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Honningsvåg
NORWAY

The North Cape, located at 71°10'21" above the Arctic Circle, is approximately half-way between Oslo and the North Pole. It is not the most northern extension of Europe however, and jutting a mile further north is near-by Knivskjellodden. The North Cape is located on Magerøy (Meager) Island, providing the only true arctic scenery in Europe, a barren landscape of rock and tundra, lichen and wild flowers, where as many as 5,000 reindeer graze during the summer months.



PLACES OF INTEREST

North Cape and North Cape Hall are located approximately 20 miles from Honningsvåg, across a bleak and barren landscape which remains at least partially snow-covered through-out the summer, and where one may be lucky enough to see a herd of reindeer grazing, the only livestock on the Island. The reindeer swim across the 2 mile channel to reach the Island of Magerøy each Spring for Summer pasture, and back again in September. The North Cape, a tourist attraction since the middle of the 17th century, is referred to as the northern-most point of Europe, with approximately 1,242 miles of sea separating it from the North Pole. The present North Cape Hall, opened in 1988, is the destination of thousands of tourists each summer and comprises 4 floors built into the cliff-side. There is a cinema where, on a screen spanning 225°, films of the North Cape and Magerøy, in its various seasons are shown. A tunnel, lined

with miniature displays of bygone expeditions and mementos from visitors of notoriety, leads to the “Grotto”, a cavern which provides a sheltered opportunity to gaze out from the cliff-face over the Arctic Ocean almost 1,000 feet below. An obelisk commemorates the visit of King Oscar II of Sweden in 1873, there is also a monument to the Children of the Earth, designed by seven children from seven corners of the world in 1988, symbolizing; Hope, Joy, Concord (Peace) and Friendship. There is a cafe and restaurant within the Hall, as well as a post office and well stocked souvenir store.

North Cape Museum is located on the Pier in Honningsvåg and contains exhibits relating to the development and survival of this fishing community.

SHORE EXCURSIONS To make the most of your visit to Honningsvåg and the North Cape we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and pricing consult your Shore Excursion Brochure or contact the Shore Excursion Desk. When going ashore, be advised to take with you only necessary items and secure any valuables onboard.

LOCAL CUSTOMS Bargaining: There is little or no opportunity to bargain in Norway, except maybe with the Lapp traders.

Tipping: Service charges are included in restaurant pricing. It is appropriate to tip 10% for good service. Taxi fares are usually rounded up to the nearest 5 or 10 NOK.

Local Cuisine: As fishing is the primary industry on Magerøy, it also forms the staple diet of the locals. Amongst the catches are catfish, haddock, flounder, halibut, skate and salmon. Stockfish evolved as a means of preservation and produces a dry, strongly flavored snack that’s high in protein. Boknafesk is a favorite amongst the locals, a semi-dried fish, also strongly flavored, usually served with potatoes, bacon and bacon fat. Reindeer meat is also common here and for desert, the ever-popular cloudberries, reminiscent of the raspberry, orange in color, with a little more ‘bite’.

Drink Specialties: The Norwegians drink a lot of coffee. Although alcohol is very expensive in Norway, the favorite tippie is the local brand of Aquavit, a potato based liqueur, common through-out Scandinavia, usually served ice cold, and drunk as a shot. Bottled water is recommended.

SHOPPING FACILITIES Local handicrafts include the traditional knitted sweaters in nordic design, goods made of treated, tanned fish skin such as; shoes, wallets, belts and purses, as well as items made of bone, wood, pottery and stone. There may well be some Lapp people with stalls on the Pier, selling various souvenirs including; sealskin items, reindeer and other furs and Lapp dolls in traditional costumes.

U.S. Dollars are not generally accepted in Norway except maybe in the North Cape Hall. Major credit cards are widely accepted, except by Lapp tradesmen.

Value Added Tax (VAT), is added to most purchases. Visitors who spend over a certain amount may be entitled to re-claim some or all of the tax paid. In Scandinavia many stores participate in “Tax Free Shopping”, ask for a “Tax Free” receipt, this is usually reimbursed before departing the country although RCCL cannot guarantee the cooperation of local authorities. Items must remain sealed or unused while in Norway, in order to qualify for a tax refund.

LOCAL CURRENCY The unit of currency in Norway is the Krone (NOK). There are 100 øre to the Krone. Krone bills are available in the following denominations; 50, 100, 200, 500 and 1,000.

POST OFFICE AND TELEPHONE The Post Office is located about a block from the Pier, on Storgata. In addition there are post office facilities at North Cape Hall.

Local coins are required to use public telephones. You can also place calls with your personal calling card using the following access codes (coin may be required):

AT&T: 800.19.011
MCI: 800.19.912

TOURIST INFORMATION The Tourist Information Office is located right on the Pier in Honningsvåg.

TRANSPORTATION There may be a limited number of taxis available at the Pier, otherwise they may be ordered, however, a trip to the North Cape could be quite expensive.

USEFUL WORDS

- Yes • Ja
- No • Nei
- Good Day • God Dag
- Good-bye • Ha Det
- Thank-you • Tak
- You’re Welcome • Versegod