



Picking cloudbberries at Tamsøya

The most beautiful adventure of the arctic summer! Every year, more than 100 enthusiastic people gather on Tamsøya looking to secure their share of cloudbberries of the highest quality. All in the span of two weeks on a bucolic private island in the middle of the Porsanger fjord.

We sell cloudbberries to businesses and people. They are highly sought after and known for their colours, size and flavour, so ordering early is recommended.



This island is unique

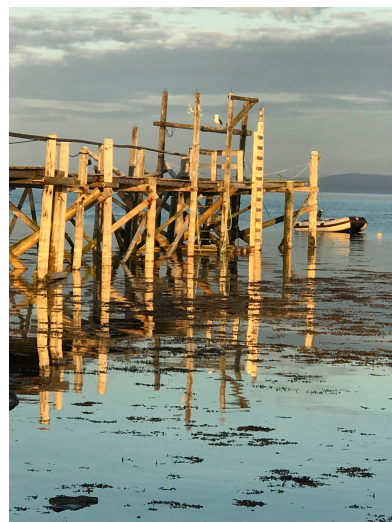
Our island is known for its abundance of high-quality cloudberry mires and varied bird life. The location, rich soil and salts from the ocean together facilitate this haven for wild berries. Not only do we have cloudbberries, but also blueberries, lingonberries and crowberries, in addition to the vast selection of other edible plants, mushrooms and herbs. The island is 14.1 km² (6.6 km² long and 4.4 km² wide), so we have lots of room here. It's mostly flat, with a peak of 65 m elevation, and consists mainly of heather, mires and thicket. This is a remote place, and with that comes not only beauty and peace, but also infrastructural and transportation challenges. Everything coming to the island has to be brought here by boat, and then lifted onto our pier. Naturally, most things take double the amount of time that they normally would. However, with a positive attitude, there are few things we cannot deal with, but it's best to be prepared for how life's like here.



Quite the harvest



From the hallway in one of the cabins



The pier at midnight

The accommodation

Here, you'll stay in simple, yet pleasant cabins from the 1950's. We do not have running water or electricity, so it's kind of like going back in time and living how they did in the old days. In total, we have 44 beds divided between 3 buildings. Additionally, there are two solitary huts on the northern side of the island – Hellemolla and Kobbevika.

In the 3 cabins on the southern end, each room accommodates 4 people. That means that if you're coming here on your own, or if you're in a party of two, you'll be sharing a room with two others. According to the feedback from our guests, this is not a negative – it's part of the charm of Tamsøya. You can request specific rooms, but we cannot promise that this request will be granted due to changes and cancellations. We always have to stay flexible, and be able to accommodate everyone. Most of the rooms have bunk beds, but 8 of them have sleeping lofts. Even though they are from the 50's, the standard of the rooms is nice. It's simple, but it's cozy and clean, and they're all equipped with the tools you need for cooking and a pleasant stay. The linens are newly ironed and of high quality, and the duvets new and warm. You'll cook your food on gas cookers and heat your rooms with the birch firewood provided by us.

We carry all drinking water from the mainland to the island, so you don't have to bring your own. Also, there's a big well right by the cabins, but this water is meant for cleaning.

Our toilets are in the form of outhouses. From 2020, we'll have 4 separate ones, and 3 of them are brand new. Along with toilet paper, they'll also be equipped with sanitizing gel, wet wipes, soap and cleaning water for your hands.

Berry-picking and pricing

Here you'll be able to pick berries where-ever you want, but we'll give you advice on which areas that are ready to be picked. The cloudberry plant dominates the fauna here, but only the female flower carries berries, so some areas may be more abundant than others. The

season lasts 12-16 days, depending on how fruitful the year is. All the different areas of the island ripen at different speeds, so it may as well be just as good to come here late in the season as early. No year is the same – only nature can decide how the season will be. The pickers start their days outside at between 7am and 9am, and spend most of the day out there on the mires. When the weather is nice, some even stay until evening. You bring what you need for the day in your backpack, and come down to the houses again when you're done for the day.

Everyone will be provided with a map of the island, where we've marked the ATV paths that go across it. On these paths, we also have lots of spots where you can place your berry-filled buckets when they're full or you're done for the day. These will then be picked up by us on our ATV in the evening, making it easier for you to get back to the cabin without having to carry kilos and kilos of extra weight.

One of the biggest challenges we face is the fact that we do not know exactly when the season starts. This changes from year to year, and there's nothing we can do about it. Normally, we begin somewhere between the 6th and 13th of august, but in the past we've actually started as early as the 19th of June, and as late as the 19th of August. This is unpredictable, but the closer we get to august, the more precise we can be with our predictions. We inform everyone who signs up how things are looking in July, but we cannot provide you with an exact start date until one week before we actually begin.

The two arrangements for berry-picking

Arrangement 1:

The total amount of the cloudberries you pick gets divided in two – one half goes to you to do with what you want, and the rest goes to us. To be eligible for this arrangement, your stay with us has to last for a minimum of 4 nights and a maximum of 5 nights.

Price per night, per person: 150NOK (fresh linens included)

RIB rafting trip to and from the island, per person: 525NOK total

If during your stay on the island you decide to leave earlier - thus staying fewer than 4 nights with us – the terms of your stay also change, and you'll have to abide by the rules of arrangement 2 (described below).

Arrangement 2:

You keep all the berries you've picked for yourself, in an exchange for 125NOK per kilo. You have to stay with us for a minimum of 1 night, and a maximum of 5 nights.

Price per night, per person: 525NOK (fresh linens included)

RIB rafting trip to and from the island, per person: 525NOK total

If during your stay on the island you decide to leave earlier, we reserve the right to charge you for the number of nights stated in your booking.

Based on the feedback from our guests, we recommend a minimum stay of 2 nights. This will ensure you with at least one full day of berry-picking, and you won't have to stress and hurry down to the pier for the return on that main day of picking. We arrive and depart the island during high tide, so this could mean that some days the return to Repvåg will be at noon.

Departure Repvåg/arrival Tamsøya

The trip begins in Repvåg at the old ferry pier. If you are in need of a parking space for your car, we have free and available spots along the fence of the big blue house with an adjacent red barn. Here you'll embark onto our 35 feet, 600 horse-powered RIB boat with a top speed of 50 knots, after being equipped with a floatation suit and life vest, of course. The boat ride will take us about 15 minutes.

Repvåg is 49km north of Olderfjord. To get there you follow road E69, and (from the south) take a right turn onto Fylkesvei (county road) 175. For those sailing on the Hurtigrute, you can get off at either Hammerfest, Havøysund or Honningsvåg. If you wish to travel to Finnmark by plane, the following airports are your best stops: Lakselv, Hammerfest, Alta or Honningsvåg. From there, you can get to Repvåg by car or bus.

During the season, we generally have one departure and arrival each day, and when it's getting close to your date of arrival, we'll get back to you with more info.

Useful tips

A lot of people contact us in the weeks leading up to the cloudberry season with inquiries about what to bring – so we'll make it easy for both you and ourselves by writing it here. First rule – don't bring more than you need. Be mindful of the fact that you're only one of 12 passengers, with each of their luggage. So be smart about how you pack your bag.

Indoor shoes or lightweight shoes you can use around the houses, that you don't need during the day when picking berries outside.

A cap or hat – it's easier to see the berries with some shade.

Insect repellent – there aren't a lot of bugs here, but on a damp day mosquitos can be quite the nuisance.

Allergy medicine – for those who might need this both in terms of pollen and potential wasp bites.

Sturdy hiking boots – we highly recommend that you use waterproof footwear that's a bit taller than regular shoes. If you want to bring rainboots instead, that's also an option.

Small bum bag of sorts to keep a water bottle in for when you stay from your backpack.

Binoculars – this is not necessary, but if you own some, we recommend you bring them with you.

Blister plasters

Lightweight rain clothing

Power bank for your phone

Other

We have a little shop where you can buy home made cakes and craft items.

All payments will be made via Vipps or debit/credit card.

The cell reception on the island is good.

Signups

Signups begin on the 2nd of January 2020! You can do this either by filling out the signup form on our webpage, or alternatively by sending us an email. Include the following info: name, telephone number, age, address and the number of nights you'll be staying. Additionally, please name which one of the two arrangements listed above you'll be following when picking cloudberries on our island.

For those who sign up for 2020, there'll be a Facebook group called "Tamsøyplukkere 2020" you can join. We recommend that those of you who are on Facebook to apply for membership in the group, and you'll get lots of updates and info there.

We have split the season into three periodic groups – each group lasting for 5 days. When you sign up, indicate which one you want to be a part of. According to our experience, the spots in the first two groups run out the fastest, but there really is not that much of a difference between the three.

No matter when we start, there will be berries for everyone, no matter which group you're in. We'll make a waiting list for those who did not immediately get a spot in the three groups. If you're patient, you'll most likely get a spot, due to cancellations and the unpredictable nature of this whole operation.

Cancellations

We highly encourage any and everyone who have to cancel, to do this as early as possible. This is incredibly important. Over the last couple of years we've seen an influx in signups and the amount of people on waiting lists, so there's almost certainly someone else who can take your place. But we, as well as them, need to know in advance for this to be possible. Since we don't know when the season starts, we of course understand that it can be challenging to make your schedule work with when the cloudberries decide to ripen. But to

make it as easy as possible, please let us know which periods won't work for you not matter what.

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