

An aerial photograph of a Norwegian fjord. The water is a deep, vibrant blue, reflecting the sky and the surrounding mountains. The fjord is flanked by steep, forested mountainsides. In the foreground, a small village with several houses, including one with a red roof, is visible. A road winds along the edge of the fjord, and a small bridge crosses a stream that flows into the fjord. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds.

# CRUISE THE NORWEGIAN FJORDS

IN THE PATH OF THE VIKINGS

Orbridge

THE NETHERLANDS, GERMANY AND NORWAY



# Cruise the Norwegian Fjords | Itinerary Highlights *(subject to change)*

Day EN ROUTE FROM U.S.

1

Day ARRIVE IN AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS –

2

**EMBARKATION (R,D)** Upon arriving to Amsterdam Airport Schiphol an Orbridge representative will be waiting to assist with your transfer to the hospitality room. Continue to the Rijksmuseum—the national museum of the Netherlands—before transferring to the ship by canal boat, an iconic experience that captures the essence of Amsterdam. Settle into your stateroom and become acquainted with the ship. This evening gather with fellow travel companions for a special welcome reception and captain's gala dinner.

Day HELIGOLAND, GERMANY (B,L,D) Step ashore

3

onto this remote and rugged archipelago in the North Sea about 40 miles off the German coastline. Once a strategic naval base, Heligoland was heavily bombed during World War II. Today the island is a protected nature reserve and a haven for seabirds. During a guided walking tour learn of the area's complex past and witness extraordinary bird colonies within close proximity—as gannets, guillemots and razorbills nest on and soar around the towering sandstone cliffs.

Day MANDAL, NORWAY (B,L,D) Set out on

4

a guided walking tour through Mandal's picturesque Old Town where narrow, winding streets are lined with white-painted wooden houses—a hallmark of the region. Before returning to the ship stop at Kilden Performing Arts Centre—the center of Southern Norway's cultural scene.

Day STAVANGER (B,L,D) Visit the Iron Age Farm—

5

a reconstructed farmstead from the Migration Period (350-550 AD) located on the original archaeological site. Then tour the Norwegian Petroleum Museum. Gain insight into the country's first oil procuring initiatives and how the industry has evolved both technologically and ecologically through the decades. Take a walking tour of Old Stavanger and visit the iconic Stavanger Cathedral, one of Norway's oldest churches. The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure to take advantage of the ship's onboard amenities.



Day OLDEN (B,L,D) This picturesque village is

6

nestled at the head of the Nordfjord. Journey to the summit of Mount Hoven aboard the Loen Skyliift—one of the steepest cable cars in the world. The spacious gondola's large windows offer stunning panoramic views. At the summit step out onto the viewing platform for 360° views. Before returning to the ship see Olden Church dating back to the 18th century.

## OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

**Briksdal Glacier Troll Car †:** Embark on a troll car excursion to view Briksdal Glacier, part of the larger Jostedalsglacier and one of Norway's most spectacular natural wonders. While not a traditional hiking trail, the walk out to the glacier is relatively easy.

**Hike at Leisure:** For those seeking a moderately challenging hike, try Oldeskaret—a trail through lush forests and past serene lakes, delivering hikers to a mountain pass that offers spectacular views of the Olden Valley and surrounding vistas. For more experienced hikers, the path along Skaala Ridge offers unparalleled views of the fjord and surrounding mountains. This hike is demanding and involves some scrambling, but the views from the top are worth the effort.

**Visit Olden at Leisure:** Stroll Olden independently, indulging in the surrounding natural beauty and serene ambiance.

**Day 7** **GEIRANGER (B,L,D)** After breakfast board a motor coach to discover one of the most scenic routes in Europe—The Eagle Road—a remarkable feat of engineering winding through steep mountain terrain with a series of hairpin bends. Stop for photography opportunities at Eagles Bend nearly 2,000 feet above sea level. Continue to Nibbevegen, the road leading to Dalsnibba, considered to be one of the most ambitious road projects in Norwegian history. Arriving at Dalsnibba Skywalk take in the crisp mountaintop air and 360° views of the surrounding UNESCO World Heritage Western Fjords. Afterward return to the ship for lunch.

#### OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

**Kayaking †:** Set off by kayak, either at your own pace or with a guided group, from a gathering point near the pier. Paddling below Geiranger's towering cliffs and lush green forests is an experience like no other. Have a camera ready to capture the boundless landscape from this unique perspective.

**Fjord Safari †:** Embark on a guided fjord safari aboard an agile rigid inflatable boat. Hear stories from your guide about the area while admiring the stunning waterways.

**Day 8** **NORDFJORDEID (B,L,D)** Discover the rich cultural heritage and typical daily life in the Norwegian Fjords. A guided walking tour takes you past the classic architecture of the church of Eid, the cultural Opera House and traditional wooden houses. Continue to the Sagstad Viking Center to learn about Norway's Viking history. Explore interactive exhibits showcasing archaeological finds from the region and view the full-scale reconstruction of the largest Viking longship ever discovered—the Myklebust Ship. Later return to the ship for a relaxing afternoon cruising the fjords towards Stavanger. This evening indulge in another culinary masterpiece inspired by the flavors of Norway crafted with locally sourced ingredients.

#### OPTIONAL EXCURSION

**Kvalen and Nos Viewpoints †:** Board a motor coach for a scenic drive towards the viewpoints situated 1,600 feet above sea level. This panoramic tour continues by Lake Hornidal with additional photography stops of the surrounding snow-capped mountains.

**Visit Nordfjordeid at Leisure:** Explore Nordfjordeid independently.

**Day 9** **FLÅM (B,L,D)** Transfer to the Flåm Railway for the 60-minute ascent to the mountainous town of Myrdal. Along the route admire the panoramic vistas of snow-capped peaks, lush valleys and cascading waterfalls, including the famous Kjosfossen waterfall. Enjoy time at the summit before the return journey by train. There will be additional time to explore Flåm independently before returning to the ship for lunch. Later set off on a blissful cruise through UNESCO-listed Sognefjord, Norway's longest and deepest fjord. Continue into the Nærøfjord, a narrow branch of Sognefjord and a UNESCO World Heritage Site—where the scenery becomes even more dramatic. At points just 800 feet wide, with cliffs soaring more than 3,000 feet high, Nærøfjord offers one of the most intimate and awe-inspiring fjord experiences in the world. Along the route pass quaint farms perched high on the hillsides, charming hamlets nestled at the water's edge and idyllic meadows that have been shaped by generations of life along the fjord. Conclude at Gudvangen, a serene village steeped in Viking lore.

**Day 10** **BERGEN (B,L,R,D)** Depart for Bergen by motor coach for a guided tour. Continue to Bryggen, a historic district and UNESCO World Heritage Site that encapsulates the rich maritime heritage and Hanseatic trading history of the city dating back to the 14th century. Next stop at Fantoft Stave Church for an inside visit. Later step into the life and legacy of one of Norway's most beloved composers—Edvard Grieg—during an inside visit to his idyllic home. Explore the beautifully preserved rooms, and see original furnishings, photographs and the composer's upright Steinway piano. Following the house tour, enjoy a private piano recital in the Trolsalen concert hall. The final evening on board, gather for a lively farewell reception followed by a convivial gala dinner to commemorate this epic journey cruising the Viking Line.

**Day 11** **BERGEN – DISEMBARKATION | DEPART FOR U.S. (B)** After breakfast guests departing during the suggested times will take a complimentary transfer to the airport for flights home.

(† = Additional fee applies; view full details online)

(B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner, R = Reception)





Loen Skylift

## What's Included

- 9 nights aboard the exclusively chartered *SH Diana*
- All onboard hand-crafted meals: 9 breakfasts, 8 lunches and 9 dinners (served with wine, beer or non-alcoholic beverages) plus special welcome and farewell receptions
- Private tours and special small-group excursions as noted in the 11-day itinerary
- Full guiding services of a team of Orbridge Expedition Leaders and expert local guides
- Private motor coach transportation
- Luggage portage
- Gratuities to ship crew, Orbridge Expedition Leaders, local guides, drivers, porters and wait staff for included meals
- Airport transfers for guests arriving and departing during the suggested times

**Activity Level:** Activities include shore excursions and small boat cruises. Guests should be sure-footed on stairs and ramps, be able to walk or hike at least one mile on uneven and slippery terrain, and be comfortable landing on various terrain and boarding small vessels.



Heligoland



Dalsnibba



Stavanger

**Orbridge**

## Orbridge Standard of Excellence

Orbridge understands travel today can be complicated. From cabin or room selection to airport transfers, dietary requests, or pre- or post-tour details—we are dedicated to making your journey seamless and special from the moment you leave home.

Our curated destinations—featuring outstanding properties and ships, meticulously crafted itineraries, and knowledgeable guides, travel directors and expedition leaders—offer life-changing experiences you'll never forget.

Our Guest Services team is staffed by well-traveled professionals who provide personalized attention, ensuring all your questions are answered and all the details of your trip are explained to you.

Our air partners can make flight arrangements for guests. In the event of flight delays and/or schedule changes, they will provide guests with personalized assistance. To book flight reservations with our air partners, contact (206) 319-5011 and select the option for your destination to discuss flight details with our air colleagues. Upon ticketing, a fee will be charged.

# Optional Amsterdam Pre-Tour

Wander alongside tranquil canals, past historic gabled houses and through vibrant squares brimming with Dutch culture. Stand before Van Gogh's bold brushstrokes, step inside a centuries-old windmill at Zaanse Schans and uncover the stories behind masterpieces in the famed Rijksmuseum.



Day  
+1

Day  
+2

**EN ROUTE FROM U.S.**

**ARRIVE IN AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS** Upon arrival to Amsterdam Airport Schiphol transfer to the hotel and enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure. Overnight: DoubleTree by Hilton Amsterdam Centraal Station

Day  
+3

**AMSTERDAM (B)** Visit the Van Gogh Museum, home to the world's largest collection of Vincent van Gogh's paintings, drawings and letters. Peruse through the museum's thoughtfully curated galleries, interactive exhibits and personal correspondences that provide an intimate glimpse into van Gogh's struggles and genius. Following lunch on your own, join a local guide for a captivating walking tour of the city's historic streets and charming canals. Conclude at Dam Square, a bustling plaza that's home to the Royal Palace, the New Church and the National Monument. Late afternoon and evening are at leisure. Overnight: DoubleTree by Hilton Amsterdam Centraal Station

Day  
+4

**AMSTERDAM I MAIN PROGRAM BEGINS (B,L)** Following breakfast at the hotel board a motor coach to Zaanse Schans. This picture-perfect village is dotted with well-preserved 18th- and 19th-century windmills, wooden houses and artisan workshops. Venture inside a working windmill to discover the inner mechanics that once powered the country's economy, then enjoy leisure time in town. Rejoin the group for lunch before returning to the city for an inside visit to the Rijksmuseum. Later this afternoon take a scenic canal cruise to the embarkation point as you join guests arriving for the main program.

## What's Included

- 2 nights hotel accommodations
- 2 breakfasts and 1 lunch
- Admission to the Van Gogh Museum and the Rijksmuseum
- Guided city tour
- Guided touring of Zaanse Schans with inside windmill visit
- Canal cruise to the port to join the main program
- Transportation for included tours
- Luggage portorage
- Full guiding services of an Orbridge Travel Director
- Gratuities to Orbridge Travel Director, local guide, driver, porters, hotel staff and wait staff for included meals
- Airport transfers for guests arriving during the suggested times





# Optional Bergen to Oslo Post-Tour

Set off on a journey of discovery from Bergen to Oslo highlighted by vibrant cityscapes, breathtaking mountain vistas and a captivating tapestry of past and present. Experience the true essence of Norwegian splendor where charming towns, historic rail routes and towering peaks of the surrounding fjords create a picture-perfect backdrop for exploration.



**Day 11** **BERGEN | STALHEIM (D)** After disembarkation board your private motor coach for the scenic two-hour drive to Stalheim. Arrive at your picturesque hotel with time to unpack and freshen up before gathering with the group for dinner at the property. Overnight: Stalheim Hotel

**Day 12** **STALHEIM | OSLO (B)** Depart by motor coach to the mountainous town of Myrdal—arriving at Myrdal Central Station to board the train to Oslo. During this relaxing, approximately five-hour journey, embrace the colorful panoramas from the comfort of your business class seat. This evening explore Oslo independently. Overnight: Sommerro

**Day 13** **OSLO (B)** Meet with a local guide for a panoramic city tour. Visit Vigeland Park, named after its creator Gustav Vigeland, featuring an impressive collection of more than 200 bronze, granite and wrought iron sculptures. Continue to the Opera House, a sleek building clad in white Italian Carrara marble with a sloping marble roof that extends seamlessly from the ground level up. Walk the gentle incline and enjoy panoramic views of the city and the Oslo Fjord. The remainder of the day is open to explore at your leisure. Discover Oslo's rich cultural heritage by visiting renowned museums like the Munch Museum and The National Gallery. Take a scenic walk along the Oslo Fjord, and experience Oslo's diverse culinary scene which offers everything from Michelin-starred fine dining to street food markets. Overnight: Sommerro

**Day 14** **OSLO (B)** Following breakfast guests departing during the suggested time take the complimentary transfer to the airport for flights home.

## What's Included

- 3 nights hotel accommodations
- 3 breakfasts and 1 dinner
- Rail tickets between Myrdal and Oslo
- Guided Oslo city tour
- Motor coach transportation for included transfers and tours
- Luggage portage
- Full guiding services of an Orbridge Travel Director
- Gratuities to Orbridge Travel Director, local guide, driver, porters, hotel staff and wait staff for included meals
- Airport transfers for guests departing during the suggested time

