

TEACHING/RESEARCH/SERVICE
Office of the Dean
208-885-6441
FAX: 208-885-6226



June 24, 1993

Subject: 5th World Wilderness Congress, Tromsø, Norway
September 26 - October 2, 1993

Dear Colleagues:

In response to questions I've received from many of you, I'm enclosing information about Norway, and in particular Tromsø and Oslo. This material should be of help to you as you plan your trip to the 5th World Wilderness Congress next fall.

TRAVEL

There are two segments for the trip to Tromsø. From the U.S. to Oslo (approximately \$1,300 West Coast) and from Oslo to Tromsø (approximately \$450; however, if you fly overseas with SAS you can obtain a round trip pass from Oslo to Tromsø for \$160). Our reservations are being handled by Kathy Hansen and Julie Rogers at Departures Travel (1-800-735-2395), but you may wish to use your own travel agents. (Note: Federal employees must use American flag air carrier under the provisions of the Fly American Act.)

EXPENSES (Rates fluctuate daily. As of June 1, 1993, \$.1402 per NOK; 7.13 NOK = \$1)

You will probably want to budget at least NOK 1200 (\$168.24) per day to cover hotel and other expenses.

Lodging: For reservations contact SAS Air Travel Agency, Attention: Ms. Bodil Lauritzen, P. O. Box 437, N-9001, Tromsø, Norway. Telephone: 47 83 10700, Facsimile: 47 83 10701.

Except for the camping facilities, all accommodations are within walking distance and, unless otherwise indicated, include breakfast. Those camping at Tromsdalen must take a bus to the congress.

SAS Royal Hotel

Single: NOK 895 (\$125.48)
Double: NOK 990 (\$138.80)

Scandic Hotel

Single: NOK 820 (\$114.96)
Double: NOK 985 (\$138.10)

Grand Nordic Hotel

Single: NOK 800 (\$112.16)
Double: NOK 950 (\$133.19)

With Home Hotel

Single: NOK 975 (\$136.70)
Double: NOK 1085 (\$152.12)

SAGA Hotel

Single: NOK 750 (\$105.15)
Double: NOK 850 (\$119.17)

Tromsø/Polar Motel

Single: NOK 575 (\$80.62)
Double: NOK 800 (\$112.16)

Havna Hotel

Single: NOK 575 (\$80.62)
Double: NOK 780 (\$109.36)

Viking Hotel

Single: NOK 585 (\$82.02)
Double: NOK 685 (\$96.04)

Tromsdalen Gjestgiveri

some dorm type
Single, w/o bathroom in rm: NOK 320
(\$44.87)
Single: NOK 415 (\$58.18)
Double, w/o bathroom in rm: NOK 465
(\$65.19)
Double: NOK 600 (\$84.12)

Skipperhuset Pensjonat

Single w/o bathroom: NOK 310 (\$43.46)
Double w/o bathroom: NOK 380 (\$53.28)
3 beds to room w/o bathroom: NOK 450
(\$63.09)

Hotel Nord

Single w/o bathroom: NOK 300 (\$42.06)
Double w/o bathroom: NOK 400 (\$56.08)
3 beds in room w/o bathroom: NOK 500
(\$70.10)

Tromsdalen Camping

No bathrooms in cabins. Includes cooking facilities (breakfast not included)
Cabin w/2 beds: NOK 200 (\$28.04)
Cabin w/4 beds: NOK 300 (\$42.06)
Cabins w/2 bedrooms and 6 beds. Includes bathroom, living room, kitchen (no breakfast):
NOK 600 (\$84.12)

Food. Supermarket grocery prices are about 2½ times higher than in the U.S. However, bakeries (bakeri) are excellent, fish products are plentiful, and fruits and vegetables are available throughout the year.

When dining out, about \$40 will cover the price of an average meal for one in a restaurant (nothing fancy). A four-course meal with dessert and wine for two is about \$160. (Skip the wine, if you want to keep the price down; evidently there's quite a mark up). Prices at a well-known fast food restaurant are becoming more competitive; two people can eat for about \$15. Depending on your preferences, a budget of NOK 400 (\$56.08) per day should be adequate.

CLIMATE

In Tromsø the midnight sun is from May 21 - July 23, and the dark period is from November 25 - January 21. This coastal area has frequent rains--approximately 4½ inches in September. Temperatures range from 45°- 60° F in Oslo and 31°- 60° F in Tromsø. Bring clothing for rain, sunshine, and snow. (We've been told a rain coat and sweater are a must.)

CUSTOMS

The people tend to be quiet and unassuming, patient and offended by impatience in others. Their honesty, hospitality and helpfulness are well known.

Norwegians are very punctual and expect others to be. People generally are exactly on time, sometimes even early.

Norway is not a "drop-in" society and most invitations for meals involve careful planning. One should be careful not to disturb the Norwegian middag hour (4 - 6 p.m.) when most families will be eating dinner. Many Norwegian families also take a nap after dinner until about 6:30 p.m. Lunch, consisting of sandwiches, (smørbrød) is usually eaten between 11:30 and 12 noon. Dinner party entertaining is usually around 7:30 or 8 p.m. A 7:30 or 8 p.m. invitation can also mean "aftens," a less elaborate but tasty repast not served until 10 p.m.

"Informal" means coat and tie for men and nice dresses or suits for ladies; "blå dress" means dark suits for men and nice dresses for ladies; "smoking" indicates tuxedos and long gowns.

If you go to someone's home, be sure to remove your shoes. If the occasion calls for formal wear, you may want to carry your dress shoes in a bag and slip them on as you leave your street shoes at the door.

If you are invited to someone's home for a meal, it is impolite to drink the wine until the host has formally welcomed everyone to the table and offered the first skål (or toast). The welcome will include the mentioning of each guest present and may be quite eloquent. As a guest you will be offered two helpings of everything except the soup. (Unless you have an enormous appetite, you may want that first helping to be a small one.)

BANK CARDS - MONEY MACHINES

If your bank card pin number includes letters, you may have a bit of a problem. The bank machines have numbers only, no letters.

SHOPPING

Every sizeable town in Norway has a Husfliden shop where one can buy genuine Norwegian hand-made items--sweaters, pewterware, enameled silver, crystal, and hand-painted (rosemalt) wooden wares. These and other specialties are generally regarded as good buys. Figenschaus, on Storgaten 64, has furs and Lapp articles. For more Lapp craftwork, a trip to Kautokeino is recommended.

Shopping hours are generally from 9 or 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday, and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays.

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

The Ishavskatedralen is an impressive cathedral in Oslo. There are also a number of good museums where you can learn about Tor Hieerdahl, the Vikings, etc.; a day pass to visit all the museums and exhibitions can be purchased for \$15 - \$20.

The gondola in Tromsø offers a beautiful view of the area. The local theater, Halogaland Teatret, offers the seasonal program typical of a repertory company in a major city. Kulturhuset receives visits from performing artists of all kinds. Like other Norwegian towns, Tromsø has its share of cultural attributes as well as night life, cinemas, museums, parks, etc.

The Lysloype is a cross-country track which runs most of the length of the island; you may walk or bike ride along this cross-country track. There are also activities such as squash, tennis, weight lifting--something for everyone.

TROMSØ TURIST OFFICE

The Tromsø Turist office is located on Kirkegata 2 - Dampskiskaia, Postboks 312, N-9001 Tromsø, telephone (083) 84776, can supply you with useful information on sightseeing, shopping, hotels, restaurants, etc.

MEDICAL CARE

Dentists (Tannleger) and doctors (Leger) are listed in the back of the telephone directory. Legevakt is where you would go for emergency care.

TRANSPORTATION

Public transportation is very good--taxi (drosjer) or bus (buss); fares are much higher than in the U.S., however. Taxi drivers generally will not heed your signal if you try to flag one down; to arrange for a taxi call: 083-88020. Tips of 10 percent are customary.

Rental cars are very expensive. Norwegian roads are often narrow and badly surfaced and the general speed is 80 kph in rural areas and 50 kph in town. Smaller cars are advisable. American drivers must carry a U.S. drivers license.

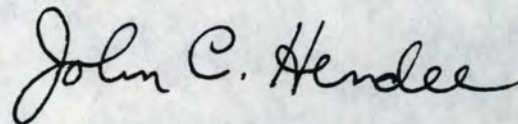
International rules for driving pertain in Norway and are essentially the same as in the U.S. except drivers must give way at all times to all vehicles approaching from the right, to streetcars and buses from the right or left, and must draw to the side of the road and stop for ambulances, fire engines, and police vehicles sounding sirens. Right turns are not permitted on a red light unless indicated with a green arrow. Red inverted triangle signs at junctions mean GIVE WAY or STOP. Also, driving while under the influence of alcohol is punishable by at least 21 days in jail and the loss of a driver's license.

TELEPHONES

Public telephone areas are painted red and are located throughout the city, often in booths adjoining newsstands. Telephone directories are in English, French, German, and Norwegian, and operators speak English. To place a call will cost 2 NOK.

Let me know if you have any other questions. I look forward to visiting with you at the Congress and getting better acquainted with you.

Sincerely,



John C. Hendee, Dean
College of Forestry, Wildlife & Range Sciences
Co-Convener, International Wilderness, Allocation,
Management and Research Symposium

JCH/nm
Congress@gen-ltr.wvc

c: Vance Martin, President, International Wilderness Leadership (WILD) Foundation
Co-Convener, International Wilderness, Allocation, Management and Research Symposium