

Alta, Finnmark, Norway

The City of the Northern Lights sits above the Arctic Circle where prehistoric rock carvings meet a 24-hour summer sun and jaw-dropping winter auroras. Alta punches well above its size.

Docked (pier at Bukta)

Typical call: 7-10 hrs

Norwegian Krone (NOK)

Norwegian

Midnight Sun (Jun–Jul) / Aurora (Oct–Mar)

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____ Arrive: _____ All aboard: _____

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Ships dock at Bukta Quay, 3–4 km from city center; shuttle usually provided

Best For: Northern Lights, UNESCO rock art, Sami culture, Arctic nature

Walk to Center: ~40 min on foot or 10 min by shuttle/taxi

Don't Miss: Alta Museum's rock carvings (UNESCO) and the Northern Lights Cathedral

Getting around: **Taxi** 170–200 NOK (~\$15–19 USD)

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Alta Museum & UNESCO Rock Carvings** — Over 6,000 prehistoric petroglyphs — some 7,000 years old — are preserved in their original setting at Hjemmeluft, a short drive from the pier.
- Sautso–Alta Canyon Hike** — Northern Europe's largest canyon drops 400 metres through wild Finnmark plateau.
- Northern Lights Cathedral & City Walk** — Alta's titanium-clad cathedral spirals skyward in a design inspired by the Aurora Borealis.
- Sami Reindeer Farm Experience** — Boazo Sami Siida, a working reindeer farm 20 minutes from Alta, offers guided introductions to Sami herding culture, traditional dress, joik singing...
- Dog Sledding on the Finnmarksvidda (Winter)** — From December to April, husky sled tours depart into the vast Finnmark plateau.

BEST WALKS

- Northern Lights Cathedral to Alta Museum** 3 km | 40 min | Easy — Start at the striking Northern Lights Cathedral in the center, walk along the Alta River path to the Hjemmeluft/Alta Museum rock art site.
- Alta City Center Stroll** 1–2 km | 20 min | Easy — A relaxed loop around the pedestrian center takes in the main square, local shops, Æventyr Sjokolade (world's northernmost chocolate factory), and views toward the Alta...

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		36°	24°	13d
Jun		55°	43°	15d
Aug		59°	47°	15d
Sep		51°	41°	13d
Oct		37°	30°	12d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 4:22AM–8:34PM · Sep 5:40AM–7:01PM · Oct 7:40AM–4:42PM

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Use the shuttle. Bukta Quay is 3–4 km from town along a busy road — check with your cruise line about complimentary buses or budget ~150–200 NOK each way by taxi.
- Layer up year-round. Even in summer, Alta temperatures can drop quickly; bring a windproof layer. In winter, full Arctic gear is essential.
- Cards accepted everywhere. Norway is nearly cashless — most shops, cafés, and taxis accept Visa/Mastercard. ATMs are in the city center.
- Alta Museum is the unmissable stop. Allow at least 90 minutes for the outdoor rock-carving trail — it's a genuine UNESCO highlight, not just a tourist attraction.
- Midnight Sun (late May–mid-July): Bring an eye mask for the cabin — but embrace it ashore. Sunset hikes at midnight are surreal and perfectly safe.
- Grab chocolate at Æventyr Sjokolade — a working craft chocolate factory in the city center, billing itself as the world's northernmost of its kind.

Alta, Finnmark, Norway — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



- 1

Cathedral of The Northern Lights
Modern church with unique architecture, dedicated to the Northern Lights.
- 2

Elvebakken Church
Traditional wooden church, a local parish landmark.
- 3

Altagård
Historic estate, once a governor's residence and administrative center.
- P

Cruise port / terminal