



ADVENTURE
EDELWEISS TOURS

ADVENTURE NORTH CAPE

“ This motorcycle tour brings you to Europe’s northernmost point – the North Cape! ”

RIDING DAY 1 : ÅLESUND - SUNNDALSØRA

Standard Route (283 km / 176 miles)

On our first day's ride we will see Trollveggen ("Troll's Wall"). At 6,000 ft., it is Europe's highest vertical rock wall. We will also see Trollstigen ("Troll's Staircase"), Norway's most famous mountain road. Before we get there, we can have a look at Gudbrandsjuvet, Norway's narrowest gorge, and then sample Norway's best strawberry cake (restaurant "Jordærstova").

Heading out from Ålesund the first 20 miles are easy going. After the turnoff to Stordal the road becomes twistier and leads us along the Storfjord. The scenery changes dramatically once we get higher up and closer to the famous Trollstigen. There is plenty of time on top to walk around and buy souvenirs. Sunndalsøra, our destination today, is not far, so take your time enjoying the spectacular setting and the mountain scenery!

Highlights:

#1: Ålesund



The picturesque little town of Ålesund (population ~45,000) is crowded onto a narrow fishhook-shaped peninsula. It is considered by many to be even more beautiful than Bergen and it's far less touristy. After the sweeping fire of January 23, 1904, which left 10,000 residents homeless, the German emperor Wilhelm II sent shiploads of provisions and building materials to Ålesund and it was rebuilt in characteristic Art Nouveau style. Canals and bridges add to the harbor atmosphere so that the town with its turrets, spires and gargoyles is also nicknamed "Little Venice".

#2: Trollstigen



Opened in 1936 by King Haakon VII after 11 years of construction, it is the most famous and spectacular mountain road of Norway, which turned into the most popular tourist attraction of the country. The view of the 11 hairpin turns in this almost vertical rock wall and down into the valley 2,500 ft. deep and surrounded by impressive mountain ranges is simply gorgeous! Norwegian folklore

includes references to all sorts of supernatural beings – and the most famous of them all is the troll, which is thought to have emerged in Norway at the close of the last Ice Age. Trolls are said to inhabit gloomy forests, moonlit lakes, deep fjords, snowy peaks and roaring waterfalls, but they are predominantly creatures of shadow and darkness. They come in all shapes and sizes, their lifespan is several hundred years, and it is said that they have produced both Thor’s hammer and Odin’s spear.

#3: Trollveggen



Towering almost 5,700 ft. above the Romsdalen valley floor, Trollveggen is Europe’s highest vertical rock wall (3,300 ft). This is a paradise for rock climbers, but even with your feet firmly planted on the ground, the view up the sheer rocks is awe-inspiring.

RIDING DAY 2 : SUNNDALSØRA - TRONDHEIM

Standard Route (243 km / 151 miles)

The ride out of Sunndalsøra leaves the fjords behind us. It's time for some mountains! The Sunndalen Valley will provide some very picturesque stops. Trondheim, the gateway to northern Norway, concludes the day's sightseeing.

Highlights:

#1: Oppdal



Oppdal is situated at the feet of the Dovrefjell-Sunndalsfjella-Nationalpark. The main industry is here ski tourism and farming. With over 45.000 sheep Oppdal is the municipality with the largest sheep population in Norway. The ski areas comprise also 82 km of cross country.

#2: Trondheim



One of Norway's premier tourist attractions offers a lot of possibilities for spending the afternoon. Founded under the name of "Nidaros" more than 1,000 years ago by the Viking king Olaf Tryggvason, Trondheim was once the capital of Norway. Today it has about 170,000 inhabitants. The two most important sightseeing points are: the Nidarosdome – still the spiritual center of Norway with all of the crowning ceremonies taking place there; and the residence of the Norwegian king, the Stiftsgarden, one of the most important classical wooden buildings in Scandinavia. The Trondheim Synagogue is one of the northernmost in the world. During the long and warm summer nights the nightlife, with its many bars and restaurants, is quite intense.

ADVENTURE NORTH CAPE

RIDING DAY 3 : TRONDHEIM - OVERHALLA

Standard Route (280 km / 174 miles)

What a difference! After the busy city of Trondheim, we take our first ferry and dive into the remote backcountry, exploring the small roads, and riding past colorful farmhouses and along remote fjords, lakes, and rivers. Our overnight stay, Overhalla, is a small village – far away from everything.

Highlights:

#1: Norwegian scenery



We get a view of how people make their livings in the Norwegian backcountry. Passing by colorful farmhouses and through small villages, we get a good impression of life far away from any industry. The small city of Namsos was destroyed by the Germans in the second world war – that's why we won't find any old architecture there.

#2: Vingsand



Out on the sea coast, where wind can be tough in winter, there is a small and remote fishermen village. Vingsand, with its bright red or yellow tiny rorbuer (fisherman cabin) is a gem far from mass tourism.

ADVENTURE NORTH CAPE

RIDING DAY 4 : OVERHALLA - SANDNESSJØEN

Standard Route (262 km / 163 miles)

Are you ready for another beautiful riding day? There won't be any significant altitude changes. Instead you will see water – lots of water! We will ride the small road along the coast today. (The inland route is the “bad weather alternative”.)

Breathtaking scenery and three ferries during the day will give us a good impression of the coastline. Our destination for the night is the village of Sandnessjøen.

Highlights:

#1: Fjords



There are more than one thousand fjords in Norway, all along the coast. They resemble still blue lakes, but consist of saltwater, as they are prolonged arms of the seas, often reaching deep inland with majestic cliffs towering above on both sides. Dancing down the almost vertical mountainsides are beautiful, sometimes massive waterfalls from the glaciers high above you.

However, the key to understanding why the fjords are perhaps the most important symbol of Norway – and among its most popular attractions – lies in what they represent. More than anything, the fjords and the surrounding areas evoke images of a Norway of the past: A time when people lived as farmers in impossibly steep and rocky surroundings (in certain places they still do). A time when you could harvest from the blossoming fruit trees and a sheep's head was considered a delicacy (it still is). (www.visitnorway.com)

#2: Petter Dass Museum



Petter Dass lived in Northern Norway from 1689 until his death in 1707. He was a writer and clergyman whose poetry and fearless, open personality made him a legendary character in Norway. His museum is an interesting modern architecture carved in a cut of the rocky landscape.

ADVENTURE NORTH CAPE

RIDING DAY 5 : SANDNESSJØEN - BODØ

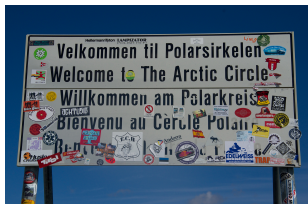
Standard Route (357 km / 222 miles)

Today we will take the inland route. Long, scenic and especially rewarding because we will cross the Arctic Circle! Although it's the main road, there will be surprisingly little traffic going north. We will really be approaching the end of the continent. Riding through the industrial city of Mo I Rana and along the Dunderlandsdalen, we will reach the Arctic Circle around noon.

Surrounded by sub-arctic scenery and barren rocks, we will have enough time for the visitors' center and a break at this location. In the evening we can do an extra stop and observe the strongest Maelstrom on earth – a very strong current caused by the change between low and high tides. We overnight in Bodø, where the ferry will take us to the magnificent Lofoten Islands on the morrow.

Highlights:

#1: Arctic Circle



Nature, scenery, the great roads of the Norwegian backcountry and, all of a sudden, we stop at the Arctic Circle! Because of the Gulf Stream, a huge warm water current, Norway's Arctic Circle crossing is relatively warm compared to other countries, e.g. Alaska in the U.S. Still – we get quite an “arctic” impression here at 66°33' northern latitude!

#2: Saltstraumen



Saltstraumen has existed for about two to three thousand years and it's one of the strongest tidal currents in the world, with up to 400.000.000 cubic metres of seawater forcing its way through a narrow strait every six hours, with water speeds reaching 22 knots (42 km/h, 25 mph). Vortices known as whirlpools or maelstroms up to 10 metres (33 ft) in diameter and 5 metres (16 ft) in depth are

formed when the current is at its strongest.

RIDING DAY 6 : BODØ - SVOLVÆR

Standard Route (182 km / 113 miles)

Are you ready for another beautiful day? We start with a 3-hour ferry ride to the Lofoten Islands, where a different world awaits us. Like huge mountains thrown into the sea, the islands become visible on the horizon. Crystal clear water, white sand beaches, intense colors, and small picturesque villages, all surrounded by rugged mountains rising almost vertically from the sea. Welcome to the Lofoten Islands! "Islands of the gods" they are called and the Norwegians themselves praise the Lofoten as their most beautiful vacation destination.

It takes about 3 hours on the ferry to get to Moskenes, a small harbor on the western end of the Lofoten Islands. Small roads take us to Å (the westernmost village with the shortest name), Reine (one of the most beautiful fishing villages), and along both the north and the south coasts, to Henningsvær, the charming pearl of the Lofoten.

Highlights:

#1: Bodø



Lofoten Islands.

The young city of Bodø – founded in 1846 – with its 46,000 inhabitants, was destroyed by the German Luftwaffe in 1940 and therefore has few historical buildings remaining. It has a quite famous airplane museum, which is worth a visit if there is enough time. It's also well worth a walk through the city center with its modern shops and inviting bars. From the harbor we will start our ferry ride to the

#2: Lofoten islands



60-190 miles north of the Arctic Circle and already inhabited for more than 6,000 years, this group of islands (the most important ones are connected by tunnels or bridges) takes its name from the local word for “lynx” (Lo), meaning “lynx paws”. a population of about 24,000 lives on 760 square miles. Fish and tourism provide the most important income of the people living there. The

mountains, up to 3,940 ft. high, keep the strongest weather influences away from the south and east sides, which are more densely populated. Be sure to walk around the small fishing village. When the sun is out, it’s just like southern France.

#3: Henningsvær



Among all the little villages on Lofoten, Henningsvær is one of the most picturesque. With a population of less than 500, it gives that perfect getaway sense and welcomes you with charming hotels in restored wooden buildings once belonging to its glorious fisherman past.

RIDING DAY 7 : SVOLVÆR - HARSTAD

Standard Route (211 km / 131 miles)

The day is dedicated to exploring the islands. Linked by tunnel, bridge or ferry, each island has something to offer. The distance to Harstad is not far, so we can do some side loops, too.

It's up to you: If you want to spend some time in Harstad in the afternoon, just go straight to the next hotel. If you want to explore more of the Lofoten, take one or another of the side loops. There are multiple possibilities, but always keep in mind that the roads are small, some of them are unpaved, and all of them are twisty!

Highlights:

#1: Hurtigruten Museum



For more than 100 years, Hurtigruten has been an integral part of life in northern Norway, tying cities and communities together, carrying goods and people over the nations number one highway: The ocean. The Hurtigruten Museum has found its natural location in Stokmarknes, the very city where founder of Hurtigruten, Richard With, lived and worked.

The Hurtigruten Museum offers a journey through changing times, and lets you see these mighty ships from different sides: from mail and stateroom, through loading and unloading, safety and navigation.

The landlocked Hurtigruten ship M/S Finnmarken (1956) is the worlds biggest museum artefact, and is open to visitors all year round during business hours. Visit this classic ship, with its stately interior and rich history.

#2: Trondenes



Trondenes is a peninsula about 2 miles north of Harstad. You will find, beside the cannon, the Trondenes Church (dating from 1250) and the Sør-Troms Museum (Historical Center). Located on a hill next to the church, in a military base, is the only cannon left of that size. It was built during WW II in Germany, transported here, and was part of the Atlantic Wall. It's diameter is almost 16 inch. An exhibition

has been installed in the bunker below. The Adolf Cannon is not the only reminder of WW II in this part of Norway. There are remnants of a German camp that was used for refugees coming from Finland. Next to the Trondenes Church you will find a memorial to the Russian prisoners who died building the cannon base.

RIDING DAY 8 : HARSTAD - KIRUNA

Standard Route (304 km / 189 miles)

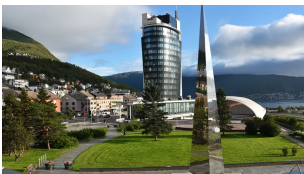
We leave the Lofoten island chain and ride back to the mainland. There, a small, beautiful road first leads us along the coast, then we turn off and ride south for a bit. Over the elegantly curved Hålogaland Bridge we then reach Narvik.

This town has only existed since 1883, when a harbor was built here, on the year-round ice-free Ofotfjord, to ship the coveted iron ore from Kiruna. A museum commemorates World War II, when the Nazis occupied Norway and with it the important port of Narvik.

Kiruna, home to the world's largest underground iron ore mine, is our destination today. Since the beginning of the 20th century, a railroad line has connected the mine with the port, and it is estimated that more than a billion tons (!) of iron ore have already been transported away with its help. The town itself is quite appealing, especially for a mining town. The church in particular is something special; it has already been voted Sweden's most beautiful building!

Highlights:

#1: Narvik



Narvik, a town and ice-free seaport in northern Norway, lies near the head of Ofotfjorden. It is a major transshipment point for iron ore from the rich Kiruna-Gällivare mines in northern Sweden since the Swedish ports on the Gulf of Bothnia are frozen in winter. The site was chosen as an ore port by an Anglo-Swedish consortium in 1883 and was

named Victoriahavn ("Victoria's Port") in 1887 to honor the crown princess of Sweden. The original developers went bankrupt in 1889, but the Norwegian government took over the work in 1892; the name Narvik was adopted in 1898. The town was incorporated in 1902 and grew rapidly after the completion of one of the world's most northerly rail lines between Narvik and Kiruna.

In World War II, Narvik was seized by German forces during their invasion of Norway (April 1940); important naval battles between British and German forces were fought offshore. An Anglo-French expeditionary force aided in recapturing the port on May 28 but was compelled to evacuate it on June 9, owing to the collapse of the front in France. After the war, Narvik was rebuilt and resumed its function as an ore port. This export trade, some fishing, and tourism are its economic mainstays. (www.britannica.com)

#2: Kiruna



Kiruna is a special place in many ways. Sweden's northernmost town is home to Icehotel in Jukkasjärvi, to Sweden's highest mountain, Kebnekaise, and to the world's largest underground iron ore mine – a mine that is now forcing the town to move. Situated 200 kilometers north of the Arctic Circle, Kiruna enjoys around two months of the midnight sun in summer and ideal conditions for viewing

the magical northern lights from September through March.

While Kiruna is a relatively small town with a population of around 23,000, the municipality encompasses an area of 19,447 square kilometers, which makes it the second-largest municipality in the world. Kiruna's border to the west is Sweden's national border with Norway, and its eastern border is the country's national border with Finland. In the north, all three countries meet at Treriksroset – the Three-Country Cairn, which is the world's northernmost tripoint and a landmark on the international Nordkalottleden Trail. (kirunalapland.se)

RIDING DAY 9 : KIRUNA - ENONTEKIÖ

Standard Route (348 km / 216 miles)

From the iron ore city of Kiruna, we head east. Jukkasjärvi, the town where the famous Ice Hotel is built each year, lies dormant in the middle of summer. Clearly, it's the winter season that draws people here for dogsledding, northern light watching, skiing, snowshoeing, and so forth.

Through seemingly endless forests we approach the Finnish border and cross it next to the small town of Muonio, the gateway to Finland's most popular national park. It's a paradise for hikers, but even from the saddle of a motorcycle, the pristine, untouched scenery is remarkable.

Enontekiö, a tiny town right next to Lake Ounasjärvi, is our destination today. This is one of the most sparsely populated regions in all of Europe, so don't expect a lot of nightlife around here...

Highlights:

#1: Pallas-Yllästunturi National Park



For thousands of years, the indigenous Sámi people followed the herds of reindeer and lived off the land. Much later Finns began to visit the area to take advantage of the rich hunting grounds and fishing waters. Some decided to stay and built small communities in the area. Many realized the value of preserving this unique fell chain and its diverse nature. Plans to create a national park began in 1910 and

were finally realized in 1938. The area quickly became a popular destination for hiking and skiing clubs with small hotels and guest houses springing up in the small Lapland villages to accommodate the rising number of tourists. In 2005 a nearby nature reserve was added to the national park doubling its size and putting even more precious fell nature under protection. (discovermuonio.fi)

RIDING DAY 10 : ENONTEKIÖ - LAKSELV

Standard Route (288 km / 179 miles)

Today there is again a lot of forest and many lakes along the route, where we will encounter only a few curves and even less traffic. In the morning we already cross the border to Norway, which is marked here only with a small sign. In Kautokeino we take a break, shoppers will get their money's worth here, as unlikely as it sounds.

Further northeast, in Karasjok, is where the heart of the indigenous people beats, the Sámi. They have their own culture and history and for us there is the possibility to visit one or two interesting museums to get a deeper insight.

In Lakselv, our destination for today, we reach the coast again, even though the open sea at the other end of the Porsangerfjord is still 100 km away.

Highlights:

#1: Sami Museum



The museum has been established in 1972, becoming the first Norwegian museum dedicated to Sami people. The aim was to protect Sami culture and to consolidate Samis as an ethnic group. Nowadays this is the biggest Sami museum in Norway. In the outdoor exhibition there is a collection of old buildings, for example a thousand years old hunting hut.

RIDING DAY 11 : LAKSELV - ALTA

Standard Route (431 km / 268 miles)

Today is "the" day! And it's going to be a long one. It's 120 miles to the northernmost tip of the European continent, and another 147 miles to our hotel in Lakselv, so let's get up early! Be prepared for cold and wind, even if the weather appears to be friendly in Alta. Usually, the conquest of the North Cape is a fight against the elements. But once there, it's a great feeling and definitely the dream of many motorcycle riders worldwide!

North! The E6 turns into the E69, and the scenery turns into the arctic environment's wind-torn vegetation and barren rocks. Reindeer cross the road every now and then and we see Sami huts (their "summer residences") alongside. The North Cape itself can be reached by entering the museum and tourist information center, a very informative complex. We can spend 1 1/2 to 2 hours there before turning south again, always along the coastline of Porsanger Bay.

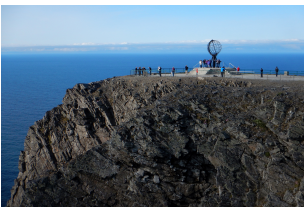
Highlights:

#1: Porsangerfjord



The 123 km (76 miles) long Porsanger fjord accompanies us along the majestic coastal road ending at North Cape and the Barent Sea after crossing Magerøya island, connected with a subsea tunnel. Along the road, it is common to see herds of reindeer.

#2: Nordkapp (North Cape)



Between 1553 (when the first "tourist" Lord Chancellor was searching for the Northeast Passage to China) and today, millions of tourists (about 200,000 per year now) have visited the northernmost point of Europe, which is accessible by car. The rock platform holds a museum, cinema, restaurant, hotel, and a chapel, but – as usual in Norway – the entrance fee is not cheap.

RIDING DAY 12 : ALTA - TROMSØ

Standard Route (402 km / 250 miles)

Our last day of riding is once again quite long and pulls out all the stops as far as scenery is concerned. Most of the time we stick to the E6, which is often described as boring, but here, between Alta and Norkjosbotn, it is fantastically beautiful. The unbelievable panorama of the glaciated Øksfjordjøkel (1,166 m) appears on the right hand side, in addition there are countless gorgeous views over the fjords and bays, also over to the Lyngen Alps, which separate us from Tromsø. We ride around the mountain range in a long arc and then, after just over 400 km, reach our final destination. Tromsø calls itself the "Paris of the North" and the center with the cathedral, museums, bars and bistros is always worth a walk.

Highlights:

#1: Lyngen Alps



The Lyngen peninsula lies between the Lyngenfjord in the east and the Ullsfjord in the west. It is completely occupied by the mountain range of the Lyngen Alps, which are 90 km long and up to 20 km wide. They rise to 1,884 m and are sparsely developed, making them a paradise for hikers, ski tourists and other outdoor enthusiasts. Unfortunately,

there are no public roads in these mountains, but that doesn't matter, because they are wonderful to enjoy from afar.

#2: Arctic Cathedral



The Arctic Cathedral (Ishavskatedralen in Norwegian) is the most famous landmark of Tromsø. Its outer form is reminiscent of the dried fish racks that one encounters everywhere along the coasts of the North Sea. But the futuristic building, designed by Jan Horvig, is also supposed to symbolize polar night, the midnight sun, and the northern lights. A 140-square-meter glass mosaic fills the 23-meter-high triangle in the east gable; incidentally, the


largest of its kind in Europe.

#3: Tromsø



Tromsø, known in the past as the getaway to the Arctic or Paris of the North - for its stylish inhabitants, not for its architecture - will surprise you. Home of the northernmost university of the world, the northernmost brewery and some other northernmost things, it is also a very refined town with a bustling nightlife and vibrant atmosphere all day long. Whether you prefer sipping your Mack beer watching friendly people passing by in Storgata, spend

some hours visiting its museums or take a walk around the island to be inspired by the majestic landscape, Tromsø can surely entertain you.



We wish you a wonderful tour.

Worldwide the #1 in
guided motorcycle tours.



EDELWEISS BIKE TRAVEL // Sportplatzweg 14, 6414 Mieming, Austria
Tel.: +43 5264 5690 // Fax: +43 5264 5690 3

facebook.com/edelweissbicycletours // info@edelweissbicycle.com
www.edelweissbicycle.com