

BERGEN

Bergen is the second largest city in **Norway**, with a population of 252,051 as of 1 January 2009. Bergen is the administrative centre of Hordaland county. Greater Bergen or Bergen Economic Region, as defined by Statistics Norway, had a population of 385,450 as of 1 January 2009.

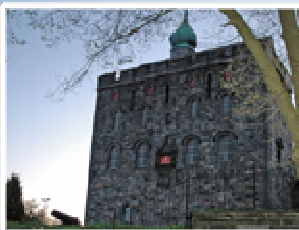
Bergen is located in the county of Hordaland on the south-western coast of Norway. Its city centre is situated among a group of mountains known as "De syv fjell" (lit. The Seven Mountains), although which mountains these are is a matter of definition. Bergen is an important cultural hub in its region and was one of nine European cities honored with the title of European Capital of Culture in 2000.



Bryggen (Norwegian for the Wharf), also known as Tyskebryggen (the German Wharf) is a series of Hanseatic commercial buildings lining the eastern side of the fjord coming into Bergen, Norway. Bryggen has since 1979 been on the UNESCO list for World Cultural Heritage sites. The name has the same origin as the Flemish city of Brugge.

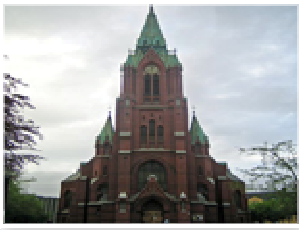


The Bergen Museum is a university museum in Bergen, Norway. Founded in 1825 with the intent of building large collections in the fields of culture and natural history, it became the grounds for most of the academic activity in the city, a tradition which has prevailed since the museum became part of the University of Bergen. Bergen Museum is divided into two departments, the Natural History Collections and the Cultural History Collections. It is also the caretaker of the botanical garden surrounding the natural history building, and the city's arboretum.



Bergenshus fortress is a fortress located in Bergen, Norway. The fortress contains buildings dating as far back as the 1240s, as well as later constructions built as recently as World War II. The extent of the enclosed area of today dates from the early 19th century. In medieval times, the area of the present-day Bergenshus Fortress was known as Holmen (The islet), and contained the royal residence in Bergen, as well as a cathedral and several churches, the bishop's residence, and a dominican monastery. Excavations

have revealed foundations of buildings believed to date back to before 1100, which might have been erected by king Olav Kyrre. In the 13th century, until 1299, Bergen was the capital of Norway and Holmen was thus the main seat of Norway's rulers. It was first enclosed by stone walls in the 1240s.



St John's Church is a cruciform church in Bergen. St John's was built between 1888 and 1894 in the Gothic Revival style, and is with 1250 seats the largest church in Bergen. The church tower is the highest in the city at 61 metres.



St Mary's Church is a church in Bergen. The construction of the church is believed to have started in the 1130s or 40s and completed around 1180, making the church the oldest remaining building in Bergen.

INFORMATION

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