ARTISAN TRAVEL

Norway: Three Fjords Self-Drive Discovery



HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group
VISITING: Norway

BROCHURE CODE: 5998
DURATION: 8 nights

In Brief

Experience the magnificence of Norway's famed fjords on a self-drive adventure, allowing you to set your own pace and immerse yourself fully in some of the world's most stunning landscapes. You'll have the freedom to personalise your trip with optional activities, creating your ideal bucket-list holiday.

Our Opinion

"Nothing quite prepares you for when you hit the open road and see towering mountains, dramatic cliffs, and glistening waters unfold before you. Norway is truly a place of wonder, and the roads take you right amongst it all."





What's included?

- **Travel worry-free** - fully organised and run by a trusted, fully regulated UK operator. Read more about our bonding and the types of financial protection that we offer
- **Accommodation:** 2 nights at the Clarion Havnekontoret (start and end of trip), 2 nights in Flåmsbrygga hotel, 1 night in BesteBakken, 2 nights in Grande Fjord Hotel, 1 night in Thon Hotel Jølster
- **Meals:** 8 Breakfasts, 2 evening meals in Bergen
- Car Rental (Toyota Rav 4 or similar SUV-type vehicle)*
- Does not include petrol, toll stations or ferry crossings. Toll stations and ferry crossings will be charged when you hand in the car.

NB Flights are not included but please contact us if you would like to include these in your quote

**Car hire includes tire and windshield protection, personal accident protection, interior protection, loss damage waiver (including theft protection) with minimum deductible (zero excess). You will have full directions provided in your final travel documents but if you would like a Sat Nav this can be arranged on picking up your hire car as can an additional driver – one named driver will be included.*

Trip Overview

Norway's natural beauty is unparalleled, with majestic fjords, towering mountains, and cascading waterfalls seemingly at every turn. What better way to discover this country of wonder than with you in the driver's seat and on the open road through the rolling countryside.

Your self-drive journey begins in Bergen, a charming city surrounded by stunning fjords and unique architecture. You'll have time at the beginning and end of your holiday to explore the city and soak up its cultural delights.

From Bergen, you'll make your way to Flåm where the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Nærøyfjord awaits. Here, you'll check into your peaceful hotel for two nights to give you plenty of time for optional activities in the area. We recommend the Flåm Zipline for an adrenaline-fuelled way to be amongst the towering mountains. You could also embark on a scenic fjord cruise through Nærøyfjord

to get close to the natural wonders and wildlife in the area.

Next on the fjord bucket-list is Sognefjord - Norway's longest and deepest fjord. Then it's onto UNESCO-listed Geiranger Fjord, where you can opt for a thrilling RIB safari or a serene kayaking tour to get out onto the invitingly-blue waters.

As you make your way back to Bergen, you can stop in peaceful villages and enjoy the scenic ferry crossings before savouring the city's attractions - from the historic Bryggen Wharf to the bustling fish market.

This fjord-filled self-drive holiday has been carefully crafted to ensure you see the best of Norway, but in your own time and done your way. We have a range of optional activities to add onto your trip to really make it your own - speak to one of our travel advisors today to craft your perfect holiday.

Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY 1 ARRIVAL AND OVERNIGHT IN BERGEN

Arrival Day

Included Meals: None

DAY 2 SELF DRIVE BERGEN - FLÅM (2.5 HOURS)

Following breakfast at the hotel, you'll take to the open road to see the spectacular scenery Norway has on offer.

Driving out of Bergen, you'll leave the city behind and become immersed in the natural wonders of the region. Along the way, you'll see the village of Gudvangen where the road intersects with Nærøyfjord. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is one of the narrowest fjords in the country, with plunging cliffs and deep blue waters.

As you arrive in the charming village of Flåm, you'll be greeted by the tranquillity of the Aurlandsfjord on one side and the majestic mountains on the other for a truly Norwegian welcome.

You'll check into the Flåmsbrygga Hotel which is ideally situated at the Flåm harbour with incredible views of the fjord. These quiet and peaceful surroundings will help you totally unwind whilst still being close to all transport routes, shops, and restaurants where you could go to enjoy dinner this evening.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 3 DAY IN FLÅM AND OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Today, following breakfast in the hotel you have a free day to explore Flåm. We recommend taking on a ziplining adventure or a fjord cruise to immerse yourself in the stunning landscape.

Zipline

The Flåm Zipline is Scandinavia's longest zipline, offering a thrilling experience in the Flåm Valley. You'll take the famed Flåm Railway journey, a beautiful train ride that takes you high up into the mountains and is an unmissable experience all in itself. You'll arrive at Vatnahalsen station and then proceed to the zipline's starting point, just a few minutes away. Breathtaking views await you as you zoom through the mountains. Please note that there are weight and health restrictions for this activity.

To add to your adventure, you could take a bike up with you to ride down after the zipline experience. In Kårdalen there are a limited number of bikes for rent.

Nærøyfjord Fjord Cruise

To really experience the beauty of the fjords, you can take a cruise on the Nærøyfjord. On board, you'll find a top deck to see the beautiful waters, towering mountains, and tumbling waterfalls - out here, it won't be long until you see why this is a world heritage site. Make sure you keep an eye out for the seals, porpoises, and eagles in the area! Inside you will find Nordic-inspired interior design offering a high level of comfort.

RIB FjordSafari in Nærøyfjorden

On this exciting RIB tour, you'll speed through the Aurlandsfjord and to the entrance of the spectacular Nærøyfjord. You'll see Sagfossen, a breathtaking waterfall in the heart of the World Heritage site, where you'll have a beautiful view of Nærøyfjord.

The RIB boats only holds a maximum of 12 guests, ensuring a personal experience with our guides and a chance to get close to small villages and waterfalls along the way. Enjoy the scenery, stories, and history shared by your personal guide. We take you closer to nature and try spot seals, porpoises, and eagles along the way.

Please talk to our travel advisors at time of booking if you wish to add on these activities.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 4 DRIVE FLÅM - BESTEBAKKEN (APPROX 2 HOURS)

After breakfast, say farewell to Flåm and set off on your self-drive journey to the Bestebakken Hotel.

Along the way, you'll pass through charming villages like Aurlandsvangen and Sogndal. Don't miss the opportunity to visit the Stegastein viewpoint and admire the stunning Sognefjord, Norway's

longest and deepest fjord.

As you approach Hafslo, the Bestebakken Hotel will greet you with its panoramic views and cosy accommodation. Tonight, we recommend relaxing in the hotel's outdoor jacuzzi before enjoying a delectable dinner in the onsite restaurant (not included.)

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 5 DRIVE BESTEBAKKEN - GEIRANGER (APPROX 5 HOURS)

Following breakfast, you'll check out from BesteBakken and begin your drive to Geiranger.

Along the way, you'll reach the town of Sogndal, where you can take a break and explore the local attractions, such as the Sogn Fjord Museum or the Fosshaugane Campus Park. Further along, you'll arrive in Skei, where you can stop and explore the local attractions, such as the Breheimsenteret Glacier Center or the Jølstravatnet Lake.

From Hellesylt, you'll take the ferry across the Geirangerfjord to the town of Geiranger, which is surrounded by jaw-dropping natural beauty.

Here, you'll check into the Grande Fjord Hotel, located in the heart of Geiranger and just 100 metres from the World Heritage Geiranger Fjord. This modern hotel is located 2km from the centre of Geiranger with a private shuttle to take you into town.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 6 DAY IN GEIRANGER

Today, following breakfast in the hotel, you'll have the day to soak up the sights of Geiranger.

We recommend taking the RIB Safari into the Geirangerfjord for spectacular views of the famous waterfalls Seven Sisters, the Friar, and the Bridal Veil. With knowledgeable guides, you'll hear local stories as you cut between the steep mountains and feel the sea spray.

If you want to spend more time on the water, you could opt for the discover kayaking tour for an even closer experience of the fjord. This is the perfect introduction to kayaking as you enjoy a gentle paddle with an experienced guide. Starting at the harbour, you'll paddle down the fjord and toward the Seven Sister waterfall. Make sure you bring a camera for this unique view right from your kayak.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 7 SELF DRIVE GEIRANGER - JØLSTER (APPROX 4 HOURS)

Following breakfast, you'll check out of your hotel and start your journey to Jølster.

You'll get back on the scenic ferry ride back to the charming village of Hellesylt. Upon arrival, you'll continue your drive along the National Tourist Route where you'll navigate hairpin bends and be rewarded with panoramic vistas of deep valleys, glistening lakes, and majestic peaks.

Finally, you'll arrive in the welcoming village of Jølster, nestled amidst the breathtaking Jølster Valley. The road leads you directly into the village, where you can relax and revel in the peaceful ambiance of this scenic region. We recommend going to the Jølstramuseum to soak up the culture, art, and exquisite local food.

You'll check into your hotel with its warm and welcoming atmosphere and in the perfect location to admire the surrounding mountains and lakes. Tonight, we recommend unwinding in the hotel's wellness facilities.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 8 SELF DRIVE: JØLSTER - BERGEN (APPROX 3 HOURS)

Following breakfast in the hotel, you'll check out and leave the village of Jølster to make your way towards Førde, with views of the shimmering lakes and verdant landscapes that surround you.

We recommend stopping here to explore the town's cultural offerings, visit local museums, and soak up the lively atmosphere. Førde is known for its rich history and artistic heritage, offering a glimpse into the region's cultural scene.

From Førde, the road leads you towards Lavik, where you'll catch the Lavik-Oppedal ferry for a stunning journey across the Sognefjord.

Arriving at Oppedal, you'll continue your drive to Bergen. This lively coastal city offers a wealth of attractions to explore, including the historic UNESCO-listed Bryggen Wharf, the vibrant Fish Market, and the picturesque waterfront area - and your hotel puts you in the heart of it all.

Spend some time wandering through the city's narrow streets, visit museums that showcase Bergen's maritime heritage, the aquarium and indulge in the local cuisine, which features a delightful array of seafood specialties.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 9 DEPARTURE

Today, following breakfast, it is unfortunately time for your memorable Norwegian adventure to come to an end. You'll drop off your car at the airport before catching your flight home.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Included Accommodation

Clarion Havnekontoret (Nights: 1,8)





The Havenekontoret Hotel is a historic hotel located in the heart of Bergen, close to many of the city's top attractions, including Bryggen, the fish market, and the Fløibanen funicular which is featured on your itinerary. The hotel occupies a beautiful 18th-century building that has been carefully restored and renovated to offer modern amenities and comfortable accommodations.

The hotel has 45 rooms, all of which are individually decorated and feature unique design elements that reflect the building's history and character. The rooms are all ensuite and equipped with amenities such as coffee makers, free Wi-Fi, flat-screen TVs, and hair dryers.

The Havenekontoret Hotel also features a restaurant and bar, which serves a range of traditional Norwegian dishes and international cuisine. Guests will enjoy a complimentary breakfast and evening buffet each day.

Parking is available at the Havnekontoret but must be paid for locally at the hotel itself.

Room Type

Double room with private bathroom and tea and coffee-making facilities.

Flåmsbrygga Hotel (Nights: 2-3)





Ideally situated at the Flåm harbour, the Flåmsbrygga Hotel is a wonderful base close to local shops and restaurants in a peaceful setting with fantastic fjord views.

The hotel is a cluster of buildings featuring Norwegian pinewood panelling to offer a traditional and rustic style yet with a modern feel.

Hotel Facilities

- Show off your surroundings to your loved ones with use of the hotel's free Wi-Fi
- Enjoy delicious food in the Norse-themed restaurant and pub
- Make sure you try the local beer which is brewed on-site
- Relax in the cafe with outdoor terrace

Room Types

DOUBLE/TWIN ROOM: The rooms all come equipped with a private bathroom and shower, flat-screen TV, tea/coffee making facilities and seating area. Some rooms also come with a balcony with a fjord view.

Image credits: Flåmsbrygga Hotel



BesteBakken (Nights: 4)

This charming boutique hotel has a rich tradition as a former mountain farm and exudes a sense of history as well as a welcoming and cosy atmosphere. It's a place where adventure, culture, and good food meet – all against the fantastic backdrop of the Hafslo Valley and Sognefjord.

The hotel offers a variety of amenities, including a restaurant, bar, sauna, and outdoor hot tub. The restaurant serves traditional Norwegian cuisine made with locally sourced ingredients. The bar offers a wide selection of beers, wines, and cocktails.

Hotel Facilities

- Outdoor jacuzzi for magnificent views of Norway's natural wonders
- Restaurant onsite

Rooms

Double room with private bathroom and tea and coffee making facilities. All the bathrooms are exquisitely tiled and several are equipped with bubble baths and showers.



Grande Fjord Hotel (Nights: 5-6)

The Grande Fjord Hotel boasts a location right on the shore of the World Heritage Geirangerfjord. It is well appointed with an onsite bar and restaurant but the small town of Gerainger is just 2km away and the hotel operates a free shuttle bus.

Hotel Facilities

- Private shuttle into town
- A panoramic restaurant on the 6th floor with stunning views of the fjord
- A bar with a wide selection of drinks and cocktails
- Hot tub with fjord views

Rooms

Double room with private bathroom and tea and coffee making facilities.



Thon Hotel Jølster (Nights: 7)

On the site of an Inn founded in 1889 and nestled in the heart of the serene Jølster Valley, Thon Hotel Jølster offers a tranquil retreat surrounded by Norway's breathtaking nature. This charming hotel combines modern comfort with a warm and welcoming atmosphere, providing guests with a perfect base to explore the stunning landscapes of the region.

Hotel Facilities

- Wellness facilities with sauna
- Indoor pool
- Onsite restaurant with dishes inspired by Norwegian cuisine

Rooms

Double room with private bathroom and tea and coffee making facilities.

The Specifics

Group Size

We always try to provide an approximation of the group size you can expect to be with for the duration of each of our holidays. It may be that you are joined by others for parts of your holiday (such as transfers and particular activities) but the above number reflects those you can normally expect to be with from beginning to end. If group size is something which is particularly important to you, please speak to our Travel Experts and they can suggest the best holidays for you.

Tailor-made holiday group sizes will vary for all activities as will the group size for any additional activities you book.

Minimum Numbers Required For A Holiday To Operate

Our full booking terms and conditions can be found on our website: https://www.artisantravel.co.uk/booking-conditions

Minimum and maximum age

If a specific minimum age applies to this holiday, it can be found in the Key Facts box on the holiday Overview page.

Unless otherwise stated in the in the Key Facts box on the holiday Overview page, the minimum age for participation in an Artisan holiday is typically 8 years old (there may be younger children in some destinations who have booked with other companies). If an adult-only environment is important to you, then please contact our Travel Experts and they will advise on the best dates and destinations for you. If you are looking for a holiday designed specifically for families then please see our sister company www.activitiesabroad.com

Itinerary amendments

The order of activities listed in this agenda is provided for guidance only, your final and detailed itinerary will be provided either with your final travel documents (which are uploaded into your online account around a week prior to departure) or upon arrival.

Terms and Conditions

Our full booking terms and conditions can be found on our website: https://www.artisantravel.co.uk/booking-conditions