



# The Far North

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## Why Go?

Norway's northernmost counties of Troms and Finnmark are across the very top of Europe, where broad horizons share the land with dense forest. Like most of the relatively few visitors who make it this far north, come in summer to enjoy Tromsø, the region's only town of any size. The museums of this sparky, self-confident place will orient you for the Arctic lands beyond. You'll probably respond to the call of Nordkapp (North Cape), the European mainland's most northerly point. But to really feel the pull of the north, you need to push beyond to explore the sparsely populated plateaus of Inner Finnmark and its wild northeastern coast, the Norwegian heartland of the Sami people. For alternative adventure (say, scudding aboard a snowmobile or behind a team of yapping huskies), plan to return in winter, when soft blue light envelops the snowy lands, outsiders are even fewer and the northern lights streak the sky.

## Best Places to Eat

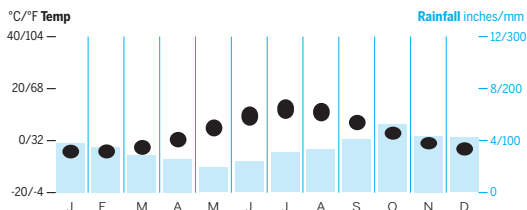
- » Arctandria (p322)
- » Gapahuken (p344)
- » Aunegården (p321)
- » Emma's Drømekjøkken (p321)

## Best Places to Stay

- » Engholm Husky Design Lodge (p348)
- » Park Hotell (p326)
- » Arran (p335)
- » Thon Hotel Vica (p327)
- » Bungalåven Vertshus (p335)

## When to Go

### Tromsø



### Early February

Lots of snowy activities and, with luck, the northern lights on tap.

### Easter Week

The Sami party in Kautokeino before dispersing to their summer pastures.

### Mid- to late June

Hotels and sights reopen, and the crowds have yet to come.

## ARCTIC OCEAN



### Far North Highlights

**1** Reach dramatic **Nordkapp** (p332) after the long haul northwards, then leave the crowds behind to hike to **Knivskjelodden** (p332), continental Europe's northernmost point

**2** Learn about the unique culture of the Sami in **Karasjok** (p346) and **Kautokeino** (p348)

**3** Explore **Alta's Stone Age rock carvings** (p326), a Unesco World Heritage Site, and learn more at its award-winning museum