

Oslo

Overview

Oslo, the capital city of Norway, is located in the south-eastern region of the country, on the coastal area of the Baltic Sea. This thriving metropolitan city offers a wide range of activities for visitors, making it a perfect place for both a weeks holiday with the whole family, or a romantic weekend away for two. The currency used is the the Norwegian krone (NOK), and there are a number of places to get your foreign currency changed at the airport and in downtown Oslo.

If you are visiting in the wintertime, take advantage of the beautiful snow filled scenery by going skiing in one of the many resorts located near to the city centre, alternatively you can watch the action live at the Holmenkollen ski festival. In the summer months the cities parks are filled with locals and tourists alike who come to relax in the manicured gardens. For shopaholics the Grünerløkka district of Oslo boasts some of the worlds leading and exclusive designer brands, while the Aker Brygge shopping area has been converted into a large centre which features many famous high-street brands.

Fresh high quality food is an integral part of the Norwegian way of life. Why not sample some traditional pickled herring, reindeer steak or fresh Norwegian meatballs? If that doesn't take your fancy then the city also offers a wide range of restaurants serving up international cuisine such as Thai, Indian, British and Italian.

There are a number of transportation options available in the city, and travel is possible by bus, boat, train and plane. Most passengers arrive via the Oslo Gardermoen Airport, which is located 45km away from the city centre. Ferry services operate from the Oslo Port, and a number of cruise ships choose to dock here. For a unique view of the city jump on a passenger day boat around the Oslo harbour, and take in the spectacular views of the Oslo Fjord region.

Oslo has a whole host of accommodation options - from prestigious 5 star establishments, to quaint guesthouses offering affordable accommodation for the budget traveller. The Grand is a luxurious 5 star hotel located in central Oslo, which comes highly recommended by previous guests. Rooms start at NOK 2,841 per night, and for something truly special try the Christian Radich suite, which is delightfully decorated with old maritime souvenirs.

Places to Visit

Oslo Opera House

Even if the opera is not your thing, a trip to the Oslo Opera House is a must for any visitor to the city. The Opera House offers a visual treat for viewers with its futuristic iceberg shape and sloping roofs, which were designed by the Norwegian firm Snøhetta. It hosts a number of ballet and opera evenings, along with art related exhibitions and several indoor festivals. The building is located in the centre of Oslo, in the Bjørvika neighbourhood.

Vigeland Park

The beautiful Vigeland park is located in the Frogmer neighbourhood, in the western part of the city. The park is home to the famous Vigeland Sculpture Park, which contains 192 original sculptures, while lakes and greenery span the rest of the park, making it the perfect place for a picnic on a lazy summers afternoon.

Kon Tiki Museum

The Kon Tiki museum provides an educational and fun day out for all the family. It is home to many of the original boats which were used in adventurous expeditions to the Easter Islands, the Galapagos Islands and Kon-Tiki. It also has a separate interactive cave exhibition along with an underwater display which contains a life size replica of a whale shark. The museum is open all year round and costs NOK 60 for adults and NOK 25 for children, and special discounted family tickets are available for NOK 120.

The National Gallery

The National Gallery displays some of the worlds most important artworks, sculptures and archaeological collections. Exhibitions change on a monthly basis so check the website for updates. It is within walking distance from the Karl Johans Gate underground stop, or jump on the number 10,11, 17 or 18 tram and get off at Tullinløkka. The gallery is open from Tuesday - Friday and entry is free of charge.

The Rock Carvings

The historical rock carvings that are etched into the stone walls are thought to be over 6000 years old. There is also a large park, and a beautiful viewpoint where you can overlook the remains of an old Norwegian settlement. The carvings are located in the area of Ekeberg, which is 2 miles southeast of the city centre, and it can be reached by tram, bus or taxi. If you are particularly adventurous why not hire a bike and explore the regions idyllic scenery.

Regular Events

January - Disney On Ice

A great evening out for all the family - come and watch your favourite Disney characters perform on ice. The show takes place throughout January in the Oslo Spektrum at Sonja Henies Plass.

February - Oslo Oriental Dance

A special one day dance show is held on February the 12th, which sees Nirmel Kumari Mahe perform authentic oriental dance moves to traditional music. The show takes place in Downtown Oslo and tickets can be brought online in advance.

March - Ski Festival

The Holmenkollen ski festival sees some of the world's talented young skiers battle it out over several days of competitions. The highlight is watching daredevils zoom down the famous Holmenkollen ski jump and fly into the air!

April - Rock Festival

Hardcore rock fans flock to this extreme heavy metal rock festival, which is located in the Rockefeller Music Hall. The festival happens over a 4 day period where 45 rock bands play out to over 12,000 fans. Tickets can be brought for either as full 4 day pass or separate day passes.

May - Constitution Day

The Norwegian Constitution day is marked with a national public holiday on the 17th of May. People line the streets to celebrate and remember the countries Independence in 1894.

June - Norwegian Wood Rock Festival

The Norwegian Wood Rock Festival is the most famous rock festival in Norway, which happens annually over 4 days in mid-June. Day passes or full weekend passes are available, but this festival usually sells out well in advance - so book early to avoid disappointment!

July - Royal Palace

From the 20th of June until the 15th of August it is possible to have a guided tour of the beautiful Royal Palace in English. Tours happen 3 times every day, and tickets can be booked at any Norwegian Post Office or at the entrance of the museum providing there are spaces left. It costs NOK 95 for adults and NOK 85 for children and seniors.

August - Jazz Festival

The international Jazz festival attracts some of the worlds most famous jazz musicians, for a spectacular 6 days of live music. Discounted passes can be purchased which allow full access to the festival over the 6 day period, and individual day tickets are also available.

September - Half Marathon

If you are the sporty type why not run in Oslo's Half-Marathon, which sees 10,000 participants running from Bislett Stadium to Karl Johans Gate. Alternatively join the spectators who come and line the streets to cheer on the runners.

October - Oslo Horse Fair

The Oslo Horse Fair features horse racing, dressage and show-jumping from some of the countries most talented equestrian stars. Tickets can be purchased online, or at the entrance of the fair.

November - The Oslo International Film Festival

Norway's largest film festival is held in Oslo over a 9 day period in November. The festival shows many up and coming films of various styles. Tickets can be purchased from the website, for some of the screenings.

December - Bogstad Fair

Pick up some unusual and authentic hand-made Scandinavian Christmas gifts from the Bogstad Christmas Fair. The fair is located in the Bogstad Gare area, and it is open every day up to the 24th of December.

Getting Around

Train

The trains in Oslo are modern and punctual, ensuring that you have a comfortable and convenient journey. The main railway station is Oslo Central Station in front of the Jernbanetorget square. You can also catch the BM71 train, to get to the Gardermoen International airport. Tickets can be brought online in advance, or from the train station, where customer services will be more than happy to assist you with your travel plans.

Tram

Oslo's tram system is a fun and easy way to do some sightseeing around the city centre. There are 72 trams in operation in the city, to catch one simply wait at one of the tram stops located in the city. You can purchase single tickets in advance from any major train stations and some shops, or if you are planning on making regular journeys on the trams over the duration of your trip, you can save yourself some money by purchasing special 1, 2 or 3 day passes which allow for unlimited travel on the tram system.

Road

The roads are extremely well maintained and as easily navigable, although a satellite navigation system may be useful if you are hiring a rental car. There are several ring roads and major highways which allow travel to many parts of the country, and to the neighbouring country of Sweden. Entry into the city centre requires passing through one of the 19 check points, which all have a toll system currently charging 25 NOK (equivalent of £2.75) per entry regardless of the time of day 7 days a week. The money goes back into developing the existing transport network and providing more routes and better services for passengers.

Taxi

Taxis are readily available, with several taxi ranks being located throughout the city. There is also a special dedicated taxi line that will let you pre-order a taxi. All taxis are operated on the meter, so you will know you are getting an honest fare, while drivers are trained and monitored by the city council ensuring you have a safe ride. A typical taxi fare from the airport to the city centre will cost you NOK 610 (daytime hours) which is the equivalent of £67. For a cheaper alternative jump on the frequent train service which runs from the airport to several locations in downtown Oslo.

Bicycles

Oslo has a great bicycle hire system and many dedicated cycle lanes run throughout the city. Hiring a bike is simple and easy: you can either pick one up either from a tourist centre which allows bike hire per day, or buy an annual subscription card for NOK 60, which allows you access the country's bicycle rental system where you can pick up a bike and drop it off in another secure location.

Boat

Oslo's location on the waterfront makes it possible to travel to Kiel in Germany and Copenhagen in Denmark, via DFDS and Colourline, and some services allow passengers to travel with a car. If you are arriving on a cruise ship your most likely port of call will be near Akershus Festning, which is within walking distance of the city centre. In the summer months there are a number of tourist cruises which last for several hours and allow passengers to get an amazing view of Oslo's coastline.

Local Services

Apartments

My City Home

My City Home is a new studio apartment hotel in the centre of Oslo. In our 21 comfortable and stylish studio apartments, you can enjoy the privacy and calm of a home away from home, coupled with the service and convenience of living in a hotel.

My City Home is the perfect place to stay if you want a home away from home in Oslo, for shorter or longer periods of time. Living with us, you will not feel any liability all our studio apartments are fitted out with a modern kitchen as well as a comfortable living area with cable TV and internet access.

You can choose to make your own meals and live much as you would at home.

Our apartment hotel is situated in the middle of central Oslo, a minute's walk from the shopping, restaurants, bars and cafés of the main street Karl Johans gate. Parks and recreational areas like, Aker Brygge, and Slottsparken are within a few minutes' easy walking distance.

Public transport in a few minutes walking distance from Oslo central station, with train, bus, tram and tube connections, to make reaching other areas of Oslo is easy.

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Bar

Icebar

Built from the pure, natural ice of the river Torne in Lapland, Sweden, ICEBAR OSLO offers a unique, must see bar experience when visiting Oslo.

Discover this momentary world of arctic delight and surprise your senses with a subzero adventure into the world of ice - just steps away from Karl Johan.

The design of the bar is changed annually – transforming crystal clear ice into momentary art for your enjoyment. Let our designers tell you their story, accompanied by ice cold cocktails served in the rock by our bartenders.

ICEBAR OSLO is operated in 45 minute time slots, starting every hour on the hour.

Tickets are sold in the welcome area of the bar and include a designer thermal cape and gloves to keep you warm, plus a personal ice glass with your choice of cocktail. ICEBAR OSLO is an all ages experience but from 21:00 we have an age limit of 20 years.

In addition, the venue also houses an excellent cocktail bar where guests can warm up after their ICEBAR visit. Try one of our famous Signature Cocktails for the true flavours of Norway.

We welcome all Wizzguide travellers –please quote WizzGuide for your welcome offer.

Address: ICEBAR OSLO by ICEHOTEL
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