

Culture Clues, Summer 2017



INTRODUCTION

You have probably noticed that Kongsberg Jazzfestival has opened! The city comes to life. During the next three days you can enjoy a city that practically doesn't fall asleep... There will be concerts played all over the city – some of them are free of charge. If you have children, you can visit Barnivalen in Magasinparken and the street market. Enjoy these four days in July!

The summer is the season to be outside enjoying the warmer weather. As the evenings get longer you can find many exciting things to do – visit the one of the lakes surrounding Kongsberg or the golf range. Take family and friends for a picnic, or visit some of the towns further south by the coast and soak up the summer feeling. There is just so much you can do!

Check out what the season has to offer and enjoy the summer!



Norwegian Strawberries

Strawberries signify summer in many areas of the world. In Norway, the home grown strawberry is highly prized for its vibrant sweet flavour and is extremely popular when in season.

The unique growing conditions in Norway produce the special berry. The advantage of growing strawberries in more northern areas means they have a slower ripening process due to the cooler climate. This means the strawberry develops more flavouring agent and therefore has a better taste. They also enjoy more natural light during the ripening period because of the midnight sun, which also contributes to the flavouring agent and good taste.

Norwegian growers pick the strawberry when it is ripe. The taste of strawberries develops most in the last stage of ripening so they are picked and sold when they are most flavoursome. As opposed to imported strawberries that are picked when green and ripen on their journey and so may not develop a full taste.

They may not always look perfect and uniform but with just a sprinkling of sugar and a dollop of cream they are delicious. They will only be sold for a few weeks during the summer so watch out for the signs advertising them. Do not miss out on a real seasonal treat!

Outdoor Swimming



In the Kongsberg area, there are various places to choose from if you decide to go swimming outdoors. The water temperatures may reach comfortably (!) 18-21 degrees.

Saggrenda is a small lake, located close to the silver mines out in Saggrenda. The lake was just upgraded and is a nice place to visit especially if you have small children.

Kjennerudvannet is located north east of Kongsberg. The lake is quite a lot bigger than Saggrenda and is suitable for all ages.

Øksne is located around 20km south west of Kongsberg in the direction of Notodden.

If you should decide to visit Oslo during the summer, you can also check out one of the beaches in the area. For instance Tjuvholmen beach, located next to the Astrup Fearnly Museum and Tjuvholmen/Aker Brygge. Huk is Oslo's most popular beach located on the peninsula of Bygdøy. Hovedøya, Langøyene, Gressholmen are some of the islands in the inner Oslo fjord. Take the boat from Rådhuskaia if you would like to visit them!

TYPICAL NORWEGIAN



Grill Season

The summer season is the time for outdoor socialising and that means to BBQ, or it's the Grill season, as Norwegians say. At home, on the beach or in the local park. Supermarkets provide a variety of products for this popular season so it is easy to select grill food and prepare.

The range of grilling equipment available is vast. From the large gas grill to be put on the terrace, to the smaller charcoal alternatives - a grill can be found to accommodate all tastes. However, a very popular alternative is the disposable, on-time-use grill. Easy to carry around, enough capacity for grilling some basic foods and special bins are provided so that they can be safely disposed of, this is very important.

Note: it is forbidden to have bonfires in the summer months. If you bring your own grill, be careful!

Grilling is a time for fun, socialising and enjoying the warmer summer weather. Here are a few "grill" phrases that may be useful to know:

Grillpølse – sausages that are a little thicker and so better to grill. With cheese, chilli or plain. They are also great to put on a stick and they will not split.

Grillmat – anything that can go on the grill – fish, meat, vegetables and fruit.

Grillfest – Grill/BBQ party!

Ventepølse – 'waiting sausages'. The sausages you eat while waiting for the tenderloin/chicken/fish steak to cook.

Enjoy the grill season!!

FAMOUS NORWEGIANS

Jo Nesbø



A Norwegian author and musician. Jo Nesbø has sold more than one and a half million copies of his novels in Norway alone. Critically acclaimed and praised for his in-depth knowledge and psychological insights, Nesbø is considered to be a leading crime and thriller novelist in Europe. His books have been translated into more than 40 languages for a worldwide readership. Predominantly famous for his Detective Harry crime novels, Nesbø is also the lead vocalist and songwriter of the Norwegian rock band Di Derre. His last book

The Thirst is a new Harry Hole thriller.

Jo Nesbø has a great [webpage](http://jonesbo.com/) where you can see interviews, read about his books etc.

Source: <http://jonesbo.com/>

TRAVEL TIPS



Tusenfyrd

Norway's largest amusement park located 20 kilometres south east of Oslo. The park has more than 30 fun attractions and lots of great games, shops and places to eat and features attractions for all ages, including large and small rollercoasters, carousels, a log ride and much more.

Barnas Fryd and *Frydskogen* are packed with rides and activities for small kids. In summer you can enjoy *BadeFryd*, a water park with a swimming pool, a swimming river and a huge slide.



The Lofoten Islands

Lofoten is known for excellent fishing, spectacular nature attractions such as the northern lights and the midnight sun, and small villages off the beaten track. Kayak between the islands, go fishing for the catch of your life, or look for sea eagles soaring in the sky.

The islands are draped across the turbulent waters of the Norwegian Sea, far above the Arctic Circle. This rare wilderness outpost offers an untrammelled landscape of majestic mountains, deep fjords, squawking seabird colonies and long, surf-swept beaches.

Kristiansand, the capital of Southern Norway

Kristiansand is the largest city in Southern Norway and attracts a lot of tourists every year. Kristiansand is a family destination, focusing in activities and attractions for families, one of the largest if these being Dyreparken, a gigantic zoo and amusement park.



Kristiansand Zoo is Norway's most frequently visited attraction covering an area of 150 acres of wild Nordic terrain. It is totally different from other European zoos, which are characterized by bars and heavy padlocks. In Dyreparken, the animals have wide open spaces in which

to roam - however, the visitors are still able to get up close to observe some of the most beautiful animals

The zoo contains an enclosure for Scandinavian animals such as wolves, elk, lynx, fox and many more. In the park you will also find exotic animals such as lions and tigers and endangered animals like the red panda. The Africa exhibition allows you to move along a bridge observing native savanna animals such as giraffe and zebras. In the rain forest, the mist and the humid atmosphere, dark and scary passages lead the way to crocodiles, alligators and many other reptiles - You will find more than 800 animals and birds living in as much freedom as possible in a natural environment.

Badelandet – the indoor and outdoor wet world Badelandet aquapark is the newest addition to the amusement park. It's a "park in the park" - which means you need an additional ticket to enter. It is also possible to buy combined tickets for both parks. Close to the park you may stay overnight in a very special atmosphere. The pirate village [Abra Havn](#) consists of 171 apartments.



NORWEGIAN EXPRESSIONS

Skjærgård



Skjærgård is used to describe the landform of navigable coastal area consisting of islands, islets and reefs. Most of the Norwegian coast has a skjærgård. The “skjærgård”

breaks the waves of the ocean beyond, protecting the coast and fjords. The term “skjærgård” is not to be confused by group of islands. “Skjærgård” is a characteristic feature of Norway, parts of Sweden, Finland and Scotland. Similar landform is also to be found outside Croatia, southern Chile and southeastern Alaska (Alexander Archipelago). The opposite of “skjærgård” is open coast.

Norway in July & August

Summer Festivals

Norway hosts a great variety of popular festivals during the summer months, extending across the entire music spectrum, from the more classically based Bergen International Festival to the modern Øya Festival in Oslo.

The festivals are also a good way to get to know many nice places outside of Oslo. For a complete festival guide, click [here](#).



We wish you a lovely summer!