

Summary:

Guest Statistics 1999

Table A presents the volume and distribution of foreign tourist arrivals and guest nights in Norway in 1999.

Table A: Foreign business and holiday traffic in Norway 1999 (in thousands). Border registration when leaving Norway.

	Total	By road	By ferry	By air	By rail
Arrivals in total	5 096	2 364	876	1 088	87
- Day trippers	1 212	928	203	74	7
- Cruise passengers (day visits)	681				
- Overnight stays	3 203	1 436	673	1 013	81
-- arrivals, business trips	775	144	79	537	16
-- arrivals, holiday trips	2 428	1 292	595	477	65
Guest nights in total	22 179	8 234	6 486	8 966	493
- Guest nights, business trips	3 922	641	565	2 636	70
- Guest nights, holiday trips	18 258	7 585	5 921	4 329	423
Motor vehicles in total	1 004	836	169		
- Private cars	923	766	157		
- Motor homes	36	31	5		
- Motor vehicles with caravan	27	25	2		
- Coaches	18	14	5		

A total of about 5.1 million foreigners visited Norway in 1999. These visitors spent 22.2 million guest nights in the country. About 3.2 million visitors stayed overnight in Norway, while 1.2 million arrived on a day trip and 680 000 as cruise passengers.

Three out of four overnight visitors came on a holiday, and one out of four was a business traveller. Holiday visitors spent more than 18 million guest nights in Norway, and the number of business guest nights amounted to nearly 4 million.

Just under 2.4 million visitors travelled by road, 1.1 million by air, 880 000 by ferry and nearly 90 000 by rail. Holiday guests most frequently used road and ferry connections, whereas foreign business travellers tended to travel by air.

Compared with the previous year the total number of arrivals increased by one per cent. Growth was especially noticeable among day visitors and cruise passengers.

However, the number of guests with overnight stays in Norway decreased in 1999 by two per cent, and this decline was registered both for holiday visitors and business travellers. The total number of guest nights dropped by four per cent due to a reduction of one million holiday visitor guest nights. Related to 1998, tourist traffic from abroad increased in the winter season but decreased during the summer season and autumn period.

Day visitors most commonly crossed the border by road. Visitors from Sweden represented the majority of this type of visitor.

Among those who stayed overnight on their trip, the average length of stay was about seven nights (Table B). The most important source markets for overnight visits are Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Finland, UK, USA and the Netherlands. As many as 885 000 visitors from Sweden spent at least one night in Norway in 1999.

Table B: Foreign guest nights in Norway 1999 by country of residence and transport mode at the point of leaving Norway. Figures are in thousands except average length of stay, which is in number of nights per person.

	Total	Length of stay	By road	By ferry	By air	By rail
Total	22 176	6.9	8 235	6 482	6 966	493
Sweden	3 708	4.2	2 726	343	460	179
Denmark	3 562	6.2	1 514	1 662	351	35
Finland	774	3.4	616	2	153	3
United Kingdom	1 591	7.5	42	321	1 214	14
The Netherlands	1 232	9.3	531	417	276	8
Belgium	240	9.2	66	56	117	1
France	669	8.0	161	73	428	7
Germany	5 581	10.8	1 730	3 309	486	56
Italy	365	8.3	170	25	149	21
Switzerland	458	8.3	103	54	288	13
Austria	214	8.9	116	17	75	6
Spain	252	6.8	105	3	139	5
Other Europe	909	7.9	349	171	372	17
USA	1 586	10.0	0	24	1 498	64
Other nations	1 035	9.6	6	5	960	64

The length of stay varied among the countries of origin. Germany was the largest single foreign market in terms of number of guest nights. However, countries like Sweden, Denmark, UK, USA and the Netherlands were also important source markets for the Norwegian tourism industry.

The reduction in the number of guest nights from 1998 to 1999 was significant among visitors from Germany, UK, the Netherlands and Finland. On the other hand there was an increase in these numbers among visitors from countries like the USA, Switzerland and Italy.

Persons living in Sweden comprised the largest share of arrivals and guest nights associated with business trips, but there was also substantial business traffic from Denmark, UK, USA and Germany.

The neighbouring Nordic countries (Sweden, Denmark and Finland), Germany, the Netherlands, UK and USA dominated the foreign holiday traffic. Within the holiday segment, most arrivals were Swedish (27 per cent) and most guest nights were German (28 per cent).

Holiday traffic by private motor vehicles and coaches represented 74 per cent of all foreign holiday guest nights in Norway. From 1998 to 1999, this traffic decreased in terms of the number of both arrivals (3 percent) and guest nights (7 per cent). Over the five past years the number of guest nights in this broad category of tourists has dropped by as much as nine per cent. This is mainly due to the decline in the number of guest nights among tourists from Germany, UK, The Netherlands, Finland and Belgium during the last year.

Residents living in the neighbouring Nordic countries, in Germany, and in the Netherlands dominated this traffic by road and ferry.

Table C: Per cent of foreign guest nights for all guests leaving the country by own vehicle, bus, rail or air, by type of accommodation. N = Number of guest nights in 1999 (thousands).

	Total	By car	By coach	By rail	By air
Total (N)	100 (22 180)	100 (12 625)	100 (2 095)	100 (495)	100 (6 965)
Hotel, pension etc.	28	15	75	32	38
Camping at campsite	13	21	4	5	2
Camping outside campsite	4	8	0	6	1
Rented cabin	19	28	13	8	5
Own/ borrowed cabin	5	8	0	1	1
Friends, relatives	22	15	0	35	39
Other	9	6	9	14	15

Business and holiday travellers spent a total of more than 22 million guest nights in Norway (Table C). These visitors mainly used three different types of commercial accommodation: hotels (28 percent), rented cabins (19 per cent), and camping at camping sites (13 per cent). In addition, overnight stays with friends and relatives, own/borrowed cabin and camping outside camping sites were used.

Among motor tourists overnight stays in camping and cabin facilities are most frequently used. The coach tourists utilise first and foremost hotels, and visitors going by rail or air mainly stay in private homes or in hotels. Among business travellers the hotel share is high, whereas there is a relatively equal distribution among the four sectors hotel, cabin, camping and friends/ relatives in the holiday visitor segment.

Motor tourists touring Norway during the summer season were interviewed in further detail about various aspects of Norway's road and traffic system. In general a high level of satisfaction was found concerning access to picnic/rest areas and opportunities to stop along the way to enjoy the view, etc. In addition, the motor tourists were also quite content with the general standard of roads, signs, marking of roads, traffic safety, etc.

Finnmark (or specific sites in Norway's northern county) and Nordland county were most often reported as the main destinations among the motor tourists. They also revealed high interest in the fjords in the southwestern part of Norway. However, there is a great deal of variation across different market segments. First time visitor and touring motorists are attracted by the northern region and Norway in general, whereas repeat visitors who stay in rented cabins in one particular

destination paid more attention to Hedmark county (in the southeast) and the southwestern fjord region.