

Let your spirit set sail



Sognefjord and Geirangerfjord

Aboard a tall ship through Norway's north sea

Sat 27 July 2019 ⇨ Sat 03 August 2019



A sailing trip through the world of the Norwegian fjords is a spectacular experience. Marvelling at the majestically towering mountains, here and there with snow on the peaks, it soon becomes clear that Norway is a perfect sailing destination for explorers. On our sailing trip along towering glaciers, we will visit the Sognefjord and the Geirangerfjord, which are two of the great natural wonders in the midst of this alpine-like maritime landscape. Protected by upstream skerries, they wind as deep gorges through 2000-metre high mountains with waterfalls on the rocky shores. Come on board the Eye of the Wind for a windjammer cruise and experience stunning landscapes in their full natural magnificence.

This is where you will go on board: Bergen / Norway

Our crew will welcome you on board in the port of Bergen, the gateway to the Fjordland. From many international airports you can easily reach Norway's second-largest airport with just one stopover. We will be happy to assist you with the individual planning of your arrival and departure. If you have any questions, please contact us in good time.

Embarkation takes place at 19:00 hours. Afterwards, there will be dinner in the comfortable lounge, where you'll soon feel at home and be able to find your way around the deck – you'll quickly get to know your fellow sailors, too.



Combine your stay with a visit to the historic Hanseatic quarter of Bryggen with its richly decorated wooden houses (pictured above). Other buildings worth seeing are the Bergenhus fortress, some historical mansions and several churches. The varied cultural life of the city includes a number of museums, among them the maritime museum or the open-air museum Gamle Bergen (Old Bergen), which are well worth visiting. After a cable-car ride (pictured left) to the nearby mountain top of the 643-metre high Ulriken, you have a great view of the city and the surrounding water landscape.

All hands on deck or all laid back – the choice is yours!

After receiving safety instructions and an introduction to sailing from the ship's crew, you will soon be able to take part in the sailing yourself. Hands-on assistance on deck is always voluntary, so if you want, you can just relax and enjoy watching the sailing manoeuvres and the traditional seamanship in action every day. Fresh sea air is known to make sailors hungry – our excellent onboard cuisine will surprise you every day with new and varied creations from the galley cookbook.

Our sailing area: The magical water world of the skerries and fjords

Starting from Bergen, we'll slowly head towards the open sea. A summer island idyll of countless offshore islands unfolds before us. In contrast to the gigantic fjords, these rocky islands – known as outer skerries – show another equally impressive side of western Norway: from the sea, we discover small villages with only a few inhabitants on barren, wind-blown granite rocks.



Further inland, the landscape changes dramatically, and we follow sheltered, canal-like paths into the magical water world of the fjords. Its steep banks force the wind and swell to adapt to the course of the landscape. Channels of wind and windless areas make the fjords a territory that has its own rules, yet one that offers an impressive natural experience. In this landscape, which is traversed by bays and estuaries, you will enjoy a lasting holiday experience with unforgettable impressions of this pristine region. With the Eye of the Wind, we will advance into this unique world of steep mountain slopes and narrow banks with its labyrinth of water pools, rocks and woods.



The decision on which port or mooring spot to call on in the evening is usually made by the captain on the same day and depends on the wind and weather conditions – whenever possible, your wishes will be taken into account. This ensures that your cruise is a pleasant mix of adventure, relaxation, active participation and pure enjoyment. Here is a selection of possible stops with the opportunity to go on shore:

▶ **Fedje:** The route to this fishing island with its many bays leads us through a stone labyrinth. Wooden houses overlooking the open sea are sprinkled across the island. We can get an idea of what life in this harsh natural environment on the outer skerries was like: many decades ago, up to 500 fishing boats were anchored here at the same time.



▶ **Hardbakke:** A place full of sleepy charm and a jewel among the skerries. We'll find a sheltered mooring spot near the bridge – from here you will be able to go ashore by dinghy.

▶ **Balestrand at the Sognefjord:** The small village is an ideal starting point for an exploration of the fjord. Not far off lies the Fjærlandsfjord, a tributary of the Sognefjord. From there you can reach the largest glacier in Europe, the Jostedalbreen. Another branch leads directly to the small Esefjord near Balestrand. Behind the magnificent half-timbered hotel (pictured right) there is a fantastic mooring spot, where the shore rises almost vertically from the sea. In good weather conditions, the two mountain peaks seem almost close enough to touch as they are reflected in the water, their snow-capped peaks illuminated by the evening sun.



▶ **Nærøyfjord:** This branch of the Sognefjord, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is only 250-metres wide at its narrowest point. The rocks rise vertically up to an altitude of 1700 metres (pictured right). In this unique landscape, several waterfalls pour over the rocky edges down into the valley. In Flåm, which lies at the very end of the Nærøyfjord, one of the most famous railway lines starts: the Flåm Railway conquers an altitude of 866 metres within a distance of only 20 kilometres, making it a popular place for tourists.



This is where you will disembark: Ålesund / Norway

Our cruise ends in the "Art Nouveau City" of Ålesund at the Norwegian north sea. Here, you will leave the ship with a sailor's bag full of memories of your journey. You can combine your stay with a stroll through the Art Nouveau-style city, a visit to the Atlantikpark aquarium or a walk through the city park with its fantastic lookout. The nearby airport offers direct flights to Oslo and Amsterdam.

Seven good reasons to go

- Discovery cruise through the Sognefjord and the Geirangerfjord ... aboard a windjammer!
- Balanced ratio between sailing time at sea and shore leave
- Attractive and easily accessible starting and destination ports: Bergen und Ålesund
- Fjords and skerries: a magical, fabulous sailing area with great natural impressions
- Sailing and manoeuvring on a 100-year-old windjammer – you may participate actively!
- Excellent onboard cuisine, delicious meals from morning to evening
- Our friendly crew creates a feel-good atmosphere on board



Journey time

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Services included

- 7 nights' accommodation aboard the Tall Ship Eye of the Wind.
- Accommodation in a comfortable double cabin with hot and cold running water, shower, toilet, and air conditioning (single cabin surcharge).
- Full board (including all meals, soft drinks, coffee & tea).
- Lounge with TV/DVD and extensive on-board library.
- The tour price includes VAT.

Not included

Arrival and departure, shore excursions and alcoholic beverages.

Please consider the following notes on the itinerary

The indicated ports are optional. The ship's management reserves the right to change the itinerary at short notice depending on wind and weather conditions. The steep banks of the fjords usually provide for a considerable wind cover. For this reason, some distances may be covered most likely by the use of the engine and without the sails being set.

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courtesy of www.visitnorway.com; FTS Archives.

Eye of the Wind
FORUM train & sail GmbH
Mandichost. 18
86504 Merching
Germany

www.eyeofthewind.net

Phone +49 (0)8233 381-227
Fax +49 (0)8233 381-9943
E-Mail info@eyeofthewind.net

