

Sandnes (Stavanger), Norway



Journey to the ancient homelands of the Vikings, where mighty fjords and charming cobblestone streets beckon to be explored.

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Destination Details

Nestled at the crown of Gandsfjord in southwestern Norway, Sandnes neighbors the enchanting city of Stavanger.

Local Culture and Flavor

Known as Norway's bicycle city, Sandnes is a picture-perfect destination for outdoor recreation and sightseeing. Whether you're wandering cobblestone streets to peruse shops and cafes, exploring the North Sea beaches or hiking mountain plateaus, every activity comes with a breathtaking view. Set against the backdrop of Norway's natural splendor, the villages of Sandnes and nearby Stavanger showcase their own signature charm, with charismatic architecture both historic and modern. Locally known as *Fargegata*, the colorful storefronts of Øvre Holmegate dazzle with cheerful hues, leafy stoops and flowering windowsills on Stavanger's Rainbow Street.

As a port town, Sandnes' culinary staples include locally sourced fish, crabs and oysters. One traditional favorite is *Lutefisk*, consisting of dried codfish basking in a velvety white sauce and served with boiled potatoes, mashed green peas and fried bacon. You can also savor hearty meals like open-faced meatball sandwiches and *Lefse*, a soft Norwegian flatbread, often paired with buttery Jarlsberg cheese, jam or smoked fish.

Past and Present

In the late 18th century, Sandnes gained fame for producing clay ocarinas, dubbed locally as ceramic cuckoo birds. This humble instrument ultimately became the crest on the city's coat of arms and a nickname for Sandnes locals. Granted its own municipality in 1860, Sandnes went on to become the premier trading port for southwestern Norway's Jæren region. Today, Sandnes is the 8th largest city in Norway and host of the renowned Blinkfestivalen, a world-class roller ski competition. [Show Less](#)

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Things to See and Do

Discover exciting sites and attractions both in and around Sandnes.

Dalsnuten

Enjoy a bracing hike to one of the most popular peaks east of Gandsfjorden. The Dalsnuten's 2.1-mile (3.38 km) loop welcomes trail trekkers of all skill levels and takes about 2 to 3 hours round trip, with plenty of time for photo breaks.

Vitenfabrikken

The Science Factory, Norway's award-winning science museum, features 4 floors of interactive exhibits. Kids young and old can catch lightning from a 750K-volt Tesla-coil, visit a planetarium and explore the intersection of art, science and technology.

Lysefjord

Stretching 26 miles (41.2 km), Lysefjord boasts a spectacular view from over 2,000 feet (610 m) above sea level. Hike to the clifftop of Pulpit Rock, follow the northern shore to marvel at the thundering Hengjane fossen waterfall or conquer the 4,444 steps of Flørli, the world's longest wooden staircase.

Roaaland Arboretum

Norway's largest arboretum is home to 1,400 shrubs and trees from all over the world, including 30 different species of Norwegian native trees. Stroll acres of lush forest and blossoming rhododendron in this peaceful natural wonderland.

Kongeparken

The world's only bear-themed amusement park, Kongeparken delights with thrill rides and whimsical fun for the whole family—and even a "BearBotel," where kids can drop off their stuffed animals for a spa day. [Show Less](#)



Port Adventures

Check back here approximately 120 days prior to your cruise departure for shore excursions specially selected by Disney Cruise Line, as you'll want to book in advance.



Travel Information

Find out what you need to know before you go to Sandnes, Norway.

Language

Norwegian or the regional Sandnes-mål dialect is spoken in Sandnes. However, a large majority of Norwegians also speak English as a second language.

Weather

The summers are cool and partly cloudy, lasting from June to mid-September with an average high of 64°F (18°C) and a low of 53°F (12°C). Sandnes experiences rain year-round, so packing a light umbrella is advised.

How to Pay

The local currency is the Norwegian Krone (NOK). Most shops and restaurants do not accept US dollars or euros. While most credit cards are widely accepted, some of the smaller restaurants and shops do not have credit card payment facilities.

How to Get Around

Sandnes is very walkable and public transport is also available year-round but can change with the seasons. Trains run to and from Stavanger every 15 minutes.

Safety in Sandnes

Sandnes is considered very safe, but Disney Cruise Line Guests are always advised to follow safety precautions to protect valuables. [Show Less](#)

For assistance with your Disney Cruise, please call (800) 951-3532.

Guests under 18 years of age must have parent or guardian permission to call.

Things to Do

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Deck Parties
Dining
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Spa & Fitness
Youth Clubs
Pools

Ships

Disney Magic
Disney Wonder
Disney Dream
Disney Fantasy
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