



# 20 Interesting Facts about NORWAY

- 1 Norway is the birthplace of modern skiing. The word "ski" is Norwegian for "piece of wood".
- 2 There are as many Norwegian descendants living in the US as there are Norwegians living in Norway, especially in the states of North Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin.
- 3 Binge drinking on the weekends is a well-established tradition. Just don't drive home!
- 4 If caught driving under the influence, there is an automatic 30 days in jail, loss of license for a year, and fines up to 10% of your annual income.
- 5 If you own a TV in Norway, you have to pay an annual fee of \$300 USD.
- 6 The cheese slicer was invented in Norway.
- 7 The Laerdal road tunnel is the world's longest road tunnel at 24.5 km (15 miles).
- 8 Norway has won the largest number of Gold, Silver and Bronze medals of all countries in the Winter Olympics.
- 9 It is illegal to spay or neuter your dog in Norway except under specific circumstances regarding health or quality of life.
- 10 Norway stopped investing money into Walmart after determining that the company is guilty of "serious violations of fundamental ethical norms".
- 11 Norway introduced salmon sushi to the Japanese.
- 12 Norway gets 98-99% of its electricity from hydroelectric power, more than any other country.
- 13 There are about 450,000 lakes in Norway, 200 or so that are 4 square miles or more in size.
- 14 The Grandiosa frozen pizza is the unofficial national food dish.
- 15 Norway also has the world's deepest underwater tunnel at 287 meters deep.
- 16 The name "Norway" means "path to the North".
- 17 Even though Norway is one of the biggest exporters of oil in the world, gas prices are among the highest in the world.
- 18 Norway has over 20,000 km of coastline.
- 19 Norway is one of the wealthiest countries in the world.
- 20 The Jostedalsbreen, in Norway, is the largest glacier in Northern Europe.



## TRAVEL LOG: NORWAY



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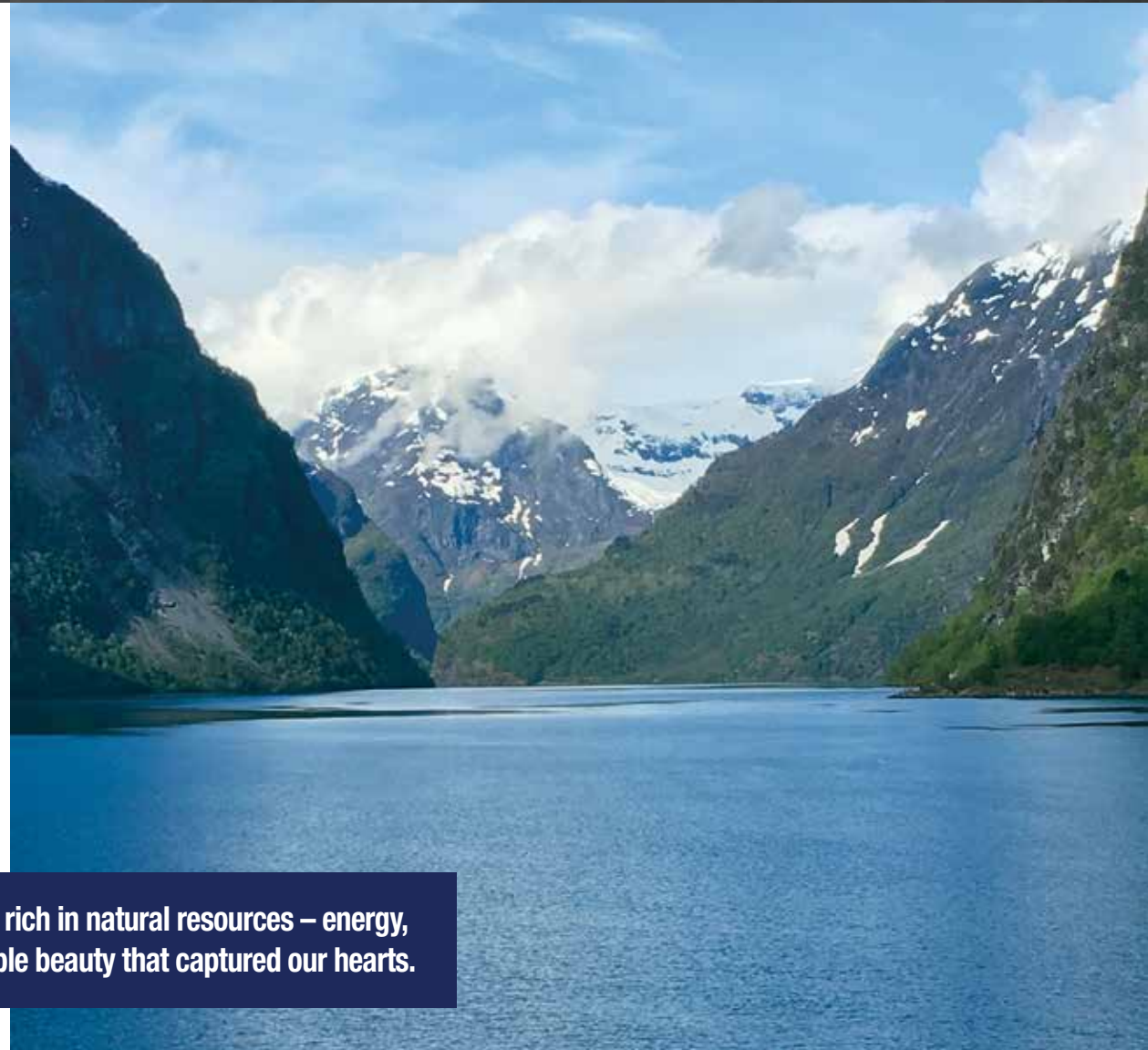
**WE RECENTLY HAD THE OPPORTUNITY**

to visit Norway for two weeks, traveling by plane, train, car and boat to some of the most beautiful spots on earth.

While Norway is a country incredibly rich in natural resources – energy, minerals, seafood – it is the impossible beauty that captured our hearts. That and the amazing hospitality of the Norwegian people who welcomed us into their country, their towns and their homes.

We were fortunate to arrive in country in time to experience 17 Mai, Norwegian Constitution Day (*similar to our July 4th Independence Day*) in Lillehammer. The parades and family celebrations showed off the proud patriotism and everyone was formally dressed, most in bunad, the native costume.

Perhaps the highlight of our trip were the fjords – we explored Sognefjord, Hardangerfjord and Geirangerfjord and were taken in by the raw beauty and fantastic waterfalls at every turn.



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We were certainly awed by this amazing country with fewer people than our state of Minnesota; a land of Vikings, Stave churches surviving since the 1100s, land of the midnight sun, with over 20 hours of daylight in the summer. We will go back.

*Now Christensen*

