



Whales, Huskies and Reindeer near Tromsø

A one-page cheat sheet for the three classic Arctic day tours.

Snapshot from late October 2026. Seasons, prices and times change; confirm with the operator before you book.

The three tours at a glance

Tour	Season	Total time	With animals	Example price
Whale watching	Late Oct – late Jan (peak Nov–Jan)	About 7–9 h	About 30 min – 1.5 h	Varies by boat
Husky sledding	About Nov – Apr	About 4 h	About 30 min on the sled	2,890–2,990 NOK
Reindeer sledding	15 Nov – 31 Mar	4.5 h	Ride about 20 min + feeding	2,195 NOK adult, 1,095 child

Whale watching

What to know

- Orcas and humpbacks follow the herring into the fjords; fin whales are occasional.
- Most tours go to **Skjervøy**, about 3–3.5 h by road from Tromsø.
- No operator can guarantee sightings.
- Polar night (about 27 Nov – 15 Jan) means twilight from about 9 to 14, so trips start early.

Pick your boat

- **Large boat** (140–200 people): warm, toilets, food, observation deck.
- **RIB** (up to ~12): faster and lower for photos, but cold and rough, no toilet.
- Seasick? Take preventive measures 30 min before boarding; watch the horizon.
- Voluntary guidelines say keep 50–100 m from whales. Choose operators who follow them.

Husky sledding

What to know

- Kennels are 20–40 km from the centre (30–45 min each way).
- Only about 20–40 min on the sled; the rest is transport, instruction and dogs.
- Some tours let you drive your own team; others you ride as a passenger.
- Age limits differ: one Kvaløya tour is age 7+ with an adult; one self-drive tour lists 16+.

Is it kind to the dogs?

- Ask how often each dog runs, where they rest and who checks their health.
- Prefer small groups and open answers.
- Never leave children alone around the dogs.
- Wear thermal layers, two pairs of socks, glove liners and a neck warmer.

Reindeer sledding and Sámi culture

What a half-day tour includes

- Camp about 50 minutes each way from Tromsø.
- Sled ride of about 20 minutes (can be shortened if snow is poor; 120 kg limit).
- A talk of about 30 minutes by a Sámi guide, then feeding the herd.
- Traditional lunch, with vegan and gluten-free options.
- Snowsuits, boot covers, hats and mittens included.

Good to know

- Prices listed: adult 2,195, teen 1,995, child 1,095 NOK, infants free.
- Uneven terrain may be hard for limited mobility; contact the operator.
- Treat it as a cultural visit: ask, listen and be respectful. Customs differ between Sámi families and regions.

How to fit it all in

- **Give the whale day a whole day.** Early start, long travel, lots of cold.
- **Husky or reindeer as a half day** leaves room for a café stop.
- **Keep one evening free for the aurora.** Clear nights are scarcer than tours.
- **Book early:** two to four weeks ahead in peak season, longer for Christmas week.
- **Ask about weather rules:** what happens if wind, snow or the herring spoil the plan?



Do not stay up for nothing

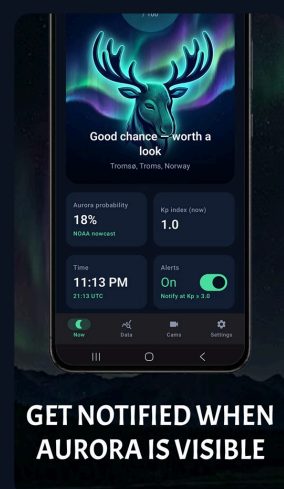
Moose: free aurora alerts for Android

A free, beginner-friendly app that tells you when the northern lights are likely to be out, so you can rest after a big day on the snow.

- Alerts when activity is high where you are
- Simple explanations, no space-weather degree needed
- Home-screen widget and manual location

Google Play:

play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.auroramoose.app



**GET NOTIFIED WHEN
AURORA IS VISIBLE**

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