

PROGRAM/PRESENTATION: “Sailing along Norway’s Coast”.

TYPE: Travelogue.

(Alternatively available as an adult learning presentation on the history of shipping in Norway from the earliest steamships to today’s modern fleet).

DURATION: 60 Minutes (50 - Presentation / 10 - Question and Answer). Can be shortened, but presents better at 50 minutes.

DESCRIPTION-SNAPSHOT: We sail on Hurtigruten® (1) for one week during the “midnight sun” northbound from Bergen to Kirkenes just a few miles from the Russian border, stopping at 33 different ports with the ability to leave the ship and explore. Side excursions take us to into beautiful fjords, the cathedral in Trondheim, and the heights of surrounding mountains still covered in snow in June.

DESCRIPTION-DETAILS: We start by exploring the city of Bergen before we sail to the Art Nouveau city of Ålesund and into Geirangerfjord, considered by some the most beautiful fjord in the world. Geirangerfjord, like Bryggen (Bergen’s historic wharf area), are UNESCO World Heritage sites. The ship leaves us behind as we travel through the mountains on the winding mountain road of Trollstigen (the troll’s ladder) ultimately rejoining the ship further up the coast. In Trondheim we have extra time to leave the ship and walk to along the river Nid to Nidaros cathedral stopping at my favorite coffee shop.

From Trondheim we sail further north until we cross the Arctic Circle starting to fully experience the “midnight sun”. Before we arrive in the Lofoten islands we leave the ship again and board a smaller ship able to take us deeper into narrow fjords. Ultimately the ship takes us to the northern most point of mainland Europe, we stop at the North Cape and get a chance to meet a Sami family.

The trip was part of one month in Norway traveling not only on Hurtigruten®, but staying with relatives and conducting genealogy/family history research back to the 1600s.

THE PRESENTERS CONNECTION TO NORWAY:

The presenter is of 100% Norwegian heritage, with some command of the Norwegian language, having taken multiple trips to Norway. A webmaster and Editor of a newsletter for a Norwegian heritage/culture group, the presenter is also a member of multiple genealogy and Norwegian heritage organizations in Norway and the U.S. He is the Treasurer and Membership Chairman of a 500 member Norwegian Heritage organization with members in the U.S., Canada, and Norway. His cousins are key historians/genealogy researchers for part of mid-Norway, each having unique access to information and historic sites in this geographic area.

A speaker on his areas of focus, the presenter has also published dozens of short articles for a variety of Norwegian heritage organizations including his 2009 article, “Å vokse opp som Norsk i America” (Growing up Norwegian in America), published in English and Norwegian in Norway in Årbok Nr. XIX of Skatval Historielag (a publication of a Norwegian genealogy society).

(1) **Hurtigruten®** (Norway’s coastal ships used both as supply ships, short term travel from port to port, and by tourists traveling on them much as you would on a cruise ship).