

Mount Carmel Norwegian Christian Heritage Tour

August 14-28, 2026

A Message from the Tour Hosts, Tim and Donadee Peterson

In August of 2025 we led a group of 30 people on the first Mount Carmel Norwegian Christian Heritage Tour. We had a great time and have decided to do the trip again in 2026.



Here are the participants in the Mount Carmel Norwegian Christian Tour in 2025, standing in front of the Hopperstad Stave Church in Vik I Sogn.

Mount Carmel has a long history of sponsoring trips, including a trip to Norway about 20 years ago. We believe that these trips provide a wonderful opportunity for Christian fellowship and renewal of our faith, as well as having the opportunity to learn about the beauty of God's Creation and God's People.

Donadee and Tim have visited Norway and lived in Norway many times. Tim was the interim pastor of the American Lutheran Congregation in Oslo for 7 months, right before we came to Mount Carmel. Tim also had several opportunities to work in Norway as a software developer. And he was the interim pastor of the Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church in Minneapolis for 16 months, where he had the privilege of preaching in the Norwegian language. Both of us had ancestors that came from Norway and we have been able to visit relatives that still live in Norway.

We are thankful to our ancestors who brought their Christian faith with them to the United States and Canada. As Christians we are members of the Body of Christ which stretches around the world and throughout history. There is a tremendous diversity among Christians who live in a variety of cultures with a variety of languages. As Norwegian-American Christians, our faith has been influenced by the history of Christianity in Norway – one little piece of that tremendous diversity. We are going to be exploring the connection that we have with the Norwegian Christian heritage.

In many ways this tour will be like a normal tourist trip to Norway. We will visit some historic cities – Oslo, Fredrikstad, Bergen, and Trondheim. We will see the majestic Norwegian fjords. We will go to famous parks, museums, and historical landmarks. We will learn about Norwegian history and culture.

But this will also be a different kind of tour. We will be visiting a variety of churches. We will be worshipping with Norwegian Christians; visiting the home of Hans Nielsen Hauge, the great lay Norwegian evangelist; and learning about the history of Christianity in Norway – how Norway became a Christian nation one thousand years ago and how the Norwegian revivals of 200 years ago had a tremendous impact on Norwegian life and the life of the Norwegians that came to the United States.

Mount Carmel was founded by Swedish and Norwegian pastors that were greatly influenced by the 19th century Scandinavian revivals. Some of our cabins have been named for the leaders of those revivals. Cabin 30, for example, the first of the new cabins built on the north ridge, is named for Hans Nielsen Hauge. In many ways Mount Carmel's mission is a continuation of the revivals that began with Hauge's preaching in Norway. And, whether you have any Norwegian heritage, it is always good to celebrate the way the Christian faith has been passed down through the generations.

In planning this trip we are working with a tour company called Nor-Am Tours, as well as with friends we have from the American Lutheran Congregation in Oslo and other friends we have in Norway.

Some Practical Details for the Mount Carmel Norwegian Christian Heritage Trip

1. This is a 2-week trip, leaving Minneapolis on a Friday, arriving in Norway on Saturday afternoon, and then leaving Norway and arriving back in Minneapolis on Friday, August 14-28, 2026.
2. We do not have a cost yet for the 2026 trip. The 2025 trip cost of \$3,950 for the land portion of the trip. This cost was based on double occupancy in all the hotel rooms. For single occupancy there was an additional charge of \$1,200.
3. Six dinners, three lunches, and all breakfasts are included in this price. The remaining meals will be paid for by each of the participants. All hotels and all transportation when in Norway are included in this price.
4. The cost of airfare is not yet available. In 2025 the air travel was \$1,250 per person.
5. Last year we had an optional 3-day extension in Iceland. We are not doing that in 2026. However, people are free to add additional travel on to the trip, either before the trip starts or after it concludes.
6. We have a limit of 30 that we are able to take along on this trip.
7. To contact us, call 715-441-9660 or e-mail tim@mountcarmelministries.com

Places Being Visited on the Mount Carmel Norwegian Christian Heritage Trip



Big Picture View of the Trip – Starting in Trondheim, a bus trip northeast to Stiklestad, going south and west to the fjords and Bergen, then east to Oslo, with a bus trip south to Fredrikstad



Tentative Schedule for the 2026 Mount Carmel Norwegian Christian Heritage Tour

Friday, August 14, 2026 – Departure Day

In 2025 we had a group that gathered at Mount Carmel and road in vans down to Minneapolis together. We had a noon luncheon at the Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church and visited Norway House, before heading to the airport. We will try to do something similar for the 2026 trip.

We are expecting that most of our group will be flying together from Minneapolis. But you can choose to fly from other cities and meet us in Trondheim. You can also choose to go to Norway or other places in Europe sooner and do some additional sight-seeing before our trip starts.

Saturday, August 15, 2026

Arrival in Trondheim. Welcome banquet

Sunday, August 16, 2026

We will attend Sunday morning worship at Norway's National Cathedral, Nidaros.



On Sunday afternoon, we will take a bus tour to Stiklestad, the place where Saint Olaf was killed. The Stiklestad Church is a stone church built in 1180. We will visit the Stiklestad National Cultural Center.



Monday, August 17

We will visit the Thamspaviljongen in Orkanger. This was the Norwegian pavilion for the 1893 World Fair in Chicago. It was then moved to a tourist site called Little Norway in Horicon, Wisconsin. When Little Norway was closed, the building was moved to Orkanger. It is designed to look like a Norwegian stave church.



We will then visit the Rennebu Church and go to a prayer house (bedehus) for a meal together with local members of the Mission Society (Normisjon).

That evening we will stay at a Mission Society retreat center.

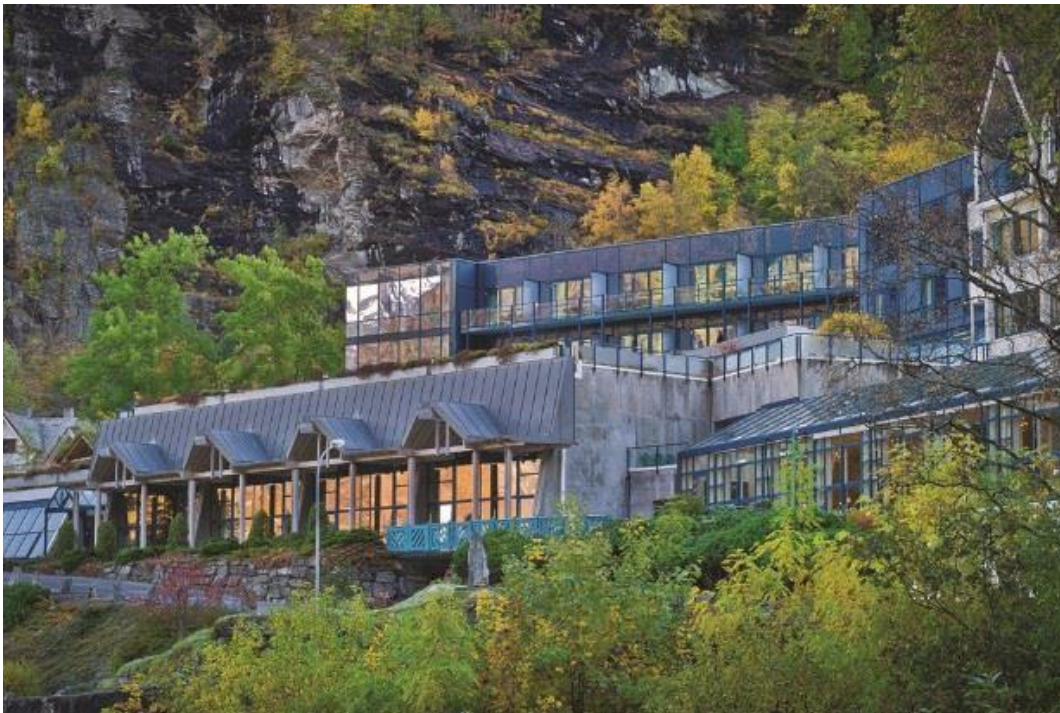
Tuesday, August 18

On Tuesday we will drive to the western coast of Norway and start our tour through “Fjord Country.”

This will include a drive on Trollstigen, a road that twists through eleven hairpin bends as it rises from the Romsdalen Valley to a mountain pass.



From Trollstigen we will continue on to the town of Geiranger. A dizzying view of steep mountainsides, towering waterfalls, deep fjords and lush valleys makes this stretch of road one of Norway's most dramatic and often-visited attractions. We will stay at the 4-star Union Hotel in Geiranger. This is the hotel where Norway's Princess Märtha Louise was married to Shaman Durek (from the USA) in September 2024.



We will stay at this hotel two nights.

Wednesday, August 19

We will stay this full day in Geiranger. We will go on a fjord cruise on the famous Geirangerfjord. This is one of two fjords in Norway that is on the UN World Heritage List.



Thursday, August 20

We will continue our drive alongside fjords, across mountains, through tunnels and by glaciers. In the evening we will arrive in Balestrand, a town on the Sognefjord, Norway's longest and deepest fjord. We will stay at the historic 4-star Kviknes Hotel in Balestrand.



Friday, August 21

We will leave Balestrand and drive to the Borgund Stave Church (stavkirke). Old Norwegian wooden churches have a unique architecture, where the church is built around wooden pillars that are called staves. At one time Norway is thought to have had a thousand stave churches. Now there are 23 left and the one at Borgund is one of the most famous ones. There is an exact replica of the Borgund Church in the Black Hills in Rapid City, South Dakota.



We will then drive to Flåm where we will take the Flåm train (Flåmbana) for a trip up the side of the mountain to Myrdal. The Flåm train is one of the most popular tourist attractions in Norway. On the way the train stops at a popular waterfall, Kjosfossen.



From Myrdal we travel on to Bergen, where we will stay two nights.

Saturday, August 22

We will take a tour of the city of Bergen with a local guide. The tour will end at Fløibanen, the funicular (cable railway) that goes to the top of Mount Fløyen.



Sunday, August 23

We will take the train that goes across Norway from west to east, from Bergen to Oslo. We will enjoy the spectacular view as the train travels along the fjord, climbs the mountain to the Hardanger plateau, and then comes down on the other side of the mountain traveling through the Hallingdal valley.



Sunday evening we will attend worship in Oslo at Storsalen, a church affiliated with the Norwegian Mission Society.

Monday - Wednesday, August 24-26 – Touring in Oslo

We will have many activities scheduled in Oslo. If you want to choose different activities on your own or make arrangements to meet with Norwegian relatives or friends, you will have time to do that. Everyone will receive an Oslo Card, which gives you free admission to most museums and public transportation all around Oslo.

But if you want to see Oslo together with the group, we will have a full schedule of activities:

Monday – we will start at the Norwegian Folk Museum and then have opportunities to visit the Kontiki Musuem and the Flåm Museum.



The Norwegian Folk Museum has buildings from all parts of Norway and from different points in history. It has a beautiful Stave Church from Gol. It has the Oslo Prison where Hans Nielsen Hauge was kept captive. There are often groups of Norwegian folk dancers performing. Sometimes there are demonstrations of lefse making. There is much to see!

Tuesday – we will start with a walking tour of the Oslo harbor, the Oslo City Hall, and the area around the palace. We'll take the trolley to Frogner Park to see Vigeland's statues.



Then we will take the train to Frognerseteren, where we will have a meal overlooking the city of Oslo.



Wednesday – We will take a boat trip in the Oslo Fjord to Hovedøye, an island that has the ruins of an ancient monastery.



At noon we will attend worship at the Oslo cathedral and then walk to Gamle Aker Kirke, where Hans Nielsen Hauge is buried.

In addition to all these events, we will be checking to see what special events are being held in Oslo during the time we are there. During the 2025 trip most of the participants chose to go to the Oslo Opera for a performance of a Rimsky Korsakov opera.

Thursday, August 25 – Visiting Hans Nielsen Hauge’s Home in Fredrikstad

For the finale of our trip we will be taking a bus to Fredrikstad. We will be visiting Hans Nielsen Hauge’s boyhood home. We will also visit a school run the Norwegian Mission Society.



In the evening we will be returning to Oslo for our farewell banquet.

Friday, August 28

We will take our flight home to the United States.