

HIKING JOURNEY

Peer Gynt's Trail

WALKING HOLIDAYS IN NORWAY THROUGH THE WESTERN FJORDS,
DOVREFJELL, RONDANE & JOTUNHEIMEN NP, NORWAY

14 DAYS



walkabout
gourmet adventures

Journey Overview

Our walk begins in one of Europe's best kept secrets - Bergen. It has a gorgeous location directly beside the sea but with towering mountains rising just behind. It has a bustling port and famous fish market and it is well worth spending time here before or after the walk.

We travel west towards the famous fjord country including beautiful Innvikfjord. Our walk takes us past waterfalls and onto an alpine plateau with superb views towards some of Norway's most famous fjords.

We pass the spectacular mountain road, Trollvegen and follow the old King's Road to the tiny Dovrefjell National Park. It was established to protect the dramatic highlands around Mount Snohetta and to provide a suitable habitat for arctic foxes, wild reindeer, wolverines and musk oxen. In Norway, fossil records show that the musk ox prospered around Dovrefjell during the last Ice Age. Henrik Ibsen's "great hunter" Peer Gynt did not fell a single deer in the entire story but he brought to Rondane status and a place in international literature. Following the footsteps of Peer Gynt, we walk in the amazing landscape of the Rondane National Park, surrounded by a ring of mountains.

This region, 600 million years old, once rose from a lifeless sea. Through thousands of years this alpine area has provided hunters with a living and the hunters have left their mark in the form of reindeer traps and burial mounds. Rondane's range of fauna is diverse - from lemmings to reindeers!

The spectacular Jotunheimen National Park is "home of the giants" and the epitome of Norwegian countryside with its high peaks and mountain communities in the valleys. It offers magnificent walking through ravine-like valleys, past plunging waterfalls, deep lakes and glaciers.

On our last day we follow the famous Sognefjellet which traverses the highest mountain pass in Northern Europe and then onto the Sognefjorden before returning to the historic town of Bergen. From here it is possible to take one of the world's finest rail journeys, passing between snowy peaks and over the bleak Hardangervidda plateau to Oslo. Don't miss the side trip on the Flam line, which hairpins its way down the Flam valley to Aurlandsfjord, stopping midway at the thundering Kjosfossen waterfall.

Journey Schedule

DAY 1

Bergen – Lavik – Forde – Skei – Stryne – Hellesylt – Liabygda – Blatind

DAY 2

Postvei – Herdal Valley

DAY 3

Liabygda – Trollstigen – Kongsvoll

DAY 4

The Old Kings' Road (Gamble Kongeveg) From Hjerkin Fjellstue to Kongsvold

DAY 5

Kongsvold – Dovre National Park

DAY 6

Kongsvold – Viewpoint Snohetta – Dombas – Nord Sel – Hovringen – Rondane NP

DAY 7

Hovringen – Rondane NP – Smukjoseter Fjellstue – Towards Peer Gynt Hytta

DAY 8

Free Day

DAY 9

Hovringen – Rondane NP – Putten Seter

DAY 10

Hovringen – Otta – Kvam – Peer Gyntseterveg – Vinstra – Heidal – Lom

DAY 11

Lom – Sota Saeter – Mysubytta

DAY 12

Free Day

DAY 13

The Troll Walk – Lom – Lievassbu – Elveter

DAY 14

Lom – Sognefjellet – Voss – Bergen

Journey Itinerary



DAY 1

Bergen - Lavik - Forde - Skei - Stryne - Hellesylt - Liabygda - Blatind

We meet at 9.00 a.m. at the:

COMFORT HOTEL HOLBERG

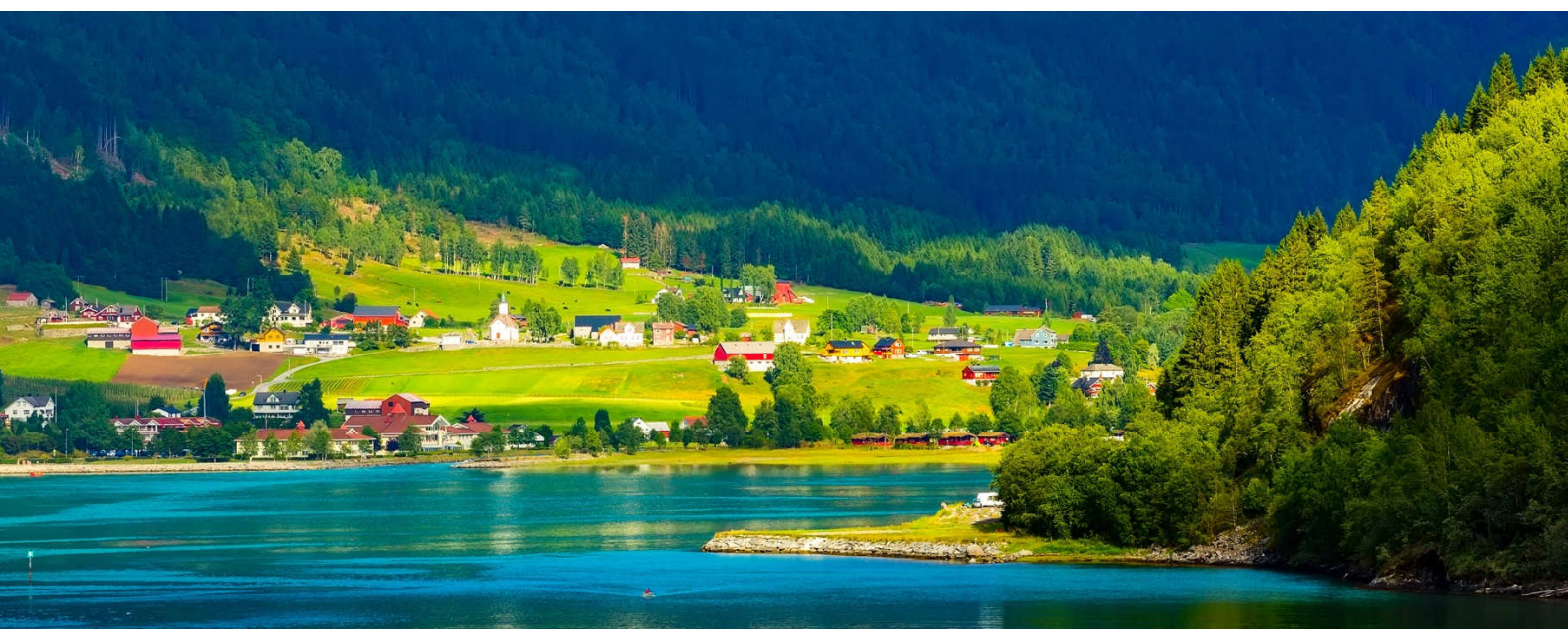
Strandgaten 190, 5004 Bergen, Norway

Phone: +47 55 30 42 00

Email: co.holberg@choice.no

The hotel is in a central location and just 5 minutes by taxi from the railway station. After our pick-up we leave the pretty city of Bergen behind and travel on the E39 towards Sunnlyvsfjord in the western part of Norway. In the tiny village of Oppedal we arrive at the longest and deepest fjord in Norway – Sognefjord, 205 kms long and 1.3 kms deep! We board the car ferry for the 20 minute trip across the fjord to the village of Lavik where we break for lunch. This afternoon's drive is like passing through a Norwegian fairy tale – beautiful and classic Norwegian scenery – fjords and lakes, lush green countryside and pretty lakeside villages. We stop for an afternoon coffee at Skei beside the beautiful Lake Jostra. We continue onto the Innvikfjord and then Sunnlyvsfjord before our final ferry crossing to Liabygda and then a short 5-minute drive to up an idyllic valley. Here we find the boutique Blatind hotel. Kristin and Peder began their dream 30 years ago of establishing a unique boutique hotel in a peaceful hideaway well hidden from the hustle and bustle. They named their hotel after the majestic Blatind Mountain which rises directly behind the hotel. Nowadays they are assisted by their sons Ole and Knut. The family take great pride in being able to offer their guests locally sourced food from nearby farmers and accommodate their guests in large comfortable rooms. After settling in we meet up for our welcome drink before enjoying our first delicious dinner together.

 **BLATIND BOUTIQUE HOTEL, STOREDAL, NORWAY**



DAY 2

Blatind Hotel - Historic Postal Route between Strada & Hellesylt

The western fjords are Norway's signature landscape. Amazingly, these formidable sea-drowned glacial valleys, flanked by incredibly rugged terrain, have not deterred Norwegians from settling and farming the slopes and heights for thousands of years. The first overland route between the towns of Bergen and Trondheim went over the mountain to Ljodbreen, nearby to Hellesylt. The old track is still there and allows us an altogether spellbinding walk across the mountain between Strada and Hellesylt. The post track takes us through the Herdal valley beside a crystal-clear trout pond which then zig-zags up to a high plateau. We then walk on a winding path along the top of this moorland where the silence and beauty is just breath-taking. Once we have reached the Ljoen-side of the mountain, we are rewarded with the most beautiful scenery of the Geiranger Fjord one can imagine. After our scenic lunch perched on the edge overlooking the fjord we retrace our steps along the "postvei". We rejoin our vehicles and return to our lovely hotel. Tonight, we have a special treat in store for you as we shall be having our dinner in the "Vikingshuset". Our hosts will take us back 1,000 years in time where we shall enjoy delicious food with stories to match the ambiance of the evening.

 **5 HOURS**

 **BLATIND BOUTIQUE HOTEL, STOREDAL, NORWAY**



DAY 3

Blatind Boutique Hotel - Trollstigen - Dombas - Kongsvoll

This morning after our hearty Norwegian breakfast we make our way along beautiful Storfjorden to the fertile valley of Valldal where we stop to sample the tastiest strawberries in Norway. Despite its northern latitude Valldal has a mild climate that provides ideal conditions for producing this highly valued berry as well as cherries, apples and raspberries. At Gudbrandsjuvet we stop for lunch in a quaint café overlooking a deep ravine. It is a 5 m narrow and 25 m high canyon through which the Valldola River winds its way. We continue our journey into the mountains until we come to Trollvegen, a 1,000-metre steep vertical mountain side which has challenged mountaineers for more than one hundred years. One of the mountaintops has even been used as a starting platform for fearless parachute jumpers (base jumping) until this was forbidden. To get this far, we have to pass the eleven-hairpin bends on the summer road Trollstigen. The view of the road, which winds and turns itself up into 820 metres, is truly extraordinary. We allow time to visit the remarkable viewing platforms which the National Park authorities have built allowing us a dizzy view of the thundering 180 metre Stigfossen waterfall below. Near Andalsnes we join the E 136 which takes us along the very fertile Rauma River valley all the way to Dombas, a bustling regional town. In the late afternoon we arrive at our hotel in Kongsvold - the Kongsvold Fjeldstue. Located in the centre of the Dovrefjell National Park, this small hamlet has been very tastefully restored in co-operation with the National Antiquarian. It combines modern comfort with historical authenticity. All the buildings, hall, dining room, sitting room and lounges have a traditional atmosphere and contain many antique treasures from the inn's history. In the delightful restaurant, we enjoy excellent Norwegian cuisine.

 **KONGSVOLD, DOVREFJELL NP, NORWAY**

DAY 4

The Old Kings' Road (Gamble Kongeveg) From Hjerkin Fjellstue to Kongsvold

We travel the short distance to the Hjerkin Fjellstue where our walk begins. The tradition of this hotel goes back to the year 1100. Scenically in a beautiful location, it was one of the inns on the historical Kings' Road across the Dovre Mountains. Until the middle of the 19th century, the old Kings' Road was the major link between Oslo and Trondheim and which also passed through the Dovrefjell mountains. All kings, from Harald Harfagre to Karl Johan and many pilgrims have travelled on the Kongeveg to the Nidaros Cathedral in Trondheim. Clergymen, military and officials also used it over the years. People who lived in the districts near the mountains presumably used the mountain passes too but are rarely mentioned in the records. Back in the old days the pilgrims could stay in the Fjellstue which are still used today for accommodation and often renovated to modern standards. We start our ascent at a marker which shows the old Kongeveg and soon after we reach a flat saddle. Watch out for the lemmings which live here through the winter under the snow and breed the following year. Females as young as 15 days can become pregnant and most give birth to at least two litters of five each year, so the population increases rapidly. We cross the ridge along a wide, comfortable track and walk down into a valley of moors and marshes. We continue pass Lake Gavalivatn and then pass a building which belongs to the farm of Gavalisetra. Our trail continues across shrubs, heath species and vegetation, which are dominated by grasses and sedges. We begin our slow descent to the Blesebekken and pass through some impressive sub-alpine birch woodlands which grows luxuriantly in the Dovrefjell NP. The last part of the trail takes us past a botanical garden with a large variety of mountain plants. Back at the hotel, relax in one of the lounges or enjoy coffee and waffles in the "Kro".

 **5 HOURS**

 **KONGSVOLD, DOVREFJELL NP, NORWAY**

DAY 5

Kongsvold - Dovre National Park

The tiny Dovrefjell National Park exists mainly to protect the dramatic highlands around the 2,286 metre peak of Snohetta and provides a suitably bleak habitat for arctic foxes, wild reindeer and wolverines. The Knutshoene massif occupies a small appendage of the park and protects Europe's most diverse intact alpine ecosystem. Our walk today begins directly from our lodge as we cross the railway line and make our way up the escarpment to a high plateau overlooking Kongsvold. The majestic Snohetta towers highest of all the great mountains on the Dovrefjell and the panorama in the area is just breathtaking. Our walk takes us past some wide-open spaces with moors, marshes and rounded ridges towards the mighty Snohetta massif. Here the glaciers have been very active and Snohetta must have had a conical shape before a glacier dug out the cirque east of the summit. One of the special attractions in the Dovrefjell national park are the 140 musk oxen. They were originally imported from Greenland but they seem to thrive in the Dovrefjell ranges. However, fossil discoveries from the last interglacial show that they actually lived here in the area before. Musk oxen are peaceful herbivores and desire nothing more than to be left in peace. If you approach too close, they see you as an aggressor and defend themselves by charging rapidly! The goal today is to try and spot some of these musk oxen in their natural habitat - but don't worry we won't get too close! We normally break for lunch beside the river which flows through this beautiful valley. Our return walk takes us back across the plateau with sweeping views towards the ridge line behind Kongsvold. In winter this area is also a favourite for herds of wild reindeer. In the late afternoon we return to Kongsvold where you will have time for a well-earned rest before another delicious dinner.

 **5 HOURS**

 **KONGSVOLD, DOVREFJELL NP, NORWAY**

DAY 6

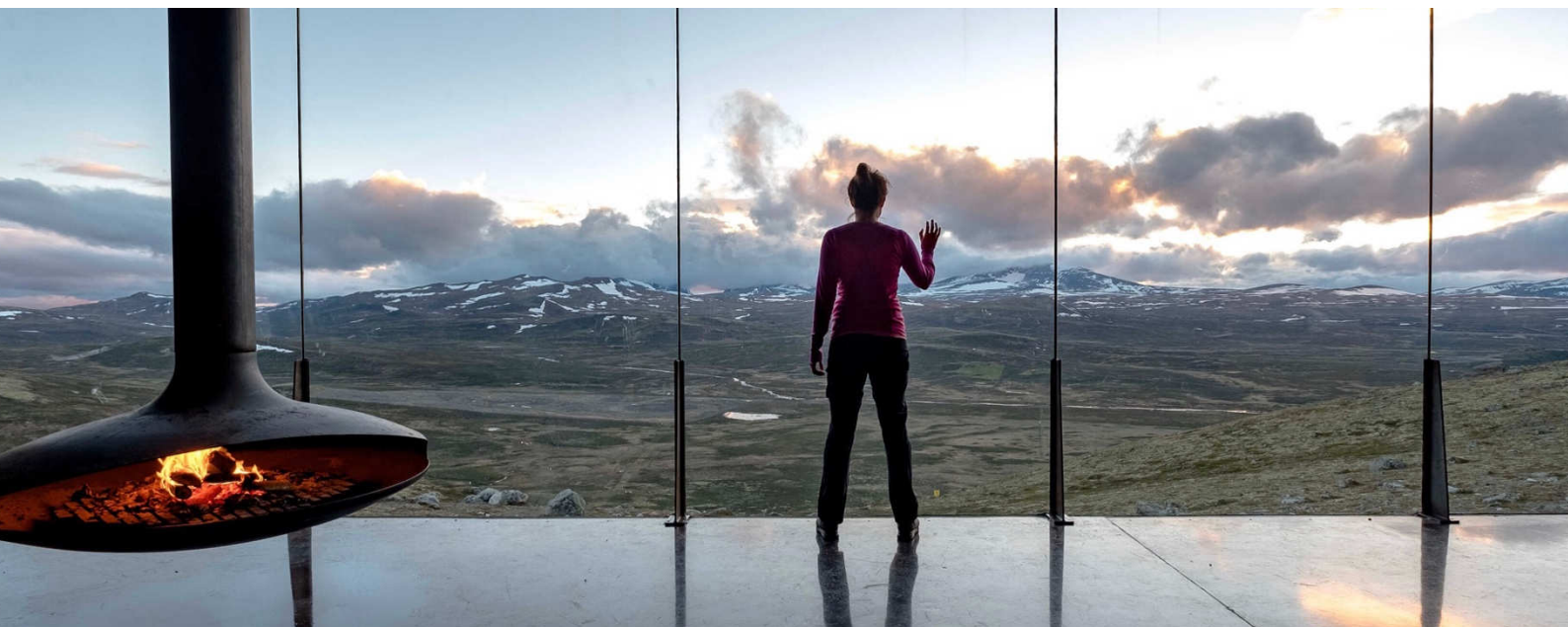
Kongsvold - Viewpoint Snohetta - Dombas - Nord Sel - Hovringen - Rondane NP

After breakfast we drive the short distance to Viewpoint Snohetta. It is an architectural viewing pavilion overlooking Tverrfjellet mountain at Hjerkin. The building was designed by the famous Snøhetta architects based in Oslo and it was opened in 2011. It was commissioned by the Norwegian Wild Reindeer Centre. The pavilion is a boxed-steel construction, with a large glass surface facing Snøhetta to the north, and an organic, undulating wooden shape to the south. The building is open and accessible during the summer months and is 20 minutes' walk from the car park at Tverrfjellet. The car park is ringed by posts inspired by the old fences used more than 800 years ago to capture wild reindeer in the mountains. Following the gravel path we follow the easy path up to the viewpoint. On the way a series of stone slabs tell the history of Dovrefjell over the last 10000 years. At the top we reach viewpoint SNØHETTA, with views to Dovre – Sunndalsfjella National Park and the disused artillery range at Hjerkin. The building has won several international awards and was named "World Building of the Year" in 2011. We return to our vehicles where we join the E6 to Dombas and onto Sel in the Gudbrands Valley. It is the setting for the main work of Nobel prize winner Sigrid Undset for her novels of Kristin Lavransdatter. The trilogy, translated into more than 70 languages, was the most widely read novel of the 20th century. We visit the beautiful Church at Sel which was built with logs in 1742. The cemetery also has a number of commonwealth War graves. Nord-Sel Churchyard contains 31 Commonwealth burials, one of them unidentified. Nearly all are of the 1st Battalion, Green Howards, who were killed during the Battle of Otta on 28 April 1940 during the Allied withdrawal through the Gudbrandsdal. After our picnic lunch we drive into Rondane National Park. The name Rondane comes from the deep indentations running along the mountain near Rondvatnet lake. As Norway's first national park (1962), it protects the fabulous Rondane massif and is regarded as the finest alpine hiking country in Norway. Henrik Ibsen described it as "palace piled upon palace". The area is 600 million years old and once rose from a lifeless sea. Here the folding of the earth's crust, glacial epochs and erosions have resulted in dramatic

rounded shaped mountains. Ancient reindeer trapping sites and burial mounds provide evidence that the area has been inhabited for thousands of years, providing hunters with a living. Rondane's range of wildlife includes 28 mammal species - from lemmings to reindeer and 124 bird species. In the community of Hovringen we come to our very cosy Norwegian Mountain Lodge, Høvringen Fjellstue. It dates back to 1890 and is located at 1,000 m above sea level. One of the many great things about this lodge is that it has unique hiking possibilities in all directions right from its door which means that we don't need to use our vehicle to access the hiking trails. The lodge collaborates with the Norwegian Cultural Heritage department to help in the preservation of Norwegian cultural heritage both with regard to cultural history and the dissemination of protected and heritage-worthy cultural monuments which the lodge is a part of. It is a family owned and managed lodge which you feel immediately as you enter - the personalised touch is very evident.

 **3 HOURS**

 **HØVRINGEN FJELLSTUE, RONDANE NP, NORWAY**



DAY 7

Hovringen - Rondane NP - Smukjosester Fjellstue - Towards Peer Gynt Hytta

This morning we begin our walk directly from our mountain lodge and make our way past Hovringensae River and onto Lake Hovringen. We follow the lakeside trail to mid-way along the lake until we arrive at the lovely mountain lodge of Smuksjosester. It is beautifully situated on the shores of Hovringen Lake and surrounded by the Rondane mountain range. It was originally a mountain farm but has more recently been run as a mountain lodge. It is a great base for walkers in summer and cross country skiers in winter. After a welcome morning tea break at this delightful hut we continue along the edge of the lake. The track then takes us past a series of smaller alpine tarns. This is an ideal spot to have our picnic lunch with glorious views in all directions especially the main Rondane range with its peaks above 2000m. We retrace our steps back to Smuksjoster where we can take some refreshments and a toilet break. We can take an easier route back to our lodge via the small gravel track past Klubben with a great viewpoint down the valley. Back at our lodge relax in the comfortable lounge and enjoy the complimentary tea and coffee and Elins delicious home baked cakes. Our dinners will be in the lovely dining room where we can expect delicious home cooking with a warm friendly atmosphere.

 **5 HOURS**

 **HØVRINGEN FJELLSTUE, RONDANE NP, NORWAY**



DAY 8

Free Day

Today you have time to absorb the atmosphere of this special location and learn more about Rondane National Park. Høvringen was originally one of Norway's largest farming hamlets with over 30 farms in operation. The first tourists started to visit the farms in the 1880s, and this was the start of the tourist industry that characterizes the area today. Hovringen has left its mark on Norway's cultural history. Rondane is the location for Henrik Ibsen's play Peer Gynt and Sigrid Undset's famous novel Kristin Lavransdatter and the The Wreath where Kristin gets to go into the mountains with her father. Last but not least Harald Sohlberg. 'Winter Night in Rondane' has been chosen as Norway's national painting. The economic importance of farming began to decline by the late 1800's as tourism began to flourish especially with Englishmen who began to arrive for hunting and hiking in the mountains. It wasn't until 1962 that Rondane was finally protected as a National Park ; Norway's first . Rondane National Park is a distinct, mountainous area. Large parts of the park are over 1445 meters above sea level. The park is home to ten peaks that rise more than 2000 meters above sea level. The highest mountains are called Rondeslottet (2178 masl) and Storrenden (2138 masl). There are countless traces of the last Ice Age throughout the whole of Rondane. Narrow corries, gorges and large, mountainous terraces are all evidence of the Ice Age. A total of 124 different species of birds and 28 different species of mammals have been observed in Rondane. There are 240 species of plants and over 300 types of moss and lichen. Rondane's wild reindeer population is the last remnant of the original European wild reindeer population. The reindeer have been in Rondane for thousands of years. There are many traces of old trapping methods in Rondane.. There are also many traces of ancient burial mounds and settlements. The oldest reindeer trapping pits date back to the year zero, and the most recent pits were used right up until the 1800s. The migratory habits and grazing areas of the wild reindeer are the same today as they have always been. Tonight we meet again in the dining room of our lodge for another delicious home cooked dinner .

 **HØVRINGEN FJELLSTUE, RONDANE NP, NORWAY**

DAY 9

Hovringen - Rondane NP - Putten Seter

This morning after another delicious breakfast we begin our walk directly from our lodge again. Our route takes us in direction of Karihaugen – it leads us through a varied landscape of forests and moorlands. On this roundtrip-hike we are rewarded with breathtaking views of highlights such as Snohette, as well Rondane and Jotenheimen National Parks. In Putten Seter we can have our picnic lunch and take a short but very worthwhile detour to Utsikten . “Utsikt” means “view” in Norwegian, and as the name suggests, splendid views await us once we’ve reached our destination. Spread out before us are the green hillsides of Gudbrandsalen Valley, a patchwork of fields and the impressive Gudbrandsdalslågen River. Our afternoon walk takes us past Hartionn Lakes and through a lovely valley between the peaks of Heimfjellet and Anaripiggen. In the late afternoon we arrive back at our Fjellstue where we can relax before enjoying another delicious dinner.

 **4 HOURS**

 **HØVRINGEN FJELLSTUE, RONDANE NP, NORWAY**



DAY 10

Hovringen - Otta - Heidal – Lom

Today we leave the peaceful countryside of Hovringen and travel to Otta situated at the confluence the Gudbrandsdalslagen and the Otta Rivers. It was originally established as a centre for iron ore and copper. Today the town still employs people in light manufacturing but economically tourism plays an increasingly important role having both Rondane and Jotunheimen National Parks next door. Our next stop is Heidal. It can safely be called Norway's largest living museum. Its huge collection of old timber buildings provides a clear picture of what mountain valleys looked like more than a hundred years ago. A number of buildings date from the 18th and 19th C and the oldest from the 16th century. The architecture of these houses is amongst the best in the country but what is especially impressive is the sheer number of old houses which have been preserved here. Many Heidal dwellers practise different forms of home-craft as a way of earning extra money. Woodcarving is particularly popular, although many other traditional skills are practiced too. Heidal's stave church, built and decorated by local craftsmen, offers many fine examples of traditional woodcarving skills. The church was only built in 1938 and is an exact copy of the nationally known church from 1752, which was hit by lightning back in 1933. When Norway first converted to Christianity, a series of tiny wooden churches sprang up around the countryside. Although none of these still survive today, it is thought that the remaining 31 timber stave churches reflect the favoured architectural style of that first generation of Norwegian houses of worship. Beginning in the 12th century, this was accomplished by laying down horizontal sill beams above ground level on a raised stone foundation, on which the plank walls rested. At each corner is an upright stave post - hence the name of the style - which ties together the sill grooves in the sill with the tops of the planks fastened into grooves in an upper wall plate. Most stave church interiors include little more than a small nave and a narrow chancel, although in some, the nave and chancel are combined into a single rectangular space, divided only by a chancel screen. After our visit of the church, we spend some time at one of the picturesque old farms - the Sore Harildstad Farm. Time for some coffee and delicious cakes! In the afternoon we arrive in Lom where we stay for the next 4 nights. Lom is a picturesque village and situated in majestic natural surroundings, on the outskirts of the Jotunheimen National Park. Our hotel has been constructed in a cosy traditional

style and the kitchen has continued the tradition of the predecessor chef, Arne Brimi, who created what he called "Nature's Kitchen" using the freshest local ingredients and prepared using a long cultural and culinary tradition.

 **5 HOURS**

 **LOM, JOTUNHEIMEN NP, NORWAY**



DAY 11

Lom - Sota Saeter - Mysubytta

Today we drive to Sota Saeter from where we begin our walk to Mysubytta. We follow the beautiful path beside the river along a forested and lake-filled mountain valley. Thanks to its fabulous geology, it contains some of Norway's most beautiful landscapes. Mountain summer farms abound in this area and often form romantic hamlets. Though the use of summer farms has been abandoned in many Norwegian districts, they seem to thrive here. Like in the old days, cattle and goats can still be seen grazing. In Mysubytta, where the Mysubytta River meanders through this lovely alpine valley, we stop for lunch. After allowing some time to discover this charming alpine settlement, we make our way along a beautiful trail. It winds through a variety of meadows and forest and has a wealth of flora and fauna. Lichen is a fungus living in symbiosis with an alga. It may grow on the ground, on rocks and on trees. Reindeer lichen is the main food for the reindeer during winter but it was also harvested as a supplement for farm animals. In hard times, Iceland's or Norway's lichen was used to make flour for baking bread. Today it is mainly used in decoration. Lichen is very vulnerable to air pollution and will normally disappear before visible damages can be seen on other plants. A rich and varied flora of lichen is a good indication of clean air. We return to Sota Saeter and time permitting you might enjoy some delicious waffles with the famous "Cloud Berries" and sour cream for afternoon tea. We re-join our vans and return to our hotel in Lom.

 **5 HOURS**

 **LOM, JOTUNHEIMEN NP, NORWAY**



DAY 12

Free Day

Today you have time to explore Lom at your leisure. Lom, straddling the river Bovra at the Prestfossen waterfall, has a number of attractions and there are plenty of hills and mountain tracks nearby which have excellent views of Ottadalen and Boverdalen. A popular route is the 3 km return loop up Lomseggi to the century-old stone cottage called Smithbue. The Norwegian Mountain Museum in the visitor's centre for Jotunheimen National Park is filled with mountaineering memorabilia as well as exhibits on the natural history and culture of this region. The Fossheim Steinsenter combines Europe's largest selection of rare and beautiful rocks, minerals, fossils, gems and jewellery. The Lom Stabkyrkja is certainly worth a visit. This lovely 12th century stave church in the centre of the town is still the local church. It was constructed in 1109, extended in 1634 and given its current cruciform shape with the addition of two naves in 1663. For the adventurous why not try the famous Lom Zip line which runs over the mighty Prestfossen in the middle of Fossbergom, right under the Ulstad bridge. Tonight's dinner is at your leisure – choose one of the many restaurants in the town or eat a la carte in the hotel restaurant.

LOM, JOTUNHEIMEN NP, NORWAY



DAY 13

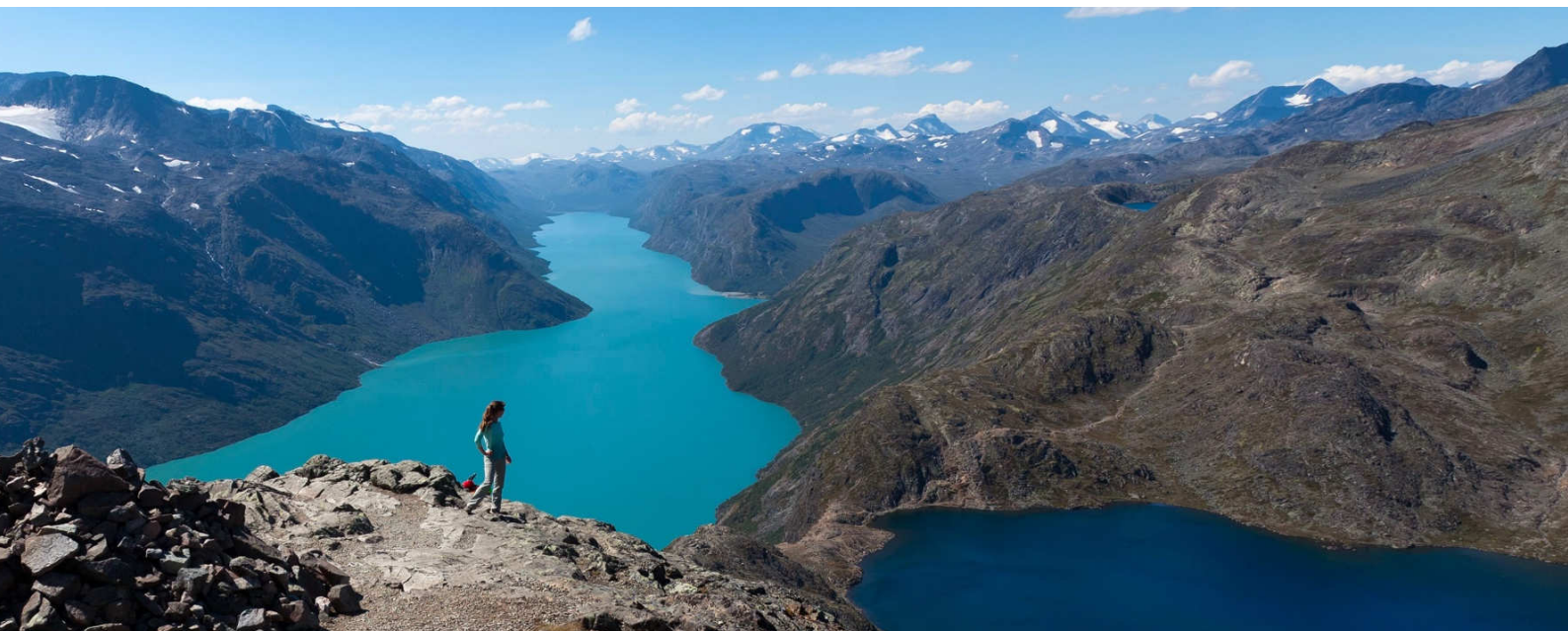
The Troll Walk - Lom – Lievassbu – Elveseter

This morning we rejoin our vans for the drive along the beautiful Boverdalen Valley. We pass some stunning scenery along the way. We notice the turnoff towards Galdhoppigen - Norway's highest mountain at 2,469 metres. Our drive continues up the valley until we reach Lersdalen where we take the tiny private toll road towards the 1,400 metre Leirvassbu Mountain Lodge. It is idyllically located beside Lake Leirvatnet, in the middle of spectacular mountain scenery. From here we begin our walk along the track to Gravidalen with a collection of high peaks and glaciers all around us. At Lake Storutla we stop for lunch, having the Smorstabbtindan Glaciers right above us. We return to the Leirvassbu Lodge past small creeks and tarns - real troll country! The troll is thought to have emerged in Norway near the end of the last Ice Age. Trolls inhabit gloomy forests, moonlit-lakes, deep fjords, snowy peaks and roaring waterfalls, but they are predominantly creatures of shadow and darkness. The legend is that trolls who make the mistake of exposing themselves to direct sunlight will crack and turn to stone. Trolls come in all shapes and sizes, some large and some small but nearly all have four fingers and toes on each hand and foot, as well as long, crooked noses and bushy tails. Some have multiple heads, with anything from one to three eyes per head, which of course makes them appear frightening. It's believed that trolls can live for several hundred years and have a penchant for harassing billy goats and despise the sound of church bells. They are known to get irritable occasionally and anger easily but in general they are kind to humans who remain on their better side. They can, however, be vindictive to non-believers! After returning to Leirvassbu, we retrace our route to the Boverdalen Valley where we stop for a break at the amazing Elveseter farm. It is an old manor house, now converted into a hotel and built up around the Sagasoylen. The rich Norwegian cultural heirlooms turn it into one of the most individual hotels in the country. The Sagasoylen is a 40-metres-high carved wooden pillar and is the result of an abortive attempt in the mid-19th century to create a commemorative monument to trace Norwegian history from unification in 872 to the 1814 constitution. When the war broke out in Norway in 1940, the monument was only half finished. The work stopped for the duration of the war and political dissension caused the work to be discontinued. The "white elephant" deteriorated for 20 more years until Amund Elveseter obtained it and, for lack of anything else to do with it, set

it up here. Apart from being a lovely spot for some afternoon tea, the hotel's walls are adorned with some of the most amazing artwork in Norway, quite unexpected when you consider its isolated location. We return to Lom where we celebrate our final dinner of our 14 day Peer Gynt's Tour.

 **5 HOURS**

 **LOM, JOTUNHEIMEN NP, NORWAY**



DAY 14

Lom - Sognefjellet - Laerdal Tunnel (world's longest road tunnel) - Bergen

Today we leave Lom and travel up to the high and scenic Sognefjellet road. It was constructed in 1939 by unemployed youth and reaches 1,434 metres, making it the highest mountain road in northern Europe. The mountain views from here are spectacular. We make our way down from the highest mountain road in Northern Europe and stop for a coffee break at spectacular Turtagro Mountain Lodge located in the mountain area of Hurrungane dating back to the 1880's. This region is known as the birthplace of mountain sports and climbing in Norway and today, Turtagrø continues to be a center for climbing, mountaineering and backcountry skiing. In Laerdal we stop for lunch beside the Sognafjord. Shortly after re-joining our vehicles we come to the Laerdal Tunnel - at 24 kms - it is the longest road tunnel in the world! In the winter sports centre of Voss we stop for afternoon tea and a brief wander through this "defacto" capital of the Hardangerfjord region. From medieval times, the town served as an agricultural centre and a focus of trade between eastern and western Norway. In 1023 King Olav Haraldson (St Olav) stopped to erect a cross in honour of Voss's conversion to Christianity. From Voss we travel onto Bergen. Our expected time of arrival is 6.00p.m. Drop-off is at the same hotel as the pick-up - Comfort Hotel Holberg in the city of Bergen.



Journey Accommodation

Blatind Boutique Hotel

NIGHT 1 - 2



Kongsvold Fjeldstue

NIGHT 3 - 5



Høvringen Fjellstue

NIGHT 6 - 8



Fossheim Hotel

NIGHT 9 - 13



Journey Notes

PRICE INCLUDES

- Experienced guide.
- Pick-up at Comfort Hotel Holberg, Strandgaten 190, Bergen at 9.00 a.m. and drop-off at 6.00 p.m. at the same hotel.
- Price includes transport between Bergen on Day 1 and Bergen on Day 14.
- Twin share accommodation from Day 1 to Day 13, including breakfast and 12 dinners.

NOT INCLUDED IN TRIP COSTS

Transport before and after "The Walk", lunch, dinner on Day 12 "free day", evening drinks, in between meal snacks, laundry, medical expenses and items of a personal nature and entry fees.

WHAT TO BRING

Daypack, walking boots (sport shoes not suitable), thick socks, waterproof raincoat (Gore-Tex) and if possible, also over-pants, warm gloves and hat, folding umbrella, sun hat, sunglasses, sun cream and bathers. We can also recommend 2 telescopic walking sticks as being very useful. Please restrict your luggage to a maximum of 20 kg.

PRE-WALK PREPARATION

We suggest that prior to your walking holiday you prepare yourself to obtain a level of fitness that will allow you to enjoy your walking holiday.

This, of course, is dependent upon your existing fitness level. Remember, the fitter you are, the more you will enjoy the holiday!

- Start with some short walks which include stairs or hills and increase the length of walks over a couple of months.
- We suggest you carry a backpack with water, camera, jacket, snacks, etc. to assist you with your preparation and allow you to get used to the extra weight on your back.

- We also ask that your boots are comfortable and well-worn in.
- Perhaps enjoy some walks through our local national parks and over uneven surfaces to gain confidence with your boots or new walking shoes.

PLEASE NOTE

All accommodation on tour includes private facilities (toilet and shower/bath).

Single rooms can usually be arranged for this tour for a single supplement.

Please ask for details. We will endeavour to match people together if they would like to share a twin room with another guest to avoid paying the single room supplement. However, as this is not always possible, 'single' clients will have to pay the single supplement.

All walks during the 14 Day tour are optional or can be taken in parts. Guests can choose to have more free days than the two already included in the itinerary.

The walking pace on all walks is leisurely. Guests do not have to be experienced, although a good level of fitness is necessary.

All hotels have Wi Fi access.

Norway has a Reciprocal Health Care Agreement with Australia and will cover any medical treatment which may arise whilst in this country so please make sure you bring your Medicare card with you. Nevertheless, all guests still need to have appropriate travel insurance before commencing the tour.



Get in touch and book your journey today.

 0461 277 612

 info@walkaboutgourmet.com

Follow the journey.



Quality Practices

Committed to exceeding your expectations with great customer service and the highest standards of quality practices, Walkabout Gourmet Adventures complies with the National Tourism Accreditation Program (ATAP).



**Quality
Tourism**
Framework



T·QUAL
AUSTRALIAN TOURISM
QUALITY ASSURED

Parks
VICTORIA

www.walkaboutgourmet.com