

Vesterålen Islands, Nordland, Norway

Wilder and less-visited than its famous Lofoten neighbour, Vesterålen is the whale-watching capital of Norway — and the birthplace of the Hurtigruten coastal voyage. Ships dock at compact town piers where mountains rise straight from the fjord.

-  Pier (docked)
-  Typical call: 7-9 hrs
-  Norwegian Krone (NOK) — mostly cashless
-  Norwegian
-  Midnight Sun (May–Jul)

👉 MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date:	Arrive:	All aboard:
Excursion:	Notes:	

GETTING ASHORE

- Docking:** Pier — Sortland Havn or Stokmarknes Skagen Kai; no tender
- Best For:** Whale watching, Arctic scenery, Hurtigruten history, midnight sun
- Walk to centre:** Under 10 min from either pier to town shops and cafés
- Don't Miss:** Hurtigruten Museum (Stokmarknes) — an entire 1956 ship preserved in glass

 Getting around:  **Taxi**  NOK 128 minimum (~ USD)

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Whale Safari from Andenes** — Drive or transfer ~1.5 hrs north to Andenes, where sperm whales feed year-round above the deep Bleik Canyon.
- Hurtigruten Museum, Stokmarknes** — The entire 1956 coastal steamer MS Finnmarken is preserved inside a dramatic glass-and-steel building right at the pier.
- Sortland Blue City Art Walk** — Artist Bjørn Elvenes convinced the whole town to paint its buildings in shades of blue, inspired by Arctic winter light.
- Inga Sami Siida — Reindeer & Joik** — A family-run Sami experience 15 minutes from Sortland.
- Nyksund Ghost Village** — Once abandoned, this remote fishing hamlet on Langøya has been reclaimed by artists and adventurers.

BEST WALKS

- Sortland Blue City Stroll** 1-2 hrs | Flat | Free — Pick up a Blue City map at the tourist office and walk the central streets to spot the blue buildings and poetry installations.
- Stokmarknes Harbour & Hurtigruten Museum** 30 min–2 hrs | Flat | Paid museum — From Skagen Kai pier, walk straight into the Hurtigruten Museum.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

 CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)				 DAYLIGHT &  MONEY	
Mon	High	Low	Rain	Apr 5:03AM–8:56PM · Aug 4:11AM–9:50PM · Sep 6:14AM–7:30PM · Oct 8:06AM–5:20PM	
Apr	39°	29°	17d		
Jun	56°	45°	16d		
Aug	60°	50°	17d		
Sep	53°	44°	16d		
Oct	42°	35°	16d		

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Go cashless: Norway is virtually card-only. You won't need Norwegian Krone — Visa/Mastercard with a PIN is accepted