

Norway: Accommodation

All accommodation is kept scrupulously clean. Advance booking for all types is recommended in the high season (mid-June - mid-August); you can book direct in English by post, email, phone or fax. Some tourist offices have a local reservation service. In winter, campsites and many cabins, youth hostels, guest houses and B&B rooms are closed.

Camping: There are over 1000 campsites which are inspected, licensed and classified with 1 to 5 stars; pitch fees vary from kr 80 to about kr 420 per tent or per caravan per day, sometimes additionally per vehicle and per person. Camping cheques are available that pay for 1 overnight stay in a tent/camper van/caravan for up to 5 people at some sites. There are strict rules about noise on-site and distance between tents. All sites have toilets and showers (coin operated or free); there may be coin-operated washing machines and dryers and a kiosk with basic groceries. Some have cycles, canoes and boats for hire. Many also have cabins classified from 1 to 5 stars with cooking facilities rented at kr 250 to kr 1000 per night or on a weekly basis; simple ones do not provide linen, so take a sleeping bag. A free camping guide is available from tourist offices and campsites, listing all sites and facilities; it can also be ordered from NHO. NAF also publishes a free guide with full details of their 300 sites and listing 800 others, available from Shell stations, their sites, some tourist offices or <<http://engelsk.nafcamp.com>>. The Camping Card Scandinavia can be purchased at campsites for kr 120 (2010) or in advance from NHO and makes check-in easier, provides on-site accident insurance and discounts on Hydro/Texaco petrol and diesel and at some shops and attractions. If staying at a Danish campsite en route to Norway, the camping card is compulsory. Sites with sewage disposal points for caravans/camper vans are listed in the camping guide.

Wilderness camping is allowed for two nights in any one place at least 150m (preferably more) from any house, leaving no trace of stay – take all your rubbish away with you. In some areas, local by-laws restrict where you can camp and there are also restrictions in protected areas. Fires in the open, including paraffin/petrol stoves, are prohibited from 15 April to 15 September.

Butane cartridges for camping stoves are available at sports shops. Propane bottles are available only at some Esso, Shell, Statoil and YX petrol stations. Norwegian maintenance requirements mean that foreign propane bottles cannot be filled in Norway. Buy a bottle in Norway and return it with purchase receipt to an AGA dealer in Norway for a kr 400 refund within 6 months of purchase. An adapter (kr 300) may be needed to attach equipment to Norwegian bottles. A list of supplying petrol stations is available from AGA. AGA A/S (T: 23 17 72 00, fax: 22 32 14 62) <<http://www.aga.no>> <post@no.aga.com>

Norwegian Hospitality Association (NHO), PO Box 5465 Majorstua, N-0305 Oslo (T: 23 08 86 20, fax: 23 08 86 21) <http://www.camping.no/index_eng.html> <firmapost@nhoreiseliv.no>

Norsk Caravan Club, PO Box 104, NO-1921 Sørumsand (T: 63 82 99 90) <post@nocc.no> <<http://www.nocc.no>>

Plus Camp, association of campsites <<http://www.pluscamp.no/english>> has discount cards with camping free or a discount on *hytter* every 8th night.

Camping cheques <<http://www.campingcheque.com>>

Cabins (*hytter*): There are thousands of these self-catering timber cabins all over the country, either individual ones or in groups with additional facilities. They vary from simple but comfortable cabins to well furnished ones with TV and sauna. You may have to take your own linen for the simple ones; they sleep at least four people and some as many as 12. The weekly price varies with location, facilities and season from kr 2 000 to kr 14 000 (2009); fishing cabins on the seashore in the Lofotens (called *rorbuer* or *sjøhus*) are also available at kr 400 - 1550 per night. Book early; a 20% deposit is required with advance bookings. You clean the cabin when you leave or pay for cleaning (from kr 150).

Norsc Holidays, The Court, The Street, Charmouth, Dorset DT6 6PE (T: 01297 560 033, fax: 01297 560 833) <<http://www.norsc.co.uk>> <post@norsc.co.uk> UK agent for Novasol.
Novasol, Postboks 309 Sentrum, N-0103 Oslo (T: 22 35 62 70)
<<http://www.novasol.co.uk/holiday-cottages/norway.html>>
Norgesbooking AS, Ylivegen 16, N-3570 Ål (T: 32 08 57 10, fax: 32 08 57 11)
<post@norgesbooking.com> <<http://www.norgesbooking.com>>
DanCenter A/S, Lyngbyvej 20, DK-2100 København Ø, Denmark (T: +45 7013 0000, fax: +45 7013 7071) <<http://www.dancenter.co.uk>>
Dansommer A/S, Voldbjergvej 16, DK-8240 Risskov, Denmark (T: +45 8617 6122, fax +45 8617 6855) <<http://www.dansommer.com/destinations/norge.html>>
<dansommer@dansommer.dk>
DinTur (T: 74 07 30 00) <<http://www.dintur.no>> <office@dintur.no>
Fjordhytter, Lille Markevei 13, N-5005 Bergen (T: 55 23 20 80)
Troll Fjordhytter, N-6140 Syvde for the western fjord area (T: 70 02 15 06, 91 59 59 72, fax: 70 02 33 19) <<http://www.fjordhytter.com/english/about-troll-fjordhytter/>>
<fjordhytter@gmail.com>.
Hytteferie, Kløkstadaasen 31, N-8016 Bodø (T: 75 51 16 50, fax: 75 51 15 00)
<<http://www.hytteferie.com>> <hytte@hytteferie.com> has cabins in North Norway.
Lofotens cabins <<http://www.lofoten.info>>
DNT has a network of mountain huts a day's walk apart. They may be large staffed lodges with 100 beds or unstaffed huts with a few bunks. See the Sports section for further details.

Hostels (*vandrerhjem*): There are 70 graded from 1 to 3 stars; advance booking is recommended. Most are run by the Norwegian YHA, some by the YMCA and a few are independent; most are closed between 11.00 and 16.00. Tourist offices have a list of local hostels in English. Some large ones are open all year, others operate only in the summer from school dormitories with two to six per room (2009, from kr 350). Large hostels may have single, double or family rooms (kr 580 - 780 per room). Take your own sheet sleeping bag or hire linen at the hostel. Most hostels provide breakfast in the overnight fee but some charge kr 45 - 70 for a buffet breakfast; some offer dinner; nearly all have self-cooking facilities but you must take your own cutlery and sometimes pans and crockery. YHA members get 10% discount; YHA (England and Wales) or SYHA can provide the Norwegian handbook, also available from
Norske Vandrerhjem, PO Box 53 Grefsen, N-0409 Oslo (T: 23 12 45 10; fax: 23 13 93 50)
<info@hihostels.no> <<http://www.hihostels.no/english/>>
Hostels and other cheap accommodation are listed at <<http://www.hostelbookers.com>> and <<http://www.backpackers.no/>>.

Farms: Over 500 farms have self-catering cabins and houses to rent with farm activities available. Some provide bed and breakfast.

Norwegian Rural Tourism & Traditional Food (HANEN) <post@hanen.no>
<http://www.hanen.no/index_en.html>.

Motels/Rooms/Bed & Breakfast: Rooms are advertised by a roadside sign (*Rom til leie* or *husrom*) or book through tourist offices. They may be in a private house or in small blocks (often with a small kitchen) designed for one-night stays (*overnatting*). The price up to kr 350 (single) or kr 450 (double) doesn't include breakfast; linen and showers may be extra. Motels are found in cities, major towns, on trunk roads and near airports. For B&B, you pay kr 350 - 500 (single) or kr 450 - 800 (double) including breakfast (2009). You can buy the Norway Bed & Breakfast Book through bookshops or from <<http://www.scandinavia-connection.co.uk>>.

Bed & Breakfast Norway, Dalsegg, N-6653 Øvre Surnadal (T: 99 23 77 99, fax: 22 19 83 17)
<rominorg@online.no> <<http://www.bbnorway.com>>

Pensions/boarding houses (*pensjonater*) & Guest Houses (*gjestgiverier*): Moderate prices,

rooms may not be en suite. Prices may be per room or per person and may include breakfast; evening meals may be available. Some pensions have cooking facilities.

Hotels: Expensive because staff are well paid, but rates are often cheaper during the summer and at weekends when business travel is less frequent, especially for major chains – always ask about cheaper rates. The Norway Fjord Pass and discount cards from some hotel chains pay for themselves after a few nights. There are single room supplements; children under 16 occupying the same room as parents receive a discount; most hotels have cots available for babies. Rooms are usually en suite with TV. Many offer an eat-all-you-want buffet breakfast. *Turisthotell* is a high standard hotel in the fjord area offering half or full board, *høyfjellshotel* is a luxury hotel in a winter sports resort offering full board; *fjellstue* or *fjellstoge* is a cheaper mountain lodge with full board. Major chains include Best Western, Choice, First, Norlandia, Radisson Blu, Rica, Scandic, Thon.

Tipping: A service charge is included in the bill; an additional tip is not expected, but may be offered for exceptional service.