



HOME OF THE VIKINGS – A LOOK INTO THE PAST



Photo Ian Brodie

Photo: Ian Brodie. From the burial mound at Hundorp, the Millennium Site in Oppland (now Innlandet), Dale-Gudbrand's farm.

This journey oozes history and gives room for reflection and replenishment of knowledge. We walk parts of the historic pilgrimage trail between Oslo and Trondheim and visit sites of great historic importance, and you will enjoy the food and cultural experience along the trail. You experience a beautiful and varied nature from forests and agricultural landscapes to mighty high mountain nature and among other things cultural monuments such as tombs, historically important places, beautiful churches, and preserved buildings from the Middle Ages.

Day 1

After arriving in Oslo, we head for today's destination. We visit Bønsnes church at Røyse, a medieval church. Here is a monument in memory of St. Olav. Some believe he was raised here at Bønsnes, while others believe it was on Stein farm in the same area. It is possible to add visits to Stein farm and Norderhov today. Lunch in venerable premises at Hadeland Glassverk. We walk a short stretch of the pilgrim route, towards the Sister Churches and today's destination as a nice end to the day. Our final stop for today is Granavolden Gjæstgiveri. This hotel is beautifully situated on a hill in the middle of Hadeland's historic landscape. As its nearest neighbour, we find Søsterkirkene (The sister churches) and Granavollen pilgrim centre.

Day 2

A day of historical buzz. In the pilgrim's footsteps, we set course for Gudbrandsdalen. We arrive at Fåvang and get a local guide on our 2 hours hike along the pilgrimage route. Along the route there are several art installations, and we also pass the viewpoint Høgkleiva, where there is a beautiful view to the river Lågen and Gudbrandsdalen valley. We end the walk at Ringebu Stave Church. Guided tour of the church. We spend the night on historical grounds, at Dale-Gudbrands Gard. Time for reflection and enjoy the tranquillity in the hotel's large outdoor area. Few Norwegian farms have as rich cultural history as Dale-Gudbrands Gard. Since the Viking era, this has been a gathering place for powerful meetings and major events. The first major meeting on the farm took place in the year 1021 and was between St. Olav and the farm owner Dale-Gudbrand. The meeting is described in Heimskringla by



Snorre Sturlason and ended with Torsbildet being shattered, and the introduction of Christianity started in Gudbrandsdalen.

Day 3

We travel through the valley to the Dovrefjell mountains. Hiking along the pilgrim trail from Hjerkinn to Kongsvold Fjeldstue. This is a long day trip, 11.8 km. We have packed the backpack and have brought a good lunch. We start the hike at Eystein church on Hjerkinn. Upon arrival at Kongsvold we are welcomed in a beautiful yard surrounded by historic buildings. At Kongsvold, the oldest buildings date from the 1720s. Dinner and overnight stay.

Day 4

You wake up to a beautiful view of Dovrefjell's mighty mountain massif. Today you spend your day just as you please. We plan a guided musk ox safari, an exciting and unique experience for Kongsvold's guests. Experienced musk guides will take you on an unforgettable tour of the musk oxen's own territory.

Day 5

The journey continues south through Follaldalen and across Ringebufjellet mountains in scenic surroundings. We visit Maihaugen, Norway's largest open-air museum outside Oslo. Lunch. We check in at Wood Hotel by Frich's, newly opened in 2019. The hotel is the world's tallest wooden building with 18 floors. In beautiful surroundings by the shores of Lake Mjøsa, you wake up refreshed and ready for more great experiences.

Day 6

Today we start at Atlungstad Distillery in Stange Vestbygd, which is Norway's oldest distillery in operation and give you the history of this Norwegian distillery back to 1855. Guided tour. We walk from Atlungstad to Hamar and follow the trail along Lake Mjøsa all the way to the medieval ruins at Domkirkeodden. A tour with the singing guides is highly recommended. Hamar was the only inland town in medieval Norway, and an important stop for pilgrims.

Day 7

You wake up refreshed and happy after days with memorable experiences. From Wood hotel by Frich's we go to Oslo Airport Gardermoen for the final travel back home.

FACTS

Duration: 7 days – 6 nights

Hotels: Granavolden Gjestgiveri
Dale-Gudbrands gard
Kongsvold Fjeldstue
Wood hotell by Frich's

The tour includes:

- Transportation in comfy tour bus/coach,
- 6 nights in double room incl. breakfast
- 6 dinners
- 5 (or 6) lunches depending on arrival/departure.
- Entrance to attractions mentioned.

Additional costs:

- Single room
- Flights