



Sons of Norway
HERITAGE PROGRAMS



MiniPresentation28

SUMMER VACATION

Summer Vacation

July is vacation month in Norway. And even if Norwegians are typical individualists who like to do things on their own, the nation as a whole finds it practical to have everybody go on vacation at the same time. For three weeks in July, Norwegian business runs in the lowest gear possible, while employees and employers go fishin'. In this way no one can complain about having been given a raw deal on weather or other factors which can make or break a vacation. They are all in the same boat.

Large flocks of Norwegians migrate south to the Mediterranean, where they invade Greek islands and flood Spanish, French and Italian beaches in search of the ultimate tan and other important summer accomplishments. Others find their way to more exotic places like the shores of the Black Sea, the Mediterranean Africa—or even America, this land of wonders where Disneyland, Hollywood and possible remnants of the Wild West are popular destinations.

But Norwegians also enjoy vacationing within their own borders. Norway is a nation of cabin owners and most of them go to their *hytte*, or cabin, whenever they have a chance. Some prefer a cabin in the mountains, where they can go hiking on the wide-open mountain plateaus and fish for trout in the rivers and creeks.

Others prefer the sea and can't wait to get down to the southern coast of the country to go sailing, scuba-diving or waterskiing—to lie in the sun on sandy beaches or sun-drenched cliffs—to dive into salty waves, or just to sit on the waterfront, watching the breakers.

For vacationers on the northern coast, happiness is spending some time in one of the extremely popular fisherman's shanties, especially when the weather is fine and they can fully enjoy the midnight sun. Others go to the northern mountain plateaus for long fishing trips, canoeing or just hiking in the wilderness.

Even people who remain in the cities have many possibilities for leisure activities. Some simply enjoy puttering around in their garden—and if they want to get away for awhile, they can take advantage of the many parks and undeveloped areas which surround almost all Norwegian cities. Also, people who live in downtown Oslo can stay in the city and have a great vacation time. The fjord is nearby and so is Nordmarka, with its hiking trails, lakes and wilderness areas.

If you go to Oslo this summer and want to catch some of its summer charm, go down to the harbor on a sunny day and buy a bag of fresh, salty shrimp from one of the fishing boats. Then sit down to eat it on the edge of the dock while watching the boats, the swirling sea and the seagulls. Forget the world around you and enjoy life in quiet contemplation—and the Norwegians who see you will know—you have become one of them.