

September 2004

A Little in English...

State Launches New Internet Service

Government officials have launched a new website, in English, aimed at helping foreigners get acquainted with life in Norway.

Cabinet Minister Morten Andreas Meyer called the site a “guide to public services” in Norway. It also offers practical information about studying, working and living in Norway.

The new site www.norway.no also contains information for tourists, with tips for traveling both to Norway and around the country by air, train and car. The government launched another site earlier this year, called BAZAR (www.bazar.deichman.no) which also helps guide foreigners through the day-to-day aspects of living in Norway.

-from Aftenposten



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Litt på norsk...

Norge oppretter ny internett service

Den norske regjeringen har opprettet en ny webside på engelsk, som skal hjelpe utlendinger med å bli kjent med livet i Norge.

Statsråd, Morten Andreas Meyer, kaller websiden en “guide til offentlige tjenester” i Norge. Den tilbyr også praktisk informasjon om å studere, jobbe og bo i Norge.

Den nye websiden, www.norway.no, inneholder også informasjon for turister med råd om reising både til og innen Norge, via fly, tog, og bil. Regjeringen opprettet også en annen webside tidligere i år som heter BAZAR (www.bazar.deichman.no). Denne gir utlendinger en veiledning av det dagligdagse livet i Norge.

-fra Aftenposten

Norway Facts

- ▶ St. Olav's name was Olav Haraldsson
- ▶ The liquor aquavit (akevitt) means the water of life in latin.
- ▶ King Haakon VII was the first king of independent Norway in 1905.
- ▶ The Kjølén Mountains separate the greater part of the Norwegian-Swedish border.
- ▶ Norwegians wore paper clips on collars or caps during WWII as a symbol of national unity.

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UN: 'It's best to live in Norway'

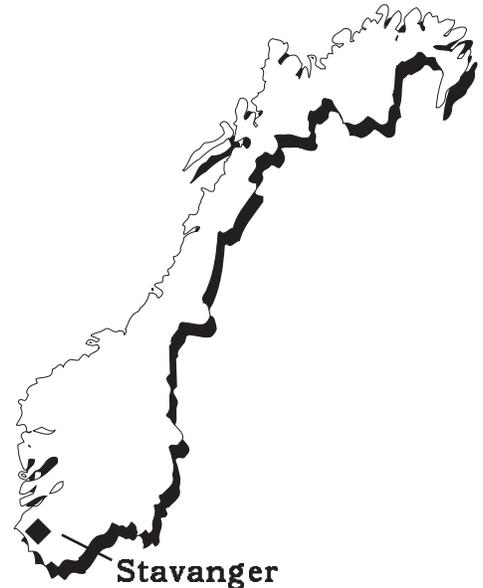
For the third year in a row, the United Nations' Development Program has ranked Norway as having the best standard of living in the world. Norwegians beat out all others because of their high levels of education, pay and life expectancy.

Norway's average life expectancy is 78.4 years and 99 percent of the population can read and write, according to the survey. The country has 413 doctors per 100,000 citizens and Norwegians are wealthier than ever before.

Norwegians are known to complain nonetheless, over everything from high prices to long waits for non-emergency medical care, cuts in police and school budgets and a shortage of day care and nursing home spaces.

Government minister Hilde Frafjord Johnson, who is in charge of Norway's foreign programs, doesn't dismiss the complaints. "But there are few who are so well off as we are," she told newspaper *Dagbladet*.

-from *Aftenposten*



Stavanger Chosen 2008 European Cultural Capital

EU's Ministers of Culture have named Stavanger as "Cultural Capital 2008" together with Liverpool.

Stavanger, situated in the southwest extremity of Norway, is perhaps best known as the country's Oil Capital, the center for oil and gas operations in the North Sea. The region has stunning landscapes, with beaches, rolling green pastures, fjords, cliffs and mountains.

Stavanger Mayor Leif Johan Sevland pledged to make festivities in 2008 a national event, and vowed to build cultural bridges to Europe. The city will officially be know as "Stavanger 2008 - Open Port."

-from *NACC News - Summer 2004*

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A Little in English

Researching lost family ties

These are good times for people abroad with Norwegian roots who wish to learn more about their past. The increasing amount of information available, particularly on the Internet, facilitates the detective work for amateur genealogists, Aftenposten reports.

Basic facts such as birth dates and places, maiden names, death dates and dates of other major occasions in church and local records can help you trace your family tree.

Archives, censuses and other official sources are increasingly available on the Internet, which is the most important tool you need to start searching for your forefathers in Norway. Visit the web sites listed below.

-from *Aftenposten*



- ▶ www.slekt.no
- ▶ Genealogy Society of Norway:
www.disnorge.no/whoweare.htm
- ▶ The Norwegian Historical Data Centre
www.rhd.uit.no/indexeng.html
- ▶ How to trace your Norwegian Ancestors
<http://digitalarkivet.uib.no/sab/howto.html>
- ▶ Norwegian National Archives
www.riksarkivet.no/english/about.html
- ▶ Vesterheim Genealogical Center
www.vesterheim.org/genealogy.html
- ▶ Norwegian-American Historical Association
www.naha.stolaf.edu
- ▶ Norwegian-American Bygdelagenes Fellesraad
www.fellesraad.com

Litt på norsk

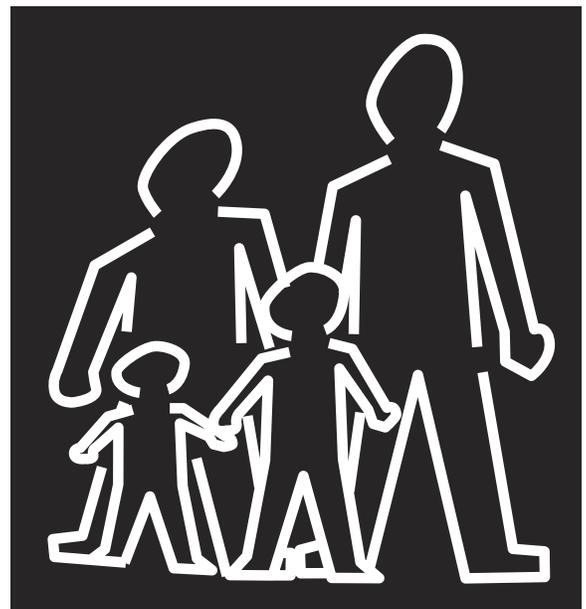
Å forsøke tapte familie forbindelser

Dette er tiden for folk utenfor Norge med norske røtter som ønsker å lære mer om sin fortid. Tilgjengelig informasjon på internett øker stadig, og gjør arbeidet lettere for amatørleksforskere, skriver Aftenposten.

Personlige opplysninger som fødselsdato, fødested, pikenavn, dødsdato og andre viktige hendelser i kirke- og lokale dokumenter kan være til hjelp for å finne slekt.

Arkiv, folketellinger og andre offisielle kilder blir stadig mer tilgjengelig på internett, og er kanskje det mest viktig verktøyet man trenger for å begynne jakten på forfedre i Norge. For mer informasjon, besøk websidene nedenfor.

-fra *Aftenposten*



Norwegians don't 'get' Halloween

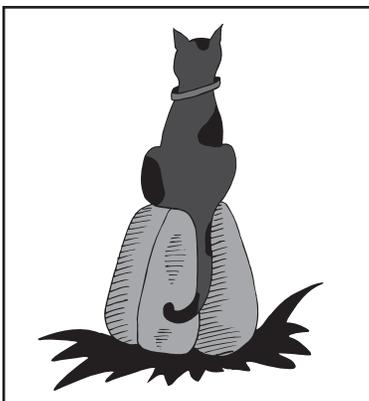
The trick and treat traditions of Halloween are steadily spreading around the world. But while neighbor Sweden enjoys the holiday, some Norwegians want it banned. Americans in Norway are trying to explain the point.

"The celebration of Halloween in Norway is so misunderstood. It is more and more about the frightening and less about the cute and strange," says American Diane Daviknes, who has lived in Norway for 11 years.

Diane Daviknes and other members of the American Women's Club believe that Norway's version of Halloween is in the process of becoming something very different from the U.S. holiday.

Daviknes suggests what Norwegians need is to learn the American rules for celebrating the spooky holiday, including only visiting homes that have turned on lights and only allowing small children (up to 10 or 11 years) participate in trick-or-treating.

-from *Aftenposten*



Destination of the Month: Bergen

Here are some hot spots to visit while in Bergen!

Bryggen - Bergen's historic Bryggen waterfront is on the UNESCO World Heritage list. It's fascinating timber buildings house museums, restaurants and artsy shops along quaint cobblestone streets and picturesque winding lanes and alleys.

Troldhaugen - The two story home Troldhaugen occupies an undeniably lovely setting on a lush and scenic peninsula. Here composer Edvard Grieg and his wife Nina Hagerup spent every summer from 1885 until Grieg's death in 1907.

Fløibanen - For an unbeatable city view, ride the Fløibanen funicular to the top of Mt. Fløyen (320 m), where well-marked hiking tracks lead into the forest.

-from *Lonely Planet Norway*