

JOY RIDES

Traveling by train is more than getting from point A to point B. It's a beautiful, relaxing way to experience a country's landscape and culture. While the famed Oslo-Bergen line may be Norway's most well-known, there are other spectacular Norwegian rail journeys worth hopping aboard. BY RACHEL GUYAH

ALL EYES ON THE SKY

Bundle up and board Nordland in the winter to catch a glimpse of the Northern Lights from the comfort of your seat as streaks of emerald, pink and purple dance across the polar sky.

NORTHERN GEM

Nordland Railway

Destination: Trondheim to Bodø (runs both ways)

Stretching across 729 kilometers, Nordland is Norway's longest rail line. British daily newspaper *The Guardian* named it one of the world's top 18 train journeys. This expansive rail line ventures deep into northern Norway, weaving through the region's diverse and dramatic landscape. During the 10-hour voyage you'll pass through a staggering 293 bridges and 154 tunnels while curving around tranquil farmland, dense forests, rivers, fjords, snow-capped mountains and coastline. Taking the train north from Trondheim, you'll cross the Arctic Circle (the only Norwegian rail line to do so) while winding past the Saltfjellet mountain range.

While onboard, fuel up at the NSB Kafé—eat there or bring it back to your seat. Nordland operates year round and runs twice daily. Upon arrival in Bodø, hop on a ferry to the Lofoten Islands. The islands are a lively cultural hub and a nice place to stay for a few days. Hike, visit the Norwegian Aviation Museum, or book a day trip to Saltstraumen, the world's strongest tidal current.



THE SCENIC SEA ROUTE

Jærbanen Railway

Destination: Stavanger to Egersund

Jærbanen, also known as the “Seaview rail,” is a serene one-hour trip that runs along Norway’s southern coastline. While it’s a popular transportation route for locals, the rail line has been gaining steam with tourists for its stunning views of the North Sea. Along the 75-kilometer route you’ll pass through the district of Jæren, an important agricultural region for the country. Soak in tranquil views of the region’s wide-open landscapes, long sandy beaches and soft dunes, which boast their own unique flora and fauna. In fact, Jæren’s beaches are classified as a conservation area. After arriving in Egersund, it’s worth sticking around a bit. You can stroll along the streets lined with old, charming wooden houses that now serve as cozy cafes and art galleries. From town you can also visit Magma Geopark, a UNESCO Global Geopark featuring anorthosite—rare magma crystallized from molten rock from more than 900 million years ago.

Ride Along the North Sea Road

Combine this one-hour train ride with a visit to the coastal town of Egersund and a return bus ride back along the North Sea Road (one of Norway’s National Tourist Routes). It runs very close to the water and offers stunning views of the sea. The trip can be customized for groups. Contact GuideCompaniet (post@guidecompaniet.no, +47 51 85 09 20) for details.

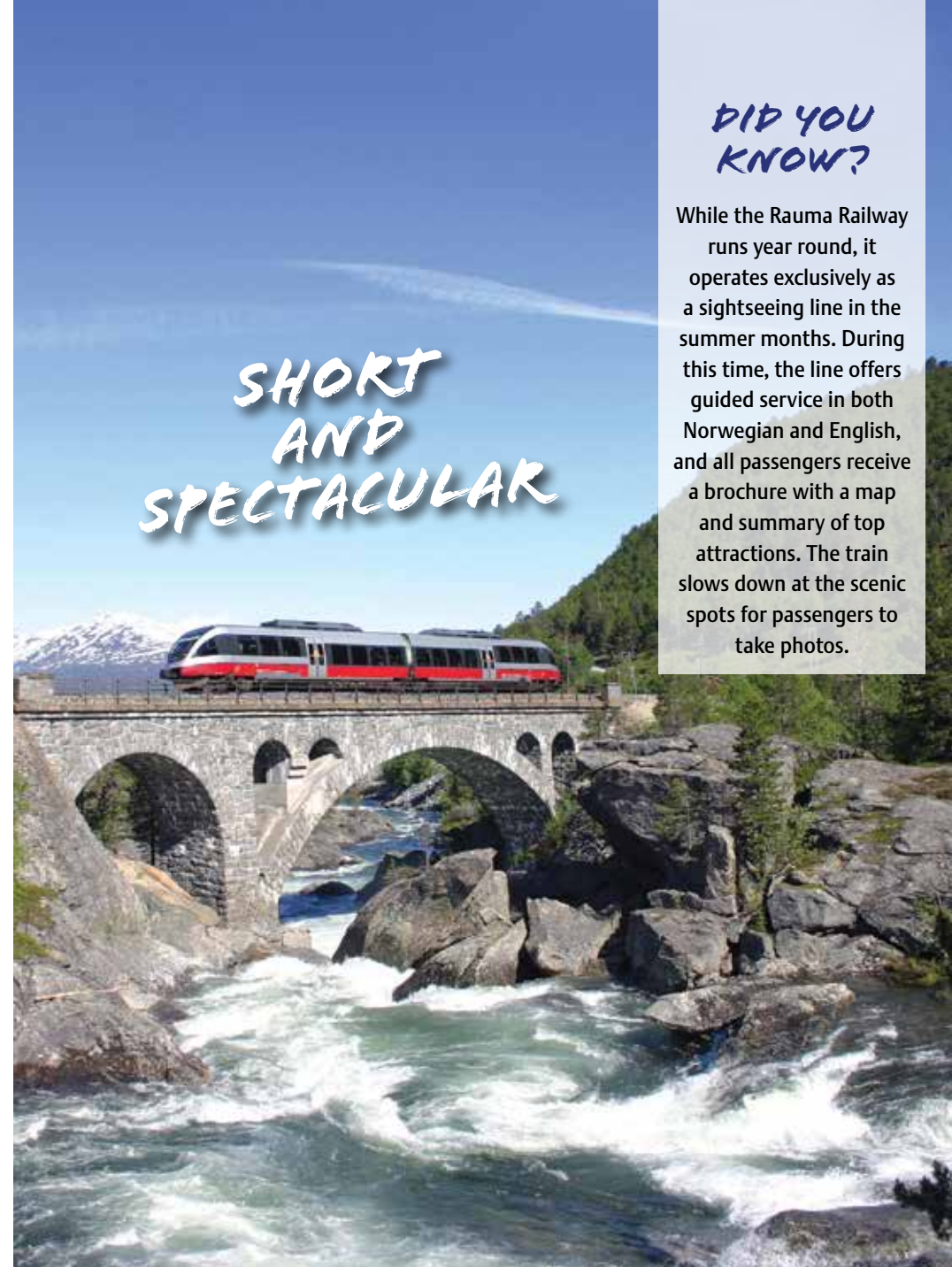
PHOTO BY STUDIO TOFFA PHOTOGRAPHY / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

PHOTO BY LEIF JOHNNY OLESTAD / VISITNORWAY.COM

Rauma Railway Destination: Åndalsnes to Dombås

It may be less than two hours long, but this quick trip packs a punch with plenty of dramatic views as it winds through plunging peaks, lush valleys and mountain plateaus. Rauma weaves through the highlands of central Norway, known for its fjords, forests, valleys and alpine peaks. During the trip you’ll pass through the long and narrow Romsdalen Valley and cross the iconic Kylling Bridge, forged from granite from the surrounding mountains. The stone arch bridge rises above the foaming Rauma River and offers views of the Vermafossen waterfall. Here the train twists between jagged rock peaks and steep valley sides (keep your eyes open, despite the jaw-dropping landscape). The train also passes by *Trollveggen* (Troll Wall)—Europe’s tallest vertical rock face. At the end of this short but stunning journey, you’ll see why it was named one of Europe’s most scenic rail rides by travel guide book publisher Lonely Planet.

SHORT AND SPECTACULAR



DID YOU KNOW?

While the Rauma Railway runs year round, it operates exclusively as a sightseeing line in the summer months. During this time, the line offers guided service in both Norwegian and English, and all passengers receive a brochure with a map and summary of top attractions. The train slows down at the scenic spots for passengers to take photos.

GET YOUR TICKETS

Norway’s rail lines are operated by NSB, the country’s state-owned train operator. You can purchase train tickets up to go days in advance.

- Online at nsb.no/en/purchase
- NSB’s mobile app
- At a local ticket machine
- At the departing station
- On board (for a small fee)



Price

Children ages 0–3 ride free, and there’s a 50 percent discount for children 4–15 and adults over 67. Groups of 10 or more are also eligible for a discount. For details on group travel, email gruppereiser@nsb.no or call +47 61 05 19 10 (press 4 for information in English).

Mobile App

Download the NSB app from the App Store or Google Play to purchase your ticket. Note: Only single tickets can be purchased this way. If you’re traveling with other people, you will have to purchase your tickets online or in person.

Online

Train tickets can be easily purchased online with a credit card at nsb.no/en/purchase. You can select your departure and arrival stations, view train times and fares, and enter the number of passengers. You will receive a confirmation email with a reference number after purchase, which you can enter

at a ticket machine at your departure station to retrieve the ticket. You can also request to print your ticket, if you prefer to have a physical ticket prior to arriving. If you experience any issues while purchasing your tickets, you can call customer care at +47 61 05 19 10 (press 9 for English).

NATIONAL PARK TOUR

Dovre Railway

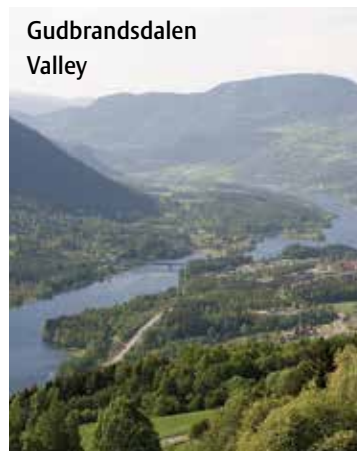
Destination: Oslo to Trondheim (runs both ways)

This seven-hour journey skirts along eastern Norway, passing through several national parks. Jotunheimen National Park, known for its tall mountains and glaciers, is a popular hiking destination to spot roaming reindeer and moose. The train also passes by Rondane, Norway's first national park. The southern end of the park offers tranquil scenery with gently rounded peaks, which intensify to tall, jagged summits as you head north. The park's alpine flora includes heather, moss and shrubbery in a kaleidoscope of faded hues.

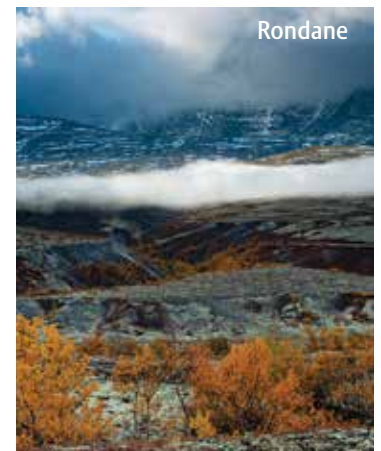
You'll also pass by the Dovrefjell mountains during the journey, which is part of Dovrefjell-Sunndalsfjella National Park—famous for musk oxen (one of the few places in the world to witness these ancient Arctic animals) and troll myths. Dovre also runs through Gudbrandsdalen valley, where charming mountain farms, serene lakes and trout-filled streams have inspired many an artist. The valley is also what inspired Henrik Ibsen to craft his iconic play, "Peer Gynt."



Jotunheimen National Park



Gudbrandsdalen Valley



Rondane

PHOTOS BY (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP) THOMAS RASMUS SKAUG | VISITNORWAY.COM, SHUTTERSTOCK, SHUTTERSTOCK

Sons of Norway 2018 International Lodge Meeting Minutes August 16–18, 2018

The minutes from the 2018 International Lodge Meeting held last August in Bloomington, Minnesota, are now available online at the Sons of Norway website. Members may access the minutes at www.sonsofnorway/Viking_2018minutes (member login required).

If already logged in, the minutes may be found on the Viking Magazine Archive webpage. Simply click on "Viking Magazine" in the dropdown menu under Norwegian Culture at the top of the homepage at www.sonsofnorway.com.

To request a paper copy of the minutes, please send an email to lhanson@sofn.com or call 612-821-4608.



Sailing for Growth
2018 International Convention
Sons of Norway · Bloomington, MN