

# Touring holidays of Scandinavia

*Expressions*



## Jotunheimen National Park and Fjords touring holiday



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10 NIGHTS/11 DAYS

Jotunheimen • Lom •  
Norangsfjord • Geirangerfjord •  
Alesund



This holiday introduces you to two examples of the best of Norway's scenery: the mountainous national park and the majestic fjords. Start by flying into Oslo and driving through the heart of Norway into the Jotunheimen National Park. Jotunheimen features an incredible number of hiking trails as well as the 23 highest mountains in the country, including Galdhøpiggen, the highest in Norway, and the reason behind its nickname of the Home of the Giants. Spend your time here exploring the beautiful scenic routes up to the peaks and even across glaciers, including the famous Bessegen ridge hike, or else closer to the ground canyoning and kayaking on the River Sjoa. The town of Lom will give more of an insight into the history of the region and the chance to try a local delicacy famous throughout Norway. After five nights here exploring all that Jotunheimen has to offer you will drive towards Alesund and your next base on the Norangsfjord. The Norangsfjord and its surrounding area are teeming with incredible natural phenomena, all of which are easily accessible from your base here. Hiking is a popular activity due to the incredible views you are rewarded with en route, and the world-famous Geirangerfjord offers chances to go kayaking and partake in RIB boat safaris. A particular attraction not to be missed is the Trollstigen mountain road, a series of hairpin bends surrounded by some of the country's most spectacular scenery. The nearby city of Alesund provides some more cultural attractions, including fascinating art nouveau-style architecture and the Alesund Museum, which gives an insight into the history of this western port city. Finish your holiday by driving to Alesund where you will drop your hire car off and fly back to the UK via Oslo.

## Day one Arrive in Oslo and drive to Jotunheimen

This holiday starts with your arrival into Oslo by plane, where you will then pick up your hire car. Your journey takes you northwards, past Norway's largest lake Mjøsa, and passing through the towns of Lillehammer and Sjøa before you skirt the edge of the Jotunheimen National Park. As you approach your hotel the scenery will become more mountainous, signalling that you are entering the area known as the Home of the Giants. Arrive at Elveseter and check in to your hotel for the next five nights.

## Days two to five In Jotunheimen

Situated in Eastern Norway between Oslo, Bergen and Trondheim, Jotunheimen National Park covers an area of roughly 3,500 square km and is home to some of the most famous hiking trails in the country. The area was originally known as the Home of the Giants in Norse mythology due to the fact that Norway's 23 highest mountains are all located within its borders. The two highest of these are also the focal points of two of Norway's top three most iconic hikes. A popular starting point for the Galdhøppigen hike is Spiterstulen Mountain Lodge, which lies 1,100 metres above sea level. From here the round trip is roughly 13 km long and usually takes 5-7 hours, reaching three peaks over 2,000 metres high. Start by crossing the bridge at Spiterstulen, following a clear path which was renovated by Sherpas in 2010 through the forest. Following the red "T"s which mark the trail, you will ascend first Svellnose, then Keilhaustopp, before eventually reaching Galdhøppigen at 2,469 metres above sea level. You may want to stop at the Spiterstulen Mountain Lodge again on your way back for an authentic evening meal before returning to your hotel for the night. Spiterstulen is also one of the main starting points for the hike up the second highest mountain in Norway, Glittertind. This mountain has a permanent snow-cap and involves crossing the Glitterbreen Glacier. It is important to check the weather conditions before embarking on this hike, as crampons may be required depending on the conditions on the final ascent. For those looking for a more challenging, yet perhaps even more scenic, hiking route, the Bessegen ridge hike is recommended for experienced hikers only and starts with a scenic 20-minute ferry ride from Gjendesheim to Memurubu. Jotunheimen is home to over 50 marked trails and you will find roughly 70 more in the surrounding area, meaning there is something to suit all ages and ability levels. On the opposite end of the altitude scale, the Dumma Valley features a series of labyrinthine caves home to narrow



Geirangerfjord

passageways and underground waterfalls carved out by the River Dumma. Other popular activities here include climbing and rafting. The River Sjøa is considered the best river in Norway for rafting, and there are also options to go canyoning and river boarding on the crystal blue waters. The town of Lom is a picturesque settlement famous for its striking Stave Church, which is one of the biggest of its kind in Norway and dates back to 1158. Other attractions here are the Lom open-air museum and the Norwegian Mountain Centre, which features an exhibition about Vikings, folklore and fairy-tales of the region. No visit to this town would be complete without a visit to the Lom Bakery to try one of its country-renowned cinnamon buns.

## Day six Jotunheimen to Norangdal

Today you travel from Jotunheimen to Norangdal. Driving through the vast open landscape with the mountains in the distance, you can get a true feeling of the magnitude and variety of Norway. Driving alongside the beautiful Lake Lagervatnet with the snow-scattered mountains pressing in on all sides will be a particular highlight of the first stretch of the journey. Following this you will reach a series of hairpin bends taking you up to see incredible views of the whole valley. Continue to the town of Geiranger before skirting the majestic Geirangerfjord, listed on the UNESCO World Heritage Site. You will be greeted with breath-taking views of this as you tackle the next series of hairpin bends rising above it. Cross the fjord via more mountain valleys and

arrive at your hotel, where you will be staying for the next five nights.

## Days seven to ten In Norangdal

The area around the Norangsfjord is one of the most beautiful in Norway. The Sunnmøre Alps provide some excellent hiking opportunities, the finest of which is arguably the hike up to the Slogen summit. Patchellhytta cabin is a popular starting point for the ascent, or it is possible to start the hike from Øye, a round trip of 5-6 hours. You will be rewarded with spectacular views of the fjord and the surrounding mountain range. For a hike with a unique aspect we recommend visiting the popular Storsæterfossen waterfall, where the trail passes behind the waterfall itself. The Geirangerfjord is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and offers an abundance of activities, from more hikes allowing you to take in the views from up high, to kayaking on the calm waters. For a truly breath-taking driving experience en route to the Geirangerfjord the Trollstigen is Norway's most visited tourist road, consisting of eleven hairpin turns, each with its own name. This mountain pass was traditionally an important transport passage between mountain villages and has been a popular tourist attraction since the road opened in 1939. There is also a restored hiking path if you wish to experience Trollstigen by foot which crosses an impressive natural stone bridge. Slightly closer to home, the Norangsdalen (Queen's route) is one of the narrowest valleys in Norway and home to Lyngstøylvatnet Lake where you can still see



Norangdale Hotel Union Oye (credit Jonas Bendiksen)

the remains of the old road and foundations of the farmhouses which were destroyed by a rockfall in 1908 beneath the surface of the water. It is possible to hire bikes from the hotel to explore this area and its lakes in more depth. Boat trips are also common on the Hjørundfjord, giving you a different perspective of the fjord and the surrounding Sunnmøre Alps. For a more cultural experience we recommend spending one of your days here visiting the nearby city of Alesund. A port town on Norway's west coast, Alesund is known for its art nouveau architectural style following a fire in 1904, and you may want to spend some time here taking in the architecture in its downtown district. For a true appreciation of this, Fjellstua is a famous viewpoint over the city which gives the best outlook on the townhouses and the surrounding waters. Alesund Museum provides an insight into the history of the city, from the great fire to the German occupation. It also features many exhibitions on fisheries and boats, an important part of Alesund's history and culture.



Borgund Stave Church

### Day eleven Norangdal to Alesund and return to UK by air

Today you travel across the series of islands to Alesund airport. You may want to stop off along the way for a photo stop at one of the viewing points along these beautiful stretches of road as you drive next to the Hjørundfjord, giving you views of the water and the surrounding mountains. Return your hire car and board your flight back to the UK via a short stopover in Oslo.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

This tailor-made touring holiday is one of several suggested touring holidays we can offer you exactly as it is but also with any alterations you might want including extra nights in one or more places or adding in extra places. All our tours can be extended so that you can include a longer stay in one mountain or lake resort too, perhaps at the end of the itinerary. Do call to discuss the options with our travel consultants.

### PRICES

#### From £2,560 per person

Based on two people sharing a double or twin room.

Alternative hotel options can be offered in most locations as well as room upgrade supplements.

### DATES

This holiday can be arranged throughout the year.

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Return flights with British Airways from London to Oslo
- Scheduled flight from Alesund to Oslo
- Hire of a group B car for 11 days
- 5 nights' half board in a Standard double room at Elveseter Hotel, Jotunheimen
- 5 nights' half board in a Standard double room at Hotel Union Øye, Norangdal
- Concierge service and Expressions Holidays regional helpful hints

### WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Early check-in or late check-out at any hotels (although we can arrange this on request at additional cost)
- Any other services not mentioned above, such as transfers and meals except breakfast at hotels
- Personal holiday insurance. This is essential and cover should be in place from when you book the holiday.
- Possible local tourist tax, usually the equivalent of £1 to £3 per person per night, and payable locally to the hotel
- Transfers in any cities

### TOUR CODES

SCFD05  
EX338418

### FLEXIBLE ARRANGEMENTS

Our arrangements are very flexible in that you choose to travel on any day you want, subject to availability of your chosen transport and hotels. As mentioned above, additional nights can be added at any point.

### OUR PRICES

The sample prices mentioned in this leaflet are generally a 'from' price based on the cheapest season of travel. However, fares and hotel rates can change (up and down depending on offers), so we give you an accurate price for your holiday when we provide you with a quotation. Our sample prices should be used as an indication of how much a particular combination will cost and to show the differences on average between the hotel categories on offer.

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### BOOKING CONDITIONS

Our booking conditions apply to all holidays. A copy can be found on our website and a copy is also sent to you with a written quotation and when you make a booking.

### FINANCIAL PROTECTION

Expressions Holidays offers full financial protection for all holidays you book with us. If your holiday includes a flight, the ATOL (3076) covers the costs of the holiday. If the holiday does not include a flight, it is the ABTOT bond that protects the cost of the holiday. We are also members of AITO (the Association of Independent Tour Operators) and ABTA.



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## HOW TO BOOK

To make a booking, just phone us on

**01392 441250**

and we can take you through the details we need and start the booking process. A deposit is required to confirm the arrangements and this can be paid by debit or credit card over the phone. The level of the deposit will be confirmed at the point of booking.