

NORWEGIANS WORLDWIDE TUCSON CHAPTER NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2020

SAVE THE DATES

2020

19 January 4:00 PM

Ethnic Pot Luck at
Tucson Women's Club
6245 E Bellevue, Tucson

11 January 11:00 am

Norsk Folk
Get together at
Mona's Danish Bakery
4777 E Sunrise Dr # 113, Tucson, AZ 85718

January 2020

OUR New Website -

WWW.norse-tucson.org

Membership-

Solveig Palanek- 520-299-4568

Email-solpalanek@gmail.com

Our ETHNIC Potluck Dinner will be

19 January at 4:00 PM

WE will NEED a RSVP by 15 January due to seating and tables.

REMINDER 2020 Dues are due....

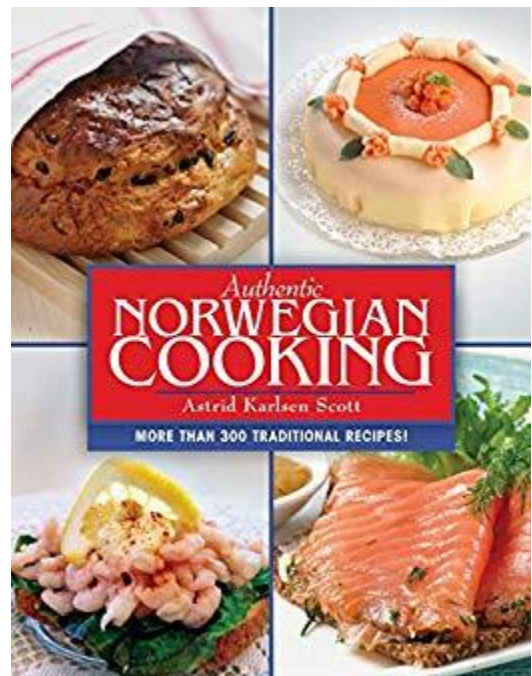
The **Tucson Woman's Club is located at 6245 E. Bellevue**. Bellevue is one block north of Speedway (behind Trader Joe's). The building is one block west of Wilmot. There is plenty of parking and people should enter the building from the parking lot side.

Please email RSVP to—

[NWW Tucson@outlook.com](mailto:NWW_Tucson@outlook.com) with your name, # attending and the dish you will be bringing to pass.

Or call to RSVP -520-301-9641-leave message-with your name- ALSO-Please plan your dish to pass when you RSVP .- TAKK

The dish you bring to pass SHOULD be of NORWEGIAN Origin, as this is our ETHNIC potluck dinner. There will be a follow up email to all members with ideas for Nowregian Dishes.



Thanks to Life in Norway for parts of article.

Fascinating Facts About Norway

The fjords, mountains and northern lights of Norway are known throughout the world. As is the “capitalism with a conscience” philosophy. But other than the obvious, how much do you really know about this Scandinavian country?

The world's longest road tunnel is in Norway

At an astonishing 15 miles (24.5 km) long, the Lærdal Tunnel is the world's longest. Costing 1 billion Norwegian kroner to build (that's about USD \$113 million) the tunnel connects the small communities of Lærdal and Aurland.

Its design is admired all around the world, as it incorporates features to help manage the mental strain on drivers. Every 6km there is a cave to separate sections of road. The lighting varies throughout the tunnel and caves to break routine and provide a varied view.

The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded in Oslo

The Norwegian capital has been the proud venue of the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony every year (with just a few exceptions) since 1901. The other Nobel prizes in Chemistry, Literature, Physics and Physiology or Medicine are awarded in Stockholm, Sweden.

That's due to the wishes of Alfred Nobel, the Swedish chemist who bequeathed his wealth to create the awards upon his death. No-one's quite sure why he chose Norway for the Peace Prize.

The world's most remote island is

A Norwegian territory

But it may surprise you to learn that it's not in the North! It's actually on the other side of the world. Administered by Norway since 1929, Bouvet Island in the South Atlantic Ocean is Planet Earth's most remote island.

It is located approximately 1,700km north of the coastline of Antarctica and 2,600km away from the South African coast. The closest inhabited land is the British overseas territory of Tristan da Cunha, more than 2,000km away. Tristan is also an extremely remote place.

Norway has a land border with Russia

This one had me scratching my head and checking a map when I first moved to Norway. Although there is just one road crossing, the Norway-Russia land border is actually 120 miles long.

The Storskog crossing on the E105 highway is the northernmost road border crossing in Europe. In September 2017, a new tunnel and bridge opened on the Norway side of the border, decreasing travel time for those crossing the border.

By the way, that's something many people do. Norwegians cross over to buy cheaper fuel for their cars, while Russians cross over to buy better quality goods in Kirkenes.

Much of the border is defined by a river and cuts through dense forest for the majority of the route. Distinctive posts coloured bright yellow on the Norway side and red-green striped on the Russian side mark the border.

It's important to pay attention if you're out hiking in these remote areas, because taking even a couple of steps to encircle the posts is illegal.

Kirkenes is farther east than all of Finland

In fact, the small Arctic town is as far east as Cairo. Don't believe us? Check that map again! At only 9 miles (15 km) from the Russian border, Kirkenes is one of Norway's most interesting places from a social perspective.

Norway is home to Hell

Yes, really! A little over one thousand Norwegians can say they live in Hell. The small village is within walking distance of Trondheim's international airport and The train station is in itself something of a tourist attraction. Several times I've spotted tourists snapping a photo of themselves in front of the station sign!

But there're more to Hell than just the name. Take a short walk from the station via a signed forest trail and you'll find some crude reindeer rock carvings believed to be around 5,000 years old. even has its own train station.



Income and wealth of all residents is on public record

Everyone living in Norway has three figures taken from their annual tax return published: their annual income, income tax paid, and total wealth. Yes, really!

Prior to 2013, this data was completely open and searchable by anyone. That has since changed though, and now a person is able to see who has looked up their own data.

The thought behind this concept is that tax evasion becomes much more difficult to accomplish. If you're recording a low income and/or wealth but are driving around in a brand-new Tesla, the authorities are going to get suspicious.

The open nature of this data is also one of the reasons why it's so easy for Norwegian media to come up with their annual lists of Norway's richest people and the country's biggest taxpayers.

There are two versions of the Norwegian language

Or to be more precise, two written variants. Bokmål is used by the vast majority of the country, while Nynorsk is more popular in rural areas, particularly in the western fjord region.

All schoolchildren learn both, national broadcaster NRK publish news in both versions of the language, and all public authorities are required to offer forms and other documentation in both variants.

Modern and ancient skiing were invented in Norway

This one should come as no surprise given the Norwegian obsession with skiing and their success at international level.

Sondre Norheim is said to be the father of modern skiing. In the late 19th-century, he began using stiff ski bindings so he could swing and jump with less risk of falling. His new ski design – the Telemark ski – led to the modern skis we know and love.

But skiing itself goes much further back. An ancient rock carving at Rødøy in northern Norway shows that people used a form of skis to get around in the Norwegian mountains as long ago as 4,000 years.

Europe's biggest herd of wild reindeer lives here

Although it may surprise you to learn they don't live in the Arctic! The herd roam Hardangervidda, Europe's biggest mountain plateau. The National Park includes vast plateaus, lush valleys, high mountains, distant glaciers, waterfalls and stunning fjords.

The number of wild reindeer in winter totals around 25,000 animals, of which up to 7,000 are found on Hardangervidda.

For centuries, wild reindeer used to roam freely across Norway but as a result of extensive hunting, they were driven into the mountainous areas of south-central Norway in the late nineteenth century.

Norway has a volcano!

But don't panic, it's nowhere near the country's biggest cities and won't impact Norway's mainland if it were to erupt. That's because Norway's only active volcano is on the island of Jan Mayen in the Norwegian Sea.

It's about half-way between Norway and Greenland, north of Iceland, and is considered together with Svalbard for administrative purposes by the Government.

Although no permanent residents live anywhere near the 7,306 feet (2,227 m) Beerenberg volcano, research scientists regularly visit the island and even some cruise ships stop by.

Norway isn't called Norway!

At least, not in Norwegian. Norway is the name of the country in the English language. In Norwegian, the country is called Norge. In the lesser-used nynorsk variety of Norwegian, the spelling is Noreg.

In fact, the full name of the country is actually the Kingdom of Norway. In Norwegian, this is written as Kongeriket Norge, or Kongeriket Noreg in nynorsk.

Other names for the country include Norwegen (German), Noruega (Spanish & Portuguese), Norvegia (Italian), Norvège (French), and Norja (Finnish). Meanwhile, the Norwegian language is known in Norway as norsk

Oslo is Norway's most diverse city

Of the 648,000 people in Oslo, 190,000 were born to immigrants or are immigrants themselves. That's nearly 30% of the city's population, compared to around 15% in the country overall.

The largest ethnic minority in Oslo is Pakistani, followed by immigrants from Sweden, Somalia, and Poland.

Norway isn't powered by oil

Sure, Norway's oil and gas industry has powered the economy, but it doesn't power the nation's homes. Around 98% of Norway's domestic power usage is drawn from hydroelectric power plants.

Although Norway is only ranked 9th globally based on the percentage of domestic power sourced from renewable sources, the country actually generates more electricity than all of the eight countries ranked above them – combined!

While the Norwegian government says Norway will be carbon neutral by 2030, that only takes into account domestic emissions, and not the much larger amount embedded in its oil and gas exports.

The government has also tightened energy-efficiency standards for buildings, and has encouraged firms and homeowners to burn wood and other forms of biomass for heat and power, instead of fossil fuels.

No-one knows how long Norway's coastline is!

It's known throughout the world for its jagged mountains and stunning fjords, but believe it or not, no-one knows for sure just how long Norway's epic coast is.

The somewhat counterintuitive observation that the coastline of a landmass does not have a well-defined length is known as the coastline paradox. Because of the fractal nature of a coastline, you can only define its length by using units of a specific length. When the unit length differs, the total length differs – and the difference can be massive.

Stretching all the way from the Oslofjord down to the sunny south, in and out of the many western fjords and then stretching out for many miles northward before bending around the top of the Scandinavian

peninsular to meet with Russia, only one thing's for sure: It's very long!



THE ORIGINAL NORWEGIAN
CRUISE LINE

Norway supplies London with a Christmas tree every year

And it's not just any tree. To say thank you for their help during World War II, the city of Oslo sends Britain a tree every Christmas. The tall Norwegian spruce from the Oslo forest is placed prominently in Trafalgar Square.

The tree, decorated in a typical Norwegian style with white lights, provides a focal point for the carol-singing festivities that take place on the square throughout the Christmas period.

Norway was neutral during the First World War

After the First World War broke out, Norway declared its neutrality. Despite this, Norway still made trade agreements with Great Britain and in 1917 allowed them to take control of Norwegian sea vessels.

Norway's impartial position was in place until April 1940, just two months into the Second World War, when the Germans invaded. The Scandinavian country was an attractive location for Adolf Hitler, who was interested by its many accessible sea ports and the extraction of iron ore from nearby Sweden.

The Norwegian Royal Family and the government were hastily transported to London, where they managed to form a government in exile and organise the Norwegian war effort from afar.

Norway's capital wasn't always called Oslo

Founded in 1040, its name was originally spelt Ånslo or Áslo. In 1624, after a great fire destroyed large parts of the city, the decision was made to move and rebuild it closer to Akershus Fortress. The move also involved changing the name to Christiania in honour of the ruling monarch, King Christian IV.

Between 1814 and 1905, the city existed as a co-official capital of the union between Norway and Sweden.

In 1877, after the spelling reform, the city's name was altered to Kristiania. It remained that way until 1925, when it returned to its origin name, Oslo.

The city also has a nickname, Tigerstaden (the City of Tigers). Named so in 1870 by Norwegian writer Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson who referred to the city as an inhospitable environment (cold and uninviting). There is statue of a tiger outside Oslo Central Station in honour of the reference.

Norway gave the world the cheese slicer

You're welcome, world! The cheese slicer was invented way back in 1925 by Thor Bjørklund and has become a staple of all Scandinavian kitchens, and many others around the world.

While a lot of cheese is sold pre-sliced, many people still buy blocks of cheese and use the invention that has changed little in almost 100 years.

The Colonel-in-Chief of the Norwegian King's Guard is a Scottish penguin

Wait, what? Yes, you heard right. Brigadier Sir Nils Olav has held the title since 2005, but the involvement goes back to 1972 when the regiment adopted a penguin from Edinburgh Zoo, and to the zoo's opening in 1913 when Norway presented it with its first king penguin.

The name 'Nils Olav' and ranks in the Norwegian military have been passed down through three king penguins since 1972. The current holder is Nils Olav III.



Unlike other royal families, Norwegian royal family has a very high approval rate. It is no

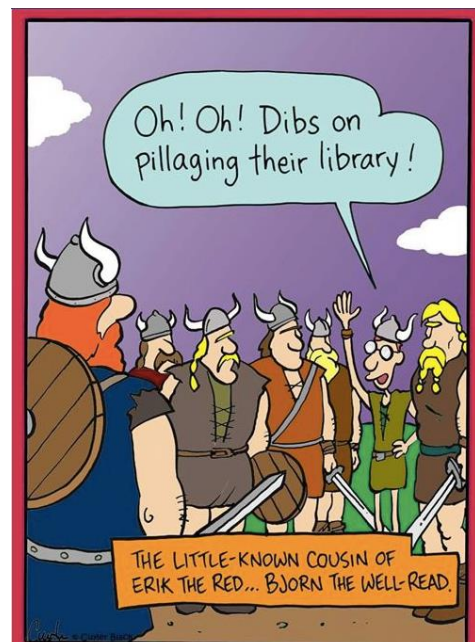
surprise majority of Norwegians would say their own Royal Family is way cooler than any other.



ABOVE-The Crown Prince Haakon and Crown Princess & King Harald V and Queen of Norway.

It is very rare to see this human side of royals. But for Norwegian royal couple who seem so happy and in love after all this years, showing it is not a shocking moment. They are so natural that King Harald can call Queen Sonja 'a troll' to her face and both laugh like teenagers about it.

Beside these funny moments, King of Norway warms hearths with his epic speeches. In one one of them, he gives a speech to his 1500 guests at his garden party Thursday 1st of September 2016. Followed by a huge debate on migration politics, he describes what becoming Norwegian is. For him, to be a Norwegian is a very diverse thing disregarding religion, ethnicity and sexual orientation. The King's message is that we have to take care of each other.





Norwegians Worldwide-Tucson Chapter

Contact Us

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VELKOMMEN TO YOUR NORWEGIAN CONNECTION IN THE DESERT.

We are the TUCSON , Arizona chapter of Norwegians Worldwide / Nordmanns-Forbundet. Our chapter is a diverse network of Norwegian-Americans, Norwegians living here in Arizona, and anyone with an interest in Norway and Scandinavia. Founded as a registered non-profit organization, our chapter has been connecting our community and promoting the rich national and cultural heritage of Norway for over 40 years.

Welcome to a community for Norwegian Americans, Norwegians living in Arizona, and anyone with an interest in Norway and/or Scandinavia. If you are looking to connect with your heritage, practice your language skills, meet new friends, explore Nordic culture, and more -- drop us a line or stop by our next event! We host family-friendly events throughout the year celebrating Norway's rich cultural heritage and current events.

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TO: