

## MAJESTIC FJORDS

10 Days / 9 Nights

Self – Drive



A fjord is a long, narrow inlet with steep sides, created in a valley carved by glacial activity. The seeds of a fjord are laid when a glacier cuts a 'U' shaped valley through abrasion of the surrounding bedrock by the sediment it carries. Many such valleys were formed during the recent ice age. Most fjords are deeper than the adjacent sea and the Sognefjord reaches as much as 1,300 m below sea level. Norway is often described as the world's strongest tidal current – and for this reason, boasts some of the most renowned fjords – we invite you to enjoy the wonder of the fjords, to include the Geirangerfjord, the Hardangerfjord and the Sagafjord – not forgetting the splendour and beauty of the country.

### **Day 01: Arrival in Oslo**

Arrival in Oslo according to your own itinerary. The Norwegian capital is beautifully situated at the head of the Oslo Fjord and surrounded by forested ridges. Oslo offers many well know sights such as the Vigeland Sculpture Park, the Viking Ship Museum, the Munch Museum and Holmenkollen Ski Jump.

Accommodation at Quality hotel 33

### **Day 02: Oslo - Geilo (305 km)**

Breakfast at the hotel. Drive from Oslo in western direction along the Oslo Fjord, before turning north along Lake Tyrifjord. Continue from Hønefoss along Lake Krøderen and Bromma River to Gol. At Torpo we recommend a stop to visit the Torpo Stave Church. Continue to the mountain, village of Geilo, located on the Hardangervidda Mountain Plateau, Norway's largest national park.

Accommodation at Bardøla Hotel

### **Day 03: Geilo – Hardangerfjord – Bergen (240 km)**

Breakfast at the hotel. Today head across the Hardangervidda Mountain Plateau, with its snow capped mountain peaks. We highly recommend a side trip to visit the spectacular Vøringsfossen Waterfall, with a fall of 182 metres prior to descending down the scenic

Måbødalen Valley before reaching Eidfjord. Here we recommend a visit to the Hardangervidda Nature Centre (entrance not included). From Brimsnes board the ferry across the Eid Fjord to Bruravik. The journey continues along the scenic Hardanger Fjord, a region famous for its fruit orchards. Just past Norheimsund we recommend a stop to visit Steindalsfossen Waterfall, where you can walk behind the waterfall. Continue to Bergen, known as the Gateway to the Fjords.

Accommodation at Grand Hotel Terminus

**Day 04: Bergen**

Breakfast at the hotel. Day at your own disposal. Bergen is Norway's second largest city and the world's only city surrounded by 7 mountains and 7 fjords. Sights of interest are the Hanseatic Bryggen Harbour, Fløibanen Funicular, Troidhaugen, the Fish and Flower market, Bergen Aquarium and Gamle Bergen (Old Bergen Open Air Museum).

Accommodation at Grand Hotel Terminus

**Day 05: Bergen - Ørsta (350 km)**

Breakfast at the hotel. Depart Bergen headed north towards the Sognefjord, the world's longest and deepest fjord. A 20 minutes ferry crossing will bring you across the Sognefjord to Lavik. Continue past Førde before reaching the Nordfjord. Short ferry crossing from Anda to Lote. Continue to Straumshamn, where we recommend the scenic road along the Voldafjord. An alternative is to continue from Straumshamn to Folkestad and take the ferry crossing to Volda (not included). Continue to Ørsta, beautifully surrounded by the Sunnmøre Alps. The mountains rise from the sea to a height of 1.500 – 1.600 metres.

Accommodation at Hotel Ivar Aasen

**Day 06: Ørsta / excursion to Ålesund**

Breakfast at the hotel. Day at leisure in Ørsta. Hire of bikes and motor boats are possible and the area offers great fishing and biking possibilities. As an alternative we recommend an excursion to Ålesund. The town 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. Sights of interest are the Atlantic Sea-Park, one of the largest aquariums in Northern Europe and the Sunnmøre Museum, an outdoor museum with an impressive boat collection and more than 50 old houses in beautiful surroundings (entrances not included). The beauty of the town can be appreciated from Mount Aksla, with a breathtaking view of the town and its mountains, islands and fjords. Return to Ørsta according to your own itinerary.

Accommodation at Hotel Ivar Aasen

**Day 07: Ørsta – Geirangerfjord – Troll Road – Dombås (225 km)**

Breakfast at the hotel. Morning departure from Ørsta by ferry crossing to Leknes. From Hellesylt the journey continues with a 1 hour cruise on the spectacular Geirangerfjord. The Geirangerfjord was added to the UNESCO world heritage list in 2005, and is truly a spectacular sight with its waterfalls and steep hills. In Geiranger we recommend a visit at the Norwegian Fjord Centre, where you can experience how people used to live along the fjord. Ascend the Eagle Road and enjoy panoramic views of Geiranger before a short ferry crossing to Linge. Continue 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. When reaching the bottom you will see the well known Troll Wall on the right hand side. This is the highest vertical mountain wall in Europe. Continue along the Romsdal Valley to Dombås.

Accommodation at Dovredfjell Hotel

**Day 08: Dombås – Lillehammer (180 km)**

Breakfast at the hotel. Drive from Dombås in southern direction and through the Gudbrandsdalen Valley to Lillehammer, 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 recommendable is a visit at the Olympic Museum and the Olympic Arena (Lysgårdsbakken). Accommodation at Rica hotel Victoria

**Day 09: Lillehammer – Oslo (190 km)**

Breakfast at the hotel. Departure from Lillehammer to Oslo. We recommend a stop in Hamar to visit the Vikingskipet, the ice skating rink from the Olympics in the shape of a turned over Viking Ship. Accommodation at Quality 33

**Day 10: Departure from Oslo**

Breakfast at the hotel. Departure from Oslo according to you own itinerary.

**- End of services -**

**Hotel description:**

Accommodation at good tourist class hotels (3-4 stars). If any of the quoted hotels are fully booked we will find alternatives of equal standard.

The half board supplement includes 3 course dinner or buffet at the hotels in Geilo, Ørsta and Dombås.

**Services:**

- 9 nights hotel accommodation in shared double room with shower/WC.
- 9 x Scandinavian breakfast buffet.
- Domestic ferry crossings for car and passengers:  
Brimnes – Bruravik / Oppedal – Lavik / Anda – Lote / Sæbø – Leknes /  
Hellesylt – Geiranger / Eidsdal - Linge

*Prices are valid 01.05. – 30.09.2012*