

# Hiking in Norway's Fjord Country

FROM BERGEN TO NÆRØYFJORD AND HARDANGERFJORD



Wilderness Travel



# Overview



## TRIP DETAILS AT-A-GLANCE

**Length:** 11 days  
**Arrive:** Bergen, Norway  
**Depart:** Bergen, Norway  
**Lodging:** 10 nights hotels  
**Meals:** All meals included  
**Activity:** Cultural, Hiking & Trekking

**Trip Level:** 1 2 ③ 4 5 6

8 hiking days on moderate trails with some steep sections, 3-6 hours a day

## QUESTIONS?

Our Area Specialists are your single point of contact and would be happy to answer any questions about your trip!

800.368.2794 | 510.558.2488

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Hike through pristine mountains, forests, farms, and along tranquil fjords
- Savor the cultural heritage of small towns, be welcomed at family farms
- Paddle a rowboat in a fjord or take a bracing dip
- Explore dramatic fjord landscapes by RIB boat
- Sample Norway's summer dishes, from local lamb to mountain trout
- Enjoy cozy waterside hotels with grand views across the fjords



# Introduction



Mighty glaciers carved Norway's majestic landscapes and the grand-scale majesty is evident everywhere, from snow-capped peaks to deep blue fjords. We'll be surrounded by nature's splendor as we explore two spectacular fjords—Sognefjord, Norway's largest, and ethereal Hardangerfjord. We'll hike through lush orchards, across historic trails, and to viewpoints with bird's-eye views down the fingers of the fjord, with options for a dip at our waterside hotels. In between, we explore villages and taste the wares at family-run farms, getting to know Norway's people and traditional life as well as its epic landscapes.

## TRIP DATES

July 8-18, 2025

July 22-August 1, 2025

August 5-15, 2025

August 19-29, 2025

June 1-11, 2026

June 22-July 2, 2026

July 6-16, 2026

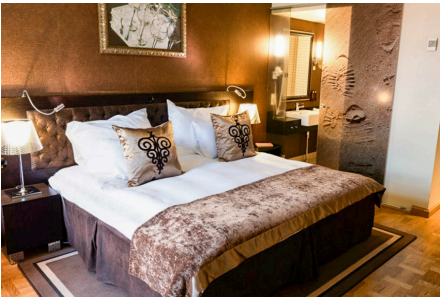
July 20-30, 2026

August 3-13, 2026

August 17-27, 2026



# Itinerary



## **Overnight: Clarion Hotel Havnekontoret**

With its ideal location and impressive Baroque architecture, Hotel Havnekontoret is a wonderful introduction to Bergen. Guest rooms have comfortable beds, spacious bathrooms, and nice views overlooking the city. Relax next to the fireplace with a glass of your favorite tippie and be sure to ask the reception about visiting the hotel's clock tower—the perfect place to enjoy views of the town and medieval Bryggen wharf.

## **Meals: L, D**

**Hiking Details:** 5 miles, 3-4 hours, 1,000' ascent/descent

## **DAY 1 BERGEN, NORWAY / MT. FLØYEN**

We meet at 9:00 this morning for a trip briefing, then ride the Fløibanen funicular from the city center to the top of Mt. Fløyen (1,056'), watching spectacular views unfold as we ascend. At the top, we set out for a morning hike up through forests and along lakes to the peak of Blåmanen (1,845'). We'll have panoramic views out over the North Sea, down into Bergen, and along the scattered islands along the coast. After lunch, we descend via the funicular, with the option to descend on foot all the way back to Bergen on your own. We then head out for a fascinating walking tour of the town, with its picturesque waterfront and leaning rows of the Hanseatic trader's gabled wooden buildings from the 1700s. Our tour ends right at the restaurant where we enjoy our Welcome Dinner.

**Bergen:** The gateway to Norway's fjord country, Bergen is a thousand-year-old city set on a quiet fjord with a backdrop of seven steep mountains. We recommend arriving early to enjoy it (we are happy to book extra nights at our group hotel, an "on your own" expense). The city is full of welcoming cafes and art galleries as well as a bustling fish market, and its famous waterfront, Bryggen, a World Heritage Site, is a testament to Bergen's role in the Hanseatic League's trading empire.



# Itinerary



## **Overnight: Hotel Husum (or Fretheim Hotel)**

This delightful hotel has a long history dating back nearly 200 years! Originally a coaching and posting inn, it offers just eight guest rooms, all decorated in traditional decor and featuring modern amenities. It's just a mile from the famous Borgund Stave Church. Note: While this small hotel is certainly historic and quite charming, there is one twin-bedded room with just a half-bath; a private full bath and shower is just down the hall.

**Meals: B, L, D**

**Hiking Details:** 40 minutes

**Transportation Time:** 5.5 hours on ferry; 1 hour 40 minutes driving

## **DAY 2 SOGNEFJORD FERRY / BORGUND**

We board the morning ferry for a scenic 5.5-hour journey through magnificent Sognefjord, the longest fjord in Norway (and the second longest in the world at over 120 miles), carving its way deep into the heart of mountain country. This steep-sided fjord, with its walls more than 3,300 feet high, meets Norway's highest mountains to create one of the most breathtaking landscapes on the planet. We arrive in the beautiful town of Aurland, set along the tributary to Sognefjord. After a late lunch at the much-loved local café—be sure to try one of their cinnamon or cardamom rolls that are a staple of Norwegian cuisine—we head over the mountains via Gamle Aurlandsvegen, a Norwegian Scenic Route, as we head to our secluded hotel. Dinner and overnight at Husum Hotel, a small hotel with abundant historical charm, set well away from the modern tourist path (but along the original tourist path—the King's Road).



# Itinerary



**Overnight:** Hotel Husum

**Meals:** B, L, D

**Hiking Details:** 4.5 miles, 3-4 hours, up to 950' ascent and descent

## DAY 3 BORGUND STAVE CHURCH / KING'S ROAD

A short transfer brings us to the astounding 12th century Borgund Stave Church, built after the end of the Viking era and incredibly evocative, with its deep-tarred timbers, carved dragon eaves, and magnificent scalloped shingles. The museum nearby gives fantastic insight into the lingering influence of the Viking culture, which swept across Europe and as far as Istanbul, Iceland, and Greenland, raiding and pillaging, but also founding settlements that have become thriving cities, from Dublin on the River Liffey to Reykjavík and even the first settlements of North America. After our visit, we take a short hike that provides us with amazing views, followed by a hike along The King's Road, accompanied by a local historian and storyteller, bringing us back to the early days of the 1700s when travelers used this as their main route between the country's two main cities, Oslo and Bergen. We'll cross the most scenic section of the King's Road, Vindhellavegen, and continue past a waterfall and old World War II German structures to arrive at an area of old farm crofts with buildings dating back to the 1800s. Here we'll enjoy a picnic with packed lunches from Husum Hotel's impressive breakfast spread of local goods (we'll be in the heartland of Western Norway's small but precious and bountiful farm country!). We return to the hotel for dinner and overnight.



# Itinerary



## **Overnight: Brakanes Hotel**

This hotel is an absolutely amazing location overlooking the deep blue Hardanger Fjord, and the guest rooms take full advantage of the wondrous view. It has been recently remodeled but is still a very simple accommodation.

## **Meals: B, L, D**

**Hiking Details:** 3 miles, 3-4 hours, 1,000' ascent, 500' descent

**Transportation Time:** 1.5 hours in RIB, 2 hours 45 minutes driving

## **DAY 4 RIB EXCURSION / NAERØYFJORD / HIKE TO GOAT FARM / ULVIK**

From Aurland, we head out aboard RIBs (rigid inflatable boats) for an excursion up Naerøyfjord, so narrow that the big cruise ships can't enter, and so beautiful that the entire fjord has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Here you'll have an up-close experience of the glacial carving of Norway's legendary coast, as we pass under near vertical cliff-sides and past tiny farms. (Note: like huge Zodiacs with a rigid hull, RIBs are wonderfully open vessels that allow us to experience the landscape fully.) We'll be dropped off at a small dock where we'll begin our hike before lunch. Heading up to a little balcony above the fjord, we are welcomed at a family farm where goats are raised for their milk, which is made into absolutely lovely goat cheese. You'll enjoy a chance to learn about life on this small farm—and taste some of the products during lunch—before we head back down to our boats for the return to Aurland. From there, we board a van and drive to the little town of Ulvik, nestled on the shores of Hardangerfjord, where our accommodation is right on the water's edge. We'll arrive in time for a late afternoon swim in the fjord or soak in the fjord-side hot tub and sauna. Dinner and overnight at hotel.



# Itinerary



## **Overnight: Hotel Ullensvang**

This former staging inn—now a veritable “grand dame” of hotels—sports a unique mix of lovingly kept traditions and stylish luxury. It enjoys a beautiful fjord-side location with views of the snow-capped Hardanger range. Most of the guest rooms have private balconies, and facilities include indoor and outdoor swimming pools as well as a ramp leading into the water so you can take a dip in the fjord if you're up to it! A stroll on the hotel's “fruit walk” leads through cherry, apple, and pear orchards.

## **Meals: B, L, D**

**Hiking Details:** 4 miles, 2-3 hours, 500' ascent, 1,500' descent

**Transportation Time:** 1 hour by ferry

## **DAY 5 CIDER FARM / LOFTHUS**

Hardangerfjord, Ulvik, and the surrounding area is Norway's lush orchard country. More than 600,000 fruit trees are cultivated along Hardangerfjord, from cherries to apples—and a host of traditional cider farms—in an idyllic setting of green mountains and waterfalls. This morning's hike bring us through forested trails, with views of a beautiful fjord, to a family-run cider farm surrounded by rich orchards. We'll hear about the history of the farm and its operations from the owner, and enjoy cider tasting and a delightful lunch. We continue our hike with a walk down to the ferry dock in Ulvik, where we take the late afternoon ferry through Hardangerfjord to the tranquil hamlet of Lofthus, picturesquely set along the fjord and famous for its orchards.



# Itinerary



**Overnight:** Hotel Ullensvang

**Meals:** B, L, D

**Hiking Details:** 7.5 miles, 5.5 hours, 1,800' ascent/descent

## DAY 6 LOFTHUS / HOVDEN / TRADITIONAL FARM

We hike up to Elvadalen (River Valley) for a good view of the Skrikjofossen and Rjukandefoss waterfalls, then continue on a loop hike up the slopes of Hovden for spectacular panoramas across Hardangerfjord and the surrounding mountains. Along the way, we'll enjoy glimpses of the northernmost fingers of the Folgefonna glacier that grow and retract with the seasons. Only 3% of Norway's land is arable, so the apple orchards of Hardanger are extra special and the produce tastes as sweet as the views. We'll have a packed lunch en route. After hiking back down, we visit a historic farmstead that dates to the 1600s to learn about traditional farm life in Lofthus. The rest of the afternoon is free to enjoy the setting of our hotel or, if you didn't do it the previous day, end the hike with a dip in the fjord!



# Itinerary



**Overnight:** Hotel Ullensvang

**Meals:** B, L, D

**Activity Details:** 2.5 hours kayaking

## DAY 7 HARDANGERFJORD / LOFTHUS

Our day begins with a history tour of the hotel's grounds, followed by an optional kayaking trip through the Sørfjorden finger of Hardangerfjord. After lunch, the remainder of the day is at leisure to make use of the hotel's free rowboats, indoor and outdoor pools, and sauna. If you're up for it, take a swim in the fjord. You can also visit Ullensvang Church, built around 1250—its graveyard is so old!



# Itinerary



## Overnight: Utne Hotel

This charming and distinctive historic hotel, set along beautiful Hardangerfjord, has been in continuous operation since 1722. Although recently renovated, the Utne still retains its beautiful old world charm. The staff is warm and welcoming and the food is superb. And getting here couldn't be easier—it's right in front of the ferry dock!

**Meals: B, L, D**

**Hiking Details:** 8.5 miles, 5.5-6 hrs, 1,500' ascent, 2,000' descent

## DAY 8 KINSARVIK / UTNE

From the village of Kinsarvik on the shores of Hardangerfjord, we hike up along the Kinso River to the spectacular waterfalls Tveitafossen and Nyastølfossen, with a tranquil river flowing between them, and then further along a deep woodland trail. We hike back by a partly different route, then stroll through Kinsarvik, a quiet town with Viking roots, as we head toward the ferry. We take the public ferry to Utne, one of the prettiest towns on Hardangerfjord, set on the northern tip of the Folgefonna Peninsula, where Hardangerfjord splits into the Granvinsfjord, the Eidfjord, and the Sør fjord. Dinner and overnight at the delightful Utne Hotel, one of Norway's oldest hotels, in continual operation since 1722. Although recently renovated, the hotel still retains its old world charm. Dining here is a treat. Menus are based on produce from the west part of Norway, and dishes are seasonal, with respect for local food culture. Lamb and smoked salmon are some of the typical summer offerings. Unfortunately, the hotel cannot provide vegan meals, but vegetarian options are available.



# Itinerary



**Overnight:** Utne Hotel

**Meals:** B, L, D

**Hiking Details:** 2 miles, 3 hours, 400'  
ascent/descent

**Transportation Time:** 1 hour, 50 minutes  
driving

## DAY 9 BUER VALLEY / UTNE

We head to the wild and lush landscapes of the Buer Valley for a hike along a beautiful river of glacial runoff, with highland cattle grazing in the pastures. Our trail leads through a forest and up to a bridge with incredible views of the astonishing Buerbreen glacier, an offshoot of the large Folgefonna glacier, with its enormous cascading waterfalls. After lunch at a restaurant in this gorgeous setting, we drive to the historical hamlet of Agatunet, with 45 listed houses and 10 boathouses. The main building is the Lagmannstova, the oldest standing courtroom in Norway. At 800 years of age, the building has played host to important government meetings and village entertainment for Hardanger lords for generations. On the beach nearby is a burial cairn (and a great swimming opportunity!). A short drive brings us back to Utne.



# Itinerary



## DAY 10 HARDANGER MARITIME MUSEUM / BERGEN

On our way back to Bergen, we visit the Hardanger Maritime Museum, with its artifacts from Norway's seafaring past. We'll watch a short video about the importance of boats in fjordlife, enjoy a rope-making lesson, and have a tour of ongoing boat building/restoration projects. We'll have lunch at the museum, then head to Bergen. In the evening we gather for a Farewell Dinner.

### Overnight: Clarion Hotel Havnekontoret

With its ideal location and impressive Baroque architecture, Hotel Havnekontoret is a wonderful introduction to Bergen. Guest rooms have comfortable beds, spacious bathrooms, and nice views overlooking the city. Relax next to the fireplace with a glass of your favorite tippie and be sure to ask the reception about visiting the hotel's clock tower—the perfect place to enjoy views of the town and medieval Bryggen wharf.

**Meals: B, L, D**

**Transportation Time:** 2 hours by bus, 20 minutes by ferry

**Meals: B**

## DAY 11 DEPART

Transfer to the airport and depart on homeward bound flights.



# Pricing

## TRIP COST

**Prices are per person, based on double occupancy**  
**2025**

\$7,895 (12-14 members)

\$8,295 (9-11 members)

\$8,695 (4-8 members)

Single supplement: \$1,285

## 2026

\$8,995 (12-14 members)

\$9,495 (9-11 members)

\$9,995 (5-8 members)

Single supplement: \$1,585

*Please contact us for future years' pricing*

To offer the lowest possible cost, our trips are priced according to the number of participants on the trip. All costs are per person, based on double occupancy. If you wish to have a single room, you must pay the single supplement fee. Please note that Wilderness Travel staff, or guests of Wilderness Travel such as travel writers, photographers, or leaders-in-training, are not included in the tier pricing count.

## PAYMENT TERMS

At time of reservation: \$600

90 days prior to departure: Balance

## CANCELLATION & TRANSFER FEE SCHEDULE

Up to 91 days prior to departure: No Charge!

61-90 days prior to departure: 25% of trip cost

46-60 days prior to departure: 50% of trip cost

45 days or less: 100% of trip cost

## TRAVEL INSURANCE

We highly recommend you purchase travel insurance. You can take advantage of a comprehensive Travel Protection Plan designed for Wilderness Travel by Travelex, or purchase other insurance on your own. See our website for details: [www.wildernesstravel.com/insurance](http://www.wildernesstravel.com/insurance)

## TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Expert leadership of a Wilderness Travel Trip Leader and local guides
- Accommodations in hotels
- All meals
- A glass of wine or beer with dinner
- All ground transportation and baggage handling from meeting until departure
- All activities as indicated in Detailed Itinerary

## TRIP DOES NOT INCLUDE

- Travel to and from the arrival and departure location as indicated in Detailed Itinerary
- Additional hotel nights outside the trip's scheduled dates
- Optional gratuities to Trip Leaders or staff
- Optional travel insurance
- Other expenses of a personal nature (some alcoholic beverages, laundry, etc.)

## CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATE

Because the prices published for our program are set so far in advance of the trip dates, we are occasionally faced with exceptional cost increases and/or currency fluctuations that affect the actual cost of running the trip. In most years, no price changes are necessary. However, we do reserve the right to raise or lower the trip price if there is a significant change in costs or exchange rates. If this is the case, your final invoice will reflect the difference in trip cost.



# Arrival & Departure

## ARRIVAL & MEETING PLACE

**Suggested Airport:** Bergen Airport (BGO)

**Suggested Date & Time:** Anytime prior to Day 1

**Meeting Place:** You will meet your Trip Leader in the lobby of the Clarion Hotel Havnekontoret in Bergen at 9:00 am on Day 1.

Trip members are responsible for transferring on their own from the airport to the group hotel. The most direct way to get from the Bergen Airport to the Clarion Hotel Havnekontoret is by taxi. It is a 20-30 minute drive and costs \$60-\$70.

Upon arrival in Bergen, you can also take a bus to the hotel. The airport bus between Bergen Flesland Airport and the center of Bergen takes approximately 25-35 minutes and departs approximately every 15 minutes between 6:00 am and 11:00 pm on weekdays. You will need to get off at Fish Market ("Fisketorget") and the hotel is a short 5-minute walk. The cost is approximately \$22 per person. Visit [www.flybussen.no](http://www.flybussen.no) for detailed information.

The most recent transportation addition is the completion of the light rail from the Bergen Flesland Airport to the Bergen Sentrum (Center) station, "Byparken." This takes about 45 minutes. Tickets are sold at the light rail station, credit cards payment preferred, and cost about 40 NOK (~\$4.50). From the Byparken station, it is an easy 15-minute walk through the city center to the Clarion Hotel Havnekontoret.

## DEPARTURE

**Suggested Airport:** Bergen Airport (BGO)

**Suggested Date & Time:** Anytime on Day 11

Trip members are responsible for transferring on their own from the group hotel to the airport. The most direct and quickest way to the airport from the hotel is by taxi. Taxis can be easily called from the hotel lobby. You can also take the bus or shuttle transfer from the hotel to Bergen Airport.

## INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL

You are responsible for making your own arrangements for flights to and from Norway. Travel to Bergen, Norway, from the US is primarily routed through London and Copenhagen, with good schedules and fares available on many airlines.

Note: Icelandair currently allows travelers a stopover in Iceland for up to a week with no fees in order to promote tourism in Iceland. A great pre- or post-trip experience alongside Norway.

There are many online consolidator websites for booking travel, but for more personal help arranging air transport, you can contact Exito Travel at 970-818-8459 in the US or Canada. They are very adept at putting flight itineraries together, to even the most farflung places. More information can be found on Exito's website at [www.exitotravel.com](http://www.exitotravel.com).

Depending on your routing, it is necessary to depart from the US one or possibly two days prior to Day 1 of the trip itinerary. The name on your airline ticket must match the name on your passport exactly, and your passport must be valid for at least six months after your date of return to the US.

**Please do not purchase your tickets until you are confirmed on the trip.** Once your tickets have been purchased, please send us a copy of your airline schedule. It is your responsibility to ensure your flight times coordinate with the arrival and departure logistics for this trip.



# Trip Leaders

Wilderness Travel Trip Leaders have a passion and a joy for creating an unforgettable journey. We are extremely proud of them and the incredible travel experiences they make possible. For more information, including client comments about them and which specific departures they will be leading, please visit [wildernesstravel.com/leaders](https://wildernesstravel.com/leaders).



## SANTIAGO BEJARANO

Santiago Bejarano trained in Environmental Sciences in his native Ecuador and began his guiding career by bringing visitors to the jungle and highlands of Ecuador and the storied Galapagos Islands, where he worked as a naturalist. He later moved to Britain, which has been his home now for many years, and divides his time between Ecuador and Europe. Santiago guides for us on the high trails of the Alps of France, Italy, Spain, and Switzerland and into the epic fjords of Norway. “Guiding gives me the chance to be a link between cultures and to share my passion for nature. It also allows me to spend a lot of time in a place I really love—out in nature itself.” He is fluent in English, Spanish, and German.



## KILLIAN BUCKLEY

Killian Buckley grew up in Killarney, Ireland. His parents, a harpist and a poet, instilled in him a great appreciation for the beautiful things in life, and once he found the mountains, it didn’t take long for him to become addicted to their wild beauty. He began hiking and climbing regularly, and what began as a hobby soon became a way of life that led him on extraordinary adventures, including climbing some of the Alps’ famous north faces and an ascent, with fellow WT guide Naoise O Muirheartaigh, of Yosemite’s El Capitan. In 2021, on his birthday, Killian and his partner, Maggie, welcomed their first daughter, Henia, into the world. Currently, he is adjusting to fatherhood and figuring out how much risk he is willing to take in the high mountains, but still enormously passionate about sharing his love and knowledge of the Earth’s wildest reaches.



## ROB NOONAN

Rob Noonan came by his love of nature and the mountains early, adventuring throughout most of the Americas from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego and later earning a degree in environmental studies from Prescott College in Arizona. He has guided our Patagonia journeys since 1994, our hikes in the spectacular European Alps since 2007, and he is also our "northern ambassador" to Iceland and Greenland. In between trips, Rob lives in Flagstaff, Arizona, where he enjoys hiking and river rafting.



## NAOISE O MUIRHEARTAIGH

Born on the Dingle Peninsula and into the distinct Gaelic culture of his ancestors, Naoise O Muirheartaigh (the Gaelic spelling of Moriarty) has been steeped in the culture of Ireland since birth and comes from generations of mountain guides, including his father, Con Moriarty, longtime leader of our Ireland trips. Naoise (pronounced “nee-sha”) has been hiking Ireland’s mountains and coasts since he could walk, and his pursuits as a rock and ice climber have led him around the world, from New Zealand to North Africa and the US. He has a deep love of nature and for sharing world’s wild landscapes and ancient cultures.



# Trip Leaders



## STEFANO POZZI

Originally from Italy, Stefano Pozzi has grown up with a passion for the outdoors. He graduated from the University of Milan and later became a resident of Norway, where he studied Arctic natural history for a year on the island of Spitsbergen. Today he spends several months a year working on expedition vessels between Antarctica and Greenland, and guides trips for us in Norway, Finland, and the Alps. "I love being out in nature and being amazed by its beauty, and my hope is that I can share my knowledge with trip members, and in turn, learn something new every day from them."



## ORRI SIGURJÓNSSON

Orri Sigurjónsson grew up in the small town of Hvanneyri in the western region of Iceland. He studied carpentry in college, but his true calling has always been the enchantments of Iceland's rugged landscapes, and he has been guiding in Iceland since 2010. "Traveling throughout the mountains is my passion," he says, "and being able to share that passion with other travelers and show them around my beautiful country is something I consider a privilege." When he's not leading trips, he enjoys mountaineering, skiing, ice climbing, skydiving, and playing music with his band, Vertigo.



## SKYE MCDONALD

Skye McDonald lives in Scotland's Highland capital, Inverness. She has worked as a Trip Leader in 35 countries since the millennium and lived in Germany, France, and Tanzania. "Bringing understanding between peoples of very different cultures and backgrounds is one of the joys of being a Trip Leader, and of course, the chance to make friends around the world." Closer to home, she delights in sharing the glories of her native Scotland, and says that a good day scaling some of the beautiful Scottish mountains is hard to beat. Skye speaks German, French, beginners' Portuguese, and unusually, a smattering of Swahili from earlier years as a volunteer agricultural officer in Tanzania. Life continues to be an adventure for Skye, who has recently taken up bee-keeping, wild-water swimming, and scuba diving.



## IRENE DE BENEDICTIS

Originally from Rome, Irene is a physical therapist specializing in Ayurvedic medicine and also a seasoned WT Trip Leader. Her love of different cultures and languages (she knows seven!), paired with her love for hikes and pilgrimages (she walked the Camino de Santiago...twice) makes her a wonderful traveling companion. Irene's father is a member of the Italian congregation of St. James, which is responsible for the upkeep of pilgrim trails from Italy into Spain and Jerusalem, and she has also worked as a "hospitalera" (pilgrims' albergue host) in Italy. Fun fact: Irene wrote a book called Spaghetti and Sauna about the cultural differences between Italy, her home country, and Finland, where she lived for four years.



# Trip Leaders



## LEILA THOMPSON

With a solid repertoire of outdoor skills including rock climbing, river guiding, and mountaineering, Leila Thompson surely lives the life of an adventurer. Since the early 1990s, she has led trips for us in Nepal, India, Tibet, Republic of Georgia, Canada, and Europe, and shows no sign of stopping. “One of the most wonderful things about guiding for me is starting a trip with a group of strangers and finishing with a group of friends,” she says. Through travel, she has fulfilled some of her passions such as environmental stewardship and engaging in the local culture of each place. Leila is conversant in German, Nepali, and French. When she is not guiding, Leila works as a nurse at the local hospital in Bend, Oregon, where she lives with her husband (and fellow WT guide) Sean Morrissey, and enjoys cycling, hiking, climbing, skiing, and her latest sports addiction—pickleball.



## SIGRID HANDLYKKEN

Sigrid grew up on the remote archipelago of Svalbard, Norway, and developed a passion for nature at a young age. After pursuing adventurous sports including paragliding, speedflying, skydiving, and kayaking after high school, she was a speedflying instructor and later earned a degree in nature guiding. Sigrid currently lives in Sunnmore, where she shares her knowledge of Norway's land and culture with travelers. When she is not leading trips, you can find her skiing (in the winter) or kayaking (in the summer), as well as pursuing a master's degree in nature-based tourism. "I enjoy showing guests the hidden gems of Norway," she says, "and I work to tailor the best experiences for each individual guest or group."



# What to Expect

## WHAT THE TRIP IS LIKE

This trip is rated **Level 3, Moderate**, according to our trip grading system. While we do not see major elevation gain or loss, you will need to be comfortable hiking 8.5 miles a day and being on your feet for up to 6 hours a day. Trail conditions, weather, and the group's level of fitness can affect hiking times and pacing.

### Average Hiking Day

- 4-5 miles
- 3-4 hours
- 1,000 feet gain/loss

### Challenge Day

- Day 8: 8.5 miles, 6 hours, 1,500 feet gain, and 2,000 feet loss

## TERRAIN

All hiking is below 2,000 feet in elevation on mountainous trails. The hikes are mostly moderate and can sometimes be damp, rocky, and muddy. It rains almost every day, so be prepared to hike in mud! There are occasional short, steep sections.

## GETTING IN SHAPE

We strongly urge you to train for your trip, as your enjoyment will be highly dependent on your level of fitness. The best training for a hike is to hike, especially over hills or rough terrain. Next best are running, swimming, bicycling, or other cardiovascular exercise. Stair climbing machines are excellent preparation for hiking uphill. Your feet should also be well prepared—make sure your hiking boots are sturdy, comfortable, and thoroughly broken-in.

## WEATHER

Daytime temperatures are usually in the mid 50s°F and 60s°F, and nighttime temperatures typically drop to the high 30s°F or 40s°F. The weather can provide spectacular and clear days, but rain is very frequent so it is important to bring rain gear and layers. It's possible that hikes will have to be changed or canceled due to the weather, but as rain is so common, this is only in extreme cases.

## ACCOMMODATIONS

Some accommodations are in small, charming hotels. Since they are often in historic buildings, the rooms are not always of uniform or international size. We stay in one hotel with only single beds available and may only have en-suite restrooms with a shared bath or shower. Our leaders do their best to assign rooms in a fair way so that all participants experience an equal advantage throughout the trip as a whole. Please note that rooms in Scandinavia are smaller than in the US, and at the Utne Hotel, there is a very short, narrow, curved staircase that is used to access the rooms. Single rooms can be requested but are not always available, due to the limited space in the hotels. If you prefer a single room, please make your request as early as possible.



# What to Expect

## CUISINE

On many days, we will be making our lunches at the hotel's breakfast buffet. This is a tradition for hikers in Norway, and the extensive breakfast buffets include fresh bread, deli meats, tomatoes, smoked salmon (of course!), cheeses, and fruit. Dinners are hearty local fare, including a lot of fresh fish. Many are buffet-style at our hotels, and this is often the only option in smaller fjord-side villages. Please note that in Europe, the dinner hour is considerably later than it is in the US. We do our best to secure early reservations for our groups, but most often the evening meal will be at 7:30 pm.

## TRANSPORTATION

We will experience Norway's excellent ferry system, which is a wonderful way to be immersed in Norwegian culture. You will need to be able to carry your own bags on and off the ferries, and for the short distances between the ferry landings and our hotels (not more than 200 feet). We recommend one medium-sized rolling suitcase and a daypack. Extra luggage can be left at our hotel in Bergen during the trip.

HIKING DETAILS BY DAY				DRIVING DETAILS
DAY	MILES	HOURS	ELEV. ASCENT/DESCENT	HOURS
1	5 miles	3-4 hours	+/- 1000'	
2	1.5 miles	.5 hours	+270' / -600'	5.5 hours by ferry, 1 hour 40 minutes driving
3	4.5 miles	3-4 hours	+/-950'	
4	3 miles	3-4 hours	+1000' / -500'	1.5 hours in RIB, 2 hours 45 minutes driving
5	4 miles	2-3 hours	+500' / -1500'	1 hour by ferry
6	7.5 miles	5.5 hours	+/- 1800'	
7				2.5 hours kayaking
8	8.5 miles	5.5-6 hours	+1500' / -2000'	20 minutes in van, 30 minutes by ferry
9	2 miles	3 hours	+/- 400'	1 hour 50 minutes driving
10				2 hours by bus, 20 mins ferry

AVERAGE DAILY MAX/MIN °F												
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Bergen	34/27	34/27	39/28	45/34	54/41	59/48	61/50	61/50	54/45	48/41	39/34	36/28
Flåm	23/16	23/16	28/19	36/25	48/34	55/43	57/45	55/43	48/37	39/32	28/23	25/18
Ulvik	29/18	28/15	33/19	39/26	50/33	57/39	63/44	61/43	52/38	41/30	32/22	28/16
RAINFALL - INCHES												
Bergen	11.8	8.7	9.9	5.6	5.3	6.5	7.1	8.7	15.3	15.6	14.1	13.9
Flåm	4.9	3.2	3.8	1.8	2.2	3.1	3.5	4.4	6.6	6.7	5.6	5.8
Ulvik	2.7	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.8	2.8	3.0	3.3	2.4	3.0	2.7	2.1



# Additional Information

## CHOOSING THE RIGHT TRIP

Adventure travel often involves exotic destinations, unusual levels of physical exertion, or activities you may not have participated in previously. We work hard to help you choose the right trip for you, paying attention to your individual interests, abilities, and needs. If you have questions about the level of comfort or any of the activities described in this itinerary, please call Wilderness Travel at 1-800-368-2794 or email us at [info@wildernesstravel.com](mailto:info@wildernesstravel.com).

## REFERENCES

We'd be happy to put you in touch with a past client that has traveled with us.

## VISIT OUR WEBSITE

At [www.wildernesstravel.com](http://www.wildernesstravel.com), you can book your trip online or find out about added departures, last-minute deals, and one-time Limited Edition adventures that aren't listed in our catalog. You can also access our complete library of detailed itineraries filled with enticing photos and videos, read bios of our Trip Leaders, find descriptions of trip accommodations, and check real-time availability of any trips that interest you.

# Toucan Club Rewards & Discounts



T-SHIRT FRONT



T-SHIRT BACK



PATAGONIA SYNCHILLA FLEECE VEST  
+ KLEEN KANTEEN 27OZ WATER BOTTLE



PATAGONIA R1 PULLOVER

We are very proud to have one of the highest rates of repeat travelers in the business, and have established the Wilderness Travel Toucan Club to reward you for your loyalty. For more information, please visit the Toucan Club page of our website at [www.wildernesstravel.com/toucan](http://www.wildernesstravel.com/toucan).

Here's how it works:

## YOUR FIRST TRIP

As a first-time traveler, you receive a lightweight Wilderness Travel T-shirt and set of durable WT Luggage Tags. On subsequent trips, we're happy to send you a new WT T-shirt and set of Luggage Tags by request.

## YOUR SECOND TRIP

A top quality Wilderness Travel stainless steel water bottle by Klean Kanteen and a cozy Wilderness Travel fleece vest by Patagonia (\$100 value).

## YOUR THIRD TRIP

A versatile Wilderness Travel R-1 pullover by Patagonia (\$130 value).

## YOUR FOURTH TRIP

Discounts on the cost of your trip begin! You receive a 4% discount on the tour cost.

## FIVE AND MORE TRIPS

You receive a 5% discount on the base trip cost. On your sixth trip, you receive a 6% discount, and so on up to your 10th trip. The maximum discount is 10%, with a ceiling of \$500.

*Note: Due to special pricing considerations, Toucan Club discounts do not apply to our Private Journeys or Special Events. However, your participation on these trips does count toward your Toucan discount on future departures of Wilderness Travel's regular adventures.*

## TERMS & CONDITIONS

Toucan Club travel discounts cannot be used in conjunction with any other discount, unless otherwise specified. Discounts are deducted from the base trip cost and shown on the final invoice. The base trip cost is the main land/tier cost and does not include single supplement fees, extensions, internal airfare, or other additional charges. Bonus gifts (T-shirts, luggage tags, vests, water bottles, and pullovers) will be mailed approximately three weeks prior to trip departure. Terms and conditions of Toucan Club bonuses are subject to change or cancellation at the discretion of Wilderness Travel, Inc.



# Travel Notes



### WILDERNESS TRAVEL HAS BEEN AWARDED:

**Best Travel Specialists in the World:** *Conde Nast Traveler*, 2024, 4-time winner

**World's Best Tour Operators:** *Travel + Leisure*, 11-time winner

**Best Wildlife, Hiking & Walking Trips:** *AFAR Magazine*, 3 years in a row

**Best Adventure Travel Companies:** *USA Today*

**Trip of the Year:** *Outside Magazine*, 9-time winner

**50 Tours of a Lifetime:** *National Geographic Traveler*, 9 years in a row

**Best Adventure Travel Companies:** *National Geographic Adventure*, 3-time winner

Please be advised that California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund under the California Seller of Travel Law that took effect January 1, 1996. This fund is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous practices by discount airfare ticket sellers or air charter operators. Unfortunately, this law does not cover non-California residents and, even in the case of California residents, it does not cover any foreign travel where the foreign "providers of transportation or travel services" are not in compliance with the Sellers of Travel Law (compliance being defined as registered as a Seller of Travel in California and a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Fund). Thus none of Wilderness Travel's tours qualify and we are required by law to advise each client that they are not covered by the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires sellers of travel to maintain a trust account or bond. This business has a trust account. California Seller of Travel #100769640

While as accurate as possible at the time of printing, this itinerary should be considered an approximate indication of the schedule and scope of activities and trip routing, rather than an inflexible schedule of events; it is subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. This trip is subject to the Limitation of Liability and all the terms and conditions as detailed in the General Information section of the Wilderness Travel Catalog.

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