



GENERAL INFORMATION At the head of the innermost arm of the Nordfjord is the village of Olden. This small and quaint village on the west coast of Norway is a gateway to some of the oldest and largest glaciers in Europe and some of Norway's most beautiful fjords. The natural beauty of the western coast is one of the biggest visitor attractions to Norway.

The word fjord is almost always associated with Norway. The country's scenic areas of inlets and bays have been created over vast periods of time by the forceful action of immense glaciers, cutting gorges through the mountain ranges in their unstoppable march to the sea. The ancient process continues and is still to be found in action in parts of Alaska and Greenland. Norway has the edge in numbers, size and depth of fjords, with Sognefjord being the longest in the world.

Jostedalsbreen is considered a relatively young glacier, however this massive sheet of moving ice covers approximately 300 square miles. Briksdal glacier is millions of years old and the views of the amazing frozen cascades are not to be missed.

A journey to the Nordfjord region offers an exceptional variety of scenery ranging from blue glacier arms and rugged mountains to green valleys, and glacier fed lakes and rivers. Run off from the massive Jostedalsbreen glacier gives the rivers and lakes a green shade of color that is only found near the ice giant.

HISTORY In the 9th century a few small communities began to organize into larger regions. King Harald Fairhair unified the regions into one around the year 900. During the Middle Ages, the Vikings with their longships and exceptional sailing skills began to expand and reach beyond the borders of Norway into England, France, Ireland and Iceland. Norway and Denmark united into one kingdom that lasted from 1380 until 1814. In the wake of the Napoleonic wars, Norway then united with Sweden until 1905 when the two countries separated and have remained independent every since.

NORWAY

Modern Norway has one of the highest standards of living in the world. The North Sea oil and gas fields provide the world with energy and Norway is one of the largest exporters of fish.





PLACES OF INTEREST

Jostedalsbreen 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 "tounges" 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 of 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 peace-ful scenery.

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.

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 bargain in Norway.

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

Local Cuisine: Like other Scandinavian countries, the "Koldtbor (Cold Table) or Buffet style meal is popular, emphasis being place on fish, particularly Salmon which is a national favorite. "Fair I kal" one of the more traditional dishes, a stew of lamb and cabbage; kjc kaker (meatcakes) are also quite common, served with sauerkraut, f vored with caraway. Reindeer appears on many menus, particula further north, similar to beef, but richer, slightly sweet flavored me The Norwegians are partial to wild berries, either as an accompa ment to meat or as a dessert. Two varieties native to Norway are L gonberries, similar to cranberries, and Cloudberries, like orange c ored raspberries, they are a little crunchy and have a sharper taste.

Drink Specialties: The Norwegians drink a lot of coffee. Althou alcohol is very expensive in Norway, the favorite tipple is the loc brand of Aquavit, a potato based liqueur, common throughout Scane navia, usually served ice cold and drunk as a shot.

SHOPPING FACILITIES Value added Tax (VAT), is added to me purchases. Visitors who spend over a certain amount (min. Nok 3 – in one shop) may be entitled to re-claim some or all of the tax pa In Scandinavia many stores participate in "Tax Free Shopping". A for a "Tax Free" receipt, this is usually reimbursed before departi the country although RCCL cannot guarantee the cooperation of loc authorities. Items must remain sealed or unused whilst in Norway, order to qualify for tax refund.

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

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

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

AT&T: 800.19.011 MCI: 800.19.912

TOURIST INFORMATION There is a Tourist Informantion cenclose 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.

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