

EXPLORE YOUR ROOTS in GUDBRANDSDAL

Gudbrandsdalslag Heritage Tour

featuring Ringebu Emigration Festival

Sponsored by Gudbrandsdalslag of America

June 19-July 3

May 23 , 2005

Day 1 - Sunday, June 19 - MPLS/ST.PAUL-OSLO

Depart Mpls/St.Paul on your Icelandair flight or request space from your home city upon registration.

Day 2 - Monday, June 20 - OSLO-HAMAR

Arrive Gardermoen Airport Oslo. Enroute to Hamar, visit Eidsvoll, site of the signing of Norway's Constitution on May 17, 1814. Dinner and overnight at the Scandic Hotel Hamar.

Day 3 - Tuesday, June 21 - HAMAR

Breakfast. Morning visit to the home of the world famous soprano, Kirsten Flagstad. View the famous Olympic Ice Hall with its unique design constructed for the 1994 Winter Olympics. Visit the Emigrant Museum and the church which was moved from Houston, MN. Lunch with lecture by the museum's director, Knut Djupedal. Continue to the Glass Cathedral. Opened in 1988 with its special construction of glass and steel, it is an architectural and technological masterpiece. The building's primary function is to protect the cathedral ruins, which is one of Norway's foremost cultural landmarks from the Middle Ages. Drive to Gjøvik. At 5:30pm depart on the world's oldest paddlesteamer, *Skibladner*, which has been plying the waters of Norway's largest lake, Lake Mjøsa, since 1856. Dinner on board includes Skibladner's traditional salmon with strawberries and cream for dessert. Arrive Hamar at 6:45pm. Transfer to hotel. Overnight at Scandic Hotel Hamar.

Day 4 - Wednesday, June 22 - HAMAR-LILLEHAMMER-ØYER

Breakfast. Drive to Lillehammer, site of the 1994 Winter Olympics. Tour the open-air museum at Maihaugen, with its collection of buildings from the Gudbrandsdal Valley. Time on own for explorations. Prior to departure, see the Lillehammer Church and view the Olympic sites. Proceed to Quality Hafjell Hotel in Øyer for dinner and overnight.

Day 5 - Thursday, June 23 - EXCURSION to GAUSDAL/ESPEDAL

Breakfast. Drive to Tretten. Continue towards the agricultural district of East Gausdal. Tour the Østre Gausdal Church. Travel the Peer Gynt Road towards Espedalen. The legendary Per Gynt is said to have roamed this area and inspired the poet and dramatist Henrik Ibsen to write his famous play, *Peer Gynt*. At Ruten we reach an altitude of 5000 ft. and enjoy views of the Jotunheim and Rondane mountain ranges. Continue to Espedalen. Picnic lunch with lunch pack from hotel. Drive south through the Espedal Valley with its rich flora and fauna and beautiful lakes. During the 17th century there were copper works in the valley and from 1846 to 1878 nickel was also mined. Near the Espedal Lake lies the Espedal Mt. Church. Tour the church with its unusual graveyard. Towards Gausdal we find Helvete (Hell) which is the name given to the largest potholes in Europe, many of them more than 160 ft deep and 65 ft wide. Guided tour of the home of a clairvoyant, Knut Rasmussen Nordgaarden ("Wise Knut", 1782-1876), who was famous throughout the country for his healing powers and his ability to find the lost. Visits will be made at the Svatsum and Vestre Gausdal Church. Return to Quality Hotel Hafjell for dinner and overnight.

Day 6 - Friday, June 24 - ØYER-FÅVANG

Breakfast. Learn about the local office governing the municipality (kommune) of Øyer (Tretten is now under Øyer kommune), as well as the services provided by the *kommune*. (Visit to local office pending.) Guided tour of Øyer Church followed by tour of Tretten Church. Cross the Segalstad Bridge and drive to Follestad. Visit Aulestad, the home of Norway's national poet, Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson. Continue to Gudbrandsgård Hotel, our home for the next three nights. The hotel, at an altitude of 2443 ft., is situated close to the middle station on the Olympic Downhill Arena at Kvitfjell, one of the most varied and challenging alpine arenas in Europe. **Welcome banquet and opening of the Ringebu Emigration Festival at 7:00pm.**

Day 7 - Saturday, June 25 - EXCURSION to RINGEBU & HUNDORP

Breakfast. **Participate in Ringebu Days.** Dinner and cultural evening at Dalegudbrands Farm with folk music and local culture. Overnight at Gudbrandsgård Hotel.

Day 8 - Sunday, June 26 - EXCURSION in RINGEBU & NORD FRON

Breakfast. **Participate in Ringebu Days. Church service in Ringebu Stave Church, one of the largest of the remaining stave churches in Norway from 1220 and tour of church. Coffee at Ringebusamlingene/Prestegarden.** Afternoon excursion to Nord Fron with visits to Hundorp and Vinstra. In Hundorp visit the Sør Fron Church referred to as Gudbrandsdal's Cathedral. No other district in Gudbrandsdal has as many churches as Sør Fron. Continue to Vinstra. Visit the Sødorp Church. At the Sødorp Chapel we view the Peer Gynt Memorial, in memory of the legendary Per Gynt who lent his name and character to Henrik Ibsen's play "Peer Gynt". Meet the historical Per and the literary Peer upon viewing the Peer Gynt collection at the Peer Gynt stugu from 1743, a house from the farm where historical Per lived. Dinner (middag) at 4:00pm at Sygard Grytting in Harpefoss. Return to Ringebu for a 7:00pm **International church concert in the stave church.** Overnight at Gudbrandsgård Hotel.

Day 9 - Monday, June 27 - RINGEBU-VENABU

Breakfast. Morning at leisure. Drive to Fåvangsfjell for lunch in Fåvang's Mt Chapel. **Visit a "seter" (mountain farm) in Fåvangfjellet. Introduction to cheesemaking.** Proceed to Venabygd'sfjellet. **Concert in the Venabygd's Mt. Chapel.** Dinner and overnight at Venabu Mt. Hotel.

Day 10 - Tuesday, June 28 - VENABU-FOLLDAL-HJERKJENN-DOMBÅS-LESJA-OTTA

Breakfast. Cross the Venabygd Mts. between the valley of Gudbrandsdal and Østerdal and encircle Rondane, Norway's first national park, with its spectacular mountain range protecting herds of wild reindeer. Travel through Follidal, a mountain mining community, as well as Hjerkjenn, and Dombås. Continue to Lesja. Tour the Lesja Church, richly decorated with carved tableaux depicting Bible stories. Visit the Lesja Bygdetun, an open-air museum with a collection of 11 houses which illustrates architecture, way of life and conditions in olden times. Dinner at the museum. Drive to Otta. Proceed to Rondeslottet, our mountain hotel.

Day 11 - Wednesday, June 29 - EXCURSION to SEL and DOVRE

Breakfast. Morning at leisure to enjoy the mountain scenery and fresh clean air. Afternoon excursion to Sel. View Sel Church (no entrance), a log church built in 1742. At Nord Sel Church (no entrance) we find a memorial and the graves of British soldiers who fell in this area in 1940. Arrive at Jørundgård, a reconstructed medieval farm, setting of the main work of Nobel prize winner Sigrid Undset's *Kristin Lavransdatter*. The trilogy, now translated into more than 70 languages is the most widely-read novel of the 20th century. Continue to Dovre. Following a tour of the Dovre Church, a cross-shaped church built in 1736 from hand-shaped jointed timbers, we visit Budsjord, a protected farm. One of the 17 buildings is believed to date back to the 1400's when this was a farm belonging to the bishop. The other structures were built in the 17th and 18th centuries. Dinner at the farm. Return to hotel for overnight.

Day 12 - Thursday, June 30 - EXCURSION to LOM and SKJÅK

Breakfast. Enroute to Lom and Skjåk visit the Jutulheimen Museum, west of Vågåmo, which contains buildings from farms in Vågå. Following a visit to Vågå Church, drive to Lom and tour the Lom Stave Church. Proceed to the Norsk Fjell Museum (Mountain Museum) which represents all aspects of the Norwegian mountain landscape and shows the diversity of interaction between mountains and men. Tour the Lom Bygda Museum, thought to be one of the most beautiful museums in the country. In Skjåk visit the Nordberg Church. Upon returning, drive via Heidal and along the famous Sjoa River, one of Northern Europe's finest and most popular white-water rafting rivers to Sjoa. Dinner at hotel.

Day 13 - Friday, July 1 - OTTA-KVAM-RINGEBU-FEFOR/VINSTRÅ

Breakfast. South of Otta we see the Kringen Monument and learn about the Battle of Kringen. Drive to Kvam. View Sinclair's grave commemorating George Sinclair, the leader of the Scottish mercenaries who were on their way to Sweden in 1612 to assist the Swedes in their war against Denmark/Norway. The Scots were stopped at the Battle of Kringen and George Sinclair fell. See the English War Memorial at Kvam Church. Lunch on own at Sinclair's Restaurant. Tour the Gudbrandsdal War Museum offering an insight into the events which took place in Gudbrandsdal during WWII. At 2:30pm depart for Fefor Mountain Hotel. Check-in and early dinner at 4:00pm. Depart for 7:00pm performance of the play "*Jehans Nordbu*". Return to Fefor Mountain Hotel for overnight.

Day 14 - Saturday, July 2 - FEFOR-OSLO AIRPORT

Breakfast. Time at disposal for additional explorations. Proceed to Radisson SAS Airport Hotel Oslo for dinner and overnight.

Day 15 - Sunday, July 3 - OSLO AIRPORT-USA

Breakfast. Proceed to airport for return flight. Longer stays may be requested upon registration for an additional charge of \$30.

Schedule is subject to change.

Italicized text in bold indicates arrangements by Ringebru Emigration Festival

gr05/gudrev. 5/23/05

PRICE INCLUDES:

- *Roundtrip airfare from Mpls/St.Paul on Icelandair
- *13 nights accommodations, 1st class/superior tourist class, double occupancy
- *Daily breakfast & 1 lunch pack on Day 5
- *13 dinners including opening banquet at Gudbrandsgård Hotel and dinner cruise on Skibladner
- *Coffee at Ringebusamlingene & coffee & sandwich at Emigrant Museum
- *International church concert at Ringebru Stave Church & concert at Venabygd Church
- *Visit to a "seter" with making of cheese
- *Evening play "Jehans Nordbu"
- *Entrance and guiding at Eidsvoll Constitution Hall, Kirsten Flagstad Museum, Emigrant Museum, Glass Cathedral, Maihaugen, Aulestad, Espedal Mountain Church, Sør Fron Church, Lesja Church / Bygdetun, Jørundgård, Dovre Church, Jutulheimen Museum, Vågå Church, Lom Stave Church and Bygdemuseum, Norsk Fjellmuseum, Nordberg Church, Gudbrandsdal War Museum and the churches of Vestre Gausdal, Østre Gausdal and Svatsum
- *Entrance to "Wise Knut's" home and Øyer, Tretten and Sødorp Churches
- *1st-class touring coach
- *Tour director
- *Luggage handling for 1 suitcase at hotels
- *Brekke Tours flight bag incl. luggage tags
- *Document holder & comprehensive information kit

Arrangements for this customized itinerary have been made as per the request of Gudbrandsdalslag of America.

BREKKE TOURS

Gudbrandsdalslag Heritage Tour Pre-tour Option A

Pre-Tour Option A: June 12-20 Genealogical Seminar

Day 1 - Sunday, June 12 - Mpls/St.Paul-Oslo

Depart Mpls/St.Paul on your Icelandair flight or request space from your home city upon registration.

Day 2 - Monday, June 13 - Oslo-Hamar

Arrive Oslo Airport. Enroute to Hamar, visit Eidsvoll, site of the signing of Norway's Constitution on May 17, 1814. Welcome dinner (6:30pm) and overnight at Quality Hotel Astoria.

Day 3 - Tuesday, June 14 - Hamar-Tretten

Morning visit to Statsarkivet. (Opening hours: 8:45am-2:45pm). In the afternoon transfer to Glomstad Gård and Pensjonat in Tretten, our home for the next six nights. Dinner and overnight.

Days 4 - 8 - Wednesday-Sunday, June 15-19 - Tretten

Genealogical seminar - arrangements for seminar as per Gudbrandsdalslag. Breakfasts, lunches, and dinners included. Overnight at Glomstad Gård.

Day 9 - Monday, June 20 - Tretten-Hamar

Transfer to Hamar. Guided tour of the Railway Museum (Jernbane Museum) at 10:30am. Balance of day free. (Pre-Tour Option A participants: Services end). Those continuing on main tour, meet group at Scandic Hotel Hamar for dinner at 7:00pm.

PRICE INCLUDES:

- *7 nights accommodations in double or twin-bedded rooms
- *Daily breakfast
- *5 lunches
- *7 dinners
- *Coffee & cake during break for 3 days during seminar at Glomstad Gård
- *Motorcoach transportation Days 2 and 3
- *Motorcoach transportation on June 18 for day's excursion to Vågå and Skjåk from Tretten
- *Transfer from Tretten to Hamar on Day 9
- *Seminar fees
- *Not included: Tour Director

BREKKE TOURS

802 N. 43rd St.
Grand Forks, ND 58203
701-772-8999 * 800-437-5302
tours@brekktours.com
www.brekktours.com