

MOMENTS on the road

Nordic Trails and Fjords I
(12 Days)





ON THE ROAD IN EUROPE

BACK ROADS | HIDDEN GEMS

We love driving holidays. They are by far our favourite way of traveling. And when we're in the mood for spoiling ourselves with fine food and delightful hotels besides the sheer pleasure of being on some of the world's best roads, we turn to Europe!

Europe, even though small by comparison with other regions of the world, nonetheless offers a tremendous variety of intriguing cultures and splendid sceneries. Scandinavia is one of them. It is less familiar, more exotic, less visited, more rustic, and therein lies its charm, especially as the canvas for an unforgettable driving holiday because the scenery, especially that of Norway's fjords, is one of a kind.

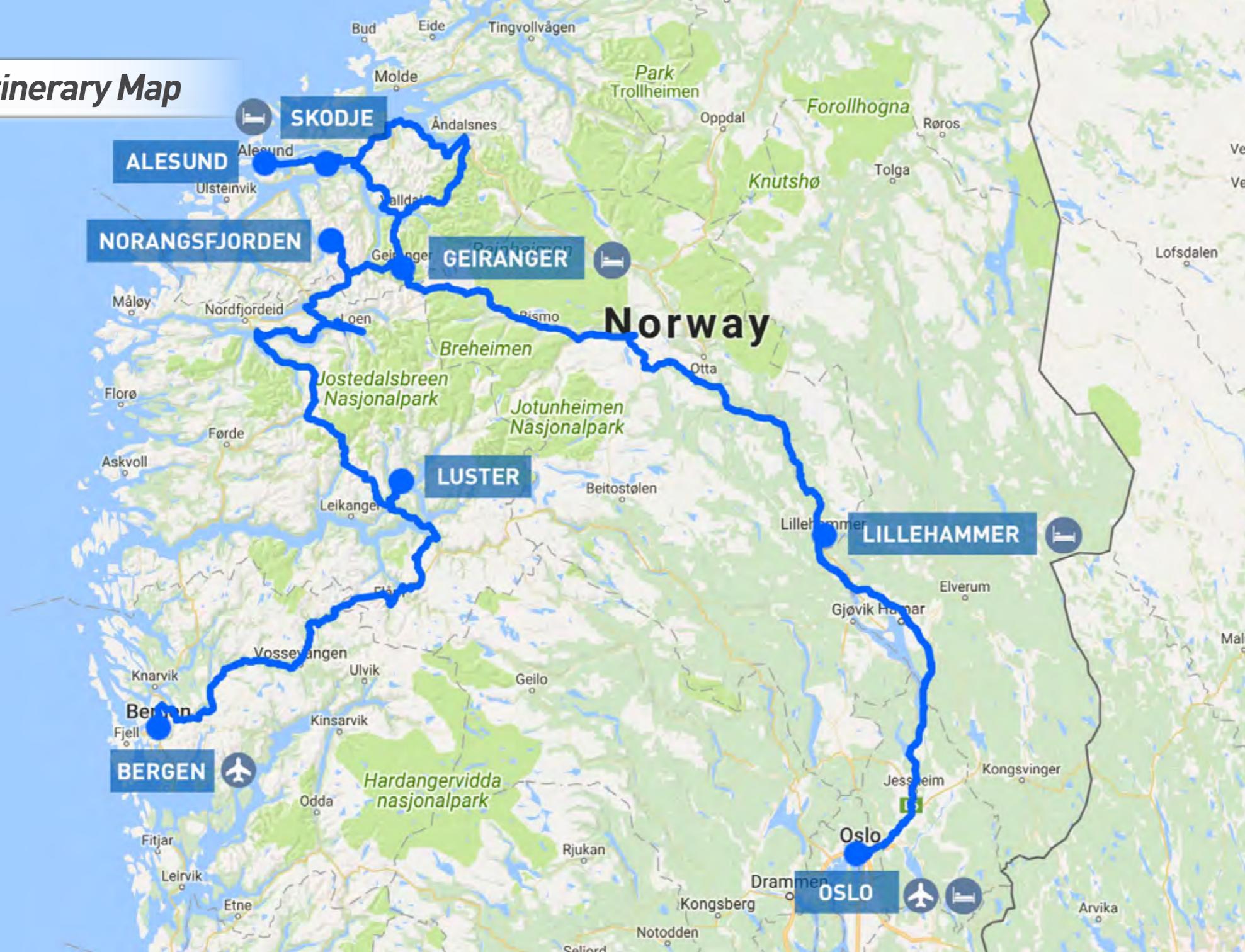
We therefore take great pleasure in introducing our first nordic itinerary. Now turn the page and find out what we've come to love ourselves so much in this remarkable region of Europe...



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Itinerary Map



Day-by-Day

Day1

Arrive in Oslo (Norway) – Arrive at your leisure in Oslo. In the evening, a warm welcome dinner for our guests

Day2

In and around Oslo – Explore Oslo, the 1000-year old capital of Norway. Visit its Viking Museum, stroll along the picturesque harbour front and through the remarkable Vigeland park

Day3

Oslo to Lillehammer – You begin your drive along the first of countless charming country roads via Nes to Lillehammer

Day4

Lillehammer to Geiranger – Remoter and remoter...via Dalsnibba to one of the world's most renowned fjords

Day5

Geiranger to Skodje – Trollstigen, one of Norway's most beautiful roads, will be today's high-light...

Day6

In and around Skodje – A day of rest in one of the most charming hotels of the journey? Or an exploration of Alesund, a charming fishing port? Or hiking in the hills above Storfjorden? It will be a wonderful day!

Day7

Skodje to Oye – The Geiranger Fjord crossing will be today's highlight on your way south to a historic hotel...

Day8

Oye to Hafslø – Further south along spectacular country roads to Sogndalsfjorden

Day9

In and around Hafslø – You may well choose to spend the day with Lindis, the owner of the most special hotel on this journey. Or drive to Urnes Stave Church, the oldest in Norway...a must see. Or one of a million other hidden gems in Hafslø

Day10

Hafslø to Bergen – A drive across the most stunningly beautiful mountain pass and above Aurlandsfjorden

Day11

In and around Bergen – A concert at Troldhaugen, Edvard Grieg's erstwhile residence; a visit to the Hanseatic Museum...a slow day as the journey draws to a close

Day12

Departure – All good things must come to an end...

 International Brands Shopping

 Local/Handicraft Shopping

It all goes back a long, long time...

Europe is the cradle of the motorcar and private motoring. Ever since Karl Benz's 1886 Motorwagen, people have taken pride in owning a car and being in its driver's seat. Driving in a beautiful car bespeaks privilege, freedom, privacy, and, especially in a cabriolet, allows one to be in communion with the elements and natural beauty: soak up the sunshine, feel the wind in your hair, smell the fresh air and the scents of freshly cut grass. Besides, there is the sheer pleasure of being in control, of directing the course of travel: to turn, to go, to stop where and when you feel like it.

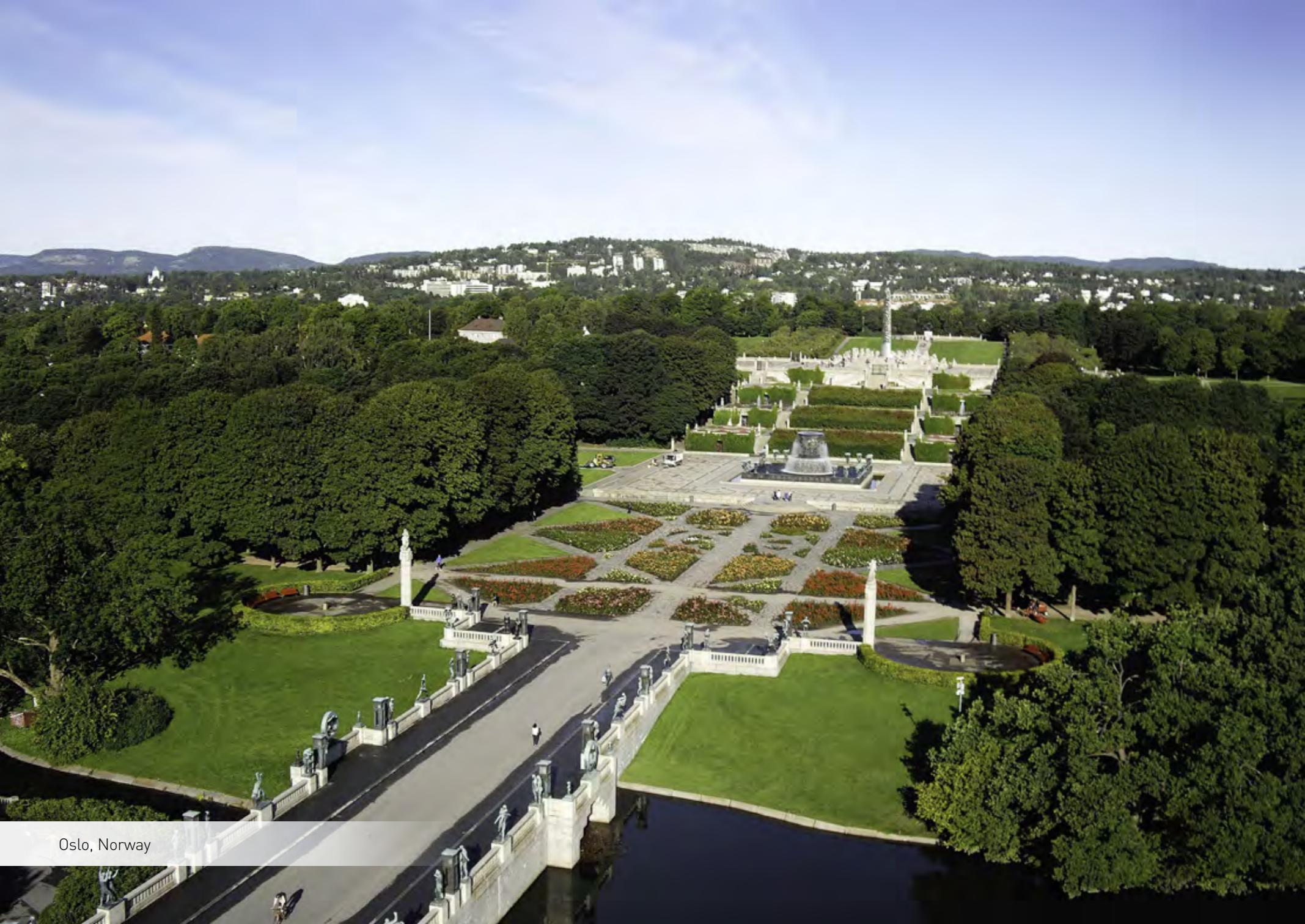
These are pleasures that Europeans were the first to enjoy. Most evidently, these are pleasures that can be shared by couples. While it is often the gentleman who takes the driving seat, it was in fact Bertha Benz who undertook the first driving journey (with their two children) in the world. Driving journeys in a cabriolet is something that women have enjoyed ever since, whether as companion or driver.

Discovering the world by means of a driving journey is a unique pleasure that we want to share with you!



Journey of discovery



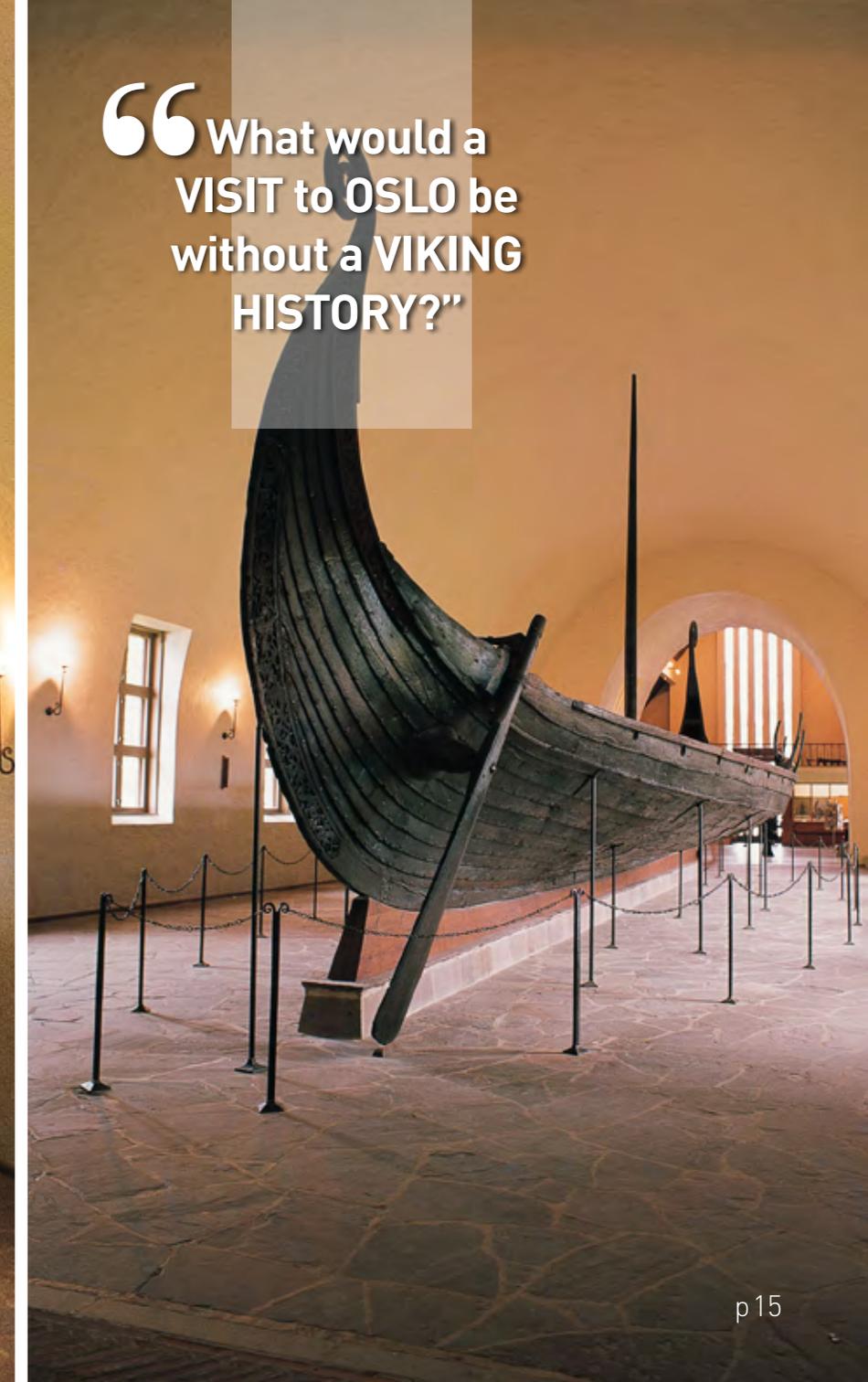


Oslo, Norway

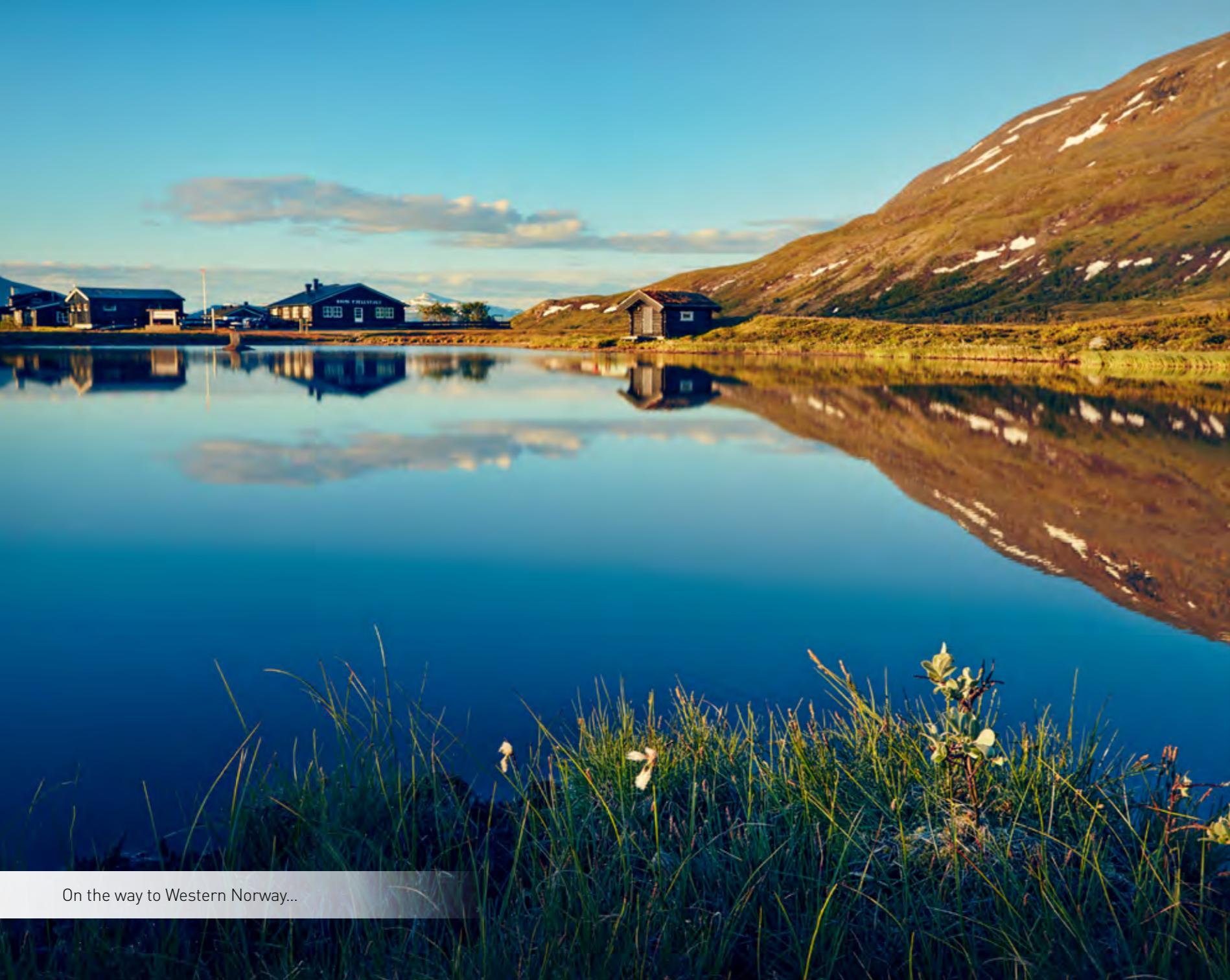


“ VIGELAND Park -
in the heart of Oslo,
is ONE of a kind...”





“What would a VISIT to OSLO be without a VIKING HISTORY?”



On the way to Western Norway...

“ OFF THE BEATEN TRACK...a beautiful place for LUNCH...”



“GORGEOUS
mountain ROADS
EVERYWHERE...”



“ The GEIRANGER
FJORD...a UNESCO World
Heritage place deserving
of the designation...”

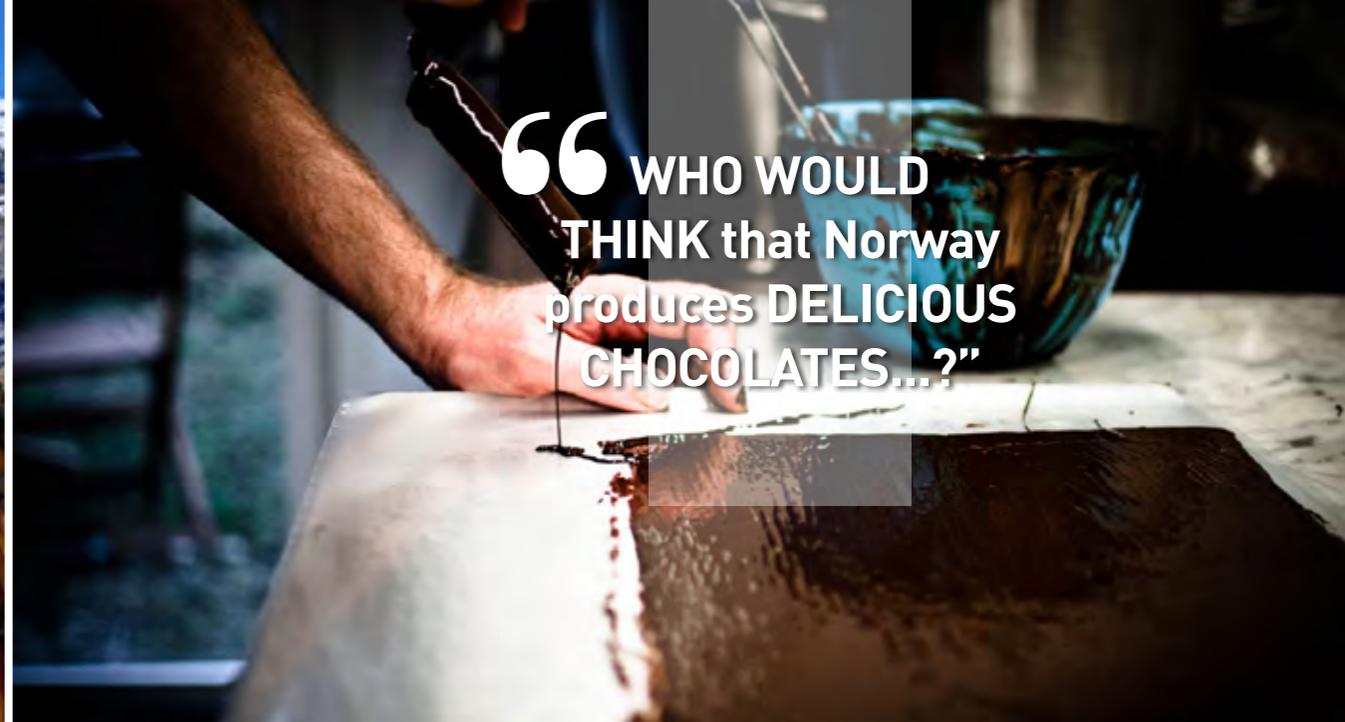


“ Between
OCEANS, GLACIERS
and CLOUDS...”

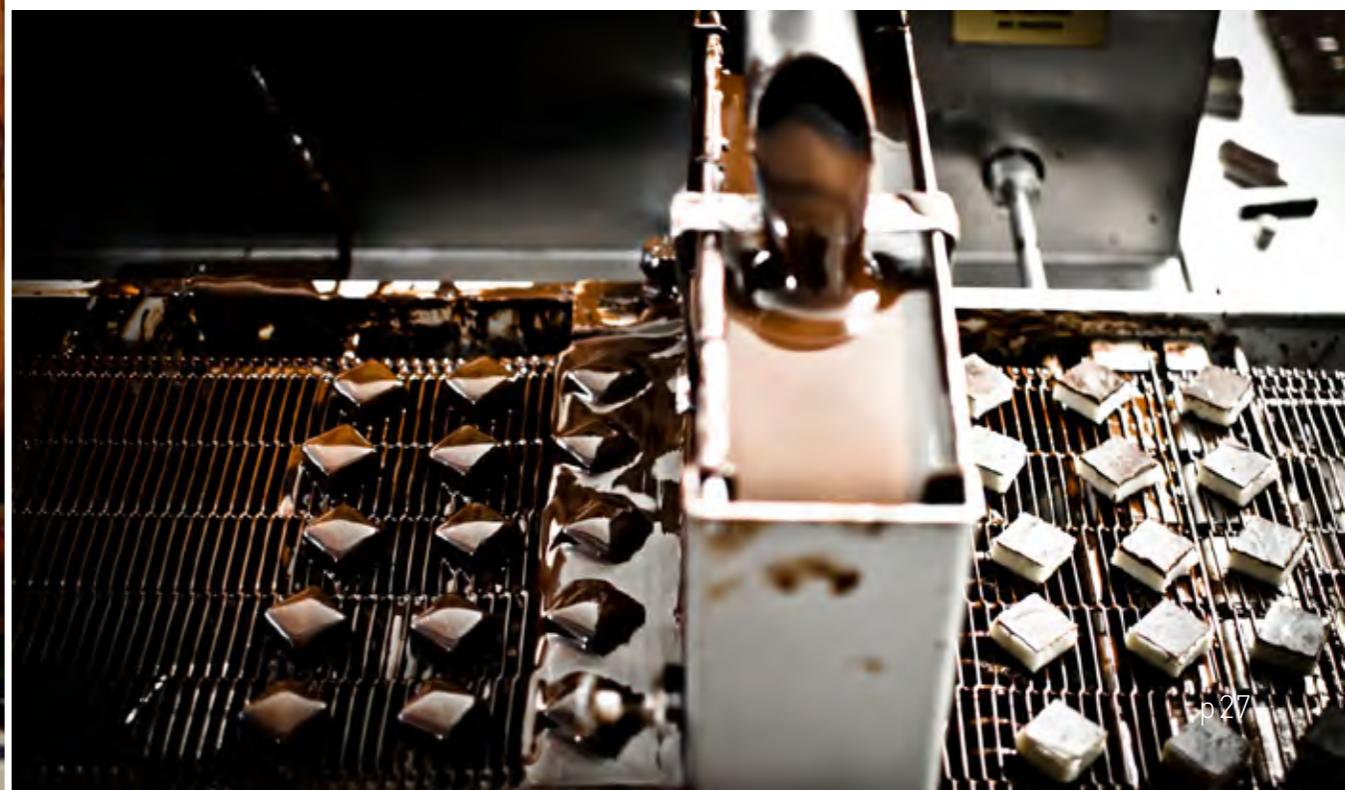


“A FARM for lunch,
HIGH ABOVE the
Geiranger FJORD...”





“WHO WOULD THINK that Norway produces DELICIOUS CHOCOLATES...?”





“NOT as precarious
as it looks...THE
MUST-DRIVE
Trollstigen...”



Trollstigen in Western Norway...



Trollstigen in Western Norway...



Near Alesund



“ A CHARMING
boutique HOTEL...
CLASSIC and
MODERN at the
same time...”

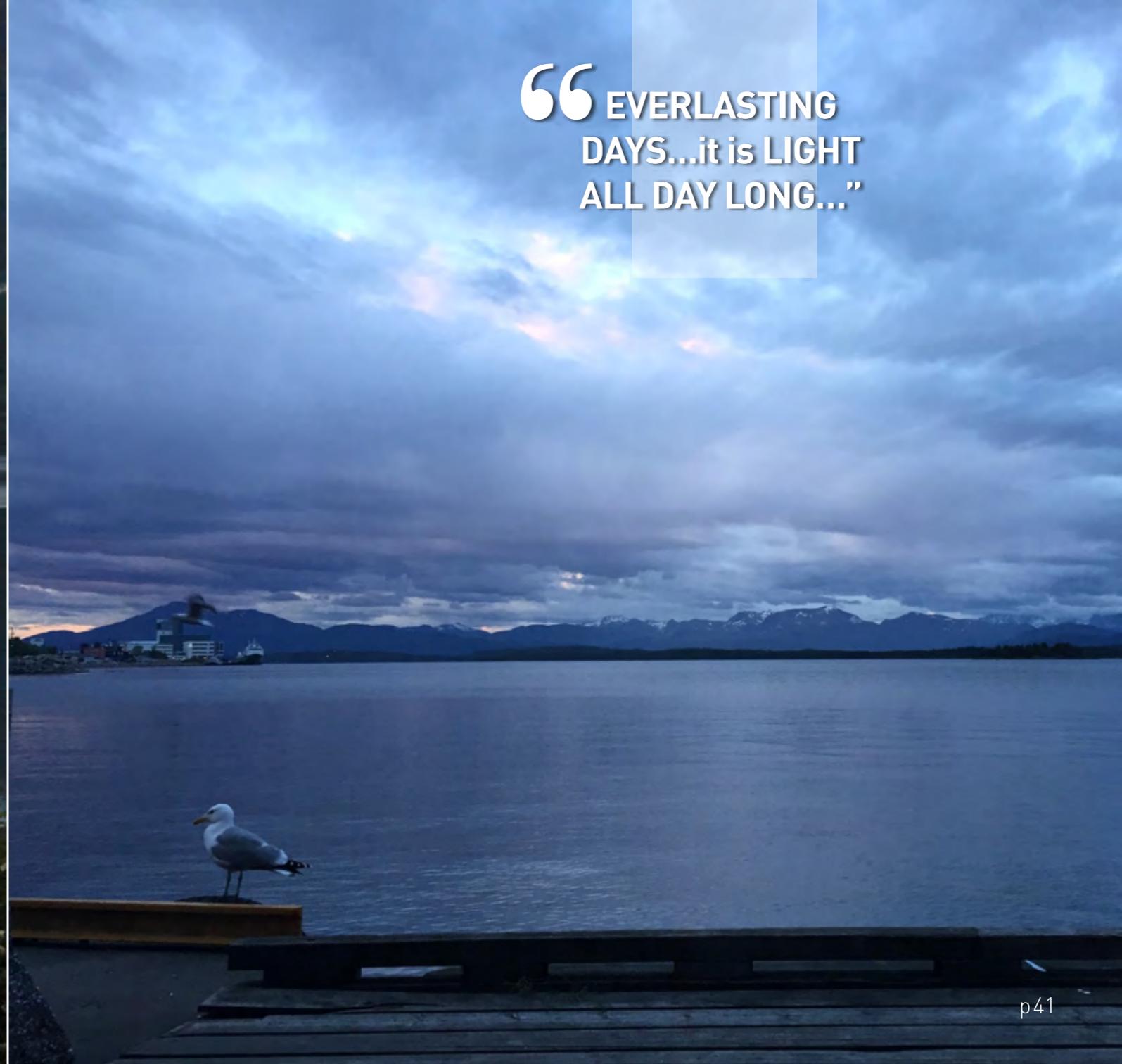


“ON THE ROAD
to ALESUND...”



“ Very much WORTH A VISIT, this LAYED-BACK VILLAGE by the SEA...”

Alesund in Western Norway

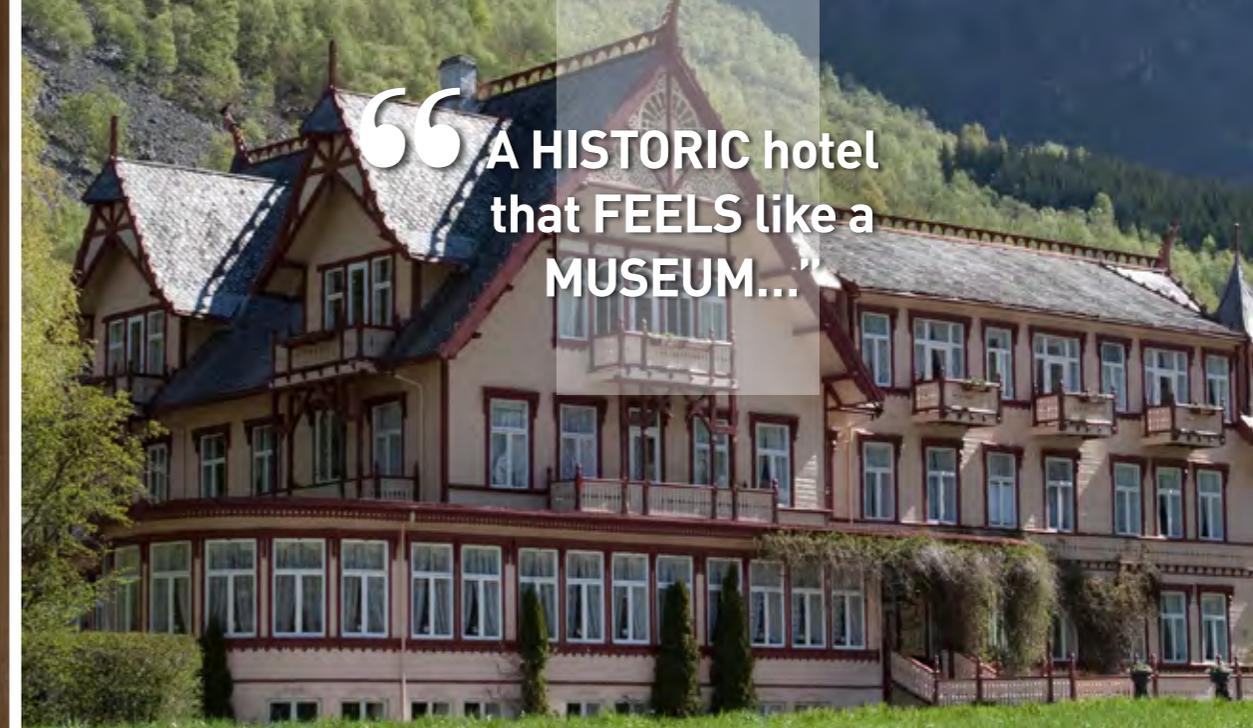


“EVERLASTING
DAYS...it is LIGHT
ALL DAY LONG...”

A wide-angle landscape photograph of a mountain valley. In the foreground, a calm lake reflects the surrounding scenery. The middle ground features rolling green hills with several large, bright white snow patches. In the background, a massive, dark grey rock face rises steeply, partially shrouded in mist. The overall atmosphere is serene and majestic.

“ROADS...
REMOTE, CALM and
a joy too drive...”

In the charming Norangsdal...

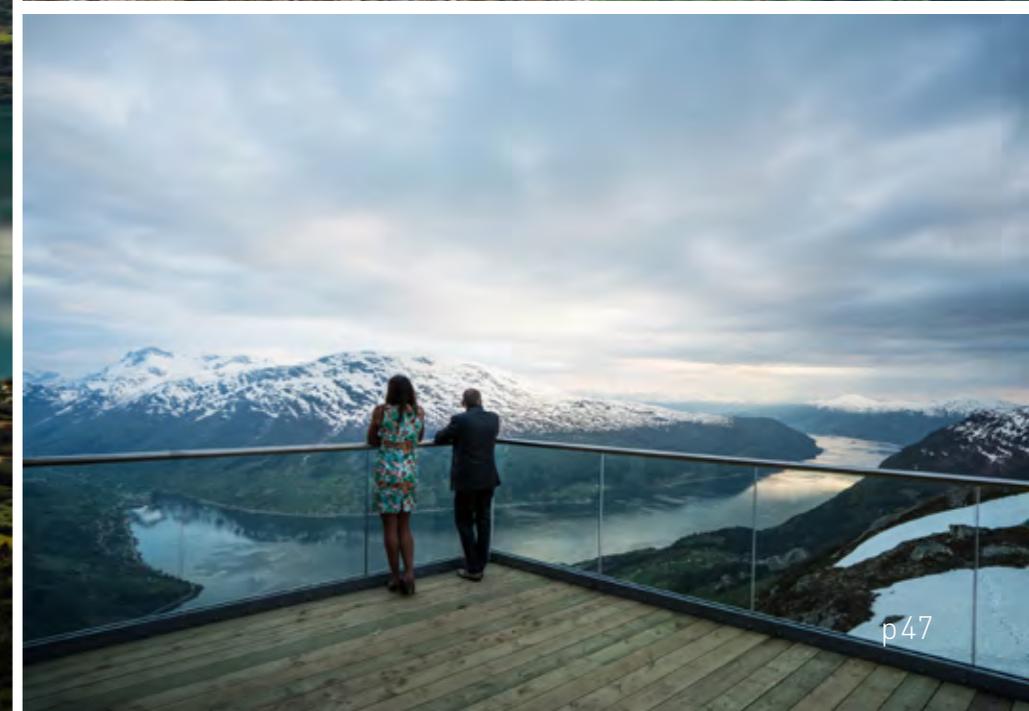


“A HISTORIC hotel that FEELS like a MUSEUM...”





High above Loen...



A wide-angle landscape photograph showing a valley with snow-capped mountains in the background, dense green forests on the slopes, a small village with wooden houses in the middle ground, and a calm lake in the foreground. The sky is blue with some clouds.

“RURAL,
mountainous,
and GREEN, ever
so GREEN...”

On the way south to Sognefjorden...

“A FAMILY-owned,
IDYLLIC guest house
that will find its way
into YOUR HEART...”

Your hotel in Luster, Norway



Your hotel in Luster, Norway



Meals at your hotel in Luster, Norway





“ A ONE THOUSAND
year old
STAVE CHURCH...
LOVINGLY preserved...”



Urnes Stave Church...



“MAGNIFICENT ROADS
that start at sea level
and go HIGHER and
HIGHER...”

“... and HIGHER...
UNTIL...”

“... there is **NOTHING**
but a **FEELING OF**
REMOTENESS...”



“BERGEN, Europe’s
‘LARGEST VILLAGE’ by the
ATLANTIC coast...”



In Bergen's harbour...



“ Det Hanseatiske Museum...WELL WORTH A VISIT...”





“The BRYGGEN Wharf, a UNESCO site, a fitting finish to your journey...”

Day-by-day



Day 1 & Day 2
Arrive at your leisure in Oslo. In the evening, a warm welcome dinner for our guests **AND** Explore Oslo, the 1000-year old capital of Norway. Visit its Viking Museum, stroll along the picturesque harbour front and through the remarkable Vigeland park

You will arrive today in Oslo, the capital of Norway, based on your own arrangements, though we kindly request that you arrive in Oslo no later than 3pm. We will pick you up from Oslo's Gardermoen airport and transfer you to your hotel for the next two nights.

In the early evening we will host a pre-departure meeting and then take you to one of Oslo's finest restaurants for a Welcome Dinner.

The following day is devoted to an exploration of Oslo. In the morning we suggest to take you to the Viking museum which, despite it being touristy, is very much worth a visit. Following this brief journey into Norway's history, we will spend late morning, lunch and early afternoon back in Oslo's center for lunch at a beautiful restaurant overlooking the bay and an opportunity to stroll through Oslo's center, its main square and, if you like, the main shopping avenue.

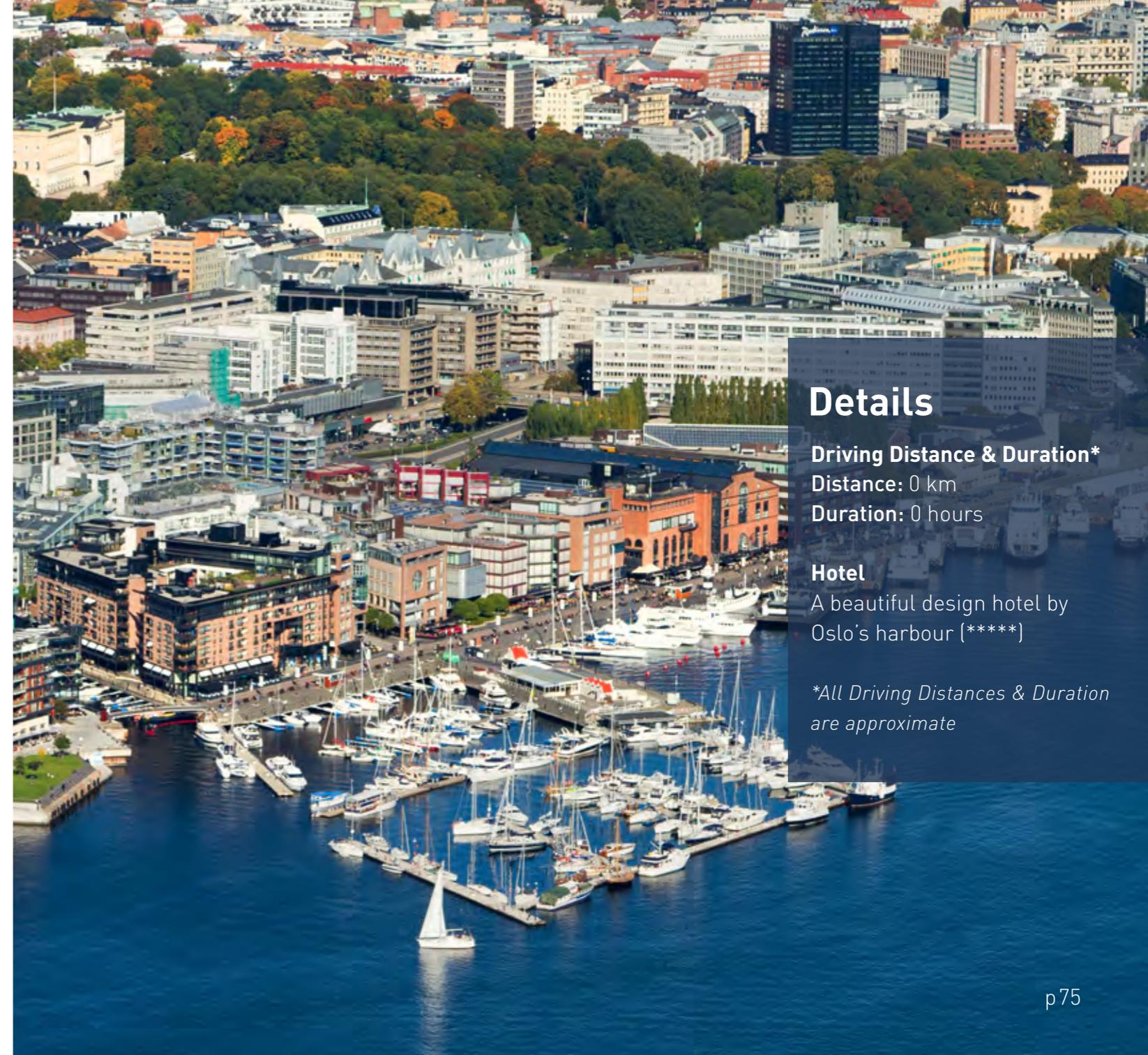
In mid-afternoon you can look forward to visiting the Vigeland Sculpture park. It is a sizeable green space with beautiful lawns and forests, fountains and walkways and the world's largest sculpture park made by a single artist, Gustav Vigeland. There are over 200 of them made in bronze, granite and wrought iron.

While the park attracts many tourists for good reason, it attracts at least as many native Norwegians because it is a wonderful space to spend

leisure hours and, remarkably in expensive Norway, the entrance is free of charge.

Time permitting, we may also want to pay a visit to the Oslo Ski Jump, Holmenkollbakken, of Olympic and FIS Ski Jumping World Cup fame. Looking down the jump from the top will forever raise your respect for those competing in this sport!

For dinner we will return to the city center where we have booked our favourite place, a hidden gem of a restaurant...



Details

Driving Distance & Duration*

Distance: 0 km

Duration: 0 hours

Hotel

A beautiful design hotel by Oslo's harbour (*****)

**All Driving Distances & Duration are approximate*

Day 3 You begin your drive along the first of countless charming country roads via Nes to Lillehammer

We leave the morning free for you to spend on your own.

Just before noon, we will gather for a brunch after which you will set out on your first drive in Norway. Your destination for the day is Lillehammer where the 1994 Winter Olympics took place.

On the main road, it takes a mere 2 hours to reach Lillehammer, but we have selected for you a much more scenic route which will whet your appetite for this driving holiday through Norway's beautiful scenery. So, instead of heading straight north on the highway, we will bear west toward Randsfjorden which, strictly speaking, is not a fjord, but a lake. The drive across a mountain range to this lake and then along it will be thoroughly enjoyable.

Nes Kirke, a small church overlooking the lake, will be a lovely spot for a coffee or a tea break. Then you will continue further northwest along the lake before swinging north east across a gorgeous plateau of old-growth forests to arrive in Lillehammer in the late afternoon.

While your hotel, the Lillehammer Hotel, has a fine menu, we suggest to take you into Lillehammer's center for dinner at a gourmet pub which the locals enjoy at least as much as travelers.

For this journey, Lillehammer is nothing but a stop-over place on the way to Norway's spectacular fjord region.

Details

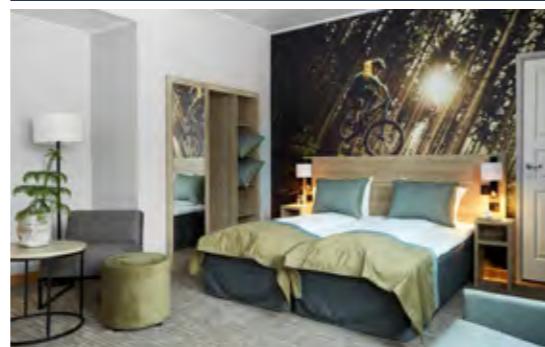
Driving Distance & Duration

Distance: 205 km

Duration: 3.15 hours

Hotel

The finest hotel in Lillehammer overlooking the lake (****)



Day 4 Remoter and remoter...via Dalsnibba to one of the world's most renowned fjords

You have a relatively long day ahead of you today. But what a beautiful day it will be.

At first you will follow the E6 in a northwesterly direction. The E6 is, by Norway's standards, a relatively busy road. But before long, you will turn off onto a small country road that you will thoroughly enjoy driving. The scenery is just as lovely: Alpine in a way, yet different. A little

while later still, you will make a sharp left-hand turn and after a few minutes you will wonder where you're going. You'll have to wait until this day to find out, but let us just say it will be one of the most memorable spots on the entire journey. It is also where you will enjoy lunch today.

In the afternoon, you will continue your drive to Geiranger, home of one of the world's most beautiful fjords. Before reaching Geiranger, you will drive across a pass. Near the top of it, you will once again make a sharp left-hand turn which will set you in the direction of the Dalsnibba View

Details

Driving Distance & Duration

Distance: 280 km

Duration: 4.15 hours

Hotel

An excellent hotel overlooking the Geiranger Fjord (****)

Point from which, weather permitting, you will have a stunning view of Geiranger and its geographical context.

From Dalsnibba to your hotel it will take only another thirty minutes. Dinner will be at your hotel this evening.



Day 5 Trollstigen, one of Norway's most beautiful roads, will be today's high-light...

You can fill your morning in a variety of ways. For example, your hotel has an excellent spa to relax or enjoy various treatments.

The hotel, having been in one family's hands since 1899, also has a small, but very special classic car collection which they are always pleased to showcase and to tell their story.

Before lunch, we would like to take you to the Geiranger Chocolate factory. "Factory" isn't quite the right word, however. It's more like a tiny workshop, but the chocolates it produces – with almost twenty different flavors – are superb.

For lunch we propose to drive a tiny distance to a farm house high above the Geiranger Fjord. It is a rustic place, but the food they prepare is excellent.

In the afternoon, you are in for one of the journey's highlights, the drive across Trollstigen, one of Norway's fabled mountain roads. Trollstigen itself is short, but the entire experience – the ascent from Storfjorden to the Trollstigen pass and then the descent via sharp serpentine to Romdalsfjorden is a magnificent experience.

Late in the afternoon you will arrive at your hotel for the next two nights. It is the perfect place from which to explore Alesund and its surroundings.



Details

Driving Distance & Duration

Distance: 170 km

Duration: 3.15 hours

Hotel

A superb and charming boutique hotel set in beautiful forests [*****]

Day 6 & Day 7

A day of rest in one of the most charming hotels of the journey? Or an exploration of Alesund, a charming fishing port? Or hiking in the hills above Storfjorden? It will be a wonderful day! **AND** The Geiranger Fjord crossing will be today's highlight on your way south to a historic hotel...

You can make a slow start today. (Your hotel is too beautiful to get up early... unless you would like to take a morning walk through the wonderful surrounding forests and countryside.)

Just before noon, you will set out on a short drive to Alesund, one of the loveliest port towns in western Norway. After your arrival in Alesund, we begin with a superb seafood lunch, as befits the location.

The afternoon is devoted to exploring Alesund and its surroundings, including the charming Alnes lighthouse right by the edge of the Atlantic Ocean.

In the late afternoon, you will return to your hotel for dinner.

The following morning is free for you to enjoy at the hotel or by exploring its surroundings. After lunch, you will set out toward another high-light of the journey, the crossing of the Geiranger Fjord by ferry. The ferry ride itself takes approximately an hour. It is touristy, but it is nonetheless an experience you will not want to miss. To glide along on the ferry with majestic mountains rising steeply from the deep fjord's water, and to

see the countless waterfalls disgorging their snow melt into the fjord, is a most memorable experience.

Following the crossing, you have but a 45-minute drive to your hotel for the night. This historic hotel which can trace its origins back to 1891 is one of the most special hotels on this journey. The family that is its guardian has managed to create an atmosphere that is infused with the hotel's history: it feels as if one were staying in a living museum, a work of art in its own right. That the chef cooks superbly will make your stay even more enjoyable.



Details

DAY6

Driving Distance & Duration

Distance: 35 km

Duration: 0 hours

Hotel

A superb and charming boutique hotel set in beautiful forests [*****]

DAY7

Driving Distance & Duration

Distance: 100 km

Duration: 2.10 hours

Hotel

A romantic, historic hotel with all comforts [****]

Day 8 Further south along spectacular country roads to Sogndalsfjorden

Today you will drive further south toward Sogndalsfjorden, all along beautiful country roads.

While today is primarily a driving day, the morning part will be punctuated by a stop at Loen where a recently opened – in May 2017 – “Sky Lift” gondola whisks you in a few minutes from the sea level – the Innvikfjorden – to the mountain station at 1011m. Once there, you will have a 210 degree panoramic view overlooking Mt. Skåla and Lake Lovatnet in the east, Jostedalsbreen Glacier and Olden in the south, and the Nordfjord that winds its way towards Stryn in the west.

In the afternoon, you will continue driving south in wide valleys amidst meadows and alongside streams, across mountain passes and through spectacular tunnels. For the

last 1 hour, we’ve selected a small county road that is a joy to drive. This road will take you through tiny villages and, since it is built high-up into the hill-side, afford you wonderful views of the countryside and valley below.

In the late afternoon, you will arrive in a country manor, a family home that has been converted by its owners into a boutique hotel. Of all the hotels along this itinerary, it is the most charming, the one which, more than any other, will make you feel “at home”. Besides that, the lady chef is completely in touch with nature, growing much of what she cooks in her



Details

Driving Distance & Duration

Distance: 260 km

Duration: 5 hours

Hotel

A family home converted into a lovely cared-for small hotel [****]

extensive garden or sourcing it locally, be it from the fjord below or the forests above. You're in a for a feast!

Day 9 You may well choose to spend the day with Lindis, the owner of the most special hotel on this journey. Or drive to Urnes Stave Church, the oldest in Norway...a must see. Or one of a million other hidden gems in Hafslø

There are many ways to spend today.

Staying the day at the hotel, enjoying the beautiful views, treating yourself to a massage, enjoying more of the owner's “nature pure” cooking, going for a gentle walk, having a drink with a good book...it would not be a day wasted.

If you want to venture further out, if we had to recommend only one place to visit, it would be Urnes Stave Church, the oldest in Norway. This nearly thousand year-old church is set in beautiful grounds on a

hillside (right below fragrant forests and immediately above the dark blue waters of Lustrafjorden) and lovingly preserved and cared for. Every detail – from the outside's ornamentation to the interior's wood carvings – will warm your heart.

You can also spend a big part of the day driving along some of south-west Norway's most beautiful roads, high up in the mountains where even in the summer you will be surrounded by snow: the Sognefjellet road goes across a 1,434 mountain pass which is Northern Europe's highest.



Details

Driving Distance & Duration

Distance: 0 km

Duration: 0 hours

Hotel

A family home converted into a lovely cared-for small hotel [****]

These are just some of the things you can enjoy during your day in Hafslø. We will help you make arrangements so you can enjoy it to the fullest.

Day 10 A drive across the most stunningly beautiful mountain pass and above Aurlandsfjorden

Today will be a longish driving day, from Hafslø all the way to Bergen, your final stop.

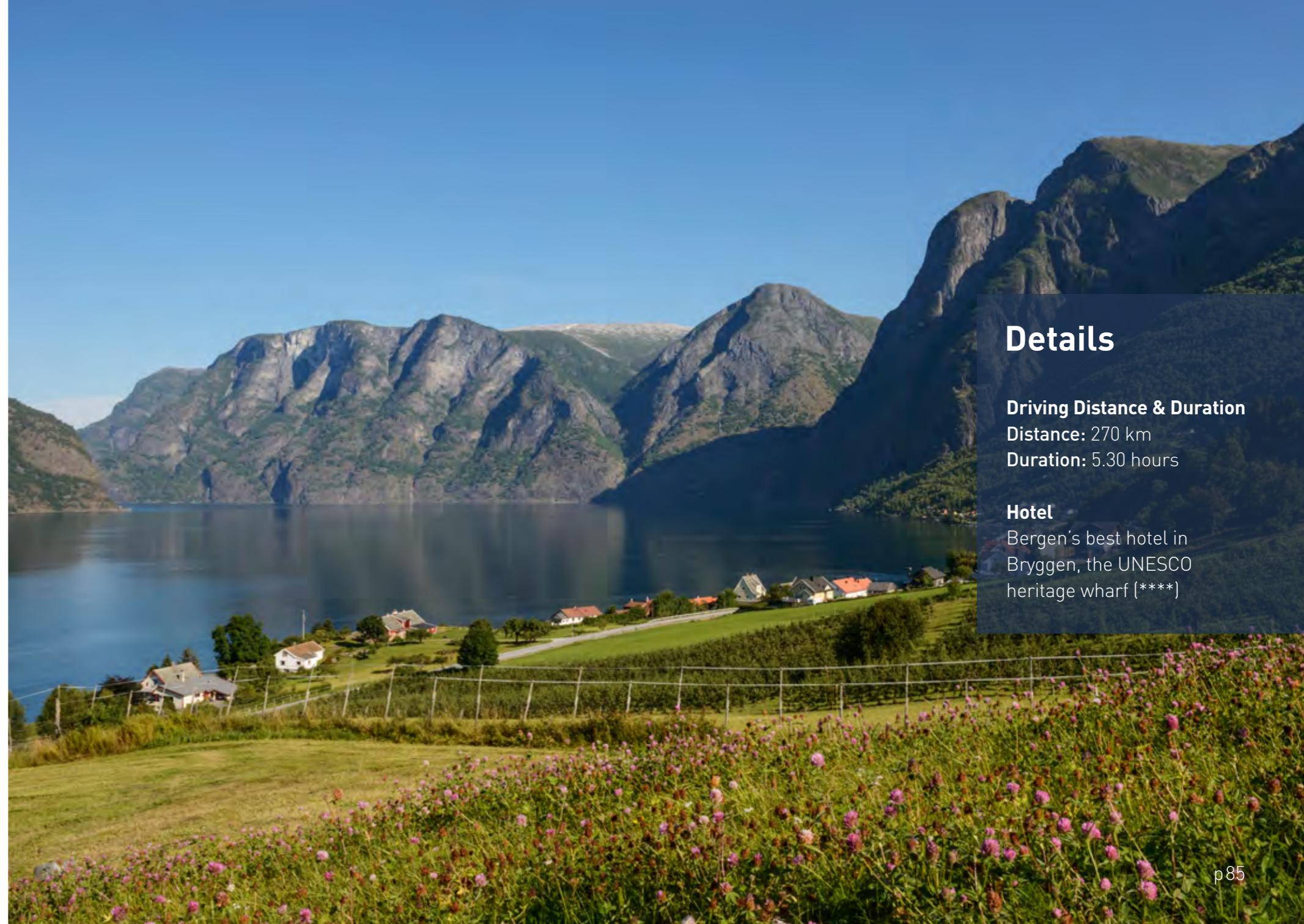
You could shorten it by driving through the world's longest road tunnel – the 24.5km long Lærdal Tunnel – but the landscape above is so dramatically beautiful that we would not recommend it.

The road that leads you to heaven above is called Aurlandsfjellet. It is 47km long. This doesn't sound like much, but what a beautiful road it is! I can't help but quote from an official description of it (since it's rather poetic): "Sometimes it's all about having the opportunity to experience something exactly as it is, neither more nor less. For many the feeling of being in a place where there are few traces of mankind is what makes the greatest impact at

Aurlandsfjellet. It's like being a guest somewhere you are not expected. The real quality lies in the little things, like touching the snow or dipping your toes into an icy mountain tarn. The desolate landscape itself offers something unique, and the drive takes you from fjords to mountains, from lush valleys to the stony wasteland of the high mountain region. You will encounter many striking contrasts over a short distance."

For lunch we have chosen a beautiful, family-owned restaurant in Voss which happens to be the world's center for extreme outdoor sports. The restaurant's owner, Svein, is an amazing character to whom the proverb "quiet waters run deep" applies. Yet when it comes to cooking, he becomes effusive and lively and will spare nothing. A true hidden gem.

The afternoon's drive will take you to Bergen where you will arrive well before dinner.



Details

Driving Distance & Duration

Distance: 270 km

Duration: 5.30 hours

Hotel

Bergen's best hotel in Bryggen, the UNESCO heritage wharf [****]

Day 11 & Day 12
A concert at
Troldhaugen, Edvard
Grieg's erstwhile
residence; a visit
to the Hanseatic
Museum...a slow day
as the journey draws
to a close **AND**
All good things must
come to an end...

Bergen is Norway's second-largest city. It has been a trading port for centuries and is known as the home of Edvard Grieg, the composer. It is also home to a surprising number of world class restaurants, some of which we have arranged for your stay in Bergen.

For this last day, we suggest a walking tour of Bryggen, the area where your hotel is located. Bryggen, also known as Tyskebryggen, is a series of Hanseatic commercial buildings lining the eastern side of Bergen's harbor.

Since 1979 it has been on the UNESCO list for World Cultural Heritage sites.

In the afternoon, Troldhaugen, Edvard Grieg's erstwhile residence, is very much worth a visit, both for its museum as well as for a concert in its small, but spectacular concert hall.

Before your farewell dinner, there will be ample free time for you to explore more of Bergen's center on foot.

All good things must come to an end. On the following day, you may need to return home (feel free to make your onward arrangements for any time on Day 12), or why not stay on in Norway or Europe? We will be pleased to assist you with your plans.



Details

Driving Distance & Duration

Distance: 0 km

Duration: 0 hours

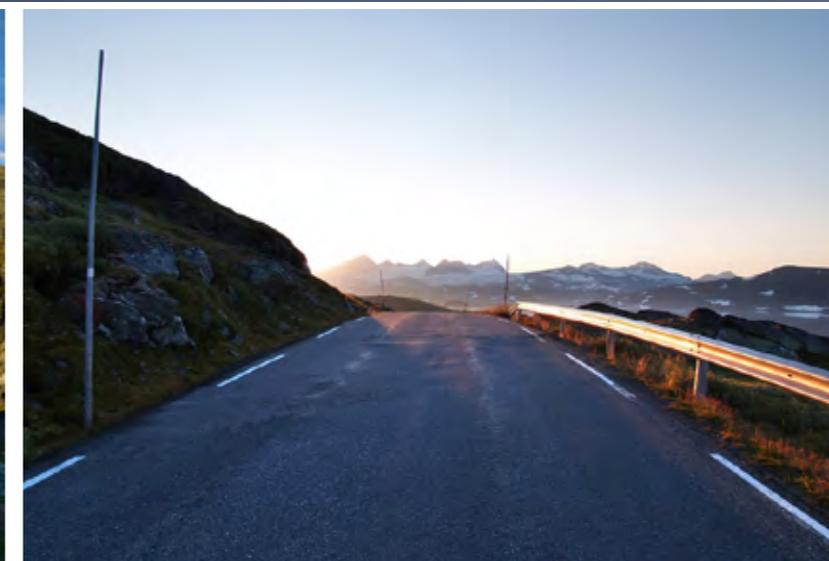
Hotel (DAY 11)

Bergen's best hotel in
Bryggen, the UNESCO
heritage wharf [****]

Choice of Cars

In Norway we can find a good selection of first-rate cars, from sedans to SUVs and, we hope soon, Teslas. See the “What’s included section” later on in this journey dossier.

The roads of Norway are a joy to drive: very well maintained; leading through spectacular scenery...Behind every turn, a new, lovely vista is revealed that will want you to keep going and going...



Adventures and Discoveries in Local Cuisines

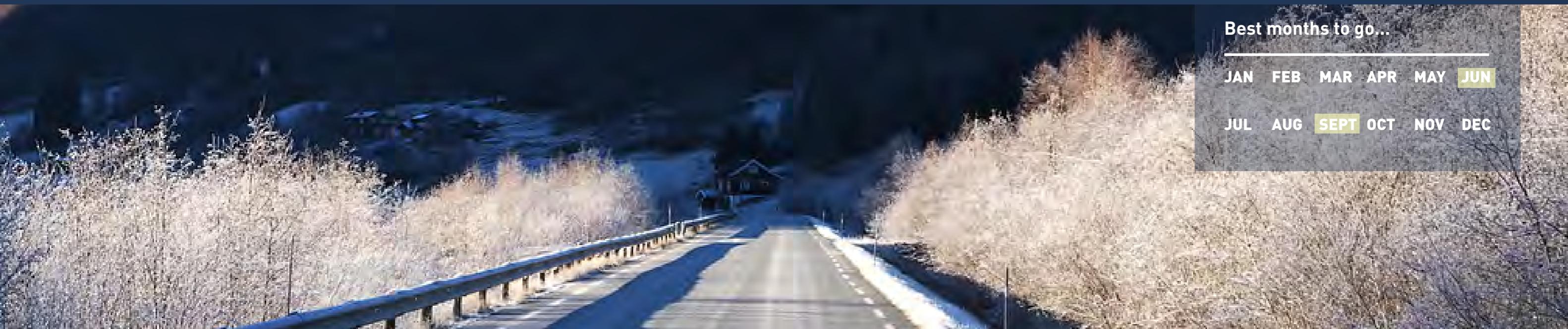
While this itinerary is **not** one of our 'Foodie'-themed journeys, we do believe that each one of our journeys should introduce you not only to hidden gems of cultural and scenic beauty, but that sampling local cuisines is also a must.

We will therefore arrange for you 'tasting menus' such that you can try out a variety of specialties during each meal. While alcoholic beverages are not included in the price, on certain occasions, when we believe that a particular dish is best enjoyed when combined with a local drink, we will make it part of the experience!

For private journeys, we can, of course, tailor the meal experience to your taste (and budget).



What's Included / Best Months to Go...



Best months to go...

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN
JUL AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC

Generally speaking, our journey packages and prices are all-inclusive. Once you've paid and you arrive at the starting point, you really won't have to take out your wallet again except for liquids (alcoholic drinks and petrol) and presents to take home!

- Hand-crafted *On the Road in Europe* – Back Roads. Hidden Gems. – Itinerary design as

described in this Journey Dossier

- A crew consisting of a journey host, subject matter experts/destination guides in various locations and a lead car driver. Depending on group size, we will add additional crew members.
- All meals in 'tasting menu' (or omakase) style

- All accommodations
- A BMW X3 Series SUV (or similar) from one of our highly reputable car rental partners, including Top-up Collision Damage Waiver insurance.

Some car-upgrade options exist at an extra charge.

- All ground transportation and airport transfers

- Pre-programmed GPSs and printed maps
- Walky-talkies to stay in touch with fellow travelers and your crew
- All toll fees and parking fees
- Entrance fees for all attended activities
- Lead car for your crew

- *On the Road in Europe* service (goodies basket and other treats along the way: wet towels, daily picnic, basket containing fresh fruit, fruit juice, water, and a mixture of sweets and nibbles)
- All tips

What's Not Included

- Your transport to/from Oslo
- Petrol for your car
- Personal shopping
- Visas (if required)
- Alcoholic drinks (unless explicitly included)
- Activities, Meals, Transport during 'free times' as indicated in this Journey Dossier

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“ A picture is worth a thousand words. True, but when it comes to a road journey, moving images are priceless. Please visit :

<http://www.ontheroadexperiences.com/en/video-gallery> ”





ON THE ROAD EXPERIENCES

BACK ROADS | HIDDEN GEMS

“Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

