

LYNGEN LODGE

LYNGEN ALPS
NORWAY

THE PLACE The Lyngen Alps are a compact but enchanting mountain range that, at a northern latitude of 69°40', are the gateway to Arctic Europe. The range stretches for more than 60 miles (90 km) along the Lyngen Fjord, on the peninsula of the same name. To the south they reach almost as far as the Swedish border, while to the north they tumble into the cold Arctic Ocean—with nothing else on the horizon until the North Pole. The region is home to a mere 3,200 souls, made up of Norwegians, Finns, and local Sami people. For winter sports enthusiasts seeking something a little different from the traditional European Alps, the Lyngen Peninsula is a hidden gem. The location, 186 miles (300 km) above the Arctic Circle, offers a unique environment and atmosphere. In winter (the polar winter lasts until about mid-January) there is the amazing spectacle of the northern lights, and the midnight sun from April onwards means ultra-long summer days.

THE STORY Aside from the magnificent landscape of the Lyngen Alps, there is another good reason to visit: Lyngen Lodge. By combining their expert knowledge of skiing with their flair for design, a young Englishman called Graham Austick and his Norwegian business partner, Elisabeth Braathen, have created a luxurious hideaway at the northernmost point in Europe. Graham, who previously lived in Sankt Anton in Austria, discovered this place when on a skiing trip; it was love at first sight. He asked himself what it might be like to bring other skiers to experience this virgin mountain territory and offer them a comfortable place to stay. As an answer to this question, he bought a piece of land—and the rest, as they say, is history. This small-scale hotel can accommodate a maximum of 16 guests, many of whom stay for a week or less. Guests come to ski, appreciate nature, or see the northern lights and quickly become acquainted—either through organized activities, or around the communal, refectory-style dining table where refined, typically Norwegian dishes are served.

CLIMATE
JULY
AVG. LOW: 55°F (13°C)
AVG. HIGH: 69°F (20°C)
JANUARY
AVG. LOW: 21°F (-6°C)
AVG. HIGH: 33°F (0°C)

AIRPORT
TROMSØ
68 MILES (110 KM)

PRICE RANGE
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ROOMS
8 ROOMS
AND SUITES

ACCOMMODATION Lyngen Lodge is a luxury version of an extremely large log cabin. Graham designed the lodge but left the construction and technical details to a local contractor, so the house is constructed from Norwegian pine using traditional building methods. Geothermal heating ensures that it always feels warm and cozy inside, and the grass roof provides natural insulation. In the lounge, where a log fire burns continuously, enormous windows for gazing out over the fjords below definitely add a wow-factor. In the evenings, having left their heavy ski boots at the door, guests walk around in felt slippers, enjoying an aperitif and admiring the fabulous views. The rooms are not particularly large, but they are very comfortable, featuring wood paneling and a soft color palette. The large, outdoor Jacuzzi is the perfect place to marvel at the spectacular northern lights, while submerged in warm, bubbling water.

ON THE MENU With such wonderful local ingredients at their disposal, there's no need for the chefs to go over the top in creating delicious dishes. There's king crab from around the corner, or freshly caught fish brought back by the guides—not to mention aromatic loaves of freshly baked bread. A warm water current of about 41°F (5°C) keeps the ocean waters ice-free here. The local fishermen catch haddock and catfish, as well as cod, which sometimes weigh as much as 55 pounds (25 kg). The Norwegians are passionate about fishing, and as a visitor, you are more than welcome to join them and cast a line.

MUST-DO Graham takes his guests to the Sorbmegáisá and Storhaugen Mountains, not far from the lodge. Here, at a height of 3,900 feet (1,200 m), you will find wide-open spaces and uninterrupted views of the fjord. If you are going skiing, you will be taken to the foot of the mountain on the Spirit of Lyngen, a fast, high-tech boat specially designed to transport skiers and their equipment.

www.lyngenlodge.com



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The view over Lyngen Fjord from the living room of the lodge, with a telescope at the ready, in case a humpback whale is spotted.