Norwegian Fjords & the Arctic Circle



Sponsored By the

Oslo Bergen Tromsø



Alumni Association of the University of Michigan 800-492-8155

August 13-23, 2023



A World of Discovery



Sami people

Like a little bit of heaven on earth, Norway's sublime landscapes of lush, emerald fjords and snowcapped mountains will take your breath away! Get set for an exciting adventure in one of the world's most beautiful countries as you delight in first-class stays in dynamic Oslo, beguiling Bergen and far northern Tromsø. You'll cruise along an awe-inspiring fjord, revel in breathtaking panoramas aboard mountain railways and get a marvelous taste of Norway's history, culture and cuisine. Come away with a deeper appreciation for why it ranks as one of the world's happiest countries as you explore its traditions and connection to nature!

Inspiring Moments

- ► Marvel at the spectacular, glacier-carved Aurlandsfjord on a cruise.
- ► Discover wild grandeur and local traditions above the Arctic circle in Tromsø.
- ► Explore fascinating facets of Norwegian culture in **cosmopolitan Oslo.**
- Admire Norway's resplendent beauty on picturesque journeys aboard the Flåm and Bergen Railways.
- ► Enjoy **Bergen's enchanting ambience** as you meander along cobblestone lanes.
- Learn about time-honored customs of the Sami people and meet members of the community.
- Play with adorable husky puppies at an arctic dogsledding kennel.
- Take in the colorful charm of Bergen's old wharf, a UNESCO World Heritage site.



Dear University of Michigan Alumni Travelers,

Travel is an enriching part of our lives, connecting us to new worlds, new friends, and each other. Today, planning a trip requires a plan. At the Alumni Association of the University of Michigan, we've spent 52-plus years planning, perfecting, and executing extraordinary, exclusive trips for Michigan travelers — trips you'd expect from, and for, the Leaders and Best. These adventures will take you beyond an ordinary visit and dive into the culture, history, cuisine, and lives of the locals at your destination.

Here are a few of the highlights you can expect from us ...

Convenience: Our experience pays off. Every detail is planned and taken care of for you; all you have to do is pack your bag. The hard part is selecting where to go next.

Educational Enrichment: All trips include educational content, with some featuring expert U-M faculty and staff traveling with your group.

Michigan Small Group Explorations: Our tours are limited to 12-24 Michigan travelers, allowing for spontaneous encounters and a great deal of independence wherever your journey takes you.

Safety: Michigan Alumni Travel has been working with tour operators to make sure all of our trips are specifically curated to focus on your safety without detracting from your travel experience.

We invite you to explore the range of our collection at umalumni.com/travel.

Our travel team is also happy to assist you at 855.764.0064 or alumnitravel@umich.edu.

NOTE: Travel is a member benefit of the Alumni Association of the University of Michigan. Travelers, whether alumni or not, must be members. This includes all family members and friends.

The travel program is totally self-supporting and none of your membership dues or any other Association income is used to subsidize the cost of travel announcements or staff time devoted to alumni travel.

Passengers requiring extraordinary assistance must be accompanied by someone who can, and will, be totally responsible for providing all required assistance.

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Breathtaking fjord

Architecture | Art | Culture | Cuisine | History | Natural Beauty



Day 1 | In Transit

Depart for Oslo, Norway.

Day 2 | Oslo, Norway

Transfer **>** to the Radisson Blu Scandinavia Hotel, Oslo. Later tonight, attend a Welcome Reception and get acquainted with your fellow travelers.

Day 3 | Oslo

Enrichment: Contemporary Norway.

Discovery: *Oslo Overview & Ski Culture.* Set off on a scenic drive to admire Oslo's top sites like the 19th-century Royal Palace and vibrant Aker Brygge Wharf, packed with restaurants, shops and people enjoying the waterfront. Continue to leafy Vigeland Park for a guided stroll to see statues by Norway's acclaimed sculptor Gustav Vigeland. After lunch, visit the Holmenkollen Ski Jump, where skiers have



Vigeland Park, Oslo

MUNCH Museum (left), Oslo

tested their skills since 1892. Check out the latest high-tech jump, soak up sweeping city views and learn about Norway's 4,000-year history of Nordic and downhill skiing at the Ski Museum.

Free Time: Make your own plans for sightseeing and dinner. Your Travel Director can offer ideas.

Day 4 | Oslo

Discovery: Norwegian Art & Seafaring.

Norwegian painter Edvard Munch was one of the most influential figures of the Modernist movement. At the new MUNCH museum, view his celebrated masterpiece, "The Scream," and other works from his prolific, 60-year career. Afterward, delve into the amazing voyages of the great Norwegian explorer Thor Heyerdahl at the Kon-Tiki Museum. Study his famous vessels, the balsawood raft Kon-Tiki and the totora-reed boat Ra II which he used to cross



Harbor, Oslo



the Atlantic in 1970. Then it's time to head to the water yourself for a panoramic cruise on Oslofjord! **Free Time:** If you'd like to continue the maritime theme, walk along the Harbour Promenade. This extensive waterfront path connects old and new neighborhoods of the city and takes you past striking, modern architecture like the sleek Opera House, Deichman Library and more. Dine tonight at one of Oslo's fine restaurants.

Day 5 | Bergen

After breakfast, check out of the hotel and depart for Bergen by train.

Discovery: *Bergen Railway.* Today's route takes you on Europe's highest altitude railroad, where



Kon-Tiki Museum, Oslo

Central square, Bergen

splendid vistas unfold. Cross Hardangervidda, a plateau at more than 4,000 feet above sea level. After reaching the highest point, the train edges by lovely fjords, waterfalls and forests.

Arrive this afternoon and check in to the Radisson Blu Royal Hotel, Bergen.

Free Time: The rest of the day is at leisure.

Day 6 | Bergen

Enrichment: The Fjords of Norway.

Discovery: *Bergen.* Nestled by a sheltered harbor and surrounded by seven mountains, Bergen exudes a cozy charm. With your guide, explore the historic wharf, Bryggen, an important trading center for the medieval Hanseatic League.



Håkon's Hall, Bergen



Cable car station, Tromsø

UNESCO World Heritage

Bryggen, the medieval Hanseatic League wharf in Bergen

See Rosenkrantz Tower, Håkon's Hall built by King Håkon in the 13th century, and other gems. Then visit the hilltop summer home of the revered Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg.

Free Time: Enjoy more of Bergen independently. Savor local dishes at dinner tonight in Bergen.

Day 7 | Myrdal | Aurlandsfjord | Voss district

Discovery: *The Best of Norway.* Relish a journey aboard the Flåm Railway from Myrdal along one of the world's steepest train routes, surrounded by incomparable scenery. Wind by snow-dusted peaks and pass through mountain tunnels on your way to the pristine Aurlandsfjord, a narrow branch of the Sognefjord, Norway's longest fjord. Cruise on this stunning waterway to Gudvangen, and then enjoy the Voss district's idyllic natural beauty on your return to Bergen.

Day 8 | Tromsø

After breakfast, check out of the hotel and fly to Tromsø, Norway's Arctic capital located about 220 miles north of the Arctic Circle.

Enrichment: Life in the Arctic Circle.

Discovery: *Tromsø Overview.* Inhabited since the Ice Age, this northern region boasts a rich heritage from both the indigenous Sami people and the Norse people. Tromsø, tucked amid snowcapped mountains, fjords and islands, is closely connected to the untouched wilderness that encircles it. After Arctic hunting began in the 19th century, Tromsø flourished as a trading center and became a launching base for polar expeditions. Today, it's an important fishing port and home to the world's northernmost university, UIT The Arctic University of Norway, a center for Arctic research. On a guided tour, visit the Arctic Cathedral and ride a cable car up Floyfjellet Mountain for stellar views.

Check in to the Radisson Blu Hotel, Tromsø.

Day 9 | Tromsø

Discovery: Nature of Northern Norway.

Find out more about arctic wildlife at Polaria, which features playful seals and an aquarium filled with northern species of fish. Then admire the gorgeous arctic and alpine flora that thrives in this northerly climate at a botanical garden.



Arctic Cathedral and Tromsø Bridge, Tromsø



Flåm Railway

Connects: Sami Culture. Learn about northern Norway's oldest culture at the Arctic University Museum of Norway. View colorful traditional clothing and handicrafts, understand the historic significance of reindeer herding to the Sami people and listen to *joik*, their folk music based on chanting. During your visit, chat with members of the Sami community.

Try fresh, authentic northern specialties at lunch.

CAHI Connects: Arctic Dogsledding. Visit a working kennel and gain insights about

how the dogs are trained, then enjoy cuddling with these friendly husky puppies!

Day 10 | **Tromsø**

Discovery: *Tromsø Fjord Cruise.* Majestic coastal scenery abounds on a five-hour cruise today! While cruising in the bays, straights and fjords around Tromsø, stop at modern fish farms and small villages, and look for marine life in the clear waters of the shallows.

Free Time: Follow your own agenda in Tromsø. This evening, share favorite memories of your Norwegian adventure with your fellow travelers at a Farewell Dinner.



Husky puppy



Day 11 | In Transit

Transfer **>** to the airport in Tromsø for the return flight **\$** to your gateway city.

Note: Itinerary may change due to local conditions. **Contemporal Prime** Flights and **Contemporal Prime** Transfers included for AHI FlexAir participants.

Note About Activity Levels

We have rated the activity levels of our excursions to help you assess this program's physical expectations. Depending on the excursion, more leisurely alternatives may be available. Please call or visit our website for more specific details.

Excursions on this program require:

- walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths and/or uneven surfaces
- getting on/off motor coaches, boats and trains

Accommodations

Our travel experts have carefully selected these first-class hotels for their prime locations. Ideally situated for exploring Norway's acclaimed landmarks and natural splendor, they also offer you opportunities to immerse yourself in local life. Of utmost importance is the superior quality of each property's services, amenities and accommodations, allowing you to enjoy your stay fully.

O Tripadvisor





Radisson Blu Scandinavia Hotel | Oslo



Radisson Blu Royal Hotel | Bergen



Radisson Blu Hotel | Tromsø





Norwegian Fjords and the Arctic Circle				Trip #:10-28168W
Call our Travel Experts at 800-492-8155 to reserve your place (preferre				rred registration method).
Please have the information outlined below available to share with our AHI Travel Experts.				
Once this requ		office, an AHI Trave	el Expert will conta	
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Air Program dates:August 13-23, 2023Land Program dates:August 14-23, 2023

Land Program

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\$4,995

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do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated).

Single accommodations are an additional \$945 (limited availability).

Let us arrange your flights

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Our experts are ready to assist you in booking flights. Our personalized air program offers the following advantages:

- Price guarantee to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase
- Arrival and departure transfers on group dates
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- ► Assistance in the event of schedule changes or delays

Holmenkollen Ski Jump, Oslo



TRAVEL WITH CONFIDENCE

For more than six decades, our dedicated team has helped travelers explore the world safely and securely.

To offer you added peace of mind, we've fine-tuned all facets of your travel experience:



- Included AHI Travel Assurance plan covers travel- and health-related contingencies; available for U.S. residents only
- Increased booking **flexibility** and relaxed cancellation penalties
- Home support staff and ground team communicating 24/7 to ensure a seamless and safe journey
- Travel Directors specially trained to the highest standard in accordance with AHI's health and safety protocols
- A global network of partners rigorously following enhanced procedures and protocols
- Rigorous sanitization practices for river ships, hotels, trains and motor coaches
- Tour operations modified for smaller groups
- Hand sanitizer available for guest use

MUNCH Museum, Oslo



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Accommodations {with baggage handling}

- **3 nights** in Oslo, Norway, at the first-class Radisson Blu Scandinavia Hotel, Oslo.
- -**3 nights** in Bergen at the first-class Radisson Blu Royal Hotel, Bergen.
- -**3 nights** in Tromsø at the first-class Radisson Blu Hotel, Tromsø.

Transfers {with baggage handling}

- All transfers in the Land Program: flight, trains and deluxe motor coaches.

Extensive Meal Program

- -9 breakfasts, 4 lunches and 3 dinners, including a Farewell Dinner with wine; tea or coffee with all meals.
- Opportunities to sample authentic, local cuisine.

Your One-of-a-Kind Journey

- **Small group:** Sized just right at a maximum of 24 travelers.
- AHI Travel Assurance plan covers Accident and Sickness Medical Expense, Trip Delay and Emergency Evacuation for U.S. residents.
- Expert-led **Enrichment programs** enhance your insight into the region.
- **Discovery excursions** highlight the local culture, heritage and history.
 - Appreciate Norway's love of skiing at Oslo's Holmenkollen Ski Jump and Ski Museum.
 - Take in the Vigeland sculpture park.
 - See Edvard Munch's masterpieces and follow the epic voyages of Thor Heyerdahl.
 - Delight in Bergen Railway's scenic views.
 - Explore Bergen's Hanseatic history and visit composer Edvard Grieg's summer home.
 - Travel on the famous Flåm Railway and cruise through a stunning fjord.
 - Enjoy panoramic vistas over Tromsø during a guided tour.
 - Learn about northern Norway's wildlife.
 - Snuggle with husky puppies at a kennel.
 - Relish northern Norway's rugged beauty on a Tromsø fjord cruise.
- Free time to pursue your individual interests.
- **AHI Sustainability Promise:** We strive to make a positive impact wherever we travel.
- CAHI Connects: Local immersion.
- A Welcome Reception to mingle with fellow travelers.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.
- -Tipping of guides and drivers.
- Complimentary travel mementos.

AHI Travel Expertise

From your reservation to your return home, we are here to ensure you have the adventure of a lifetime.

Before you go:

Travel Consultants | These experts stand ready to answer your questions about activities, meals, accommodations and more as they guide you through the reservation process.

Passenger Service Representative

After reserving your spot, enjoy personalized assistance from this specialist, your one point of contact who helps with everything from arranging flights to booking elective activities to fulfilling special requests.

Travel Information | Before your journey, our team closely monitors travel conditions, shares pre-departure details and provides information and enrichment about your destination.

Once you arrive:

On the ground, three layers of top-quality professionals offer their insiders' perspective. Our dedicated team takes your adventure to the next level.

Travel Director | Our multilingual Travel Director manages all the details so that you can simply relax and soak up the ambience. In the care of this seasoned travel professional who is attuned to your personal safety, you'll enjoy a seamless, unforgettable travel experience.

Expert Guides | Who better to show you around than the people who live there? We've specially selected informed, enthusiastic local guides who understand the needs of our educated and curious travelers. Warm and genuine, they're ready to share their passion for their country with you.

Lecturers | Coming from all walks of life, our engaging local lecturers open your eyes to history, culture and current events. The breadth of their knowledge deepens your appreciation for the region and its heritage.



Bearded seal



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<u>Revel in magnificent scenery, cultural treasures and life above the Arctic Circle!</u>

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AHI Travel's mission is to deliver inspirational educational and cultural programs that delight travelers.

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