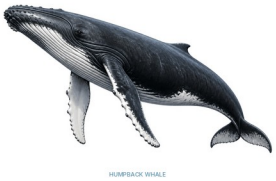
09

ARCTIC · NORWAY (KVÆNANGEN FJORD)

Skjervøy, Norway

Orca and humpback whale · late October – January

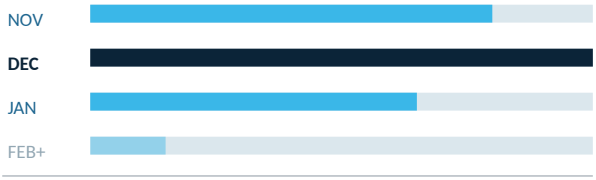


HUMPBACK WHALE



ORCA

SIGHTING PROBABILITY



BEST MONTH
December

SEASON
Late Oct – Jan

§ 01 INTRODUCTION

Skjervøy, in the far north of Norway, gives access to Kvænangen fjord, one of the best places in the world to see orcas and humpback whales feeding together on herring, in the depths of the Arctic winter and with a chance of northern lights the same night.

Every autumn, huge shoals of herring shelter in the fjords of northern Norway, and orcas and humpbacks follow them to the coast. The season runs from late October to January, with December the busiest month; by late January the herring usually head back out to sea and the whales disperse.

§ 02 ETHICS

Whale-watching ethics

Whale watching here depends entirely on where the herring are that winter, so local operators share sighting information day by day rather than following a fixed route. Choose operators that respect the approach distance recommended by the Norwegian authorities, especially around orca groups with calves.

§ 03 IN THE FIELD

Practical tips

01
Book ahead for December, the month with the most whales and also the most visitors.

02
Bring technical layers for extreme cold — trips take place in the depths of the Arctic winter, with sub-zero temperatures.

03
Whale presence changes from year to year with the movements of the herring; check the current season before booking.

04
The few hours of daylight limit when boats can go out — check exact times with each operator.

05
Combine the trip with northern lights watching, very likely in the same area and at the same time of year.

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