

NOTES

Lined area for notes.

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PORT EXPLORER & SHOPPING GUIDE

Fläm

GENERAL INFORMATION High waterfalls, majestic mountains, narrow green valleys, deep clear lakes, calm fjords, rocky plateaus and forests, all join together to form a delightful landscape and the great natural splendor that is Norway. The country, the longest in Europe, is bounded by the sea to the south, east and north, with an astounding 32,000 miles of coastline. In the east it shares borders with Sweden, Finland and Russia. Norway has a constitutional monarch with a parliament, and Lutheranism is the national religion.

Before World War II, the Norwegian economy was based on fisheries, forest products, marine transport and agriculture. Today fish, more especially salmon, is still exported all over the world, but the finding of rich oil and natural gas reserves off the coast of Norway has made industry the largest factor and employer in the country's economy. Vast water resources provide more than 90% of Norway's electricity, generated by hydro-electric plants. Currently only 30% of the water power potential is harnessed, and with pollution-free power to all parts of Norway's life and industry, the country leads the world in per-capita use of electricity. 25% of the country is covered by forests and the timber industry is still important, while iron, nickel, copper and aluminum are mined and processed in electrically run factories. Norwegian entrepreneurs were most influential in the revival of the cruise industry, particularly in the Caribbean, and today they are among the major players in the field of cruise ship companies worldwide. Tourism is a vital adjunct to Norway's strong economy, one of the strongest in the world. Visitors come mainly in the short summer season, largely drawn to the romantic grandeur of the fjord-lands.

FJORD TOPOGRAPHY The longest of all of Norway's fjords, Sognefjord thrusts deep into the inner heart of the country, some 110 miles in length. With depths of up to 4,000 feet it is truly the "Father of Fjords," that special landscape feature of Norway, left as a relic of ancient Ice Ages when massive movements of thick ice packs inexorably carved out an exit to the sea. Examples of this are to be found elsewhere in the world, in Alaska, Greenland, Chile and the south island of New Zealand. However, it is to Norway that most minds turn when the term fjord is mentioned.

The spirit of the early Vikings may be felt cruising along Sognefjord, before turning into Aurlandsfjord on the way to Fläm and Gudvangen. Here the sheer mountain walls climb twice as high as the 1,500 feet width of this, the narrowest of all fjords, creating an almost permanent shade.

Fläm, as most fjord settlements, is quite small, a ferry terminal with a train station that allows travellers to view the spectacular scenery on the heights above, by way of a railroad rising almost 3,000 feet to lovely little towns such as Voss, with its 800 year old church and memorial to America's great football coach, Knute Rockne who was born here. Then there are vast panoramas such as that at Stalheim, which, in its present

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PLACES OF INTEREST

HISTORY *continued*

tranquility, belies the fiercest of battles fought here during World War II. Plunging waterfalls and snow capped peaks provide the back-drop to the steepest descent in Europe, into the small ferry port of Gudvangen.

Places of Interest

Fläm/Myrdal Railway offers one of the most exciting journeys in Scandinavia, 12 miles long with some 20 tunnels, rising to a height of 2,845 feet, it represents an amazing feat in engineering technology. The trip to Myrdal takes approximately 40 minutes, slightly longer on the descent, and provides some terrific views. Myrdal is the junction on the main Oslo to Bergen railway, and comprises only a few houses inhabited by employees of the railway.

Voss, approximately 39 miles from Fläm, is a small town which attracts many visitors as a major ski resort. Voss Church dates back to the 12th century, it has an octagonal wooden tower and walls 7 feet thick. St. Olav's Cross commemorates Christianity, brought to Voss in the 11th century, the cross is the oldest relic in the town. The Knute Rockne Monument pays tribute to the great American Football Coach who was born across the street from the memorial.

Stalheims-Kleivene is a daring hairpin transverse of Mt. Stalheim, Europe's steepest road, with the small village of Gudvangen at it's base. Once again, there are breathtaking views, both of the valley and Stalheimfoss, the waterfall which cascades 413 feet down the mountainside to flow into Nærøyfjord.

Aurland is the closest village to Fläm for shopping. A distance of approximately 5 miles from Fläm, Aurland is well-known for its shoes, which are of excellent quality. It is also the sight of an impressive gothic, stone built church, dating from the 13th century.

- When going ashore, passengers are advised to take with them only the items they need and to secure any valuables.

SHORE EXCURSIONS To make the most of your visit to Fläm and its scenic surrounding areas we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and pricing consult your Shore Excursion Brochure or contact the Shore Excursion Desk.

SHOPPING FACILITIES Shopping hours are from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday and 9:00 am to 2:00 pm on Saturday. There may be one or two souvenir shops open on Sundays, but in general most shops will be closed.

Local handicrafts include the traditional knitted sweaters in nordic design, good quality silverware, pewter and wood carvings. Trolls make popular souvenirs, as do candles and the Norwegian invented Cheese Plane or slicer.

U.S. Dollars are not accepted in Norway but most major credit cards are accepted.

Value Added Tax (VAT), is added to most purchases. Visitors who spend over a certain amount may be entitled to re-claim some or all of the tax paid. In Scandinavia many stores participate in "Tax Free Shopping", ask for a "Tax Free" receipt, this is usually reimbursed before departing the country although Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd.® cannot guarantee the cooperation of local authorities. Items must remain sealed or unused whilst in Norway, in order to qualify for a tax refund.

LOCAL CURRENCY The unit of currency in Norway is the Krone (NOK). There are 100 øre to the Krone. Krone bills are available in the following denominations; 50, 100, 200, 500 and 1,000.

POST OFFICE AND TELEPHONE FACILITIES The main Post Office is located in the center of Fläm at the railway station.

Local coins are required to use public telephones. It is possible to dial-direct for international calls, ('00'). You can also place calls with your personal calling card using the following access codes (coin may be required):

AT&T: 800-19-011 / MCI: 800-19-912
SPRINT: 800-19-877

TOURIST INFORMATION There is a Tourist Information Office on the quay in Fläm.

TRANSPORTATION There are very few taxis available at the Quay, tel.: 945-04931. The railway station is situated right on the Quay, from which the Vatnahalsen/Myrdal train departs.

USEFUL WORDS

- Yes • Ja
- No • Nei
- Good Day • God Dag
- Good-bye • Ha Det
- Thank-you • Tak
- You're Welcome • Versegod

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