread, finding a place with no light pollution may be a challenge.

#### HOTEL RANGA

Our suggestion is Hotel Ranga, a boutique hotel located in south Iceland approximately 90 min drive from Reykjavik, and a fabulous place for Aurora viewings.



#### WHEN TO GO

The phenomenon of the Northern Lights is best viewed in remote places, so Iceland is ideal, and viewings are possible from mid-September to mid-April (November/December is best).

#### GREENLAND

*With stunning scenery and a plethora of untouched wilderness, Greenland truly is off the beaten track. See awe-inspiring mountainscapes, glaciers, and fjords, and be spell-bound by the Northern Lights.*

#### NORTHERN LIGHTS ILULISSAT

Our 'Taste of Greenland' package takes you to Ilulissat and Disko Bay for some of the world's most vivid displays of Northern Lights! Enjoy a truly magical experience.



#### WHEN TO GO

Experiencing the Northern Lights requires a winter trip to Greenland sometime around October through March. Enjoy some classic Greenlandic dogsledding while you're there!



**CONTACT YOUR TRAVEL PROFESSIONAL**