

September 2002

A Little in English

New Express Train from Oslo to Stockholm Cuts Travel Time

In June, the first express train 'X 2000' left Oslo for Stockholm. The traveling time between the capitals has been cut by a full hour to four hours and fifty minutes. Trains will at last be able to effectively compete with airlines on this route, says Reidar Jigneus of the Norwegian-Swedish railway corporation Linx. And if Linx has its way, the Oslo-Stockholm journey could be cut down to just three hours, but that would require total modernization of the tracks along the entire route. Either way, this will make it easier for travelers to travel between the two Scandinavian capitals.

From *Western Viking*



'Snow White' Oil Field Planned to Open in Arctic Norway

The mayor of the northern Norwegian city of Hammerfest scored a big victory last June. He and his city have been given the go-ahead for a development project they call 'Snow White'. The project wants to develop a natural gas field off the coast of northern Norway, bringing in needed investment to this remote northern fishing town.

The oil and gas industry has transformed many cities along the coast of Norway in recent years. According to Statistics Norway (www.ssb.no), the Norwegian offshore oil and gas industry now constitutes \$40 billion, or 23.3 percent, of Norway's economy.

From *Western Viking*

September 2002

Litt på norsk

Nytt hurtigtog fra Oslo til Stockholm kutter reisetiden

I juni gikk det første hurtigtoget X 2000 fra Oslo til Stockholm. Reisetiden mellom hovedstedene ble redusert med over en time til fire timer og femti minutter. For første gang kan togene ta opp konkurransen direkte med fly på denne strekningen, ifølge Reidar Jigneus i det norsk-svenske jernbaneselskapet Linx AB. Og hvis Linx AB får det som det vil, kan togturen Oslo-Stockholm bare ta tre timer, men det krever en full modernisering av banen på hele strekningen. Uansett blir det lettere for alle reisende å reise mellom de to skandinaviske hovedstedene.

Fra *Western Viking*



Lær deg litt norsk

Learn a Little Norwegian

With children and grandchildren returning to school this month, here are some Norwegian school words to learn:

School	<i>skole</i> (skoo-leh)
Teacher	<i>lærer</i> (lah-rehr)
Books	<i>bøker</i> (buh-kehr)
Homework	<i>hjemmelekser</i> (yem-meh-leck-sehr)

If you have access to the Internet, you can take more free language lessons at www.sonsofnorway.com. Through the "members login," Sons of Norway members can also listen to words pronounced in many of the lessons.

Sons of Norway Map Services
**Two New Maps of Norway
Great for Research, Activities**

Two wonderful new maps of Norway are now available through Sons of Norway Map Services. The first map, Cities and Counties # 8217, shows all *fylker* (counties) and *kommuner* (cities or municipalities) throughout Norway, along with some interesting facts about Norway printed to the side. Also included is a list of all the counties, with their county seals, and the populations and sizes of all municipalities. Perfect for lodge activities or school projects.

The second map, Church Buildings # 8277, shows the divisions of the Church of Norway. This map is great for researchers, lodges and schools to show where dioceses, parishes and church buildings past and present are located, as well as the locations of stave churches and other ancient church ruins.

Each map costs \$16 for Sons of Norway members, or \$18 for non-members. To order maps, call 1-800-945-8851 or e-mail culture@sofn.com.

New Zoo for Oslo

Oslo resident Are Hogner, 26, has finally fulfilled his boyhood dream. After years of hard work, he finally opened Oslo's first, and Norway's only, reptile park last January. The Oslo Reptile Park currently houses 60 to 70 species. This is the first zoo of any kind in the Oslo area. Norway's largest zoo, Kristiansand Dyreparken, is far from Oslo, near the southern tip of Norway. The Oslo Reptile Park is located at Storgata 26 in downtown Oslo, and is open Tuesdays to Sundays from 10 to 6. Its website is www.reptilpark.no.

From *Norway Times*



Today's Norway Back to School

September is the month that reminds Norwegian and American children alike of one thing: school. But the schools Norwegian children attend have a few differences. Ten years of compulsory education from ages six to sixteen encompasses *grunnskole* and *ungdomsskole*, grades 1-10. Afterwards, most pupils choose to go on to *videregående skole* from ages 16-19, sometimes moving away from home to do so. Unlike American high school, most *videregående skoler* integrate classroom learning with practical experience to prepare students for the workforce.

All students must learn English starting in first grade, and must later choose another language in addition. The other languages offered depend on the individual school, but the two most common languages taken are German and French.

Nearly Norwegian students attend public schools; private schools are largely a recent phenomenon. Part of the reason for this is that religious instruction according to the Lutheran state church has traditionally been integrated into the public school curriculum. According to Statistics Norway (www.ssb.no), only 1.5 percent of Norwegian primary school students attend a private school.

If you would like to learn more about the Norwegian educational system, visit the website of the Ministry of Education and Research at odin.dep.no/ufd/engelsk.



October 2002

A Little in English

Robbed Kiosk to Pay Fine

An 18-year-old Norwegian was in a bit of a pinch after being slapped with a fine by the police for disorderly conduct. To pay the fine, he then robbed a small store with a knife. Things have not gotten any easier for him.

From *Western Viking*

www.sonsofnorway.com

Events Calendar and Experts Directory Now Available Online

To better serve the needs of our members, as well as the broader Scandinavian community, Sons of Norway has introduced two wonderful features on www.sonsofnorway.com. The Norwegian Events Calendar allows you to find an upcoming Norwegian-related event in North America or Europe. If there is an upcoming Norwegian-related event, such as folk festivals, concerts or heritage camps, that you want posted on the calendar, all you need to do is visit the website and select 'Post Your Event' under the Events category.

The Norwegian Experts Directory allows you to search for people skilled in various Norwegian arts, crafts and disciplines to present or teach their skill. Areas of specialty listed include rosemaling, history, storytelling, woodcarving, translation, travel advice, genealogy and much more. As the Expert Directory grows, it should be a great asset for lodge programming. If you possess a skill in any Norwegian-related discipline that you want to share, you can add yourself to the directory from www.sonsofnorway.com.



Oktober 2002

Litt på norsk

Ranet kiosk for å betale bot

En 18 år gammel nordmann var i pengeknipe etter å ha fått en bot av politiet for fyllebråk. Derfor ranet han en kiosk med kniv. Problemene har ikke blitt færre.

Fra *Western Viking*

Bunad Making is Big Business in Norway

Urban Norwegians enjoy dressing up in their Norwegian folk costumes, the *bunad*. Their popularity provides a nice economic boost to rural areas of Norway. Annual sales of *bunader* in Norway amount to 800 million kroner, or about \$100 million. Over 3,000 women across Norway are currently employed in the labor-intensive *bunad* making business. There are only 40 companies in Norway with more employees.

If you would like to learn more about the *bunad*, Sons of Norway members can order the free four-page information bank packet "Folk Costumes of Norway." Call 1-800-945-8851 or e-mail culture@sofn.com for more information.

From *Nationen*



Famous Norwegians Trivia

Test your knowledge of famous Norwegians throughout history

1. What was the royal title of the first king of modern Norway (1905-present)?
2. Who is Norway's most famous composer?
3. What two men are famous for their collections of Norwegian fairy tales like 'Three Billy Goats Gruff'?
4. What Norwegian artist painted 'The Scream'?

*Answers: 1) King Haakon VII 2) Edvard Grieg
3) Peter Christen Asbjørnsen and Jørgen Moe
4) Edvard Munch*

Norwegian, U.S. Universities Launch New Partnership

Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, and the University of Oslo have launched a new agreement between their schools of medicine to exchange research, faculty and students. This cooperation between the two world-class institutions is sure to benefit all. The agreement was signed on June 4 at the Embassy of Norway in Washington DC.

From News of Norway

Strike Takes its Toll

When Norwegian-American Alice Schofield arrived in Oslo last May, she and her tour group got a little more than they had bargained for. After a long and tiring journey, the group came to their Oslo hotel only to find it closed because of a nationwide labor strike. Despite this setback, the tour organizers were able to arrange last-minute accommodations, and the group was able to enjoy Oslo's May 17 festivities.

Disruptions such as labor strikes, while rare, do occur. To be made aware of any current situations in Norway before traveling, contact the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Washington, DC by calling 202-333-6000.

Today's Norway

American Traditions in Norway: Halloween Gaining Popularity

It is no secret that American culture plays a major role around the world, and Norway is no exception. From television, music and movies, to holiday traditions and American expressions like "OK," Norwegians have adopted a lot of what America has to offer. Some Norwegian teenagers, after hundreds of hours of American television and movies, sound almost like an American teen.

There is one piece of American culture, however, that has only recently begun to catch on in Norway – Halloween. In Oslo and other urban centers, neighborhoods have come together and organized trick-or-treat for their children. Evening costume parties for the big kids have also become popular in some areas.



Norwegian Film 'Elling' a Big Hit

Norway's young film industry has recently begun producing films with popular appeal, like 'Cool and Crazy' and 'Elling'. 'Elling' is a comedy about two mentally challenged men who are given an apartment in Oslo as a trial to see if they can live on their own. The hilarious and heart-warming film quickly became the top-grossing film in Norwegian history, and has even gained an audience in the United States. To find out more about this film, visit www.firstlookmedia.com.