



FULL DAY PRIVATE EXCURSION TO TROLLSTIGEN

Trollstigen - the "Troll Ladder" is a dramatic and exciting experience. The road twists through 11 hairpin bends as it climbs up to Stigrøra (858 metres above sea level). In some places it is cut into the mountain; in others it is built on top of stone walls.

Your private excursion starts when you disembark your ship. Your driver will be at the pier with your name sign to meet and greet you. You start your journey by climbing up Eagle Road and across the mountain plateau that connects Geiranger to the villages of Eidsdal and Norddal. You will travel alongside Eidsvatn Lake on one side and beautiful old farmhouses scattered around the valley on the other side.

When you arrive in Eidsdal, a 10 minutes ferry ride awaits you. The journey over to Linge village gives you enough time to visit the upper deck for some nice pictures of the fjord. You pass the village of Valldal, also known as Strawberry Village. The area produces 800 tons of sweet and delicious strawberries annually, and you will drive past many strawberry farms on your way to Trollstigen. This is west Norwegian nature at its most powerful, with a dizzying view of sheer mountainsides, deep fjords and fertile valleys. And soon the Trollstigen plateau will reveal itself in front of you.

Trollstigen is an impressive piece of road building where the road snakes and climbs its way onwards and upwards along steep mountainsides. The bends and curves bear witness to the skill of the constructors, built on the base



GUDBRANDSJUVET



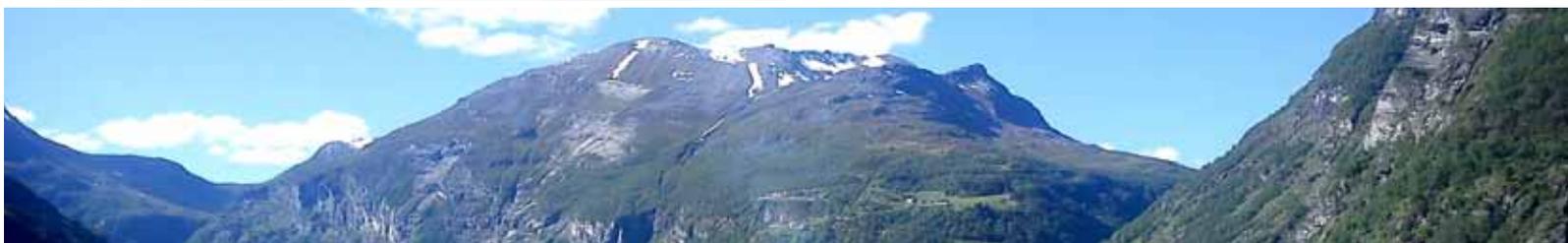
TROLLSTIGEN

rock of the steep mountainsides, or hewn by hand into the mountain itself. The road is narrow with a gradient of 9 %, but passing pockets have been incorporated and traffic normally flows without a problem. Trollstigen is both fascinating and a test of the nerves.

After a drive down and up Trollstigen, and a stop to the visitor center with spectacular panoramic view of the valley and the road itself, you start on your return to Geiranger. There will be a stop at Gudbrandsjuvet, half way between Trollstigen and Valldal centre. It is an impressive system of whirlpools flanking a 5 metre wide and 20 metre deep gorge.

The car ferry will take you back from Linge to Eidsdal, and before you start on your way down to Geiranger on the other side of the mountain plateau, there will be a stop at Egleas Bend. From here you will enjoy the magnificent panorama over Geiranger, the Geirangerfjord, the Seven Sisters Waterfalls and the alpine farm Knivsflå. You will arrive back in Geiranger with time so you have a chance to explore the village before you board your ship again.

Please allow 6-7 hours for this excursion.





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 in traditional Norwegian patterns.



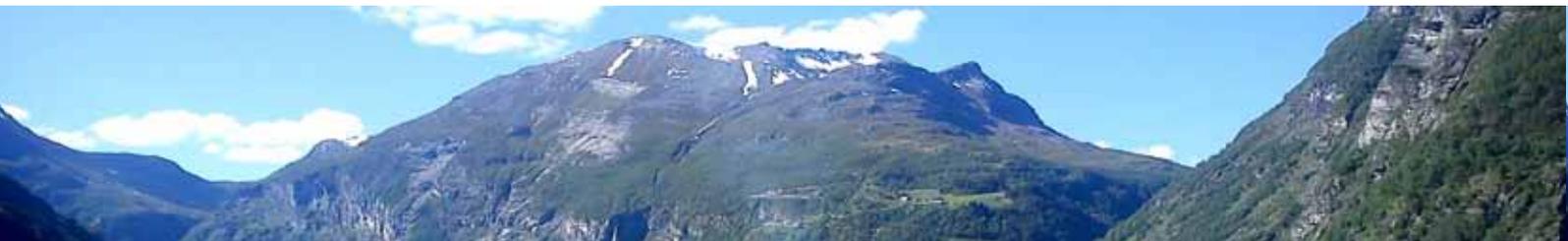
Geirangerfjord - A World Heritage Site since 2005.

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.



Trollstigen

Snaking its way up steep mountain sides, passing waterfalls, edged with guard stones, narrow, sometimes nerve-racking but always extremely fascinating. This is Trollstigen, the road that is a testimony to superb engineering and construction skills using the simplest of tools from the hard thirties. Still capable of transfixing and scaring many





of its travellers, a good 70 years after it was opened in 1936.

Gudbrandsjuvet

Gudbrandsjuvet is a 5 metre narrow and 20–25 metre high ravine through which the Valldøla River forces itself. The ravine is easily accessible from main road route 63 between Valldal and Trollstigen. The waters have formed a complex of deep potholes and intricate formations. The depth down from the surface of the water is about equal to the depth of ravine down to the river.

According to a story from the 1500's, the ravine was named after a man called Gudbrand, who ran off with his new bride and saved himself from his angry pursuers by jumping over the ravine at its narrowest point. Gudbrand was declared an outlaw for his deeds, and lived the rest of his life in a stone hut in one of the side-valleys above Gudbrandsjuvet. The valley is still called Gudbrandsdalen to this day. One thing the story doesn't mention is whether his bride followed him over the ravine...

Ørnesvingen

The Eagle's Bend is the name of the steepest stretch of road that runs up the mountainside from Geiranger



EAGLE BEND



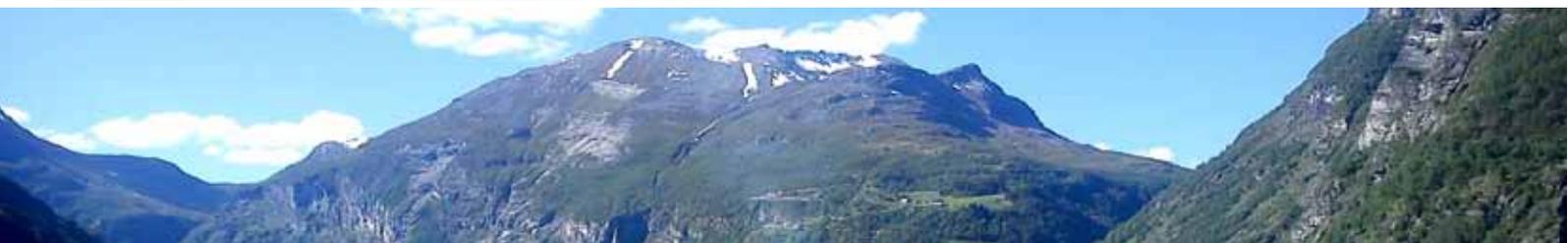
GUDBRANDSJUVET

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

Other points of interest

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.

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 Westeråsdaalen, 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



WESTERÅS FARM

important reminder of the pioneers who built Geirangervegen from 1881 until it was opened in 1889.

Dalsnibba – 1500 m.a.s.

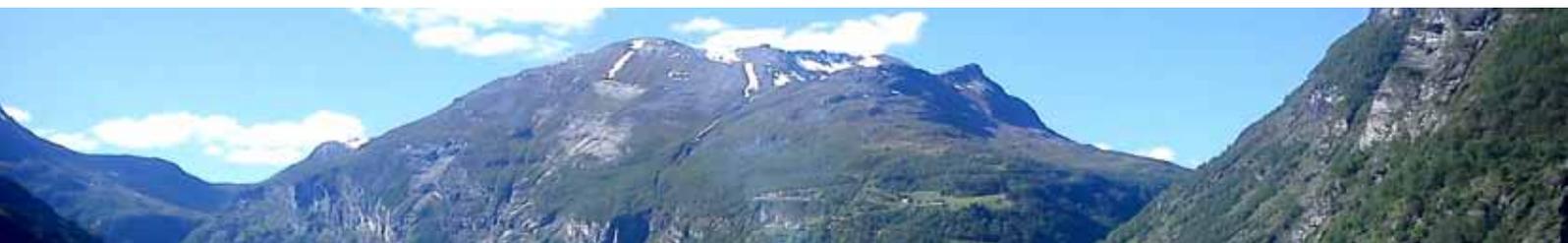
Dalsnibba is one of Geiranger's main attractions and is a very popular mountain top with visitors to the area. From the Dalsnibba plateau there is a breath-taking view across the most beautiful World Heritage Site, nestled in the surrounding mountain landscape with Geirangerfjorden right in the middle. 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.

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



DALSNIÐBA





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.

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.



DJUPVATN GLACIER LAKE

Fun Fact

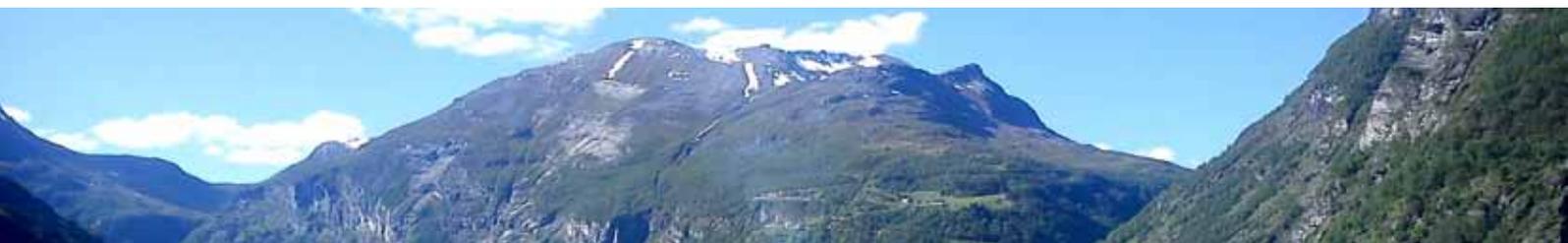
Farms on the Geiranger fjord – Knivsflå & SkageFlå
As your boat moves along the Geiranger fjord, you can see a few farms on the cliffs. Most of them are no longer inhabited. Some are situated on extremely steep rock, so steep that their inhabitants had to climb a ladder to get to their houses from the 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.



HERDALSETRA SUMMER FARM

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.





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 minivan 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 mentioned. 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 the “missing” driver to the friendly staff in Geiranger Skysstasjon Café or call us.

Please note that in high season, when the demands are high, we might not be available or change your 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

