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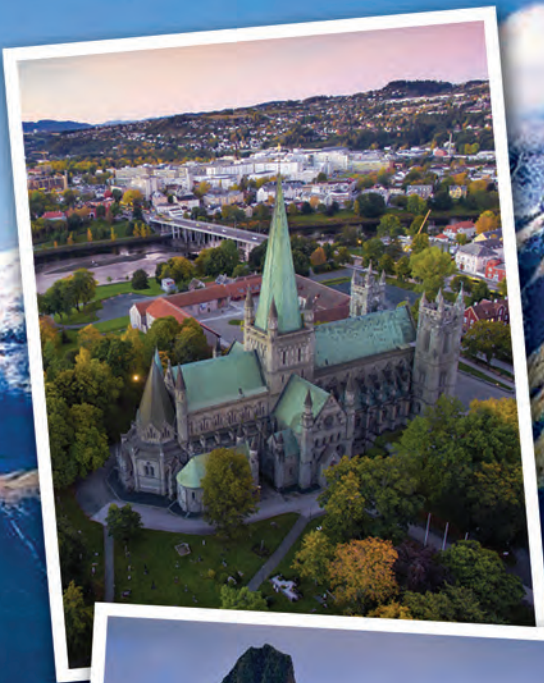
The Northern Illinois University Alumni Association

Presents

Norwegian Coastal Voyage – Cruising with Hurtigruten

July 13 – 24, 2019

\$6,749 Per Person, Double Occupancy Twin Bedded Polar Outside Cabin from Chicago
\$6,799 Per Person, Double Occupancy Double Bedded Arctic Superior Deck 5 from Chicago
\$7,249 Per Person, Double Occupancy Double Bedded Arctic Superior Deck 6 from Chicago



This is an exclusive travel program presented by the Northern Illinois University Alumni Association

Day by Day Itinerary

Saturday, July 13 – CHICAGO / EN ROUTE (I)

This evening we depart Chicago's O'Hare International Airport by scheduled service of Scandinavian Airlines on the overnight transatlantic flight to Copenhagen, Denmark.

Sunday, July 14 – COPENHAGEN / OSLO (I,D)

We arrive this afternoon in Copenhagen and continue by connecting flight to Oslo, Norway. On arrival, we'll meet our local Tour Guide who will introduce us to Oslo's compact town center where the concentration of activity creates a charming atmosphere.

Monday, July 15 – OSLO (B)

Founded by Viking King Harald in 1050, the capital of Norway is encircled by wooded hills and a beautiful harbor located at the tip of Oslo Fjord. This morning we will enjoy an introductory tour of cosmopolitan Oslo. We'll start along the waterfront where we'll see the distinctive Radhus with its massive twin towers and take in Oslo Cathedral. Then we'll travel along Karl Johans Gate where we'll see both the National Theatre and the Royal Palace. We'll also visit the controversial Vigeland Sculptures in Frogner Park and Holmenkollen Hill with its well-known ski jump and beautiful view of the city. Afterward, we'll return to Oslo for an afternoon at leisure - an opportunity to enjoy shopping along Karl Johans Gate or time to visit one of the city's outstanding museums, including the Munch Museum, named after Norwegian artist Edvard Munch.

Tuesday, July 16 – OSLO (Bygdøy Peninsula) (B)

In preparation for our upcoming Hurtigruten voyage, this morning we'll travel to Bygdøy Peninsula to visit the Viking Ship Museum. We'll view three Viking ships, the *Soeberg*, the *Gokstad*, and the *Tune*, built between 800 and 900, and excavated in the late 1800s and early 1900s, with displays offering insight into how they were found and preserved. The *Tune* ship was the first Viking ship to be unearthed and remains the third best-preserved ship in the world. Afterward, we'll visit the Fram Museum that explores the history of Norwegian polar exploration, and offers exhibitions on the Arctic and Northwest Passage. The museum also has a polar simulator where we can experience the cold and dangers polar expeditions faced more than 100 years ago. This afternoon we'll return to Oslo's friendly and compact town center, a cosmopolitan hub with an abundance of world-class architecture, museums, restaurants and shopping.

Wednesday, July 17 – OSLO / KIRKENES (B,L)

This morning we return to Oslo Airport and take to the skies for the town of Kirkenes. East meets West at this Northern Norwegian town, just a few miles from the Russian border. On arrival, we'll meet our local Tour Guide who will introduce us to Kirkenes history, daily life, relationship to Russia, and much more. We'll visit Andersgrotta, the town's bomb shelter during World War II, taste Russian specialties, and take in a great view of Kirkenes from Prestfjellet Mountain.

Thursday, July 18 – KIRKENES / CRUISING (Kirkenes – Berlevåg) (B,L,D)

Today we travel to Hurtigruten Quay for embarkation aboard the *MS Polarlys*. But don't confuse a Hurtigruten with the typical cruise ship. The ship's small size allows passengers to get up close to natural wonders, and other sights that many people only dream about.

For more than 100 years, the Hurtigruten has been captivating travelers with a scenic adventure that showcases some of the world's most breathtaking scenery. Unlike most cruises, which promote the ship and shipboard activities as the focal points of the trip, the "World's Most Beautiful Voyage" caters to individuals seeking travel adventure by offering port-intensive experiences, a casual ambience aboard ship, and three hearty meals daily. During our cruise, we will stop at no less than 34 colorful ports of call, ranging from major cities to small fishing hamlets. At some ports, the ship stops only long enough to load and unload cargo, while at others it docks for several hours, affording plenty of time to explore the town or take part in one of the ship's *optional* shore excursions.

Friday, July 19 – CRUISING (Mehamn – Tromsø) (B,L,D)

Summer shows pristine and green Norway at its Midnight Sun finest with long days and literally hours of spectacular sunset skies. The intense extended daylight above the Arctic Circle lasts around the clock, giving us more than enough time to discover the beautiful coastline. We'll arrive in Honningsvåg, where you can start your day with an *optional* breakfast at North Cape, the northernmost part of Norway that reaches around Sweden and meets Finland. Our first major stop is Hammerfest, the world's northernmost natural gas terminal, where the sun does not set from May 21 through July 28. Despite its northerly location, Hammerfest offers a sheltered, ice-free harbor, and over time became Norway's polar capital, serving as a base for hunting expeditions into the High Arctic. Here you can see the UNESCO-listed Meridian Column, erected in 1854 to commemorate the first precise geographic measurement of the globe. Late this evening we'll dock at Tromsø, where you can enjoy a walk around town or take part in an *optional* midnight concert at the Arctic Cathedral.

Saturday, July 20 – CRUISING (Tromsø – Stamsund) (B,L,D)

The daylight sailing through idyllic Vesterålen and the Lofoten Islands is a highlight for many Hurtigruten guests. The Lofoten region is renowned for its natural beauty with steep mountains, wild nature and small, picturesque fishing villages. Passing through a stunning network of inlets and isles, we'll soon see the majestic peaks of the Lofoten Wall, before reaching the narrow Raftsund. This 12-mile passage takes us to the spectacular Trollfjord, where steep cliffs hug the ship's sides, and the dramatic landscape conjures images of an imaginary land of trolls. In the early evening, we'll

arrive at the port capital of Svolvær. When fishing isn't occupying the hearts and minds of the locals, the Lofotens are best known for their thriving summertime artist colonies inspired by the beauty of the islands. In addition, several exciting *optional* excursions will offer an opportunity that can make you feel like a natural born explorer.

Sunday, July 21 – CRUISING (Bodø – Rørvik) (B,L,D)

Crossing the Arctic Circle at 66°33'N is an important rite of passage. Today we'll celebrate the event on deck with a taste of Arctic tradition – a spoonful of cod liver oil! Another highlight will take us along the Helgeland coast with its hundreds of islets and steep granite walls rich in local lore. We'll see the Seven Sisters mountain range. All seven peaks are between 2,800 and 3,600 feet high, and it is easy to understand how these 'ladies' led to an ancient myth. Side-by-side, the seven mountaintops look so beautiful that a local legend claims they are female trolls turned to stone. You'll also want to be on deck when we sail past Torghatten Mountain, famous for its characteristic hole that goes right through the mountain. Legends include an arrow being fired by the troll Hestmannen piercing the mountain - the hole has to be seen to be believed!

Monday, July 22 – CRUISING

(Trondheim – Ålesund) (B,L,D)

Early this morning we arrive in the city of Trondheim. With its colorful warehouses, waterways, and wooded hills, Trondheim is without doubt one of Norway's most photogenic towns. Most of Trondheim's sights are within easy walking distance of each other, making Norway's third-largest city and its historic capital a pleasure to explore. In the Middle Ages, Trondheim became Norway's religious center and historic Nidaros Cathedral remains one of Scandinavia's most significant medieval structures. If you're interested in an in-depth introduction, an *optional* city walk will take you on a journey through Trondheim's 1,000 year history. Back on board, we'll sail along the coast to the town of Kristiansund,



regarded as Norway's "cured cod capital" because of its long-time export of salted dry fish. Here you can join an *optional* excursion along the Atlantic Road. The road's roller coaster-feel, curvy bridges, and phenomenal views have made it a favorite of road trippers.

Tuesday, July 23 – CRUISING / BERGEN (B,L,D)

During the night, our ship calls at the ports of Ålesund, Torvik, and Måløy, as our voyage draws to a close. Before we dock in Bergen, there are still more nautical miles of fascinating scenery ahead, including the picturesque Nordfjord below the enormous Jostedal Glacier, and the mighty Sognefjord with superb views of the magnificent island-studded coastline. This afternoon our Hurtigruten passage comes to an end in the Hanseatic port of Bergen. Following disembarkation, we'll enjoy an introductory tour of Bergen that will take us past Bergenhus Fortress and its beautiful park, to the UNSECO World Heritage Site of Bryggen, where we'll enjoy a walking tour of Market Square and the waterfront with its age-old wooden buildings and narrow planked alleyways.

Wednesday, July 24 – BERGEN / CHICAGO (B,I)

This morning we travel to Bergen Airport in preparation for the return journey home. No better time to reflect on memories of our *Norwegian Coastal Voyage* that will last a lifetime and new friendships made along the way.

***** Welcome Home *****

Visit myniu.com to make your reservation.

The Tour Price Includes:

- Pre-trip assistance.
- Informational packet.
- Alumni staff assistance for a worry-free travel experience.
- Economy-class air transportation by scheduled service of Scandinavian Airlines.
- Transportation by deluxe private motor coach with accompanying Tour Guides on pre and post cruise days.
- Accommodations in first-class hotels.
- Cruise accommodations based on choice of stateroom aboard the *MS Polarlys*.
- All meals as shown in the Day by Day Itinerary.
- Sightseeing as detailed in the Day by Day Itinerary including applicable entrance fees.
- Luggage handling and portage charges for one suitcase per person at the hotels and piers.
- Taxes for included ground services, **and airline taxes and fuel surcharge of \$460 per person.**

The Tour Price Does Not Include: Items of a personal nature such as passport fees; luggage handling at airports; gratuities to the motor coach driver(s), Tour Guides, and shipboard personnel; personal and baggage insurance; optional shore excursions and meals other than those stated above.

TOUR CONDITIONS

Tour Deposit and Payment: Reservations may be made by check or credit card (Visa, MC, or Discover). Tour prices do increase every year and it is possible that increases could occur after the printing of this brochure in advance of your tour's departure.

Tour Pricing: This is a package tour in which land tour costs and special group airfares have been combined in the most advantageous way. Should you wish to make any deviation from the package tour by changing your departure and/or return dates, the advantages of the package tour price may be eliminated and additional charges will be assessed.

Travel Insurance: Travel insurance is very important and can be purchased through USI Travel Insurance Services. This insurance is designed to cover you and your trip investment from trip cancellation/interruption penalties and provide medical expense, medical evacuation, baggage and personal effects loss, and accidental death coverage, as well as emergency assistance. There is an advantage to early enrollment in this travel insurance program. Purchasing coverage within 21 days (Plus and Elite Options) of your initial trip deposit can make you eligible for 1) Pre-existing Medical Condition Exclusion Waiver, and 2) Optional Cancel for Any Reason Coverage (Elite Option). If you wish to take advantage of the special above provisions, you must enroll within 21 days of the date your initial trip deposit is received. Contact Travel Insurance Services at 1-800-937-1387.

RESPONSIBILITY

THE NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION and/or any travel agency and/or supplier of services pursuant to or in connection with this itinerary shall not be responsible or become liable for any delay incurred by any person in connection with any means of transportation; nor for any loss, damage or injury to person or property by reason of any event beyond the control of any agency or supplier, or occurring without the fault or negligence of such agency or supplier. The right is reserved to substitute the airline to be used; the type of aircraft; and to alter the dates of the tour; the tour routing; or to cancel the trip if a minimum number of bookings is not reached for either the air or land portion of this itinerary. The right is also reserved to substitute hotels for other hotels in available categories. Further, the right is reserved to decline to accept or to retain at any time any person as a participant on any tour or to cancel any tour. No refund will be made for voluntary absence from the tour unless arrangements are made at the time of booking. The schedules contained herein are subject to change without notice. All rates are based on current Tariff and Exchange rates in effect at the time of the printing of this itinerary and are subject to adjustment without prior notification in the event of changes therein or in changes in the number of participants on which the rates are based. The carriers concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance. The passage contract in use by carrier concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the carrier and the purchaser of this tour.

For more information visit the Travel section at myniu.com or contact the NIU Alumni Association at 815-753-1512 to make your reservation.

\$100 of the trip cost is tax-deductible as a charitable donation.

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