

CULTURAL WALKING ADVENTURE

Norway

Oslo, Jostedal & Bergen

CLASSIC JOURNEYS
THE WORLD'S FINEST WALKING TOURS



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*Classic Journeys
provides unbeatable
access to experiences
around the globe.”*

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TRAVEL + LEISURE

Mountains, Fjords & Glaciers

There is no finer place to celebrate summer than the fjords of Norway. Whether you're cruising the bright blue waters...walking on glaciers that carved the mind-boggling fjords...or exploring remote villages that cling to the shores, you will gain a wonderful sense of how climate and topography influence history, culture and daily life. Along the way, we feast on fish fresh from the North Sea with tart lingonberries for dessert. We wander lush wildflower meadows—and go for after-dinner strolls in the late-night sunlight. Of course, there are constant reminders of the Vikings, whose descendants are warm and supremely hospitable. Your visit includes stays in both Oslo and Bergen, cities that contain more forest than streetscape. From a 900-year-old rural church to the museum that houses the works of Edvard Munch, this week brings you in touch with an incredible array of Norwegian experiences.

The Classic Journeys Difference

- ACTIVE HIKING & WALKING
- LOCAL WELL-CONNECTED GUIDES
- PREMIERE HOTELS
- FOODIE FOCUSED
- HANDCRAFTED TRIP DESIGN
- MORE IS INCLUDED

What's Included

- All breakfasts, 1 lunch and 4 dinners
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip and handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Admissions to tastings, historic sites and other scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals, and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip

Above & Beyond Benefits

→ INVISIBLE CHECK-IN

When your group arrives, we whisk you and your bags to your room immediately. No waiting – no tipping.

→ PRIVILEGED ACCESS EVENTS

One-of-a-kind access to remarkable people, places and activities arranged just for you.

Terrain

Easy to moderate on good trails and coastal paths. An average of 2 to 3 hours of walking per day.

DAY 1 »

Oslo

Norway's capital is spectacularly located at the inland tip of a fjord that extends to the North Sea. It's one of the world's largest capital cities by area, though most of it is forest where moose are commonplace. It's a perfect setting to begin our week together. Then we're off for a day of exploring the 1,000-year-old city. Along the way we'll gain an understanding of the city's history as well as the modern day projects such as "The Opera Quarter". The lively streetscape ranges from the medieval Akershus Castle to 17th century Renaissance buildings to the brash contemporary architecture for which Scandinavia is known. We'll visit the Fram Museum to see the graceful vessels that was built to be stuck in polar ice proving that the North Pole is just ocean and not land. The Norwegians were leaders in polar exploration, and you'll get a taste of those daring adventures. You will learn about the Polar Ship Fram and how it was used for research. Board the boat to see how life was lived onboard.

After exploring the Fram Museum we go to the Holmenkollen Ski Jump. The views are amazing, but the real fun is trying out the simulator that lets you see how it feels to make one of those sky-high jumps (without ever taking your feet off the ground) also, enjoy breathtaking views over Oslo and "half of Norway". Thanks to the midnight sun, dinner is in full daylight at one of Oslo's fine restaurants.

MEALS: D

OVERNIGHT: OSLO

DAY 2 »

The Flåm Railway

In western Norway the landscape takes on an awesome beauty, with iridescent glaciers, deep fjords that slash into rugged, snowcapped mountains, roaring waterfalls, and secluded valleys that lie at the end of twisting roads. Today we have the opportunity to explore this breathtaking landscape.

After breakfast, we depart Oslo by train on the Bergen Railway. In Myrdal, we change trains for a journey on the famous Flåm Railway, which has a reputation for being one of the most spectacular train rides in the world. Cinematic views include snow-capped mountains, thundering waterfalls and peaceful green meadows on our way to the valley below.

Then, we detrain to board a boat at the tip of Nærøfjord. One of the narrowest fjords in Europe, it is a UNESCO World Heritage site. As we cruise its pristine waters, we enjoy views of traditional farms, grazing goats scattered among the green valleys, and seals sunning on rocks. We continue across the Sognefjord, the largest in Norway. Late afternoon we will arrive in the village of Hafslo in Luster where we'll be based for the next three days, surrounded by mountains and water.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: NES, LUSTER

DAY 3 »

Jostedal Glacier

This morning, we drive to the deepest reaches of the Jostedalen valley, a spectacular landscape created by glaciers from the last Ice Age. Join our local outfitters for a placid kayaking excursion on the glacier-fed lake. The glacier calves into this body of water, tinted a vivid blue, so that you may paddle up to great shards of the ice that float here.

After kayaking across the lake, highly trained professional guides will outfit us with crampons and safety gear to enable a foray onto the glacier. This glacier, like so many others today, is receding at a historically rapid rate, but this river of ice is still a natural spectacle on an awesome scale. After a stimulating outdoor day, we return to our hotel for a relaxing dinner.

MEALS: B, L, D

OVERNIGHT: NES, LUSTER

DAY 4 »

Urnes

In Norway's rugged terrain, the fjords were the primary transportation routes for centuries, and even today it's easy to experience the remoteness of the villages on their farthest shores. Enjoy a quiet morning. During breakfast taste the local dishes, like fruit jams from the garden or local cheese and fruit. Perhaps you want to bring your cup of coffee and sit down by the fjord. Kayak the majestic Sognefjord or try your hand at stand up paddle board. Enjoy a walk down the garden and say hello to the local sheep

In the afternoon, you will take a inland walk beside small rushing rivers and waterfalls which create natural pools where you can take a short dip to cool off. Continue walking breathing in the fresh lovely mountain air while enjoying fantastic views over the mountains and hills. Walking along old summer pastures you will arrive at Navarsete cabin where we will stop for lunch. Along our walk enjoy great views over Mountains and fjords. Once back from your trek relax by the fjord before dinner.

OR

Today is a wild and watery day. After breakfast, drive to the perfect put-in spot for a rafting trip on the Jostedola river. The waters have the unique blue-green color that you only see in glacial melt. Our outfitters gear everybody up with wet suits and all of the safety equipment you need to have a fun, carefree time. The first part of the river is easy-going and comfortable for everybody. Later stages have more whitewater, and your guide can modify the ride based on your preferences. The scenery is great. Pine forests line the river banks, and you're likely to stop for some cocoa along the way, the better to take it all in.

MEALS: B,D

OVERNIGHT: NES, LUSTER

DAY 5 »

Solvorn /Urnes / Bergen

From the village's docks, a small ferry transports us across the fjord for a walk up to Urnes Stave Church. Perched high above the water, the church—built in the early 12th Century—is today a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Built entirely of wood, it is a remarkable blend of Viking and Christian architecture and is the oldest structure of its kind still standing. Emerging from its richly carved interior to take in the commanding vistas all around, you get a clear sense of how little Norway's interior region has changed in nine centuries.

Continue walking breathing in the fresh lovely mountain air while enjoying fantastic views over the mountains and hills. After lunch we will take a modern, comfortable catamaran to Bergen. Enjoy the ride from inside your comfortable seat or go out on deck from time to time, sailing out the majestic Sognefjord, villages and old trade centers along, see how the surroundings change from mountain/fjord landscape to the rugged coast and look straight out to the North Sea at Sognesjøen. We turn south and cruise in between islands. Once you get closer to the coast you feel as though you can touch the old boat houses. You get to go under one of the world's longest suspension bridges, the Askøybridge, right before turning a corner to Bergen.

We arrive in Bergen and then board the scenic funicular that departs from the heart of the city for Mt. Fløyen. Atop the mountain, admiring the sunset, we have a view that provides a panoramic view over the entire city and out to the sea. Invigorated by the mountain, we return by funicular or a leisurely walk back to the hotel.

MEALS: B

OVERNIGHT: BERGEN

DAY 6 »

Bergen

We've reserved the morning for a guided walk of Bergen to explore its history and architecture. We head toward the bustling harborside fish market, where we stroll among the weather-beaten fishmongers and fishermen. On the eastern side of the harbor, we enter the Hanseatic Quarter of Bryggen, designated a UNESCO historical and cultural district. We wander past the wooden warehouses whose stately gables overlook narrow cobblestone alleyways that lead to quaint courtyards.

This afternoon, we celebrate the finale of our week with a farewell lunch. Flights depart later in the afternoon so you can reach Oslo at the most convenient time to connect with your homeward-bound flights.

MEALS: B,L

Tour Hotels



Bristol Hotel Oslo

In the heart of Oslo, this hotel has greeted guests since 1920. It's an easy walk to favorite sites such as Karl Johans gate, the Royal Palace and the waterfront area known as Aker Brygge. Public spaces recall the hotel's gracious heritage.

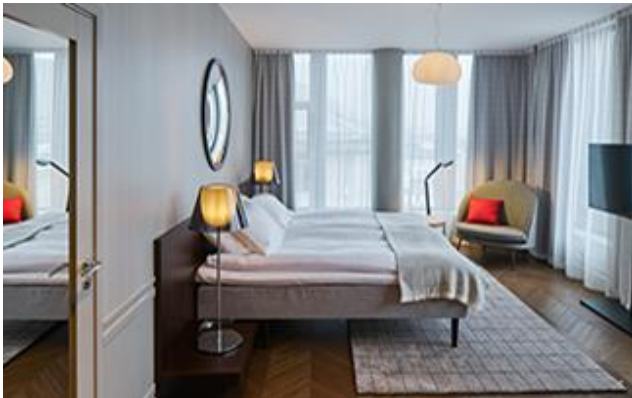
NIGHTS: 1 nights



Nes Gard

Located in the heart of the Sognefjord with stunning views of waterfalls and surrounding mountains. The guest house is a charming buildings with traditional architecture and interior, combining atmosphere with modern facilities.

NIGHTS: 3 nights



Bergen Børs

Located on the upper floors of the old stock exchange, this exciting hotel is in the heart of Bergen, near the harbor and the city's fish market. The rooms are decorated in comfortable Scandinavian style. The restaurant is one of the best in the city.

NIGHTS: 1 nights

Arrival & Departure

→ ARRIVAL DETAILS

START LOCATION: **Lobby of Hotel Bristol**
START CITY: **Oslo**
START TIME: **10:00 AM**

→ DEPARTURE DETAILS

END LOCATION: **Lobby of Hotel**
END CITY: **Bergen**
END TIME: **2:00 PM**