

Norway - OVERVIEW

Updated: March 25, 2014



Country Name Long Form: Kingdom of Norway

Government Type: Constitutional Monarchy

Languages Spoken: Bokmal Norwegian, Nynorsk Norwegian, small Sami- and Finnish-speaking minorities

National Flag



Norway is a Tier III Country. Significant security measures are necessary.

	Overall Assessment	Political Violence	Crime	Terrorism	Travel Safety
Norway	L	L	L	L	L
Key: (L) Low – (M) Medium – (H) High – (C)Critical					

POLITICAL CONDITIONS

Political Violence is rated at LOW

Civil unrest is extremely limited. There were a number of uncharacteristically violent protests in Oslo in late December 2008 and early January 2009, two of which broke out into riot situations that saw attacks on police with rocks thrown, fireworks (rockets) aimed at police, and the smashing of police vehicles. Since that time, no similar incidents have occurred, and the police in Oslo have greatly increased the training of their officers in riot control techniques. It is unlikely that similar protests would reach such a point of violence.

Anti-American activities in the last few years can best be characterized as small, planned and generally peaceful demonstrations, either against a particular U.S. policy or advocating a particular course of action be taken by the U.S. government. These protests have not targeted U.S. citizens.

TERRORISM

Norway - OVERVIEW

Terrorism is assessed as LOW

Norway has open border. Norway is part of the Schengen agreement. Those crossing by land, between Sweden and Norway, rarely have to stop or show any identification. Because of the ease of entry into Norway, it is possible for any threat that exists in any part of the EU to enter Norway. However, no known international terrorist group is known to be operating in Norway.

RULE OF LAW / CORRUPTION

The Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) for 2013 gave Norway a score of 86, indicating that the country has low level of corruption. The CPI rates countries by the perceived levels of corruption in their public sector, with the least corrupt country receiving a maximum score of 100.

CRIME

Crime is assessed as LOW

Norway has a relatively low level of crime in comparison to the United States and Western European countries with large populations. However, certain areas of Norway, especially the Oslo metropolitan area, have seen increases in certain non-violent crimes over the last several years. In Oslo and the other major urban areas, crime has predictably been centered in the inner city and high transit areas.

Reports of petty crime continue to increase each year, especially pickpocketing and other crimes of opportunity focused on tourists. Tourist and other short-term visitors should be aware that instances of pickpocketing and petty theft are common in the major tourist areas, hotel lobbies and in areas around transit stations.

Although rare, violent and weapon-related crimes are growing in frequency and receiving intense media coverage. These crimes usually occur in areas known to have drug trafficking and gang problems, such as certain parts of eastern Oslo, but they are by no means confined only to those areas.

KIDNAPPING

Kidnappings occur less frequently in Norway.

SEXUAL ASSAULT

Sexual Assaults occur less frequently in Norway.

NATURAL DISASTERS

Avalanches and falling rocks are an occurrence in Norway's mountain areas. Travelers should refer to local officials before venturing to such areas. During the winter months, some roads may be closed due to heavy snow or threat of avalanches. Visitors traveling during the winter months should be prepared

Norway - OVERVIEW

for harsh weather conditions. Flooding can occur in some low-lying areas in spring months due to melting snow.

STANDING TRAVEL ADVICE

- Dress attire tends to be relatively conservative; for business, men should wear sports jackets, ties or suits and women should wear suits, dresses or dress pants.
- Punctuality for business and social meetings is important. In Norway, business lunches are strictly for the discussion of business matters but business dinners are more social.
- Stay in groups, travel in a caravan consisting of two or more vehicles, and stay on the main roads.
- Ensure that someone not traveling with you is aware of your itinerary.
- Avoid hotels that do not have adequate security.
- Intercity travel after dark anywhere in should be avoided.
- It is preferable to stay in the main tourist destinations.
- Pay close attention to your surroundings, especially when walking.
- Official taxis are a suitable means of travel in daylight hours in urban areas. It is highly recommended that taxis be arranged through your hotel, or program office. Negotiate the price in advance.
- Women should be especially careful when traveling alone and avoid staying out late without a trusted male escort.
- Make sensible security precautions to mitigate the risk of petty crime, particularly pick pocketing and bag snatching.
- Carry a photocopy of your passport when traveling to avoid losing it in a robbery.
- Do not resist if you are being robbed and avoid eye contact and to not make any sudden movements. Victims have been killed when they resisted attack or refused to give up their money or other valuables.
- Be aware of your surroundings at all times and keep a low profile.
- Never leave your food, drinks or belongings unattended.
- Carry bags close to your body and make sure the fasteners are secure.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash or wearing expensive jewelry or valuables.
- Leave all important documents in a safe or safe deposit box at your hotel and only carry certified copies.
- Trust your instincts. If someone or something makes you uneasy, avoid the situation.

Important Contact Details

International Dialing Code: +47

International Dialing Prefix: 00

Norway - OVERVIEW

Victims of crime in should contact the following phone numbers for assistance

POLICE: The local equivalent to the “911” emergency line in is: 112

FIRE DEPARTMENT: 110

AMBULANCE: 113

Note: Police, ambulance or fire department response may be unreliable in some parts of the country.

TRAVEL & ROAD SAFETY

- The infrastructure in Norway is well developed and extensive.
- The quality of public transportation systems across the country is reliable; however services can be limited during the winter months, especially in the north.
- The provision of water, fuel, and electricity is reliable across the country.
- Telecommunications services such as cellular phone and internet access are widely available in urban areas; however coverage may be limited in rural areas, particularly in northern parts of the country.

RECOMMENDED TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

- No ATM use after dark.
- No traveling alone after dark.

HEALTH

Medical facilities and care are generally excellent, although it should be noted that facilities and available treatment are more limited in remote areas, especially in the far north of the country. Most medical personnel have a good knowledge of the English language. Emergency treatment is free for travelers, but doctors and hospitals sometimes require immediate payment for other medical services.

- Tap water is safe to drink throughout Norway.
- Unpasteurized dairy products should be avoided if possible. Unpasteurized milk should be boiled before consumption, or powdered or tinned milk should be used as an alternative.

The following vaccinations are recommended or required if traveling to Norway:

- Hepatitis B (recommended)
- Hepatitis A (recommended)
- Rabies (recommended)

It is also important to ensure that routine vaccinations are up to date for diseases including influenza, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus.

Norway - OVERVIEW

SIGNIFICANT DISEASE –

- **Tick-borne encephalitis** – A viral infectious disease involving the central nervous system. Ticks infect small rodents and at times, humans also become infected. This is a risk between March and November in rural areas along the southern coast and in the municipality of Tromøy.

HOSPITALS –

The National Hospital University of Oslo
Pilestredet 32
Oslo 27
Tel: +47 22 886 7010
Fax: +47 22 886 7580

Volvar Medisinske Senter
Borgenveien 2A Majorstuen
Oslo 303
Tel: +47 22 95 7500

US EMBASSY – CONSULATE LOCATIONS

UNITED STATES EMBASSY

Henrik Ibsens Gate 48
Oslo 0244
Tel: (47) 2130-8550
Fax: (47) 2243-0777
Email: osloamcit@state.gov

REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICE

Tel: (47) 2130-8972
Fax: (47) 2130-8920

USF INTERNATIONAL HOTLINE

USF 24/7 EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE LINE: 813-317-5815

AXA Assistance 24/7 EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE LINE: 1-877-577-9504 / +1-203-399-5130 (Call collect from abroad)

ASSIST ID #: GLMN 04983932. <http://www.culturalinsurance.com/resources/>

Norway - OVERVIEW

* Information derived from CIA World Fact Book, US Department of State, OSAC, and Travel Guard. This travel overview summarizes some of the most important concerns; however, it does not negate the need for detailed trip planning.