

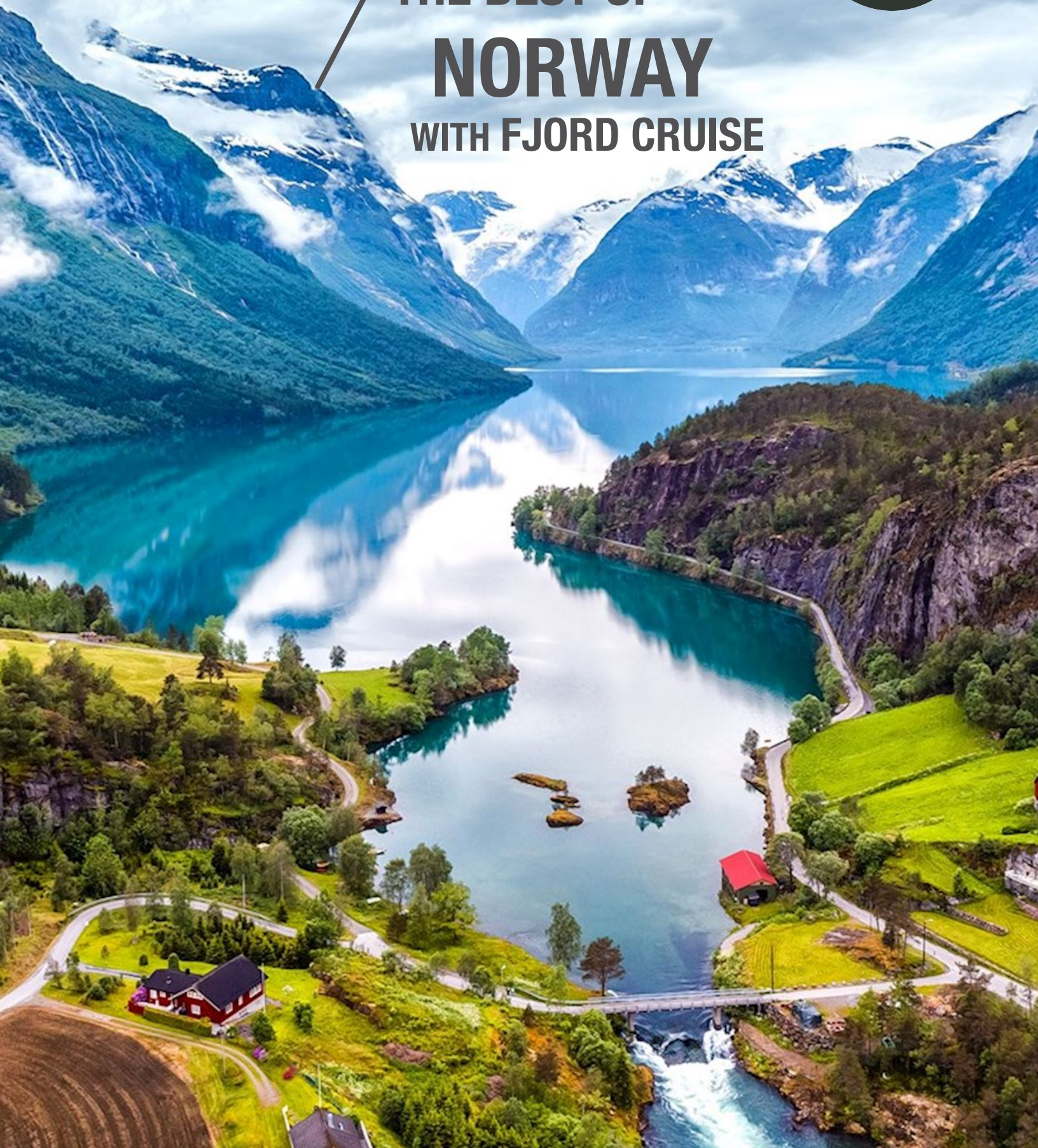
**MAY 14 - 24
2024**

THE BEST OF

NORWAY

WITH FJORD CRUISE

St. Cecilia
TOURS



Dearest friends,

People began settling in Norway very early - in 9000 BC, in fact. This was after the end of the first ice age, so it was now an inhabitable location. Settlers survived by hunting and fishing animals such as seal, deer, elk and whales. Farming didn't become prominent until 500 BC, which was known as the bronze age. This time period got its name from the various weapons and jewelry created.

The famous Vikings are a big part of Norway's history. The Viking Age was from 800 AD to 1050 AD, and during this time, the Vikings raided various places including Ireland, France, England and Scotland, traveling by extremely fast ocean-going ships they created. These people are known largely for being ruthless fighters, but this wasn't their only claim to fame. Their other talents included craftsmanship, trading and administrating. They actually made some beautiful jewelry that is still around to this day. All of these skills combined is what made them such great warriors. The Vikings ended up founding a few different cities, including Normandy and Dublin. However, the Viking Age ended when Harald Hardrada unsuccessfully attempted to conquer England in 1066.

When you travel through Norway, you will have a chance to see some of this country's stave churches, which are an integral piece of Norway's architectural heritage. These churches were built during the Middle Ages and are made of wood, rather than the traditional stone churches that were being built throughout other parts of Europe. The woodwork was, and still is, extremely intricate and richly decorated with animal motifs such as doves, dragons, centaurs and elk.

Norway didn't achieve full independence until 1905 when Haakon VII was crowned the King of Norway. Before then, the country was a dependency under Denmark until 1814, then it entered into a new union with Sweden. Not shortly after Norway's official independence, women were given the right to vote in local elections in 1907, then in national elections in 1913. We will have the unique opportunity to be a part of Norway's celebration of independence on May 17, by the royal palace in Oslo. Please join us on this adventure!

TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2024

DAY 1 - DEPARTURE: We depart from Appleton or your airport of choice to Gardermoen Oslo Airport, Norway. Meals and beverages are served on board our international flights.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15

DAY 2 - ARRIVE OSLO: Upon our arrival in Oslo, we meet our St. Cecilia Tour host who accompanies us throughout our time in Norway. We board a state of the art tourist coach and travel to the Karl Johan Hotel, which is located in the heart of Oslo, next to the Royal Palace. We meet at the bar of our hotel and have a welcome toast, followed by a brief informational meeting. Enjoy the afternoon at your leisure. [L]

THURSDAY, MAY 16

DAY 3 - VIKING MUSEUM AND FOLKEMUSEUM: Enjoy a delightful breakfast at our hotel, which is included every day of our tour. We hit the ground running and transfer to the museum district, where we will pay a visit to the Viking Museum and Folkemuseet, which showcases the history and infrastructure of Norway through the ages. Lunch is served in between the two museum visits. We return to our hotel where you can relax and enjoy the festivities as the locals prepare to celebrate their National Day, tomorrow morning. We have the privilege of front row seats to witness the festivities from the comfort of our hotel. We recommend the jazz bar/restaurant next to our hotel. Enjoy the evening at your leisure. [B]





FRIDAY, MAY 17

DAY 4 - NATIONAL DAY IN OSLO: We begin our day with the sound of children parading and celebrating outside of our hotel. Numerous marching bands will play traditional Norwegian marches, culminating with the celebrated Norwegian King's Guard, who will conclude the festivity of the parade. The food and the sights in Oslo will be epic, and this is truly a unique day to experience in Oslo. [B]

SATURDAY, MAY 18

DAY 5 - OSLO TO BERGEN: We travel from Oslo to Bergen by a relaxing train ride, and enjoy the stunning views of nature along our journey. Bergen was founded by the Vikings, and soon after became a Hanseatic trade town. The historic wharf and old town is now a romantic area dotted with restaurants, and bars overlooking the water. Our charming hotel is also in this area where we enjoy easy walking distance to many sites and attractions. Dinner will be served at a local restaurant this evening. [B,D]

SUNDAY, MAY 19

DAY 6 - BERGEN: This morning, we will attend a church service at the Bergen Domkirke. After church, we take time for lunch before we travel to Troidhaugen to visit the home of Edvard Grieg. The afternoon is at your leisure. [B]

MONDAY, MAY 20

DAY 7 - FJORD CRUISE: Before boarding our cruise, we meet our coastal expert team who will share information, and offer excursion options for the next two days. Once aboard, enjoy the first of many delicious meals made from fresh coastal produce as we depart Bergen and sail the old Viking route along the Hjeltefjord. [B,L,D]

TUESDAY, MAY 21

DAY 8 - ÅLESUND AND GEIRANGER FJORD: Ålesund is renowned for its beautiful Art Nouveau architecture and Atlanterhavsparken, one of northern Europe's largest saltwater aquariums. We set sail into Geirangerfjorden, pictured on our brochure cover, where we will witness some of the most magnificent scenery in Norway. Once in the fjord, you may see the famous Seven Sisters waterfalls cascading down the cliffs. [B,L,D]

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22

DAY 9 - TRONDHEIM: Our cruise arrives Trondheim this morning, and after disembarking, we head to Nidarosdomen, which is the largest Cathedral in Northern Europe, and founded by the viking king: Olav the Holy. After a tour of the cathedral, we take time for lunch before we check into our hotel, located in the historic downtown area of Trondheim. [B]

THURSDAY, MAY 23

DAY 10 - TRONDHEIM: We begin the day with a guided tour of the Old Town. We see quaint houses, a draw-bridge, and learn of traditional Norwegian customs. The afternoon is free time for you to enjoy this beautiful city at your leisure. We gather in the evening for a celebratory concluding dinner. [B,D]



FRIDAY, MAY 24

DAY 11 - FLIGHT HOME: Our most fabulous tour of Norway must unfortunately come to an end. We head to the Trondheim airport where we will board our flight home. [B]

Your Tour includes

Round-Trip Airfare,
Deluxe Hotels w/Daily Breakfast,
Meals as Outlined in the Itinerary
Fjord Cruise (two nights)
Entrance Tickets to Museum and Venues
Coach & Train Transportation
Flight from US Airport - Oslo, Norway
Itinerary and Venues Subject to Change.

Land Package Only \$4375 pp

(Land pkg includes your cruise from Bergen to Trondheim)

Airfare & Land Package \$5275 pp

Single Supplement \$1795

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