

NORWEGIAN FJORDS

SMITHSONIAN JOURNEYS



This cruise is part of a collection of PONANT voyages that are specially-tailored for English-speaking travelers who want to engage with the world. In addition to the usual elements of the PONANT experience, the listed price for these voyages includes transfers to and from the ship, talks and discussions aboard ship by world class experts, and a shore excursion or activity in each port of call



DATES: 2024 – Jul 20

DURATION: 8 DAYS/7 NIGHTS

EMBARK: BERGEN

DISEMBARK: OSLO

SHIP: LE CHAMPLAIN

FROM: \$8,965

All Inclusive – Port Charges, Open Bar, Gratuities to ship crew, Shore Excursions

Expedition Highlights

- A voyage specially-tailored for English-speaking travelers including discussions with experts, transfers before and after your cruise, and an included excursion in each port of call.
- Engaging discussions onboard with two Smithsonian Journeys Experts.
- UNESCO World Heritage sites en route: Bryggen and Geirangerfjord.
- An exploration of the charming art nouveau town of Alesund.
- Encounters with the magnificent Briksdal Glacier.
- Sailing the Lysefjorden – ‘fjord of light’ – flanked by towering granite cliffs.
- Opportunities to hike in pristine coastal landscapes from Stavanger and Arendal, including in Raet National Park.
- Museums documenting history from the Iron Age through modern times: Iron Age village in Ullandhaug, Næs Ironworks Museum, Volvo Museum, and the Museum of Fine Arts of Gothenburg.

ITINERARY

Day 1: BERGEN

Located at the end of Byfjord, Bergen was the capital of Norway in the 12th and 13th Centuries and has preserved some very beautiful monuments from the time when it was home to royalty. Wandering through Bergen’s streets means going back in time, in search of the hidden treasures that have been listed as World Heritage Sites by UNESCO. A veritable open-air museum, Bergen is home to a thriving artistic community of painters, potters, jewelers. The Bergen cable car offers you a splendid panorama over the port and the surrounding fjords. Do not miss the visit to the old quarter with its narrow streets, a testimony of the power of the hanseatic League that controlled trade in Northern Europe at the end of the Middle Ages.



Day 2: ALESUND

Surrounded by a multitude of islands, fjords and majestic mountains, the town of Ålesund surprises many visitors. In fact, it is internationally renowned for its Art nouveau architecture. After the terrible fire of 1904 which reduced a large part of the town to ashes, Norwegian architects inspired by the Art nouveau style contributed to its reconstruction, with a very picturesque result. Not far from Ålesund, you will also discover Giske, the native island of Rollon, the great Viking leader who commanded the Norse expeditions to Normandy, or the beautiful island of Godoy and the village of Alnes, which offers a grandiose panorama over the Atlantic Ocean and the surrounding islands.

Day 3: GEIRANGER - HELLESYLT

A must-see stopover in Norway, located halfway between Bergen and Trondheim, Geiranger offers the stunning beauty of a natural decor, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site. The splendor of the sheer cliffs, dark rock and crystalline water are the stars of the show here. The sides of the fjord offer many possibilities for hiking: the Eagle’s Road takes you up to a steep stretch offering a gorgeous panoramic view. A visit to Geiranger village will immerse you in the rhythm of life in the little local community.

Hellesylt is a small village located 20 kilometers from the Geiranger site. Here, you’ll get a taste of a traditional Norwegian village. Colorful houses, wooden walkways, rustic stalls where you can have a refreshment before heading off to discover more of the local color. The surroundings are simply magnificent with cliffs, mountains and lakes with peaceful

waters. The village is crossed by a river whose charming cascade tumbles into the fjord waters.

Day 4: OLDEN

With its two wooden churches, one red and the other white, plus its breathtaking view of the mouth of the river Oldeelva, Olden looks just like a picture post card. Located a few kilometers from the Jostedalsglacier park, home to one of the last glacier polar icecaps, this little village is a definite must for exploring the blue languages of the Briksdal or Kjenalen glaciers. Make sure you find some time to visit the Norwegian Glacier Museum. Absolutely amazing. Another gem is lake Lovatn and its turquoise waters inviting you to quiet contemplation.

Day 5: STAVANGER - SAILING IN LYSEFJORDEN

At the far end of the country, stands the harbor town of Stavanger, with its warm, friendly atmosphere. A friendliness you'll notice in the little old town cobbled streets, which has some 170 old wooden houses, as well as in its modern city center, always bustling. You will sail into the heart of one of Norway's most breathtaking fjords, its marvelous décor dominated by pristine nature, between vertiginous granite majestic cliff in the shape of a pulpit that rises to more than 600 meters above the waters. A bit further on, Flørli, from the top of its 4,444 steps, is the world's longest wooden stairway, whereas the Kjerag, with its mythical boulder wedged between two rock faces, provides an unusual and unforgettable spectacle.



Day 6: ARENDAL

This port town located on the south coast of Norway is considered to be the locality with the best climate in the entire country. Arendal was long reputed for its iron mines from which, in the 19th century, it was able to produce a particularly strong earthy iron ore.



Day 7: GÖTEBORG (GOTHENBURG)

A lively harbor town, Göteborg is located on the west coast of Sweden, at the crossing of the Göta älv river and the bay of Cattégat. In the old Haga district, you can peruse hippy-chic fashion boutiques and bohemian cafés in the ground floors of traditional wood houses. On the majestic Gustave-Adolphe square, you'll see elegant neoclassical buildings. Not far from here is the municipal museum dedicated to the town's history. In addition, you will be able to sail along Göteborg's numerous canals. As for eating, it's the fish and shellfish which make the gastronomic reputation of this beautiful stopover.

Day 8: OSLO

Capital of Norway, Oslo, is a green city. Its many parks and gardens make it the reputedly pleasant city it is. The 80 hectares of Vigeland sculpture parks and its 212 open air exhibitions, the Munch Museum dedicated to the life and works of the Norwegian artist Edvard Munch, plus the Akershus fortress which symbolizes Oslo's rich history, are both must-sees. For culture, the national gallery shelters the largest Norwegian collection of paintings, drawings and sculptures open to the public.



DECK PLAN

Le Champlain

GUESTS: 184

RATES – 2024 (Rates subject to change without notice – Book early for best rates.)

| SUITE – | JUL 20 |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Deluxe – Deck 3 | \$8,965 |
| Prestige – Deck 4 | \$9,805 |
| Prestige – Deck 5 | \$10,225 |
| Presitige – Deck 6 | \$10,735 |
| Deluxe Ste – Decks 3-6 | WL |
| Prestige Suite – Dk 5 | \$19,005 |
| Prestige Suite – Dk 6 | \$19,925 |
| Privilege Suite – Dk 5-6 | \$20,845 |
| Grand Deluxe Suite | WL |
| OWNER SUITE | WL |

All inclusive – Gratuities to crew (\$12 PP/PD); all beverages – open bar; Port Charges (\$450); Room Service; Shore Excursions; Wi-Fi.



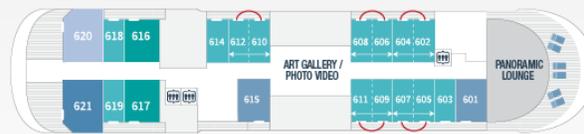
Reservations & Information

1-855-EXPLOR1 (397-5671)

Email - info@explorcruises.com

www.explorcruises.com

DECK 6



DECK 5



DECK 4



DECK 3

