

Kirkenes, Finnmark, Norway

At 69°N and just a few kilometers from Russia, Kirkenes is the end of the line on the Norwegian Coastal Express — and the starting point for some of the Arctic's most memorable experiences, from hauling king crabs out of icy fjords to peering across the last land border in Schengen Europe.

Docked (cruise pier)

Typical call: 6-8 hrs

Norwegian Krone (NOK) — cashless society

Norwegian / English widely spoken

Famous for king crab

MY DAY IN PORT

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

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Cruise ships dock at Dypvannskaia or Hurtigrutekaia — both within ~1 km of town center

Best For: King crab safaris, Arctic wilderness, Russian border sightseeing, WWII history

Walk to center: ~10–15 min on foot from the cruise dock to Kirkenes town center

Don't Miss: King Crab Safari on the Varangerfjord — a genuinely unique Arctic experience

Getting around: Taxi 75–95 NOK (~\$7–9 USD) · Rideshare not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- King Crab Safari** — The signature Kirkenes experience.
 - Snow Resort Kirkenes (Snowhotel 365)** — The world-famous Snowhotel is open year-round.
 - Russian Border at Storskog** — Drive to Storskog — Norway's only land border crossing with Russia and the easternmost point of the
- Schengen area.

 - Andersgrotten WWII Bomb Shelter** — Kirkenes was one of the most heavily bombed towns in Norway during WWII.
 - Grenslandmuseet (Borderlands Museum)** — Kirkenes's main museum covers the history of this unique border region — including Sámi culture, the WWII occupation, the Soviet liberation in 1944...

BEST WALKS

- Pier to Town Center Walk** 1.2 km · ~15 min · Flat — A simple walk from the cruise dock along Johan Knudtzens Gate into the Kirkenes town center.
- Town Center Sights Loop** 1.5 km · ~25 min · Flat — A short loop taking in the key landmarks of central Kirkenes: the Soviet Liberation Monument (a striking Red Army soldier statue commemorating the 1944 liberation)...

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		36°	25°	10d
Jun		55°	43°	12d
Aug		59°	48°	14d
Sep		50°	42°	12d
Oct		38°	31°	11d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 3:57AM–8:05PM · Sep 5:13AM–6:33PM · Oct 7:12AM–4:17PM

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Go cashless: Norway is one of the most cashless societies on earth. Cards (Visa, Mastercard) are accepted everywhere — coffee shops, public toilets, market stalls. Don't bother with cash.
- Book king crab in advance: The king crab safari is Kirkenes's must-do and regularly sells out. Book before you board, not when you arrive at the pier.
- Layer up year-round: Even in summer, Kirkenes at 69°N can be cool, windy, and rainy. Bring a windproof shell and a warm mid-layer regardless of forecast.
- Russian border warning: If visiting Storskog or Grense Jakobselv, do not cross the border markers — not even for a photo. The fine is severe. Do not photograph Russian guard positions.
- Midnight sun / polar night: Kirkenes has midnight sun from mid-May to late July (24-hour daylight) and polar night November–January. Both are genuinely dramatic — bring an eye mask in summer.
- Shops close on Sunday: Most retail is closed Sundays in Norway. Museums, restaurants, and tour operators remain open, but don't plan on grocery shopping.

Kirkenes, 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 Monument in honor of the Soviet Liberation

This monument honors the Soviet liberation of Kirkenes in 1944.

P Cruise port / terminal