

# WONDERS OF THE NORWEGIAN FJORDS & HURTIGRUTEN CRUISE

## ITINERARY

DAY

**1**

### DAY 1: ARRIVAL IN OSLO

When you arrive at Oslo's Gardermoen Airport, make your way into Oslo's city centre. Many travellers opt to take the express train to Oslo Central Station, but we can arrange a private transfer for you (at additional cost). For those arriving early, we recommend exploring **Oslo** by foot, spending the afternoon at sights including the Munch Museum, Akershus fortress, **Oslo Opera House**, and the **Akerbrygge** area.

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

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Aker Brygge - Oslo - Oslo Opera House

DAY

**2**

### DAY 2: EXPLORE THE HIGHLIGHTS OF OSLO

This morning, get an early start to explore the Norwegian capital at your own pace. We recommend booking a guided bus tour that will take you along the famous landmarks of the city. Highlights include the beautiful **Vigeland Sculpture Park**, the **Royal Palace**, **Akershus** fortress, and **Oslo City Hall**.

Another option is to tour Oslo on your own visiting some of the above attractions, or others like the Viking Ship Museum, Fram Polar Ship Museum and Karl Johans street. You will then have the rest of the day to explore at your own leisure.

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

**Included:**

- Breakfast: Continental Breakfast Buffet

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Oslo - Oslo City Hall - The Royal Palace (Oslo) - Vigeland Sculpture Park

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### DAY 3: RAILWAY JOURNEY TO TRONDHEIM

This morning you will head out early to Oslo Central Station to board the half-day (6.5-hour) journey aboard the Dovrebanen train. The train route passes over the **Dovre mountain** plateau through historic towns and nature preservations and includes great variations in terrain and altitude. The journey concludes with a steep, curvy descent down to the lowlands where **Trondheim** is located.

Spend the afternoon discovering Trondheim, known as a Medieval city, including **Bakklandet**, an idyllic neighbourhood full of history and culture. Here you will find the remarkable **Nidaros Cathedral** - with architecture that rivals Paris's Notre Dame, as well as other attractions such as the Ringve museum and gardens, Munkholmen and the Old town bridge.

Spend the night at **Thon Hotel Nidaros** or similar.

**Included:**

- Direct train between Oslo and Trondheim
- Breakfast: Continental Breakfast Buffet

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Bakklandet - Dovrefjell-Sunndalsfjella National Park - Nidaros Cathedral/Nidarosdomen - Old

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## DAY 4: HURTIGRUTEN COASTAL VOYAGE

Today, you will embark on a cruise that will have you discovering the maritime beauty of Norway. You 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 boat will dock at the city of **Kristiansund** and the town of **Molde**. This journey passes through some breathtaking coastal landscapes, and the final port of the day is a brief stop in Ålesund, after midnight.

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

**Included:**

- Overnight cruise on Hurtigruten from Trondheim to Bergen
- Breakfast: Continental Breakfast Buffet

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Hurtigruten Coastal Voyage - Kristiansund - Molde

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## DAY 5: SAIL TO HISTORIC BERGEN

During the night, the ship calls at Torvik, Maløy, and Florø as the journey weaves through islets and stunning landscapes before coming within view of its final destination—**Bergen**. Here you will disembark early in the afternoon to enjoy some leisure time as you wish. Despite being an international city, Bergen, “The Capital of the Fjords”, has all the charms of a small town. Here you’ll find **Bryggen**, a UNESCO World Heritage site, along with remarkably preserved old houses, a lively fish and flower market, cable cars offering stunning views, great museums and more.

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

**Included:**

- Breakfast: Continental Breakfast Buffet

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Bergen - Bryggen - Fishmarket

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## DAY 6: THE CAPITAL OF THE FJORDS

Continue to explore beautiful Bergen today. We recommend riding the **Fløibanen Funicular** to Mount Fløyen to enjoy panoramic views over the city or to take a cable car up Mt. Ulriken. Bergen is surrounded by 7 mountains so this is an ideal place for hiking. Bergen is also known for its museums that cover the city’s history, architecture, music and art. We recommend visiting the Edvard Grieg museum and the KODE art museum, which is Scandinavia’s largest museum for art and music. If you wish to explore the fjords further, optional fjord cruises are available.

At 18:00, you will join your group for a welcome drink with your tour guide. This is the perfect opportunity to get acquainted with your fellow travel companions for the next 6 days. Tonight, you dine on your own in Bergen.

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

**Included:**

- Welcome Drink and Group Information Meeting with your Guide
- Breakfast: Continental Breakfast Buffet

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Fløibanen Funicular (Funicular Railway) - King Håkon’s Hall - Maria Church - Rosenkrantz Tower

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## DAY 7: EXPLORING THE MAJESTIC FJORDS ROUTE

This morning the guide will meet you at the hotel and we will start the first leg of the trip by heading to Norway's adventure capital, **Voss** and the beautiful **Tvindefossen** waterfall. Your journey will then continue to Sogndal along the Sognefjord—Norway's longest and deepest fjord—taking in sights including the towns of Stalheim, before continuing to the beautiful **Aurlandsfjord**, where we will make a 3-hour stop. Here, you will experience the famous Flåm Railway, or **Flåmsbana**, a steep train ride between **Flåm** and Myrdal—a treat for photographers or train enthusiasts alike!

After a scenic drive, the tour will make a stop at **Stegastein**, where you can enjoy a panoramic view of **Aurlandsfjord**. End the day with local and fresh dinner at the exclusive and unique Bestebakken in Hafslø.

Spend the night at **Bestebakken** or similar.

### Included:

- Flåmsbana Railway Journey - Return Tickets
- Visit to Stegastein Viewpoint
- Ferry on Lærdalsfjorden (30 Minutes)
- Breakfast: Norwegian Breakfast Buffet
- 3-Course Dinner at Bestebakken

*Driving distance approx. 238 km / 148 mi*

*Estimated escorted time with guide as a group: 9-10 hours (including 30-minute ferry crossing and 2 hour railway journey from Flam to Myrdal)*

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Aurlandsfjord - Fjords in Norway - Flåm - Flåm Railway (Flamsbana) - Sognefjord - Stalheimskleiva - Stegastein Viewing Platform - Voss

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## DAY 8: SOGNEFJELLET NATIONAL TOURIST ROUTE & THE SKYWALK

This morning we will visit **Urnes**, one of the oldest stave churches in Norway, which is included on UNESCO's World Heritage list. To reach the church we will board a ferry from the charming village of Svolvørn before making our way north along Lustrafjorden to the famous National Tourist Route "**Sognefjellsvegen**". This route is the highest and most impressive mountain pass in Northern Europe. The landscape reveals vast, towering mountains as it passes through the **Jotunheimen** national park.

From Lom, the tour heads to the **Dalsnibba skywalk**, which is Europe's highest fjord viewpoint by road. There you will enjoy sweeping views of Geiranger, as well as across to the mountains and the mighty Blåbreen glacier. Our journey then continues to the **Geiranger** village where you will enjoy dinner with the group.

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

### Included:

- Guided Tour of Urnes Stave Church
- Ferry Trip (65 Minutes) through Geirangerfjord
- Dalsnibba Skywalk\*
- Breakfast: Continental Breakfast Buffet
- Dinner at the Hotel

*Driving distance approx. 240 km / 149 mi*

*Estimated escorted time with guide as a group: 9-10 hours*

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Dalsnibba - Geiranger - Jotunheimen National Park - Sognefjellet National Tourist Route - Urnes Stave Church

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## DAY 9: EXPLORE THE MAJESTIC GEIRANGER FJORD

After breakfast you can spend the morning on your own, exploring Geiranger until noon. With its fairytale landscape, Geiranger has a lot to offer for nature lovers like snow-covered mountain tops wild waterfalls, lush green vegetation and the deep blue fjord. You can go hiking, kayaking, go on a rib boat safari, relax at the nearby spa or visit the chocolate factory in town.

After lunch, we will start our journey to **Loen** with a 90-minute ferry through the UNESCO-protected Geirangerfjord where you see famous waterfalls like the **Seven Sisters**, the **Suitor**, and the **Bridal Veil**, along with abandoned fjord farms in the mountains. The sightseeing ferry ends in the small village of **Hellesylt** where we start the drive south towards Loen.

Upon arrival in Loen the group will enjoy dinner at Hotel Alexandra.

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

**Included:**

- Ferry Through Geiranger Fjord Including Audio Guide
- Breakfast: Continental Breakfast Buffet
- Dinner at Hotel Alexandra

*Driving distance approx. 61 km / 38 mi*

*Estimated escorted time with guide as a group: 5 – 6 hours (including 90-minute ferry crossing)*

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Brudesloret Waterfall - Friaren Waterfall - Geirangerfjord - Loen - Seven Sisters & Bridal Veil

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## DAY 10: LOEN SKYLIFT & TWISTY ROADS

We will start the morning by boarding the magnificent **Loen Skylift**, a cable car that will transport us to the altitude of 1011 meters with amazing views of the fjord. Later, the tour will continue south towards Byrkjelo village where we will make a short stop for a rest.

The drive will continue south along the scenic lakes Jølstravanet and Hakedalsvatnet, before travelling the scenic route of **Gaularfjellet** where the road twists and turns through nine hairpin bends, revealing jaw-dropping scenery. We will make a short stop at Utsikten where you can admire the panoramic views of towering mountains and lush valleys.

Next, our journey continues to the historical hotel at **Balestrand** where you will enjoy the last group dinner.

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

**Included:**

- Entrance to Loen Skylift
- Breakfast: Continental Breakfast Buffet
- Dinner at your Hotel

*Driving distance approx. 190 km / 118 mi.*

*Estimated escorted time with guide as a group: 7-8 hours*

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Balestrand - Gaularfjellet - Loen - Loen Skylift - Sognefjord

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## DAY 11: JOURNEY BACK TO BERGEN

Start today with a visit to the Cider House, a family-run organic orchard and cider producer, located in the village of Balestrand. Here you can sample some cider and non-alcoholic beverages and have a tour of the farm.

After our visit to the Cider House, we will head back to Bergen, with a short ferry crossing from Balestrand to Vagnes. We will pass Vik village where you find Hove Church, the oldest stone building in the Sogn region. You will be driven over Vik mountain to Myrkdalen, the centre of agriculture for the region, where there lies a beautiful cultivated landscape. We will then return to Voss and continue back to Bergen, where you will spend the evening.

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

**Included:**

- Cider House visit
- Breakfast: Continental Breakfast Buffet

*Driving distance approx. 195 km / 121 mi.*

*Estimated escorted time with guide as a group: 6-7 hours*

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Balestrand - Bergen - Sognefjord

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**12****DAY 12: DEPARTURE**

When it's time for your Norwegian adventure to come to an end, you can either take the airport bus from one of the many departure points in the Bergen city centre or you can take a taxi directly from your hotel to Bergen-Flesland Airport. If your flight is in the afternoon, you can choose to enjoy some last-minute shopping, visit one of Bergen's many museums or relax at a café, enjoying the last few moments of this amazing journey.

**Included:**

- Breakfast: Continental Breakfast Buffet

*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.*

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