

## Bergen

### Overview

The city of Bergen is located on the southwestern coast of Norway, bordering the Norwegian Sea. It has a population of 256,580 and covers 465km<sup>2</sup> which makes it the second largest city in Norway - after the capital city of Oslo. Its stunning architecture and important cultural history make it an increasingly popular tourist destination for those who want to escape the busy city of Oslo and enjoy a more relaxing holiday.

No trip to Bergen is complete without a visit to the city's most famous area - the Bryggen Wharf. Here stunningly quaint houses line the streets, making it a perfect backdrop for a holiday snapshot. The area is also filled with traditional cafes, pubs and restaurants, where you can sample local Norwegian delicacies. Over 10% of the population in Bergen come from another country, which gives it a great multicultural influence particularly in restaurants, where you can find delicious Thai, Indian, American, French and Italian cuisine all within the city centre.

Bergen has a lot to offer visitors, with a number of festivals, shows, and exhibitions happening throughout the year. It is possible to ski in winter time in the Voss region, which is located just under a hour away from the city by train. In the summer months locals flock to one of the city's 20 parks, which offer greenery and a perfect place for a picnic.

There are a number of hotel options in the city centre, with the city boasting over 6000 beds, although accommodation can get booked up in the summer months, so book early to avoid disappointment. The Augustin Hotel is located in the heart of the city, and provides luxurious rooms and facilities, with prices from NOK 1,656 a night. If you're a more adventurous type, then a number of campsites are dotted around the outskirts of Bergen, which are well maintained and offer an economical way to experience the beautiful Norwegian countryside.

Bergen's location on the east coast gives it a milder climate than central Norwegian regions. In wintertime the average temperature is around 0 °C, while in the summer months temperatures can reach 18 °C. Bergen also enjoys a large amount of sunlight in summer, with 19 hours of daylight in mid-June. Bergen does have an above average level of rainfall so be sure to pack a mac just in case!

The currency used is the Norwegian krone (NOK), you can change currency before you travel, or there are several currency exchange booths situated in the airport and in downtown Bergen. There are also many ATM machines located in and around the city centre, all of which accept foreign cards.