

Norway's Fjords, Fells & Railways

Trip style: Walking with sightseeing

Destination: 📍 Norway

Trip code: NRC09-LCL09

Grades: 1, 3

Carbon Footprint: 🌳 662kg CO2



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

With thundering rivers, sky-blue fjords, and frostbitten peaks punctuated by a flurry of fascinating cities, this trip to Norway ups the ante for natural beauty and standout sightseeing opportunities. We'll lead you coast to coast across wild mountains and majestic fjords by rail and boat, visiting royal Oslo, UNESCO-listed Bergen, and the historic port of Stavanger along the way. Not only will we take the Bergen Railway to its summit station, ride the famous Flåm Railway, and climb Mount Fløyen by funicular, but we'll also sail through the fjords and along Norway's coastline. And it doesn't end there. Stay in a remote mountain wilderness for walks by waterfalls and lakes to

stunning viewpoints over the glacier-encrusted landscape and top it all with a final trek to Preikestolen (Pulpit Rock) to take in what's arguably Norway's most wow-worthy scenery.

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Visiting the contrasting cities of Oslo, Bergen & Stavanger
- Riding the Bergen Railway to the 'roof of Norway'
- Staying in the unspoilt wilderness at Vatnahalsen and Balestrand
- Hiking to mountain viewpoints at Hardanger Glacier & Pulpit Rock
- A journey on the Flåm Railway from the mountains to fjordside
- Sailing Norway's fjords & rugged coastline
- Ascending Mount Fløyen on foot and by funicular railway

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Local Tour Manager that leads walks and sightseeing
- 9 nights' accommodation in multiple locations
- 9 breakfasts & 8 dinners
- All in-destination transport
- Return flights from London Gatwick, including baggage and transfers

TRIP SUITABILITY

On the walks on this holiday, the only steep edges will be at the view points on Preikestolen (Pulpit Rock) and Brekkefossen Waterfall - otherwise the hikes are through closed plateau areas or valleys. Our hardest walk is on Day 9 to Pulpit Rock, which is at the high end of our Grade 3 in some places. This is also our highest elevation at 604 metres.

The longest walk will be to the Hardanger Glacier, which is approx 7 miles (8 km). Guests also need to transport their own luggage between hotels and ports / stations as we join ferry / train services between resorts.

ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival in Oslo

On arrival to Oslo, you'll be met by our local HF Holidays Tour Manager who'll introduce you to the city on a guided tour of Norway's proud capital and royal seat. Our tour will be partly on foot and partly by coach, to ensure we see the most spectacular sights in this green city, set at the head of the Oslofjord. We'll take a walk in Frogner Park, with its beautiful sculptures and visit the interesting Fram Museum. We'll then go on to our hotel, to unpack and settle in before our set-course evening meal.

Day 2: The Bergen Railway to 'the roof of Norway'

Distance: 10km / 6.5 miles Ascent: 50 m / 165 feet Descent: 50 m / 165 feet Our first full day takes us on one of Europe's most spectacular railway journeys. The Bergen Railway, departs Oslo, climbing gently through green pastures before ascending beyond the tree line to a beautiful wilderness. Our destination is Vatnahalsen where we'll stay for two nights. In the afternoon, there's the option of an easy 3.5-hour walk alongside lakes Reinunga and Seltuft – a great introduction to the region. This hike takes us along the gravel rallar road and the lakeside. Though mainly flat, there is some ascent and descent as we switch between them. We'll continue to our hotel in Myrdal where we'll stay for two nights, enjoying a delicious set local menu each evening.

Day 3: The Hardanger Glacier

Distance: 11km / 7 miles Ascent: 150 m / 495 feet Descent: 150 m / 495 feet After a 30-minute walk to Myrdal station, we take the Bergen Railway to nearby Finse, the highest point on the line. Finse lies in the Hardangervidda (Hardanger Mountain Plateau), the largest plateau of its kind in Europe. Today's highlight is a walk to the viewpoint over the Hardanger Glacier - one of Norway's biggest. This walk will take around five hours, but the views are worth the effort. We'll start heading eastwards along the Finsevatnet where our route takes us through terrain which is rough and rocky in part. Surefootedness is required as we cross a suspension bridge, enjoying the surrounding landscapes of mountains and streams.

Day 4: The Flåm Railway & Norway's Fjords

Distance: 5 km / 3 miles Ascent: 155 m / 510 feet Descent: 155 m / 510 feet The world-famous Flåm Railway twists and turns through rocky landscapes as we descend from high mountains to breath taking fjord scenery. On arrival in Flåm we'll walk from the town alongside the river, then up the mountainside to the Brekkefossen waterfall. As the trail opens up onto a grassy ledge, we will have a lovely view of the fjord and valley. We'll make our way back down to the village, where our ferry then sails along awe-inspiring Aurlandsfjord and into Sognefjord, where we stay for two nights in Balestrand.

Day 5: Fjord Country

This morning is free for you to enjoy a walk along the shore of Sognefjord, passing white and red coloured wooden villas nestled against grassy slopes. If weather permits, you can take a refreshing dip in the fjord at Gamleheimsfjora's beautiful beach. An afternoon boat trip explores Fjærlandsfjord. After a visit to the Glacier Museum a coach takes us to Bøyabreen Glacier and back to Balestrand.

Day 6: Ciders, Fjords and Seascapes

After a relaxing morning we meet for lunch and a tasting of local cider. Our afternoon ferry sails westwards along Sognefjord, then down the scenic coastline to Bergen, Norway's second city.

Day 7: UNESCO-listed Bergen & Mount Fløyen

Distance: 6 km / 3.5 miles Descent: 320 m / 1050 feet A morning sightseeing tour uncovers Bergen and its UNESCO World Heritage harbourfront, Bryggen. After a small taste of the local produce from Bryggen's harbour, we'll embark on another of Norway's great rail experiences. The Fløibanen Funicular takes us to the top of Mount Fløyen. From here we'll enjoy spectacular views over Bryggen, Bergen, and the surrounding mountains. We return to Bryggen on foot, making the walk down via Blåmanen and Rundemanen, taking in the scenery as we go.

Day 8: Along the coast to Stavanger

After some free time to explore Bergen this morning we'll board the coastal ferry to complete our route down Norway's coastline. Today we will have a packed lunch provided, with buffet dinner on board the ferry, or during the high season this will be a buffet lunch on board the ferry, with a late dinner provided at our hotel this evening. Our guide will be able to confirm the arrangements locally.

Day 9: Pulpit Rock

Distance: 8 km / 5 miles Ascent: 600m / 1970 feet Descent: 600m / 1970 feet Our last day is one of the highlights of our Norwegian adventure, also our most challenging walk, with our experienced leader on hand to guide us through some of the steeper sections on one of the country's most famous mountain hikes. From our start point, we'll make the ascent to Preikestolen – the rocky plateau and iconic rock formation known as Pulpit Rock that sits majestically 604 metres above Lysefjord and offers knockout views over the Norwegian fjords.

Day 10: Return home

Enjoy our final breakfast this morning. We return today to Stavanger International Airport for the return flight home.

The Hotel Vatnahalsen, Flåmsdalen

Only accessible by train, The Hotel Vatnahalsen is a remote retreat situated amidst a vast mountain wilderness known as the 'roof of Norway'. Its enviable location makes it an ideal base for a host of outdoor activities including walking, mountain biking, and ziplining. Simple yet cosy rooms all come with excellent views of the surrounding landscape and the welcoming lounge area is great for catching up with fellow guests or curling up with a good book by the open fireplace. In the restaurant, you'll find panoramic windows overlooking Reinunga Lake and traditional Nordic dishes using local organic vegetables and meat from animals that have grazed on the mountain.

Midtnes Hotel, Balestrand

A simple hotel overlooking the beautiful Sognefjord, the Midtnes offers spacious, comfortable rooms with free Wi-Fi, plus a private pier for swimming. As for location, you'll be in easy reach of main sights including the town's charming church and the Norwegian Travel Museum.

Hotel Thon Stavanger, Stavanger

For a stay in central Stavanger, the Hotel Thon offers easy access to all the city's sights and sits just steps from the beautiful 12th century cathedral. The hotel retains an air of traditional style but comes with modern elements and facilities throughout, including comfortable rooms complete with all mod cons. There's a warm and welcoming dining room and the hotel's second-floor lounge is a wonderful spot to enjoy views over the city, with a morning coffee.

Scandic Ørnen, Bergen

Located just moments from Bergen railway station, Scandic Ørnen is a stylish, contemporary hotel ideal for exploring the city's main attractions. Spacious rooms come with all the essentials including free Wi-Fi, TV, and en-suite bathroom. The hotel is home to Roast Restaurant & Bar, known for locally sourced ingredients and panoramic views from the rooftop terrace. Guests also have access to a fitness centre and can enjoy one of the city's best hotel breakfasts, served in the light-filled restaurant each morning. Bryggen Wharf and the Fløibanen funicular are just a short stroll away.

Vaccinations & health information - SHARED WITH ALL EU NEW 2026

Before booking, you should check with your doctor to see whether any health precautions are needed for your trip. Health advice and requirements can change, so we recommend doing this in good time before travel. As a general rule, travellers should ensure they are up to date with routine UK vaccinations and boosters, including, for example, MMR and diphtheria, tetanus and polio. Some countries may require you to have specific vaccinations such as Malaria, Rabies and Yellow Fever. Please check with your GP if you are unsure. Please note that the use or possession of some common prescription or over-the-counter medicines is restricted or banned in certain countries.

If you will be carrying medication, you should check with the relevant embassy or consulate before travelling. As an extra precaution, we recommend keeping medication in its original packaging, carrying a copy of your prescription, and, where possible, asking your pharmacist to provide the medication name in the language of the country you are visiting. For further country-specific health advice, visit www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk or www.traveldoctor.co.uk. If you are travelling from outside the UK, please consult your own doctor and check local entry requirements.

Passport & Visa information - SHARED FOR ALL EU NEW 2026

This information is for those travelling with a full 'British Citizen' passport; for all other nationalities or passport holders, please check with your local consulate for advice. **Passport Requirements** This information applies to travellers holding a full British Citizen passport. Entry requirements vary by destination and can change at short notice. For most EU and worldwide destinations, passports must be valid for the entire duration of your stay. Some countries also require a minimum period of validity remaining on your passport (often up to 6 months beyond your return date), even if you are not staying that long. We strongly recommend ensuring your passport has at least six months' validity remaining at the time of travel to avoid any issues. If you hold a different type of British passport or a passport issued by another country, you must check the requirements with the relevant embassy, consulate, or official government website. **Visa Requirements** Visa rules depend on your nationality, destination, length of stay, and purpose of travel, and they can change frequently. It is your responsibility to check whether you require a visa before travelling. British passport holders should check the latest entry, passport validity and visa requirements for their destination on the UK government's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) website: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>

Packing list - Overseas Guided Walking

Transport throughout the tour is by coach/rail/boat. On a number of days, we walk with our luggage between hotels and departure/arrival railway stations or docks. A coach is used for airport transfers and on some days for excursions. **What to pack** Even during summer in Norway's fjords, you need to be prepared for rapid weather changes and so packing requires versatile layers to manage this. Pack for all conditions with a mix of light, breathable clothes and warm, sturdy clothing for chilly, wet conditions. **Essentials** Walking boots Waterproof jacket Waterproof trousers Insulating layers - fleece/wool Walking clothing Walking socks (plus spares) Sunhat Gloves/mitts and warm hat Water bottle (minimum 2 litre capacity) Headtorch High-factor sunscreen (minimum SPF 30) Sunglasses with a dark lens Insect repellent Rucksack (15-30 litres) Mobile phone Camera Personal first aid kit (containing your medication, blister plasters, etc.) Passport Visa (if applicable) Copy of your travel insurance policy UK Global Health Insurance Card (formerly known as EHIC) Recommended Collapsible walking poles Dry bags **Optional extras** Camera Sit mat Gaiters