

## OSLO

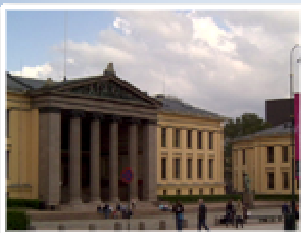
**Oslo** (formerly **Christiania**) is the **capital** and largest city in **Norway**. Oslo is the cultural, scientific, economic and governmental centre of Norway. Oslo is an important centre of maritime knowledge in Europe and is home to approximately 980 companies and 8,500 employees within the maritime sector, among which are some of the world's largest shipping companies, shipbrokers, and insurance brokers. The city of Oslo has a population of around 575,000 (2009) while the metropolitan area of Oslo is home to around 1.4 million. It is the fastest-growing Scandinavian capital.



**Akershus Fortress** or **Akershus Castle** (Akershus Festning, Akershus slott) is the old castle built to protect Oslo, the capital of Norway. It has also been used as a prison.

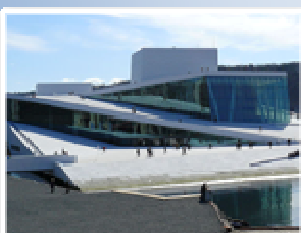
**The Royal Palace** in Oslo was built in the first half of the 19th century as the Norwegian residence of Norwegian and Swedish king Charles III (Carl Johan, Charles XIV of Sweden) and is used as the official residence of the present Norwegian Monarch. The crown-prince couple resides at Skaugum in Asker Municipality

outside Oslo, while the three princesses of Norway live on estates in Oslo, Fredrikstad and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



**The University of Oslo** is the oldest, largest and most prestigious university in Norway, situated in the Norwegian capital of Oslo. It is considered the only Norwegian world-class research university. It was founded in 1811 as The Royal Frederick University (in Norwegian Det Kongelige Frederiks Universitet and in Latin Universitas Regia Fredericana). The university was modelled after the recently established University of Berlin, and originally named after King Frederick of Denmark and Norway. It

received its current name in 1939.



**The Oslo Opera House** is the seat of The Norwegian National Opera and Ballet, and the national opera theatre in Norway. The building lies in Bjørvika, in the center of Oslo, at the head of the Oslofjord. Its builder was Statsbygg, a government-run property owner. The architects were the Norwegian firm Snøhetta who were also the architects of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina (the Library of Alexandria) in Egypt. The theatre designers were Theatre Projects

Consultants based in London, the acoustic designers were BrekkeStrandArup, a joint venture between local consultant Brekke Strand Akustikk and international acousticians Arup Acoustics. Norwegian construction company Veidekke was awarded one of the largest building contracts of the project. The structure provides a total area of 38,500 m<sup>2</sup> and includes 1,100 rooms, one of which has 1,350 seats and another has up to 400 seats. Total expenditures for the building project were planned at 4.4 billion NOK, but finished ahead of schedule, and 300 million NOK under budget.

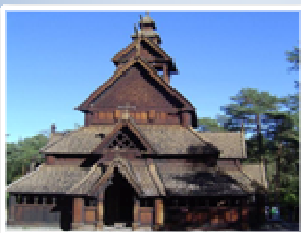


**The Frogner Park** is a public park in the west-end borough of Frogner in the Norwegian capital of Oslo. It is part of the Frogner Manor, and belonged to rich families like Anker and Wegner in the 19th century, before being acquired by the city of Oslo. It is famous for housing the Vigeland Sculpture Park, which was created by Gustav Vigeland in the 20th century. The 212 sculptures are, essentially, the adult work of Vigeland. The massive works represent various ages, moods, and stages in lives

of people culminating in the famous Monolith ("Monolitten") with its 121 figures struggling to reach the top of the sculpture.



**The Viking Ship Museum** is located at Bygdøy in Oslo, Norway. It is part of the Museum of Cultural History of the University of Oslo, and houses archaeological finds from Tune, Gokstad (Sandefjord), Oseberg (Tønsberg) and the Borre mound cemetery. The museum displays the Viking Age Oseberg ship, Gokstad ship and Tune ship alongside sledges, beds, a (horse) cart, wood carving, tent components, buckets and other grave goods.



**Gol stave church** (Gol stavkirke) is a stave church originally from Gol municipality, Hallingdal, Norway. When the municipality built a new church around 1880, it was decided to demolish the old stave church. It was saved from destruction by the Society for the Preservation of Norwegian Ancient Monuments, which bought the materials in order to re-erect the church elsewhere. It was acquired by king Oscar II, who financed its relocation and restoration as the central building of his private open air museum

near Oslo. The restoration was completed in 1885, overseen by architect Waldemar Hansteen. In 1907 this early open air museum, the world's first, was merged with the Norsk Folkemuseum, which now manages the stave church, still nominally the property of the reigning monarch.

## INFORMATION

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