



■ NORTHERN EUROPE

## Metropolitan Norway

**T**ucked in a narrow harbor and further sheltered by mountains, the compact Norwegian city of **Bergen**—medieval capital of Scandinavia—bustles around the clock. Action central is the 900-year-old wharf. Called the Bryggen, it boasts World Heritage site status, with two world-class elements: Torget, the ancient fish market and designated town center, and the cheerfully colorful photo-op row of Hanseatic League houses. Boats bob up and down in the water, strangely in sync with the music wafting from the many cafés.

Without question, the best way to see Bergen is by foot, city map in hand. Start with sites and shops along the wharf, then head out to the old castle grounds. Shop at Bryggen Husflid for Dale knitted goods; Viking for sculptures and clothes; and Juhl's Silver Gallery for Lapland jewelry. As for eats in the Torget and Bryggen areas: Vågen Fetevare for a morning coffee; Byrggen Tracteursted for lunch; and Bryggeloftet & Stuene Restaurant for a proper dinner

of Bergen fish soup, grilled reindeer, and country bread. In the museum area, a good bet is chef Trond Moi's innovative dishes (for one, a six-inch-high hamburger) at Bølggen & Moi in the Bergen Art Museum

(home to fine works by Klee, Picasso, and Munch). Also fareworthy is Zupperia, located in the basement of the West Norway Museum of Decorative Art.

For a fun, lofty experience, take the funicular up 1,050 feet and dine on local fare—perhaps grilled monkfish—at the Fløien Folkerestaurant while evening folds in over the inlets, North Sea, and mountains. Afterward, you'll tuck in for the night at the Clarion Hotel Admiral, with

perfect views of the Hanseatic League houses. —EMILIE C. HARTING

**LOGISTICS:** Bergen International Airport has direct flights from numerous European cities. General city information, [www.norwaynutshell.com](http://www.norwaynutshell.com). Clarion Hotel Admiral is pleasant and centrally located, [www.admiral.no](http://www.admiral.no); 211 rooms in a former warehouse, from \$235. Restaurant details can be found at [www.visitbergen.com](http://www.visitbergen.com), also a reliable source for timely event and entertainment information.



**Bergen icons: local salmon at the fish market and league houses on the harbor (top).**