



# Orcas & Northern Lights

2026

Norwegian Photo Safari

# Letter From the Team

At Tusk Photo, we pride ourselves on providing exceptional safari experiences, where every detail is carefully curated to ensure your journey is nothing short of extraordinary. Our team of expert guides, who possess an intimate knowledge of the local wildlife and ecosystems, will be by your side, ready to share their insights and help you capture unbelievable photos.

Imagine exploring the vast savannahs of the Serengeti, witnessing the majestic herds of elephants in Amboseli, or immersing yourself in the remarkable biodiversity of the Arctic. Picture yourself standing in awe as you witness the raw power of lions on the hunt, or capturing the elegance of an Orca as it glides through icy waters. With Tusk Photo, these extraordinary moments will become a reality.



We understand that photography is more than just a hobby for you; it's a way to express your creativity and preserve memories that will last a lifetime. That's why we go the extra mile to ensure that you have the best opportunities to capture those unique shots. From providing expert guidance on camera settings and composition to positioning our vehicles strategically for the perfect angle, we are dedicated to helping you achieve your photography goals.

But a Tusk Safari is not just about wildlife and photography; it's about creating cherished memories and forging lifelong connections. Our team is committed to providing you with personalised attention, exceptional service, and a warm and welcoming atmosphere throughout your journey. We want you to feel like part of our Tusk family, sharing laughter, stories, and the sheer joy of exploring the best that nature has to offer.

Allow us to take you on a journey of discovery, where you will witness nature's wonders, capture breathtaking photographs, and create memories that will stay with you forever.

Please feel free to reach out to our friendly team for any further information or to discuss your specific requirements. We are here to assist you every step of the way. We can't wait to welcome you to the Tusk Photo family and share this incredible experience with you.

The Tusk Team



# Overview

This photographic safari is unlike any other - we combine two of the most iconic and awe-inspiring natural events on the planet - the magnificent light display of the Northern Lights/Aurora Borealis and the huge congregation of Orcas and other whales in the fjords of Norway during the winter spawning season.

Although the auroras do occur during the entire year they are best viewed during clear winter nights, which coincides with this prime whale-viewing season.

Join us in November aboard the MV VikingFjord for an unforgettable experience where we will target Orcas, and many other species of whales like Humpback-, Minke- and Fin whales hunt and feed in the fjords, whilst putting ourselves in the best possible position to view spectacular displays of light in the northern night sky.



# What You Can Expect

We will be photographing an array of different photographic genres and disciplines on this tour. From good opportunities in daylight conditions to some dark evenings, capturing the mesmerising light displays of the Aurora borealis. Breathtaking landscapes and seascapes will be on offer at almost any given time during the tour whilst we traverse the unspoilt beauty of the fjord systems. We will be capturing whales from both our ship or zodiac as well as from underwater should you wish to do so with an underwater setup. Prolific birdlife will be our constant companions on the tour and will certainly enthral the bird photography lovers. We will not only be testing the extreme capabilities of our cameras but also our own creative artistry as photographers.

## The Orcas:

In terms of wildlife we can expect to see a variety of whale species but our main objective will be to work with Orcas, also known as Killer whales.

Orcas, along with other whales species enter the northern fjords of Norway and feed on the spawning herring population. At this time of year millions-upon-millions of herring enter the fjords and evoke a feeding frenzy that is a sight to behold.

Up to 1200+ different Orcas have been counted in the fjords during this period and the photography can be absolutely electrifying.

In terms of photography there are two options. You can photograph the whales and other species from the zodiac or you can don your drysuit / wetsuit and free dive with the whales.

This population of Orcas only feed on herring and therefore do not pose a risk to humans.

Should you have an underwater housing you will be able to pull off some of the most incredible photographic and cinematographic underwater opportunities that exist with these animals. This is as good as it gets with Orcas.

## The Northern Lights or Aurora Borealis:

The Northern Lights are a natural event that occur year round. That said, as with all natural phenomena, there are no guarantees of when they would occur.

Ideal conditions needed include cold, dark nights when the air is crisp, and little to no light pollution.

The Northern fjords of Norway offer just these perfect conditions especially during the early winter weeks when statically we have the best chances of open skies that coincide with a solar storms. Our tour takes place during this time and the odds of photographing this spectacle are in our favour.



# Where You Will Stay



Discover the perfect blend of classic charm and modern comfort aboard the MV VikingFjord, a vessel with a rich history and a touch of maritime elegance.

This specular vessel was completely refitted and rebuilt in 2023 to the most modern shipping standards.

The ship has 8 ensuite cabins for a maximum of 12 guests. It boasts an open plan lounge with rear facing windows and an observation lounge in the bridge for guests to enjoy. Furthermore, it has a hot tub on the deck as well as a sauna for your enjoyment. The ship has been finished with light colour tones in a modern Scandinavian design.

## The Vikingfjord at a glance:

- 8 Spacious cabins with windows and modern decor, comfortable beds and ensuite bathrooms with a choice between doubles, twins or singles room configurations.
- One of the rooms is classified as the 15 m<sup>2</sup> Signature Penthouse room with large windows, double bed, desk & chair with all the associated amenities of a penthouse experience.
- Sauna and Hot Tub
- 2x fully equipped Zodiacs for cruises and shore landings
- Mini Bar and Coffee station
- TV and audio facilities for presentations and training.



Room 1-4 Twin or Double / Room 5-6 Single / Room 8 Penthouse



## Dates | Costs | Prices

Dates	Cost	Spaces	Nights
2026-11-03 to 2026-11-10	€ 8950	12	7
2026-11-09 to 2026-11-16	€ 8950	12	7

### Cost:

Our safari experience is priced at **€ 8950** per person and **€ 9950** for the Penthouse Room. There is no single supplement for this tour however we can only accommodate 2 single travellers.

Please note that any bank charges incurred during the payment process are not covered by Tusk Photo. We kindly request the full amount indicated on the invoice, including any fees imposed by Paypal if you choose to use this payment method.

### Deposit:

To secure your reservation, a 50% deposit of the full price is required within 14 days of making your booking. Once we receive your deposit, your booking will be confirmed. Please make sure to complete this step within the given timeframe to secure your spot.

### Balance:

The remaining balance is due at 6 months prior to the safari. If you are making a booking within 6 months of the safari, the full price will be payable at the time of booking.

### Cancellation Policy:

We understand that plans can change, and in the event of a cancellation, the following fees will apply unless Tusk Photo is able to fill your safari space:

- Cancellation more than 180 days prior to departure: 10% of the full price
- Cancellation 120 - 179 days prior to departure: 40% of the full price
- Cancellation 60 - 119 days prior to departure: 75% of the full price
- Cancellation less than 60 days prior to departure: 100% of the full price

Please note: Your travel plans are made entirely at your own risk, and Tusk Photo cannot be held responsible for any flight cancellations, disruptions, or delays that may occur. We recommend considering travel insurance to protect your investment and provide peace of mind.

# Itinerary

## Day 1

- Arrive Alta / Tromsø in Northern Norway.
- We stay at a hotel in Alta on the first night. The hotel will be confirmed closer to the departure date.
- Dinner will be included this evening.

## DAY 2

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Transfer to the MV Vikingfjord
- We set sail to the Orca grounds

## DAY 2 to 8

- Exploration of the fjords.
- Photographing whales and Northern lights

## DAY 8

- Return to Alta
- End of tour

- **NB Please note:** Tusk Photo hosts will be stationed on the ship for the second departure date. That means we will not be present at the hotel in Alta on the first day of the second tour. Tusk Photo will provide everyone with detailed instructions for the arrival day at the hotel as well as the transfer instructions to the ship.



# What You Get

## Included:

- Services of 2 Tusk Photo hosts + 2 Expedition staff
- Accommodation on board the MV Vikingfjord as well as the hotel on the first day of arrival.
- All meals and drinks while on MV Vikingfjord
- All activities
- Transfer from our hotel in Alta to the MV Vikingfjord

## Excluded:

- Transfer from the airport to the hotel on day 1 as well as transfer on day 8 to the airport.
- Visas
- Gratuities
- Purchases of a personal nature.
- Travel costs to and from Alta / Norway

# Flights and Transport

- Guests can book flights to Alta Airport from various major cities, with connecting flights often available from Oslo or Tromsø Norway.
- Transfers to and from the airport are easy to arrange with services like Uber / Bolt / Taxis as well as public transport on offer.

# Photography and Gear

## Equipment for the Orcas:

- Long telephoto lens(s) 300/400 are recommended (500/600/800 lenses are optional)
- Medium telephoto lens 70-200 or equivalent.
- Spare memory cards and batteries are essential.
- Underwater housing should you wish to do some underwater activities with the whales.
- A dry bag or waterproof camera bag / storage is important for your equipment.

## Equipment for the Northern Lights:

- Fast f1.8 or at least f2.8 wide-angle lens(es). Consider lenses from 14mm to 35mm.
- A good sturdy tripod & ballhead is essential to photograph under difficult lighting conditions.
- We recommend using a remote trigger to trigger the camera to avoid further vibrations and handling of the camera once locked down.

## Optional Equipment and recommendations:

- Notebook / laptop and additional storage devices / hard drives.
- At least 2x Camera bodies (a backup will mean peace of mind).
- Flash with off-shoe cord and battery pack is optional.
- Remote trigger(s)
- Binoculars.



# Our Expedition Leader

Meet our specialist expedition leader: Piet van den Bemd

Joining our Orcas & Northern Lights expedition is Piet van den Bemd, a seasoned polar guide with unparalleled expertise in Arctic waters. Having spent eight years running a company specialising in orca and northern lights tours, Piet knows these icy fjords like the back of his hand. With countless hours on the water, he brings invaluable knowledge of orca behaviour, marine wildlife, and the mesmerising auroras. His deep experience ensures you get the best possible encounters, whether watching pods of orcas hunt or witnessing the sky ignite in colour.

Piet joined our Tusk Photo team in 2025 as a specialist guide and photographic host. His knowledge, enthusiasm and bubbling personality make him a valuable asset to this tour.



# Additional Tour Info

## INSURANCE

- **Travel Insurance:**

While it is highly unlikely, there is a possibility of scheduled flights in and out of your destination being delayed due to unforeseen circumstances. To provide peace of mind and cover any potential flight disruptions or missed connections, we strongly recommend purchasing additional travel insurance.

- **Medical Insurance:**

For your safety and well-being, we highly recommend having medical insurance that covers unforeseen medical emergencies and evacuation. Please let us know in your booking form whether you have taken out any medical insurance for this safari.

## PASSPORTS AND CUSTOMS

- Passports are required by all foreign visitors and must be valid for 6 months after the intended length of stay. Please ensure that there are two blank pages per country to be visited.
- Visas are required by most countries to enter Norway which is the entry point to Svalbard – please make sure you check with your local embassies regarding visa requirements. Alternatively have a look at [www.visaHQ.com](http://www.visaHQ.com) for country specific visa requirements as well.
- It is advisable to declare any cameras, lenses, laptops and other valuable items when leaving your country. We normally recommend keeping a detailed list of all items including serial numbers and descriptions. This makes the customs process that much quicker.



## MONEY AND CURRENCY

- The currency accepted in Norway is Norwegian Krona - NOK.
- Banks and foreign exchange bureaux are available at all international airports and in all main towns in Europe but limited while in Norway.
- Credit card payments can be processed by most retail outlets, hotels and Inn's.

## HEALTH AND SEA-SICKNESS

- The Arctic has little to no health hazards apart from illnesses like influenza and other related conditions associated with extreme cold environments.
- Sea-sickness or motion sickness is a consideration to bear in mind for all sea going expeditions. Although we will always be in the sheltered waters of the Norwegian Fjords we could have windy conditions that can bring unwanted wave action. Should you be concerned about your ability to deal with sea sickness we suggest consulting your doctor for additional help for your specific needs.
- Alternatively, should you require additional advice, we suggest you contact your local travel clinic for more information on travel in Europe / Norway.

## LANGUAGES

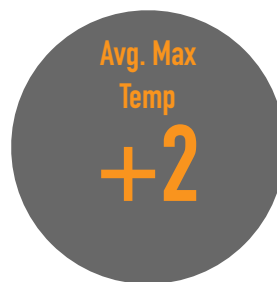
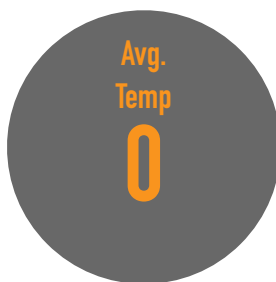
- The official language is Norwegian. However, nearly everyone speaks English.

## DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

We understand the importance of accommodating diverse dietary needs, and our team is dedicated to ensuring that we can cater to most dietary requirements. Please provide us with any specific dietary needs in your booking form.

## CLIMATE AND CONDITIONS

The climate in Norway during early winter is generally cold and clear. Rainfall / Snow can be expected for around 14 days of the month in October and November.



## **CLOTHING AND WHAT TO PACK**

We will experience arctic conditions on this tour, so please be prepared for the cold!

- Windproof and waterproof garments are essential!
- Good thermal underwear, long johns and long sleeved thermal under-shirts.
- Warm insulated trousers, similar to those used for skiing – no loud colours please!
- Waterproof (preferably Gore-Tex or similar) over-trousers.
- A down or hollow fibre jacket or waterproof (preferably Gore-Tex or similar) jacket layered with a thick warm fleece under it.
- Thermal / Pac boots with a sole good for walking on snow and ice, and thick warm socks. We recommend looking at MuckBoots or similar 'Wellies' that will keep your feet dry and warm. A rating of -40C is advisable.
- A pair of thermal 'camp booties' is advisable for use on the boat.
- Warm hat / beanies (bring extra)
- Thin pair of thermal gloves.
- A second, larger pair of insulated over-gloves. Also consider bringing a spare pair in case your gloves get wet.
- Polar Fleeces; a few thin fleeces to aid layering.
- A fleece neck gaiter is very useful for protecting your face.
- Hand and foot warmers.
- Sun glasses, Lip balm and sun block.
- Waterproof bags to protect your equipment while out on the zodiac.
- A good head lamp for you to do shore landings and night photography.

## **FREE DIVING EQUIPMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

You would need either a drysuit or a wetsuit to enter into the icy waters with the orcas.

Wetsuit recommendations - You will need at least a 7mm free dive wetsuit with attached hood, 7mm-9mm neoprene socks with open cell inside and 7mm 3 finger mitts.

You will also need a windproof jacket or poncho for use on the boat.

Diving with a wetsuit does give better in water encounters and will mean you will use less energy when swimming.

Weight belt and weights, as well as other free diving equipment can be rented - we will provide more details on this closer to the time.

NB: You will need to do an in-water assessment on your free diving capabilities before we encounter orcas. You must be able to lift yourself on to the zodiac unassisted. This is imperative to your having access to free diving. Scuba diving is completely off-limits.

People with existing heart conditions and other possible health concerns are advised to refrain from partaking in any underwater activities.



## GRATUITIES

Please note that the following gratuity amounts are provided as a minimum guideline, and you are welcome to increase them if you wish:

- Boat Staff / Deck Hand: € 100 per guest
- Expeditions Staff / Guides: € 120 per guest

## CONNECTIVITY & EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS

There is good WiFi facilities on board the MV Vikingfjord

Tusk Photo PTA Office - Tel: +27 12 761 3737

Please note:

It is not advisable to take photographs of border posts, airports, military, police posts or any other related government structures. Doing so can lead to an unpleasant situation and even arrest.

# Indemnity

Tusk Photo and its staff prioritise your safety and wellbeing during your safari; however, please be aware that we cannot accept liability for any incidents, including but not limited to accidents, loss, or property damage. By completing the Safari Booking form, you acknowledge the inherent risks associated with travel and agree to indemnify Tusk Photo against any claims or liabilities that may arise.

While this document provides comprehensive information, it is not exhaustive. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact our office. Please note that the information contained herein is correct at the time of compilation to the best of our knowledge.

**We are excited to host you on your dream photographic safari!**

