

FIREBIRD

Ski & Sail

Firebird is proud to be undertaking a breathtaking journey to enable you to Ski & Sail inside the Arctic Circle. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to use the luxurious comforts of Firebird, a fantastic 26 metre sail yacht, as a mobile base camp, moving each day to a new location to drop you at the shore of the fjords, and give you instant access to explore the mountains and ski territories.

Our ski and sail trips will be tailored to suit you and your groups skiing ability. Whilst idyllic for tour skiing enthusiasts, the captivating cruising areas offer a variety of activities for none skiers such as husky sledging, skidoo trips, snow shoeing and much more.

Packages will be running from March 2017 and will be a truly unique and unforgettable experience. With cruising routes set out by our onboard crew and touring plans by our ski guides ashore, we will take all the stress out of planning and provisioning for an epic expedition.

Norway's northern altitude, excellent snow coverage and winter climate softened by the Gulf Stream mean many good mountain ranges are on offer for classic ski touring and nights in mountain huts. But, thanks to the multiplicity of fjords on the coast, navigation by boat is the fastest way to attain access to the most beautiful slopes, avoiding any tiring traveling. Ski and sail has been growing in the area over the last 15 years but for the first time Firebird offers a truly luxurious and comfortable way to access this amazing way of skiing.

The following sample itinerary is for a typical one-week trip starting and finishing from Tromso. One week is an ideal amount of time onboard for a group who are keen to ski every day, however, if you prefer to take a relaxed approach with skiing and add in a few days of other activities then the area lends itself well to an extended trip of up to 10 days.



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Sample Itinerary

Please note that like any sailing trip we are governed by the weather and with Ski & Sail this is even more important. The Captain and mountain guide will work hard to get guests to the best snow conditions so itinerary changes may occur daily. Fortunately, this is all part of the fun of exploring untouched areas and Firebird's highly skilled team will ensure changes occur seamlessly!

Tromso is the gate way to Norway's best Ski & Sail area which is the famous Lyngen Alps. Convenient flight options to Tromso can be made from Oslo and the city has all the amenities necessary for your pre departure. Guests can also hire any mountain equipment that they require in Tromso before Firebird departs (prior booking required).

Day 1 - Arrival day, Tromso

Guests are met at Tromso Airport by the Captain and Guide and transfers are arranged to the marina in Tromso. En route guests with pre-arranged ski hire can collect their equipment.

On arrival at Firebird the crew will greet guests with a warm drink and snacks as you settle onboard the yacht.

Depending on the arrival time and weather conditions you may leave for the first ski area which is approximately a 2 hour sail.

Day 2 - Ski Touring Tester

After a hearty breakfast the first day of ski touring begins. Skiing on this day will be designed as a kit check day and a chance for the guide to assess all the skiers' abilities.

Day 3 to 7 - Ski Touring

Over the next 5 days the ski touring will be set out by the guide. There is a huge amount of ski options to choose from depending on the groups abilities and snow conditions. The most common routes are split into the red and blue options below:

Blue Route (Ullstind - Taffeltind - Gillavare - Sorbmegaisa - Store Kågtind - Soltindan)

Red Route (Nordfjellet - Storgalten- Kavringtinden - Daltinden - Blåtinden - Trolltind)

After the final days skiing the yacht will make her way back to Tromso so guests can enjoy a traditional Norwegian meal ashore.

Day 8 - Departure Day, Tromso

All ski rental kit can be returned in the morning before the groups return flights home.



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Recommended Guide

Firebird's recommended guide for the week would be Brian Farquharson, a fully certified Swiss IFMGA mountain guide, originally from Scotland. Brian has been organizing and leading the Sail and Ski expeditions in Norway for a number of years and knows the area well, ensuring a safe and enjoyable trip for all. Brian says that the Fjord skiing in Norway is 'a once-in-a-lifetime experience'.

Brian introduced us to the idea of taking Firebird to Norway and since our exploration trip in March 2016 he has been helping us develop our route and offered us an opportunity to meet the local community. This network of local contacts gives Firebird guests a unique experience and access to some otherwise unknown locations, reflecting the true nature of Norway and its people.

