OSLO – Private – The 10-day Norwegian Highlights Experience

10 days / 9 nights Roundtrip: Oslo – Ålesund – Bergen – Oslo

Oslo, the start- and endpoint of this spectacular multi-day roundtrip, is Norway's capital and largest city. A modern city with medieval roots, Oslo offers all the comforts and venues of a vibrant, urban capital. Yet echoes from Oslo's rich past are everywhere, ready to be explored. Situated only 20 minutes from Norway's main international airport and home to many renowned hotels, Oslo is a popular destination for international travellers. It is also an ideal starting point for our 10-day journey which will let you experience the essence of Norway.

After exploring Oslo, we venture inland and visit the picturesque Olympic town of Lillehammer, before travelling through the fertile Gudbrands valley to the Art Nouveau city of Ålesund. We follow the coastline to beautiful Bergen, home to the UNESCO- listed quarter of Bryggen. On our way back to Oslo, we cross the high mountain plateaus next to Hallingskarvet National Park. Bask in the sight of beautiful fjords, idyllic villages and pristine nature along the route.

ITINERARY:

Day 1 – WELCOME TO OSLO

"Meet and greet" in our hotel in Oslo, the capital of Norway. You will be welcomed by your tour leader, meet your fellow travellers and receive information about the tour before our Norwegian adventure starts.

**If you arrive early and want to explore Oslo on your own, please feel free to contact our office before the start of your multi-day tour for more detailed information about things to do.*

Overnight stay in the city centre of Oslo.

Day 2 – The Olympic town of Lillehammer and Glittersjå Mountain Farm

We leave Oslo behind as we travel inland towards the small town of Lillehammer, host to the 1994 Winter Olympic games. You get to explore the picturesque centre on your own before we drive through the fertile Gudbrandsdalen valley to a traditional mountain farm. The owners of this enchanting moose farm will warmly welcome you, show you around and introduce you to their moose and other farm life. After a visit to the moose farm, we drive down the mountain and follow the Sjoa-river to Otta.

Overnight stay in the region of Otta.

Day 3 – The Challenging Troll Road and Romsdal Alps

We leave the green, rolling hills of Gudbrandsdalen, heading into the rugged and wild landscape of the Romsdal Alps. You will find yourself surrounded by some of Norway's highest and most impressive peaks. After navigating the infamous Troll Road with its 11 challenging hairpin bends, we arrive in the strawberry village of Valldal, famous for its orchards and salmon fishing. From there, we follow the beautiful Storfjord to Ålesund.

Overnight stay in the city centre of Ålesund.

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Day 4 – The Art Nouveau city of Ålesund

In Ålesund you will have a day of free time to explore the city on your own. Situated where the open sea meets the deep fjords and famous for its Art Nouveau architecture, Ålesund was understandably named "the most beautiful city in Norway" by Times Magazine. Climb the stairs to the spectacular scenic point on Mount Aksla or you want to try the local maritime "klippfisk" cuisine? Ålesund offers it all.
**For more detailed information about what you can do in Ålesund, please feel free to contact our office before the start of your multi-day tour.*

Overnight stay in the city centre of Ålesund.

Day 5 – Spectacular Fjords and Glaciers

We leave Ålesund in the morning, following the Storfjord to the stunning UNESCO-listed Geirangerfjord. In Geiranger, you will have free time to explore the village and buy some local craft and food. Then, we cross the winding mountain roads to visit the Kjenndal glacier, a branch of mainland Europe's largest glacier, the Jostedalsbreen. After that, we head towards the region of Jølster.

Overnight stay in the region of Jølster.

Day 6 – Fjord Cruise on UNESCO's Nærøyfjord

We cross the beautiful Nærøyfjord, another UNESCO-listed wonder of nature, by boat. Remember to have your camera ready, as this beautiful voyage of about 2 hours offers a truly breathtaking scenery. After the fjord cruise we visit Gudvangen, a small village with proud Viking roots, before the journey continues towards the city of Bergen.

Overnight stay in the city centre of Bergen.

Day 7 – Beautiful Bergen

Enjoy your free day in charming Bergen, Norway's second largest city. Home to the UNESCO-listed Hanseatic quarter of Bryggen, the medieval Håkonshallen fortress, and a renowned fish market, Bergen is a cultural treasure box ready to be explored.
**For more detailed information about what you can do in Bergen, please feel free to contact our office before the start of your multi-day tour.*

Overnight stay in the centre city of Bergen.

Day 8 – The stunning Flåm Railway

We depart Bergen by train on the world-famous Flåmsbanen railroad. This scenic route, recently named the world's most incredible train journey by Lonely Planet, is truly an experience you'll remember for life. Our driver will welcome us again in the village of Flåm, ready to drive us over the high mountain plateaus bordering Hallingskarvet. This area, home to reindeer and eagles, was turned into a national park in 2006 to protect its pristine and untouched nature.

Overnight stay in the Hallingdalen area.

Day 9 – The Borgund Stave Church, rugged mountains and wild forests

We start the day with a visit to the medieval stave church and museum of Borgund. Famous for its traditional carvings and "Viking style" architecture, this church has become a renowned symbol of Norwegian heritage. From Borgund, we travel across wild mountain plateaus and through lush forests, until we reach the buzzing urban area of Oslo, where we started our journey.

Overnight stay in the city centre of Oslo.

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Day 10 – OSLO – Farewell and safe journey home

After spending the night in a comfortable hotel in Oslo, the tour has now come to an end and time has come to say goodbye. You are free to go for some last-minute shopping or explore Oslo on your own, depending on the departure time of your flight.

Transportation from/to the airport can be arranged upon request.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Breathtaking fjords and rugged peaks
- Several UNESCO world heritage sights (a.o. the Geirangerfjord and Bryggen in Bergen)
- The beautiful Kjenndal glacier
- The world-famous Flåm railway
- A "fjord cruise" on the Nærøyfjord
- The Medieval Stave Church of Borgund
- The Glittersjå Mountain Farm
- Visits to various historic and cultural heritage sights

WHAT IS INCLUDED:

- Comfortable minibus with a professional driver
- Experienced, English-speaking tour leader
- Overnight stays in comfortable hotels
- Continental breakfast
- Ferry tickets, train tickets, road taxes and other transportation costs per itinerary
- Admissions to all the venues included in the tour

NOT INCLUDED:

- Travel to/from Norway
- Additional meals and beverages (longer stops will be made on all travel days to give you plenty of time for a delicious lunch)
- Transportation costs and other personal expenses on free days
- Personal Travel Insurance

CAN BE ARRANGED UPON REQUEST:

- Airport pick-up/drop-off

GOOD TO KNOW:

The weather in Norway can be very unpredictable. Especially in the mountain areas, it can be colder than on sea level or in the cities. We advise all our guests to bring appropriate clothing, including a rain jacket, and shoes, but don't forget to bring lighter clothes for the warm sunny days.

The local currency in Norway is Norwegian Kroner (NOK). While most shops and venues accept Credit/Debit cards, and in some cases EUR or USD, we do recommend you have some local currency in cash as well.

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Please be aware that most residents of countries outside the EU/EEA area need a visa to visit Norway. To see if this applies to you, and for further information regarding the application process, visit the link below or contact your local embassy.
Norwegian directorate of Immigration - Visit and Holiday

ADDITIONAL REMARKS:
The itinerary may be subject to changes in the unlikely case of unforeseen events such as closed roads, massive ferry delays, etc.

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