

# CruiseNorway

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## SILVER WHISPER'S 15-DAY NORWEGIAN FJORD CRUISE ROUNDTrip COPENHAGEN, DENMARK JUNE 17 – JULY 2, 2011

Date	Day	Port	Arrive	Depart
17 Jun 2011	Fri	Copenhagen, Denmark		6:00 PM
18 Jun 2011	Sat	Day At Sea		
19 Jun 2011	Sun	Flåm, Norway	8:00 AM	Noon
19 Jun 2011	Sun	Gudvangen, Norway	2:00 PM	6:00 PM
20 Jun 2011	Mon	Ålesund, Norway	8:00 AM	5:00 PM
21 Jun 2011	Tue	Trondheim, Norway	7:00 AM	7:00 PM
22 Jun 2011	Wed	Day At Sea		
23 Jun 2011	Thu	Leknes, Lofoten, Norway	8:00 AM	5:00 PM
24 Jun 2011	Fri	Tromsø, Norway	8:00 AM	5:00 PM
25 Jun 2011	Sat	Hammerfest	7:00 AM	Noon
25 Jun 2011	Sat	Honningsvåg (North Cape)	7:00 PM	
26 Jun 2011	Sun	Honningsvåg (North Cape)		2:00 AM
26 Jun 2011	Sun	Cruising Nordkapp	6:00 AM	7:00 AM
27 Jun 2011	Mon	Gravdal, Norway	7:00 AM	7:00 PM
28 Jun 2011	Tue	Day At Sea		
29 Jun 2011	Wed	Helleysilt, Norway	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
29 Jun 2011	Wed	Geiranger, Norway	12:30 PM	5:00 PM
30 Jun 2011	Thu	Bergen, Norway	8:00 AM	11:00 PM
01 Jul 2011	Fri	Day At Sea		
02 Jul 2011	Sat	Copenhagen, Denmark	7:00 AM	

### COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

Wonderful Copenhagen is a city of canals, copper-roofed buildings and manicured parks. This famous Baltic seaport is one of Europe's loveliest capitals and the seat of the oldest monarchy in the world. Home to nearly one quarter of Denmark's population, Copenhagen is a focus for commerce, culture, industry and cosmopolitan atmosphere. Although Vikings and fishermen knew this site for years as Havn (Harbor), the founding of Copenhagen dates from 1167, when the warrior-bishop Absalon established a citadel here. As commerce flourished, the name was changed to Kobenhavn (Merchants' Harbour); in 1443, it was appointed the capital of Denmark.

A century later, Christian IV began the building program that became the basis of the modern city. In 1660, Frederik III graced the city with its first royal palace, Amalienborg, for his queen, Sophie Amalie. Many of these structures still exist; the taller ones remain the dominant features on what is a refreshingly low skyline.

Visitors to Copenhagen cannot help being impressed by the magnitude of attractions. As the locale of Hans Christian Andersen's enchanting tale of The Little Mermaid, Copenhagen has become Denmark's fairy-tale city. Its impressive theaters, museums and churches are of interest to many visitors; the best-loved attractions include the world-famous Tivoli Gardens, the Langelinie Harbor with its statue of The Little Mermaid, and the busy shopping promenade known as Strøget. Shopping and dining opportunities are endless. Tours of the Carlsberg Brewery as well as the Royal Copenhagen china factory are equally popular with visitors. It is an easy city to get around, with most of the activities and sights contained in and around the central sector.

### **Pier Information**

The ship is scheduled to dock at Langelinie Pier. It is about 1.5 miles (2.4 km) to the city centre. Metered taxis are generally available pier side.

### **Shopping**

The major shopping area is the pedestrian street known as Strøget in the centre of city. Here, a wide range of merchandise can be found from Royal Copenhagen porcelain, Georg Jensen silver and Nordic knits to Baltic amber jewellery. Ask in the stores about the Value Added Tax (VAT) and your eligibility for a refund. The local currency is the Danish Kroner - DKK.

### **Cuisine**

A favourite is the traditional 'smørrebrød', the open-faced sandwich topped with any of hundreds of options. Fish, particularly herring prepared in many different ways, goes well with the popular and famous local beers, Carlsberg & Tuborg. Danish pastries and a good cup of coffee in one of the many cafés make a nice break from shopping and sightseeing.

### **Other Sites**

Changing of the Guard

This colourful event takes place every day at Amalienborg Palace at 12:00 noon.

### **Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek**

Opened in 1897 by brewer Carl Jacobsen, this exceptional museum affords the opportunity to enjoy art displayed in classical style.

### **National Museum**

The museum contains interesting sections devoted to Denmark, from the Ice Age through the Viking period. Other exhibits include costumes and domestic items from the Middle Ages.

### **The Resistance Museum**

A collection of objects relating to the Danish resistance movement of 1940-1945 can be seen here.

### **Louisiana Museum**

Modern art is exhibited in a setting well worth the journey to Humlebæk village north of Copenhagen. The museum, housed in a 19th-century villa, harmoniously combines art, architecture and the natural landscape.

### **FLÅM, NORWAY**

The tiny village lies hemmed in on three sides by the towering walls of the Aurlandsfjord. The Aurlandsfjord is a branch of the Sognefjord – the longest and deepest fjord in Europe. Flåm's appeal is its magnificent surroundings, ranging from fertile farmland to crystal-clear streams and towering mountains.

Flåm is also the terminus of one of the most exciting train rides in the world - the Flåm Railway. Climbing 2,850 feet (877 metres) in just 12 miles (19 km), past cascading waterfalls and through 20 tunnels blasted out of towering mountains, the journey offers incredible views and thrills. The Flåm Railway operates year-round - a great tourist attraction during the summer and a local lifeline during the deep winter months.

### **Pier Information**

The ship may dock or anchor in Flåm. Shops and the train station are within walking distance from the pier. There are only two taxis available; additional ones have to be ordered from Voss, 15 miles (24 km) away, which makes taxis very expensive.

### **Shopping**

There are a few small souvenir shops offering handmade knitwear and attractive wooden handicraft items. The local currency is the krone.

## **Cuisine**

A café near the pier serves light snacks and drinks; more upscale meals are available at the popular Fretheim Hotel.

## **Other Sites**

Walks in the countryside offer picturesque settings amongst orchards and meadows.

## **GUDVANGEN, NORWAY**

Exploring Norway's fjord region is a memorable experience for even the most seasoned traveller. Cutting deep into the mountainous terrain, craggy rock walls and overhanging cliffs characterize the scenic wonder of the fjords.

Gudvangen lies at the head of the Nærøyfjord, an offspring of the Sognefjord and Aurlandsfjord. Waterfalls line the steep mountainsides and goat farms lie scattered about the green valleys. Surrounded by peaks as high as 5,000 feet (1,538 metres), Gudvangen is an important ferry point and a popular stopover for motorists. While Gudvangen is little more than a tiny hamlet, it is a popular gateway for scenic mountain trips starting or ending in this port.

## **Pier Information**

The ship is scheduled to anchor in the fjord off Gudvangen and, using the ship's tenders, transport guests ashore who are participating in shore excursions. Only those guests participating in the ship's overland excursion to Flåm are permitted ashore.

## **ALESUND, NORWAY**

The coastal town of Ålesund is the commercial capital of the Møre og Romsdal district. But more importantly, it is noted for its characteristic Jugendstil (Art Nouveau) buildings, which some claim make Ålesund one of the most beautiful towns in Norway. This Art Nouveau style emerged when the town was completely rebuilt after a devastating fire in 1904 destroyed nearly 800 buildings and left 10,000 residents homeless. It is said that the fire started by a tipped oil lamp. Rebuilding was carried out with the help of many young, foreign architects who added their own flourishes to the architectural blend of German Jugendstil and Viking roots.

Today, narrow streets are crammed with buildings topped with turrets, spires and gables that bear decorations of dragonheads and curlicues. As one of the few remaining Art Nouveau towns in the world, in 1998 Ålesund was awarded the coveted Houens National Memorial Prize for the preservation of its unique architecture. The town centre is crowded onto a narrow fishhook-shaped peninsula. Without space to expand farther, most of the approximate 38,000 residents live scattered across surrounding islands and peninsulas. In addition to a picturesque fishing port along the old harbour "Brosundet," Ålesund boasts one of the largest facilities in Norway for the export of dried and fresh fish.

Come ashore and enjoy this delightful place with its whimsically decorated buildings that give Ålesund its unique ambiance and distinctive character valued by residents and visitors alike.

### **Pier Information**

The ship is scheduled to dock at Storneskaaien/Prestebrygga pier. The town centre is within easy walking distance. Metered taxis are generally available at the pier.

### **Shopping**

Enjoy browsing for Norwegian handicrafts and knitwear with the distinct Norway design. Shops along the pedestrian street and in the shopping mall are no more than 500 yards from the pier. Opening hours are from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (shopping malls are open until 8:00pm. Saturday 1000 am to 2:00 pm and malls to 6.00 pm). The local currency is the krone.

### **Cuisine**

For lunch ashore, there are a number of good restaurants. The obvious choice is fresh fish and seafood. A mixed fish and shellfish platter is popular at the typical fish restaurants.

### **Other Sites**

#### **Atlantic Sea Park**

Located about two miles west of Ålesund, this unique Sea Park is built into a large stretch of coastal area with fishing stands, hiking trails, bathing sites and outstanding diving venues. It features large aquariums teeming with ocean life from up and down the Atlantic. Fish feeding is daily at 1:00 p.m.

### **Ålesund Museum**

The exhibits at this museum concentrate on the history of seal hunting, fishing, shipping, the fire of 1904, German occupation during World War II and the town's distinctive Jugendstil architecture. The museum opens at 11:00 a.m.

### **Ålesund Church**

The church was built in 1909 in Norman style. It boasts splendid frescoes and beautiful stained-glass windows. The gable windows behind the organ were an inauguration gift from the German Emperor Wilhelm II.

### **Municipal Park**

Locally known as Byparken, it features a statue of Rollo, which was presented to the people of Ålesund from the city of Rouen in 1911. The park also has a monument dedicated to Kaiser Wilhelm II who made major contributions to the rebuilding of Ålesund after the Great Fire in 1904.

## **TRONDHEIM, NORWAY**

Trondheim is the third largest city in Norway and has been a politically important base for centuries. It is beautifully situated on both sides of the River Nid, with the huge Trondheimfjord beyond. Founded in 997, the city is proud to celebrate its millenium in 1997. It was here that the Viking king, Olav Tryggvason, established a trading town and built a palace. Thus Trondheim became Norway's first capital from which Olav Tryggvason governed the entire Norwegian empire, which at that time extended from the White Sea in the east to North America in the west. When the later King Olav Haraldson fell during the battle of Stiklestad in Verdal in 1030 and was buried in Trondheim, he became known as St. Olav the Holy King of Norwegian history. Pilgrimages to his shrine started soon after his death and grew to great dimensions in the Middle Ages, bringing a lively traffic and diverse cultures from other parts of the world.

Work on what was to become Nidaros Cathedral commenced about the year 1070. In the Middle Ages Trondheim was the spiritual and temporal capital of Norway, and since that time the Kings of Norway have been crowned in Nidaros Cathedral, the country's national shrine. The old Trondheim consisted of timber houses separated by narrow alleys. Parts of the old town have been destroyed by several fires, the greatest of which occurred in 1681. Now the row of wharves along the River Nidelva is all that remains of the Trondheim of the Middle Ages. The rebuilt and present city enjoys wide streets and picturesque squares which have a low-key quality about them. In

addition to the few remaining medieval buildings, Trondheim boasts a variety of interesting museums and is home to several educational institutions, including a large university.

### **Pier Information**

While in Trondheim, the ship will be docked. The city center is about 2 miles away. Taxis are generally available at the pier.

### **Shopping**

Shop for pewter, porcelain dinnerware, gourmet kitchen utensils, cut glass, textiles, enamels, ceramics, ski equipment, beautiful hunting knives, wonderfully designed toys, woodcarvings and woollens. The local currency is the Norwegian Krone.

### **Cuisine**

Try a variety of seafood or reindeer steak. Salmon sandwiches can be found at most fish markets. A wide variety of restaurants caters to every taste – French, Italian, Chinese and even American junk-food are available. Don't miss sampling the local beer.

### **Other Sites**

#### **Archbishop's Palace**

Begun in the 12th century, Scandinavia's oldest secular building was the Archbishop's residence until the Reformation. For 100 years from 1556 it was the residence of the Danish governors. The oldest part is now used by local and central governments for official receptions. Guided tours are available except when the building is used for official events.

#### **The Wharves**

The oldest of the Wharves along the River Nidelva only date back to the 18th century but give an impression of the waterfront as it was long before then.

#### **Museum of Applied Art**

This industrial art museum features Norway's largest collection of gobelins woven by Hannah Ryggen.

#### **University Museum of Natural History and Archaeology**

The museum offers an excellent overview of both cultural and natural history. Archaeological exhibitions include objects from the Stone Age,

Bronze Age, Iron Age, the Viking Age, the Middle Ages and from Southern Lapp culture. Displays devoted to natural history show the flora and fauna of Norway and the arctic regions.

### **Stiftsgården**

Said to be Europe's largest timbered building, it is also the residence of the king when he visits Trondheim.

### **LEKNES, LOFOTEN, NORWAY**

Leknes (Gravdal) is a village in Vestvågøy municipality in the county of Nordland, located on Vestvågøy island which is part of the Lofoten Archipelago in northern Norway (north of the Arctic Circle). Leknes is one of the few towns in Lofoten which is not based upon fisheries and which does not have its town centre by the sea. Because of this, and because of its rapid growth in recent years, it does not have the same traditional wooden architecture as most other towns in Lofoten, and may thus not be regarded to be as picturesque as its neighbouring fishing villages. However, the natural surroundings are regarded to be among the most stunning in Norway, with mountains, peaks, cliffs and white sandy beaches. The town's harbour Leknes Havn is one of Norway's most important and visited harbours for cruise ships.

In Leknes, the sun (midnight sun) is above the horizon from May 26 to July 17, and in winter the sun does not rise from December 9 to January 4.

### **Shopping**

There are several souvenir shops in the town selling knitted goods, postcards, souvenirs, jewellery, art and more. The local currency is Krone.

### **Cuisine**

For lunch ashore, there are some good cafés. The obvious choice is fresh fish and seafood. A mixed fish and shellfish platter is popular at the typical fish restaurants.

### **Other Sites**

The more than 100 years old Buksnes church, which was built in the year 1905 in Dragon Style, is the main tourist attraction.

### **TROMSO, NORWAY**

Tromsø is a city and municipality in the county of Troms, Norway. The area has been inhabited since the end of the ice age, and the Sámi culture is the first known culture of the region. Norwegian culture had reached the area

around 800 CE, when sources tell of Ohthere's Viking settlement somewhere south of today's Tromsø. The first church on the island of Tromsøya was erected in the 13th century, and the area one of Denmark-Norway's very northernmost territories not contested by Russia. During the 1600s, Denmark-Norway solidified its claim to the northern coast of Scandinavia and during this period a redoubt, Skansen, was built. Tromsø was issued its city charter in 1794 by King Christian VII. The city was established as a municipality January 1.

Most of Tromsø, including the city centre, is located on the small island of Tromsøya in the county of Troms, 217 miles (350 km) inside the Arctic Circle. The island is connected to the mainland by the Tromsø Bridge and the Tromsøysund Tunnel, and to the island of Kvaløya by the Sandnessund Bridge. The city is warmer than most other places located on the same latitude, due to the warming effect of the Gulf Stream, with an average January temperature of  $-4^{\circ}\text{C}$ , but it's still quite cool in the summer, with a 24-hour average of  $12^{\circ}\text{C}$  in July.

The city centre of Tromsø contains the highest number of old wooden houses in North Norway, the oldest house dating from 1789. The Arctic Cathedral, a modern church from 1965, is probably the most famous landmark in Tromsø. The city is a cultural centre for its region, several festivals taking place in the summer. The largest football team in the city, Tromsø I.L., plays in the Norwegian Premier League.

### **Pier Information**

The ship goes alongside in Tromsø. The town centre is within walking distance and the main street is Storgata.

### **Shopping**

There are several souvenir shops in the town selling knitted goods, postcards, souvenirs, jewellery, art and more. Many of the shops are located in Storgata Street and there is also a shopping mall in the town centre. The local currency is Krone.

### **Cuisine**

There are several cafes and restaurants in the town centre.

### **Other Sites**

### **The Polar Museum**

The Polar Museum is devoted to the city's past as the centre for Polar sea catches and the starting points for Arctic expeditions. The world's northernmost botanical garden contains hardy plants from six continents. Aquariums with seals and fish from the region, along with a wonderful multi-media presentation on Svalbard, are attractions at Polaria, a knowledge-based experience and adventure centre for the Polar regions.

### **The Cable Car up Storsteinen**

420 metres above sea level, it offers breathtaking panoramic views over the city and, if you are lucky, of the Midnight Sun or the Northern Lights.

### **The Perspective Museum**

Located in the city centre, it has exhibitions on the city's past and present.

## **HAMMERFEST, NORWAY**

The world's northernmost town suffers from brutal winters when night lasts for several months. To brighten the situation, Hammerfest purchased a generator in 1891 from Thomas Edison, making it the first town in Europe to have electric street lights.

In addition to the constant struggle against the harsh elements in this inhospitable region, Hammerfest suffered from a devastating fire in 1891 and destruction by retreating German forces at the end of World War II. Each time, the town was stubbornly rebuilt with the result that today Hammerfest is a surprisingly bright and rather elegant town with an open and unique atmosphere.

The main hub is around the harbor and Strandgatan, the town's main street that runs parallel to the quay. With the frequent arrival of coastal steamers, an array of supermarkets, cafés and some surprisingly chic clothing and souvenir shops cater to the tourists stopping here on the way to the North Cape.

The most notable attractions include the Meridian Column, erected in 1852 in memory of the first survey to determine the earth's exact size and shape, and the fountain in the town hall square, a gift from the former U.S.

Ambassador to Norway, Charles Ulrick Bay (1946-1953) whose mother was born in Hammerfest. The town is also home to the Royal and Ancient Polar Bear Society, featuring exhibits illustrating the story of Hammerfest as a trapping center.

The main source of income is based on fish, with the Findus fish processing plant being the town's principal employer. Offshore oil wells also help greatly to support the local economy.

### **Pier Information**

The ship is scheduled to dock close to the center of town. The harbor area and the main street, Strandgatan, are the major hubs of activity, all within walking distance from the pier.

### **Shopping**

Strandgatan features a number of chic clothing and souvenir shops. Stalls along the harbor offer Sami regional handicrafts. Look for the whimsical troll figures that come in all shapes and sizes, making popular souvenirs. The local currency is the kroner.

### **Cuisine**

Join the locals and try the delicious shellfish sold and eaten straight from the stalls along the wharf.

### **Other Sites**

Major attractions and sights are included in the organized excursions. In addition, it is fun to leisurely explore the world's northernmost town. Take a stroll around the harbor area and Strandgatan.

## **HONNINGSVAG (NORTH CAPE), NORWAY**

Though Honningsvåg's location is 48 miles (77 km) closer to the North Pole than Hammerfest, its official designation as a village rather than a town puts a restriction on the title of the world's northernmost town. Basically a fishing village, Honningsvåg draws travellers primarily because of its proximity to the North Cape. The Nordkapp, as it is called in Norwegian, is considered Europe's northernmost point located a mere 21 miles (34 km) from Honningsvåg. The road to the Cape slowly twists its way through the tundra, with mostly bare rocks on either side. Some sections resemble a stark, lunar landscape. From June to October, the scant vegetation provides grazing land for some 5,000 reindeer. Do not be surprised if you see them wandering right up to the road.

Originally a sacrificial site of the Sami (Lapp) people, the North Cape was named by the English explorer Richard Chancellor in 1553, as he drifted along the Norwegian coast in an attempt to find the Northeast Passage. He failed, but the trade route he opened to Russia brought the Cape to the attention of others. Louis Philippe of Orleans, later king of France, visited during his Scandinavian exile and was followed in 1873 by Norwegian King Oscar II, whose visit opened the site to become a popular tourist destination.

Honningsvåg, located on the southeast coast of the island of Magerøy, sits in the middle of a treeless, windswept terrain surrounded by snow fences to protect it from avalanches. Its fine harbour makes up for the bleak environment. An interesting museum in the community and exhibition centre, called Nordkapphuset, depicts the local history and culture.

### **Pier Information**

The ship is scheduled to dock close to the centre of town. Souvenir shops and the Nordkapphuset Information Centre and Museum can easily be reached on foot. Taxis are generally available at the pier. Be sure to negotiate the fare and any waiting time charges with the driver before setting off.

### **Shopping**

Storgatan is Honningsvåg's main street, along which most of the shops can be found. Typical souvenir items include hand-knit sweaters, pewter, traditional handicrafts, and items depicting Norway's popular troll characters, immortalized in numerous legends. The local currency is the krone.

### **Cuisine**

Fresh fish from the fjord, smoked salmon and game are the local specialties. Coffee and pastries are also wonderful on a cold day.

### **Other Sites**

Almost all visitors to this area come specifically to visit the North Cape, which charges a visitor's fee to enter the Cape area and for the use of the facilities at the North Cape Hall.

### **Nordkapphuset**

This museum features interesting displays depicting the local history and culture.

## **HELLESYLT, NORWAY**

The small village of Hellesylt is an old Viking port located at the head of the Sunnlyvenfjord on the northwest coast of Norway. Here, glacier-fed streams cascade over towering granite cliffs and descend to the calm waters of the fjord. The thundering waterfalls, snow-capped mountains, lakes and crystalline glaciers, inspired Henrik Ibsen's dramatic masterpiece, "Brand."

Guests wishing to witness Norway's majestic fjords, as well as the dramatic mountainous interior, will take the opportunity during this brief call in Hellesylt to join overland excursions. Tour HLL-A Overland from Hellesylt to Geiranger will rejoin the ship later today in the port of Geiranger. For the more adventurous, you may opt for HLL-B Rafting Valldal which also rejoins the ship in Geiranger.

### **Pier Information**

Your ship is scheduled to anchor in Hellesylt. Please note that only guests participating in the overland excursions are permitted to disembark.

### **Shopping**

The local currency is the Norwegian Krone.

### **Cuisine**

As with other cities along the Norwegian fjords, fish is a traditional dish. Open-face sandwiches and smoked salmon are also nice. If ripe, the summer berries are lovely.

### **Other Sites**

This call provides a drop-off point for guests participating in overland excursions. No other sightseeing options are available.

### **GEIRANGER, NORWAY**

The Geirangerfjord is a branch of the Synnufsvfjord, which in turn is a branch of the mighty Storfjord. The Geirangerfjord thrusts its way ten miles (16 km) inland and the views are spectacular - towering mountains, farms clinging to the steep mountain side and the fjord itself. Waterfalls with names such as the Suitor, the Bridal Veil and the Seven Sisters plunge down the mountain sides. The Geirangerfjord is on UNESCO's list of World Heritage Natural Sites.

At the head of the fjord lies the beautiful and small village of Geiranger with no more than 220 inhabitants. Kings, queens, emperors and hundreds of thousands of tourists have made Geiranger one of the most visited places in Norway, with the first cruise ship arriving as early as 1869. In the summer time, the village awakens from winter's slumber and the town centre is bustling with life.

### **Pier Information**

The ship anchors in Geiranger and the landing stage is right in the village centre. There are pay phones, kiosks, shops and cafes within walking distance. In Geiranger, there are a very limited number of taxis available.

### **Shopping**

There are several souvenir shops and art galleries in the tiny village centre selling knitted goods, postcards, souvenirs, jewellery, art and more. The local currency is the Norwegian Krone.

### **Cuisine**

There are cafés in the village centre and restaurants in the many hotels in the area.

### **Other Sites**

The Geiranger area offers splendid attractions:

#### **Dalsnibba Summit**

Viewpoint at approximately 4,875 feet (about 1500 metres) above sea level.

#### **Flydalsjuvet Gorge**

One of the most photographed motifs in Norway.

#### **Eagles Bend**

Zigzag road with eleven bends, the upper bend is the Eagles Bend Viewpoint. See views of the Pulpit and the Seven Sisters waterfall.

#### **Skageflå and Blomberg Farms**

These can be seen from the ship upon entering or leaving Geiranger and are located on the steep mountain side; so steep is the mountainside that the children had to be tied to the trees to prevent them from falling down. The farms are no longer inhabited.

#### **Geiranger Fjord Centre**

Here exhibits tell the story of the fjord and its people. Within walking distance, guests must walk uphill walk on an unpaved roadway.

### **BERGEN, NORWAY**

With its spectacular setting among seven hills, Bergen is one of the most beautiful cities in Norway. Founded in 1070 AD by the illustrious King Olav Kyrre, it became the first capital of Norway during the 13th century. The

city became an important shipping and commercial centre; it was the headquarters for the Hanseatic League, an association of merchants in Northern Europe until the 17th century. Although the city periodically has been ravaged by fire, many fine examples of medieval architecture can still be found.

Bergen's association with the sea has given the city its lifeblood. The fishing industry and trade has provided the economic backbone for the region for centuries. Other important sources of income are tourism, industry, craftsmanship, oil and gas. Bergen is also an important university city.

### **Pier Information**

The ship is scheduled to dock at Skoltegrunskaien Pier. From here it is about a 10-minute walk to town. Taxis are normally not available at the pier and should be pre-booked.

### **Shopping**

Norway is known for its painted wooden articles, hand-knit sweaters in traditional Norway designs, pewter and glassware. A good selection of craft and souvenir shops is located in Bryggen's attractive timber buildings and the colourful Fish Market by the harbour. The shopping centre Galleriet is located by the main square, Torgalmenningen. The local currency is the krone.

### **Cuisine**

Norwegian salmon is a delicacy. Among the most characteristic of Bergen dishes is a fresh, perfectly poached whole salmon, served with new potatoes. Fresh fish and seafood are on the menus of numerous restaurants. For a typical local repast, stroll among the stalls at the fish market and buy bags full of pink shrimp and fish cakes to munch on. Venison, rack of reindeer and marinated moose followed by a dessert of cloudberry and cream are other options that may tempt your palate. Several restaurants are located around the harbour and Bryggen.

### **Other Sites**

#### **Fishery Museum**

This museum illustrates the development of the Norwegian fishing industry with the aid of boats, harpoons and maps.

### **Old Bergen**

Known as Gamle Bergen, this open-air museum is a short taxi drive away and well worth a visit.

### **St. Mary's Church**

Dating from before 1150, this is Bergen's oldest building and one of the finest churches in Norway.

### **Rasmus Meyers Collection**

Among the city's art museums is this rambling townhouse featuring one of the best collections of Norwegian art, including an upper floor devoted almost entirely to Munch.

### **Historic Bergen**

The city boasts numerous buildings dating from medieval times: the 12th-century Bergenhus Fortress; 16th-century Rosenkrantz Tower; and Haakon's Hall, built originally as a royal wedding and coronation hall. The entire complex has been reconstructed following an explosion from a German munitions ship in 1944, during which the buildings were heavily damaged.