NOTES	
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Geiranger

PORT EXPLORER

& SHOPPING GUIDE

is almost always associated with Norway. Its expansive areas of inlets and bays, created over vast periods of time by the forceful action of immense glaciers, cutting dramatic gorges through the mountain ranges in their unstoppable march to the sea. An ancient process that is still to be found in action in parts of Alaska and Greenland, although Norway has the edge in numbers, size and depth of fjords, with Sognefjord the longest in the world.

Cruise ships destined for Geiranger leave the open sea near Ålesund, a very important fishing port. Ålesund has a population of 35,000, built upon 3 islands, it suffered a devastating fire in 1904 and was totally rebuilt. It is now considered one of the prettiest of all the fishing towns in Norway. Some distance inland, near the ferry port and resort town of Stranda, the channel divides with a natural flow to the right, ending at the ferry port of Hellsylt, and the flow to the left being Geiranger Fjord. Cruise ships generally tender passengers to shore at Hellsylt, who then participate in overland excursions from the area where Henrick Ibsen was inspired to write his drama, "Brand."

Geiranger is a small settlement of some 300 inhabitants most of whom now earn their living through tourism and related activities. Though several cruise ships may anchor in the bay at any one time, the vast panorama of beauty offers enough tranquility to absorb this temporary incursion to modern life. Excursions leave the dock-side of Geiranger, many to follow the upper road to Flydalsjuvet, a view point that allows travellers an awesome overlook to see the tiny dots of cruise liners in the waters far below.

FJORD TOPOGRAPHY Of all of their elements of natural strength and beauty, Geiranger Fjord is perhaps the best known, the "Diva" of all Norwegian fjords. Reached first by a water journey through Storfjord from the sea, this relatively short and most secret of fjords is an exquisite collection of great waterfalls tumbling hundreds of feet in delicate cascades, and lofty snow-capped mountains reflected in mirror-still water. Add to this, picturesque little farms precariously clinging to small green patches on the mountainsides, and a quaint little settlement at the end of the gorge, and you have Geiranger Fjord, the much sought after destination of countless numbers of travellers.

1,600 feet wide and 1,200 feet deep, with mountains as high as 6,000 feet lining the waterway, Geiranger Fjord is a sight to behold. The lacy curtains of snow melt that cascade over the steep cliffs, many into the Fjord itself, are given romantic names such as; Bridal Veil, The Suitor and Seven Sisters. Through this breathtaking scenery a large natural amphitheater opens to signify the end of the Fjord and Geiranger village.











Geiranger Fjord stretches some 10 miles inland, fed by numerous gushing waterfalls including; the Seven Sisters, the Suitor and the Bridal Veil. The sheer magnificence of the surroundings dwarf even the largest of cruise vessels.

Dalsnibba provides the view that made Geiranger and the fjords of Norway famous. About 6 miles from Geiranger, up the valley by way of a zig-zagging road with as many as 36 bends. Visitors may feast their eyes upon the most magnificent of vistas. It is quite likely that the roads closer to the summit of Dalsnibba, whose peak reaches almost 5,000 feet above sea level, can be lined by walls of snow up to 20 feet high, even in mid-July. The roads here are closed between October and May.

Geiranger Church is situated approximately a mile up the main road, above the landing area. This quaint little wooden church is built in an octagonal shape and offers lovely views of the cruise ships and the surrounding countryside.

- Please note; Hellsylt is a drop-off point for passengers on the full-day tour and therefore it is not possible to venture ashore here.
- 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 Geiranger and its surrounding fjords 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 thru Friday, closing at 2:00 pm on Saturdays. 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 although most major credit cards are.

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 close to the Quay in Geiranger.

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 (coins may be required):

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

SPRINT: 800-19-877

TOURIST INFORMATION There is a Tourist Information center close to the Quay in Geiranger, tel.: 70263099.

TRANSPORTATION There are very few taxis available at the Quay in Geiranger. A regular ferry service operates between Geiranger and Hellsylt.

USEFUL WORDS

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

PLACES OF INTEREST