



FULL DAY PRIVATE EXCURSION HELLESYLT TO GEIRANGER

Experience the beautiful and breathtaking scenery of the west Norwegian Fjord landscape. From fjord to rugged mountain terrain, the panoramic views from the peak of Mount Dalsnibba and the dramatic Briksdal Glacier. The famous Flydals Gorge and Eagle Bend with a stunning view of the Geiranger Fjord and the Seven Sisters Waterfall.

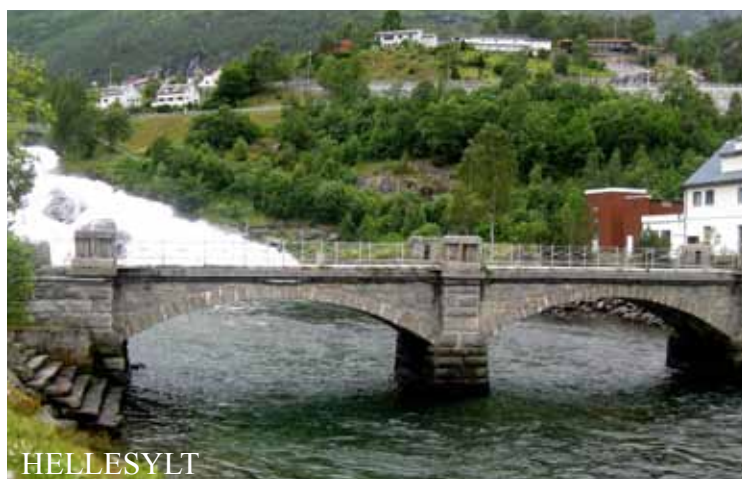
Your private tour starts as soon as you disembark your ship in Hellesylt. Your driver for the day will meet and greet you at the pier with your name sign. The pier is tiny, so the driver should be easy to spot.

From Hellesylt you drive through the winding and scenic road in between hills and mountains to Hornindalsvatn Lake. From here you follow the fjord to the small village of Olden. From Olden it's about a half hour drive through the beautiful lake landscape in Briksdalen Valley to the Briksdals Glacier. At the visitor center you have the choice of either hiking or take one of the troll cars up to the foot of the glacier. There are restaurants for a bite to eat and a souvenir shop.

After about 90 minutes you continue to the Village of Stryn, along Stryn Lake and up in the mountains. You will see the landscape change from the lush and green fjord landscape to rugged mountain terrain. Along the way you will pass Jostedalbreen (Glacier) National Park Centre, and have a short stop if time permits. At about 1000m/3200f AMSL you turn on the Geirangervegen (The Geiranger Road) and cross the mountain pass to Dupvatn Glacier Lake with its ice cold deep blue waters and Djupvasshytta.



GLACIER LAKE



HELLESYLT

After a photo stop you travel the winding road called Nibbavegen another 500 meters/1640 feet to the mountain peak Dalsnibba. The stunning view of the surrounding mountains and the Geiranger Fjord below will stay with you for a lifetime. When it is time to leave, you travel down the hairpin bends on the road to Geiranger. And the road is an experience in itself, with the beautiful mountain to fjord landscape, passing summer farms and idyllic waterfalls.

Next stop is the famous Flydalsjuvet (Flydals Gorge). Ask your driver how to get "the picture" from the overhanging rock. From Flydalsjuvet you continue all the way down to the fjord and through the village of Geiranger. The last stop of your private tour, before you return to Geiranger and your ship, is Ørnesvingen (Eagle Bend). From 620m/2000f AMSL you will enjoy the spectacular panoramic view of the Geiranger Fjord, the Seven Sisters waterfall and the village of Geiranger, nestling alongside a smaragd-green fjord underneath the mountains.

Please allow 6-7 hours for this excursion.





Hellesylt

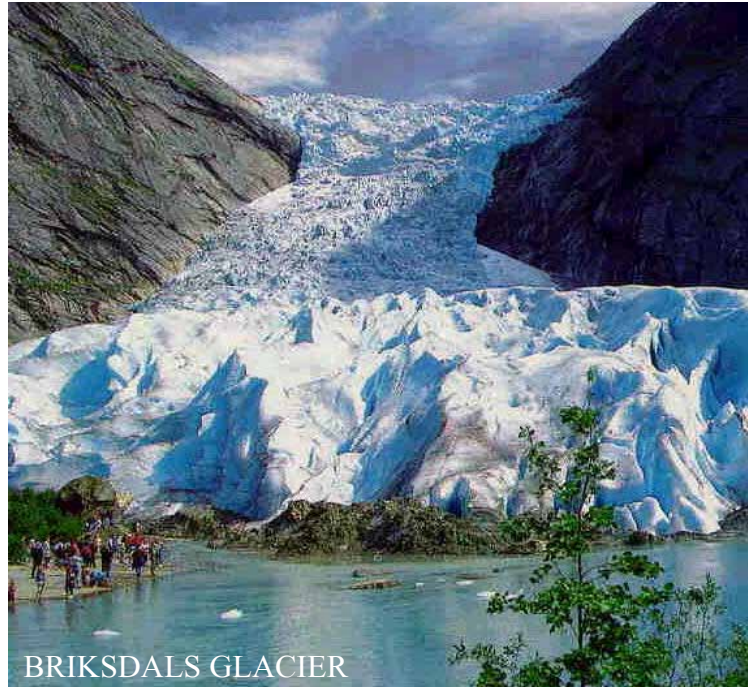
Set amid impressive mountains and a beautiful fjord, UNESCO World Heritage listed Hellesylt is a must-see during your visit to Norway. Beautifully restored old farm-houses are scattered around the hills and mountains, many with quite daring and challenging locations Hellesylt is a rewarding place to visit and offers an excellent stop-over en route to the Geiranger fjord.

Hornindalsvatn

The Hornindalsvatnet Lake is the deepest lake in Europe, 514 meters deep. None of the glacier streams run out into the lake and this has resulted in Europe's clearest lake. It is possible to swim, row a boat or fish here.

Briksdalsbreen Glacier

The wonderful scenery of Briksdal is so overwhelming that we would like to share it with you, and it is the glacier itself that gives you the most breath-taking impression. But you will definitely also appreciate the fertile valley next to the ice with the mighty mountains that surround it. Enjoy the raging glacier rivers creating a wild dance on its way to the fjord and the ocean, it seems like the water is in a hurry after thousands of years as ice in the valley. Briksdal Glacier is a part of the main ice massif, Jostedal Glacier,



BRIKSDALS GLACIER

which is the largest glacier on the European mainland. It is a protected area as a national park, and now covers 486 km². At its thickest point it is now 400 m. and its tallest peak stretches 1950 m above sea level. Only 346 m above sea level, the Briksdal Glacier has created a small lake. From the Briksdal Mountain Lodge you can easily get there on foot by walking the 2.5 km long road/path or let us drive you there in one of the Troll Cars.



DJUPVATN GLACIER LAKE

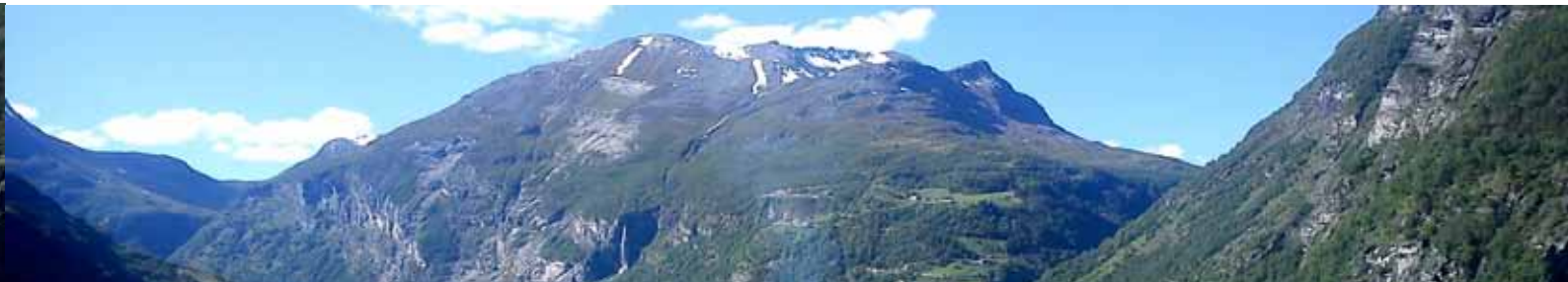
Stryn Village

Located along the innermost part of the Nordfjord, village is known for all-year glacier skiing. Centre of Jostedal-breen National Park is also situated in Stryn. Being hidden in the fjord next to enormous glacier, the village combines such things as growing fruits with summertime skiing. The landscapes around the village are what you could expect from Norway: glaciers, deep fjord waters, rivers, lakes, waterfalls - abundance of water in all forms also means abundant wildlife, with birds and animals of all sizes, including eagles, deers and lynxes.

Djupvasshytta

As the destinations in old times for cruise guests who travelled up the mountain pass with horse and carriage Djupvasshytta has been a tourist attraction for many





decades. Today it is much easier to reach the mountain lodge, that serves as restaurant and retreat alongside lake Djupvatnet.

Djupvatn Lake

Just passed Dalsnibba one can find a magnificent deep blue lake Djupvatn Lake, which is several hundred meters deep. The lake only unfreezes for a few months during the summer and even in July one can still see plenty of ice flowing on the lake.

Dalsnibba – 1500 m.a.s.

Dalsnibba is one of Geiranger's main attractions and is a very popular mountain top with visitors to the area. From the Dalsnibba plateau there is a breath-taking view across the most beautiful World Heritage Site, nestled in the surrounding mountain landscape with Geirangerfjorden right in the middle. A visit to the Dalsnibba summit is really an encounter with the elements! The summit is virtually unique because you can really experience the high mountains without having to walk for hours. The weather at the summit is changeable and can vary from thick fog to radiant sunshine in the blink of an eye. It is a photographer's dream to witness these stunning variations and there have naturally been many photos taken of the view from the



summit. It is not uncommon to observe thick fog in the lowlands while the sun is shining at the summit.

Geiranger

Geiranger is the jewel in the crown of the Norwegian fjords. It is a fairytale landscape with its majestic, snow-covered mountain tops, wild and beautiful waterfalls, lush green vegetation and the deep, blue fjord. The history of Geiranger can be traced back to the Viking period. The village was relatively isolated until the mid-1800s, when the tourism industry began to blossom. Today, the tourism industry continues to flourish. Geiranger has a year-round population of about 300 residents—and it welcomes approximately 700,000 visitors each year.

Visit Geiranger Fjordsenter for a fascinating look at the people in our area, past and present. Or, travel to beautiful Herdalssetra—a 300-year-old goat farming community—to learn about life in rural Norway. When it's time for refreshment, choose from several cafés in Geiranger that serve up Norwegian fare. Traditional foods include seafood, root vegetables, berries, cured meats and wild game—like moose, reindeer and duck. You'll find several souvenir shops conveniently located near the port. Popular souvenirs include woodwork and knitted sweaters.





Flydalsjuvet Gorge

Flydalsjuvet offers an impressive view and is a good photo spot for pictures of Geiranger and of Geirangerfjorden with its many cruise ships. One of the most famous motifs in Norwegian advertising was taken from this point. The "Fjordsetet" installation, which was unveiled by Queen Sonja in September 2003 as part of the 10th anniversary of the local Fjord Norge AS Company, is located on the lower plateau.

Ørnesvingen

The Eagle's Bend is the name of the steepest stretch of road that runs up the mountainside from Geiranger towards Eidsdal on route 63. The road twists and turns through 11 hairpin bends from Geirangerfjorden up to the highest point 620 meters above sea level at Korsmyra. The Eagle's road was officially opened on 15 September 1955 and provided the village of Geiranger with a year-round road link. It became a tourist attraction from the very first day, and acquired its name because at the top it ran through an area traditionally associated with high numbers of eagles. The name also suggests something wild and spectacular and, if you drive along this road, that is exactly what you will experience, especially if you stop at the Eagle's bend, which is the uppermost hairpin bend.



FLYDALS GORGE

It is possible to park here and make the most of the huge view over Geiranger, Geirangerfjorden with its numerous cruise ships, De syv søstre waterfalls and the mountain farm of Knivsfå.



EAGLE BEND

Geirangerfjord, natural World Heritage Site since 2005.

Situated in south-western Norway, north-east of Bergen, Geirangerfjord, are part of the west Norwegian fjord landscape, which stretches from Stavanger in the south to Andalsnes, 500 km to the north-east. The fjords, among the world's longest and deepest, are considered as archetypical fjord landscapes and among the most scenically outstanding anywhere. Its exceptional natural beauty is derived from its narrow and steep-sided crystalline rock walls that rise up to 1,400 m from the Norwegian Sea and extend 500 m below sea level. The sheer walls of the fjord have numerous waterfalls while free-flowing rivers cross its deciduous and coniferous forests to glacial lakes, glaciers and rugged mountains. The landscape features a range of supporting natural phenomena, both terrestrial and marine, such as submarine moraines and marine mammals. The fjord is about 300 meters deep.





Other points of interest

Westerås Farm

Westerås Farm with fantastic views of the tourist village of Geiranger. Relax and enjoy a light meal or a few drinks at Restaurant Westerås in an inviting and friendly atmosphere. The restaurant is housed in a building dating from 1603, and has panorama views of Geiranger. Let yourself be tempted into taking some of the magnificent walks into the mountains available to you from just outside the door.

Storseterfossen

It is actually possible to walk behind the Storseterfossen waterfall. An accessible path with railings ensures your safety. The walk to the waterfall, which is located in Westerås dalen, takes about an hour from Westerås Farm.

Knuten (The knot)

The unique road construction known as Knuten (the Knot) remains as it was when it was opened 1882. It was built in conjunction with the Geirangervegen road in order to gain height and to conquer difficult terrain. The stone construction displays outstanding engineering work and is an important reminder of the pioneers who built Geirangervegen from 1881 until it was opened in 1889.



WESTERÅS FARM

Herdalsetra Summer Farm

Herdalsetra, the largest mountain farm still in use in Norway. It is situated on a plateau 1,650 feet above sea level and has been running continuously for more than 300 years. The summer farm usually operates from early June until the end of August. Herdalsetra Farm, with its 30 farm buildings, had no road connecting it to civilization until 1960. The main product from the farm is brown and white cheese made from goats' milk. There are more than 400 goats here as well as cows, sheep and Norwegian ponies. Enjoy samples of the various products such as goat cheese and caramels produced on the farm. The summer farm is located a good hour drive from Geiranger.



HERDALSETRA SUMMER FARM

Jostedalsbreen (Glacier) National Park Centre

The main building of this centre has been constructed in a manner similar to Viking longhouses where pillars rather than the walls are supporting the roof. The Viking longhouse here has about the size of the biggest longhouse found in Norway. Jostedalsbreen National Park Centre has been authorized by the Department of Environment to serve as an official national park visitor centre, for visitors to learn about the diversity and beauty of the surrounding national park. (1 hour drive from Geiranger, 15 minutes drive from Stryn).





Fun Fact

Farms on the Geiranger fjord – Knivsflå & Skageflå

As your boat moves along the Geiranger fjord, you can see a few farms on the cliffs. Most of them are no longer inhabited. Some are situated on extremely steep rock, so steep that their inhabitants had to climb a ladder to get to their houses from the boat. This had its good points too: when the tax-collector arrived, the ladder was pulled up and no taxes were collected. The farmer's children had to be tied to the trees by their legs for fear of them falling off the cliff. Yet, they had a horse up there and farmed the land, growing even peach trees, which thrived in the mild climate.

Swim close to the shore

Transportation is not cheap or easy to get when you're in the middle of the Geiranger fjord. But you should NEVER try to cross the fjord by swimming like a tourist tried. She forgot to arrange her transportation back to the harbor so she decided

to swim with her purse in one hand. Luckily for her she was picked up by a man in kayak. Otherwise she would probably have drown. Not to mention the cruise ships passing making big waves and all the water streams.

Geiranger – Open all Summer

Geiranger has just around 250-300 permanent residents, but is host to around 150-200 cruise ships and 700,000 tourists during the summer months every year. Most of shops and restaurants are closed between September and May, except the supermarket Joker and Hotel Union. And, of course, the taxi service. We operate 24/7 365 day in the year.

Fishing

Fjord fishing is free of charge and is available within a short distance from Geiranger Village. You can catch cod, haddock, pollock, salmon and more. Fishing equipment can be rented from the camp sites.



Important – For private tours starting in Hellesylt, please ensure that your cruise line allows you to disembark in Hellesylt for a private excursion, before you make a reservation.

All drivers speaks fluent English, are experienced, licensed, and with excellent local knowledge. Please do not hesitate to ask him/her about local history, information about the beautiful scenery you are traveling through or anything else that is on your mind. The itinerary is mainly a suggestion and a guideline for your excursion. If you want to make extra photo stops, just let us know. We will find somewhere safe along the way for those magic photo moments.

All private tours can be "tailor made" to your needs and wants. Even though we try to give you an estimated duration of your private tour, it is just an estimate. Please keep in mind that during the high season many visitors and tourists are joining us on the road to experience this wonderful scenery, so there can be a bit of traffic going to our spectacular view points and attractions.

We do have different vehicles in our limited fleet ranging from smaller 3-4 seat sedans to 8 seat wheelchair accessible mini-van and minibusses. Since all our vehicles are in high demand during the high season and due to any last minute changes, we may not be able to guarantee a specific vehicle at the time of your private tour.

The uniformed drivers will meet and greet you with your name sign at the pier right after you disembark your tender or the Sea Walk (gangway) at the confirmed meeting time, if nothing else is mention. Don't worry the pier and the center of Geiranger is tiny, but if you are unable to find the driver, our vehicles in Geiranger is lined up next to Geiranger Skysstasjon Café, about 50 meters/165 feet away from the passenger pier and just above the Tourist Information. (Please do not hesitate to inquire about our "missing" driver to the friendly staff in Geiranger Skysstasjon Café.

Please note that in high season, when the demands are high, we might not be available or change you confirmed start time of your private tour. We are in control of many things, but never the weather. The drivers will always be able to suggest alternatives, but Geiranger, the fjord and the surrounding areas are all about the spectacular, wild and majestic nature, and sometimes the rough weather can be an attraction in itself.

For more information contact us at post@guidetravel.no

