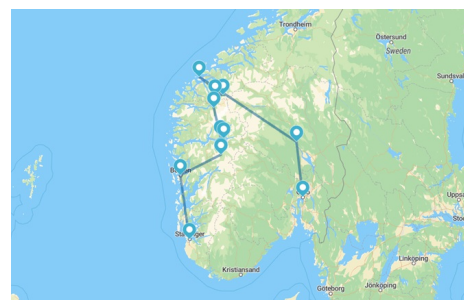




Norway, 10 Days · Tailor-made by car

Route of the Fjords and the Vikings

They will likely always be remembered in history as brutish men, but the emergence of the Vikings towards the end of the 8th century was to forever change not only the face of Europe, but much of the globe. This is because, as well as being looters and conquerors, the Vikings were successful merchants and sailors in the Middle Ages, uniting the four cardinal points of the Old Continent thanks to their technologically advanced ships which were unparalleled for their time, and with which they discovered the land of Vinland, in North America, in the year 1000. And, at its height, a unique and powerful culture evolved, a landscape that shaped men without fear of the unknown. That land is none other than the fjords region of western Norway. There, names such as "the Troll's Footpath" or "the Fjord of Dreams" conjure up a small idea of the fascination awakened by the spectacular nature of this Scandinavian country, where white, green and blue vie for superiority in these simply stunning views. Not to mention the nights, full of light during the midnight sun... Among all this natural wonder there is also room to unleash your inner urban streak, with cities such as Bergen, Lillehammer or Stavanger. Not forgetting, of course, the country's capital, Oslo, currently one of Europe's hot spots thanks to its vibrant cultural life and creativity. Don an imaginary helmet and captain your car as if it were an old "drakkar" Viking ship, then towards the mysteries of the Norwegian fjords like a Viking of yesteryear, navigating their routes, soaking up the viewpoints and enjoying culinary excellence at each stop. You won't regret it.



NATURE

FAMILIES

Departure date_ Departures from July 2022 till June 2023

From_ Dublin, Shannon, Cork

Travel details

● DAY 1 · CITY OF ORIGIN - OSLO

Flight departure from the city of origin to the Norwegian capital. Rental car pick-up and make your own way to the hotel. You have the rest of the day to spend at your leisure to start enjoying Oslo, one of the fastest growing cities in Europe this decade. Take advantage of the delicious cuisine in this city, where all the ingredients are as fresh as they come, trying out restaurants like the "Maeemo" and its rose petal dishes, or getting to know the new 'funky' sound bar scene, where you'll be served cocktails made with products from local distilleries. Overnight stay in Oslo.

DAY 2 · OSLO

It's no coincidence that the international press have surrendered to the tourist attractions of the Norwegian capital by including this city in their list of the best places to visit. Oslo is defined as a city prepared to dazzle, in part thanks to the spectacular Astrup Fearnley Museum and the island of Tjuvholmen, a neighbourhood which, in the past, was an unattractive industrial area to visitors but which has since become a perfect tourist destination. You can start your tour of the Norwegian city in, unsurprisingly, the Oslo Viking Ship Museum, where you'll find exhibits of the best preserved boats in the world of these intrepid medieval adventurers. These ships were actually found in the vicinity of the Oslo Fjord, where they were buried as royal tombs more than a millennium ago. The Vikingskipshuset - literally, the "House of the Viking Ships" - is located at Huk Aveny No. 35. Nearby, at Museumsveien No. 10, you'll find the Norwegian Museum of Cultural History, which displays a total of 155 traditional Norwegian houses with architectural examples from all cardinal points of the Scandinavian country. This outdoor museum, called Norsk Folkemuseum, is an excellent moment in your itinerary to enjoy as a family, as there are several activities specifically organised for children, as well as traditional dances and horse-drawn carriages. Take the opportunity to witness, live, the creation of local crafts or the preparation of typical cakes... as well as to taste Norway's traditional cuisine. After your visit to the Norsk Folkemuseum, head beyond Oslo to the unique Vigeland Park, where spectacular nature shares space with more than 200 bronze, granite and iron sculptures... the one million visitors who visit each year can't be wrong. Don't miss the popular "Sinnataggen", the angry boy, or the sculpture of a woman pulling her hair. Don't forget to leave enough space on your camera's memory card, because you won't want to miss any images of this unique park! From the park you can head to the famous Astrup Fearnley Museet (Museum), which houses one of the most important collections of modern and contemporary art in Northern Europe, and whose building is in itself a genuine architectural treasure. Its glass roof is shaped like a ship's sail and appears to salute the maritime surroundings of its location with which it is confused. Neighbouring the Astrup Fearnley Museet is the aforementioned island of Tjuvholmen, which boasts Venetian-style canals and a spectacular panoramic view, thanks to its 57-metre-high observation tower. And, naturally, you can't miss the Port of Oslo, which combines views, history, art, architecture, and even a bit of adventure. Among other attractions the new Opera House, which appears to emerge from the sea, stands out. After walking along its roof and admiring excellent views of the city, you can head to the lively area of Aker Brygge, where you will find an array of cafes and restaurants at the epicentre of Oslo's social scene and nightlife. Overnight stay in Oslo.

DAY 3 · OSLO - LILLEHAMMER

Take advantage of the time you have in the morning to visit a few more sights in Oslo. And don't forget that the city is one of the best places to track down some fashionable garments of the revamped "Nordic design", which have been in vogue in recent years. Head towards the area of Bygdøy, where you can also find the Norwegian Maritime Museum, the Fram Museum - which exhibits the strongest wooden polar vessel in the world - and the Kon-Tiki Museum, which houses original ships and expedition objects from Thor Heyerdahl, one of the most famous environmental advocates in the world. After these cultural visits, start enjoying the excellent views on offer along the 190-kilometre (118-mile) route to the small town of Lillehammer, a city about two hours north of Oslo which is dotted with excellent sports facilities inherited from the 1994 Olympic Winter Games. Take Highway 50 northbound until you reach the E6 motorway that will take you directly to Lillehammer. You will arrive in one of Norway's main skiing and nature tourism destinations, where you can enjoy not only a spectacular natural environment but also cool action spots such as the Olympic bobsleigh track or the ski jump that we all saw first, on television, in January... But which you can experience at any time of year! Lillehammer is not just about sport, however: it is ideal for taking a stroll through its pedestrian centre and tasting the delicious local cuisine in one of its small cafes and restaurants. Or you can check out Lillehammer's old buildings, of which there are more than 200, mostly built of wood and preserved in the open-air Maihaugen Museum. Don't miss the Norwegian Olympic Museum or the Lillehammer Art Museum, or 'Kunstmuseum', which contains the best works of Scandinavian painters. Around 13 kilometres (8 miles) from the city centre is the Hunderfossen Family Park, where children and adults can enjoy more than 50 organised activities and attractions. For dining we recommend the "Bryggerikjelleren" restaurant (make sure you book a table in advance as it's very popular), the American "Dudeburger.no" food trucks, or the "Salt & Pepper" restaurant, with its elegant and exquisite atmosphere, perfect for a couple's evening out. Overnight stay in Lillehammer.

● DAY 4 · LILLEHAMMER - ÅNDALSNES - TROLLSTIGEN OR "THE TROLL'S FOOTPATH" - STORFJORD FJORD - ÅLESUND

After first encountering the awe-inspiring natural beauty of this Scandinavian country with a glimpse of Lillehammer, today you will become fully acquainted with the country, crossing the mountainous backbone of Norway into the heart of the fjords. From Lillehammer head towards the town of Åndalsnes, on the banks of the Romsdalsfjord, 259 kilometres (160 miles) away along the highway. Take the opportunity for a short break and stretch your legs as you pay a visit to the Norsk Tindesenter, the national mountaineering visitor centre which is located in the harbour of this charming Norwegian town. From there, take the HV63 panoramic route to cross the Trollstigen, or "Troll's Footpath", a steep mountain pass with nine hairpin bends which cling to the rocks, flanked by a 390-metre fall, which offers a beautiful panoramic vista. It's practically obligatory to stop in the car park at the top, experiment with your camera and soak up the unforgettable views. Afterwards, continue on to the Storfjord, literally "great fjord", one of the most significant and longest fjords in Norway, at 110 kilometres (68 miles) long, to finally arrive in the town of Ålesund where you'll spend the night. Ålesund is a picturesque town that resembles something out of a fairy tale with its blend of natural beauty and art nouveau architecture. It's a heavenly place that offers excellent cuisine in its abundance of restaurants, such as the restaurant located at the "Fjellstua" viewpoint, from where you can enjoy a wonderful panoramic view of the city, as well as other great eateries such as the "XL Diner", "Anno" and "Bulls Brygge". Ålesund has a vibrant social scene and night life, with pubs and bars such as the "Barbord Lobbybar" or "Brudes Bar" to keep you entertained. Let yourself go, you won't regret it! Overnight stay in Ålesund.

● DAY 5 · ÅLESUND - NORDDALSFJORD FJORD (FERRY) - GEIRANGER - GEIRANGERFJORD FJORD (FERRY) - HELLESYLT - JOSTEDALBREEN GLACIER NATIONAL PARK - BYRKJELO - SOGNDALSFJØRA (330 KM + 2 FERRIES)

Leaving Norway's interior behind you, the Route proceeds onward to the true land of the fjords. Leave Ålesund to rejoin the HV63, and head towards the town of Linge, located around 80 kilometres (50 miles) away. Be sure to pay attention, because before reaching Linge you will see the exit to the port from where you embark the Linge-Eidsdal ferry to cross the Norddalsfjord. Once you arrive at the port of Eidsdal following a short journey of 12 minutes or so, Geiranger awaits you, just 25 kilometres (16 miles) south on the HV63. This charming town is considered by some to be Scandinavia's best tourist destination, courtesy of its beautiful natural surroundings. Be sure to stop along the way to regain your strength, tasting the fantastic local food as you go in restaurants such as "Geiranger Brewery" and "Hellesylt Boutique & Bar". From the port of Geiranger depart by ferry for an unforgettable cruise that runs along the beautiful Geirangerfjord to Hellesylt, lasting about an hour. It's hard not to be completely awestruck by the views in the Geirangerfjord, a true work of art created by Mother Nature. Impressive waterfalls, the inimitable blue of its crystal clear, rainbow waters straight out of a fairy tale, features that led to the Geiranger Fjord being included in the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in 2005. It's an unparalleled experience that will be ingrained in your memory... and on the memory card of your camera - for a lifetime! Once in Hellesylt, head south along Highway 60, which crosses the Jostedalbreen Glacier National Park over a total of 190 kilometres (118 miles) in just over three hours, to Sogndalsfjøra, the administrative centre of the municipality of Sogndal. To break up this section of the trip, we recommend stopping for a rest in the town of Byrkjelo, two hours away. Towards the end of the afternoon you'll arrive in the small town of Sogndalsfjøra, one of the most important active and nature tourism destinations in Norway. There, you can check out the Stedje church, built in 1867, or visit Lerum Konserver, Norway's largest producer of juices and jams. Alternatively, enjoy a range of activities such as hiking, kayaking, sleigh rides or cycling amid beautiful natural surroundings. "Dampskipskaien" and "Daddy's Food" are two excellent dining options, whether you wish to sample the local cuisine or would prefer international cuisine. Overnight stay in Sogndalsfjøra.

● **DAY 6 · SOGNDALSFJØRA - KAUPANGER - SOGNEFJORD, AURLANDFJORD AND NÆRØYFJORD FJORDS (FERRY) - FLÅM - BERGEN (APPROX. 300 KM + 1 FERRY)**

Just 11 kilometres (7 miles) southeast of Sogndalsfjøra, 15 minutes along Highway 5, is the town of Kaupanger, which was founded in the days of the Vikings. Admire one of the most famous wooden churches in the country, the Kaupanger Stavkirke, which dates back to the 12th century but whose altarpiece, pulpit and baptismal font date back to the 17th century. Incidentally, Stavkirke is a Norwegian word that describes a particular type of medieval Christian wooden temple which was once common in Northern Europe but is now confined to Norway. Just ten minutes southeast of Kaupanger you can board one of the most beautiful tourist ferries in the Scandinavian country, leading to the town of Gudvangen. Take a wonderful cruise (two to four hours long) through fjords which have been granted World Heritage status by UNESCO: the Sognefjord, translated as "the Fjord of Dreams"; the Aurlandfjord, where you can visit the Frønningen, a village only accessible by sea, and Frønningen's historic manor; and the Nærøyfjord, where the Kjelfossen waterfall stands proud, at 840 metres high. The cruise finishes its journey in Gudvangen, another spot in this region which was founded by the Vikings and a magnet for tourists, including the German Kaiser Wilhelm, since the late 19th century. Thanks, above all, to its spectacular natural environment, many hold Gudvangen in as high regard as the town of Geiranger. From Gudvangen, take the E16 motorway to reach your next destination, the town of Flåm, about 20 kilometres (12 miles) away and about 20 minutes by car. This takes you through the Gudvangatunnelen, or Gudvanga Tunnel, the second longest road tunnel in Norway at more than 11 kilometres (7 miles) in length. In Flåm, enjoy a unique and dizzying experience if you decide to take the spectacular tourist train ride up to an altitude of more than 1,000 metres to Myrdal. It is considered one of Norway's main tourist attractions. You can leave your car in the station car park. (Note: This train ride is optional. It lasts around one hour, costs in the region of 550 Kroner and offers morning and evening trips from both Flåm and Myrdal. Check the website for more information. Not included). To reach our next and final destination of this stage, the best option is to return to Gudvangen, from where you'll head along the E16 motorway to the mountain town of Voss. If you decide to take a detour through Granvin from Voss, you'll have the opportunity to travel through the Hardangerfjord on your way to Bergen. This alternative involves a drive of about three hours, covering a distance of more than 160 kilometres (99 miles). You'll first take road 13 to Granvin, then access road 7 to connect with the E16 motorway (if you didn't opt for the tourist train from Flåm this is a great option). Alternatively, you can travel directly from Flåm to Bergen via the E16, a journey of about 100 kilometres (62 miles) that is inundated with tunnels and that should take less than two hours. Bear in mind that 26 kilometres (16 miles) from your starting point there is a toll costing 47 Kroner. This is not included in the price of our Route. At the end of your, Bergen, the second largest city in Norway, awaits you! Overnight stay in Bergen.

● DAY 7 · BERGEN

Today you'll spend the whole day visiting the so-called "Gateway to the Fjords", whose attractions place Bergen up there with the capital, Oslo. Bergen is the most cosmopolitan city in the country, thanks to its multicultural heritage as a commercial centre at the time of the Hanseatic League. In fact, the city's best-known image is its multi-coloured wooden houses that adorn the Bryggen docks, once inhabited by German, Russian, Dutch and Swedish merchants, and declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1979. These wooden houses currently cater to tourism, featuring souvenir shops and excellent restaurants. A photo in front of these 18th century architectural treasures is essential. The best way to enjoy this beautiful town is on foot, allowing you to stretch your legs and relax a bit after the long road you've travelled so far. We recommend you leave your car in the "ByGarasjen" car park at Fjøsangerveien 4, or the "KlosterGarasjen" car park at Vestre Murallmenning 14, both open 24 hours a day. Because the inner alleyways of Bryggen hold many surprises in their ancient wooden houses, while in the city centre you will find various attractions, such as Skostredet, a small pedestrian street dotted with restaurants and craft shops, which at the weekend also hosts a flea market. Don't miss the Hanseatic Museum. (Note: Check the websites for prices and schedules. Not included). It is located very close to Bryggen and you can continue learning a little more about Hanseatic history. Or the Bryggens Museum, on Dreggsalmenning street, where historical treasures dating back to the Viking era and collected from around the region are kept. (Note: Check the websites for prices and schedules. Not included). And, if you want to buy fish that isn't fresh, but really fresh, you should go check out the traditional market, the pride of the city for centuries. Called Fisketorget, it is a must-see for visitors and an experience for all your senses... and one of the main reasons why Bergen was granted the title, 'Creative City of Gastronomy' by UNESCO. The Church of Santa Maria, or Mariakirken, stands in the centre of Oslo. It was built with Romanesque features in the 12th century and was one of the first Christian temples founded in Norway. There's also Lake Lungegårdsvann, which at night offers romantic views of the city thanks to its thoughtful lighting. For dinner there are an array of options to suit all budgets, from the famous "Lysverket", "Colonialen" and "Bare Vestland" restaurants, to the "Pingvinen" tavern on Vaskerelven street, where traditional Norwegian dishes are served until 03.00 am... The nightlife of Bergen is another of its great attractions. Discover it for yourself! Overnight stay in Bergen.

● DAY 8 · BERGEN - BJØRNAFJORD FJORD (FERRY) - AVALDSNES - BONKAFJORD FJORD (FERRY) - STAVANGER (210 KM + 2 FERRIES)

Take advantage of the morning to see a bit more of Bergen before setting off at a reasonable time to our next destination, Stavanger. There are two activities suggested for the morning. One is the visit to the beautiful wooden stave church of Fantoft, another beautiful Norwegian stavkirke shrouded in legend and mystery related to the ubiquitous trolls. And the other is one of the most popular excursions in Bergen, taking the Fløibanen funicular up to an unparalleled panoramic view of the seven hills that border the city. (Note: The price ranges from 50 Kroner for children and 95 Kroner for adults, and starts operating at 8.00 am. Not included). When you're ready, you can leave for Stavanger. You must take the E39 motorway in the direction of Stavanger until reaching the coastal town of Halhjem 33 kilometres (21 miles) away, where a 40-minute ferry ride across the Bjørnafjorden will take you to Sandvikvåg. From there, remaining on the E39 in the direction of Haugesund, continue to the town of Avaldsnes, stopping briefly or the way to visit the stone church of St. Olav, known as St. Olavskirken på Avaldsnes, which dates back to the mid-13th century. Avaldsnes is a Viking town connected to the church that gave rise to this locality by a signposted path. In your own time, take the E39 motorway once again, heading in the same direction, and after a 35-kilometre (22-mile) journey that takes little over half an hour, you will reach the coastal town of Arsvågen, where you can take another ferry across the Bonkafjorden to Mortavika. From Mortavika only 30 kilometres (19 miles) and a little less than half an hour's drive remain to reach your destination, Stavanger. Note that on this stretch of the journey you will find up to four road tolls, with prices ranging between 14 and 30 Kroner. You are now entering what is undoubtedly one of the boldest and most incredible fjords on Earth, where huge bridges and gigantic underground tunnels, in some cases more than 8 kilometres (5 miles) long, defy breathtaking nature. Overnight stay in Stavanger.

DAY 9 · STAVANGER

Today you can spend the whole day enjoying Stavanger's array of attractions. The most famous is the Preikestolen, or "the Pulpit Rock", a flat rock which takes the form of a natural platform and which dominates the Lysefjord. It will quite literally take your breath away. It rises to a total of 604 metres above sea level and to access this landmark, the most visited in the Rogaland region, you have to hike up for around 90 minutes, and then the same again in descent. Really consider doing it, because it's worth it! Under the Preikestolen is the Lysefjord, a fjord that you're able to visit thanks to the tourist boats that depart from the port of Stavanger, running to Lysebotn and back. The tour that offers unique views of the Preikestolen itself, as well as its wonderful surroundings. (Note: This cruise excursion is optional. It lasts about four hours and costs around 500 Kroner, with both morning and afternoon trips. Not included). But Stavanger is much more than just pure nature. Other highlights include its old town, an entire neighbourhood composed of more than 170 white wooden houses, and the Norwegian Petroleum Museum, located on Kjerfingholmen Street, which marks the 1969 discovery of the first oil field in the region. (Note: Check the websites for prices and schedules. Not included). A tour of its facilities will enable you to learn all about how the so-called "black gold" has transformed the area economically, socially and in terms of tourism. Lovers of gastronomy and good food are in luck, because Stavanger is also a first class gastronomic destination, with two Michelin Star-rated restaurants ("RE-NAA" and "Sabi Omakase"). Urbanites will enjoy Stavanger's vibrant and varied social scene and night life, with a multitude of bars, cafes and restaurants on offer which are concentrated in the centre of the city. Overnight stay in Stavanger.

DAY 10 · STAVANGER - CITY OF ORIGIN

Arrival at the airport with enough time to drop off your rental car and flight back to the city of origin. Arrival. End of the trip and our services.

Your package holiday includes

Your package holiday includes

- ✓ Return flight.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Oslo.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Oslo.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Lillehammer.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Lillehammer.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Aalesund.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Aalesund.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Sogndal.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Sogndal.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Bergen.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Bergen.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Stavanger.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Stavanger.
- ✓ Rent-a-car.
- ✓ Amount of the supplement for collection and return of the vehicle in a different office.

Your trip doesn't include

- ✗ Possible toll charges.
- ✗ Insolvency protection.
- ✗ Fähre Norddalsfjord, Strecke Linge-Eidsdal. Fähre Geirangerfjorden, Strecke Geiranger-Hellesylt. // 6. Tag. Fähre Sognefjord, Strecke Kaupanger-Gudvangen // 8. Tag. Fähre Bjørnafjorden, Strecke Halhjem-Sandvikvåg. Fähre Bonkafjorden, Strecke Arsvågen-Mortavika.

Destinations Visited

Oslo



Lillehammer



Aalesund



Geiranger



Hellesylt



Olden



Sogndal



Kaupanger



Aurland



Flam



Bergen



Stavanger



Important remarks

- Driving in Norway: 1.Cars drive on the right-hand side and trams must be overtaken on the right. 2.Motorists must use low-beam headlights both day and night. 3.The allowed blood alcohol level is the strictest in Europe - just 0.2 mg/ml. Fines are very high and must be paid on the spot. 4.The speed limits are as follows: in built-up areas 50 km/h; on country roads 80 km/h; and on motorways 110 km/h. 5.Petrol stations are normally open from 6.00 am to 7.00 pm. 6.Parking is not allowed on main streets. This is why there are many municipal parking areas. Parking zones have different colours. You can park for one hour in yellow zones; two hours in grey zones; and three hours in brown zones. 7.Norway has a people-oriented road culture, where pedestrians and cyclists have priority. Pedestrians expect you to slow down or stop when they're crossing the road and cyclists don't always follow traffic rules. Please keep the most unprotected travellers in mind when driving on Norwegian roads. 8.Roads are mostly toll roads. You can pay for tolls either manually or with the AutoPASS, whereby automatic payment is taken once you've registered your car and your credit card on the website <https://www.autopass.no/en/visitors-payment>. We strongly recommend the AutoPASS. A fixed amount is withheld that will be discounted as you go through a toll and press the AutoPASS button (any surplus will be returned to you eighty-five days later). You can activate it up to three days after having passed through your first toll booth. If you opt for manual payment, you can pay for the tolls you've already passed through at petrol

stations. You'll know at which petrol stations you can pay when you see a sign that says 'Kr-service' (usually Esso petrol stations).

- Triple rooms in Europe are generally rooms with twin beds or a double, in which a folding bed is installed to accommodate the third person. Due to the inconvenience this causes, we advise against using this option as far as possible.
- The proposed excursions and tours for each day are purely suggestions, as you can tailor the trip to suit your times, tastes and needs.
- A credit card is considered a guarantee, so sometimes you will need one for check-in at hotels.
- Hotels usually have cots available. Otherwise, babies will have to share a bed with an adult.
- To pick up your rental car, you'll need a credit (not debit) card in the name of the person who made the booking, who must also be the named driver of the vehicle.
- We recommend you purchase the necessary ferry tickets in advance while purchasing your self-drive tour, since ferry tickets are not included in the trip and, depending on the time of year, your vehicle and your ship or ferry preferences, the dates and duration of your ferry trip will vary. To facilitate the planning of your trip, please consult schedules and rates on the shipping companies' websites before choosing your trip start date. Check: the Fjord1 website for the routes Linge-Eidsdal, Halhjem-Sandvikvåg and Arsvågen-Mortavika (<https://www.fjord1.no/>); the Visitflam website for the Geirangerfjorden cruise on the Geiranger-Hellesylt route (<https://www.visitflam.com/>); and the GoFjords website for the cruise through the Sognefjord from Kaupanger to Gudvangen (<https://gofjords.com/>).