WHAT’S NEW IN OSLO?

The Vigeland Sculpture Park. In 2019, Oslo celebrates being the European Green Capital and marks the 150th anniversary of sculptor Gustav Vigeland.

2019

An update from Oslo – the European Green Capital 2019

STARLING

Oslo is the European Green Capital 2019! #GreenCapital2019 #GreenOslo #visitOslo
Oslo is on National Geographic Traveller (UK)’s The Cool List 2019
Amerikalinjen hotel is on TIME magazine’s list of The World’s 100 Greatest Places 2019
The Oslo hotel The Thief is on Condé Nast Traveller’s Gold List 2019
The Oslo restaurant À L’aïse is on Forbes’ list The 10 Coolest Places to Eat in 2019
Our film from Oslo Pride 2018 The Proud Experience won gold at The European Excellence Awards
Oslo celebrates the 150th anniversary of sculptor Gustav Vigeland in 2019. #vigeland150. For press images of the Vigeland Museum and the Vigeland Sculpture Park, click here and here.
MAJOR EVENTS AND EXHIBITIONS

- **Oslo European Green Capital 2019** – Programme in English [here](#). See also the City of Oslo’s website [Green Oslo](#) #GreenCapital2019 #GreenOslo
- **VÍKINGR**: Viking Age exhibition at the Museum of Cultural History, containing some of the most exquisite objects ever found from the Norwegian Viking Age. The exhibition has been designed by Snøhetta.
- **Kistefos** is an industrial museum and sculpture park located in idyllic surroundings about an hours’ drive north of Oslo. In 2019 Kistefos launched a new visual identity, unveiling three new sculptures (one of them *Shine of Life* by Yayoi Kusama) and opened two new exhibitions – but the highlight of the year was the opening of the spectacular new 3-in-1 museum/bridge/sculpture, *The Twist*! (Travel tip: Hadeland Glassworks, one of Norway’s most visited tourist attractions, is located in the same area, about a 10 min. drive northeast of Kistefos. Or head one hour south of Kistefos, to the museum and cobalt mines of Blaafarveverket, for some more mix of art, culture and outdoor activities.)
- **Future Library**: Public artwork by Scottish artist Katie Paterson that will unfold over 100 years in the city of Oslo. Every year a new contributing author to the Future Library anthology is announced and a handover ceremony is held in the Nordmarka forest. The manuscripts will be held in a specially designed room in the new Deichman Public Library opening in 2020 in Bjørvika. Watch [video](#): Meet the project manager of Future Library, Anne Beate Hovind.
- **#osloBIENNALEN**: An evolving five-year programme of art in public space.
- **Tons of Rock** (June 25-27 2020): The rock and metal festival Tons of Rock moved from Halden to Oslo in 2019.
- **Øya Festival**: In August every year the Øya Festival draws around 60,000 music lovers to Oslo’s east side, where they can enjoy four days of everything from international stars to up-and-coming artists. Since 2002, Øya has worked in collaboration with Greener Events to find new ways of saving energy, making responsible purchases, reducing waste and shorten the travel distance for goods to the festival, and in 2018 Øya won “A Greener Festival Award”. 🌿
- **Oslo Architecture Triennale** (September 26-November 24) is the Nordic region’s biggest architecture festival, and one of the world’s prominent arenas for dissemination and discussion of architectural and urban challenges.
- For more upcoming events, go to our [event calendar](#) for Oslo.

ATTRACTIONS AND CITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

- **The Fjord City Programme**: Find a short summary about the extensive renewal of Oslo’s waterfront [here](#). For more information: [Oslo’s Fjord City](#)
- In 2020, three new signature buildings will open on Oslo’s waterfront: The new Munch Museum (watch [animation](#)), the new National Museum (watch [animation](#)) and the new Public Library (watch [animation](#))! Download [media kit for Oslo 2020](#) here and read more below.
- **NB! The National Gallery** is closed from January 13. A version of *The Scream* will be on display at the current Munch Museum at Tøyen from mid May until end of 2019.
- **The Viking Planet** – Opened June 21st. Feel the Viking rush! Norway’s first interactive entertainment centre in Oslo, next to the City Hall, with many unique experiences based on Viking heritage! (Read about Norway’s top Viking sites on VisitNorway.com.)
- **Northern Lights Xperium®** - Opened May 2. Xperium is the main attraction of the new Norway House on main street Karl Johan in the heart of Oslo. See, feel and learn how one of the world’s finest and magical light phenomena is created.

What’s New in Oslo?
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- **The Salmon** is a new attraction at Tjuvholmen, a stone’s throw from the Astrup Fearnley Museum. Learn about one of Norway’s largest export industries and enjoy a variety of salmon based dishes in an informal setting and with a beautiful view of the Oslo fjord.

- **Havnepromenaden (The Harbour Promenade)** opened in 2015 and stretches nine kilometres along Oslo's waterfront. Interpretive stations describe local history at fourteen sites along the route. The Promenade ties the city together from east to west, turning different parts of town into a string of great experiences such as the Opera house, the new Munch Museum and the new National Museum (both opening in 2020). Aker Brygge and the Astrup Fearnley Museum at Tjuvholmen, the Bygdøy peninsula and the following (see map under):

  - **Losater** (14) is Oslo’s first city farm. In August anyone is welcome to join the community dinner every Wednesday night at 5 p.m., when people gather to harvest vegetables and then prepare for dinner.

  - **Sørenga seawater pool** (12) is a popular recreational spot on the southernmost tip of Oslo’s brand new neighbourhood Sørenga. The area attracts big crowds on sunny summer days, and in winter ice bathing and sauna are popular activities.

- **Oslo Fjord Sauna / Serenga Sauna and Swimming club (SBHA)**: The brand new Oslo Fjord Sauna (or “Skarven”) is an architect-designed sauna raft docked close to the Opera House, next to the charming **Oslo Sauna Raft** (or “Måken”) The latter was built from drift wood collected from the Oslo fjord, and both have solar panels on the roof. Watch [video](#).

  - **KOK Oslo** (9) has two sauna boats with space for ten people (“Morild”) / 14 people (“Aurora”- NEW in Feb. ‘19!) located at Langkaia across from the Opera House. KOK Oslo offers warm, wood-fired saunas, refreshing ice baths and trips in the inner Oslo Fjord – all year round (except July). Both sauna boats have electric engines and solar panels on the roof.

  - **SALT** (9) is a nomadic art project on Langkaia in Oslo, overlooking the Opera House. Experience concerts, art, sauna sessions, cold water pools, their driftwood café/bar and more. Their largest sauna holds 120 people. Sauna, good drinks and food all year long! (Opened Feb. 2017)

  - **Vippa Oslo** (8) is a hip food hall located inside an old depo on Oslo’s waterfront.

  - **Skur 13** (5) indoor skate park close to Tjuvholmen and the Astrup Fearnley Museum.
• **Kreftforeningens Vitensenter** (The Norwegian Cancer Society’s Science Centre): Through the science centre’s interactive installations, you can learn about cancer, how to prevent and treat it, and what technology can do to help, now and in the future. (Opened in February 2018.)
• **New ski simulator** at Holmenkollen ski arena and museum (opened in June 2017). Ever wondered what it feels like to fly down the Holmenkollen Ski Jump?
• New sculpture at **Ekebergparken Sculpture Park** in 2019: **Air burial (Oslo)** by Roni Horn (unveiled in May).
• **Kunsthal Oslo**: a non-profit art space in Bjørvika that presents international contemporary art with an emphasis on new commissions.
• Welcome to our refurbished **Oslo Visitor Centre** inside Østbanehallen food court.
• **Future Built** is a ten-year programme (2010-2020) with an aim to develop 50 pilot projects for climate neutral buildings and urban areas by 2020.
• **Green Visits** Oslo Region: Green Visits organizes professional visits for international delegations visiting the Oslo region. Learn about the different plants, companies, projects and research infrastructure that make Oslo region a green innovation leader.
• **Nuart RAD**: A pilot project in areas adjacent to the Akerelva river, stretching 8,2 km through the centre of Oslo. The project is part of Oslo Municipality’s five-year action plan for street art, which promotes graffiti and street art as part of contemporary art in public spaces. See also: **VisitOSLO’s guide to urban art**
• **Kulturstedet**: The Norwegian College of Dance has already moved into the buildings of this former margarine factory located in the Tøyen area. The property is currently undergoing extensive renovation work, but will evolve into a new cultural institution for music and performing arts in Oslo East, scheduled for completion in Autumn 2019.
• **Vision of the Fjords**: After spending the winter season on the Oslo fjord, the eco-friendly sightseeing boat **Vision of The Fjords** has now moved back to its home base in the fjords of West Norway – but according to plans, Oslo will get its first full-electric sightseeing boat from May 1st 2020, **Legacy of the Fjords!** And speaking of which, **the three public Nesodden ferries** departing from Aker brygge will also turn **full-electric in 2019**, as part of the **Fossil Free 2020**
• **COMING IN 2020 – THE BEST IS YET TO COME!**

The Fjord City is a programme to renew Oslo’s waterfront. The plans cover 10 kilometres from east to west of Oslo’s city centre, where shipyards, ports and highways have given way to museums, art venues, office spaces, apartments and public parks. Oslo’s new **opera house**, the **Barcode** high-rises and Tjuvholmen with the **Astrup Fearnley Museum** have already been built here, and in 2020 three new iconic buildings are scheduled to open.

**DOWNLOAD MEDIA KIT OSLO 2020 HERE**

- **Lambda - The new Munch Museum** – A new home for Edvard Munch’s art in Oslo!
  - See also: [The Museum Island](#) outside the new Munch Museum incl. [Tracey Emin’s sculpture “The Mother”](#).
- **The new National Museum**
  - See also: The marketing director of the National Museum kick-starts his day with a morning run followed by ice bathing in the Oslo fjord! Watch [video](#).
- **The new Deichman main library**
• **Klimahuset**: The Climate House is a project by the University of Oslo. This building will open inside the Botanical Gardens in the Tøyen area. The house will provide spaces for research-based exhibitions, lectures, films, debates and experiences related to climate and climate change.

• **SNØ Oslo** – Norway’s first and the world’s largest indoor winter sports arena is coming to the Oslo region in 2020! From January 2020, SNØ Oslo will be offering 40 000 km² of year-round winter fun, with 4 downhill slopes, a big jump, 2 km of cross-country ski trails and more, only 20 minutes by train from Oslo Central Station.

**HOTELS**

*Newly opened:*

• **Clarion Hotel Oslo** – Oslo’s new art hotel with its very own art concierge – opened August 1st in Bjørvika next to the Opera House.

• **Amerikalinjen**: Neighbouring the Opera House and the Oslo Central Station, this architectural landmark turned luxury boutique hotel opened on March 15th 2019 in the original 1919 offices of the Norwegian America Line, once responsible for ferrying hopeful Norwegians across the Atlantic Ocean to the land of opportunity.

• **Clarion hotel The Hub** (formerly known as Clarion Hotel Royal Christiania) opened 1st March 2019 opposite Oslo Central Station. Norway’s largest hotel, with 810 rooms and **Norway’s largest rooftop field**! (The rooftop opens summer 2019.)

• **Thon Hotel Storo**: Opened September 5th 2018 in the Storo neighbourhood, with shopping, cinemas, cafés and the Akerselva river just outside its doorsteps.

• **Hotel Verdandi Oslo**: new 3* boutique hotel in the city centre. The name Verdandi is an old Norse word for “present time/happening”, chosen to remind us to live in the moment!

*Coming soon:*

• **2019/2020**: **The Well Resort**, the largest spa in the Nordic region, is planning to open a resort hotel.

• **2020**: Nordic Choice Hotels will open a **new hotel** in one of Oslo’s new neighbourhoods – HasleLinje, near Hasle, Økern & Løren subway stations.

• **2021**: **Sommerro** (by Nordic Choice Hotels) will be a high end hotel consisting of 252 unique rooms and suites designed by GreceDeco. It will boast three in-house restaurants, two bars, an event and conference space, as well as a rooftop bar, restaurant and an adjacent outdoor pool with panoramic views of the hills of Holmenkollen. Meet the interior designers behind Sommerro: watch [video](#).

• **2021/2022**: **Norway’s first Radisson RED** is set to arrive in Oslo.

**RESTAURANTS, BARS AND CULTURAL VENUES**

• **Youngs**: Restaurant and cultural arena serving delicious Detroit-style pizzas. Youngs is in the same “family” as **Kulturhuset** (around the corner) and **Skatten** (at Tøyen).

• **Oslo Street Food**: A new street food market in the historic Torggata Bad in central Oslo, opened February 2nd 2019. Oslo’s third food hall, after Mathallen and Vippa.

• **Svanen cocktail bar**, in what used to be Oslo’s first pharmacy est. in 1625, on Oslo’s main street Karl Johan.

• **Pier 42**: Cocktail bar at the new Amerikalinjen hotel.

• **Norda Oslo**: Restaurant on the top floor of Clarion Hotel The Hub. The vegetables and herbs on your plate are grown on the hotel’s 200-sqm rooftop field, **GrowHub**.
What’s New in Oslo?

- **Haralds Vaffel** – The King of Waffles! Delicious waffles and ice cream at Olaf Ryes plass, Grünerløkka. Jonathan started selling waffles from his apartment window, and pretty soon his unconventional recipes had made the waffle cool again. See [video](#).
- **Nordic Foodprint (NOFO)**: Nestled in a charming backyard in Oslo’s historic Kvadraturen neighbourhood, NOFO is on a mission to share healthy comfort food with their urban community. Opened September 2018.
- **KUMI**: Vegetarian/vegan café & juice bar in Gamlebyen serving breakfast, brunch and lunch all day. Opened May 2018.
- **Hallen spiseri & fiskeutsalg** (@oslofishmarket): Fresh and tasty seafood at reasonable prices right next to Vippa food hall.
- **The Good Knight**: Norway is home to Magnus Carlsen, the world’s number one chess player. Only natural then that Oslo finally got its first chess bar in Nov 2018. One week after opening, the Good Knight had already generated considerable buzz (link to article on nytimes.com, 21.11.18, “The Magnus effect: Norway Falls Hard for Chess”).
- **Katla**: Opened August 28th 2018 to rave reviews! By Icelandic chef Atlí Már Yngvason.
- **Rest**: Fine Dining Restaurant using leftover food, opened Nov 21st 2018 in Kirkegata, central Oslo. Watch our video about [Rest and #GreenOslo](#).
- **Mangelsgården**: cozy restaurant and wine bar with a nostalgic Northern European kitchen (by Henrik Henriksen). Opened October 2018.
- **Ben Reddik**: Lebanese restaurant by Henrik Henriksen.
- **Cantina**: Mexican street food restaurant.
- **Bygdøy Alle 3** – New restaurant, bar & café located at the same address as Oslo’s former Michelin starred restaurant Bagatelle.
- **Edda**: casual restaurant with New Nordic cuisine located in the Barcode area behind the Opera House. Opened June 1st 2018.
- **Vega**: a new independent stage for film & theatre. Opened Nov 3rd by the Akerelva river, close to Vulkan.
- **Skatten**: The new third space in Oslo. Opened in August 2018. Located in Tøyen, just by the metro station. Open from early morning ‘til late night with concerts, seminars, dj sessions and fairs.
- **Mikkeller**: Danish Mikkeller, one of the most cutting edge microbreweries in the world, has opened its first bar in Norway, **Henry & Sally’s**, in Bernt Ankers gate (near Youngstorget) in Oslo. Opened Nov 17th 2018.
- **Couch**: Norway’s first Italian aperitivo lounge, opened August 2018 in Grünerløkka.
- **Bar Albatross**: Wine, cocktails and snacks, opened June 2018 in Torsvogata 5.
- **Feber Oslo**: Delicious cocktails meet soul music at this funky new bar in the bazaar halls at Youngstorget. Opened June 2018.
- **Prindsen hage** boule&bar: Enjoy a relaxed atmosphere in this backyard oasis in Storgata 36.
- **Bruket Oslo**: café, bar and culture venue in Landbrukskvarteret, an up-and-coming agricultural district in Grenland/Oslo east (opened in April 2018). You’ll also find other interesting projects within food, environment, urban development, tech, culture and music here, such as Greenhouse Oslo, a coworking, kitchen and event space.
- **Roverstaden**: Oslo’s coolest new concert venue [opened January 2018 in Vika](#), near Aker brygge. Its three floors are dedicated to film, design, art, food and drinks, as well as a concert venue (Klubben).
- **FYR Bistronomi**: One of the best new restaurants in Oslo last year according to foodie [Anders Husa](#). Opened June 2017 in Hegdehaugsveien high street near Majorstuen.
- **“ISM**: Hedonism+humanism=!ISM. Enjoy unique cocktails and quality wines with a clear conscience. Opened December 2017.
- **Topphem**: New Nordic bistro at Solli plass by the Royal Palace. Menu mainly based on locally, seasonal, organic and biodynamic produce. Bokbacka’s little sister opened in September 2017 to rave reviews.
What’s New in Oslo?

- **Vippa food hall**: a hip food hall located inside an old depo on Oslo’s waterfront (image above left).
- **Gressholmen kro**: Cafe and restaurant on the island of Gressholmen (image above). Open during summer season. Video: Table Tales – Gressholmen in the Oslo Fjord.
- **Brygg Oslo**: Popular beer brewery with hundreds of beers on tap and in bottle. You can also enjoy cocktails, coffee and food and play ping pong and petanque. Centrally located in Storgata 5-7. Opened August 2017.
- **Handwerk Botaniske**: a café/bistro in an old manor inside the Botanical Garden. Seasonal dishes and organic bakery. Thursday dinner served every week from 4-6.30 pm (180 NOK).
- **Andre til høyre** («Second to the right»): Possibly Oslo’s coolest cocktail bar. It looks like a retro apartment, so if you’re wondering whether you’ve walked into a private house party, you’re in the right place. Located on the 1st floor in Youngsgate 19 - above Håndslag pub/butcher (håndslag=agreement handshake)
- In April 2017 **Kulturhuset** (“The Culture House”) moved into new and bigger premises, filled with debates, concerts, dancing, bars, lectures, games, coffee, an open co-working space and food around the clock.
- **Radegast** Wine Bar at Nedre Foss Gård in the **Vulkan neighbourhood**, one of Oslo’s most interesting new city developments projects.
- **Erlik Kaffe**: coffee shop with a big heart – in the heart of Oslo. The street newspaper =Oslo’s coffee shop in Akersgata 32 gives people from the streets the opportunity to get job training and paid work – and serves very good coffee from Solberg & Hansen! (Opened June 2017.) Read more: Meet Oslo’s social entrepeneurs
- **Bar Boman**: Hotel Continental’s refurbished lobby bar is a stylish lounge for hotel guests and a vibrant bar for Oslo’s residents and visitor (image above right).
- **MESH**: Café and bar with a cozy courtyard and good choices for breakfast, lunch or early dinner. MESH also has a selection of beer and wine, and a few special cocktails. The café is connected to the MESH startup community, and is a good place to work, with free wifi and several power sockets for your gadgets.

**SHOPPING**

- **Promenaden**: With Promaden shopping district, Oslo has gotten its very own high-end shopping area right in the heart of the city.
- **Paleet**: Stylish shopping gallery with high-end fashion and lifestyle shops, bars, cafés and restaurants situated on Oslo’s main street, Karl Johans gate.
- **Oslo’s new luxury shopping district** (link to SAS Scandinavian Traveler magazine)
- Shopping guide on visitoslo.com: Shopping in Oslo
What’s New in Oslo?

TRENDS

- **Oslo is going green!** Read Stories from Oslo on the official website of Oslo European Green Capital 2019.
- **Car-free City Life:** [Car free city life in Oslo](official website): Green Oslo/Best Practices, Car-free Livability Programme 2019 (PDF), see map of Oslo’s car-free zone, article: “What happened when Oslo decided to make its downtown basically car-free?” (FastCompany.com, 24.1.2019)
- Oslo has been named the Electric Vehicle Capital of the World. Norway’s biggest EV charging facilities can be found here, beneath Akershus fortress and at Vulkan (in addition to charging points along the streets).
  - ALD Automotive, Vy & GreenMobility launched an electric car sharing service in Oslo in January 2019.
  - Now you can rent electric scooters in Oslo
  - **Pirate Rentals**: Electric boat rentals. Pirate Rentals was formed by two Oslo based companies – Plastpiratene (“the plastic pirates”) and Mad Goats – that share the same goal: Keep the Oslo fjord clean and accessible so that everyone can make the most of this unique and beautiful city. It’s the first company in Norway to refurbish old boats and convert them to electric. Enjoy a Day Out on the Oslo Fjord!
  - Oslo is hosting the world’s largest Electric Vehicle conference and exhibition - EVS35 - in 2022.
  - Norsk elbilforening / The Norwegian Electric Vehicle Association
  - **Norway’s first electric aircraft** was tested at Oslo airport on June 18th 2018 (see video).
  - Development in the electrification of aviation in Norway
  - Oslo gets driverless electric buses

- **Fossil Free 2020**: Oslo’s public transport company Ruter plans to power all public transport using renewable energy sources by 2020. The three public Nesodden ferries travelling from Aker brygge will turn full-electric in 2019; one will be rebuilt and ready in August, one in October and one in December. Read more about [the part public transport plays for a greener capital](https://www.visitoslo.com/en/tips-and-trends/fossil-free-2020).

- **Urban beekeeping and rooftop farming** can be found all over the city, on top of buildings like Vulkan, Scandic Vulkan, Barcode (Beeode), Vippa Oslo, Bruket, Vega… Oslo has in fact created the world’s first bee highway to protect endangered bees. The bee highway aims to give the endangered pollinators a safe passage through the city, aided by flower-filled cemeteries, rooftop gardens, parks and balconies. See also: ByBi (Oslo’s urban beekeeping society)

- **Urban sauna culture** has taken Oslo by storm, and the Oslo harbour now boasts several options for sauna sessions followed by refreshing dips in the fjord. Watch our video: “Oslo – Cool in the Winter”.

- **New Nordic cuisine**: A feast of flavours awaits in Oslo, the capital of fresh ingredients.

- **Oslo is Scandinavia’s new coffee mecca** – Explore Oslo’s coffee scene
What’s New in Oslo?

- **Meet Oslo’s social entrepreneurs**
- **Oslo – a knitting capital 😊**
- **AQUAVIT – The resurrection of a Norwegian Classic** (featuring Himkok and Svanen Oslo)

Check out the latest press results about Oslo.

Watch our latest videos from Oslo! 🎥

- **Quoted Oslo**: The real Oslo through the eyes of locals.
- **Oslo is Rubbish**: Oslo has innovated lots of sustainable solutions for travel, eating and cultural experiences, simply by harnessing power from the waste it produces. That’s why we say Oslo is rubbish - in a good way!
- **Green Oslo**: Using food waste to cook gourmet meals at Oslo’s Restaurant REST.
- **The Proud Experience**: When three young Europeans; Kadir, Anna and Klára, was invited to take part in Oslo Pride - Norway’s largest celebration of love, freedom and diversity, it was Oslove at first sight!
- **Oslo – Cool in the Winter**
- **Oslo’s Urban Farmer**: Urban farming at Losøter in the middle of Oslo city
- **Street food in Oslo**: The last hotdog stand in town and Waffles are back!
- **Black Metal History**: Oslo is the birthplace of Norwegian black metal
- **Let’s go to Oslo**: Why Oslo is the perfect destination for your next meeting/event.

Keep updated on the latest videos from Oslo at Vimeo.com/visitoslo and YouTube.com/visitoslo

**News from VisitOSLO**: The latest news about major events, activities and attractions in Oslo.

**Read more**: Check out the latest Oslo content on VisitNorway.com, for example:

- 6 libraries you need to see
- **Urban Green**
- **My day in Oslo**
- **Oslo European Green Capital 2019**
- **Top 23: the local’s Oslo**
- **Hadeland – Norway’s new art destination**
- **Norway’s top Viking sites**

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