

# SCENIC NORWAY - GRAND ITINERARY

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## DAY 1: WELCOME TO OSLO

When you arrive at Oslo's Gardermoen Airport, make your way into **Oslo's** city centre by taking the express train to Oslo Central Station, or through a private transfer Nordic Visitor will arrange for you (at additional cost). For those arriving early, we recommend exploring Oslo by foot, spending the afternoon at sights including the **Royal Palace**, Akershus Fortress, **Oslo City Hall**, Oslo Opera House, and the **Aker Brygge** area.

Spend the night in Oslo.

**Attractions:** Aker Brygge, Oslo, Oslo Opera House

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## DAY 2: EXPLORE THE HIGHLIGHTS OF OSLO

This morning, get an early start to explore the Norwegian capital. 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 the night in Oslo.

**Attractions:** Oslo, Oslo City Hall, The Royal Palace (Oslo)

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## DAY 3: JOURNEY TO BERGEN

Start the day early by heading to the Oslo Central Station to board the Bergensbanen train for your scenic journey to **Bergen** over the mountainous rooftops of Norway. This route passes through the charming villages of **Gol** and **Geilo** on your way to Myrdal Station, where the train continues to Bergen, the day's final destination. The journey is approximately 6.5 hours and you will arrive in the afternoon in Bergen.

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 in Bergen.

**Attractions:** Bergen, Bryggen, Fishmarket

## DAY 4: WATERFALLS & MAJESTIC VIEWS

Start the first leg of your self-drive trip by collecting your rental car and heading to Norway's adventure capital, **Voss**, which is home to 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 reaching the beautiful **Aurlandsfjord** and the town of **Flåm**. We recommend stopping in Flåm and riding the renowned Flåmsbana railway, a steep train ride between Flåm and Myrdal—a treat for photographers or train enthusiasts alike!

A stop at **Stegastein viewpoint** is recommended, where you can enjoy a panoramic view of Aurlandsfjord. You will then take a short ferry ride before driving towards Sogndal, where you will spend the night.

Spend the night in Sogndal.

*Driving distance: 237 km / 148 miles*

*Estimated driving duration: 4 hours (without stops)*

**Attractions:** Aurlandsfjord, Flåm, Gudvangen, Nærøyfjord, Sognefjord, Stalheimskleiva, Stegastein Viewing Platform, Voss

## DAY 5: SCENIC FJORDS & NATIONAL PARKS

Today you have a short drive ahead of you and a full day to explore. Drive along the **Fjærlands** road towards the Jostedal glacier, which is mainland Europe's largest icecap. We recommend stopping at the Norwegian glacier museum to learn more about the geology of the region. Before you reach the quaint village of **Loen**, you will drive along the magnificent **Nordfjord** and enjoy the dazzling turquoise lakes, cascading waterfalls, vast glaciers and steep mountains.

For those that want the ultimate panoramic view over the region, the **Loen skylift** is a must. The skylift takes you to the top of Mt. Hoven where you can take enjoy the magnificent views of the fjord landscape and **Jostedalsbreen National park**.

Spend the night in Loen

*Driving distance: 128 km / 80 miles*

*Estimated driving duration: 2 hours (without stops)*

**Attractions:** Fjærland, Jostedalsbreen National Park, Loen, Loen Skylift, Nordfjorden

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## DAY 6: EXPLORE GEIRANGERFJORD

After breakfast, you will leave Loen, driving to **Geiranger**. Board a 65-minute ferry ride through the UNESCO-protected **Geirangerfjord** where you see famous waterfalls like the **Seven Sisters, the Sutor, and the Bridal Veil**, along with abandoned fjord farms in the mountains.

With its fairytale landscape, Geiranger has a lot to offer for nature lovers like snow-covered mountain tops, lush green vegetation and the deep blue fjord. You can hike one of the many trails in the region, go kayaking, take a rib boat safari, relax at the nearby spa or visit the chocolate factory in town.

Spend the night in Geiranger

*Driving distance: 82 km / 51 miles*

*Estimated driving duration: 2 hours and 30 (without stops)*

**Attractions:** Geirangerfjord, Seven Sisters & Bridal Veil

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## DAY 7: GEIRANGER AT LEISURE

Spend the day in lovely Geiranger at your leisure. We recommend soaking in the fantastic fjord scenery on an optional activity like kayaking or joining a rib boat safari. It's also recommended to drive up to **Dalsnibba** skywalk which offers magnificent views of Geiranger, the fjord, towering mountains and vast Blåbreen glacier. For those after some pampering, the spa at Hotel Union is ideal to relax and get a treatment or two, followed by a trip to the chocolate factory in town for a little more indulgence.

Spend another night in Geiranger.

**Attractions:** Dalsnibba, Geirangerfjord

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## DAY 8: TROLLSTIGEN TWISTS & TURNS

From Geiranger, drive up the steep and winding Ørnevegen, "**The Eagle Road**", to Eidsdal, where you will take a short, scenic ferry ride to Linge. If you enjoy twists and turns, you will be very impressed with the drive up **Trollstigen**, "The Troll Ladder". The road twists through 11 hairpin bends making it an exciting ride.

After passing the high mountains, continue to **Ålesund**, a captivating city with distinctive character. Here you also have the opportunity to visit the Atlantic Sea Park and enjoy stunning views from **Fjellstua**.

Spend the night in Ålesund.

*Driving distance: 191 km / 117 mi.*

*Estimated driving duration: 3 hours and 40 minutes (without stops)*

**Attractions:** Ålesund, Eagle Road (Ørnevegen), Mount Aksla & Fjellstua, Trollstigen

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## DAY 9: ATLANTIC OCEAN ROAD TO KRISTIANSUND

This morning you will drive to Vestnes and take a short ferry ride to the town of **Molde** before heading to the fishing village of **Bud**. During the 16th and 17th centuries, Bud was the most important trading centre between Bergen and Trondheim and this is a historically significant slice of Norway's economic past. From Bud you will drive on the **Atlantic Ocean Road**, with the vast sea on one side and majestic snow-capped mountains on the other. End the day in **Kristiansund**, a charming city built on five islands with beautiful views from its natural harbour.

Spend the night in Kristiansund.

*Driving distance: 185 km / 115 mi.*

*Estimated driving duration: 3 hours and 30 minutes (without stops)*

**Attractions:** Atlantic Ocean Road, Kristiansund, Molde

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## DAY 10: THE CAPITAL OF THE VIKINGS

Continue north towards **Trondheim** to explore this vibrant port city. Here you will find the remarkable **Nidaros Cathedral**, as well as countless other attractions like the Ringve Museum and Gardens, the Trøndelag Folk Museum, the charming neighbourhood of **Bakklandet** by the old wharf and much more.

If you're looking for some relaxing activities today, you can take a short boat trip to the old fortress island of Munkholmen ("the Monk's Islet") or hop on the tram at St. Olavs gate in the city centre for a scenic 20-minute ride up to Lian in the Bymarka forest.

Spend the night in Trondheim.

*Driving distance: 197 km / 123 mi.*

*Estimated driving duration: 3 hours and 30 minutes (without stops)*

**Attractions:** Bakklandet, Nidaros Cathedral/Nidarosdomen, Old Town Bridge, Trondheim

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## DAY 11: EXPLORING THE COASTLINE OF NORWAY

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 the **Hurtigruten cruise** ship, with your rental car, for the Norwegian Coastal Voyage. It will then set sail along the Trondheim Fjord and past Hitra Island.

In the evening, 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 Hurtigruten, in a private cabin.

**Attractions:** Hurtigruten Cruise, Kristiansund

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## DAY 12: SAIL TO HISTORIC BERGEN

During the night, the ship calls at Torvik, Maløy, and Florø coming within view of its final destination –**Bergen**. Here you will disembark in the early afternoon to enjoy some leisure time and to drop off the rental car either this evening or tomorrow morning. In Bergen, spend some time shopping or visiting a cafe or two.

Spend the night in Bergen.

**Attractions:** Bergen, Bryggen, Fishmarket, Fløibanen Funicular (Funicular Railway)

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## DAY 13: BERGEN AT LEISURE

Continue to explore beautiful Bergen today by visiting Rosenkrantz Tower and King Hakon's Hall for a little bit of history. Bergen is also known for its museums that cover the city's 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 spend more time in nature, there are optional activities available such as a fjord cruise that sails down Hardangerfjord, giving spectacular views of Voringfossen waterfall.

Spend another night in Bergen.

**Attractions:** Fløibanen Funicular (Funicular Railway), King Håkon's Hall, Maria Church, Rosenkrantz Tower

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## DAY 14: JOURNEY SOUTH TO STAVANGER

Enjoy an early breakfast, check out of your hotel and head to the Bergen bus terminal, located in the heart of city centre. There you will board the coastal bus, which takes you along the rugged west coast of Norway, through sweeping fjords and dotted islands to **Stavanger**. The bus ride includes two ferry crossings, where you can stretch your legs, visit the cafeteria and enjoy the view from the passenger deck before arriving at Stavanger.

Stavanger is the fourth-largest city in Norway is a favourite among visitors for its lively city centre, timbered old town (**Gamle Stavanger**) and historic harbour area. Here you can find an array of interesting museums and attractions along with great restaurants and cafes.

Spend the night in Stavanger.

**Attractions:** Gamle Stavanger (Old Town of Stavanger), Stavanger, Stavanger Cathedral

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## DAY 15: HIKING AT THE PULPIT ROCK

Near Stavanger is the gorgeous **Lysefjord**, which includes the famous natural landmarks of the **Pulpit Rock** (Preikestolen). You will join a self-guided tour, boarding a boat, followed by a bus ride, before embarking on a scenic 4-hour hike (approx. 6km). Starting from the Pulpit cabin, you can enjoy the wild and beautiful nature on the way to Pulpit Rock, traversing hilly terrain with an altitude difference of 350 metres. Transportation to the starting point of the hike and back takes a little over one hour each way. After the hike, you will take the ferry back to Stavanger.

Spend another night in Stavanger.

*Please note if you prefer joining a boat tour and skip the hike, you can choose so during the booking steps online (see our optional activities).*

**Attractions:** Lysefjord, Pulpit Rock (Preikestolen)

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## DAY 16: DEPARTURE FROM STAVANGER

When it's time for your Norway adventure to come to an end, make your way to Stavanger Airport. Depending on your preferred method, you can take the the airport bus from one of the many departure points in the Stavanger city centre or you can take a taxi directly from your hotel to Stavanger-Sola Airport. If your flight is in the afternoon, you can choose to enjoy some last-minute shopping, visit one of Stavanger's many museums or relax at a café, enjoying the last few moments of your holiday.

*For those departing from Oslo or Bergen, we offer train transfer back to Oslo and a bus transfer to Bergen in our optional activities. Please keep in mind you might need to book an additional night if your flight is early in the day.*

*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.*

Nordic Visitor | Tel: +354 578 20 80 | [info@nordicvisitor.com](mailto:info@nordicvisitor.com) | [nordicvisitor.com](http://nordicvisitor.com)