

HIGHLIGHTS OF NORWAY

ITINERARY

DAY

1

DAY 1: ARRIVAL IN OSLO

When you arrive at Oslo's Gardermoen Airport, make your way into Oslo city centre. Many travellers opt to take the express train to Oslo Central Station, located close to your hotel. For those arriving early, we recommend spending the afternoon walking around and discovering the city. Sights include Munch Museum, Akershus fortress and the Oslo Opera House.

At 18:00, the group will meet for a welcome drink with the tour leader. This is the perfect occasion to get acquainted with your fellow travel companions for the next 9 days. Tonight, you dine on your own, before or after the drink meet up. We recommend strolling down to the Aker Brygge harbour, where there are many restaurants to choose from for dinner.

Spend the night at **Clarion Hotel the Hub** or similar.

Included:

- Welcome drink with tour leader and travel companions

HIGHLIGHTS: Aker Brygge - Akershus Fortress - Oslo

DAY

2

DAY 2: THE HIGHLIGHTS OF OSLO

This morning, the group will head straight into visiting the Norwegian capital with a local knowledgeable guide. The bus tour will take you along the famous landmarks of the city. The highlights include the beautiful Vigeland Sculpture Park, filled with over 200 metal and stone artworks, the Royal Palace, Akershus fortress, and City Hall. The guide will leave you at the Viking Ship Museum giving you time to explore the museum at your own pace. You will then have the rest of the day to explore at your own leisure.

For those that want to head back to the city centre or your hotel, we recommend the ferry that crosses from Bygdøy to the city centre. For those who may want to do a bit more sightseeing, we can recommend visiting the Fram museum or Kon-Tiki museum, in the same area. Tonight, you will dine on your own in Oslo.

Spend another night at the **Clarion Hotel the Hub** or similar.

Included:

- Guided sightseeing tour in Oslo (3 hours)
- Breakfast: continental breakfast buffet at the hotel

Estimated escorted time with tour leader as a group: 3 hours

HIGHLIGHTS: Akershus Fortress - Oslo - Oslo City Hall - The Viking Ship Museum - Vigeland Sculpture Park

DAY

3

DAY 3: RAILWAY JOURNEY TO TRONDHEIM & WALKING TOUR

This morning the group will head out early to Oslo Central Station to board the half-day journey aboard the Dovrebanen train. The station is only a short walk away from your hotel. Riding the Dovre Railway will really give you a great idea of how varied the terrain and altitude of Norway is, passing through 8km of tunnels, over the Dovre mountain plateau, and down the steep and winding descent to the Trondheim lowlands.

In the afternoon, upon your arrival in Trondheim, the group will be transferred by bus to the medieval Nidaros Cathedral for a guided tour. Afterwards you will meet with a local guide who will take you on a walking tour of

the city's landmarks. This includes the Bakklandet, an idyllic neighbourhood of Trondheim full of history and culture. After the walking tour, the group will dine together at the hotel restaurant.

Spend the night at **Scandic Nidelven Hotel** or similar.

Included:

- Dovrebanen train from Oslo to Trondheim (6.5h)
- Guided tour in Nidaros Cathedral including transfer
- Small group privately guided city walking tour in Trondheim
- Breakfast: continental breakfast buffet at the hotel
- Dinner at your hotel

Estimated escorted time with tour leader as a group: 10-11 hours (including train travel)

Estimated travel duration: 6.5 hours by train

HIGHLIGHTS: Bakklandet - Nidaros Cathedral/Nidarosdomen - Trondheim

DAY

4

DAY 4: NORWEGIAN COASTAL CRUISE & ATLANTIC OCEAN ROAD

Today, you will embark on a cruise that will have you discovering the maritime beauty of Norway. The group will head to the Trondheim harbour to board a Hurtigruten cruise ship for the Norwegian Coastal Voyage. It will then set sail along the Trondheim Fjord and past Hitra Island.

In the late afternoon, the group will participate in a guided shore excursion with other travellers from the cruise. The boat will dock at the city of Kristiansund, from where you'll be taken on a bus tour along the famous, scenic and winding Atlantic Road to the town of Molde, from where you will re-board the ship. This journey passes through some breathtaking coastal landscapes, and you will even get a local taste along the way. You will dine with the group and other travellers during the shore excursion.

Spend the night **on board the cruise ship**, in a private cabin with sea view.

Included:

- Hurtigruten's Norwegian Coastal Voyage from Trondheim including transfer to the ship
- Atlantic Ocean Roads excursion including dinner (4.5 hours)
- Breakfast: continental breakfast buffet at the hotel

Estimated escorted time with tour leader as a group: 5-6 hours (including the shore excursion)

Departure time of cruise: 10:00 (with check in from 9:00)

HIGHLIGHTS: Atlantic Ocean Road - Hurtigruten Coastal Voyage - Kristiansund - Molde - Trondheim

DAY

5

DAY 5: SAIL TO HISTORIC BERGEN & GUIDED WALKING TOUR

During the night, the ship will call at Ålesund, Torvik, Maløy, and Florø as the cruise weaves its way through tranquil islets before arriving at the final destination, Bergen. Enjoy the views as you eat breakfast on board the ship, before your arrival in Bergen, the 'Capital of the Fjords', around 14:30.

After leaving your bags at the hotel, the group will explore Bergen, Norway's second largest city, with a privately guided walking tour around its cultural and historical highlights. Among other sights, you will be able to stroll through the charming medieval quarters of Bryggen, a UNESCO World Heritage site at the heart of Bergen. You will then take the cable car up to nearby mountain, Fløyen, for stunning panoramic views over the city and surrounding fjords. Tonight, you dine on your own in Bergen.

Spend the night at **Bergen Børs Hotel** or similar.

Included:

- Transfer from Hurtigruten ship to hotel
- Privately guided walking tour of Bergen (2.5 hours)
- Fløibanen funicular round trip tickets

- Breakfast: continental breakfast buffet on the cruise

Estimated escorted time with tour leader as a group: 4-5 hours

Arrival time in Bergen: 14:30

HIGHLIGHTS: Bergen - Bryggen - Fløibanen Funicular (Funicular Railway)

DAY
6

DAY 6: THE CAPITAL OF THE FJORDS

Today you are free to explore Bergen at your own pace. You can go for a walk into the city centre and explore in more depth the sights you may have seen the day before. You could also take a day of leisurely shopping and tasting the local cuisine in one of the many cafés or restaurants. We recommend visiting the Fantoft Stave Church or the Gamlehaugen, the Norwegian royal residence in Bergen. If you enjoyed the Fløibanen funicular, you may want to take the cable car up Mount Ulriken to enjoy more of the views. Tonight, you will dine on your own in Bergen.

Spend another night at **Bergen Børs Hotel** or similar.

Included:

- Breakfast: continental breakfast buffet at the hotel

HIGHLIGHTS: Bergen

DAY
7

DAY 7: NORWAY IN A NUTSHELL® TO FLÅM

Today we head on an adventurous ride through some of Norway's most beautiful natural landscapes joining the Norway in a Nutshell® journey towards Oslo. This train ride, ranked amongst the 20 best train journeys in the world, takes you over Norway's mountainous "rooftop" and through charming villages,

From Bergen, you will board a train to Voss, then switching to a coach bus for the second stretch of your journey. The bus will descend the thrilling Stalheimskleiva, Northern Europe's steepest stretch of road, to reach Gudvangen. There, you will board a scenic cruise along the famous Nærøfjord, the narrowest fjord in Europe. This UNESCO World Heritage protected site is perhaps the most breathtaking section of the Sognefjord, Norway's longest and deepest fjord. The cruise will then arrive in Flåm, a charming village where the group will dine together and spend the night.

Spend the night at the **Fretheim Hotel** or similar.

Included:

- Norway in a Nutshell® railway journey from Bergen to Oslo (with an overnight stop in Flåm)
- Breakfast: continental breakfast buffet at the hotel
- Dinner at the hotel

Estimated escorted time with tour leader as a group: 5-6 hours (including train, bus & boat travel)

Estimated travel duration: 5 hours total including train, bus and cruise

HIGHLIGHTS: Aurlandsfjord - Fjords in Norway - Flåm - NORWAY IN A NUTSHELL® - Nærøfjord - Sognefjord - Stalheimskleiva

DAY
8

DAY 8: VISITING FLÅM & NORWEGIAN FJORDS

Spend the day exploring and witnessing the beauty of the surrounding fjords. At 10:00, the group will head up to the Stegastein viewpoint. The viewing platform extends about 30 meters from the cliffside and 650m above the fjords below, to offer extraordinary and unbeatable views. After some time at the viewing platform, you will stop at the Ægir Brewery on the way back down to Flåm. There, you and the group will be treated to Viking tasting platters for lunch, and some locally brewed beers.

You have the rest of the afternoon to explore on your own or take part in an optional activity. There are many hiking paths around for those who may want to explore nature. You also get free admission to the Flåm Railway Documentation Centre, where you can learn about the construction of this railway, which has earned the title of one of the world's steepest railway lines. Tonight you will dine on your own in Flåm.

Spend another night at the **Fretheim Hotel** or similar.

Included:

- Breakfast: continental breakfast buffet at the hotel
- Stegastein viewpoint bus tour
- Viking platter at Ægir brewery for lunch

HIGHLIGHTS: Flåm

DAY

9

DAY 9: FLÅM RAILWAY & RETURN TO OSLO

This morning, the group will board their journey back toward Oslo. It will start with experiencing first hand the famous Flåm Railway, as it climbs 900 metres over the span of 20 kilometers, winding its way up to Myrdal station. At Myrdal, you will switch to a different railway line, taking you directly to Oslo. This train ride, ranked amongst the 20 best train journeys in the world, takes you over Norway's mountainous "rooftop" and through charming villages like Gol and Geilo.

Finally, you will reach Oslo in the afternoon. After settling in your hotel, you will gather with the group and tour leader for one last dinner, a chance to share your favourite memories from your Norwegian tour.

Spend the night at **Clarion Hotel the Hub** or similar.

Included:

- Norway in a Nutshell® railway journey from Flåm to Oslo
- Breakfast: continental breakfast buffet at the hotel
- Dinner at restaurant

Estimated escorted time with tour leader as a group: 7-8 hours (including train travel)

Estimated travel duration: 7 hours total including trains

HIGHLIGHTS: Flåm Railway (Flamsbana) - NORWAY IN A NUTSHELL® - Oslo

DAY

10

DAY 10: DEPARTURE FROM OSLO

When it's finally time for your trip to come to an end, make your way back to Oslo Gardermoen Airport. Depending on your preferred method, you can take the Flytoget express train from Oslo Central Station or a taxi directly from your hotel.

If your flight home is in the afternoon, enjoy some last-minute shopping, visit a bit more of Oslo, or relax at a café, enjoying the last few moments of this amazing journey.

Whatever your needs, we are here to help. If you have any questions about our packages or services, please do not hesitate to contact us.