

SANDEFJORD

Although a new destination for cruise ships, Sandefjord has a rich history of shipping and shipbuilding. The area was already popular in the Viking era, when the water level of the Oslo Fjord was around 6ft higher than it is today. The extensive collection of artefacts excavated from the nearby Gokstadhaugen burial mound in 1880, count amongst Norway's most significant Viking discoveries and are exhibited in the Viking Ship Museum in Oslo. Sandefjord found popularity in the late 1830s as a health spa thanks to the water from the sulphur well which was reputed to help cure rheumatism and other ailments. The health baths closed with the onset of the Second World War but the original building is still located in the centre of town adjacent to the Tourist Information Office. With the establishment of Sandefjord as a market town in 1845 a period of rapid growth and prosperity followed. The number of ship owners increased, as did the shipments of timber and other goods, and boats from Sandefjord went whaling and sealing in the Arctic Ocean. The whale trade expanded rapidly during the first half of the 20th Century and reached its climax in the 1950's by which time more than 2,800 local men were employed as whalers. Today, memories from this important period in the town's history are kept alive at the Whaling Museum and in the restored whaler 'Southern Actor' which is docked at the museum quay.

FACTFILE

Population: 42,500 (approximate) • **Language:** Norwegian • **Currency:** Norwegian Kroner

Time difference: UK+1 • **Climate:** Temperate with frequent rain

Ship berths at: Framnes or Thoroya Pier

Distance from centre: One Mile

Distance from gangway to coach: Less than 100 yards

USEFUL INFORMATION

Shopping: The main shopping streets are Jernbanealléen, Storgata, Kongensgate and Hvaltorvet Shopping Centre.

Shop opening hours: The shops are open Monday-Friday 0900-1700, Saturday 1000-1600 with shops in Hvaltorvet Shopping Centre staying open until 2000 Monday-Friday and until 1800 on Saturday.

Post Office: Sandefjord Postkontor is located at Jernbanealléen 13 and is open Monday-Friday 0830-1700, Saturday 1000-1430. Postcards and stamps can be purchased at the Tourist Office.

Banks: Sparebank 1 is located in Jernbanealléen 23-25 and is open Monday-Friday 0900-1500 only. There are also several ATMs located around the town and in the shopping centre.

Tourist office: Located in Kurbadet at Thor Dahsgate 7 and open from 0900-1730 when a cruise ship is in port

How to phone home: Dial 0044 followed by the STD code (omitting the first 0) and then the number

Emergency services: Dial 113 for an ambulance, 112 for the police and 110 for the first service



NEW

A Day in Oslo

Sculpture, skiing, and the Vikings all combine on this excursion to provide an insight into Norway's capital city. After a journey of approximately one and a half hours your sightseeing tour of Oslo will commence with a drive past the Akershus Fortress, Parliament building, Royal Palace and Nobel Institute to arrive at the Vigeland Sculpture Park. This park covers 80 acres and is home to 212 sculptures, all modelled by Gustav Vigeland who also designed the layout. Central is the Monolith, carved from a single granite block and depicting 121 figures emblematic of man's spiritual search, while the 329-foot-long bridge is lined with 58 bronze sculptures illustrating human relationships. Together with your guide, discover the fountain, wheel of life and other sculptures before rejoining your coach at the other side of the park. Travel on through the residential areas of Oslo to Holmenkollen ski jump, location of the first ever ski jump, built in 1892 and reconstructed in 2010. Lunch will be served at a local hotel. Afterwards, continue to the Bygdøy peninsula to visit the Viking Ship Museum, housing three Viking longboats and containing two of the world's best-preserved 9th-century ships, together with other finds such as implements, tools and harnesses excavated from Viking tombs around the Oslo fjord. During the return journey to Sandefjord, a stop will be made at Gokstadhaugen, the site where one of the Viking longboats seen in the museum, was excavated in 1880.



DURATION 8 HOURS

There is approximately 500 yards of walking involved in the optional guided walk through the Vigeland Sculpture Park, with 20-30 discretionary steps to the Monolith. There are steps up to the viewing galleries in the Viking Ships Museum. The Viewpoint in Holmenkollen is approximately 25 yards from where the coach stops. Please advise the Shore Excursion Manager of any dietary requests 48 hours prior to arrival. The running order of this tour order is subject to change. For details of prices and which excursions can be taken together, please refer to your booking form.

NEW

Telemark Canal Cruise

Enjoy a nostalgic cruise on the historic Telemark Canal, just as people have been doing for over a century. Board your coach for the one and a half hour journey through the Vestfold countryside in to the neighbouring county of Telemark and ultimately to the canal locks at either Vrangfoss or Ulefoss. Then embark one of the three veteran canal boats that regularly traverse the 65 mile long canal for one of the nicest stretches between Vrangfoss and Ulefoss. During your hour long cruise, the canal boat will slowly pass through seven of the 18 lock chambers, all of which are still operated manually, rising or descending some 144 feet in the process. For centuries, the waterways of Telemark have been a necessary source of power and energy which formed the basis of industry in the county and contributed to the industrial development and welfare in Norway. Having been etched out through the mountains by hand, the canal was known as 'the eighth wonder of the world' when it was first completed in 1892 and provided an important transport route between upper and lower Telemark for people, domestic animals, goods and timber. No longer the fast link that it once was, nowadays it is mainly tourists who appreciate its uniqueness. So sit back and absorb the changing scenery as you sail sedately along whilst enjoying a cup of tea or coffee and a waffle. After disembarking the canal boat you will reboard your coach for the return journey to Sandefjord, driving through the towns of Porsgrunn, which was once considered the cultural centre of Norway and Skien, one of Norway's oldest towns and birthplace of poet and playwright Henrik Ibsen and the polar explorer Hjalmar Johansen.



LIMITED AVAILABILITY DURATION 4½ HOURS

Whilst walking is limited to less than 200 yards, to access the main seating areas on board the canal boat will involve climbing a staircase of approximately 12 steps as there is only minimal outside seating available on the top deck where passengers embark. For details of prices and which excursions can be taken together, please refer to your booking form.



Restored veteran whaler 'Southern Actor'



Sandefjord's Whaling Legacy

Learn more about the history of whaling and the industry which for more than a century played such an important role in shaping Sandefjord's economy. Your first stop on this informative tour will be at the Whaling Museum, the only of its kind in Europe, specialising in whales and the history of whaling. See the wide array of animals and bird life from the Arctic and Antarctic regions as well as a full size model of a blue whale. With the help of the many exhibits and photos, your guide will explain about the extreme conditions and the unusual working conditions encountered by those employed in the industry. A short drive away is Midtåsen, the former home of shipping magnate and philanthropist Anders Jahre, who was engaged in pelagic whaling. Built in the 1930s by renowned architect Arnstein Arneberg the villa and 15 acre estate provides a fantastic view over the town and fjord. Enjoy time here to wander in the sculpture park and explore the pavilion where 16 works by the artist Knut Steen can be admired. Returning to the city centre, you will pass the whaling fountain monument en route to the veteran whale catcher 'Southern Actor'. Built in Middlesbrough the vessel was operated by the Edinburgh based company Christian Salvesen, whaling in the Antarctic until 1962. Discovered in a Spanish scrapyard in 1989 it has since been restored and today is kept in full working order by volunteers from the Whaler's Association. Take a tour of the boat and learn more about what life would have been like for the 17 men who worked on board for eight or nine months at a time.



DURATION 3½ HOURS

Walking on this excursion will not exceed 200 yards at each stop however, there are two stone spiral staircases to negotiate at the Whaling Museum as well as a number of steps and thresholds on board the boat. For details of prices and which excursions can be taken together, please refer to your booking form.

The Sculpture Collection is housed in an outdoor pavilion



Sandefjord & Coastal Panoramic

On this leisurely scenic coach tour you will have the opportunity to see a selection of the main attractions in Sandefjord and visit the pretty coastal town of Stavern. Starting from the quayside you will travel through what was once the busy Framnes Shipyard where more than 200 boats were built before its decline in 1986, amongst them Shackleton's Endurance in 1912. In the town centre you will see the 19th Century red wooden buildings that up until 1939 accommodated wealthy patrons of the renowned health spa. The building is one of the largest wooden buildings in Scandinavia and is now a museum and home to the Tourist Office. Close by is the large fountain and whaling monument, commemorating the trade which played such an important part in the town's history and prosperity. At the harbour you can see a good example of an old whaling vessel, the 'Southern Actor' before driving to Midtåsen, the former home of shipping magnate and philanthropist Anders Jahre. Set in splendid grounds on an elevated position overlooking Sandefjord you will have the opportunity to explore the estate a little and admire the sculpture collection housed in the outdoor pavilion. Leaving Sandefjord you will then travel south to the pretty coastal town of Stavern, where after taking refreshments in a local hotel you can enjoy some free time to explore the 17th Century naval fortress, or some of the many galleries to be found here. During the return journey a photo stop will be made at Kaupang, site of an important trading centre in Viking times and what is thought to have been Norway's first town.



LIMITED AVAILABILITY

DURATION 4½ HOURS

Essential walking on this excursion is limited to less than 100 yards at each stop over flat paved surfaces with more walking at your own discretion. For details of prices and which excursions can be taken together, please refer to your booking form.

The Vermork Hydropower Museum is perched on the hillside above Rjukan.

NEW

The Heroes of Telemark

A must for all those keen to learn more about the acts of the courageous S.O.E. trained Norwegian commandoes and resistance fighters who successfully prevented Hitler getting the heavy water needed to produce a nuclear bomb during WWII. This full day tour starts with a two hour coach ride through a mixture of urban and rural landscapes as you travel from Vestfold in to the neighbouring county of Telemark. Shortly after passing Lake Heddal you will stop at Norway's largest stave church. Constructed in the beginning of the 13th century this medieval triple nave church is an architectural masterpiece and is still in regular use today. No doubt as well as explaining about its true history, your guide will also recite the legend of how it was built in just three days. During the next hour's drive, you will follow the banks of Lake Tinn where the ferry SF Hydro was sunk in 1944 whilst transporting a large quantity of heavy water destined for Germany. As you approach Rjukan the scenery becomes more mountainous and Vermork Hydroelectric Powerplant Museum comes in to view, perched high on the hillside. A shuttle bus will transport you from the coach park up to the museum. During your visit your guide will explain more about the history of the power plant, which at the time it was built in 1911, was the world's largest, and the production of heavy water. You will also have the opportunity to watch a film and hear more about the heroic acts which lead to Operation Gunnerside being regarded as the Secret Operations Executive's most successful act of sabotage during the Second World War. The three hour journey back to Sandefjord will follow a slightly different route through more scenic rural landscapes.



DURATION 9¼ HOURS

Total walking on this excursion is limited to a maximum of 300 yards but the guided tour of the museum will involve standing for around 30 minutes and climbing 10 low steps. You will also encounter a few steps and some high thresholds at the stave church. A packed lunch will be provided by the ship for you to eat in the coach as timings do not allow for a restaurant stop however additional refreshments will also be available in the museum café. **For details of prices and which excursions can be taken together, please refer to your booking form.**

