



# Norway: Knitters' Wonderland 2020

with Jim Petkiewicz and Janine Bajus  
Arrival in Oslo on September 15  
Departure from Bergen on September 27th

To a knitter, Norway immediately evokes visions of patterned ski sweaters, Selbu mittens, Fana cardigans, yarn shops, and colorful, modern knitwear design.

But there is, of course, so much more to this country!  
The charms of traditional folkways contrast with the efficient bustle of 21st century, practical, eco-conscious Norway. The landscape ranges from bucolic farms tucked alongside fjords to snow-covered mountains to sleek modern cities. Excellent fresh seafood, simple traditional dishes, and a vibrant, inventive modern cuisine entice your taste buds. You hear music that ranges from Edvard Grieg to the plaintive traditional Hardanger fiddle to the vibrant pop music from today's urban scene.

So it was no surprise that when Janine asked her readers, "Where would you like to travel?" the response was overwhelming:  
**Norway!** If you, too, have felt this way, please read the itinerary we've planned. And although this trip is planned with knitters in mind, non-knitters are welcome to join us.



Shawl at the folk museum





*Oslo's central plaza—and our hotel*



*Classic knitwear*



*Oslo's city hall*

# General Itinerary

(subject to change as new possibilities present themselves!)

- 15 Sept: Group arrival day!  
Jim and Janine will be on hand at our centrally located luxury hotel, The Grand Hotel, to welcome you when you come in.  
This is a gentle arrival day: relax, shake off the tensions of travel, nap, and walk around beautiful Oslo.
- 16 Sept: Breakfast, as always, included.  
After breakfast we'll gather for introductions, review our plans for the tour, introduce the knitting projects that Janine has designed for this trip, and enjoy some knitting time together.  
The late morning/early afternoon will be spent on an introductory walk around the city, with a pause for lunch together (included).  
Free evening.
- 17 Sept: Knitting class with Norwegian knitwear designer Linda Marveng.  
Linda works with texture and color to create marvelous modern garments for handknitters (see her work on Ravelry or at [marveng-puckett.com/wordpress/](http://marveng-puckett.com/wordpress/)).  
Lunch at Brondenheim Cafe (included).  
Then we'll be giving you a 48-hour Oslo Pass so you can enjoy entry into many museums plus free travel within the city core.  
Afternoon and evening free.
- 18 Sept: Morning knitting together, if you'd like.  
The rest of the day is free for exploration with your Oslo Pass: the Viking Ship Museum, the Norwegian Folk Museum, the Kon Tiki Museum, the Vigeland Sculpture Gardens.... So much to see!

19 Sept: Nina Granlund Sæther, knitwear designer, will give a talk about Norwegian knitting traditions. She is the author of *Socks from Around Norway*, *Mittens from Around Norway*, and the new, comprehensive *History of Norwegian Knitting*. Free time for lunch. In the late afternoon we will travel to colorful Værbitt, a yarn store and microdyeworks, for a private tea and visit with owner/dyer Laila Henricksen. Laila specializes in yarn produced ethically from Norwegian wool



*Quiet street in Oslo*

20 Sept: We will have an early morning departure for the famed scenic Norway in a Nutshell journey over the mountains to Flåm. We will take the Bergen Railway northwest to Myrdal (~5 hours), where we transfer trains to Flåm. This leg of the trip (~1 hour) offers spectacular panoramic views of some of the wildest and most magnificent nature in the fjord landscape! We'll settle into the historic Fretteheim Hotel, where we will have dinner together.



*On the fjord*

21 Sept: Morning knitting together. This is a free day to relax, catch your breath, and explore quiet Flåm.

22 Sept: We will take the 5.5-hour boat ride from Flåm through the breath-taking Sognefjord and the beautiful coastal archipelago to Bergen. After we settle into our hotel, The Clarion, the evening is free.

23 Sept: This morning we will meet to stroll around this charming city. Then we'll ride the funicular, Fløibanen, for a panoramic view. There will be time to purchase snacks or a light lunch at the top. Back down to the city and stroll over to Husfliden Bergen, where you can find traditional crafts and yarn. Free evening.



*Bergen waterfront*



24 Sept: Shopping day! We'll leave town on a private bus to tour the Oleana mill in Ytre Arna, enjoy a light lunch (included), and then continue on to the Dale of Norway factory store! Free evening.

25 Sept: We'll gather for knitting together, if you'd like. Then the day is free for exploration! We will meet later for our farewell dinner.

26 Sept: Today we head north to visit to the Knitting Museum of Norway (Norsk Trikotasjemuseum), sited in a former textile mill; Gripen Gard (Gripen Farm), an old-fashioned Western Norway farm; and Hillesvåg Ullvarefabrikk (Hillesvåg Wool Spinning Mill), where they have been processing Norwegian wool for over 100 years. We'll have lunch together (included) along the way.

27 Sept: Departure day for the group. Farvell!



*Bergen fishmongers*



*Knitting on the fjord*



*Bergen fish stew*



## Your trip leaders, Jim Petkiewicz and Janine Bajus

Jim is a grassroots community activist who has never been known to get cold and who has knit and gifted Felfitos and Moebius cowls all over the world. Small children and dogs fall in love with him in nano-seconds. He holds a BA in History from Georgetown University and a Masters in Latin American Studies from the University of New Mexico. After extensive time in living & working in Bolivia and Peru beginning in 1985, Jim and his wife Mags moved their young family to Oaxaca, Mexico to work with community organizations dedicated to the environment, community-based education, the protection of human rights, health and fair trade, which evolved into the founding of their family project, Community Links International. Jim founded Frog Tree Yarns with his wife and parents back in 1995. Since then, Jim has created and co-lead more than 40 trips with Cat Bordhi. Their children are now grown, and Mags & Jim are based in San Jose, CA.

Janine has been intrigued by the interplay of fiber and color since she learned to weave when she was 11. After a lifetime in Seattle she moved to Berkeley, California 13 years ago, where she is surrounded by yarn, spinning wheels, piles of fabric, looms, fleeces, and natural dyes. She revels in designing colorful and uniquely personal clothing. Janine has a BA and MA in Near Eastern Languages from the University of Washington (Note: quite unhelpful in Norway!!!), and has spent years working as a technical writer/editor. Her classes on Fair Isle design have inspired hundreds of students to express themselves through color and pattern; her book—*The Joy of Color: Fair Isle Knitting Your Way*—makes her techniques available to everyone. You can learn more about Janine at [www.feralknitter.com](http://www.feralknitter.com).

Together, we are convinced that learning about different cultures makes for a more peaceful world. Travel offers us the gift of stretching our minds, our bodies, our hearts, and our souls; and at the same time, ironically, it shrinks the world to the deeply personal—and hopefully this molds us into a more patient and loving global community. Our primary goals for our trips are to create opportunities for our travelers to meet and learn from local residents, to contribute to fair local economies, and to see the world from different perspectives.



# Cost of This Trip

The tour fee is US\$7350/person and includes:

- ❖ 12 nights of a shared hotel room. Wifi is available at our hotels.
- ❖ All ground travel from your arrival at the hotel in Oslo, through to your departure from the hotel in Bergen.
- ❖ All breakfasts. Several lunches, dinners, & snacks.
- ❖ Private visit to knitting shop Værbitt.
- ❖ Oslo pass.
- ❖ Knitting class with Norwegian knitwear designer Linda Marveng.
- ❖ Travel the scenic Norway in a Nutshell route via train to Flåm and then via boat through the scenic Sognefjord and coastal archipelago to Bergen.
- ❖ Presentation by Nina Granlund Sæther, author of *The History of Norwegian Knitting*.
- ❖ Bergen funicular.
- ❖ Visits to Oleana, Dale of Norway, the Knitting Museum of Norway, Gripen Gard, and Hillesvag Ullfabrikk via private transport.
- ❖ Knitting sessions with Janine Bajus and our travel patterns.
- ❖ Free time for exploration!
- ❖ We do tip for hotels, drivers, guides, and group meals, etc., but it's also important that you add your own tips.
- ❖ And more

The tour fee does NOT include:

- ❖ Travel/airfare from your home to the hotel in Oslo and homeward from the hotel in Bergen.
- ❖ Several dinners and lunches.
- ❖ Incidentals such as personal phone calls/social media needs, taxi rides, snacks, personal items, souvenirs, yarn, and medical expenses.
- ❖ Tipping for meals, taxis, and your room.



## Reflections from travelers on our other trips...

The colors intensified by the high mountain air make an unforgettable kaleidoscope quilt . . . the indigenous clothes, jagged snow-capped peaks, the fields in the varied late-autumn display. Add the sounds, some familiar some not, and you have the perfect sound track to a wonderful adventure. The knitting is a perfect interface to weave our two very different cultures together.

—Kenny, California

A woman eying my knitting on the plane left with my pattern and a smile. It was a fantastic trip all around. Finishing up my Peruvian coffee this morning and heading to the store today for Pisco Sour ingredients for dinner :). Your involvement and contributions to the trip were so much appreciated. Thank you, thank you!!

—Jill, Washington

I love how you give us a certain structure each day but so much freedom to make our own journey along the way, We have a safety net and can then go out and make our own connections with people. You are not holding our hands, and it's wonderful.—Sherri, Canada

Best trip out of the country EVER! Also first! If anyone has any concerns about travel, go with this group.

—Nancy, North Carolina

Depth of history, life focus moving through a fantastic culture with new friends. A sense of connection with each person and experience.

—Peter, Washington

As a gay person on this trip, I found it very refreshing that my orientation was a non issue.

—Gill, Australia.

You walk that fine balance of being supportive while allowing us to have our own adventures instead of being in a cocoon the whole time.

—Kat, Oregon

## Travel Realities

Travel can be strenuous! You don't need to be an athlete, but you must be in good health and enjoy walking at length, sometimes over uneven surfaces, while carrying a small backpack (with water, camera, snacks, etc.). You will be responsible for your own luggage, so please pack lightly.

If you decide to come with us, you must:

- ❖ Get plenty of exercise before the trip begins
- ❖ Rest when you need to
- ❖ Measure your group time against private time as needed
- ❖ Promise to pack lightly



# Do you want to join us?

Herlig! Here's what to do:

- ❖ First, please contact Jim (peckos@me.com) to find out if there is still space in the group.
- ❖ Then print and complete the Registration form (page 9).
- ❖ Also print and sign the Agreement form (page 10).
- ❖ And make a copy of the information page of your passport.
- ❖ Mail both forms and the passport page along with a \$500 **non-refundable** deposit to:  
Community Links International, 916 Wren Drive, San Jose, CA 95125.  
Please make your check out to Community Links International.
- ❖ The final payment will be due on June 15th.

We will be sending detailed information about how to prepare, what to bring, and how to get to our hotel in Oslo when you sign up!



*Colorful kroner*



*Art gallery in Bergen*



# Registration for "Norway: Knitters' Wonderland 2020"

with Jim and Janine  
September 15-27, 2020

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Lodging Choice:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$7350 double occupancy, sharing with \_\_\_\_\_

- ❖ Participants MUST be in good health. If you have any doubts about your physical capabilities, please bring a companion who can take care of you as needed, and skip activities as needed. We cannot alter nor slow down the program for a participant who is unable to keep up with the group.

Please sign here to assure us you understand this:

- ❖ We organize our own program as described in our itinerary, but are not a travel agency, so we cannot be responsible for coordinating your personal travel, nor arranging additional days. If your schedule will differ from our itinerary, please plan to make your own arrangements.
- ❖ We carefully craft our itinerary to develop community among our travelers, and cannot sell partial trips to family nor friends who prefer to join us later. If you wish to bring someone with you, our policy is that they must join us for the entire trip.

# "Norway: Knitters' Wonderland"

## Agreement

*with Jim and Janine, September 15-27, 2020*

WAIVER: In consideration of being permitted to participate in any way in the Norway textile program of Community Links International, with the collaborative participation of Janine Bajus, herein after called "The Activity", I, for myself, my heirs, personal representative or assigns, do hereby release, waive, discharge, and covenant not to sue the Directors, employees, consultants or agents, including Janine Bajus, Jim Petkiewicz, or Community Links International for liability for any and all claims including the negligence of the Directors, employees, consultants or agents resulting in personal injury, accidents, or illnesses (including death) and property loss arising from, but not limited to, participation in The Activity.

Assumption of risks: Participation in The Activity carries with it certain inherent risks that cannot be eliminated regardless of the care taken to avoid injuries. The specific risks vary from one activity to another, but the risks range from 1) minor injuries such as scratches, bruises, sprains, gastrointestinal issues, and altitude sickness, 2) major injuries such as eye injury or loss of sight, joint or back issues, heart attacks, vehicular accidents, and concussions 3) catastrophic injuries including paralysis and death.

I have read the previous paragraphs and I know, understand, and appreciate these and other risks that are inherent in The Activity. I hereby assert that my participation is voluntary and that I knowingly assume all such risks.

Indemnification and Hold Harmless: I also agree to indemnify and hold the Directors, employees, consultants and agents, including Janine Bajus, Jim Petkiewicz, and Community Links International, harmless from any and all claims, actions, suits, procedures, costs, expenses, damages and liabilities, including attorney's fees brought as a result of my involvement in The Activity and to reimburse them for any such expenses incurred.

Severability: The undersigned further expressly agrees that the foregoing waiver and assumption of risks agreement is intended to be as broad and inclusive as is permitted by the law of the state of California, legal residence of Community Links International, and that if any portion thereof is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall, notwithstanding, continue in full legal force and effect.

Acknowledgment of Understanding: I have read this waiver of liability, assumption of risk, and indemnity agreement, fully understand its terms, and understand that I am giving up substantial rights, including my right to sue. I acknowledge that I am signing the agreement freely and voluntarily, and intend by my signature to be a complete and unconditional release of all liability to the greatest extent allowed by law.

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Signature

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Print name

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Date