



SONS of NORWAY



Oct. 2021

Walworth County, WI

Norsemen of the Lakes 5-650

Greetings all:

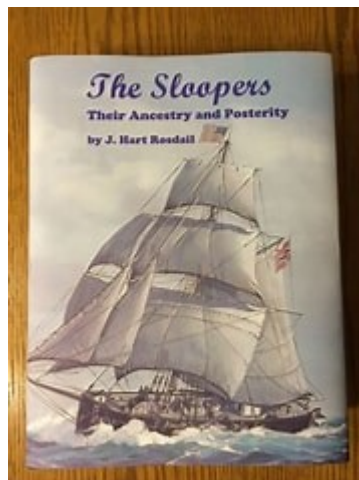
Wow, if you didn't attend our last meeting, you missed a great presentation. I brought a TV in and we watched a Power Point presentation by Dana Kelly of the Norwegian American Genealogical Center in Madison called "The Evolution of Language for Norwegian Americans." Everyone really loved it.

For our October meeting, I'll do the same thing, only the topic will be "The Sloopers' First Christmas" by Bill Injerd from Nordkap Lodge, Detroit, MI. The Sloop, considered the Norwegian Mayflower, transported immigrants who came to America on a very small ship because they wanted to be more like Quakers than Lutherans; therefore, they were experiencing religious persecution at home. Unfortunately, they came in the autumn to northern Michigan and had to spend the winter all crammed into two cabins. It's quite a story of survival. Don't miss it.

Our business meeting will consist of Christmas dinner plans and elections. We will have some new faces on the ballot this year. (See below for a sneak peak.) We will again be at the Advia Credit Union in Elkhorn, and don't forget, we will also have a great potluck dinner as well. See you there.

Norsemen of the Lakes 2022-2023 Slate of Officer Ballot

- | | |
|-----------|-----------------|
| Pres | Corlene Bartels |
| V. Pres. | Kathy Norquist |
| Secretary | Elaine Lundgren |
| Treasurer | Debbie Weber |
| Counselor | Brian Ogne |
| Hostess | Barb Ogne |



Gratulerer med dagen

October Birthdays

Ginny Andersen	3rd
Marjorie Christenson	8th
Grace Henderson	24th
Jane Roberts	27th

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KALENDAR

Potluck at Advia
Credit Union, 837
No. Wisconsin St.,
Elkhorn, WI 53121
6 P.M. Oct. 12th.



Armed with jokes, puns, and cartoons, Norwegians tried to keep their spirits high and foster the Resistance by poking fun at the occupying Germans during World War II. Despite a 1942 ordinance mandating death for the ridicule of Nazi soldiers, Norwegians attacked the occupying Nazis and their Norwegian collaborators by means of anecdotes, quips, insinuating personal ads, children's stories, Christmas cards, mock postage stamps, and symbolic clothing.

In relating this dramatic story, Kathleen Stokker draws upon her many interviews with survivors of the Occupation and upon the archives of the Norwegian Resistance Museum and the University of Oslo. Central to the book are four "joke notebooks" kept by women ranging in age from eleven to thirty, who found sufficient meaning in this humor to risk recording and preserving it. Stokker also cites details from wartime diaries of three other women from East, West, and North Norway. Placing the joking in historical, cultural, and psychological context, Stokker demonstrates how this seemingly frivolous humor in fact contributed to the development of a resistance mentality among an initially confused, paralyzed, and dispirited population, stunned by the German invasion of their neutral country.

For the paperback edition, Stokker has added a new preface offering a comparative view of resistance through humor in neighboring Denmark.

Available on Amazon used at \$3.87.

Cost of living: What do workers in Norway spend their salaries on?

The Local [news@thelocal.no@thelocalnorway](mailto:news@thelocal.no) 25 September 2021

What do workers in Norway spend their hard-earned cash on and is there anything left over for leisure? Financial expert Ingvild Aagre goes through the numbers.

According to Statistics Norway ([SSB](#)), the average gross earnings in Norway is 48,750 NOK per month or 585,000 NOK per year. For elementary occupations, the monthly average is 34,640 NOK, whereas managing directors and chief executives earn 83,030 NOK before tax.

Norway operates with progressive taxes, meaning lower tax rates are imposed on low-income earners than those with high earnings. For most full-time employees, the tax rate will range between 23-33 percent. For example, someone earning 48,750 NOK per month can expect to pay about 27 percent in taxes, resulting in a net monthly income of 36,250 NOK. These numbers give Norway a place among the top 10 [countries with the highest monthly net income](#).

Cost of living

While the income levels might be high, so is the cost of living. According to [Business Insider](#), Norway is the world's 3rd most expensive country to live in. But exactly how high are the expected expenditures for someone living in Norway? Let's break it down by looking at both essential costs and average consumption expenditures.

Essential costs

First of all – let's have a look at the absolute essential costs such as housing, food, basic utilities and transportation. In this section, we also need to include minimum loan payments.

According to statistics from [SSB](#), people living in Norway spend 22 percent of their net monthly income on housing, 15 percent on transportation, 11 percent on food and alcohol-free beverages, and 3 percent on health-related expenditures. Together this amounts to 51 percent of total income.

Consumption Research Norway (SIFO) breaks some of these costs down even further in their [Reference Budget for Consumer Expenditures](#). For instance, they estimate that someone aged 31-50 years will spend between 3,100 – 3,660 NOK monthly on food and beverages, about 880 NOK on personal health and 310 NOK on other groceries.

According to the financial institution *Lån for deg*, people living in Norway owe a total of 143,4 billion NOK in unsecured debt, which includes [consumer loans](#) and credit card debt. Based on these numbers, it can be estimated that an average Norwegian spends between 5-10 percent of their total net salary on repaying their unsecured debt.

For those with children, there are some extra monthly costs to be considered. According to SIFO's calculations, an average-income couple would pay 3,230 NOK for a kindergarten spot and 3,212 NOK for a 100 percent after-school activity spot. Covering the costs for these services for two children would amount to about 9 percent of their total net income.

Considering these numbers, it is fair to assume that people living in Norway spend an average of 60-70 percent of their income on essential outgoings.



Consumption expenditure

According to [SSB's report](#), there has been a considerable increase in consumption expenditure in Norway over the last years. Adjusting nominal values to real values, we spent as much as 64 percent more on consumption in 2017 than 2000. Consumption expenditure refers to non-essential spending.

The statistics reveal that we spend an average of 11 percent of our incomes on culture and leisure activities, 9 percent on travels and trips abroad, and 5 percent on clothes and shoes.

Budget breakdown

Let's break this all down into a budget of concrete numbers. The calculations are based on a person living alone with an average net salary of 36,250 NOK.

Essential costs: 21,734 NOK (60 percent)

- ◇ Housing (rent/mortgage repayment): 7,975 NOK
- ◇ Transportation: 5,438 NOK
- ◇ Food, beverages and other groceries: 3,970 NOK
- ◇ Health: 1,088 NOK
- ◇ Unsecured debt repayment: 3,263 NOK (9 percent)

Consumption expenditure: 9,064 NOK (25 percent)

- ◇ Culture and leisure activities: 3,988 NOK
- ◇ Travels and stays abroad: 3,263 NOK
- ◇ Clothes and shoes: 1,813 NOK
- ◇ Other: 5,452 NOK (15 percent)

In this example, our reference person is left with 15 percent of the net salary after covering essential costs and consumption expenditures. This means it would be possible to stash away some money every month for savings, for instance, by creating a buffer for unexpected expenses.

Of course, our individual realities are rarely average, and the budget breakdown will look different in each household, depending on our income level, life situation and standard of living.

Conclusion

Our budget breakdown of an average Norwegian salary reveals that about 60-70 percent is spent on covering the essential costs, 25 percent is spent on consumption, and between 5-15 percent is left for savings or other projects. Overall, it is fair to say that, in one of the most expensive countries in the world, the average income and the costs of living are, thankfully, rather proportionate.



Email Scams Announcement from International

We've recently had a number of complaints of what seemed to be spam emails from various district or lodge leaders. These emails would typically seem as if they were coming from a lodge leader and would ask for money, a gift card, etc. This is referred to as **spear phishing**. You likely have heard of phishing, which is when a bad actor sends an email asking you to do something (e.g. send gift cards or give out your password). Spear phishing is a more sophisticated type of phishing, which we experienced here, when the bad actor makes the email look more legitimate by using a familiar name and title, and by sending it to people likely to relate (in this case, lodge members).

One of the easiest ways to identify an email as a phishing attempt (which applied here) is that the sender's name and email address do not match. Another big giveaway is that they often come from out of the country and the emails contain broken English.

One reason we are susceptible to these types of phishing attempts is that the contact info for our district and lodge leaders is publicly available on our website. We have decided to temporarily disable this feature as we consider better alternatives. As of today, the Lodge Directory on the public website has been temporarily removed, and the page now redirects to a zip code finder for people looking for a lodge in their area.

We will continue to actively monitor this situation and take necessary steps to safeguard your data, while helping our members find the information they need. Please feel to reach out to David Crabb with any further questions or concerns.

Norway Reopens: Government Lifts All National Restrictions

September 24, 2021 by David Nikel



Norway's prime minister today announced a full reopening of society, although insisted the pandemic “is not over.” Some border restrictions remain in place.

Since 10 March 2020, Norway has been under some form of temporary restrictions. After 561 days, Norwegian society will finally return to normal tomorrow afternoon. At the time of writing, two-thirds of Norwegian residents are fully vaccinated, with more than three-quarters having had at least one dose. It's this level of vaccination that has played a major role in the change.

What changes in Norway?

From 4 p.m. on 25 September, the country will remain in an “increased state of preparedness,” but all **national coronavirus measures** will end. This includes the advice to keep at least one meter distance from others, the capacity limit on public and private and restrictions on opening times for bars and restaurants. “The short version is, we can now live as normal,” said prime minister Erna Solberg. However, it's important to note that local restrictions could still be in place where you live. The quickest way to check this is to look at the website of your local municipality. Norway's advisory against all non-urgent international travel will not be renewed when it expired at the end of the month. However, Norway's entry restrictions remain in place.

“When the authorities' advice and rules essentially disappear, the individual can choose for themselves what risk they want to take and what measures they want to practice,” said the government in a press release.

The rule changes follow a similar approach to the one taken by Denmark one month ago. **Denmark's government lifted all national restrictions**, but kept some of its entry rules in place especially for unvaccinated travelers.

Based on health recommendations

The announcement had been expected. Earlier this week, minister of health and care services Bent Høie sent a letter to municipalities asking them to prepare for the ending of national measures. The move comes a few days after the Norwegian Institute of Public Health (FHI) recommended that society be reopened. Last week, infection levels decreased by 33% compared to the week before, while hospital admissions dropped from 95 to 67. The news was announced today at a press conference by Høie and Solberg. Solberg remains in her post while the **potential new government** continue their talks, ahead of the opening of the new parliament in mid-October.

Travel restrictions remain in place

Norway's **strict entry rules** remain in place for the time being. However, there have been some adjustments, and a plan revealed for a gradual reduction in measures. The mandatory use of quarantine hotels is to be removed. People who previously had to use one will now be permitted to quarantine at home or other suitable location. Hotels will still be made available for those with no other option. Children under 18 will no longer have a quarantine obligation but will still require a test at the border.

From 25 September, entry restrictions will be removed for residents of the EEA/Schengen area, the United Kingdom, and all purple countries. Quarantine remains mandated for arrivals from red countries, but this can be done at home. Holders of the EU digital coronavirus certificate are exempt. At present, purple countries are New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, Singapore and Taiwan. You can read more about purple countries on our guide to the **travel restrictions in Norway**. The Directorate of Health recommended that entry restrictions from other countries be maintained but reviewed in 3-4 weeks.

“The pandemic isn't over”

Assistant director of health Espen Nakstad emphasized that a reopening of society does not necessarily mean the end of the pandemic. “We are lucky in Norway because we have vaccinated many, but there will still be a pandemic in the world for a long time to come. Maybe for several years,” he said, adding that new rules could still be introduced later. He urged people to still take care and stay home if they feel ill and get tested if they show any symptoms.

Isolation requirement remains

In the event someone tests positive for Covid-19, that person must still isolate themselves. This applies even if they are fully vaccinated. Isolation can end 5 days after the onset of symptoms, providing they are free of fever for at least 24 hours. Unvaccinated household members and other close contacts should refrain from close contact with others for 7 days or get tested. Vaccinated people are not subject to these restrictions but should get tested in the event of symptoms.

Brothers across the Baltic

March 6th, 2021 by Ben Hamilton



A century on from the establishment of diplomatic relations between Denmark and Lithuania, the countries share much in common. Lithuania and Denmark have many things in common – not least geographically. Located in northern Europe just 900 km apart, they both have significant Baltic shorelines. With 65,300 sq km at its disposal, Lithuania is slightly larger than Denmark (42,933), which



in turn has a population more than double the size: 5.8 to 2.8 million.

Politically, both have strongly democratic, pro-business governments that are open to foreign investment and attracting international workers, whilst quick to condemn abuses of power. For example, the Lithuanian foreign minister, Gabrielius Landsbergis – who is in fact the grandson of Vytautas Landsbergis, the head of the independence movement and then head of state from 1990 to 1992 – was particularly vocal in his condemnation of Belarus. They are both members of the EU, NATO and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. Both countries are very much open for business!

Not like China at all

Between one another, trade is healthy. According to 2019 figures, Danish imports to Lithuania totaled 484.8 million euros (3.607 billion kroner), with 720,1 million euros (5.357 billion kroner) heading in the opposite direction, according to Statistics Lithuania. For Danish exporters, Baltic markets have long held an advantage: they have good infrastructure, a large production capacity, low salary levels, and easy access to a well-educated workforce.

And most crucially, and this is where they really stand out from the likes of China, Lithuania is geographically close and culturally similar. It's no surprise to note that Denmark is among the top five leading investors in Lithuania, and that there are over 200 companies with Danish capital registered in the country.

Long road to freedom

All of this didn't happen in a day, of course. This special edition may mark the 100th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the countries, but for almost five decades Lithuania was part of the Soviet Union.

On February 16 the country will celebrate its Independence Day of 1918, but it is March 11, its Restoration of Independence Day of 1990 and subsequent admission to the UN, which is more significant to the modern-day country. Diplomatic relations were duly restored in September 1991, and representatives in each other's countries established seven months later.

When the Lithuanians joined their first ever UN peacekeeping mission, it was the Danes who showed the most welcoming hand, offering help where it was needed. Their troops have since then co-operated in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as through their NATO commitments. And when Lithuania applied to join the EU and NATO, which it eventually did in 2004, Denmark was quick to provide assistance.

The honorary Nordic

Seventeen years later, Lithuania's government and parliament wouldn't look out of place in the Nordics. Its foreign policy is proactive, and it operates a fragmented multi-party system, so like Denmark most of its governments are coalitions.

Also like Denmark, its prime minister Ingrida Šimonytė is female, and so is pretty much half its cabinet (6 of 13) and also the speaker of its Parliament, Viktorija Čmilytė-Nielsen – a chess master (and former European champion) married to a Danish chess master, no less. In fact, its commitment to equality has always been strong, as in 1918 it became one of the first countries to give women the vote.

Equally strong was its quest for independence from the Soviets. As the first of its states to break away, it was subjected to a 74-day economic blockade, but if the Soviets thought a few months of no heating or hot water was going to break their resolve, they were mistaken.

Center of everything

Regionally, Lithuania actively co-operates with its fellow northern European and Baltic states. It was a founding member of the Baltic Council in 1993, as well as the Baltic Development Forum, and it also co-operates with its neighbors and the nearby Nordic states through the NB8 and NB6 (for EU members only).

It is also a member of the Council of the Baltic Sea States, which was established in Copenhagen in 1992, and it regularly engages in political co-operation with the Nordic Council of Ministers. It is also a member of the Nordic Investment Bank, which enables it to participate in the NORDPLUS education program. Further afield, it has served as a member of the United Nations Security Council.

Agder – The Norwegian Riviera

Sometimes called “The Norwegian Riviera” for its temperate climate and abundance of “must experience” attractions, the county of Agder rests on the southernmost end of Norway. Idyllic, tree-dotted valleys are draped between rugged mountains and wooded heathland. They follow the rivers as they bend south through the hill country, emptying into the sea. The name Agder itself is mysterious. It predates the Norwegian language and is thought to be derived from Old Norse terms meaning either “the land that juts out to the sea” or “the land by the troubled sea.” Both would be appropriate.

In western Agder, [Lindesnes Lighthouse](#) stands on the southernmost outcrop of the Norwegian mainland. The first *fyr* was erected here in 1656, to help guide ships on their way in and out of the Skagerrak Strait from the North Sea. Today’s white and red lighthouse was built in 1915, and is still guiding ships today, with two keepers onsite. It also serves as a living museum, offering tours of the tower and its grounds, a visitor center and a museum shop. While in Lindesnes, visitors can also reserve a serene perspective below the waves at [Under](#), the world’s-largest underwater restaurant.



Twin lighthouses guard the town of Arendal. The seat of the County Governor (*fylkesmann*) of Agder and home to [Sons of Norway lodge 8-015 Terje Vigen](#), this city inspired the mythical village which was home to Princesses Elsa and Anna in Disney’s “Frozen.”

In the shadow of another lighthouse, Henrik Ibsen started his career as an apothecary’s apprentice in the town of Grimstad, at the age of 15. Today, the pharmacy has been converted into a [museum](#). Hosted by enthusiastic tour guides, guests can explore the rooms where Ibsen mixed chemicals, dreamt of literary success, and wrote his first play, “Catilina.”

Featuring long white beaches studded with waving palm trees, Kristiansand is Agder’s largest city. It was founded as a strategic stronghold in 1641 by Danish King Christian IV. Today, it is a haven for holiday seekers. The city teems with museums, amusement parks and historic sites. Visitors can stroll around [Posebyen](#), a neighborhood crowded with old-fashioned whitewashed wooden houses. Families will enjoy an adventure at [Dyreparken](#), the largest zoo in Norway, ruled by a notorious pirate, [Captain Sabeltann](#) (Sabertooth). Kristiansand is also the birthplace of [Crown Princess Mette-Marit](#).

Agder’s longest river, the Otra, empties into the sea at Kristiansand. Heading upstream, you will find yourself in Setesdal, a valley overflowing with culture and heritage. Here you will be assailed by Hardanger fiddles and *munnharper* (jaw harps), accompanied by walloping patterns of foot stomping as dancers rollick to tunes called *rammeslåtter*, “powerful songs.” The intense, visceral tunes are rumored to cast a trance on players and dancers alike. One saga records that the only way to stop the frenzy was to cut the fiddler’s strings!

The *Setesdal bunad* is unique among folk costumes in that it has a much shorter hemline closer to the knee and an ample, belted waist. Another sartorial tradition is the *lusekofte* sweater pattern, translating as “lice jacket.” The “lice” refers to the stiches of white dots marching over a typically black background.

United on January 1, 2020, Vest-Agder and Aust-Agder combined, creating a diverse playground for Norwegians and international tourists alike. Agder has everything from downhill skiing to surfing, from hardcore traditional dancing and music, to [Palmesus](#), Scandinavia’s biggest beach party. Whether you are a pirate, a poet or a princess, Agder has something in store for you.

6 Things We Owe the Vikings



(Credit: NickNick_ko/http://www.istockphoto.com)

5. Combs

Though their enemies considered them unkempt barbarians, Vikings actually bathed more frequently than other Europeans of the day, taking a dip at least once a week—preferably in a hot spring. Bristled combs, often made from the antlers of red deer or other animals they killed, are one of the objects most commonly found in Viking graves. In fact, though comb-like devices existed in other cultures around the world, Vikings are often given credit for inventing the comb as the Western world knows it today. Tweezers, razors and ear spoons (for scooping out wax) are among the other grooming objects turned up in excavations of Viking burial sites, proving that even longhaired, bearded Viking warriors took their personal grooming very seriously.