

**B-Nature WINTERADVENTURE PACKAGE 7 Days & 6 Nights**

DEC:28/12 - 03/01

JAN:21/01 - 27/01

FEB:11/02 - 17/02 + 18/02 - 24/02

MAR:03/03 - 09/03

**Experience the best winter holiday of your life in Ulvik,  
the "Pearl of Hardanger"**

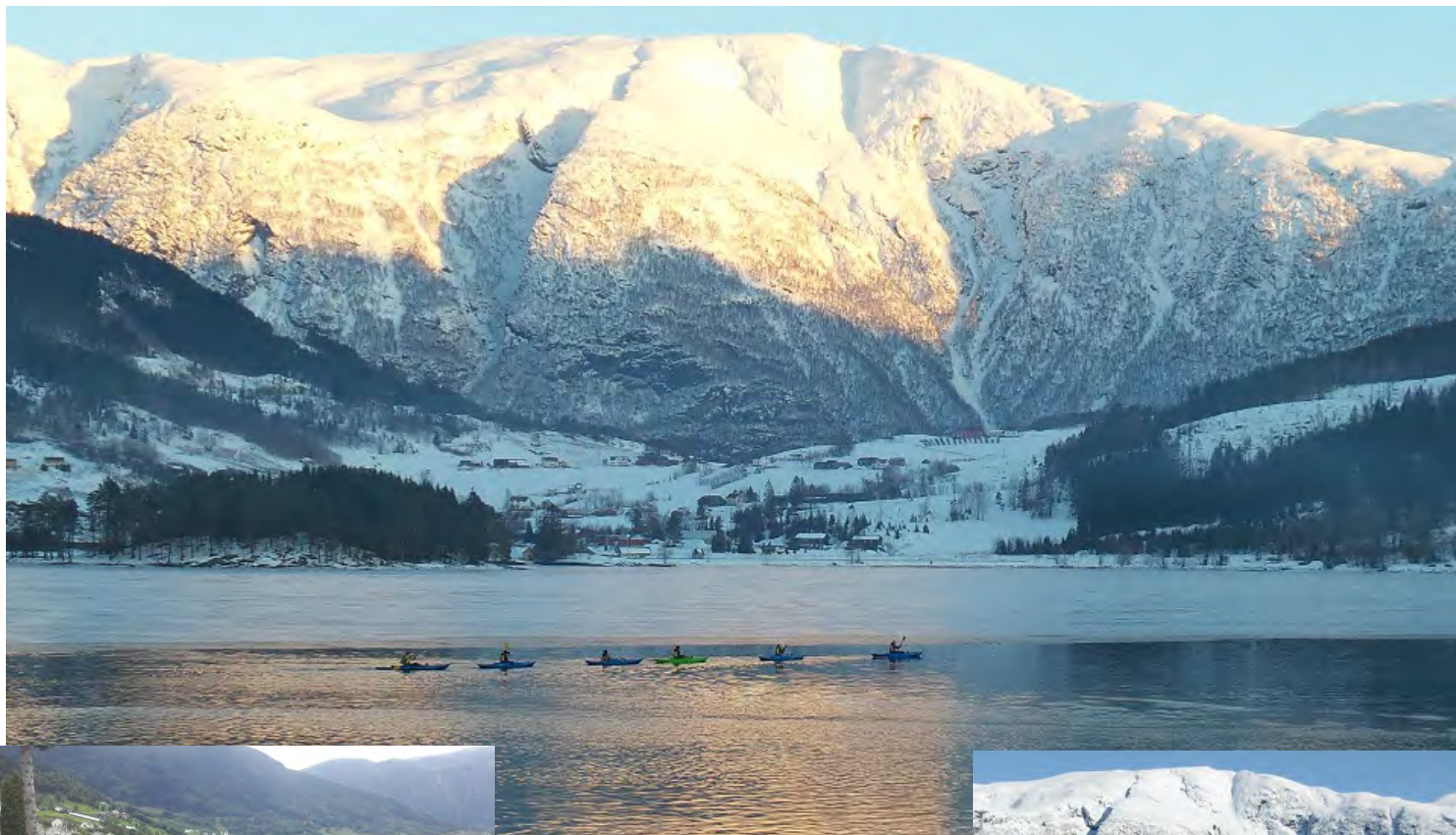


**"The Winteradventure Package" is designed to provide you with an unforgettable winter holiday experience just the way all Norwegians spend their winter. This is a winter you will never forget!**

**YOUR ACTIVITIES**

# YOUR ACTIVITIES

## Day 2 Monday morning: Guided kayak on the fjord



Our kayaks are "Sit-on-Top", and therefore very stable, almost impossible to flip.

Before we launch you will receive a thorough safety and paddling initiation.



## Day 2 Monday afternoon: visit to a cider farm + tasting local products



Ulvik is famous for its fruit and cider farms. The Hardanger Fjord is also known as the fruit orchard of Norway. Nowhere in the world is it possible to grow fruit on this latitude (60 degr.N).



During this excursion you walk along the cider route and can stop by these family-operated cider farms where you can experience the pride and legacy, which the owners have put in their products for generations.

# YOUR ACTIVITIES

## Day 3 Tuesday: Arctic experience Finse



Allow our expert guide to accompany you to Voss train station, where you'll embark on a train journey to Finse, nestled along the renowned "Bergensbanen" railway at an elevation of 1222m. The station is Norway's highest train station. Accessible solely by train, this charming village serves as the gateway to exceptional adventures.

Strapping on snowshoes, we'll venture a mere few hundred meters from the station towards the illustrious "Hardanger Jøkulen," one of Norway's largest glaciers. As we tread through this pristine landscape, our guide will also impart valuable survival skills, adding an extra layer of depth to your remarkable "Arctic Adventure."

Notably, Finse serves as a training ground for polar explorers, infusing the experience with a touch of history and intrigue.



Prepare to be captivated by our guide's narration of the remarkable tale behind the railway's construction amidst the unforgiving elements.

The region is not only subject to an arctic climate but also boasts a desolate remoteness, so extreme that it served as the backdrop for various scenes in the iconic Star Wars movie "The Empire Strikes Back."

For a delightful interlude, we'll have lunch at the esteemed "Finse 1222" hotel, which harmonizes with the surrounding natural splendor.

## Day 4 Wednesday :Relaxday – optional activities not included in the package



Voss Resort is one of the largest ski resorts in western Norway. It has 40 km of well-groomed slopes and an exciting off-piste area, 11 lifts and 24 trails with different levels: from easy hills for beginners to harder slopes for the experts.

Voss Gondola opened in the summer of 2019, and takes you from Voss station to the top of the ski resort in 7 minutes.



Use one of our kayaks for as long as you want, or a bike, or both...all free of charge.



This takes place at Granvin, our guide will hike with you to a viewpoint that will take your breath away. From this point at alt. ca 1000 m you can see the fjord in 3 directions! Use of equipment and guide are included.



Langlauf Lovers can go to Drevtjørn in Ulvik high in the mountains, the best langlauf slope in southwest Norway.

A ski area with illuminated, well-groomed cross-country skiing trails just 10 minutes away from Ulvik center.

# YOUR ACTIVITIES

## Day 5 Thursday morning: RIB Safari in Ulvik and Osa Fjord



Embark on an exciting journey from Ulvik as you ride aboard an inflatable RIB boat. Set a course towards the magnificent Hardanger suspension bridge, boasting the title of Europe's longest. Navigate into the picturesque Osa fjord, a 13km stretch of beauty, adorned with historic settlements untouched by roads. Throughout the expedition, your knowledgeable guide will pause at scenic viewpoints, revealing captivating anecdotes about the fjord and its past inhabitants. Immerse yourself in the enchantment of this unparalleled landscape and its wondrous allure.

## Day 5 Thursday afternoon: Tunnel excursion in Osa

For this excursion we will take you to Osa, a small place near Ulvik. In the 100 y old Osa Kafeen, we will first offer you an exquisite pancake lunch with our homemade jams, and after that tell you the story of this amazing project they planned more than 100 years ago. To build an entire city in Osa and the largest hydro powerplant in Norway.



After lunch and the presentation, our guide will lead you into the tunnel, and Travels back in time to explain how tunnels and shafts were made with the basic technology of that period.

Not to mention the harsh conditions under which men and women were confronted with.

A Human Interest story to never forget.



## Day 6 Friday: Randonnée ski tour in Norheimsund (jan-apr)

For those new to skiing, the option of snowshoes awaits, allowing you to seamlessly join the ski group on the ascent. As you descend, our expert guide will provide instructions that ensure everyone arrives at the bottom around the same time, fostering a unified and enjoyable experience for all.



If you have at least intermediate alpine skiing skills, you will enjoy randonnée skiing a lot. No slopes, only free and wild nature. Our journey starts with a scenic drive along the enchanting Hardangerfjord, treating your eyes to the grandeur of a massive glacier. Equipped with all necessary gear, join your guide to a breathtaking panoramic viewpoint, a moment to cherish, before you make your way downhill.

If you are not a skilled alpine skier, you can still enjoy the same experience by following the same route upwards on snowshoes. Along with your fellow-skiers you will reach the top and be in awe admiring the majestic view.

As the experience draws to a close, both skiers and snowshoers journey back down towards the awe-inspiring fjord, retracing the path that brought you to this memorable escapade.

A rewarding hot chocolate with home made cake will be the icing on the....day.



DEC: 28 to JAN 03    JANUARY: 21 to 27    FEBRUARY: 11 to 17 + 18 to 24    MARCH: 03 to 09

## DESCRIPTION ACTIVITIES

*The Winter adventure Package is set together with the focus on offering you a “never ever to forget” experience, one of the best winter holidays you have ever had in your life! The reason for this is on one hand the amazing nature and winter landscapes. You are surrounded by the fjords at sea level and high mountains, and only half an hour drive away you will be in arctic mountains where polar explorers come to train and test their equipment.*

*On the other hand, the well picked exciting activities, great food and the personal service of our family that welcomes you home! This winter adventure will bring you closer to the typical, traditional Norwegian lifestyle. Everything that is included in this package is what Norwegian families do for leisure during winter. Book this package and become a Norwegian for a week!*

### **Day 1: Welcome in Strand Fjordhotel**

Strand Fjordhotel is a cozy boutique hotel just 5 meters away from the waterfront in Ulvik situated at the Hardanger fjord in Norway. Our hotel has 50 rooms with Fjord view and a balcony or a terrace with access to the hotel garden and the fjord. You will feel at home from the minute you arrive. The restaurant offers a permanent panoramic view over the fjord. It is like you are looking at a living painting.

Our hotel is the best spot in town to enjoy a local cider or one of our many Belgian Beers. Every day you start with an intercontinental breakfast, and when a trip is planned that day, make your lunch package. Every day after the “Glühwein time”, you will enjoy a 3 course “winter diner” to end the day. Or not, since you can continue in the bar and choose from a large variety of Belgian Beers or local ciders, and just relax in our cozy lounge.

Enjoy good food, a good atmosphere, and personal attention in this family-operated hotel. The owners are Belgian and speak Dutch and 4 more languages. They are experienced with alpine ski holidays in center Europe and thus very familiar with the “Après Ski” atmosphere. As your hosts, they insist that a glass of Glühwein -or a cup of alcohol free Glögg- is an essential part of your stay in the hotel at the end of every day! 😊

### **Day 2 morning: Guided Kayaking**

Recreational and educational private kayak trip on the fjord of Ulvik with an experienced instructor and guide. Not only will you enjoy the fun and sportive kayaking experience, but you will also get to learn some basic skills for surviving in nature and learn about the fascinating local culture and history.

After the initial instruction, we will paddle to an island on the fjord, where you will learn to make fire and we will enjoy a hot tea/coffee. Then we paddle to a peninsula where we go ashore. You will learn how people lived and survived in the old days and how they used nature.

Our guide will talk about local traditions, and, tell some amazing stories about historical events that took place in this little paradise. Starting point is at the hotel, and we offer sit-on-top kayaks, very stable and unsinkable. Evidently, we first give you an initiation. No Worry, in the past 10 years only 1 person managed to flip the kayak, and he did it on purpose. 😊

### **Day 2 afternoon: Cider farm route**

Ulvik is probably most famous for its fruit and cider farms. The Hardanger Fjord area is known as the fruit orchard of Norway. Nowhere in the world is it possible to grow fruit on this latitude (about 60 degrees north). The mild climate in the Hardanger region, the protective geography from the elements and the long summer days add-up to an ideal location for fruit farming.

From your hotel you will walk straight to the “cider farm route”, on which are 3 cider producing farms. You will visit one of these family operated cider farms where you can experience the pride and legacy, which the owners have put in their products during many generations. Beside the interesting tales, you also get to taste their products. Every cider farm has its unique specialty and approach to processing fruit and food.

### **Day 3: Arctic Experience Finse**

In the morning we will meet at the train station in Voss where you, together with our guide, take the train to Finse (We can offer transport on request). Finse is a tiny mountain village which is only accessible by train, bicycle, or foot at an attitude of 1222 m.o.h. The train station is the highest in Norway. Finse is just a few hundred meters away from one of Norway’s largest glaciers 73 sq km large and 1873m high.

During this arctic experience-we walk on snowshoes towards the glacier-, our guide will tell you about the great history of Finse and the building of the railway under the harshest conditions. You will walk to where scenes of the Star Wars movie: The Empire Strikes Back were filmed. We will have lunch at the hotel “Finse 1222” which was first opened in 1909, at the same time as the Bergen Railway was completed.

Finse has been used for a long time as training base for polar explorers. During this exciting trip our guide will teach and show you some survival skills as well. An experience to never forget.

**Day 4: Relax Day:****Optional activities:**

On Relax day, you can either relax or plan extra activities. Check the exciting optional activities (to book and pay separately) at the end of the document but be aware that for some activities there are limitations to the number of participants. We gladly help with getting in touch with the providers and booking the event for you.

**Self-guided activities:**

If you decide to Be Active in Ulvik, we provide for you, free of charge: 1 person kayaks, bikes, snowshoes, fishing equipment. These items are at your disposal the entire day and can be mixed. All for free!

**Optional activities****1-Voss, Alpine skiing resort full day**

Voss is known worldwide as the "extreme sports village", and the ski resort is one of the largest in western Norway. It has 40 km of well-groomed slopes and an exciting off-piste area, 11 lifts and 24 trails with different levels: from easy hills for beginners to harder slopes for the experts. In addition to the 40 km of groomed slopes, there is one terrain park, ski cross trail, 3 areas for children, groomed cross-country trails and 4 restaurants. You will also find a ski school, ski rental and after ski at the resort. Voss Gondola opened in the summer of 2019, and takes you from Voss station to the top of the ski resort in 7 minutes.

We can offer transport on request. There is a bus stop right across from the hotel and the bus will take you to the entrance of the Gondola station in Voss. The Gondola brings you up to the resort where all the ski slopes start. You can buy the ski pass at the same time you buy the ticket for the Gondola on site.

**2- Snowshoe hike in Granvin half day max 10 p**

Our guide will transport you to Granvin, and hike with you to a viewpoint that will take your breath away. From this point at alt. ca 1000 m you can see the fjord in 3 directions! The transport, use of equipment and guide are included.

**3- Cross-country skiing in Ulvik on the Drevtjørn resort 2 hours max 10 p**

This takes place at Drevtjørn in Ulvik high in the mountains, the best langlauf slope in southwest Norway. A ski area with illuminated, well-groomed cross-country skiing trails just 10 minutes away from Ulvik center. You don't have to be a professional athlete. Although some put on their first ski shoes as soon as they learn to walk, others try it for the first time as grown-ups. An experienced instructor will give beginners an initiation and teach them the basics. Even if you have never stood on ski's before, this you can do. Included in this activity is the guide/instructor as well as the skis, we can offer transport on request.

**Day 5 morning: Rib boat-safari on the Fjord**

You will be taken on an Rigg Inflatable Boat (RIB) on an adventure on the fjord. From Ulvik the boat tour goes south-west to the impressive Hardanger bridge – the longest suspension bridge in Europe. From here we go into the 13 km long Osafjord branch passing several old roadless settlements in this scenic fjord. Your driver and guide stops a couple of times to let the unique scenery work its magic and to provide interesting facts about the fjord and people who used to live at the fjord farms.

**Day 5 afternoon: Visit to Osa Kafeen and the Tunnel excursion**

For this excursion we will take you to Osa, a small place within a 10 min drive from Ulvik.

In the 100 y old Osa Kafeen, we will first offer you an exquisite pancake lunch "all you can eat" with 5 of our most tasty and amazing homemade jams, and after that tell you the story of this amazing project they planned more than 100 years ago. To build an entire city in Osa and the largest hydro powerplant in Norway. We take you on a guided walk in a large tunnel complex and go deep into the mountain, enter shafts and tunnels on different layers. During this exciting excursion, you get to hear the fascinating story of this abandoned and mysterious industrial adventure.

**Day 6: Guided Randonnée ski tour in Norheimsund (or snowshoe)**

This activity requires some alpine skiing experience. No worries, if you have never skied before, you get snowshoes instead and do the exact same program simultaneously as those who go up on skis.

After a beautiful drive alongside the Hardanger fjord with permanent view on one of the largest Glaciers in Norway, you will arrive in Norheimsund, a beautiful village situated at the fjord. After receiving your Randonnée ski's and shoes your guide will hike with you up in the mountains.

Randonnée skiing is a fantastic experience and for Norwegians one of the most popular activities during winter because one is in the free nature all the time. No prepared slopes. The skis are prepared with animal skin underneath to prevent from sliding back, and the shoes are connected only at the tip, so you can walk on your skis upwards the mountain.

You will hike in unspoiled nature until you arrive at a vantage point from where you have a panoramic sight. Then, you can ski back down and have the experience of your life. This is better than skiing off-piste in Ski resorts!

After returning down, you will get a hot Chocolate or coffee with some homemade cake and return the same way, along the beautiful Hardanger Fjord.