

Discover the Norwegian Fjords

Coastal Cruise and Scenic Rail Journeys
7 nights/8 days



Photo by Agurtxane Concellon / Hurtigruten

Discover the fjords and mountains of western Norway by sea and rail on this 7-night adventure. Your journey begins in the port of Bergen, where you'll have time to explore the city's UNESCO-listed medieval harbour and colourful outdoor markets before embarking on an overnight cruise to Alesund and Andalnes via the famous Geiranger Fjord. Scenic rail journeys on the Rauma and Dovre railway lines, taking you through the Romsdal Alps and along the shore of Lake Mjosa, also form part of the adventure. The itinerary ends in Oslo, Norway's vibrant capital.

This itinerary is intended as a spring, summer and autumn tour, though it can be adapted to suit travel in winter – please contact us for more details.

Day 1: Arrive Bergen

Arrive Bergen Airport and transfer independently to the Clarion Admiral Hotel, where you stay one night.

Bergen is Norway's second largest city, and arguably its most colourful. Bounded by mountains and sea, it has a unique and fascinating history as a trading port, most visible in its beautifully preserved late medieval harbour containing the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Bryggen, a collection of former trade buildings dating back to the era of the Hanseatic League. Your hotel in Bergen, the Clarion Admiral, is perfectly positioned for exploring this history, as it enjoys a prime location overlooking Bryggen Wharf, with its brightly-painted wooden buildings and narrow passageways, and the Seven Mountains.



Day 2: Cruise departs from Bergen

Today is free for you to explore Bergen at your own pace. There is much to see and do! Many visitors like to take the hop-on hop-off bus, which visits several of the city's most prominent sites, including Bryggen, Bergen Museum, the fish market, and the National Stage, though it's also possible to explore much of the city on foot, with many of Bergen's attractions centred on the harbour area and Bryggen Wharf.

For an enjoyable day tour, we suggest that you start with a stroll along Bryggen Wharf, with its magnificent merchant trading houses, then take the funicular railway to Fløyen (a short 10 minute ride) for spectacular views of the city and coast, and then finish with a trip to the KODE Art Museum, which contains works by Munch and others, and/or Bergen's famous fish market.

Early evening, board the Hurtigruten cruise vessel sailing north out of Hjelte Fjord. This scenic stretch of coastline offers stunning views, which you can enjoy from the ship's deck or lounge area.

Overnight in a twin-bedded ocean view cabin, with breakfast included.

Hurtigruten Cruise – Boarding & Departure

The Hurtigruten cruise vessel departs from Bergen port at 21:30, though boarding is available from as early as 15:00. Last check-in is 30 minutes before departure. We recommend boarding at approx. 18:00, allowing you a full day to explore Bergen as well as ample time to settle into your cabin and familiarise yourself with the ship facilities before departure. Supper is available on board the vessel (payable directly), or you may prefer to dine in Bergen prior to boarding.

Day 3: Alesund, Geiranger Fjord & Molde

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast as you continue your journey north, sailing past Nord Fjord and the dramatic West Cape Mountain Plateau, which looms almost 500 feet above sea level, before arriving in Alesund.

Set amidst fjords and mountains, the small port city of Alesund (population: 50,000) is considered by many to be the most attractive city in Norway. Though it has a long history as a maritime trading port, most of the present-day city was built in the early 20th century after fires destroyed almost all of Alesund's original structures. From this destruction the city was reborn, with most of the structures rebuilt in the Art Nouveau style of the day, giving it a distinctive identity even amongst Norway's many

vibrant cities. The city is built along a narrow peninsula and across a series of small islets, with almost all of the structures positioned at the water's edge, hence its moniker as the "Venice of the North".

After sailing through Alesund, you detour east through narrow fjords to arrive at the UNESCO-listed Geiranger Fjord. Only 16km in length, Geiranger is one of the smallest fjords in Norway, but for many visitors it is also the most spectacular. Enclosed by mountains, the deep, blue waters of the fjord present a striking contrast with the forested slopes and snow-capped peaks that surround it. You'll sail to the end of the fjord, past the Seven Sisters and Bridal Veil waterfalls, to arrive at the small settlement of Geiranger, from where you can admire what is amongst the most photographed landscape views in all of Norway.

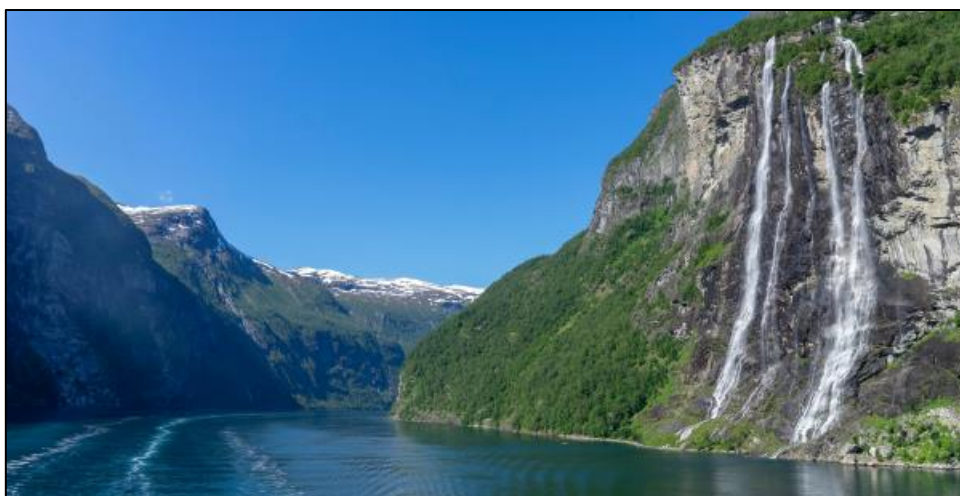


Exploring Alesund

There are a number of activities that can be enjoyed in Alesund today, in place of the cruise to Geiranger Fjord. The Hurtigruten vessel will make two stops in Alesund, briefly in the morning and again in the early evening. Guests who choose to disembark in the morning will have a full day to explore the city independently or to take part in a number of guided activities offered by Hurtigruten (at additional cost) – these include kayaking on the city's waterways, as well as guided walks to discover the city's architectural highlights – before re-boarding the vessel in the evening and continuing on to Molde.

Optional Activity

From Geiranger Fjord, you sail back out of the mouth of the fjord to Alesund, where you stop for one hour, and then on to the fjord town of Molde, where you dock at approx. 10pm. On arrival in Molde, check-in at the Scandic Seilet Hotel, situated on the edge of the water with views of the fjord and the Romsdal Alps.



Day 4: Molde to Andalsnes

This morning is free for you to explore Molde independently. There is lots to see and experience in and around Molde. Most visitors will want to see the Atlantic Road, which is a 3-hour round trip

excursion that can be pre-booked as a guided group tour. Known as the *Atlanterhavsvegen* in Norwegian, the road connects Molde to Kristiansund via the island of Averoy, spanning 8.3 kms. An incredible feat of engineering, the road incorporates 8 bridges over a series of man-made islands. It has been designated a Cultural Heritage Site.



If you prefer to stretch your legs, the walk from Molde to Varden will not disappoint. This is a 3km walk (approx. 250m height gain) through lush forest to the Varden viewpoint, which offers impressive views of the fjord, mountains, and islands.

Atlantic Road Bus Tour

Optional Activity

Travel the Atlantic Road on a shared bus tour from Molde to Kristiansund, and then back. On a clear day you'll enjoy beautiful scenery en route, and will stop to explore Eldhusoya Island and the town of Kristiansund. The roundtrip tour from Molde lasts approximately 3 hours and is best booked in advance.

Late this afternoon, take the bus from Molde to Andalsnes, a one-hour journey which involves a brief ferry crossing from Solsnes to Afarnes (the bus will board the ferry). On arrival in Andalsnes, check-in at the Grand Hotel Bellevue for dinner and overnight night.



Day 5: Andalsnes to Lillehammer

The morning is free for you to explore Andalsnes. This small town is situated in a broad valley where the mouth of the River Rauma meets the Romsdal Fjord against a backdrop of lofty mountain peaks. Unsurprisingly, Andalsnes is one of Norway's most popular walking destinations, serving as a primary gateway to the Romsdal Alps.

There are lots of walks that are easily accessible from Andalsnes, including several that begin from town, such as the popular trek to the Rampestreken Viewpoint. Another option is to hire an electric car from the hotel and explore at your leisure. It is possible to reach several viewpoints in the Romsdal Alps by vehicle with minimal walking involved.

Rampestreken Viewpoint Trek

Side Excursion

Among the more accessible hikes from Andalsnes is the climb to the Rampestreken Viewpoint, where a steel platform offers dramatic views of Andalsnes, the Romsdal Fjord, and the surrounding peaks. The path is easy to follow, with wooden and stone stairs (the latter built by Nepalese Sherpas) supporting the steepest sections of the route, and takes about 2½ to 3 hours assuming a steady pace. The view from the viewpoint is spectacular, but please note that the height gain is 520 metres and the last section is quite demanding!

Late this afternoon, board the Rauma Railway express train bound for Lillehammer via Dombas. This 3½ hour rail journey covers a wonderfully scenic route, with dramatic views of fjords, mountains and waterfalls! The train crosses 32 bridges and stops briefly at the vertical rockface of *Trollveggen*, or “Troll Wall”, before arriving in Dombas, where you will need to make a brief transfer onto the train to Lillehammer.



You stay tonight at the Clarion Collection Hotel Hammer in the centre of Lillehammer.

Day 6: Lillehammer to Oslo

This morning is free for you to explore Lillehammer.



Founded in the early 19th century as a merchant town, Lillehammer is perhaps best known today as the host city of the 1994 Winter Olympic Games. Many travel to Lillehammer to visit the Olympic Park, which is open to visitors year-round (the Lysgårdsbakkene Ski Jumping Arena and chairlift offers one of the best views of the city!) Elsewhere in Lillehammer, the Kunstruseum Art Gallery provides exhibitions of contemporary art as well as collections by famous Norwegian painters, including Johan Dahl and Munch, while the Maihaugen open-air folk museum presents 140 reconstructed buildings from all over the region, of which the centrepiece is the Garmo Stave Church, whose wooden structures date back to the 15th century.

This afternoon, board the Dovre line train bound for Oslo, a journey of 2½ hours, with much of the route along the shoreline of beautiful Lake Mjosa, Norway’s largest lake.

On arrival in Oslo, check-in at the centrally located Thon Opera Hotel for two nights, with the rest of the day free to explore the city.



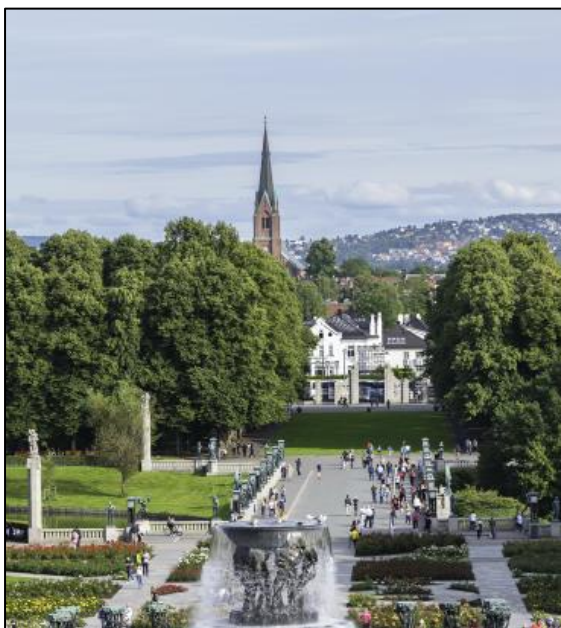
Easily accessible from your hotel are several of Oslo's most prominent attractions, including the Opera House, which is located on Oslo's waterfront with magnificent views of the city from its roof plaza, and the Munch Museum, which opened in 2020 and houses several of the Norwegian artist's most famous works. A tour of the museum and opera house can be combined with an evening walk along Oslo's waterfront.

Oslo Pass

For an independent tour of Oslo, we recommend purchasing a 24-hour Oslo Pass. The Oslo Pass is available from your hotel and from many tourist sites, and grants unlimited travel on the whole municipal transport system as well as free admission to most of the city's museums and historic attractions.

Day 7: Oslo

Today is free for you to continue your independent explorations of Oslo.



Although the city conurbation is very large, Oslo's city centre itself is relatively contained and has a good transfer system, making it easy to navigate. Amongst its attractions are several fascinating museums, with highlights including the Viking Ships Museum, which contains a collection of beautifully-preserved Viking-era ships; the Ibsen Museum, which is housed within the former home Norway's most renowned playwright; and the Fram Museum, which tells the story of Norway's early Polar explorers.

This morning, we recommend taking the boat over Oslo Fjord to the "museum island" of Bygdoy, where the Fram, Viking Ship, and Norwegian Folk Museums are located. From Bygdoy, it is a short journey by bus (or if preferred, by boat and tram) to the Vigeland Sculpture Park – a repository of its the sculptor's

many works as well as one of Oslo’s largest public spaces – where a pleasant afternoon can be spent exploring the park and its museum.

You might end the day with a visit to Holmenkollen, a hilly suburb in northern Oslo, approx. 30 minutes by bus or metro from the city centre. Holmenkollen is the setting for the Holmenkollen Ski Jump & museum, which doubles as one of the best viewpoints in Oslo, offering a stunning panoramic view of the city.

<p>Oslo Walking Tours</p> <p><i>While Oslo is an easy and pleasant city to explore independently, there are a number of guided walking tours focusing on different areas of the city and its history that you might like to consider joining today. Learn about the impact of the Nazi Invasion and the Norwegian resistance on a WWII-focused walk; discover Oslo’s food culture on a “Oslo for Foodies” tour; or follow the course of the river Akerselva on a tour of Oslo’s green spaces and early industrial history.</i></p>	<p>Optional Activity</p>
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Day 8: International departure

Breakfast at your hotel and check out. Depending on your flight schedule, you may have further time this morning to continue your exploration of Oslo before transferring independently to Oslo Gardermoen Airport for your international flight home.

<p>Price Guide: <i>The cost of this itinerary is from £875 per person, based on two travellers in double/twin accommodation. For family and high season rates, please contact us.</i></p>	
<p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Double/twin accommodation (B&B basis throughout, except in Andalsnes, where half-board) ○ Hurtigruten cruise from Bergen to Molde (outside cabin with full view) ○ Long-distance bus and train journeys as outlined in itinerary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Molde-Andalsnes by bus - Andalsnes-Lillehammer by train (Rauma Railway) - Lillehammer-Oslo by train (Oslo Railway) 	<p>Excludes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ International flights – please ask us for a quote ○ Lunch and dinner to own account except where stated otherwise in itinerary ○ Travel expenses and entrance fees ○ Travel insurance ○ Personal expenses and tips

