

138 / Bergen - Oslo / 8 Nights, 9 Days

Culture, History and Folklore of Norway

Immerse into the Norwegian culture and learn about the pillars of Norwegian identity. Look back into the history of the country and be amazed how the rough climate and rugged landscape have shaped people in the North. Traditions live strong in Norway: the national costume "bunad" is used widely, new generations bring on food traditions, and folk music and traditional handcraft are part of everyday living.



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Photo: Øvre Eide Gård

DAY 1 | Arrival in BERGEN

Arrival at Bergen Airport according to your own itinerary (flight reserved by your agency). Transfer to your hotel in Bergen city center.

Bergen is Norway's 2. largest city, and is known as the capital of the west and gateway to the fjords. It is a UNESCO world heritage city with Bryggen wharf, Mount Fløyen and the fish market as central attractions. A stroll through Bryggen takes you back to the middle ages as a lot of the architecture is preserved. We also recommend a visit to Edward Griegs villa, Troidhaugen.

Half board accommodation at **Hotel Norge by Scandic**, or similar, located in the city center.

DAY 2 | BERGEN

Discover Bergen on a 2 hours walking tour with a local guide and dive into the diverse history of the trading town, once the largest settlement in all of Norway. When the Hanseatic era reached it's peak, salesmen in Bergen distributed dried cod to harbours all over Europe. This wealth translated into the development of the city and construction of "Håkonshallen", one of few medieval stone buildings amidst typically wooden architecture of Norway.

Spend the evening on the local farm Øvre Eide: join a guided tour in this historic place immersed in Nordic nature and discover the rural life on a traditional farm in Norway. The welcoming host family invites you to join the most typical and exquisite traditional Norwegian dinner in the main house.

Bed and breakfast accommodation at **Hotel Norge by Scandic**, or similar, located in the city center.

DAY 3 | BERGEN - HARDANGER

Depart on a 2 hours cruise across the fjords south of Bergen to the Hardangerfjord and the lovely village of Rosendal. Enjoy a guided tour at the historic Barony of Rosendal from 1665. Explore the romantic Rosendal Gardens with an abundance of roses and other beautiful flowers and fruit trees.

Drive along the National Scenic Route by picturesque Hardangerfjord to Ulvik, well known for apple cider production. Pass lush orchards and numerous waterfalls on the way: at Steinsdalsfossen waterfall you can walk behind the cascade without getting wet.

Half board accommodation at **Hotel Brakanes**.



DAY 4 | HARDANGER

A short ferry crossing will take you across the Hardangerfjord from Kvanndal to Utne. Visit Hardanger Folk Museum and learn about the history and culture of Hardanger: the „bunad“ folk costumes, Hardanger embroidery, the Hardanger fiddle and folk music. Take a stroll between the old farm buildings and learn about the building styles and preservation of houses in Hardanger area.

Drive to Agatunet, an authentic farm cluster in a beautiful setting in the heart of Hardangerfjord between the fjord, mountains and fruit trees. The buildings here tell a story. We recommend to book a cider tasting at Agatunet.

Proceed to Kinsarvik by ferry and drive back to Ulvik crossing the fjord on Hardanger suspension Bridge.

Half board accommodation at **Hotel Brakanes**.

DAY 5 | ULVIK - SETESDAL - VRAADAL

Leave Hardanger by coach along the National Scenic Route of Hardanger. Lean back and enjoy the amazing landscape.

At arrival in Røldal, visit the beautifully decorated Røldal stave church along pilgrim trails, famous for its healing crucifix still in the church. In Røldal village you will also find the village museum on a traditional farm, showing how people lived from 1850 to 1950.

Proceed to Setesdal, the cradle of the Norwegian folk traditions and listed on UNESCO's List of Intangible Cultural Heritage for its folklore. Along your way through the valley you will have many chances to visit small welcoming village museums, historical farms, silversmiths, artisans and local handicraft shops. Visit the Setesdal Museum in Rysstad and get an introduction to the culture, history and traditions of Setesdal on a guided tour before continuing the journey to Vrådal.

Half board accommodation at **Straand Hotel**.

DAY 6 | EXCURSION IN TELEMARK

Enjoy an exciting day on a full day excursion to Telemark. Drive to Rjukan and visit the Norwegian Industrial Workers Museum and learn about the industrial adventure that began in the early 1900s and about the dramatic events that took place in Rjukan during World War II.

Visit the Hardangervidda National Park Centre and learn more about the nature and wild reindeer at Hardangervidda through a guided tour in their award winning interactive exhibition.

In the afternoon explore the history of the Telemark region through a guided tour of the Vest-Telemark Museum in



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Photo: Yngve Ask Scanout - Visit Telemark



Høydalsmo. This open-air museum has over 30 buildings, including Norway's oldest non-church building dated 1167 and the 13th-century Eidsborg Stavechurch.

Half board accommodation at **Straand Hotel**.

DAY 7 | VRAADAL - OSLO

Drive from Vraadal to Lunde and enjoy a cruise through the locks of the Telemark Canal from Lunde to Ulefoss.

Proceed to Skien, known as the birthplace of the world-famous author Henrik Ibsen. Visit the author's childhood home, Venstøp from 1815, today Henrik Ibsen Museum. Learn about the early life of the boy who grew up to become a famous playwright and hear stories of Ibsen's journeys, his authorship and his life.

Continue to Oslo for dinner and overnight.

Half board accommodation at **Scandic Holmenkollen Park**.

DAY 8 | OSLO

Explore Oslo on a 3 hours city sightseeing tour with a local guide and enjoy panoramic views of the Opera house, Oslo's main street the Karl Johans gate, Old town Christiania, Akershus Castle and Fortress, and the Royal Palace. Picturesque ride through some of Oslo's prettiest neighborhoods to the Vigeland Park with its more than 200 sculptures.

Visit the Norsk Folkemuseum located at Bygdøy in Oslo. This is Norway's largest museum of cultural history featuring large indoor collections, the world's oldest Open-Air Museum and a 12th century stave church.

Enjoy farewell dinner at the traditional Frognerseteren Restaurant, serving dishes with fresh ingredients directly from nature.

Bed and breakfast accommodation at **Scandic Holmenkollen Park**.

DAY 9 | OSLO - departure

Enjoy breakfast before your transfer to Oslo airport for your return flight according to your own itinerary. (Flights reserved by your agency).

SERVICES INCLUDED

Accommodation and meals:

- 8 nights accommodation in double rooms with shower/WC incl. Breakfast
- 6 Dinner at hotel
- 2 Dinner at restaurant



Activities and excursions

- 2 hrs city walk in Bergen
- Farm visit incl. traditional Norwegian dinner at Øvre Eide Farm (day 2)
- Fjord cruise Bergen - Rosendal
- Rosendal Barony, entrance and guiding
- Hardanger Folk Museum, entrance
- Agatunet Museum, entrance and guiding
- Røldal Stave Church, entrance and guiding
- Setesdal Museum, entrance and guiding
- Norwegian Industrial Workers Museum, entrance
- Hardangervidda National Park Center, entrance and guiding
- Vest Telemark Museum and Eidsborg Stave Church, entrance and guiding
- Telemark Canal, Lunde - Ulefoss
- Venstøp Henrik Ibsen Museum, entrance and guiding
- 3 hrs city sightseeing in Oslo
- Norwegian Folk Museum, entrance