

Saeters and Stave Churches:

Proposed Vernacular Architecture Group tour to Norway: Thursday 16 – Sunday 26 June 2011

The group is organising a tour to Norway to visit some of its notable timber buildings – and also see something of the scenery and the country. At this stage, we have a draft itinerary and enough people have expressed an interest for us to proceed with the detailed planning. We will be pleased, however, to receive the names of others who may be interested in coming and would like to be kept informed (VAG members or non-members).

The provisional dates are as above, and the proposed outline programme (day in brackets): Arrive Oslo (1); Oslo: Viking Ship Museum & open-air Folk Museum (houses & more) (2); Lillehammer: Maihaugen open-air museum; Ringebu stave church (3); Røros: 19th century copper-mining town (World Heritage Site) (4); Åndalsnes (5); Geiranger, Lom stave church (6); Urnes & Borgund stave churches; Otternes farm complex (7); Flåm; Voss, Finneloft; Sognefjord (8); Hardangerfjord; Utne; Agatunet 17th century village complex (9); Bergen: Bryggen and Hanseatic museums (10); return from Bergen to UK (11).

Notes: Norway is a large country and, even though we will only visit a small part of it, the tour will inevitably involve some long days and long coach drives.

Because of the complex logistics of booking hotels, arranging coach travel, etc, we are making the arrangements through the Baltic Travel Company, 271-273 King Street, London W6 9LZ (www.baltictravelcompany.com). We will be accompanied by a Norwegian-speaking tour guide, but will get information on the buildings from on local guides and VAG expertise.

Cost: The cost will depend on the number of participants, and the final cost will be notified once this is known. We think the minimum for viability will be 20 people, at an estimated cost of £1,865; for 45 people (an approximate upper limit) the cost is estimated at £1,450 (both excluding travel to Norway); single supplement £380; (half-board).

Travel: Bookings will be made for travel from London Gatwick to Oslo with return from Bergen to Gatwick. Participants will be welcome to make their own travel arrangements if they wish. Please indicate this when you reply.

Timetable:

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| Sept/early Oct | Detailed circular and booking form (deposit required, refundable only if the tour has to be cancelled). This will be sent to everyone expressing an interest, and can also be requested from the addresses below. |
| 1 Nov 2010 | Return date for priority booking (later bookings accepted if space remains). In the unlikely event that we are overbooked at this stage, priority will be given to those who have indicated that they are intending to take part, in order of receipt of bookings. |
| March 2011 (or earlier) | Notification of final cost (calculated according to numbers taking part). |
| April 2011 | Full payment due |

Further Information: This is limited at present, though I have some more details of the proposed visits; the various web-sites can also be useful. Contact n.w.alcock@warwick.ac.uk (01926-428161).

Nat Alcock

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Please respond, by e-mail if at all possible, to Pippa Colchester (pippacolchester@hotmail.com), 64 St Fabian's Drive, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 2PR, with the following information:

- I/we are interested and will expect to join the tour.
- OR
- I/we are interested and may take part in the tour (you will be sent the detailed circular/ booking form)
- We probably *will/will not* use the group travel arrangement

Number of participants: Name(s):

Address.....

E-mail (important as we hope to communicate by e-mail as far as possible)

Any comments or queries (we will respond as far as we are able)