



~ Merry Christmas to all our friends! ~

Special Christmas Issue • December 2006

OSLO SETS CRUISE RECORD – AGAIN!

Oslo experienced a new record cruise season in 2006 with 206 233 passengers from 156 visiting ships (calls up 7,6% .and passengers up 10,8% from 2005).

Among these passengers, there are 126 different nationalities. The most important nations were USA/Canada (26% of the passengers in 2006), Great Britain (22%), Germany (19%), Italy (5%) and Spain (5%).

For 2007 142 cruise vessels have so far announced their call at Oslo.

The main attractions in Oslo also see an increase in visitors – mainly due to the many cruise passengers sightseeing in Oslo. At the largest attraction in Oslo, the Ski jump / Ski Museum in Holmenkollen, cruise passengers did account for approx. 14% of the visitors this year.

The highlight this spring was when RCCLs Freedom of the Seas called at Oslo on her maiden voyage in April.



CRUISE IMPACT STUDIES FOR OSLO

The cruise industry in Europe is booming. The annual growth in passengers is expected to continue with an annual rate of 8-10 percent.

Norway is one of Europe's largest cruise destinations. Along Norway's long and indented

coastline about 30 harbours received cruise vessels last year. Cruise ships made last year around 1500 calls with ca. 350.000 passengers to Norway.

On the initiative of Oslo Cruise Network the Municipality of Oslo is financing a survey on the impact of the cruise tourism to Oslo this summer. This will help us increase our knowledge about our guests' visits to Oslo, and to develop the city to become an even more attractive cruise venue for passengers, crew and vessels.

The report was published earlier this week, and a summary in English will be available on our website www.oslocruisenetwork.no by the beginning of January.

OSLO MAP FOR CRUISE PASSENGERS

On www.oslocruisenetwork.no you will find a map specially designed for cruise passengers.

Would you like to have copies of the map onboard your ship calling at Oslo, please send a mail to: post@oslocruisenetwork.no

PICTURES FROM OSLO?

Visit OSLO as provides a free image service to all Tour Operators, Travel Agents and Travel Press. All our images are in high resolution printing quality, and can be accessed through our web-page.

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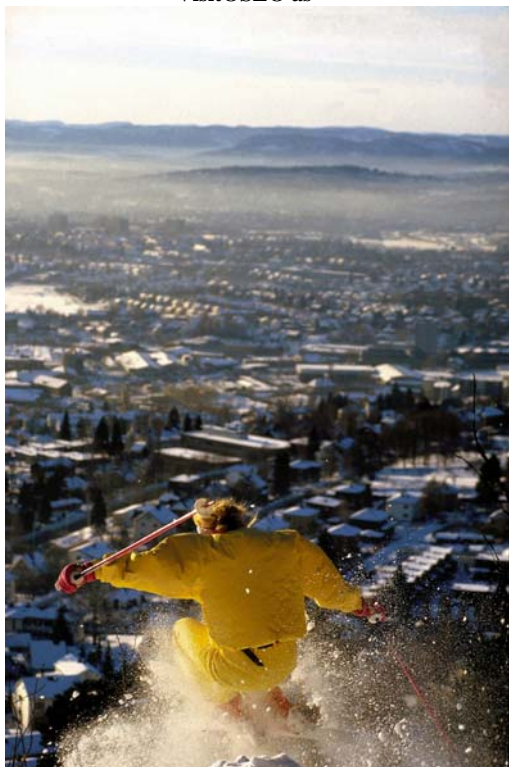


Photo: Glen Philip Hagen / VisitOslo

OSLO CRUISE NETWORK

Oslo Cruise Network was established in 2004. The main objective is to market and develop Oslo as a cruise destination.

Participants in this cooperation come from Port of Oslo, tourist destination organizations, attractions, shops, tax-free shopping, hotels, cruise agents, transport, guide service and cruise lines.

Important focus areas for the network are marketing, product development and "governmenting". The latter meaning creating an understanding amongst politicians and other authorities for the cruise business and its commercial and reputational contribution to the

city, and ensuring that enough berths are available for the many large vessels sailing to Oslo in the years to come.

BALTIC AND NORWEGIAN

Within just a few years cruises to the baltic region have become the fastest growing and most popular cruises in the world. Cruise Baltic Project is working to ensure the quality of individual destinations, and is now aiming to improve the infrastructure in each destination and establish more local networks.

Oslo Cruise Network also participates in the Baltic Cruise Project which is a close cooperation between 10 countries, 16 destinations and 28 partners in the Baltic Sea Region. The aim is to integrate the region's international cruise tourism industry by exchange of knowledge and information. Through Cruise Baltic, all the participating countries are able to offer the same service, high standards and full integration between ports and cities for cruise lines that want to discover the unique possibilities of the Baltic Sea Region.

Since 2000 the number of cruise ship passengers in the Baltic region has increased by 15 per cent each year. As well as this the number of cruise ship companies offering Baltic cruises is growing. The Baltic region is the third most requested destination in the world, after the Caribbean and Mediterranean, and is the fastest growing.

Oslo is an attractive port for both Baltic and Norwegian cruises. In 2005 60% of the calls to Oslo were part of a Baltic cruise, and 40% of Norwegian fjords/NortCape/Spitsbergen cruises.

OSLO IN WINTER

To get in the right Christmas mood you can visit the Annual Christmas Fair at the Norwegian Museum of Culture. It is the largest pre-Christmas event in Oslo, and it takes place on the two first week-ends of December (Sat/Sun). Visit the old-fashioned stalls where homemade items like crafts, Christmas decorations and treats are sold. The museum is guaranteed to give you a romantic Christmas-like feeling as you explore the decorated historical houses, experience folk dancing and children's joyful laughter at Santa's Workshop. In the 13th century stave church Christmas services are held.

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At Bogstad Manor, Christmas is celebrated in the traditional way. The main building is decorated for the festivities according to old tradition. Outside, in the beautiful surroundings of this 17th century manor, you can enjoy a short ride with horse and sleigh during the weekends.

December also means finding that special present for family and friends. At Bærums Verk, just outside the city centre, you can experience a combination of an old-fashioned Christmas market with lots of handicrafts & designer-goods and a modern shopping-centre with ample choice. If you are lucky, you may decide to visit on the day they serve free helpings of traditional Christmas rice pudding.

Enjoy a complete winter experience at Tryvann Winter Park - only 20 minutes from the city centre. The concept is quite unique - which other capital city can boast a complete ski experience in the geographical centre of the city! Tryvann has snow-cannons to create artificial snow, and the capability to open the centre after 3 days of snow production. As the temperature usually drops below zero at night from late November, the snow-cannons will be going at full blast. And hopefully Mother Nature will also contribute with "the real thing".

The city can also offer more than 2,600 (1,600 miles) of prepared cross-country ski trails that run deep into the forests of Oslo, 90 km of them are lit for the special atmosphere of evening skiing. Skiers can stop for refreshments at 68 picturesque cabins. Whether you seek a relaxing experience to enjoy the magic of silence and snow-capped pine trees, or you prefer to get a real workout, the trails are ready for you at no cost at all! After skiing why not try Frognersteren Restaurant, on top of Holmenkollen – a place to enjoy the city's best view and the crackling fire place. They offer a wide range of Norwegian culinary traditions.

Take the local metro to the top of the tobogganing run, and get an adrenalin rush going down at great speed. When you get to the bottom of the run, you simply get on the metro again to reach the top! The tobogganing trail is located right next to the original bobsleigh run, built for the 1952 Olympic games. It is lit up at night time, and don't be surprised to find that adults are just as eager as children when it comes to this rather original form of activity.

If you like ice-skating, visit the skating rink in the city centre, opposite the Parliament building. This rink has music and offers skate rental. There is also a larger skating rink with music and skate rental at Frogner Stadium, right next to the Vigeland Park. Both rinks are open for evening skating.

The Holmenkollen Ski Jump was the main arena for the 1952 winter Olympic Games, and plays an important part in the Norwegian skiing tradition. The jump is a national and international symbol of the sport of ski jumping, and skiing in general. Inside the jump tower, the ski museum presents the history of skiing over the past 4000 years, the Polar expeditions of Fridtjof Nansen and Roald Amundsen, as well as skis from the time of the Vikings, and skis from various parts of Norway that show local handicraft skills and traditions. You will also be able to see modern racing- and cross-country skis, as well as skis used by athletes throughout the last century. A separate display includes skis used by the late King Olav V as a child and other skiing equipment used by the Royal Family.

EVENTS IN OSLO THIS WINTER (VISITOSLO.COM)

11 - 14.01 2007 Norway International Meeting and Travel Fair

Reiseliv is the travel trade's largest and most effective business-to-business venue in Norway that provides a unique opportunity for the travel industry to meet, network, negotiate and conduct business in markets of frequent travellers and heavy spenders. Last year Reiseliv attracted almost 45.000 travel trade representatives, professional buyers, press and travel enthusiasts.

Web: www.traveltradefair.com

27.01 Oslo Winter Festival

Winterhappening in Oslo centre. Activities and competitions on real snow and ice. Entertainment, after ski, fashion show etc.

Web: www.osloarr.no

10.02 Holmenkollen Ski Marathon

Traditional ski race 42 km through the most beautiful part of Oslo's wilderness area from Hakadal to Holmenkollen.

Web: www.skiforeningen.no

08.03 & 10 - 11.03 World Cup Biathlon

Experience a Worldcup event in Holmenkollen! Biathlon is speed, precision shooting and ski performance. The best biathletes will compete in Holmenkollen.

Web: www.skiforeningen.no

17 - 18.03 Holmenkollen Skifestival: World Cup Nordic and World Ski Jumping

Holmenkollen Skifestival 2007 FIS World Cup Nordic Disciplines. The world's ski elite in nordic disciplines are gathered to participate in exciting competitions in the beautiful Holmenkollen area. This Sunday is the popular Holmenkoll Sunday where you can see World Cup Ski Jumpers compete in the 128m hill.

Web: www.skiforeningen.no

17 - 26.03 Oslo International Church Music Festival

Annual church music festival in Oslo for the benefit of the public, the church in Oslo, the city of Oslo, the rest of the country and the international public.

Web: www.kirkemusikkfestivalen.no/eng/index.html

25.03 The Children's Holmenkollen Ski Event

The worlds largest ski event for children between 4 and 12 years of age. There will be no finish-time, the main thing is to participate and have fun, and everyone will receive a prize!

Web: www.skiforeningen.no

WHAT'S NEW IN OSLO?

On May 23rd, exactly 100 years after the death of Henrik Ibsen, the new Ibsen Museum reopened in Oslo. The official opening ceremony was performed by Her Majesty Queen Sonja, and several other prominent guests were present. The museum lies in conjunction with Ibsen's old apartment, which is now completely restored to the way it was when the poet spent the final years of his life there.

Web: www.ibsenmuseet.no
E-mail: ibsen@norskfolkemuseum.no

On May 25th it was finally decided that the FIS Nordic World Ski Championships will be held at the Holmenkollen arena in Oslo in 2011. This means that the Holmenkollen Ski Jump, one of Oslo's most visited tourist attractions since the early 1950s, will have to be completely modernized to accommodate the new demands of the sport. The organizers of the event promise that the new arena will be the best in the world of its kind and remain a major landmark for visitors.

Web: www.skiforeningen.no
E-mail: skif@skiforeningen.no

The International Museum of Children's Art celebrates its 20th anniversary this year. This

unique museum lets you see the world from a child's point of view by presenting artworks made by children of various cultural backgrounds. The museums main exhibition this fall is called "*In the Spirit of Women*". Through selected 3-dimensional sculpture art, the exhibition salutes the woman and the various roles she might have in a child's life.

Web: www.childrensart.com

E-mail: post@barnekunst.no

NETWORK PARTICIPANTS

Port authorities

[Oslo Port / Ms. Margrethe Austad](#)

Attractions/museums

[Holmenkollen.Ski Museum / Mr. Steinar Eidaker](#)

[Museum of Cultural History, University of Oslo / Ms. Ellen Semb](#)

[Norwegian Maritime Museum / Ms. Charlotte Syversen](#)

[The Kon-Tiki Museum / Ms. Maja Bauge](#)

[The Viking Ship Museum / Ms. Ellen Semb](#)

[Norsk Folkemuseum - Norwegian Museum of Cultural History / Ms. Josephine Østern](#)

[The Fram Museum / Mr. Geir O Kløver](#)

[Nobel Peace Center / Mrs. Inger Marie Bø](#)

Hotels

[Grand Hotel / Ms. Angelica Montez de Oca](#)

[Radisson SAS Plaza Hotel / Mrs. Annett Trejhørningen](#)

Tax Free

[Global Refund Norway / Mr. Geir Victor Svendsen](#)

Shopping

[Oslo Cruise terminal / Mr. Tor Fredrik Frøberg](#)

[Norway Shop / Mr. Tom Grusd](#)

[William Schmidt / Ms. Ellen F. Hauge](#)

[Aker Brygge / Ms. Marit Østmoe](#)

Cruise lines

[Royal Caribbean Cruise Line / Ms Anna-Maija Isachsen](#)

[ColorLine / Knut Hals](#)

Formatert: Engelsk (Storbritannia)

Transportation

H.M.Kristiansens Automobilbyrå / Mr. Rino Ødegård

Nettbuss Travel / Mr. Stig Ove Kristiansen

Norway Yacht Charter / Mr. Kristian Ovigstad

Sporveisbussene / Mr. Johannes Tennøy

Airlines

Scandinavian Airline System / Ms. Anne Christine Andersson

Cruise agents

European Cruise Service / Mr. Arthur Kordt

Fred. Olsen Travel / Ms. Anita Sletbak

T.R. Shipping Norway / Mr. Pål Kjelsrud

Tourist organizations

VisitOSLO / Ms. Heidi Thon

Akershus Tourist Board / Mr. Øyvind Wang

Guide service

Guideservice / Ms. Ingrid Løseth

Oslo Guidebureau / Ms. Hilde Stoklasa

Other

Oslo Commercial Association / Mr. Jan Berggraf

Dentist at Aker Brygge / Mr. Stian Kanestrøm

Dentist in Vika / Mr. Ulf Mørck



The network participants in front of the Stavechurch in the Norwegian Museum of Cultural History.



The delegate from Holmenkollen, Mr. Steinar Eidaker – ready for the FIS Nordic Ski World Championships in Oslo/Holmenkollen in 2011. This picture was taken when P&Os Aurora came to Oslo on a Christmas cruise in December last year.

*We wish you all a Merry
Christmas, and welcome to
Oslo on your next call.*

