



# Oslo

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## Best Places to Eat

- » Feinschmecker (p66)
- » Punjab Tandoori (p67)
- » Baltazar (p66)
- » Markveien Mat & Vinhus (p68)
- » Fishermen's Coop (p67)
- » Smia Galleri (p69)

## Best Places to Stay

- » Ellingsens Pensjonat (p63)
- » Grims Grenka (p63)
- » Gamlebyen Gjestegaarder (p79)
- » Grand Hotel (p64)

## Why Go?

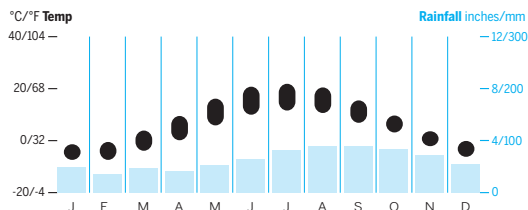
To the rest of the world, Norway is where Mother Nature has created one of her finest works of art. Against such a wonderful natural canvas, it's easy to forget that man can also be artistic, and many a visitor has been left surprised to discover that Oslo is home to world-class museums and galleries to rival anywhere else on the European art trail.

But even here Mother Nature has managed to make her mark, and Oslo is fringed with forests, hills and lakes awash with opportunities for hiking, cycling, skiing and boating.

Add to this mix a thriving cafe and bar culture, top-notch restaurants, nightlife options ranging from opera to indie rock, and a large and visible immigrant community who add their own colourful touch to the city and the result is a thoroughly intoxicating place in which to forget about the fjords for a while.

## When to Go

### Oslo



### April–May

Spring flowers fill the parks and National Day (17 May) brings crowds.

**July** The days are long, the sights are open and there's a packed cultural calendar.

**December** The first snow falls and Christmas markets and concerts bring seasonal magic.



## Oslo Highlights

- 1 Sing like a soprano in the new **Oslo Opera House** (p46)
- 2 Scream with delight at seeing *The Scream* in the **National Gallery** (p47), and see how today's artists shape up in the **National Museum of Contemporary Art** (p47)
- 3 Examine the ships and charts of the Viking Ship,

- Kon-Tiki and Polarship Fram Museums on **Bygdøy Peninsula** (p56)
- 4 Conquer your fear of heights from the summit of **Holmenkollen Ski Jump** (p59)
- 5 Stroll the fortress walls and explore the quirky boutiques of Fredrikstad's charming **Gamlebyen** (p78)

- 6 Pick summer blueberries and go winter skiing in Oslo's **Nordmarka** (p60)
- 7 Reconsider parenthood while looking at the works of Gustav Vigeland at **Vigeland Park** (p55)
- 8 Eat your way around the world in the city's Norwegian and ethnic **restaurants** (p65)