



**A skeleton on the outside** – Mainly made of calcium, a king crab's shell is actually its skeleton. They will even moult this skeleton and grow new ones a few times in their 20 to 30-year life cycle. The tough carapace acts as a natural shield against predators such as cod, halibut, and octopuses. The weight of the skeleton, however, as much as 24 pounds, means king crabs can't swim and are instead limited to clambering slowly along the sea floor with their long limbs.



**The fish that built Norway** – For more than a thousand years, Vikings produced and ate dried cod, even using it for trade. This makes it Norway's oldest export. The word skrei comes from the Norse word skreið which means 'fish that wanders'. And wander it does. Every winter and spring, cod migrate in large numbers to the Norwegian coast, sustaining important livelihoods for locals. Dry fish production and trade still thrives in Norway today, such as in the Lofoten Islands.



**A bulging brain** – Sperm whales are renowned for their large head and prominent domed foreheads. This feature comes in handy when you have the largest brain of any creature to have lived on earth. But is that all the sperm whales head encases? Scientists have found that their heads also hold considerable quantities of an oily substance called spermaceti. What is its purpose? No one ones for sure, but one theory is that it aids the animal's buoyancy.

## Go wild in Norway

A combination of Norway's northerly location, elongated coastline and diverse ecosystems have created a unique habitat for many species that don't live anywhere else. This is a land with more wildlife than people. Outside cities and towns, a vast wilderness exists where animals live as they've done for thousands of years.

### A whale of a time

On your Norwegian expedition, you'll have a chance to see the exotic wildlife of the far north from whales to king crab in pristine surroundings. The plankton blooms caused by long summer days attract various whale species, including pilot, minke, orca, humpback, and sperm whales. Seeing these creatures heave their

huge frames acrobatically out of the water is always a highlight.

### Iconic animals

You might see one of Norway's most beloved animals, the majestic reindeer. As long as their surroundings are calm and still, they will happily graze around you and even pose for photos if their Sámi owners are

nearby. Norway also has a spectacular array of bird species including adorable puffins, nicknamed the 'clowns of the sea'. Fifteen different bird of prey species are found here including the mighty white-tailed eagle.