



Norwegian history and Norwegian traditions



Photo: Anne Marte Før/Valdres Folkemuseum

Get to know Norwegian traditions and Norwegian history, from Eidsvoll Manor, one of Norway's most important national symbols, the place where the Norwegian constitution was drawn and signed in 1814, to weather-beaten timber walls, stave churches, medieval history, mountain areas and national scenic routes. The mountains in Dovre have for a long time had an important position in Norway's national consciousness where Dovrefjell represents the eternal, safe and unchanging. A journey through history and traditions combined with fantastic landscapes, nature experiences and local tastes from the various regions, gives lasting memories and a wish to experiences more of these hidden gems.

Day 1

We travel northwards to the Hamar region approx. 1 hour from the airport. Our first stop is after just a few minutes, at the Eidsvoll Manor. Tour. The year 1814 is the most dramatic year in Norwegian history. From being part of an autocracy with a capital in Copenhagen, Norway was an independent state for a few months in the summer, then entering a political union with Sweden before the year was over. Despite war, the events of 1814, created lasting peace and stability in the Nordic countries and internal self-government in Norway. The most important document that ensured Norwegian independence and democratic development was the constitution "grunnloven" that was created at Eidsvoll.

In Hamar we visit Domkirkeodden and the Norwegian Railway Museum. Both museums tell an important part of Norwegian history. At Domkirkeodden the ruins of the medieval cathedral and the Bishops palace and remind us of a bygone era where Hamar was an important meeting place. Today, both buildings have unique architecture that has created a new life and new function. Guided tour of the museum. Those who went to Mass in the cathedral in Hamarkaupangen in the Middle Ages were greeted by Gregorian chant. This experience is recreated and is an unforgettable experience if you ask for a tour where music-trained guides tell the history of the place. Just a few minutes' walk along the



shores of lake Mjøsa, you reach the Norwegian railway museum, giving you the history of Norwegian railways in Norway and its role in the development of the Norwegian society. Exciting exhibitions and large outdoor area. We stay at Wood Hotel by Frich's. Dinner at det hotel.

Day 2

A beautiful morning drive alongside Lake Mjøsa, to the city of Lillehammer. We visit Maihaugen, Norway's largest open-air museum outside of Oslo. Further up Gudbrandsdalen in scenic surroundings, we stop at Ringebu Stave Church which rests like a cultural gem in the hillside, in one of Gudbrandsdalen's finest cultural heritage areas. Ringebu Stave Church is from the 13th century and is one of the largest of the 28 remaining stave churches in Norway. Dinner and overnight at historic Dale-Gudbrand farm. We get an insight into the farm's history. Since Viking times, 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 Sturlasson and ended with "Torsbildet" being shattered, and the introduction of Christianity started in Gudbrandsdalen. In 2021, it is the 1000th anniversary of this battle.

Day 3

We spend the day in the mountain areas. We drive through Rondane on the beautiful the national tourist route. We travel through well-preserved cultural landscape that tells the story of human settlement in barren areas since the Stone Age. In 1962, Rondane was the first national park to be established in Norway. Thus, the roads in the mountains became important for more than ranching, agriculture, and transportation. We stop at the meandering Sohlberg-viewpoint by Atnsjøen. The atmosphere in Harald Sohlberg's famous painting "Winter-night in the Mountains" from 1914 is magical. The architect wanted to recreate this atmosphere, and from the viewpoint you see the view towards Rondane from the same angle as in the painting. We stop at Follidal Mines and get a unique insight into Norway's most important technical industrial cultural monuments, with about 70 well-preserved buildings. The mining industry here was in operation from 1748 to 1993 and supplied copper, zinc, and sulphur. Kongsvold Fjeldstue is our accommodation for the night. Dinner in the hotel.

Day 4

You wake up to a beautiful view of Dovrefjell's mighty mountain massif. Maybe you are lucky and get to experience the musk ox? The trip goes from Kongsvold and south to Valdres. We drive the national tourist route Valdresflye and get a powerful view of Jotunheimen's wild mountain peaks. Lunch on unique Flya 1389. At Fagernes we visit Valdres Folk Museum. Guided tour of the open-air museum and the exhibitions on national costumes and folk music. Overnight stay and dinner at Gomobu Fjellstue.

Day 5

From Valdres, we continue to Gjøvik and Hadeland. Did you know that Vikings sailed on Lake Mjøsa? Or that Stone Age people hunted elk along the beaches? Lake Mjøsa is Norway's largest source of drinking water - did you know that Lake Mjøsa was so polluted in the 1970s that it was not possible to swim here? Mjøsa's ark is a time travel through 8000 years, where you will find real Viking swords, real rock carvings and real environmental commitment! At Hadeland we spend the night at Granavolden Gjæstgiveri which is located on a hill in idyllic historical landscape. The nearest neighbour to the hotel is the Sister Churches, and we get to hear this exciting story before we sit down for a delicious dinner.

Day 6

Today's historical excursion follows in the footsteps of St. Olav. We visit Bønsnes church in Røyse, a medieval church, with a monument in memory of St. Olav. Some believe he grew up here on Bønsnes, while others believe it was on Stein farm a few kms away, which is also a historically interesting site for us to visit.

We round off the day with a visit to Norderhov old rectory, and the Ringerike Museum with various exhibitions. Norderhov, or the old Njardarhov, the court of the god Njord, the pagan and Christian Middle Ages meet. Norderhov is one of several examples of a church being built near the old place of worship. It is estimated that Norderhov church was built at the end of the 12th century.



Day 7

You wake up refreshed and joyful after days with memorable experiences. From Granavolden Gjestgiveri it is just a short drive to Oslo Airport Gardermoen for the return travel to your country.

FACTS

Duration: 7 days – 6 nights

Hotels: Wood hotel by Frich's
Dale-Gudbrands gard
Kongsvold Fjeldstue
Gomobu Fjellstue
Granavolden Gjestgiveri

The tour includes:

- Transportation in comfy tour bus/coach,
- 6 nights in double room incl. breakfast
- 6 dinners
- 6 (or 7) lunches depending on arrival/departure.
- Entrance to attractions mentioned.

Additional costs:

- Single room
- Flights