





#### PLACES OF INTEREST

**Jostedalbreen** is the largest glacier in northern Europe. Over centuries the powerful mountain of moving ice has created some dynamic landscapes and scenery. There are over 20 “arms” or “tongues” reaching out from the main body of ice into the surrounding valleys and hillsides.

**Briksdal Glacier** is part of the Jostedal Glacier National Park. The river of ice swoops into the Briksdal valley offering dramatic photo opportunities. Tourists can make the scenic trip to the base of the glacier along hiking paths or by horse drawn carts just as the first visitors did over a hundred years ago.

**Norwegian Glacier Center** is an institution dedicated to collecting, creating, and disseminating knowledge about snow, ice, and glaciers. Some exceptional features of the center include special effects courtesy of a Star Wars movies set designer.

**Lake Loen** is a picturesque emerald green body of water carved from glacial ice. Charming hotels and restaurants are scattered around the shores and a cruise upon the lake is a popular way to enjoy the peaceful scenery.

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

**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.

**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.

**SHORE EXCURSIONS** To make the most of your visit to Olden and 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. When going ashore, be advised to take with you only necessary items and secure any valuables onboard.

**LOCAL CUSTOMS** Bargaining: There is little or no opportunity to bargain in Norway.

**Tipping:** Service charges are included in restaurant pricing. It is appropriate to tip 10% for good service. Taxi fares are usually rounded up to the nearest 5 or 10 NOK.

**Local Cuisine:** Like other Scandinavian countries, the “Koldtbord” (Cold Table) or Buffet style meal is popular, emphasis being placed on fish, particularly Salmon which is a national favorite. “Fair I kal” is one of the more traditional dishes, a stew of lamb and cabbage; kjottkaker (meatcakes) are also quite common, served with sauerkraut, flavored with caraway. Reindeer appears on many menus, particularly further north, similar to beef, but richer, slightly sweet flavored meat. The Norwegians are partial to wild berries, either as an accompaniment to meat or as a dessert. Two varieties native to Norway are Lingonberries, similar to cranberries, and Cloudberries, like orange colored raspberries, they are a little crunchy and have a sharper taste.

**Drink Specialties:** The Norwegians drink a lot of coffee. Although alcohol is very expensive in Norway, the favorite tippie is the local brand of Aquavit, a potato based liqueur, common throughout Scandinavia, usually served ice cold and drunk as a shot.

**SHOPPING FACILITIES** Value added Tax (VAT), is added to most purchases. Visitors who spend over a certain amount (min. Nok 310 – in one shop) 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 RCCL cannot guarantee the cooperation of local authorities. Items must remain sealed or unused whilst in Norway, in order to qualify for tax refund.

**LOCAL CURRENCY** The unit of currency in Norway is the Krone (NOK). There are 100 ore to the Krone. Krone bills are available in the following denominations: 50, 100, 200, 500 and 1,000. Most major credit cards are widely accepted.

**POST OFFICE AND TELEPHONE** The main Post Office is located close to the quay in Olden.

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

**TOURIST INFORMATION** There is a Tourist Information center close to the quay in Olden.

**TRANSPORTATION** Taxis are in limited supply on the pier. Taxis generally operate by meter or can be hired by the hour.

#### USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES

Yes • Ja  
 No • Nei  
 Good Day • God Dag  
 Good Bye • Ha Det  
 Thank-you • Tak  
 You’re Welcome • Versagod