

NORGE news

Thursday 14 February 2019

Trondheim, Norway

63° N



Sailing into a stiff wind leaving Trondheim, capital of Norway in Viking times.

Weather
Thursday / Torsdag 14 February
47°F / 8°C
39° F / 4°C
Occasional drizzle

Nidarosdomen (Nidaros Cathedral) is a Lutheran church named for the Nid River on which Trondheim is located. It is Norway's Westminster Abbey, the place where kings are consecrated (crowned). The current building, including this façade, is the result of many reconstructions and renovations since the original Catholic church was built on this site in 1070 when Trondheim was the capital of Viking Norway.



63° N

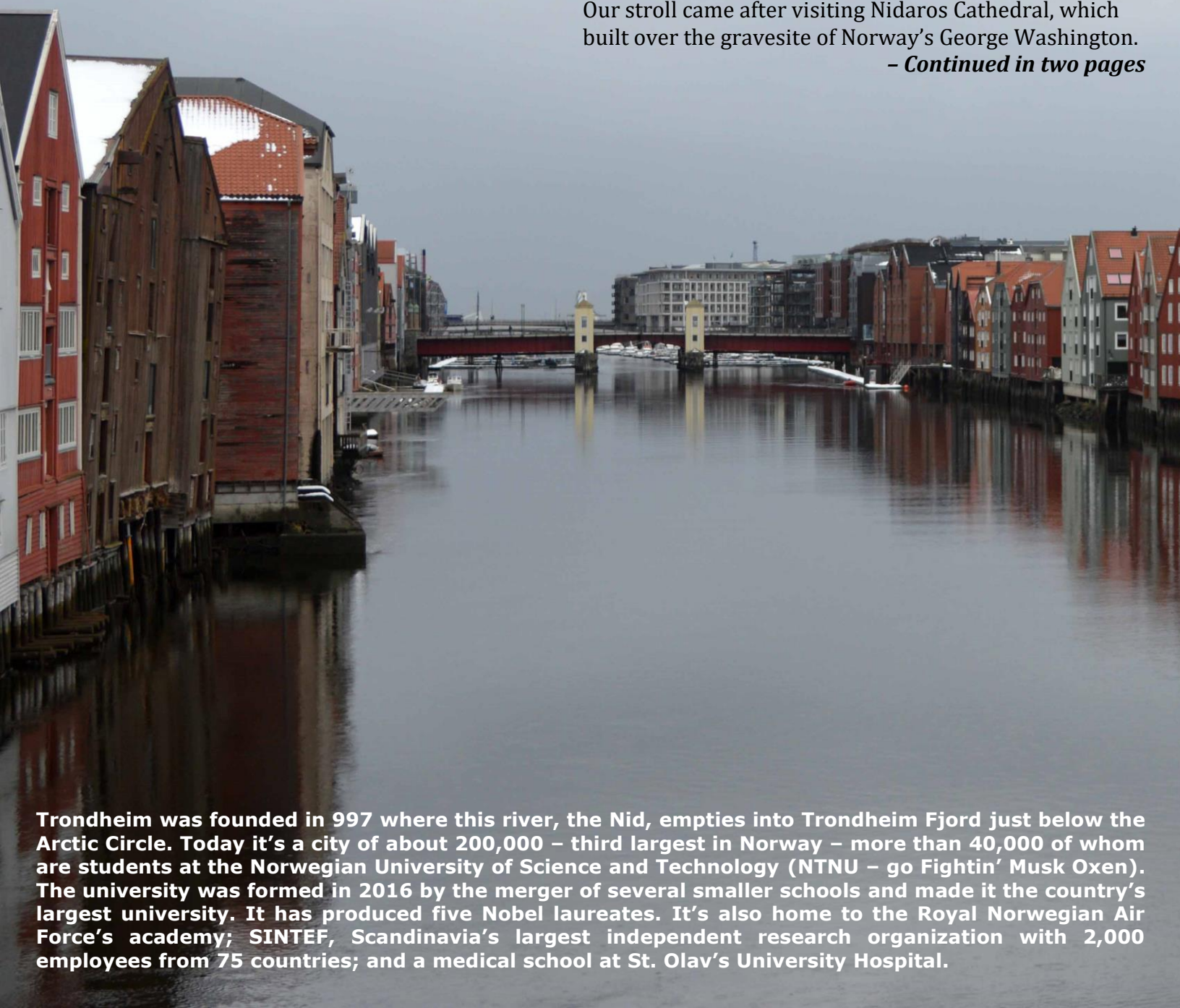
Just 3 degrees south of the Arctic Circle at latitude 62° N, Trondheim was warm unexpectedly warm on our visit. Forty-seven degrees Fahrenheit warm.

I've been a lot colder in North Carolina. A lot colder in Atlanta.

But there was something familiar about the thousand-year-old city covered by an ominous gray ceiling with old snow lying about the ochre-colored buildings downtown. It was Moscow – without the sub-zero temperatures from the January I was there in 1992.

Don't get me wrong. It can get just as cold in Trondheim. Since it wasn't, though, we walked rather than cabbed back to our Hurtigruten ship. When the clouds leaked on us, it was rain, not snow.

Our stroll came after visiting Nidaros Cathedral, which built over the gravesite of Norway's George Washington.
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Trondheim was founded in 997 where this river, the Nid, empties into Trondheim Fjord just below the Arctic Circle. Today it's a city of about 200,000 – third largest in Norway – more than 40,000 of whom are students at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU – go Fightin' Musk Oxen). The university was formed in 2016 by the merger of several smaller schools and made it the country's largest university. It has produced five Nobel laureates. It's also home to the Royal Norwegian Air Force's academy; SINTEF, Scandinavia's largest independent research organization with 2,000 employees from 75 countries; and a medical school at St. Olav's University Hospital.

A photograph of the Gamle Bybro (Old Town Bridge) in Oslo, Norway. The bridge is a red wooden structure with a decorative roof, crossing a river. People are walking across the bridge. In the background, there are colorful houses and a large tree with bare branches. The sky is overcast.

63°N

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Olav II, a Viking leader whose name also appears spelled “Olaf,” returned from raiding the British Isles and Normandy in 1015, bringing with him a desire to impose the religion practiced there on his native land and a desire to unite Norway under his crown.

Because he succeeded at both, today he is St. Olav, the patron saint of this country: Norge.

He was born in Ringerike, a municipality that today is about an hour’s drive

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Gamle Bybro, the Old Town Bridge, crosses the Nid near Nidarosdomen.

Our Arctic cruise



Port	Day	Departure	Port	Day	Departure
Bergen <i>MS Trollfjord</i>	Tues 2/12	10:30 pm	Sandnessjøen	Fri 2/15	4:15 am
Florø	Wed 2/13	4:45 am	Nesna	Fri 2/15	5:30 am
Måløy	Wed 2/13	7:30 am	Cross the Arctic Circle (Polarsirkelen)		
Torvik	Wed 2/13	10:45 am	Ørnes	Fri 2/15	9:30 am
Ålesund arrive	Wed 2/13	Noon	Bodø arrive	Fri 2/15	12:30 pm
Ålesund depart		3 pm	Bodø depart		3 pm
Molde	Wed 2/13	6:30 pm	Stamsund	Fri 2/15	7:30 pm
Kristiansund	Wed 2/13	11 pm	Svolvær (disembark)	Fri 2/15	9 pm
Trondheim arrive	Thurs 2/14	6 am	Day in Svolvær and around Lofoten		
Trondheim depart		Noon	Svolvær <i>MS Polarlys</i>	Sat 2/16	8:30 pm
Rørvik	Thurs 2/14	9:15 pm	Stamsund	Sat 2/16	10:30 pm
Brønnøysund	Fri 2/15	1 am	Bodø (disembark)	Sun 2/17	2:30 am

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from Oslo, where I will visit another Norwegian friend, Hanne Elisabeth Hovden (read about her at <https://bit.ly/2hXdmvQ>), and see her son Olav at the end of this trip. Olav is a fan of Olaf the snowman in the Disney movie “Frozen.” The aircraft on which SAS flew us from San Francisco to Copenhagen last week was named for St. Olav’s wife, Astrid. The axe in Norway’s coat of arms, and which is embroidered onto the robes of all Nidaros Cathedral choirs, is his symbol.

So Olav is a big deal in these parts, even though today’s Norway is a young country, younger even than the United States.

When they finally gained their independence from the king of Sweden in 1905, one of the first things Norwegians did was go looking a king of their own. They offered the throne to Prince Carl of Denmark because they could find no one in Norway with provable connections to European royalty – including St. Olav – and Carl took the job.

He took the name Haakon VII when he was crowned in Nidaros Cathedral, where all his successors since have been crowned and where the royal robes and jewels are kept. We hope to see them when we return to Trondheim next week.

Gordon walks down a Trondheim street called Kjøpmannsgata, alongside the Nid (page 3), on our way back to the ship from the Nidaros Cathedral. This is one of the views that reminded me of Moscow.