

## Norway in a Nutshell

Such a simple title for an unforgettable experience. Some call *Norway in a Nutshell*, one of the ten best rail trips in the world. Beginning in the authentic shipping port of Bergen, we boarded an early train for a scenic five-hour trip to the tiny depot of Myrdal. There we watched cyclists descending a narrow downhill path with hairpin turns. It was September 9<sup>th</sup> and we were wearing winter jackets, however the cyclists appeared to be comfortable in cycling jerseys.

Once our historic train arrived, we savored the comfort and warmth as the guide pointed out high elevation peaks and narrow valleys. Everyone disembarked at the first stop to feel the power of the Kjosfossen Waterfall, with its drenching spray and wild roar. Two women dressed in flowing red gowns appeared magically halfway up the precarious slope to sing an operatic piece while acting out a legend.

We arrived in Gudvangen, where our fjord boat was scheduled to pick us up. The tiny Flam Railway Museum was in a hall leading to a restaurant where we enjoyed a salmon and potato lunch. Soon after our ferry departed, we realized why this fjord is considered one of the most outstanding natural attractions in Norway. The Naeroyfjord is 12.4 miles long, however only 842 feet across at its narrowest point. The surrounding mountains reach heights of 5,446 feet. Needless to say, our necks and cameras had a challenging workout.

At the end of our fjord ferry tour, we quickly boarded a bus, which took us on yet another steep and unpredictable journey to a train depot in Voss. There we found our efficient passenger train back to Bergen, arriving after 15 entertaining hours of train, flam, ferry, bus and swift passenger train in a day.

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