

GOLDEN ROUTE

8 nights / 9 days

Start Lillehammer – Sognefjord – Stavanger and end in Oslo
Eco – Friendly



For the Eco friendly at heart, we offer you the ideal tour; with the opportunity to meet local Norwegians. Trains, busses and ferries not forgetting the famous Hurtigruten will be your modes of transport throughout the tour. The below tour offers you a chance to really get to know and feel this unique country, it's people and it's beauty. Our selected hotels are guaranteed to offer you comfort and are located in the heart of the cities. With this tour you will discover beautiful places but most of all the amazing and scenic nature of Norway.

Day 01: Arrival in Oslo Gardermoen Airport - Lillehammer

Welcome to Oslo Gardermoen Airport. A train journey from Gardermoen airport to Lillehammer will be arranged accordingly to your arrival time. Lillehammer is the host town of the 1994 Winter Olympics. In Lillehammer we recommend a visit at Maihaugen Open Air Museum, which tells the story of people in the Gudbrandsdalen Valley the last 300 years, of life between the wars in the inland town of Lillehammer and of homes and domestic environments in the 20th century. Also recommended is a visit at the Olympic Museum and the Olympic Arena (Lysgårdsbakken).

Accommodation at Rica Victoria Hotel

Day 02: Lillehammer – Åndalsnes - Geiranger (train/bus)

Breakfast at the hotel. Morning departure from Lillehammer by train. The journey heads north through the Romsdalen Valley and continue from Dombås on the spectacular Raumabanen Railway along the Rauma River all the way to Åndalsnes. The railway is 114 km long and offers amazing view of the passing scenery. One of the highlights of the tour is the Kylling Bridge, the most famous and photographed stone railway bridge in Norway. From here continue your journey on the tourist bus towards Geiranger – the journey takes you along the Troll Road, one of Norway's best known tourist attractions. The road has 11 turns and the highest point is 858 meters above sea level. Dramatic, exciting and the ultimate nature experience - this is the best way to describe it. A short ferry crossing will take you to the Eagle Road and to Geiranger.

Accommodation at Hotel Geiranger

Day 03: Geiranger – Geirangerfjord – Ålesund (Hurtigruten)

Breakfast at the hotel. Departure from Geiranger where you will embark on the famous Hurtigruten (Coastal Steamer) and a 4 hour cruise to Ålesund. The cruise follows the well known Geirangerfjord, with its waterfalls and mountain farms situated high up on the mountainsides, in places you wouldn't believe people and livestock could survive. Arrival in Ålesund in the evening. Ålesund was completely destroyed by a devastating town fire in 1904, and rebuilt again in the Art Nouveau style, making it a truly unique town in Europe. The town centre reveals a lively urban scene with pleasant restaurants and cafés, and the picturesque Brosundet canal with its fishing boats. The beauty of the town can be appreciated from Mount Aksla, with a breathtaking view of the town and its mountains, islands and fjords.

Accommodation at the Radisson Blu Ålesund Hotel

***Day 04: Ålesund – Hareid – Maløy - Balestrand (boat/bus/boat)**

Breakfast at the hotel. Today you will experience the West Norwegian coastal landscape as the journey continues in southern direction from Ålesund to Florø. Departure from Ålesund around noon by express boat. The 30 minute cruise will take you to Hareid where the journey continues by local bus to Måløy. The last part of today's trip will be a scenic cruise between Måløy - Rysjeldasvik – Balestrand inside of the Sognefjord, the world's longest fjord.

Accommodation at Kviknes Hotel

Note We highly recommend the historical section of the hotel with fjord-view. Supplement as detailed in the price information*

Day 05: Balestrand – Bergen (Hurtigruten)

Breakfast at the hotel. Late in the morning departure from Balestrand to Flåm for a beautiful cruise along the Sognefjord. In Flåm short time available before experiencing the Flåmsbane Railway - an incredible train journey from the Aurlandfjord to the mountain station at Myrdal. The train journey provides some of Norway's wildest and most magnificent scenery. On the 20 km-long train ride you can see rivers, the Flåm Valley, waterfalls and mountains.

The Flåm Railway is one of the world's steepest railway lines. In Myrdal your journey continues by regular train to Bergen.

Accommodation at the Augustin Hotel

Day 06: Bergen

Breakfast at the hotel and enjoy your day at leisure to explore Bergen, the capital of the fjords. Bergen offers many attractions and sights - Sights of interests are the Hanseatic harbour Bryggen, Fløibanen Funicular, Troidhaugen, the Fish and Flower market, Bergen Aquarium and Gamle Bergen (Old Bergen Open Air Museum).

Accommodation at the Augustin Hotel

Day 07: Bergen – Stavanger (boat)

Breakfast at the hotel. Departure from Bergen where you will embark on the ferry for a 4,5 hours cruise to Stavanger. Stavanger is the third largest city in Norway. The city is a combination of new and old influences and is known as Norway's oil capital. It is the centre of activities connected with the extraction of the North Seas "black gold," which has made Norway one of the world's richest countries.

Accommodation at Thon hotel Maritim

Day 08: Stavanger - Oslo

Breakfast at the hotel. Train departure from Stavanger Oslo, the biggest city in Norway, and its capital. Oslo has been Norway's capital from more than 700 years. The history of Oslo, dates back to the middle ages, and the first constructions dates back to the year 1000. Oslo is located at the end of the Oslo fjords, and the city is surrounded by forest. In 2007, Oslo was classified by 'readers digest' as the worlds' second best city for appreciation of nature and respect of the environment.

Overnight at the Rica Oslo hotel

Day 09: Departure from Oslo

Breakfast at the hotel and day at leisure before your departure according to your own itinerary

Hotel description:

The price is based on accommodation in good tourist class hotels (3-4 stars). If any of the hotels are fully booked we will find alternatives of equal standard.

Services:

- 8 nights hotel accommodation in shared double room with shower/WC
- 8 x Scandinavian breakfast buffet
- Trains, boats and all public transport necessary for the realization of the tour.

The price is valid from 15.06.2012 – 15.08.2012

*Important to note: The first and last week of the season, is on request as the 'Troll road' may not be open. The road is open/closed subject to weather conditions.

Day 4: Cannot commence on a Saturday & Sunday as there is no bus service between Hareid and Måløy.