



Northern Hideaway



NEED A TRANQUIL ESCAPE?

Head to Fordypningsrommet Fleinvær, a small resort located in Norway's Arctic archipelago. Founded by Norwegian composer and musician Håvard Lund, this artist's retreat is the ideal place for people to reconnect with nature. The cabins are embedded in the rocky landscape of the Fleinvær archipelago and include a sauna, kitchen, bathhouse and creative rooms. fordypningsrommet.no



SAUKKOMA/REX/SHUTTERSTOCK/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hobbyhorsing Around

A new craze is sweeping Scandinavia.

Hobbyhorsing is a competitive sport in which athletes, known as hobbyists, and their stuffed horse sticks partake in equestrian events like dressage and show jumping. It requires athleticism, gymnastic abilities and coordination to run and jump while holding the hobbyhorse. Athletes build their own hobbyhorse, attend weekend trainings and compete in competitions. The activity has attracted more than 10,000 participants, mostly girls from ages 10 to 18. Fred Sundwall, secretary general of

the Equestrian Federation of Finland, believes it is a great sport for people to try. "We think it's simply wonderful that hobbyhorsing has become a phenomenon and so popular," Sundwall told the Associated Press. To learn more check out the documentary "Hobbyhorse Revolution" and search for "hobbyhorsing" on YouTube.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2016, Norway's Ambassador to Canada Anne Kari Hansen Ovind completed the 51-km Gatineau Loppet cross-country ski race in Québec.



Europe's Environmental Capital

This year, Oslo beat out 13 other European cities to win the 2019 European Green Capital Award. Cities are ranked in 12 categories, including air and water quality, energy performance and biodiversity. Oslo Governing Mayor Raymond Johansen says that the city is committed to greener city life and shaping overall innovation.



A Concert-Going Nation

Six out of 10 Norwegians saw a concert in 2016. Experiencing live music has become so popular in Norway that it has surpassed attendance at sporting events, art galleries and theatrical shows. A greater audience is seeking out concerts throughout the year partly because of the booming festival market. Not only have concerts become more appealing, they also draw more folks from a wide age span, ages 25 and above. Two decades ago, a little under half of Norwegians were concertgoers. For most of the 2000s, the number of concertgoers has hovered around 60 percent.

Maritime Banknotes

Norway's latest series of banknotes are breaking from tradition. Five notes – the 50, 100, 200, 500 and 1,000-krone – will forego customary portraits of famous individuals in favor of maritime-inspired images. The designs, chosen from a contest, honor Norway's ocean-centered culture. These images include a lighthouse, Viking ship, rescue boat, foaming wave crests and a cod. The cod appears on the 200-krone banknote, which debuted May 2017. Prior to the launch, Norges Bank, Norway's central bank, released a comical music video about the new currency. Search "Torsken kommer II" on YouTube and look for the video by Norges Bank.

PHOTO BY NILS S. AASHEIM | NORGES BANK



View from the Top

Scandinavian Airlines' pilots recently selected Norway's most beautiful approaches.

According to pilot comments, Ålesund was hailed most beautiful, as fjords and mountains surround it. Tromsø is stunning as the white snowy country merges into the blue sea. Bodø has lots of small communities, numerous islands and a pleasant view of the Lofoten archipelago.

STAR EVENT

Trondheim is known as Norway's science and technology capital. In June, the city welcomed astronomers, biologists, physicists, Nobel Prize winners and musicians for 2017's Starmus Festival. First held in 2011, the festival celebrates science and music through concerts, seminars, parties and panels. Board member Peter Gabriel has explained that "Musicians explore and define what exists inside us, astronomers explore and define what exists outside of us. That's precisely what I love at the Starmus Festival: the combination of the two worlds." starmus.com



PHOTO BY MICHAEL CAMPANELLA | GETTY IMAGES

Larry King and Neil deGrasse Tyson

kalender

Oct. 31–Nov. 5, Oslo

Oslo World
Artists gather from around the world to perform and celebrate free cultural expression and speech in one of Europe's leading international music festivals. osloworld.no

Ends Nov. 19, Oslo

A Place to Be. Contemporary Norwegian Architecture 2011–2016
It's your last chance to see a selection of 25 influential architecture projects that have helped to transform Norway's design scene in recent years. nasjonalmuseet.no

Nov. 3–4, Lillehammer, Norway

STIHL Timbersports World Championship
Watch as more than 100 of the world's best lumberjacks compete in a team relay and go head-to-head in single competitions. stihl-timbersports.com

Nov. 12, Palatine, Illinois

Norwegian Heritage Fest
Indulge in a lunch of pea soup, waffles and hot dogs wrapped in lefse, listen to Norwegian music and take a look at craft exhibits and demonstrations at this festival. skjoldlodge.com