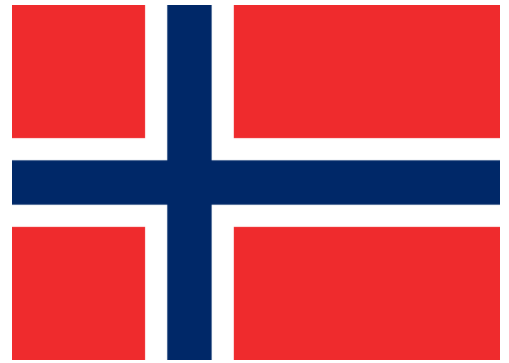


General information about Norway

Geography

- Located at the western and northern part of the Scandinavian peninsula.
- Norway has a long land border to the east with Sweden a shorter border with Finland and an even shorter with Russia.
- The coast line is one of the longest and most rugged in the world with some 50,000 islands.
- 32 % of the mainline is located above the tree line and is one of Europe's mountainous countries.
- **Norway's total area is 385,179 km² of which 94,95% is land.**
- The highest point is Galdhopiggen 2,569 m.
- There are over 150,000 lakes.
- The longest river is Glomma 604 km and the largest lake is **Mjosa 352 km².**
- The Gulf Stream makes Norway having a milder climate than other countries at the same latitude.
- Due to the varied topography and climate, Norway has a larger number of different habitats than almost any other European Country.
- During the last ice age, Norway was virtually entirely covered with a thick ice sheet. As the ice moved, valleys were carved out and the famous Fjords were created when the ice melted and filled these valleys.



Population

- A population of **5,312,300** (August 2018)
- The population density in 2017 was 14.5 people per sq.km.
- Oslo, the capital inhabits 1,000,467 (2017) followed by Bergen 255,464, Stavanger and Trondheim.
- **The urban population was 81.9% in 2017, growing at an average annual rate of 0.56%**
- The five largest urban settlements inhabit 33% of the population.
- Sámi people inhabit Sápmi which covers parts of Norway but also Sweden, Finland, and Russia.



Politics

- **Norway is considered to be one of the most developed democracies and states of justice in the world.**
- Norway is a constitutional monarchy unitary with a parliamentary system of government.
- King Harald V is the head of State and the prime minister is the head of government.

Religion

- Norway is very much a **secular** country with religious freedom and representation of most religions.
- The Church of Norway became an independent legal entity in 2017.
- **71.5%** of the population belongs to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Norway. 2.9% belongs to the Catholic Church and 2.9 to Islam.



Language

- **Norwegian, a North Germanic language that originated from Old Norse, is the official language. It is closely related to Swedish and Danish.**
- 95% use Norwegian
- There are two written standards of Norwegian: Nynorsk and Bokmål. Bokmål is used by 80 to 90%.
- Minority languages spoken are Sami, Kven (North East Norway), Romani and Rodi (a Norwegian Traveller language)
- The British language has been influenced by Old Norse since this was the language of the Vikings.
- 90 % speak English making Norway one of the top 5 nations in the EF English Proficiency Index.

Education

- Norway's general education level is higher than the average in Europe.
- Elementary school (age 6-13) and lower secondary school (13-16) are mandatory and free for all children.
- Upper Secondary school is optional, predominantly public and a large majority of students attend.
- Norwegian universities are tuition-free for all Norwegian as well as international students.

International relations

- Iceland is a member of the **UN, NATO, and European Economic Area** which in a sense makes Norway partly integrated into the European Union without being a member.
- Norway has a strategic importance for waging war in the North Atlantic.
- During WW2, after the Nazi invasion, the Norwegian Government fled to the United Kingdom and reconstituted itself. The government moved back to Norway in 1945.
- Norway has close cooperation with the Scandinavian countries through the **Nordic Council**.

Food culture

- **Norwegian cuisine has a strong focus on wildlife and fish.**
- Due to the long winters, the traditional dishes have used conserved materials.
- Still in 2018, 434 whales were captured and 5% of Norwegians eat whale meat on a regular basis.
- **The government has backed a marketing campaign of whale meat being a delicacy and trendy.**
- Whale steaks, sushi, and burgers are promoted by the government to younger consumers including school children.
- **Whale protein pills, whale energy drinks, and whale oil skin cream are on the market.**
- Lamb and mutton are very popular during the fall.



Economy

- Currency: Norwegian Krone
- **GDP = \$398.8 billion (2017). Unemployment rate: 4%.**
- Mixed economy with state ownership in strategic areas.
- **Norway is one of the richest countries in the world measured by GDP per capita with significant revenue from the petroleum sector.**
- Oil and gas are vital to **Norway's economy**, representing 12 percent of gross domestic product and more than a third of **Norwegian** exports.
- **Norway** is the third largest exporter of natural gas in the world and **Norway** supplies about 25 per cent of the EU gas demand.
- Other important industries are hydropower, fish, forest, and minerals.



Tourism

- Norway is one of the safest travel destinations in the world.
- Tourism stands for **4.2 % of GDP** and **1 out of 15 jobs**.
- Foreign visitors share of tourist consumption is 30 %.
- In 2017, the tourism industry had been growing for seven years in a row. One factor being the relatively weak Norwegian Krone.
- A large share of tourism in Norway can be characterized as active rather than cultural.
- Tourism in Norway is largely seasonal as more than half of overnight tourists stay between May to August.
- **The Fjords and Northern Norway gets most tourist visitors.**



Fauna

- Norway's combination of Arctic landscape, the North Atlantic Coast and icy forests provide habitat for an array of animals.
- **In Svalbard, the number of polar bears outnumbered the number of people living there.**
- Wildlife in Svalbard also constitutes of walrus, reindeer, seal, arctic fox, beluga whale and various birds.
- **There are 21 species of whales in Norwegian waters. The biggest being the blue whale.**
- **Minke whales are caught commercially. Other species are protected.**
- There are 450 species of birds.
- Norway has around 50 wolves and around 50 brown bears.
- The government is committed to protecting birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. It charges for sports hunting which helps to finance the protection activities.
- Rearing of livestock is an important agricultural production and Norway has 800,000 cattle's, one million sheep and over 1.5 million fattening pigs.



Flora

- 27 % of Norway is covered by forest.
- There are around 2800 species of vascular plants and 1050 species of mossen.
- **The primary flora found are; heather, mountain birch, dwarf birch, and shrub willow.**
- The richest vegetation is found southeast around Oslo fjord.
- Uncultivated land in Norway is open for access to anyone at any time.



Read more:

- [Heritage.org](https://www.heritage.org)
- [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org)
- [World Atlas.com](https://www.worldatlas.com)
- [Visit Norway](https://www.visitnorway.com)
- [Innovation Norway report](#)
- [Norsk botanisk förening](#)