

Viking Trips Summer 2018 Avaldsnes/Borre

Day 1, June 27: Depart for overnight flight to Oslo, Norway

3 pm: A charter bus will pick up the group at Tampa Intl. Airport (Iceland Air) with transfer to Orlando Intl. Airport. 7 pm: Dep. From Orlando for an overnight flight to Oslo, Norway via a short stop in Iceland.

Day 2, June 28: Arrive Oslo

12.20 pm arrival in Oslo and our guide will meet us at the airport. En route to our hotel, we'll visit the **Holmenkollen Ski Jump Museum**, the oldest of its kind in the world, presenting over 4,000 years of skiing history and Norwegian polar exploration. The new modern Ski Jump is an Oslo landmark and the observation deck offers panoramic views of Oslo. Continue to the hotel for check in and a rest. This afternoon venture across the street from the hotel to the new Oslo Opera House, built to resemble a glacier. Its sloping Carrara marble roof is a public pedestrian plaza, revealing different angles of the inner city and the picturesque Aker Brygge harbor. The rest of the afternoon is at leisure with a Welcome Dinner at the hotel this evening. **Overnight at _____ Hotel – Oslo.**



Day 3, June 29: Oslo

After breakfast, a local English-speaking guide will escort us on a half day of sightseeing in Oslo. You'll visit Vigeland Sculpture Park where impressive bronze sculptures can be viewed. You'll also see City Hall, the waterfront, and enjoy a visit to the Viking Ship Museum. At the **Viking Ship Museum**, an impressive collection of 1000-year-old ships and ornate sledges and carriages makes history come alive.

Overnight at _____ Hotel – Oslo.

Day 4, June 30: Railroad to Bergen, Nutshell

Starting from Oslo, you first set out on a westbound train journey through scenic mountain terrain on the Bergen Railway. Upon arrival in Myrdal, you disembark and change trains to the legendary Flåm Railway. The Flåm Railway offers spectacular panoramic views to some of the wildest and most magnificent nature in the Norwegian fjord landscape.



Overnight at _____ Hotel in Bergen.

Day 5, July 1: Bergen

A UNESCO World Heritage city, ancient Bergen looms large in Viking sagas. Until the 14th century, it was the seat of the medieval kingdom of Norway. In 1360, the German Hanseatic League set up one of its import and export offices at Bryggen, dominating trade for almost 400 years. This history comes alive as we join our English-speaking guide for a walk along the historic Bryggen wharf and visit the **Hanseatic Museum**, in an old merchant house. Seafaring Bergen has given the world two cultural icons – playwright Henrik Ibsen and composer Edvard Grieg. Late morning, drive to **Troldhaugen**, the home of Edvard Grieg and his wife. This typical 19th century residence with a panoramic tower and large veranda overlooks Nordas Lake. Visit the house where Grieg spent his last 22 years, the museum, the graveyard, and the hut where he composed music. After time for a light lunch (on own) at the Troldhaugen Café, enjoy a **concert** of Grieg's music in a special concert hall. Tour ends at the hotel and the remaining of the day is at leisure to explore the old city. Stroll through the narrow alleyways and overhanging galleries of a bygone era, from the lively Fish Market to the Bergenhus Fortress, with cafés and boutiques selling traditional and unique crafts. Perhaps climb Rosenkrantz Tower for a panorama of Bergen's seaport.



Overnight at _____ Hotel - Bergen.

Day 6, July 2: Bergen – Haugesund/Avaldsnes

After breakfast, we leave Bergen and drive through beautiful scenery and board for an enjoyable ferry ride to get to Haugesund and the Viking Festival in Avaldsnes. Here you will meet passionate enthusiasts of battle re-enactments, traders, craftspeople making anything from clothes to Viking

ships to tools and weapons and much more. Eat wonderful traditional meals and drink the drinks of the Norsemen and -women made from locally grown plants and ingredients. Party with the best of the Vikings brothers and sisters!



(Note: Leave very early to participate in opening ceremonies at Avaldsnes or take our time to get there and enjoy the ride?).

Overnight at _____ Hotel – Haugesund or Avaldsnes.

Day 7, July 3: Karmoy/Avaldsnes

Today we roar like the Vikings all day long and explore the fantastic and popular Viking Festival in Avaldsnes outside of the more modern town Haugesund. Avaldsnes was long, due to its strategic location, the home of many Viking chieftains and the seat of King Harald Fairhair, who united Norway into a single kingdom in 872 AD following his win in the Naval battle at Hafersfjord. Join in with the axe throwers and archers, the weavers or metal smiths, the farmers and shipbuilders, the story tellers, the chefs, the dancers and the musicians and seriously enjoy the day!



Overnight at _____ Hotel – Haugesund or Avaldsnes.

Day 8, July 4: Karmoy/Avaldsnes Transfer to Lillesand/Kristiansand

Having exhausted our Viking Energy we leave this morning for Lillesand to visit a small agricultural farm and an opportunity to chat with a local family while enjoying some of the local food and drinks that Norwegians typically enjoy! Hear about the local history, it's development and relax in the atmosphere. Part of the trip to Kristiansand goes by ferry and has stunning views!

Kristiansand, the Southernmost city in Norway and located in a part of the country which is where Norwegians themselves choose to go on vacation. A walk around the city center to stretch our legs after we check into our hotel is a good way to spend the late hours of the day.



Overnight at _____ Hotel – Kristiansand.

Day 9, July 5: Kristiansand

While in Kristiansand we are going to experience more of local life, food and drink and sit down and chat with a Norwegian family in their home while learning about local and Norwegian history. From this area and other areas in the SW of Norway a lot of Norwegians emigrated to the USA and the with which they speak of their family in the USA is striking.

Later in the day we will also spend time learning how to cook seafood and other traditional Norwegian food from a local chef with decades of experience in culinary marvels!



Overnight at _____ Hotel – Kristiansand.

Day 10, July 6: Kristiansand to Toensberg

Today we embark the ship Oeya on a guided tour taking us through the famous Blindleia which is a bay that stretches from Kristiansand to idyllic Lillesand. It's beautiful scenery through the some of the most popular areas of the country where many Norwegians themselves choose to go on vacation, is relaxing and soothing for the mind. After getting back onshore in Lillesand we get back on the bus and drive to Toensberg, the oldest city in the Scandinavia with roots back to the early or mid-800s AD. The famous and very popular dock area in Toensberg is also home to a replica of the well-known Oseberg ship and we will get onboard to enjoy the town from the seaside.

Day 11, July 7: Toensberg/Borre

The Midgard Historical Center in Borre lies next to Northern Europe's largest assembly of monumental grave mounds and is our focus for the day. The center opened in 2000 with the primary task of spreading knowledge about the Viking Age in the Vestfold County part of Norway. Many of the artifacts from Borre are of an eastern character and bears witness of a strong cultural influence from the countries around the Baltic Sea, Poland and Russia. Findings from graves in Kaupang in the southern part of Vestfold show us that the Vikings were in close contact with today's Central Europe, England, France, Ireland and the areas around the Mediterranean. Several coins found in Vestfold originate from Kufa in Iraq. The Vikings were very fashion orientated, they didn't just bring anything back home, but they shopped luxury items abroad and equipped themselves with the latest within weaponry.



Day 12, July 8: Toensberg/Borre

This morning we enjoy a hearty breakfast and get ready for our journey back home. We transfer to the airport for an afternoon flight and land in Tampa around 9 pm.



Our Group Leader



He will take care of you!