

DISCOVER NORWAY

September 8-16, 2018



WITH NHPBS AND WILLEM LANGE

Travel in the footsteps of the great Viking chiefs on the journey of a lifetime that will highlight the rugged natural beauty, intriguing history, and modern sophistication of Norway.





New Hampshire PBS and American Expeditions invite you to discover the enchanting land of Norway with **New England's favorite storyteller, Willem Lange**. Breathtaking natural wonders surround elegant cultural capitals with striking contemporary aesthetics, making for a unique and insightful Scandinavian experience that you will cherish for years to come.

We begin in **Oslo**, the oldest of the Scandinavian capital cities yet in many ways one of the most modern. Cutting edge design and sleek, minimalist structures like the **Oslo Opera House** alternate with impressive classical landmarks such as **Akershus Castle** in this stunning city by the sea. Just outside the city center lays a **treasure trove of Viking history** which affords a firsthand glimpse into the resourcefulness of the first settlers who tamed the unforgiving land into the world-class city it would eventually become. Whether it is the centuries-old wooden symmetry of the **Gol Stave Church** or the dazzlingly geometric skyline known as the "Barcode District," there is no denying that Oslo's architecture is some of the most striking and original in the world!

In stark contrast to the capital are the famous **Lofoten Islands**, an archipelago off the northwest coast of Norway which has been crucial to the cod trade since the days of the Hanseatic League. Accessible only by boat, the region is renowned for the brilliant views of the Northern Lights its remote location affords. Here one will also find the remains of the **largest Viking settlement in all of Europe**, as well as a **thriving arts and crafts scene** whose biennial brings visitors from all corners of the globe. Don't be fooled though, the region's quaint wooden fishing villages belie an innovative culinary scene that makes brilliant use of fresh local seafood.

Next we head back to the mainland and the picturesque harbor city of **Bergen**, Norway's second largest. Just steps from the old world charm of the medieval quarter lies Mount Fløyen, accessible via a funicular that offers sweeping views of the city and its surrounding coastline. While in Bergen you'll escape to a geological wonderland on an afternoon **fjord cruise** that winds through narrow inlets and under rushing waterfalls before returning to Oslo along the Bergensbanen, **one of the most beloved train routes in the world!**

Come discover the magic of Norway in the company of your fellow viewers, all while supporting New Hampshire PBS!



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The Storting (Parliament) Building, Oslo



Oslo National Theatre



Norwegian Viking Ship



Gol Stave Church, Folksmuseum

DAY 1 SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2018 *Depart from North America*

Meet NHPBS tour host **Willem Lange** at Logan Airport in Boston and depart in the evening for **Oslo, Norway**. Select meals, snacks, and refreshments will be served on the flight. Be sure to read through the great tips and travel information in your American Expeditions tour handbook!

DAY 2 SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2018 *Arrive In Oslo, Norway*

Upon arrival at **Oslo Airport**, a friendly American Expeditions tour manager and guide from Norway will greet and assist us with changing money into Norwegian krone. Then, we will board our private motor coach for a **panoramic tour of Oslo**. Founded in the year 1050, Oslo holds the distinction of being the oldest of Scandinavia's capital cities. Located in a spectacular setting at the northern head of the scenic Oslo Fjord and surrounded by wooded hills, beaches, and picturesque villages, Oslo also boasts a bustling port and has been a commercial trading center since the early 14th century.

Our guide will introduce great landmarks including the beautiful **Oslo Cathedral**, the **Royal Palace**, **Oslo City Hall (Rådhuset)** surrounded by wooden reliefs depicting scenes from Norse mythology and the dramatic **Akershus Castle**, an imposing medieval fortress overlooking **Oslo Harbor**.

The tour will end at a centrally-located Oslo hotel where we will check in, relax and refresh from our travels.

Tonight, a **traditional Norwegian welcome dinner** is served as Willem narrates and our guide previews exciting days to come!

DAY 3 MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2018 *Oslo*

After a hearty Scandinavian breakfast at the hotel, our first full day in Norway begins with a trip to the **Viking Ship Museum** located on the Bygdøy peninsula. Here we'll see three Viking ships that were used as burial tombs for Viking nobility, each of which was excavated from the Oslo Fjord region. Because they were buried in blue clay, the ships have been preserved since the 9th century when Vikings ruled the high seas!

Next on our agenda is the nearby **Norsk Folkemuseum**, an open air museum exhibiting traditional houses from all over Norway, the jewel of which is the wooden **Gol Stave Church**. Our group of NHPBS supporters will be treated to a variety of cultural entertainment featuring local costumes, native dance and handmade crafts including a tasty lunch at the museum café.

The remainder of the afternoon is free for independent pursuits in Oslo. You might visit the moving **Nobel Peace Center**, or the otherworldly **Vigeland Sculpture Park**, a collection of over 200 large-scale granite and bronze sculptures by Gustav Vigeland, who spent 40 years pursuing this enormous creative endeavor. Another fine option is to simply stroll along Oslo's central avenue, **Karl Johan's Gate**. Lined with fine shops, cafés, government buildings, and public parks, this attractive thoroughfare leads up from the harbor through the heart of the city to the **Royal Palace**.

Tonight, tickets to a performance at Oslo's renowned **Opera House** or **National Theatre** can be arranged.

DAY 4 TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2018 *Oslo | Bodø | Lofoten Islands*

Following breakfast, we check out of the Oslo hotel and transfer to the airport for this morning's short flight to **Bodø**, a bustling fishing capital and harbor city in northern Norway that is affectionately referred to as "the gateway to the Lofoten Islands."

Upon arrival in Bodø, a local guide will take us on an informative walk through the charming city center before boarding an iconic red, white and black Hurtigruten cruise ship for a half-day journey through the stunning archipelago west of Bodo to the Lofoten Islands **situated north of the Arctic Circle!** Along the journey, Willem will share stories about this enchanting string of fishing communities where despite ever-increasing international attention, life has in many ways gone on unchanged for centuries. Willem may even share a legend or two about the Northern Lights which the area is synonymous with!

This evening a **dinner of locally-sourced specialties** will be served aboard the ship before disembarking at the port of Svolvær. From the gangway, it's just a few yards walk to the hotel. Our bags will be delivered directly and we'll enjoy a good night's rest in lovely accommodations overlooking Svolvær's glittering harbor lights.



Lofoten Islands



Viking lunch at the Lofotr Viking Museum



Bergen Harbor at night



Afternoon fjord cruise



Mount Fløyen funicular

DAY 5 WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2018 Lofoten Islands

This morning, we'll drive to **Nusfjord**, one of Norway's oldest and best preserved fishing hamlets, traversing much of the rugged Lofoten landscape.

Upon arrival in Nusfjord, our local guide will show us around this picturesque village dotted with colorful wooden dwellings on stilts and Willem will certainly entertain us with his knowledge of Lofoten fisheries and its rich heritage in the worldwide cod trade. Next, we will visit the **Lofotr Viking Museum** near Bøstad. This intriguing complex is a full-scale recreation of a Viking chieftain's long-house which was discovered by archaeologists in the 1980's and is the largest known example of such a dwelling in all of Europe. After a chance to imagine ourselves living a Viking lifestyle, history comes to life as NHPBS supporters are treated to a **festive Viking luncheon featuring** fresh Lofoten lamb and mead brewed on-site!

In the afternoon, return to Svolvær and explore the many charms of this tiny yet cosmopolitan port town. Art lovers will want to browse the contemporary artworks and traditional crafts at the **Northern Norway Art Center**, while history buffs will no doubt want to visit the **Lofoten War Museum** which houses an eclectic collection of WWII artifacts, including an original Enigma coding machine captured by the British during a siege on the German-occupied Lofoten archipelago in 1941.

Dinner can be enjoyed in one of Svolvær's many fine restaurants which are celebrated for their modern take on classic Scandinavian cuisine

DAY 6 THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2018 Lofoten Islands | Bodø | Bergen

Check out of the Svolvær hotel early this morning and board the ferry back to Bodø. From Bodø, we will take a short lunchtime flight to **Bergen**.

Bergen is Norway's second largest city beautifully situated on the inner reaches of the Byfjord, surrounded by forest-covered mountains and flowering hillsides. As a principal port city, Bergen houses a considerable merchant fleet and several large shipyards, and is also well known as a university town and cultural center.

Together, we'll explore the **medieval quarter** known as the Bryggen, while Willem and our guide regale us with the historic exploits of the Hanseatic League who used Bergen as the primary outpost for their vast trading empire.

Of course, no visit to Bergen would be complete without a **funicular ride up Mount Fløyen**. It takes just six minutes to transport from the heart of the city center to the top of the mountain for spectacular panoramic views of the city and its magnificent surrounding landscapes. Let's indulge in a fresh cinnamon roll known as a Fløyenbollen for an afternoon snack!

Later, settle into the well located Bergen hotel and refresh.

Tonight, a **fresh seafood dinner** awaits our group on the nearby island of Holmen.

DAY 7 FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2018 Bergen

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast at the hotel before this morning's excursion to **Troldhaugen**, the elegant summer villa of composer Edvard Grieg who lived there from 1885 to 1907. A tour of the residence and lovely gardens will serve as the ideal introduction before attending a **piano recital** of Grieg's music in the adjacent concert hall.

Afterwards, return to the city center for a **fjord cruise** aboard a modern catamaran. Sail by breathtaking geological scenery through narrow inlets flanked by steep mountain faces and rushing waterfalls. Light lunch and snack options will be available to purchase aboard the boat.

Return to Bergen in the late afternoon where the remainder of the day is open to independent pursuits. You may wish to attend a concert at **St. Mary's Church**, an early 12th century Romanesque landmark with sublime acoustics, or a performance by **Carte Blanche**, the Norwegian National Company of Contemporary Dance headquartered in Bergen.

DAY 8 SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2018 Oslo | Bergen

Following breakfast, check out of the Bergen hotel and transfer to the central station to board a train bound for **Oslo**.

Widely considered one of the most beloved train rides in the world, the **Bergensbanen** (Bergen Line) offers an unforgettable scenic experience traversing Norway's high altitude mountains, low lying valleys of wheat, dramatic fjords, dense green forests and sparkling glacial lakes. Luggage will be delivered directly to our hotel.

Upon afternoon arrival in Oslo, enjoy a few hours of leisure.

Tonight, we will take a water taxi from the Oslo Pier to the **Dyna Lighthouse** for a special **private farewell dinner** commemorating our wonderful week abroad as we bid a Viking farewell to Norway over many toasts and cheers!

DAY 9 SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2018 Depart for North America

After breakfast, transfer to the **Oslo Airport** and your return flight back to the United States. Arrive in **Boston** in the late afternoon.



Traditional Norwegian costumes



The famous Bergensbanen



Vigeland Sculpture Park

TOUR PACKAGE INCLUDES

FLIGHTS WITHIN NORWAY

- One way flight from Oslo to Bodo
- One way flight from Bodo to Bergen

ACCOMMODATIONS

- 7 nights in centrally located 4 star hotels
- 3 nights Oslo (2 nights at beginning of tour, 1 night at end)
- 2 nights Svolvær
- 2 nights Bergen

TRANSPORTATION

- Transportation as described in the itinerary in a modern motor coach with a professional driver
- Hurtigruten cruise from Bodø to Svolvær
- Ferry from Svolvær to Bodø
- Train from Bergen to Oslo
- Water taxi group transfers as needed for program

MEALS

- Full Scandinavian buffet breakfast served daily in the hotel dining room
- Lunch at the Norsk Folkemuseum café
- Viking luncheon at Lofotr Viking Museum
- Traditional Norwegian welcome dinner
- Dinner aboard the cruise ship to the Lofoten Islands
- Seafood dinner on the island of Holmen
- Private farewell dinner celebration at the Dyna Lighthouse

TOUR HOST, TOUR MANAGER & LOCAL GUIDE

- NHPBS' Willem Lange will host the tour.
- A full-time American Expeditions Tour Manager to accompany your group from arrival to departure
- Guides from Norway and interesting local historians, professions, writers, artists and musicians will enhance the tour

GUIDED TOURS, ENTRANCES, AND SPECIAL LECTURES & STUDY VISITS

- Guided panoramic tour of Oslo with photo stops
- Entrance to the Viking Ship Museum with presentation of Viking Stories and escapades
- Entrance & activities at the Norsk Folkemuseum compliments of resident artisans
- Guided walking and coach tour of Bodø
- Guided walking tour of Nusfjord
- Entrance to the Lofotr Viking Museum with custom program
- Guided walking and coach tour of Bergen
- Funicular ride up Mount Fløyen
- Excursion to Troidhaugen with piano recital
- Three-hour fjord cruise

ONLINE PAYMENT SYSTEM

- Allows each traveler to make individual trip payments online with a debit or credit card. Individuals receive electronic reminders, receipts and statement.

EACH MEMBER OF THE GROUP WILL RECEIVE:

- A customized handbook with detailed tour itinerary and travel information
- Electrical adapter
- Luggage tag
- Passport holder

PACKAGE PRICE

Including **ROUNDRIP AIRFARE** and **FLIGHTS** within **NORWAY**
(BOSTON – OSLO roundtrip; OSLO to BODO one-way; and BODO to BERGEN one-way):
\$5,962.00 per person in double occupancy

PACKAGE PRICE including **FLIGHTS** within **NORWAY ONLY**
(OSLO to BODO one-way & BODO to BERGEN one-way):
\$4,927.00 per person in double occupancy

SINGLE ROOM ACCOMMODATIONS:
\$410.00 per person single supplement

Please note the prices quoted above are based on a minimum of 20 paying travelers. Prices include group airfare, which is subject to changes in tax and fuel.



The University of Oslo

DETAILS :

TOUR ADMINISTRATION

This tour of Norway is designed by New Hampshire PBS and American Expeditions. The trip is designed to give NHPBS travelers a flavor of the culture, history and traditions of Norway through site visits and commentary from host Willem Lange and friends in Norway. A portion of the tour proceeds benefits New Hampshire PBS but is not considered a tax-deductible contribution according to IRS regulations. If a minimum number of participants is not reached, NHPBS and American Expeditions reserve the right to re-price or cancel the tour. In the case of cancellation, all payments made will be refunded.

CHANGES IN THE PROGRAM

NHPBS and American Expeditions reserve the right to alter the travel program and to make changes deemed necessary for the quality of the program and the comfort, convenience, and safety of the participants. Every effort will always be made to adhere to the printed itinerary, but weather conditions, transportation difficulties or other circumstances could force the cancellation or substitution of events or specific services.

TOUR HOST WILLEM LANGE

Avid outdoorsman, author and award-winning *Windows to the Wild* host, Willem Lange has been called "one of the most beloved storytellers in Northern New England." Willem writes *A Yankee Notebook*, a weekly newspaper column and his book, *Words from the Wild*, was published in 2015.

In addition to hosting 10 seasons of New Hampshire PBS' *Windows to the Wild* series, Willem is the host of five NHPBS birding documentaries that have won New England Emmy, Telly and New Hampshire Association of Broadcasters awards: *Journey of the Broad Winged Hawk*, *Saving Songbirds*, *Bird Tales*, *Counting on Birds*, and *Plight of the Grassland Birds*. He has published 10 books and several audio recordings. His knack for storytelling, background in education, and love for the outdoors make Willem the perfect host and tour guide.

Willem was born in 1935. A child of deaf parents, he grew up speaking sign language and first came to New England to prep school in 1950 as an alternative to reform school in his native New York state. During a few absences from New England, Willem earned a degree in only nine years at the College of Wooster in Ohio. He has worked as a ranch hand, Adirondack guide, preacher, construction laborer, bobsled run announcer, assembly line worker, cab driver, bookkeeper and bartender.

From 1968 to 1972, Willem directed the Dartmouth Outward Bound Center. From 1972 until his "retirement" in 2007, he was a building and remodeling contractor in Hanover, NH.

In 1973, Willem founded the Geriatric Adventure Society, a group of outdoor enthusiasts whose members have skied the 200-mile Alaska Marathon, climbed in Alaska, the Andes, and Himalayas and bushwhacked on skis through northern New England. He and his wife Ida have been married since 1959. They live in East Montpelier, VT and have three children and four grandchildren.

RESERVATION PROCEDURE

To register for this tour, please go online to
<http://NHPBSnorway.music-contact.com>
or call American Expeditions by Music Contact International
at 1-800-624-0166.

A \$1,500 per person registration fee is required to reserve your place on the tour.

Registrations will be accepted in the order in which they are received. Space is limited.

Tour registration closes on Thursday, April 12, 2018



**American
Expeditions**

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