

NEW YEAR OPERA VOYAGE

28 December – 4 January 2009 • Tromsø – Bergen – Stavanger – Oslo • 8 days from £1265pp



© Innovation Norway/Bjørn Jørgensen

This special New Year itinerary onboard MS Midnatsol offers a musical voyage in the most spectacular settings.

This voyage will take you from Tromsø in the north to Norway's capital Oslo in the south, on a magical journey along the spellbinding coast of Arctic Norway, land of the mystical Northern Lights. Starting your voyage in Tromsø, the capital of the Arctic, you have the chance to see the spectacular Aurora Borealis as we navigate through inlets and channels of these cool waters. Soon you will reach the islands of Lofoten, recently voted one of the world's most beautiful island destinations by National Geographic. From here our journey continues south to Trondheim, the Viking capital of Norway. Here you will have the opportunity to see the 18th century Stiftsgården Palace and the magnificent 14th century Nidaros Cathedral, considered to be one of the grandest Gothic buildings in northern Europe.

New Years Eve will be celebrated in the charming Art Nouveau town of Ålesund with a traditional Norwegian New Year's dinner served on board with dancing taking place in the evening. Bergen will be our next port of call with an overnight stay in this city. The second half of your journey and the beginning of the New Year will start in Bergen. Mesmerising daily concerts will accompany the passing landscapes beautifully as we set sail for Norway's cultural city, Stavanger. Arriving in Stavanger you can join an optional excursion to experience the best of this picturesque town. Our final stop is Oslo with an overnight stay. Here you can enjoy further concerts onboard the ship and the highlight of the tour; the sell out performance of the opera 'Die Fledermaus' (The Bat) in Oslo's newly built opera house which recently won the Culture Award at the World Architectural Festival.

Die Fledermaus (The Bat) Opera

Johann Strauss the younger raises total confusion to an art form in Die Fledermaus. The rich Gabriel von Eisenstein is to go to jail because of slander but goes to Prince Orlofsky's ball instead. Chambermaid Adele goes to the ball as well, to be with her sister. At home wife Rosalinde is visited by her admirer. Prison warden Frank arrives, expecting to find Eisenstein ready to go with him. Then the action really starts. It all ends up at the Prince's ball, where a patchwork of misunderstandings and comedy is rolled out to the accompaniment of Strauss' fantastic vibrant and uplifting music.

Die Fledermaus is a real triumph and became a great success for its composer after its premiere in Vienna in 1875.





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VOYAGE ITINERARY

28 DECEMBER UK – Tromsø

Arrive in Tromsø and transfer to a centrally located hotel. An evening meal is included before boarding the vessel at midnight.

29 DECEMBER The Lofoten Islands

In the morning you can enjoy an optional excursion from Harstad to Sortland. The highlight of the day is passing through the narrow Raftsundet before arriving into Svolvær, the capital of the beautiful Lofoten Islands.

30 DECEMBER Cross the Arctic Circle

There is further excitement today as the ship crosses the Arctic Circle and later in the day we will be sailing past the famed peaks of the Seven Sisters mountain range.

31 DECEMBER Trondheim/Ålesund

A morning visit to the Viking capital of Norway, Trondheim. The ports of Kristiansund and Molde are also visited today before an evening call and New Year's celebrations in Ålesund.

1 JANUARY Bergen

Arrive in Bergen in the afternoon where an optional city sightseeing tour is available. Overnight stay in port and the opportunity to explore more of this scenic city.

2 JANUARY Stavanger

Depart Bergen in the morning and sail south to Stavanger. Onboard you can enjoy a lunch time concert, a lecture and an Opera evening with musicians and soloists from the Norwegian State Opera and Ballet.

3 JANUARY Oslo and 'The Bat' Opera

Early morning arrival in Oslo followed by late morning entertainment in the Panorama lounge on board the ship. In the early evening you will be transferred to the Oslo Opera House to enjoy a spectacular performance of 'The Bat'. Music and dance onboard the ship in the evening.

4 JANUARY Oslo – UK

Morning optional guided tour of the newly built Norwegian State Opera and Ballet house in Oslo. Transfer to the airport for flight home.



© Erik Berg

The Oslo Opera house

On the 15 June 1999 the National Assembly (Stortinget) approved the building of a new opera house in Oslo which ended more than 120 years of debate and waiting for a national opera house. On 12 April 2008 the new opera house opened with a Gala Performance. The £424m white marble landmark on the shore of the Oslo Fjord is situated in the heart of the capital. From the outside, the most striking feature is the sloping stone roof, made up of 36,000 fitted pieces, which seems to rise from the water of the fjord. It has been described by the Norwegian architects, Snøhetta, as a "fifth wall", designed so visitors can walk up the gentle incline to the top, and look out over the city and the fjord.

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

TRONDHEIM, INCLUDING NIDAROS CATHEDRAL



This excursion enables you to discover the Viking town of Trondheim – Norway's first capital. The tour through this handsome historic city includes a visit to the famous Nidaros Cathedral, Norway's largest medieval church.

£26pp bookable on board the ship.

STAVANGER CITY WALK



Start this excursion with a walk through the old part of Stavanger, which houses some of Europe's best preserved wooden houses. Built at the end of the 17th century they form a very charming area within this modern town. Continuing by foot we pass the harbour and local market to Stavanger Cathedral.

NOK195pp bookable on board the ship.

TOUR OF THE OSLO OPERA HOUSE



© Pudelek

This guided tour of the brand new opera house will give you an introduction to its architecture and modern interior.

NOK100pp bookable on board the ship.

New Year Opera Voyage

Cabin grade	Price
Inside	£1,265
Outside standard	£1,395
Mini suite	£1,485
Suite	£1,595

Above prices are in £s and based on two people travelling together sharing a twin cabin. **Your holiday price includes:** voyage Tromsø-Bergen-Oslo as per itinerary description in cabin grade of your choice inc. full board and current voyage fuel surcharge, economy return flights from/to London Heathrow inc. all currently applicable taxes and surcharges, transfers as applicable, opera tickets. Single supplement applies. **Not included:** travel insurance, optional excursions, luggage handling.

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