

City of nobility

Host of the Nobel Peace Prize, Norway's capital Oslo is a city of colour, nature and history

Boasting one of the most famous hotel windows in the world, where every year the Nobel Peace Prize winner presents to the world before disappearing into the banquet hall, Oslo is a city of legend. Barak Obama, Kofi Annan, Jimmy Carter, Nelson Mandela, the Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu have all stood at that window, and the Nobel Peace Center situated in the heart of the city tells the great narrative behind the most famous of prizes.

It's fitting that the prize is awarded in a city of such rich history, from Bronze Age rock carvings, to medieval ruins and fortresses to Viking history. A plentitude of art galleries and



museums throughout Oslo present different perspectives on Norway's past – many on Oslo's Bygdøy Peninsula, including the waterside Norwegian Maritime Museum and the Viking Ship Museum, showcasing 9th Century ships.

The National Gallery houses Edvard Munch's painting *The Scream* and the Gustav Vigeland Sculpture Park is home to more than 200 bronze, granite and cast iron sculptures – graphically depicting emotions and life stages.

Above: The famous Oslo Opera House Below: The Gustav Vigeland Sculpture Park

The Holmenkollbakken ski museum remembers the city's historical 1952 Olympic Winter Games, with panoramic views of the surrounding fjords from the top of the ski jump that still remains almost 70 years on.

From high up on the mountain to sea level, Oslo Opera House is home to the Norwegian National Opera and Ballet, with locals walking on the roof that appears to rise out of the waters of the Oslo Fjord.

Vast untouched forest surrounds Oslo's urban core and can be reached in under half an hour.

The forest is protected against development and is home to species such as lynx, wolf, beaver, moose and roe deer, making for great hiking and skiing trips.

Every year a 50-60-year-old Norwegian spruce is carefully selected from the forest and felled before travelling to Trafalgar Square where it is erected as a gift from Norway to say thank you for Britain's support during World War II.

The fish markets and restaurants are spectacular, with fresh catches plucked from the North Sea and sold on the streets or snapped up by Oslo's finest dining spots. visitoslo.com ■

