

**Life on board**

Is relaxed and casual with the aim of gaining a greater understanding of the history, heritage and culture of the Vikings, as well as enjoying the convivial company of your fellow passengers. All our theme voyages have the unique element of a guest lecturer and on board lectures are designed to maximize your enjoyment and knowledge of all aspects of the areas we visit.

**Dress code**

Comfortable clothes suitable to the area you are travelling in are recommended for excursions and landings. We recommend that you bring casual clothes and comfortable shoes to wear on board and although some passengers may chose to wear smart/casual at dinner you are by no means obliged to do so.

**Entertainment, on board lectures**

The emphasis of these cruises is on relaxation and education. That being the case there is little or no entertainment on board. Entertaining talks, lectures and informative briefings by Professor Knirk will cover all the relevant aspects of the tour and help to gain a greater understanding of the unique culture and history of the Vikings and their far reaching influences peoples at home and abroad.

**Safety**

All ships are fitted with the necessary safety equipment and passengers are required to take part in safety briefings when scheduled. In order to comply with maritime security requirements that apply to all ships and ports worldwide, passengers, crew and visitors to the ship may be subject to security screening. We would like to advise you that such measures might include the inspection of the individual, as well as luggage and personal belongings. We appreciate your patience and understanding whenever such screenings are required.

**Smoking**

The Norwegian anti-smoking law, which bans smoking in public places, also affects the Hurtigruten ships. Smoking is therefore prohibited at all times when the ships are in port. However, because of a special dispensation, at other times smoking is permitted in designated areas on board. Smoking in the cabins is not permitted. This information is correct at the time of going to print and may be subject to change without notice.

**Valuables**

The ship is not equipped with safety deposit boxes. However, jewellery, money and other valuable can be handed in at the reception for safe-keeping in the ship's safe. Hurtigruten and Norwegian Coastal Voyage cannot accept responsibility for the loss of

money or other valuables kept in cabins.

**Accommodation**

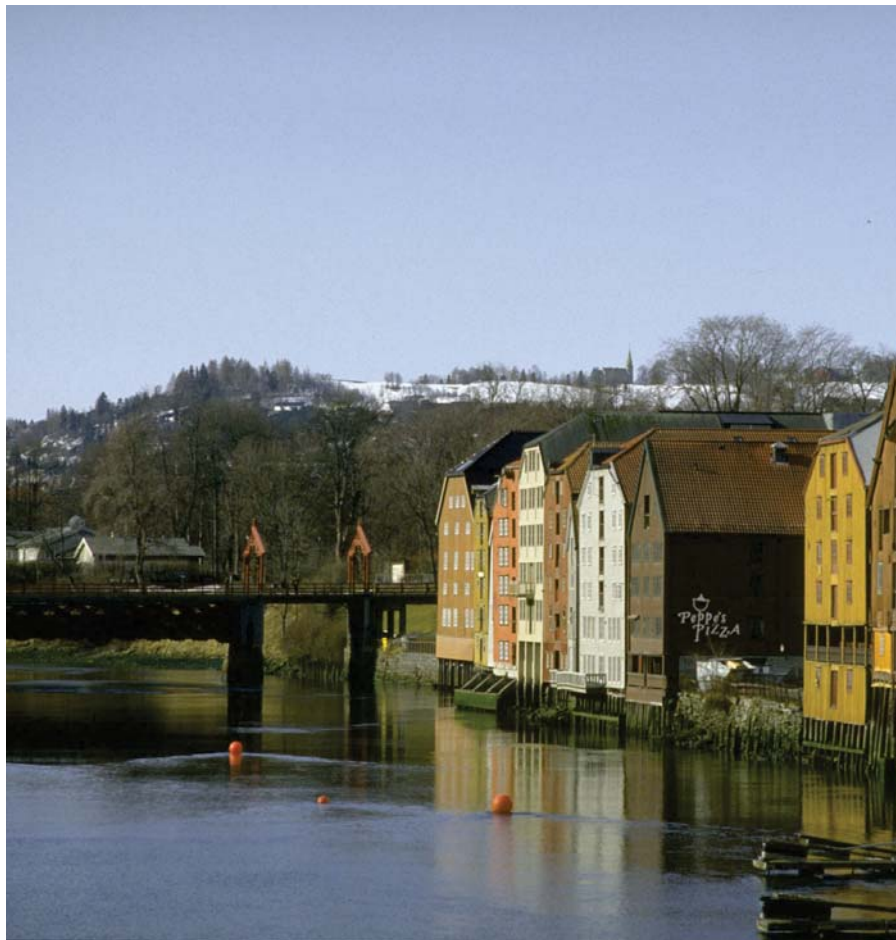
As there is no official hotel rating system in Norway, we have graded these ourselves to give you a comparative guide to the overall standard.

**Recommended Reading**

- Lonely Planet Guide: *Norway*
- Rough Guide: *Norway*
- Pat Watkins: *Fellowship of Ghosts*
- Erling Storrusten: *Hurtigruten: The World's Most Beautiful Sea Voyage*
- Ian Mitchell: *Isles of the North: A voyage to the lands of the Norse*

**Environmental Matters**

We are proud to announce that for every booking made for our theme voyages from the 2006 Hurtigruten brochure, we will make a monetary contribution towards the UK's national charity dedicated to the protection of the marine environment and its wildlife – the Marine Conservation Society (<http://www.mcsuk.org>). Founded in 1977, the organisation aims to highlight threats to marine wildlife and the wider marine environment, bringing them to the attention of the public, media, politicians and Government agencies alike.



| 09 Jul 2006   |      |       |
|---------------|------|-------|
| Grade         | Twin | Supp* |
| Inside cabin  | 1990 | 330   |
| Outside cabin | 2065 | 330   |

\*Single supplement.

All above prices are per person in £s, based on two people travelling together and sharing a twin cabin/room.

Your holiday price includes: Return economy flights between UK and Oslo/Bergen including all applicable airport taxes and service charges, 2nts Continental Hotel Oslo incl. breakfast, 2nd class rail Oslo-Trondheim, 2nts Britannia Hotel Trondheim, domestic flight Trondheim-Bodø, voyage Bodø-Svolvær incl. dinner, 3nts Svinøya Rorbu incl. half board, voyage Svolvær-Bergen in cabin of your choice incl. half board, Int Radisson SAS Norge Hotel incl. breakfast, lecturer, luggage handling, museum entrance fees and private transfers throughout.

Not included: Travel insurance, optional excursions.

# Norwegian Viking Voyage



**NV - 12 days / 11 nights**  
On the trail of the Vikings beyond the Arctic Circle



Around 800 A.D. a new power entered the European stage, an all-encompassing storm that swept down from the icy northern lands of Scandinavia. The Vikings. For some 200 years these feared Norsemen brought panic and terror to the coastal regions of Europe, raiding into France and Spain, conquering much of Ireland and large parts of England, and extending their reach east to the Caspian Sea. Even today the very name is evocative of a dark and violent period in Europe's history. But the Viking legacy shows that they were more than just raiders. Their influence spread from Iceland in the west to Kiev in the east and they left behind a rich legacy of tradition that still continues today.

## Voyage Highlights:

- Oslo, Norway's vibrant capital. Visit to the Viking Ship Museum
- The ancient capital of Trondheim, with the option to visit the magnificent Nidaros Cathedral
- The Viking outpost of Svolvær
- Cruising through the dramatic Norwegian landscape
- Onboard daily lectures



## Our Onboard Lecturer

### Professor James E. Knirk

Born in the USA in 1947, Professor James E. Knirk has lived in Scandinavia for most of the past thirty years. He is professor of Old Norse and Runology at the University of Oslo and holds a Ph.D. in Germanic Languages and Literatures from Yale University. His dissertation concerned the sagas of Norwegian Kings, and he has done in-depth research on Old Norse manuscripts. Since 1985 he has been curator for runes and runic inscriptions at the University Museum of National Antiquities in Oslo (now the Museum of Cultural History, Archaeological Section), where he oversees the Runic Archives for Norway. He has published and lectured extensively on Viking and medieval Norway, and has led several excursions in Norway for historical scholars and interested laymen.

Travelling in the company of James E. Knirk, professor of Old Norse and Runology at the University of Oslo, we embark on a journey of discovery that will bring to life some of that tradition and history.

Beginning in the Norwegian capital of Oslo we start by visiting the Museums of Cultural History, the Viking Ship Museum, the medieval Ruins Park in the Old Town of Oslo and the stave church at the Norwegian Folk Museum. Then we journey by train across the roof of Norway to the early medieval capital of Trondheim, home to the magnificent Nidaros Cathedral, which was built on the site of St Olav's grave, before flying on to Bodø, where we board ship and sail to the beautiful Lofoten Islands.

Basing ourselves in Svolvær we will explore the sites and remains of the Vikings in their vibrant outpost north of the Arctic Circle, before sailing south, towards Bergen, the high medieval capital of Norway.

The relaxed ambience of our journey south gives us plenty of time to enjoy the onboard lectures and dramatic landscape as we pass through some of the most unspoilt and dramatic landscape on earth towards our journeys end.

Valid from 1 January to 31 December 2006  
Amended on: (23 September 2005)

Call Blue Water Holidays on **01756 706510**



## Voyage Itinerary

### 12 days / 11 nights

**Day 1** Flying into Oslo today we transfer to our hotel for our two night stay in the Norwegian capital. Founded around 1048AD the city is the oldest in Scandinavia, and certainly one of the most charming, surrounded, as it is by vast forests and water. We will have plenty of time to relax and enjoy this vibrant city and there should be free time this afternoon to explore a little.

2 nights – Hotel Continental  
★★★★ (Bed and breakfast)

This hotel has the accolade of being one of the 'Leading Hotels of the World'.

**Day 2** A full day in the city gives us the chance to visit some of Oslo's historical museums. We intend to start at the Historical Museum, with its excellent Viking exhibit, containing an impressive collection of artifacts, including 12th and 13th century gate posts, weapons and clothing. There is also a superb 13th century vaulted room from Gol. Moving on we then visit the Viking Ship Museum, where we will have the opportunity to see three wonderfully preserved Viking ships from the 9th century. Recovered from ritual burial mounds the ships give us an intimate insight into the lives of the Viking aristocracy and the Oseberg, the most impressive of the trio, is a superb example of Viking artistry. Our third visit today will be to the Norwegian Folk Museum, which contains an excellent assortment of artifacts and buildings, located both within the museum itself and in a large open-air display. We will return to the hotel from here for our final night in Oslo.

**Day 3** Leaving Oslo behind today, we take a train to Trondheim, Norway's former capital, standing proud against

the natural backdrop of its dramatic setting. Checking into our hotel we will then have the rest of the day to have a look around at this attractive city. Norway's first capital, between 997 and 1380, it was here that the new kings of Norway receive their ceremonial blessing.

2 nights – Britannia Hotel  
★★★★ (Bed and breakfast)

**Day 4** Trondheim's colourful history is reflected in the handsome civic architecture of the city. Rebuilt in the 17th century, this cosmopolitan city boasts wide streets lined with brightly coloured houses and gabled warehouses. Once a major focus of political and religious power, the old Norse parliament met here and its magnificent cathedral was once an important centre of pilgrimage. Today we explore more of this magnificent city. A visit to the medieval Nidaros Cathedral, dedicated to the Viking king (and later saint) Olaf, is a highlight of any tour. Trondheim's streets are full of museums, churches and archeological sites making this city's heritage and traditions so easily accessible. Perhaps you might like to just stroll through the pleasant streets and enjoy the feel of this lovely city.

**Day 5** This morning we fly north, to Bodø, to join our ship, the MS Finnmarken, to begin our voyage above the Arctic Circle. With its back to a magnificent mountain landscape, Bodø boast an impressive setting. Unfortunately it was, like so many towns in northern Norway, destroyed during the Second World War. Rising from the post war ashes though the town went on to become a thriving commercial centre. Joining the boat this afternoon we set sail for Svolvær, the capital of the glorious Lofoten Islands, a glorious chain of mountainous islands, some of the oldest in the world, which are riddled with breathtaking fjords and colonies of seabirds. On arrival in Svolvær we will transfer to our hotel.

3 nights – Svinoya Rorbuer Cabins  
★★★ Half board included

**Days 6 – 8** In Svolvær We have three days here to enjoy the dramatic scenery and relax amidst the temperate climate of what is one of the prime centres of the northern fishing industry. Many of the fisherman's cabins are built on stilts along the waterfront in the small settlements here and those who wish to venture farther afield might like to try taking a trip out to the picturesque villages of Kabelvag and Henningsvæ. A visit is included to the Viking Museum at Borg on day 7, you may also opt for an excursion to Trollfjord, one of Norway's narrowest and most spectacular fjords, whose sheer walls seem almost close enough to touch. This was the site of a famous battle between local fishermen and wealthy ship owners in 1890. The intriguing Magic Ice gallery of 'art below zero', back in Svolvær, is on the quayside and well worth a look. On the evening of our final day we will embark on the MS Kong Harald for our voyage south, towards Bergen.

**Days 9 & 10** Sailing south to Bergen

Returning southward the ship hugs the coast as it visits the remote settlements it continues to serve, more than a century after the Hurtigruten was created to provide a vital link with the rest of country, giving us the opportunity to see Norway as the Norwegians see it. As the ship sails past the famed peaks of the Seven Sisters mountain range, folklore merges with the facts of nature - look out for Torghatten, which still bears the hole made by Hestmannen's arrow in one of Norway's popular legends. The award-winning new museum at Rørvik celebrates the important part the sea has played in defining today's Norway. The voyage continues out of the Trondheimsfjord, past Hitra Island, to make brief calls at Kristiansund and Molde, famed for its fabulous gardens and set amidst magnificent mountain scenery,



before the midnight call at Ålesund, built in the Art Nouveau style of the early 20th century, and venue of our last night at sea.

**Day 11** The landscape becomes increasingly lush as the journey weaves through the islets and beautiful Bergen comes into view again. Before long it's time to say good-bye to the ship and "på gjensyn" ('until we meet again') to friends made among fellow passengers and crew. Disembarking we will transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay in Bergen. The second largest city in Norway, Bergen lies on the south-west coast, between the 'seven mountains' of Norwegian folklore. Founded in 1070, the city today features on the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites. With a charming medieval feel, ancient churches, a funicular railway and a beautiful location, Bergen is an ideal end to our voyage.

1 night – Hotel Norge  
 ★★ ★★ (Bed and breakfast)

**Day 12** Transfer to the airport for the flight back to the UK.

## General Information

### Flights

Fly to Oslo, return from Bergen, via Oslo before return flight to UK.

### Tipping

Unlike many cruise companies, Norwegian Coastal Voyages has a non-tipping policy on all ships. However, if you feel that individual crew members should be rewarded for providing exceptional service, this is entirely at your discretion and is by no means obligatory

### Money

Norwegian currency is used. Travellers cheques and most currencies can also be exchanged on board. Visa, American Express, Master Card and Diners Card are all accepted as means of payment.

### Climate

The best time to visit is between May and September. Along the coast the Gulf Stream keeps the temperatures warmer than inland Norway, with summer temperatures reaching the low 20s °C and winter hovering just above zero. Rain can be expected year round along the coast. In the north the sun does not set between mid May and late July and even southern Norway has extended daylight hours.

### Visas

British citizens do not require visas to enter Norway. The majority of other visitors can enter without a visa if their stay is for less than three months, but you should check with your local embassy or consulate to confirm this.

### Luggage

Most airlines specify a total allowance of 44lbs/20kgs, so don't overload



yourself. You may want to bring a small rucksack for excursions as well.

### On Board Prices

The voyage includes breakfast and dinner, with coffee/tea after lunch and dinner. Beverages and other refreshments during the day are not included. Below you'll find a list of sample prices of some items available. Prices are in pound sterling. Please note that the prices shown are approximate only and based on the latest information available to us.

#### Café

|                     |               |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Tea:.....           | £1.60         |
| Coffee:.....        | £1.80         |
| Bottled water:..... | £1.50 – £2.20 |
| Fruit juice:.....   | £2.00         |

#### Bar/Dining room

|                                 |                 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Draught beer (0,4 litres).....  | £4.50           |
| Bottled beer (0,33 litres)..... | £3.50           |
| Glass of wine:.....             | £5.50           |
| Bottle .....                    | £22.00 – £45.00 |
| 1/2 bottle.....                 | £20.00 – £22.00 |

### Clothing

Good wind/water-proofs may be useful at any time of the year, as is a warm fleece

for chilly evenings. Our life onboard ship is a fairly relaxed affair, so there is no need to pack anything too formal. Comfortable clothing is more important for relaxing in, although you may wish to pack a smart set of clothes for the final meal. During the day, and for our on-shore excursions, clothing which can be layered is best.

Comfortable boots or shoes, with a rubber sole and good support, are essential for our excursions and you may also wish to bring something to relax in of an evening.

### Equipment

A good set of binoculars is essential, as is sufficient film for your camera and spare batteries (as a general rule of thumb, bring double what you think you will need). Don't forget sunscreen, insect repellent and good quality sunglasses, as even in the cooler northern climates the sun can still be a major factor in your trip. An alarm clock may also be useful, as will be waterproof bags to protect your camera equipment and binoculars.

Do not forget adequate supplies of any prescription medicine you may need. Should you feel it necessary you may also want to bring something for seasickness.