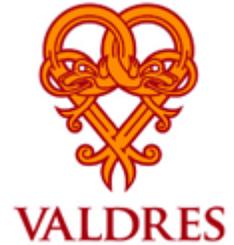


Valdres Samband Stevne, 2019

Exploring Valdres

July 6 – 15, 2019

With post-Stevne tour to Ålesund, the Atlantic Road
& Trondheim



Valdres is a special part of Norway – deep roots of heritage, strong cultural ties to music and art, breathtaking nature, interesting history, and hidden gems waiting to be discovered. If you've attended a Stevne in Norway before, you'll delight in some new activities planned for 2019, as well as enjoying activities of past Stevnes.

If this is your first Norway Stevne, it will be a wonderful smørgåsbord of discoveries! Together, we'll experience the culture, outdoor life, food, music, history and lifestyle of Valdres!

Saturday, July 6 Group #1 departs US

If you have booked the **two-night pre-stevne Oslo package**, you will depart on Icelandair from Minneapolis/St. Paul at 7:30 pm. **Connecting flights can be booked, please indicate this on your booking form.**

Sunday, July 7 Group #1 arrives Oslo/Group #2 departs US

Group #1 arrives in Oslo at 12:20 pm. Transfer to hotel, check in. Remainder of day at leisure. Dinner on own. **Overnight at Hotel Bristol.**

Those who have booked the **one-night pre-stevne Oslo package**, you will depart from the US this evening on Icelandair from Minneapolis/St. Paul at 7:30 pm. **Connecting flights can be booked, please indicate this on your booking form.**

Monday, July 8 Group #2 arrives Oslo B

Group #1 will enjoy breakfast at the hotel, with a full day in Oslo for individual activities. You can choose between a ticket on the **Oslo Hop On/Hop Off tour** guided bus through the city, or an **Oslo Pass** for independent sightseeing which gives you free entrance to museums and sights, free travel on public transportation. The Hop On/Hop Off tour bus will stop at the highlights, allowing the passengers to enjoy the sights at their own pace, and hop back on to go to the next sight. **Overnight at Hotel Bristol.**



Group #2 will arrive Oslo at 12:20 pm, transfer to the hotel and check in. Remainder of day at leisure. Dinner on own. **Overnight at Hotel Bristol.**



Tuesday, July 9 Oslo – Hamar – Fagernes B, L, D

Both groups have breakfast at the hotel, and then everyone will depart by private motor coach to Hamar. We'll embark the historic Skibliadner paddleboat at 11:15 to cross Norway's largest lake, Mjøsa.

We'll arrive Gjøvik at 12:30 pm.



Skibladner

Skibladner was launched on August 2, 1856 – and has been on Lake Mjøsa ever since. Originally an express passenger and goods service from the north to the south of the lake, she is now a cherished tourist attraction and preserved historic vessel operating as a living museum. The world's oldest preserved paddle steamer in timetabled service, with live steam engines, paddle wheels and a speed of 12 knots. "Skibladner" is the pride of Norway's inland, and one of Norway's best-loved tourist attractions. – from Skibladner.no



From Gjøvik we'll stop at stone **Lunde bridge** (built in 1827-29), and the **Etnedal church**. Lunch included enroute.



Check in at our hotel, the **Quality Hotel Fagernes**. Welcome Reception at the hotel, followed by **Valdres buffet dinner featuring local specialties**.

Wednesday, July 10 Ulnes, Vang & Vestre Slidre B, L, D

After breakfast at the hotel, everyone will enjoy a day trip to Ulnes, Vang and Vestre Slidre. Visit **Ulnes Church**, then continue to Vang. See the **Vangssteinen runestone** and have lunch in Vang.

Visit Øye stave church, then the mill houses at Vennis.

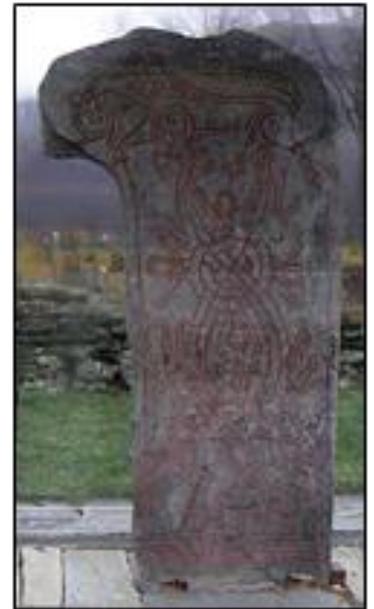
The Mill Houses

At the Leine Waterfall there used to be thirteen water wheels. The big flood in 1860 led to landslides that destroyed both the water wheels and several farms. The mills and the farms were rebuilt, and five of the mill houses are restored. Today they make a nice element of the characteristic cultural landscape at Leine. History tells that King Olav Haraldsson (St Olav) tried to christianize the people of Vang at Leinesanden near by. - Norsk Kulturarv



Lomen Stave Church/John Erling Blad

Possible visits to the Høre and/or Lomen stave church. BBQ dinner at the hotel.



Vang Runestone/John Erling Blad

Thursday, July 11 Pilgrim Walk / Valdres Folk Museum / Genealogy B, D

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel.

This morning join local Samband member Jahn Børe Jahnsen for a guided Pilgrimage walk from Leira to Fagernes along the lake (4km, easy to walk). Learn more about the history of Fagernes, as well.

The remainder of the day is at leisure to visit the **Valdres Folk Museum** independently. **Genealogists** will be available to assist those interested in doing research (Please note this on your booking form if you would like to meet with a genealogist).

The **Jørn Hilme Stevnet** is taking place while we are in Fagernes. This annual music festival features traditional folk music and has a variety of musical events taking place. Jørn Hilme, who lived in Ulnes, was Valdres' most famous fiddler, and is the "father" of the traditional Hardanger fiddle technique unique to this area.

We'll have the opportunity to participate in musical events this afternoon and evening at the music festival, which takes place at the Folk Museum.
Dinner at the hotel.



Friday, July 12 Outdoor Mountain Adventures B, L, D
Breakfast at the hotel.

We head to the mountains of Beitostølen for an afternoon of **outdoor activities** suitable for everyone. Each activity will be 3 -3.5hrs long, and a wilderness meal will be served.

Choose from one of the following:

Husky cart Safari

You will get very close to the pointed ears, happy eyes, wagging tails and fast legs. Get to know "your" huskies and be impressed by the tremendous power found in a team of sled dogs. Learn how to steer a team of huskies, get to prepare your own dogs and handle the 4-wheeled cart. This is a hands-on activity where no previous experience is needed. Sitting down and enjoying the ride is also a possibility (advanced notice for this is required) An experienced guide will lead the first team and the rest will follow by instinct through the 7-10 km long trail on gravel roads in beautiful terrain. The carts are equipped with a seat on the front. Normally two persons will share a cart and change positions. Small children can sit in the front together with an adult.



Canoeing

Canoeing is a wonderful way to connect with nature. The views from the lake into landmarks such as the Mugnatind, Slettefjell and our signature peak Bitihorn will help you disconnect from daily stress. During the trip, we'll disembark on a small island or a sheltered bay to relax and just enjoy the day! The canoes are steady and easy to navigate for a smooth paddle on the lake.

Puppy training

This is for anyone who wants to learn more about sled dogs and huskies. The first 9 months of a sled dog's life are the most important. During this activity, you will interact with the youngest members of the team, helping them gain the confidence, coordination, strength and stamina they need to become a top sled dog.

You'll spend the afternoon interacting with the puppies, walking, playing, cuddling, training, feeding and petting them. The type of activities will be adapted to the puppies ages at the time. All led by an experienced guide that will tell you many interesting facts about these wonderful dogs.

Husky hike

Norway is made for hiking! The landscape is varied, with beautiful forests, valleys where we cross small rivers and pass by mountain lakes. Top-trained Husky Sherpas make this tour unique, adding an extra dimension to this great nature experience. Provided with a special backpack, the huskies are more than happy to help us carrying wood and food, while also offering pleasant company. This is a family-friendly tour, and a pure & "laid back" nature experience without hassle. This area is told to be the home of many creatures known from the Norse Mythology such as the Trolls, Huldra and the Frozen Giants.

On the way back to the hotel, stop at **Hovda Tre & Sølv**, local silversmiths and artists to shop for hand-crafted silver jewelry, some of which is based on traditional Valdres patterns.

Dinner at the hotel.

Enjoy the music festival this evening.

Saturday, July 13 North and South Aurdal B, L, D

Breakfast at the hotel.

We continue exploring Valdres today. Included are **Aurdal church, Bagn & Bautahaugen museums**, and **Hedalen & Reinli stave churches**. Lunch is included at Solheimen Hotel.

Dinner at the hotel.

Sunday, July 14 Church Service B, L, D

Breakfast at the hotel.

Put on your Sunday-best, including bunads, to attend the church service at **Slidredomen**, followed by lunch.

On the way back to the hotel, we'll visit the medieval **Mo church ruin**, and **Einangssteinen runestone**.

Enjoy a special **Farewell Banquet** with **special entertainment** at the hotel this evening.

Monday, July 15 Depart Fagernes B

We say "farewell" to Fagernes for this visit.

Breakfast at the hotel. Transfers to airport and Oslo, departure on Post-Tour to Ålesund and Trondheim. Option to stop-over in Iceland on your return to the US.



Contact Linda McCormick with questions:

612-661-4622 or 800-843-0602, ext. 112 | Fax (612) 822-4755

linda@bortonoverseas.com | www.bortonoverseas.com



2019 Valdres Samband Stevne Package Pricing and Inclusions



We are offering tour packages designed in modules to suit the needs of every Valdres Samband member interested in attending the 2019 Stevne in Fagernes. Based on which travel arrangements you need, just select the components offered to make your own travel package.

Group flights/Icelandair Information:

- We have reserved group seats on Icelandair departing Minneapolis/St. Paul (MSP) to Oslo July 6 or 7, returning from Oslo July 15. Even if you fly over with the group, **you can extend your stay** – Icelandair flies from Oslo, Bergen, Stockholm, Copenhagen and several other European cities. Please request this on the booking form and a Borton Overseas Specialist will contact you with your flight options and additional airfare (if applicable).
- For those who are interested in the Post-Stevne tour ending in Trondheim, your return Icelandair flight will depart from Oslo to MSP on July 20, however you can also extend your stay.
- We can book flights from other Icelandair gateways*: Anchorage, JFK, Newark, Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, Chicago, Kansas City, Cleveland, Dallas, Philadelphia, Denver, Montreal, Toronto, and Boston. If you would like to depart from any of these cities, please indicate this on your booking form and a Borton Overseas Specialist will call you with your flight options and airfare. ***If you fly from another Icelandair gateway on June 6 or 7, you will meet up with the other passengers in Reykjavik and fly to Oslo with the group.***
- You can fly Icelandair on dates other than those reserved for the group. Please submit your requested departure date and city on your reservation form, and you will be contacted by a Borton Overseas Specialist with your flight options and airfare.
- Flying with Icelandair allows a stopover in Iceland in either direction. A stop-over package is offered in connection with the Stevne, or you can customize your stop-over.
- If you wish to fly another airline, Borton Overseas can book it for you, or you can book it on your own.

*Some flights don't operate daily; flight schedule is subject to change without notice.

Package #1 - Stevne Arrangements & Icelandair

\$3435 per person, double occupancy, \$484 single supplement

Package #1 includes:

- Roundtrip, economy class air on Icelandair from Minneapolis/St. Paul to Oslo including government taxes and carrier-imposed fuel surcharges. *You can also depart from any of Icelandair's other gateways - we will check availability and give you the airfare difference. We will also be able to book connecting flights to Minneapolis/St. Paul or the other Icelandair gateways, so just indicate this on your booking form.*
- Six nights' accommodation at Quality Hotel Fagernes in standard double room.
- Breakfast & dinner daily.
- Five lunches (July 9, 10, 12, 13 & 14)
- Welcome reception, mountain activities and transportation, pilgrim hike and area sightseeing with local guide, free-access ticket to music festival ticket for 3 days, all entrances, guiding, activities and transportation as specified in the itinerary, farewell banquet with special menu and 2 glasses of wine/beer/soft drink, and special entertainment.
- Luggage handling at hotel for 1 piece per person.
- Services of a Borton Overseas staff member during the Stevne.
- Full documentation packet including destination information.

Package #2 – Stevne Arrangements only

(Includes everything in package #1, EXCEPT airfare*)

\$2580 per person, double occupancy, \$484 single supplement

- *Use this option if you will use frequent flier miles for your airline ticket, or if you want to fly an airline other than Icelandair.*

**Borton Overseas will assist with booking flights on any airline from any city. Indicate this on your booking form and a Borton Overseas Specialist will contact you about your flight options and airfares.*

Package #3 - Pre- and Post-Stevne Arrangements

(Add these costs to your selected Stevne package #1 or #2)

#3A Pre-Stevne:

- Two nights in Oslo (July 7 & 8) at Hotel Bristol, arrival transfer from airport, transportation Oslo-Fagernes, 24-hour Hop-On/Hop-Off tour ticket or 24-hour Oslo Pass for independent sightseeing, Skipladner cruise on Lake Mjøsa with lunch, **\$537 per person, \$162 single supplement**

#3B Pre-Stevne

- One night in Oslo (July 8) at Hotel Bristol, arrival transfer from airport, transportation Oslo-Fagernes, Skipladner cruise on Lake Mjøsa with lunch, **\$345 per person, \$81 single supplement**

#3C Pre-Stevne

- Transfer Oslo – Fagernes on July 8, Skipladner cruise on Lake Mjøsa with lunch, (this is available for those doing their own Oslo arrangements such as staying with relatives), **\$190 per person**

#3D Post-Stevne

- Departure transfer July 15, Fagernes – Oslo downtown, **\$115 per person**

#3E Post-Stevne

- Departure transfer July 15, Fagernes – Oslo airport, **\$130 per person**

#3F Pre- or Post-Stevne

- Customized arrangements based on YOUR request!

Package #4 – Post-tour to Ålesund, the Atlantic Road & Trondheim

\$1540 per person, \$190 single supplement

(Add this cost to your other selected Stevne packages)

Monday, July 15 Fagernes – Ålesund via Geiranger B, D

After breakfast, board the motor coach and drive north on the *Valdresflye National Tourist Route* through the mountains.

Norway has 18 National Tourist Routes which are designated tourist roads throughout the country with some of the best scenery Norway has to offer. Valdresflye is one of them, with wide, sweeping views of plateaus and mountains in the distance.

Photo stops will be made along the way.

We'll stop in Geiranger for time on your own for lunch and to explore the village featuring a variety of shops and restaurants.



Continue to Ålesund this afternoon.

Dinner and overnight at Quality Hotel Ålesund.

Tuesday, July 16 Atlantic Road, Ålesund - Haholmen B, L, D

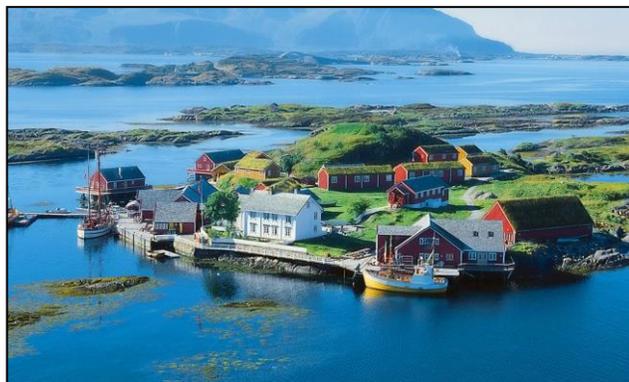
We'll enjoy breakfast, and a tour of Ålesund, then depart on a coastal adventure! Our drive today takes on the breathtaking *Atlantic Road*, another of Norway's National Tourist Routes.

Construction on the Atlantic Road began in 1983 to facilitate better transportation and exporting options for the local fishing industry. The road consists of several bridges connecting islands and the road along the ocean, opened in 1989, after 6 years of difficult working conditions and 12 hurricanes. In 2005, it was chosen as the Norwegian construction of the century. It has increased tourism to the area and has been described as the world's most beautiful drive.



Photo stops will be made along the way.
We'll arrive the island of Håholmen in time for lunch.

Håholmen has served as a meeting place, harbor, home and workplace for fishermen, sailors, shopkeepers and travellers for hundreds of years. Håholmen has been a stockfish fishing community since the beginning of the 1700s. Fishing operations continued up until 1960 and the Bergseth family lived there permanently until 1978. Håholmen now offers comfortable accommodations in a variety of buildings, and includes a restaurant, pub, museum, opportunities for fishing, and boat trips.



After lunch, we'll visit the museum of the viking sailing of the adventurer and former owner, Ragnar Torseth. In fact, this afternoon we'll sail on a Viking ship replica.

Free time to relax and enjoy your surroundings this afternoon.

Dinner and overnight at Håholmen Havstuer

Wednesday, July 17 Håholmen - Trondheim B, L, D

After breakfast, relax and enjoy a morning at leisure. Depart Håholmen after lunch. Continue the beautiful coastal drive to Trondheim. Dinner on arrival.
Overnight at Comfort Hotel Trondheim.

Thursday, July 18 Trondheim B

After breakfast, our local guide will introduce us to Trondheim, once Norway's capital. We'll visit Nidaros Cathedral (subject to availability due to special events), see the old city bridge and learn about Trondheim's long, diverse history. Afternoon at leisure, lunch and dinner on own. *Overnight at Comfort Hotel Trondheim.*



Friday, July 19 Trondheim - Oslo B, D

Breakfast at the hotel. We'll depart by coach and drive southward, through the Rondane mountains, and the famous Gudbrandsdal valley, to the Oslo airport. Lunch stop will be made enroute.
Farewell dinner and overnight at the Radisson Blu Oslo Airport

Saturday, July 20 Depart Oslo - Extend your stay B

Breakfast at the hotel. Departures to the US today or extend your stay!

Includes:

- Five nights' accommodation at specified hotels, in standard rooms.
- Breakfast (B) daily, two lunches (L), and 4 dinners (D).
- Private motor coach transportation throughout itinerary.
- Guided tours of Ålesund and Trondheim, Viking boat trip at Håholmen.
- Services of a Borton Overseas staff member during itinerary.

Package #5A – Post-Stevne Iceland Stop-over (3 nights)

from \$ 879 per person (price based on hotel availability at time of booking)

Single Supplement from \$287 total for 3 nights

Package #5B – Post-Stevne Iceland Stop-over (2 night)

from \$716 per person (price based on hotel availability at time of booking)

Single Supplement from \$192 total for 2 nights

(Add this cost to your other selected Stevne packages)

Monday, July 15

Oslo - Reykjavik, Iceland – Blue Lagoon

Mid-day departure from Norway, arrive Reykjavik at 3:30 pm. Transfer by bus to the Blue Lagoon. The unique, geothermal spa’s natural ingredients include mineral salts, white silica mud and green algae which have special healing properties to relax and rejuvenate! There is a restaurant and café for dinner on your own. Enjoy the relaxing mineral water at the lagoon, and then transfer to your hotel in the city.

Overnight in Reykjavik at centrally located hotel.



Tuesday, July 16

Golden Circle Day Trip B

Breakfast at your hotel. This morning you will be picked up for your full day tour on the Golden Circle route. Visit Nesjavellir, a high temperature geothermal area in the scenic landscape of Lake Thingvallavatn. From there travel to Thingvellir National Park, where the Icelandic parliament Althingi was founded in the year 930 AD. Continue to the beautiful Gullfoss waterfall. Time on your own for lunch. Visit the geothermal area around the incredible spouting hot springs of Geysir and Strokkur, which erupt every few minutes, Skalholt



church, the ancient seat of the Icelandic bishops, and stop at Hveragerdi, a small and charming horticultural village. *Overnight in Reykjavik at centrally located hotel.*

Wednesday, July 17 Reykjavik (Those with Package 5B will depart today) B

Breakfast at your hotel. The day is free to explore the city or take an optional excursion to another part of Iceland (please see list below). Those departing Reykjavik will transfer by bus to the airport in the early afternoon. *Overnight in Reykjavik at centrally located hotel.*



Thursday, July 18 Depart Reykjavik B

Breakfast at the hotel, then your morning is at leisure. You will be picked up in the early afternoon for your transfer to the airport

Packages #5A & #5B include:

- Arrival transfer from airport to Blue Lagoon, and Blue Lagoon to hotel.
- Entrance to Blue Lagoon including use of towel, Silica mud mask, one drink of your choice.
- Two or three nights' accommodation in standard room at centrally located hotel.
- Meals per itinerary (B-Breakfast, L-Lunch, D-Dinner)
- Golden Circle Classic tour.
- Departure transfer from hotel to airport.

NOTES on stop-over:

- Extra hotel nights available on request; price based on hotel and availability.
- We recommend you book your excursions for Iceland in advance; please request them at the time of booking your stopover.

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS (at extra cost), subject to availability: • Reykjavik City Tour • Reykjavik Bike Tour • Whale Watching • Horseback Riding • River Rafting • Underworld Caving Tour • Blue Ice Glacier Tour • ATV/Quad Bike Ride • Hiking Tours • Super Jeep Tour • Wonders of Snaefellsnes Peninsula • Sea Angling Tour • Reykjavik city walking tour • South Shore Adventure • South Coast & Jokulsarlon Glacial Lagoon • And more!

