# **No Place Like Norway**

June 12 - 22, 2025 • 11 Days • \$5,990

## **Optional Land of the Midnight Sun Extension**

#### June 22- 27, 2025 • 6 Days • \$4,250

From a standpoint of breathtaking panoramas, no other destination is more impressive than Norway. Majestic mountains, glistening glaciers, pounding waterfalls, mirror-smooth lakes, the Viking story, and seemingly endless vistas of Norway's unforgettable trademark fjords make Norway a walking explorer's delight!

Since 1991, we've been sharing with our walking friends the many delights of Norway and her compelling combination of stunning scenery and intriguing Viking history. After months of research in 2018 in collaboration with local partners, and 3 weeks of intense on-site investigation, we offered a completely revised Norway walking program to two groups of walkers in the summer of 2019, and again in 2024.

We now offer a return to Norway anticipating the glorious long days of Midsummer and the midnight sun above the Arctic Circle on the optional extension.

#### **Trip Details**

- <u>No Place Like Norway</u>
- Midnight Sun Optional Extension

#### No Place Like Norway

# Including:

- All land travel by motorcoach as outlined
- Coastal high-speed ferry from Bergen to Frøya island
- Ferry across Northern Fjord
- Ferry across Sognefjord from Mannheller to Fodnes
- Superior tourist-class or better hotel accommodations
- 22 meals: 10 breakfasts and an assortment of lunches and dinners as listed (BLD). Three lunches are picnics in remote locations with lunches packed from the hotel breakfast buffet.
- 10 walks as listed (including optional guided Bergen Walk for travelers arriving early)
- Fees for IVV credit for only the Oslo Walk (and optional Bergen Walk). NOTE: WAI is not authorized to provide IVV sanction or stamps for walks in Norway
- Two WAI tour leaders throughout
- Cultural and historical expertise of our national guide throughout
- Tips for group meals and local guides/coach drivers
- Pricing is based on double occupancy; single rooms are available for a supplement of \$925

# Activities / Visits to:

- Sheep farm visit in Northern Fjord area
- Viking Ship Museum Nordfjordeid
- Geiranger Sightseeing Ferry
- Lake cruise after Lake Tsunami Memorial Walk
- Norway Mountain Museum Lom
- Jotunheimen National Park
- Sognefjell National Tourist Route
- Borgund Stave Church
- Oslo Fjord pedestrian ferry
- Fram Museum Oslo
- Kon Tiki Museum Oslo
- Guided walk in Oslo
- More fun stops than we can list!

# **Optional Excursions:**

- Guided Bergen Walk with IVV stamp Day 1
- Jotunheimen National Park Ice Cave Walk Day 6

# Including:

- 1 mid-tour flight
- All land travel as outlined
- Ferry: Andøya island to Senja island
- Ferry: Senja Island to Brensholmen (mainland)
- Superior tourist-class or better hotel accommodations
- 10 meals: 5 breakfasts and other lunches and dinners as listed (BLD)
- 5 walks as listed NOTE: WAI is not authorized to provide IVV sanction or stamps for walks in Norway
- Cultural and historical expertise of a national guide throughout
- Tips for group meals and local guides/coach drivers
- Pricing is based on double occupancy; single rooms are available for a supplement of \$425.

# Activities / Visits to:

- Salmon farm tour with boat trip
- Andøya Norwegian Scenic Route
- Arctic Ocean Bird and Wildlife Safari to Bleiksøya
- Senja Norwegian Scenic Route
- Scenic cruise across Bergs Fjord
- Walking tour of Tromsø
- Guided visit to Sami Museum in Tromsø University
- Storytelling by local Sami person
- More fun stops than we can list!
- <u>360.260.9393</u>
- <u>Email Us</u>

# Itinerary

Click on each day to reveal more details. (BLD) refers to meals included – Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.

# No Place Like Norway

DAY 1~June 12: Arrive Bergen, Norway (D)

Walk #1: Optional Beautiful Bergen Walk~ 8 km, rated 1B

Travelers arrive today in Beautiful Bergen. This historic city is situated directly on the North Sea and is a great strolling town with a plethora of wonderful seascapes. In the Middle Ages, it was a member of the Hanseatic League, a medieval, German-based trading consortium dominant throughout Northern Europe. Cod was the medieval Norwegian economic staple equivalent to today's North Sea oil, and the Bryggen (wooden trading center) along the waterfront and the Hanseatic Museum are a short stroll from our hotel.

<u>Guided Bergen Walk</u>: Because travelers arrive throughout the day, the first group activity is a Welcome Orientation this evening at our hotel, followed by dinner. Bergen has a host of activities and attractions to consider, however, so our normal practice of recommending an early arrival is definitely applicable to Bergen. A list of ideas will be provided well before the tour, but the activity offered by WAI is a walk through Bergen starting from our hotel (IVV sanction requested).

A local guide will help lead and give commentary on this route along the Bergen waterfront, through Gamle Bergen (old Bergen), past the fish market, into the 13th century Bergenhus Fortress, and amongst picturesque neighborhoods of wooden homes on the Nordnes peninsula. Estimated price: \$50 per person.



### DAY 2~June 13: Bergen - Kalvåg (BD)

Walk #2: Knutholmen Beach ~ 1.5 km, rated 2B Walk #3: Frøya Island Walk ~ 5.6 km, rated 1A

Nowhere in the world is a coastline so indented by the geological phenomenon of fjords as in Norway! As a result, Norway's coastline is one of the longest in the world relative to its land mass. Fingers of fjords reaching deep inland can make land travel complicated, and Norwegians have become among the world's most prolific tunnel builders with a welldeveloped, complementary network of ferries.

But the fastest route north is by high-speed commuter ferry. We join locals on a scenic, fourhour ride along the fjords, stopping at small coastal communities enroute to Frøya Island, our home for the night.

Upon arrival, we stretch our legs on a short walk through this diminutive, photogenic

fishing village built around a small harbor. After checking into the hotel, we bus to the other side of the island for an easy stroll along the shoreline with non-stop vistas over the North Sea.

Dinner tonight is at our hotel—an intriguing grouping of wooden heritage buildings repurposed into a charming hotel clustered along the fishing harbor of the village of Kalvåg.



### DAY 3~June 14: Kalvåg – Nordfjordeid (BLD)

Walk #4: Davik Heritage Trail ~ 6 km, rated 2A

Today's route takes us inland, winding along sections of huge Nordfjord (Northern Fjord) to the tiny fjord-side farming community of Davik, home of our guide, Rogier.

An easy walk through the community offers nearly non-stop vistas views over expansive Nordfjord and good introduction to the heartbeat of small communities nestled along the lakes and fjords of this beautiful country.

After a break for a tasty, outdoor lunch overlooking the fjord, a ferry takes us across Nordfjord to our final stop for the night in Nordfjordeid—the end of the fjord. Our last activity of the day is a fun and educational visit to a local Viking museum which was newly opened in 2019.

#### DAY 4~June 15: Nordfjordeid - Stryn (BD)

Walk #5: Geiranger Postal Road Walk ~ 5 km, rated 4B Challenge Option - 7 km, rated 4C

Lovely Geiranger Fjord was inscribed onto UNESCO's list of World Heritage Sites in 2005 for its outstanding natural beauty and significant geological features. One of the most spectacular of Geiranger's many stunning faces is best appreciated from a historic postal road built in the 1700s to cover a distance of about 700 kilometers between Trondheim and Bergen, the two largest cities in Norway at that time.

After the most invigorating and scenically stunning walk of the journey, we board a ferry to enjoy one of Norway's breathtakingly beautiful fjords from a different perspective, sailing down its lovely S-curve beneath looming cliffs and bursting waterfalls!

Driving out of Geiranger offers a plethora of stunning vantage points, one at each switchback. The afternoon route continues through more rugged mountain vistas, descending along placid Styrn Lake back to sea level and arriving for a two-night stay in the town of Stryn, perched at the terminus of another finger of the Nordfjord.



DAY 5~June 16: Activities from Stryn (B,box lunch,D)

Walk #6: Lake Tsunami Memorial Walk~ 5 km, rated 2C

Our plan today takes us along a delightful gem of a lake to the site of not one but two tragic tsunamis. In 1905, and again in 1936, huge chunks of the mountain plunged into the lake and generated deadly tidal waves that wiped out shoreline farming communities. Our trail is marked with poignant signboards telling the story of the destructive power of this surprising natural disaster of the fjords. On the high point of the trail, a cross marking the tragedy of 1905 was ripped from its bolted steel mount in solid rock by the wave of 1936.

At the end of the walk, we bus deeper into the valley to enjoy the spectacle of a sparkling glacier snaking down into this pristine valley while we enjoy a picnic lunch packed from this morning's breakfast buffet.

Our return journey crosses these turquoise waters by lake cruiser; everything slows down when we go by boat, even a WAI adventure! Free time in Stryn precedes dinner together tonight at the hotel.



#### DAY 6~June 17: Stryn - Jotunheimen National Park (B,box lunch,D)

Today's drive takes us past rugged high-mountain lakes and along a rushing river into the town of Lom. Stave churches are an architectural reminder of the period early in the last millennium when Vikings abandoned their pagan gods and embraced the new Christian faith. These picturesque wooden structures are unique to Norway. Because of their susceptibility to fire, less than 30 remain, one of them proudly perched in Lom.

We have an extended lunch break in Lom to enjoy this interesting little mountain town that also boasts a well-curated Norway Mountain Museum. The Norsk Fjellsenter chronicles life in these Norwegian heights and displays some of the 4000+ ancient Norwegians objects, more than half of ice-bound archeological finds worldwide, that have been discovered in surrounding ice-covered elevations.

On departing Lom, our coach ascends on a panoramic drive above the tree line to a klimapark (climate park) in Jotunheimen National Park where in good weather we will see

the highest peak in Norway, Galdhøpiggen (8,100 feet above sea level). We hope you will join us there to explore Norway's heights in the company of an informative local guide.

This is a two hour experience on a variety of terrains, mostly level boardwalk, but some rock scree and ice. We experience the unique climate, geology and human history of this region at the top of Norway. (Don't worry – our highest point is only a bit over 6000 feet.) The highlight of this event is a 200-foot walk through tunnels and rooms of an ice cave carved and lit by a well-known Scandinavian sculptor. *Estimated price:* \$75 per person.

Tonight's lodging is a lovely old mountain farm, converted into a hotel, in Jotunheimen National Park.

#### DAY 7~June 18: Jotunheimen National Park - Sogndal (B,box lunch)

#### Walk #7: Sognefjellet Mountain Valley Walk~ 8/10 km, rated 2B/3B

From our mountain lodge we ascend even higher on route 55, the Sognefjell National Tourist Route, over the highest and most rugged mountain pass in northern Europe. We'll take our time to enjoy dramatic panoramas en route to our walk of the day on the south side of the pass. The trail here showcases rugged mountain meadows, ending at a pounding waterfall. In good weather we enjoy views of the peaks of Jotunheimen National Park.

After a picnic lunch packed from this morning's breakfast buffet, our bus carries us once more to sea level to navigate more fjordland beauty, this time along the shoreline of lovely Lustra Fjord, farthest inland of the fingers of the massive Sognefjord, granddaddy of them all. We spend the evening in Sogndal, perched on yet another arm of Sognefjord, nicknamed "King of Fjords."



DAY 8~June 19: Sogndal – Beitostolen (BD) Walk #8: King's Road Hike~ 6 km, rated 3B

#### Walk #9: Postal Road Hike~ 3 km, rated 2B

After crossing the King of Fjords by ferry, the main event of the day is a challenging but rewarding walk along the old King's Road. The Kongevegen (King's Road) was built in the 18th century by 1000s of workers as the main link between Eastern Norway and Western Norway. One hundred kilometers of road have been restored as a heritage hiking trail which was awarded the EU prize for Cultural Heritage in 2017. The section we've chosen follows the rushing Lærdalselva River and navigates some of the steepest and most beautiful sections of the road.

After a picnic lunch at the end of the King's Road, travelers have the option to return to the start point on the opposite side of the river on the mid-19th century postal road or continue by bus to nearby Borgund Stave Church. The excellent visitor center there is the rendezvous point for the two groups.

This church was built near the end of the 12th century and is strikingly compact. Walkers are free to explore the visitor center and church or consider joining us for a 1 km hike to a much-photographed set of King's Road switchbacks located just above the church.

As we leave fjord Norway, our final drive is a lovely stretch of highway through a different kind of scenery with loads of lakeside driving and a plethora of pastoral farm scenes.



#### DAY 9~June 20: Fagernes - Oslo (B)

We see a different side of Norway today as we cross forest and farmland landscapes to the capital city of Oslo.

After free time for lunch along Aker Brygge, Oslo's colorful waterfront area, we board a fun, pint-size pedestrian ferry to cross Oslo Fjord. Our destination is two icons of Nordic seafaring heritage: the Fram Museum, showcasing the uniquely designed vessel sailed by Roald Amundsen to conquer the South Pole and the Kon Tiki Museum, chronicling the exploits of 20<sup>th</sup> century explorer Thor Heyerdahl, who proved that simple balsa wood boats could transit the world's largest oceans.

We walk between the ferry dock and the museums, and you'll be able to spend as much or little time in the museums as you wish, returning by ferry at your leisure. Dinner is on your own this evening at one of many options between the ferry and our hotel, located near Oslo's busy pedestrian zone.

#### DAY 10:~June 21 Activities from Oslo (BD)

#### Walk #10: Highlights of Oslo Walk~ 10 km, rated 1A

Today's walk starts from our hotel and, after a stroll through the grounds of the Royal Palace, takes us through Frogner Park and the evocative, spectrum-of-life statuary of sculptor Gustav Vigeland. The route continues past Oslo Fjord marinas, winds through the water-front area of Aker Brygge, and enters medieval Akershus Fortress, where a visit to the Norway Resistance Museum (World War II) is highly recommended.

The afternoon is free to explore further on your own. Many of Oslo's highlights, including the National Museum of Art, Architecture, and Design, the Norwegian History Museum, the waterfront, and an extensive pedestrian shopping zone, are near our hotel.

Join us this evening for a final dinner and a chance to reminisce about our journey together which has demonstrated the truth of the tour name, "No Place Like Norway".

#### DAY 11~June 22: Depart Oslo, Norway (B)

The adventure comes to a close this morning. Travelers are free to leave for the airport at their leisure; your WAI guide team will help batch travelers with similar flight times who would like to share a taxi.

Images of the stunning fjordland scenery of Norway will forever linger in our mind's eye, inviting us to return and explore more of the history, scenery, and culture of this captivating Nordic nation at the top of the world. Thank you for joining us for *No Place like Norway!* 

## Land of the Midnight Sun Optional Extension

DAY 1~June 22: Oslo - Sortland, Norway (BL)

We say farewell to travelers heading home today and catch an early ride to Oslo Airport for our flight across the Arctic Circle! We arrive Harstad-Narvik Airport at 68.4886° North (the Arctic Circle is 65.8256°). Our Midnight Sun coach then takes us on a scenic drive to the Vesterålen Islands.

Following a stop for lunch in a local kro (inn), our first activity is a salmon farm visit for an educational and surprisingly entertaining introduction to Norway's aggressive project to provide salmon to the world! Delicious Atlantic salmon is one of the gastronomic staples of any trip to Norway, and an informative and passionate "farm" manager explains the hi-tech process in three stages, including a boat ride out to one of the salmon pens.

We spend the evening in a typical Norwegian arctic town in anticipation of more Nordic splendor tomorrow.

#### DAY 2~June 23: Sortland - Andenes (BD)

#### Walk #1: Vesterålen Islands Walk~ 6 km, rated 2C

We leave the island of Langøya this morning en route to Andøya, northernmost island of the Vesterålen archipelago. Here, we follow the Andøya Norwegian Scenic Route, one of Norway's 18 designated scenic routes. It leads us along the western edge of the island offering rugged Arctic Ocean panoramas punctuated by sawtooth mountain ridges jutting out into the sea.

Today's walk starts in the tiny fishing community of Bleik, surrounded by a horseshoe formation of dramatic cliffs. Our trail courses along the beach, then winds through bushland between a series of small lakes with non-stop views of encircling mountains.

After free time at our hotel, we enjoy early dinner followed by an evening bird and wildlife safari. The Gulf Stream brings a moderating influence to offshore Arctic waters, incubating food sources attractive to both whales and birds.

The primary attraction of the safari is the offshore island of Bleiksøya. In early summer, approximately 80,000 breeding pairs of puffins come here to nest. The island also attracts a variety of other seabirds as well as white-tailed eagles whose favorite prey is puffin! Whales, particularly orcas, are sometimes spotted in these waters.



### DAY 3~June 24: Andenes - Skaland (BD)

Walk #2: Bergs Fjord Walk~ 4 km, rated 1B

An early start this morning takes us by ferry across the And Fjord to Senja, Norway's second largest island. Following the Senja Norwegian Scenic Route, we arrive at a lovely resort perched on a rocky point curving out into tropical-looking blues of the Arctic Ocean. Here, we board small boats to sail through a small archipelago set in Bergs Fjord.

The peninsula on which we land has one little-used road that serves as our trail to a deadend at a tiny, remote hamlet—evoking yet another top-of-the-world sensation.

Dinner together back at our Nordic resort is an opportune time to reflect on the reality that what we are experiencing in the Arctic North is truly part of planet earth!

#### DAY 4~June 25: Skaland - Tromsø (BL)

Walk #3: Lake Stor Midnight Sun Challenge Walk~ 5 km, rated 3D Walk #4: Mefjord Walk~ 4 km, rated 2C

This morning we start a bit slower, giving opportunity to enjoy this remote resort on the shores of the Arctic Ocean. Also available, depending upon weather, is a challenge hike to a

mountain lake which hosted the first hydropower station in Europe in 1882.

This afternoon, the Senja Norwegian Scenic Route takes us farther north to another pinchme-this-can't-be-real setting for today's walk. A tiny fishing village at the end of the road is the start/finish, offering stunning views of fjords and mountain landscape.

We reconnect with the mainland by ferry en route to Tromsø, home of the northernmost university on the planet and, at a latitude of 69.65°, the highest point of our travels.



#### DAY 5~June 26: Activities from Tromsø (BD)

Walk #5: Introduction to Tromsø Walk - 3 km, rated 1A

Relative to its size, the city of Tromsø has a surprisingly large footprint in the history of Norway. Its Norse and Sami heritage is ancient, but its influence in the modern age can be traced to rich fishing grounds and the breaking of Bergen's monopoly over the cod trade in the late 1700s.

By the end of the 19th century it was a major Arctic trade center and served as a productive training and recruiting ground for Norwegian polar explorers Fridtjof Nansen (North Pole) and Roald Amundsen (South Pole).

Tromsø's link with education began with the 1848 teacher training college established to educate Sami scholars, continuing to the mid-20th century advent of Tromsø University, the city's largest employer.

We embark in a walking tour of the city from our hotel this morning, followed by free time to stroll the interesting city center or explore museums such as The Polar Museum or the Polaria aquarium.

Late this afternoon, our final Sami experience begins with a guided visit of the Sami exhibits at the Tromsø Museum. If we are lucky, we may even encounter a local Sami willing to

share stories about about Sami culture, life as a reindeer herder, and perhaps even perform a joik (traditional Sami folk song) performance.

A farewell dinner in a fun local restaurant near the water is a perfect way to finish the Land of the Midnight Sun extension.

### DAY 6~June 27: Depart for home (B)

Travelers catch flights from Tromsø throughout the day, winging their way West across the Atlantic.

What a unique opportunity to explore this fascinating region of Norway above the Arctic Circle, the *Land of the Midnight Sun*. We return to North America enriched by the history, culture, and especially the natural wonders of Norway!

# **Before You Book**

Click on each heading for more details.

#### How Do I Lock in My Place on This Adventure?

To register, a non-refundable \$300 deposit is required to hold your spot. A final payment is due 90 days before departure and is non-refundable after the due date. You will receive a prompt email from us 2 to 3 weeks in advance.

Once this tour has a viable number of participants, an "Adventure Advice" email will be sent with critical information on flight arrangements as well as important steps to take in the months before your trip. <u>Please do not buy your airline tickets</u> until you review this Adventure Advice email.

Please follow this link to read our full General Tour Conditions.

#### What is a Classic Curated Tour?

With help from local experts and walking guides, these itineraries are hand-crafted with the help of trusted in-country partners to tailor itineraries to WAI specifications.

When planning Classic Curated Tours, our objective is to capture the essence of a destination-the history, culture, and natural wonders unique to that part of the world. We then build activities and walks that take us inside these characteristics.

Yes, these tours are educational, but they are also interactive and immersive; walking gets us off the bus and penetrates local cultures to not only see but touch, smell, and feel these special spaces.

Along the way, local walking guides amplify the experience by sharing insights into the

magic of that particular location.

In the case of Norway, we shared the many delights of this Nordic nation with our walking friends many times since 1991. Then, in 2018, after months of research in collaboration with local partners, and 3 weeks of intense on-site exploration, we offered a completely revised Norway walking program to two groups of walkers in the summer of 2019 and once again in 2024.

The 2025 edition of this Adventure is the outcome of these many years of experience in Norway.

#### Walk Ratings

We generally walk at a pace of 2 to 3 miles per hour. Walks that are oriented more towards education may take longer due to stops for guide commentary. Nature walks, on the other hand, generally continue at a steadier pace because we're stopping less to talk. In most cases, we are not "strolling." We are walking at a relaxed but steady pace. Your experience will be significantly affected by your level of physical fitness. If not walking regularly at home, we strongly recommend that you make a priority of "training" beforehand to both enjoy the trip and avoid medical issues due to overexertion.

If you have questions about your ability to participate, please contact our office at <u>fun@walkingadventures.com</u>.

We have adopted a walk difficulty rating system which contains a numeric indicator for trail incline and an alpha indicator for trail terrain. The explanation for this system is presented on the table below:

#### INCLINE

- 1. Minimal hills or stair climbing. Cumulative elevation gain: <200 feet.
- 2. Some moderate hills and stair climbing. Cumulative elevation gain: 200-1000 feet.
- 3. Some significant hill or stair climbing. Cumulative elevation gain: 1000-2000 feet.

#### TERRAIN

A. Almost entirely on pavement.

B. A significant part of the route is on well-groomed trails with very few obstacles.

C. A significant part of the route is on somewhat difficult terrain (rocky / rooted paths or soft sand).

NOTE: Only two of the walks featured on this tour are IVV sanctioned and offer the IVV walk stamps, Bergen and Oslo. Bergen is offered on the pre-day (June13) and Oslo on the last full day of the main tour (June 22). Other walk routes were established by WAI planners in conjunction with local partners. IVV clubs and walks are not offered in these other walk

#### venues.

#### How Is Airfare Arranged?

The official tour start point is our hotel in Bergen, Norway served by Bergen Airport (BGO). The finish point for *No Place Like Norway* tour is our hotel in Oslo, served by Oslo Airport, Gardermoen (OSL). Early risers are welcome to share the airport transfer bus used by *Midnight Sun Extension* travelers.

Optional *Land of the Midnight Sun Extension* finishes at our Tromsø hotel, served by served by Tromsø Airport (TOS). WAI guides will encourage travelers to batch together to share taxis for the ride to the airport.

We recommend that you contact Laura Pfahler, the travel agent we work with, to help book your flight arrangements. In this age of airfare complications and airport uncertainty, using a travel agent is a good investment!

More details about flight arrangements and travel agent contact information will be provided in an Adventure Advice PDF by email after you register for the Adventure. <u>Please</u> <u>do not book your airfare prior to receiving these flight details from us</u>!

• Laura Pfahler: 503.434.6401 or <a href="https://www.scom">llp@wtpdx.com</a>

#### Travel Insurance

WAI recommends travel insurance for financial and medical protection from any number of unforeseen circumstances that can arise before departure or during your Adventure. Many travel insurance providers are available for you to consider. Laura Pfahler and Sharon Mitchell of World Travel Inc. can provide travel insurance options for your WAI tour, as well as for your airfare. For those who purchase airfare through Laura, purchasing your travel insurance from her colleague, Sharon Mitchell, may be the simplest option.

Sharon Mitchell: 971-261-2091 or smitchell@wtpdx.com

Be aware that some travel insurance policies contain time-sensitive provisions (i.e. some benefits, such as coverage of pre-existing conditions, are available only if the policy is purchased within a certain number of days of the purchase of the travel package). These time-sensitive provisions are generally measured from the date you make your full, nonrefundable deposit, not the refundable \$100 pre-registration deposit. In addition, remember that airfare is not covered by any travel insurance policy you may have purchased for the tour.

Check out **Insurance Tips** from World Travel for a short introduction to travel insurance.

Other options include:

- Allianz
- Betins
- Travel Guard
- Travel Insured International

Using the **<u>SquareMouth.com</u>** website can be a good way to compare pricing.

NOTE: WAI receives no commission or financial remuneration from World Travel Inc. In addition, WAI bears no responsibility for travel insurance benefits advertised by various credit card companies. If you are relying on this type of benefit for insurance, we advise you to verify coverage types and limits and that your purchase does in fact qualify you for this insurance.

We suggest purchasing from a reputable, well-established insurance company (avoid buying insurance from an unknown company found only online). Travelers interested in purchasing "cancel for any reason" insurance coverage should be careful to check pricing and terms BEFORE they register for a tour. Recent changes in the international travel landscape has caused changes in the policies of some insurance companies, and made the purchase of this particular type of policy even more time-sensitive.

### Price Increase Disclaimer

Travel partners warn us that subsequent price increases may be needed in Norway. We, therefore, need to pass this warning along to our travelers... a price increase for this tour could be announced no later than 90 days before the tour, the date of final payment. Our anticipation is that we would warn and clarify about any such increase well in advance of this 90-day window.

### What if WAI Cancels the Tour

Walking Adventures International reserves the right to cancel this tour departure with fewer than 12 participants, in which case registered participants will receive a 100% refund of payments received.

This refund policy contains one exclusion. Many suppliers require non-refundable deposits as a condition of booking services. Though it is rare, unforeseen circumstances can force us to cancel a tour. In cases where supplier's non-refundable policies are imposed, WAI attempts to retrieve as much of these deposits as possible but cannot guarantee a 100% refund.

In cases where full refunds cannot be obtained for a cancelled tour, we will do our best to transfer unrefunded money as traveler credits to be applied to a future tour to that destination.

View our full <u>General Tour Conditions</u> for more details.

#### Wellness Policies For This Tour

Our approach to wellness on tour has traditionally been to encourage travelers to:

- Focus on health before the tour so you start healthy.
- Pace yourself while on tour; travel is inherently stimulating and can produce adrenalin boosts that mask energy drain. Guard your energy reserves and consider the length of the trip and whether to opt out of some activities and/or walks.
- Be self-aware. If you feel yourself tiring or feel a bug coming on, take precautions to block it (e.g. extra rest, extra doses of vitamin C, etc).
- If you feel a bug coming on or if you take ill, distance yourself from others when possible.
- If you feel ill, isolate yourself towards the back of the bus and away from others and please wear a mask.

Click <u>WAI Wellness on Tour Policy</u> to view the WAI policy on Wellness on Tour.

#### What Happens Next?

Once we have a viable number of participants, an "Adventure Advice" email is sent with critical information on flight arrangements as well as important steps to take in the months before your trip. <u>Please do not buy your airline tickets until you review this Adventure</u> <u>Advice email</u>.

A final payment is due 90 days before departure and is non-refundable after the due date. You will receive a prompt email from us a week or two in advance. Please see our <u>General</u> <u>Tour Conditions</u> for the full terms and conditions for participation in this Adventure.

About 2 weeks before departure, you will receive a final email packet with details of the program, including hotel names and contact information, a list of fellow travelers, and a more detailed daily schedule.

Take a few minutes to peruse the above itinerary. Norway is a magical place. It is difficult to overstate the wonder of the natural beauty. Join us to discover the truth of the statement that there is *No Place like Norway*!



## Adventure Pace

**Tour Pace:** 1 **2** 3 4 5 **Walk Challenge:** 1 **2** 3 4 5

About Adventure Pace

## Adventure Pace

How much Adventure do you want? Here are a few features to help gauge the following factors on each tour.

**Tour Pace:** On a scale of 1 (slowest pace) to 5 (fastest pace), we've rated the following factors: number of 1-night hotels; driving miles per day; fullness of schedule; mid-tour airline flights; high elevation setting; and average amount of walking per day.

**Walk Challenge:** This number represents an average walk difficulty rating for the tour using a scale of 1 (easiest) to 5 (hardest).

#### Contact Us

## Important Info



**Group Size** 

24 traveler maximum



#### Accommodations

Strategically located superior tourist-class or better hotels



#### Meals

Breakfasts included with a selection of lunches and dinners. Letters BLD indicate which meals are included.



#### Airfare

Not included. Tour start point is our hotel in Bergen, Norway served by Bergen Airport (BGO). Finish point for the main tour is our hotel in Oslo, served by Oslo Airport, Gardermoen (OSL). Finish point for the Midnight Sun Extension is our hotel in Tromsø, served by Tromsø Airport (TOS).



#### Transportation

Included. Different sized buses and mini-buses are used in different parts of the itinerary to navigate the narrow mountain roads



#### **Traveler Age**

Our travelers usually range from 50-75 years of age. All ages welcome!

### Your Guides



**Chrissy and Todd Jones** have been leading WAI tours since 2017, traveling in Asia, Europe, and North and South America. They are immensely grateful for opportunities to discover and appreciate new cultures and corners of our planet.

During the school year, Todd teaches high school history, government and economics, and Chrissy works as an aquatic physical therapist and also teaches fitness classes.

Chrissy and Todd joined Roger and Jana Dorway on the 2024 edition of Norway and are excited to return and share the delights of the Nordic North with another adventurous group of 2025 Norway travelers!



**Rogier van Oorschot** is otherwise known in the Norwegian mountains as the "Flying Dutchman" (he's the one who's airborne in the photo). Rogier is our partner and local guide for this Adventure in Norway. He escaped to fjordland Norway 25 years ago with his wife Anne and their 3 children.

Left behind was his career as a civil engineer and the below sea level, flatter than a pancake Netherlands of Holland. On the horizon was a new life exploring the heights of Norway, skiing, sheep farming, and starting an outdoor adventure company fittingly called "Norway Adventures".

One other thing left behind in the Lowlands was a budding career in basketball, where he played in a junior league alongside future NBA star, Rik Smits, the "Dunking Dutchman".

Travel weaves together a number of Rogier's loves including culture, history, nature, and the nice people you get to share them with.