

# the magic of norway

## land of the midnight sun

**Tuesday 11 May to Monday 24 May 2010**

Majestic mountains, gaping gorges, deep-sided fjords, forests and wide open country – this kaleidoscope of images can be yours on a wonderful visit to Norway and Finland, travelling beyond the Arctic Circle.

### **DAY 1 • London to Bergen**

Fly from London to Bergen on Norway's west coast. Transfer to city centre hotel for a 3-night stay.

### **DAY 2 • The Flåm Railway**

We start the day by taking a cruise along the Sognefjord from Bergen to Flåm. The first part of the journey follows the coastline then we enter the stunning fjord with Flåm at its head. After lunch, we take the Flåm Railway which climbs to a height of 2,845 feet as it makes its way to Myrdal. Notice the shifting panorama of towering mountains and impressive waterfall. At Myrdal we meet the main line for our return to Bergen.

### **DAYS 3 • Explore at Leisure**

Bergen has a lively waterfront area with its fish and fruit markets. Spend some time relaxing in the city which also has a funicular railway. From the top of Mount Fløyen you can see the town and off shore islands.

### **DAY 4 • Bergen to Oslo**

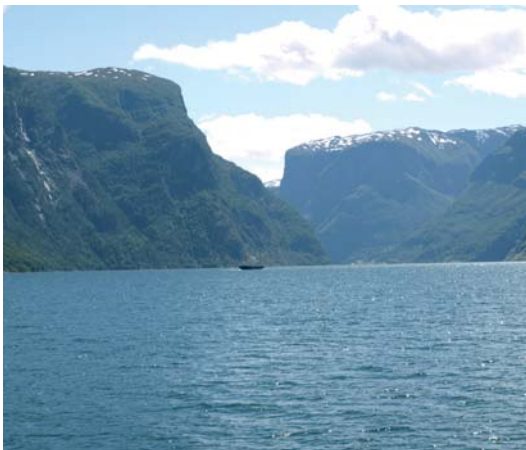
Affectionately known as the 'Roof of Norway,' this rail journey is a must. We leave behind the fjord coastline and are soon surrounded by the mountains and lakes as this spectacular line takes us to Oslo, the capital city of Norway.

### **DAY 5 • Free day in Oslo**

There is something for everyone in this vibrant city. Maritime history is charted in the Kontiki and Viking Ships museums whilst the tram and metro network is a delight for transport lovers. Your tour leader will be only too happy to assist with ideas and advice.

### **DAY 6 • Heading North**

As we travel further north, the train service becomes more infrequent. We have an early start today as we travel through lake and moorland scenery to Trondheim, arriving early afternoon. A free afternoon and evening allows you plenty of time to explore. The main building in the town is the magnificent cathedral.





### DAY 7 • Across the Arctic Circle

Continuing north once again, the scenery changes from fjords to mountain passes as the day progresses. We cross the Arctic Circle late afternoon (the summit of the line) then drop down to the coastal port of Bodø which is the end of the line. Being so far north the daylight hours last well into the night and the late evening views across the harbour are stunning.

### DAY 8 • By Coach to Narvik

Bodø is as far north as we can travel by rail from the south. We have to bridge the gap to Narvik by coach but this is no ordinary journey. There are road tunnels and a ferry crossing amidst stunning scenery. The journey takes around 7 hours but there are frequent stops en route. Narvik is the terminus of the iron ore rail route from Sweden.

### DAY 9 • Lapland

Time to leave Norway and we do so by taking the Iron Ore route out of Narvik. The line climbs very steeply away from the coast and soon we are crossing Lapland to our destination of Lulea. This is our only overnight stay in Sweden.

### DAY 10 • Into Finland

We start off by road today as the coach takes us via Haparanda to Kemi, which is just in Finland. Once here, we travel by train following the northern shore of the Baltic Sea to Oulu. You will notice that the Finnish State Railways are a wider gauge than we have seen to date.

### DAY 11 • To Helsinki

Travelling virtually due south on a direct inter-city service we head for Helsinki, Finland's capital city, known for its plentiful parks. We will be based here for 3 nights

### DAYS 12 and 13 • At Leisure

Two days will only serve as a short introduction to this gem of a city. There is an excellent public transport network, the Senate Square dominated by the cathedral, Sibelius's house and a great deal more. Explore the Kamppi district for its wonderful wooden buildings from the past.

### DAY 14 • Return to London

We transfer to the airport for our direct flight to London.

**price** per person

Includes flights in economy class, rail journeys specified, hotels + breakfasts, cruise on Day 2.

**Escorted or unescorted holiday: £1,790**

**Single Room Supplement: £365**

**Deposit for this holiday: £200**

**Insurance: please see page 43**

