



Bergen waterfront

Norway - Landscapes, People and History

12 – 18 May 2021

3 nights Bergen – 3 nights Oslo



Jon Baines
tours



Cruise from Bergen through spectacular fjordlands, including Mostraumen

Norway is a remote land possessing otherworldly beauty, ancient history and a thriving arts and cultural scene. Experience its Viking heritage and modern culture and hear its lovely music, ranging from classical to folk.

Marvel at its magnificent landscapes, especially

on a day trip to the fjordlands and during one of the world's most scenic train journeys as you travel from Bergen to Oslo.

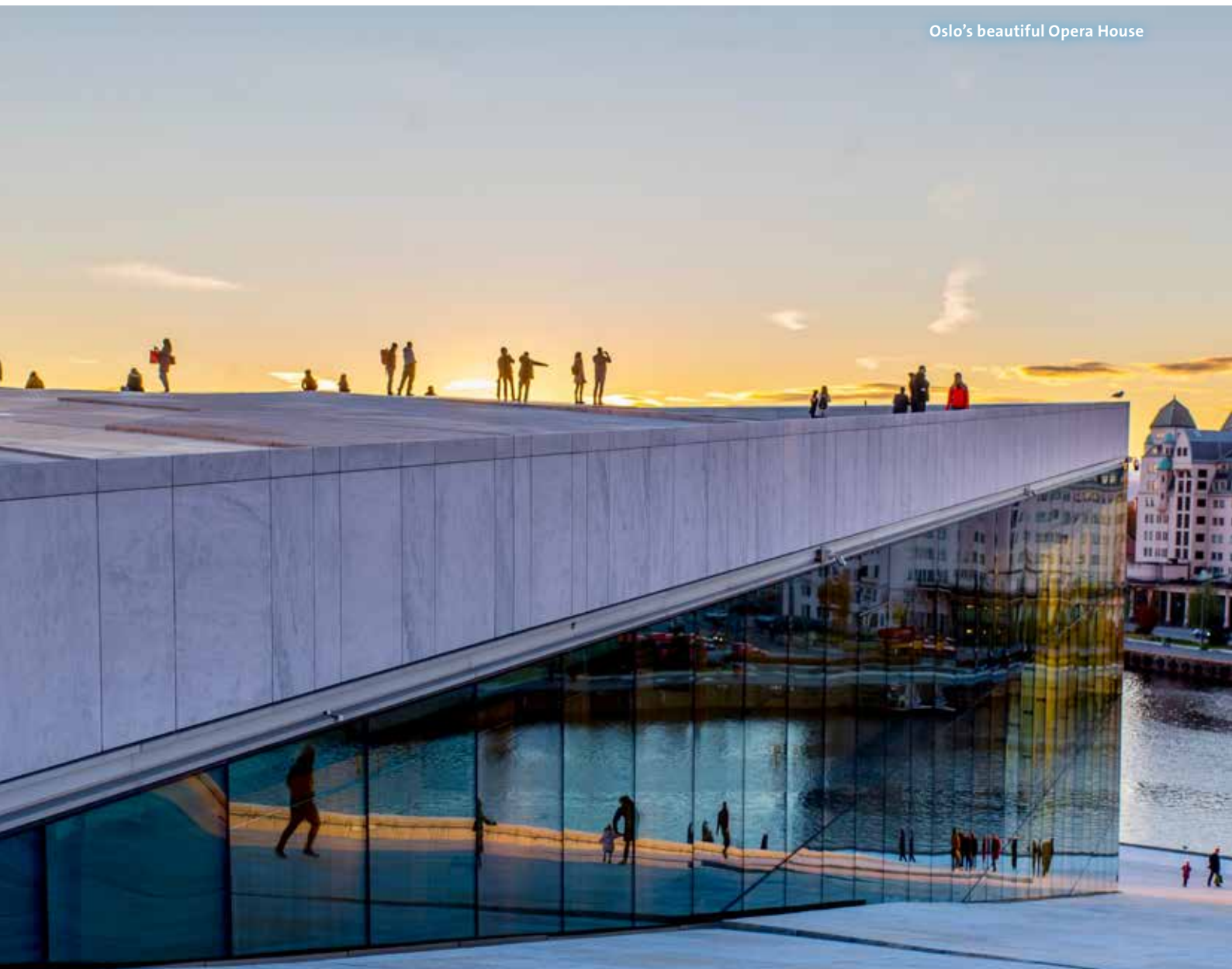
Its people have a strong ethos of egalitarianism and are self-contained, although you will experience them at their most social during the vibrant National Day celebrations in Oslo.

Tour Leader

Sonya Owens is a highly personable guide, originally from Seattle, Washington. Having graduated with a degree in European history, she travelled widely across Europe and relocated to Norway in 2002. With a broad depth of knowledge and a passion for bringing the history and culture of Northern Europe alive, Sonya is a guide with an exceptional ability to connect people with place. Her knowledge, passion and skill creates a truly memorable experience, enabling people to create their own personal history in the places they visit. Sonya was a highly acclaimed local guide on our Kingdoms of the North tour, led by John Pearn in 2019.



Oslo's beautiful Opera House





Day 1: Bergen (Wed, 12 May)

B D

Pm: Arrive in Bergen and transfer to the Hotel Thon Orion. Recently renovated with a bright, contemporary décor, this comfortable hotel has a superb location right by the Bryggen waterfront.

Eve: Welcome dinner at the hotel.

Day 2: Bergen (Thurs, 13 May)

B D

Am: Take a funicular up Mt Fløyen for magnificent views. Descend to meet the bus and drive out to visit the cottage and gardens of famous Norwegian composer, Edvard Grieg, and hear a concert of his music in his home.

Pm: Return via an orientation tour of the city seeing the official royal residence in Bergen, Gamlehaugen, set amidst beautifully landscaped grounds. Continue on foot and explore Bryggen, Bergen's medieval wharf, which reflects its Hanseatic League heyday.

Eve: Dinner at Bryggenloftet in a traditional wharf building.

Day 3: Bergen (Fri, 14 May)

B D

Am: Take a boat trip out of Bergen to visit the spectacular fjordland, including



A street in Bergen

Mostraumen.

Pm: Return to the city and visit the Bergen Fortress which details the history of the city from the Vikings to the resistance. Option to take a private tour of the leprosy museum (subject to availability).

Eve: Dinner at the hotel.

Day 4: Bergen / Oslo (Sat, 15 May) B D

Am: Mid-morning departure to the train station to take one of the world's great rail journeys on northern Europe's highest railway from Bergen to Oslo. The journey includes some of the most beautiful landscapes in Norway, ranging from the lowlands leaving Oslo, continuing through forests and past lakes and up towards the mountains to the highest point at Finse Station at about 1222 metres above sea level. The journey continues with wonderful views of fjords, waterfalls and rivers.

Eve: Arrive in Oslo and transfer to the nearby Hotel Thon Opera, a modern, very comfortable hotel with a bright, contemporary décor, a central location and excellent breakfast. Dinner at the hotel.

Day 5: Oslo (Sun, 16 May) B

Am: Take the ferry to the Viking Museum, home to the world's best-preserved Viking ships, and the Norwegian folk museum with its collection of Viking arts and crafts and learn about Norwegian folk music.

Pm: Option to have lunch at the museum café. Visit the Fram (Polar Exploration) Museum and take the local ferry back to the hotel.

Day 6: Oslo (Mon, 17 May) B D

Am: Spend the day enjoying the festivities of Norway's National Day, which commemorates the liberation of Norway. There will be opportunities to eat at the outside cafes and stalls set up for National Day. Return to the hotel.

Eve: Transfer to Frognerseteren, an acclaimed restaurant with historic ambience and spectacular views of the Oslo Fjord, for the farewell dinner.

Day 7: Oslo (Tue, 18 May) B

Am: Depart Oslo.

NB: All itineraries subject to change according to local conditions.

Oslo Folk Museum





Bergen to Mostraumen fjord cruise

Magnificent Journeys

It might come as a surprise to learn that you can experience Norway's mighty fjords on a day trip from Bergen. On Day 3 of the tour sail up the 27-kilometre long Osterfjord and navigate through the narrow Mostraumen straits, flanked by steep fjord walls and powerful waterfalls. Escape the everyday world to spend a morning in these fairy-tale fjord landscapes.

A highlight of travel through Norway is the exhilarating journey on the famous railway line between Oslo and Bergen. Built in extreme conditions between 1875 and 1909, the 496km rail line climbs to 1237 metres above sea level, and traverses 182 tunnels. On the top of the mountains you find Finse at 1,222 meters – the highest railway station in Europe. Starting in the valleys of western Norway with rich green farmland, flowing rivers, sheer gorges and the glassy Osterfjord, the train climbs into the mountains, with the most spectacular stretch across Hardangervidda, Europe's highest mountain plateau. It descends into a lush landscape of forests, lakes and rivers and continues through farmland dotted with quaint colourful houses into Oslo.



Cross Hardangervidda plateau on your train journey



Take the funicular in Bergen (top);
Local boys celebrating National Day in Oslo (above)

Room upgrades available upon request

**The cost of the tour is
USD \$2,464 per person sharing**

The cost includes:

- Six nights' accommodation in twin-bedded rooms at the medium grade Thon Orion and Thon Opera hotels based on a twin or double standard room

The single room supplement is USD \$336

- Tour leader (Sonya Owens)
- Comprehensive briefing notes
- All breakfasts
- Dinners on days 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6
- All internal transport
- A full programme of cultural visits
- All admission fees
- Tips

The cost excludes:

- International flights and arrival airport transfer
- All personal extras such as portage, laundry, inoculation fees, and drinks
- All optional excursions, tours and visits
- Travel insurance
- Visas, if applicable



Bergen waterfront

About Us

To travel with us is to dig below the surface, revealing the deeper destination. Of course, you will visit the great historical sites; marvel at the wonders of architecture and engineering; be moved by the riches of culture and art; and experience the most spectacular landscapes in the world. What we also do is make sure that you see the country as it is today, giving you privileged access that independent travel and other tour companies rarely get close to. We give you a variety of experiences, from the sublime to the humble, in the company of intelligent, curious, like-minded people. And while we can be worthy, we also make sure that you have a lot of fun.

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Cruise Osterfjord from Bergen (top); Bergen by night; Open air sauna in Oslo; The Viking ship museum in Oslo (above)



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