



- Why we  
moved  
to Bergen

**WORK – LIVE – THRIVE**  
the Bergen area

# JOIN

## What the Bergen area has to offer:

- Exciting and challenging jobs for skilled workers on all levels
- Industry and business closely attuned to nature
- A rich and varied cultural life
- A safe and stable community for children and teenagers
- Highly recognised schools, education facilities and research environments
- An active lifestyle for young and old

## The impact of history

From the very outset the people of the Bergen area were used to living close to nature. A harsh climate and rough natural surroundings have always made it necessary for the inhabitants to make the most of the natural resources and adapt to their surroundings. A solution-oriented, creative and down-to-earth attitude has consequently become the hallmark of this region. We recognize these traits today both in the field of technology and the city's cultural life.

## The Norwegian way of life - typical characteristics

- Active lifestyle combining activities in nature, sports and culture
- Your employer respects your off-hours
- Both parents are equally entitled to maternity leave
- Leadership in general is including

## Research shows that the people on the west coast uphold the following values:

- Curiosity
- Creativity
- Strength of will
- Involvement/commitment
- Competence



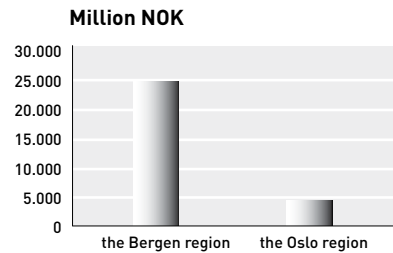
John and Allison Thurmond decided to move to Bergen in 2004, to take up work in one of the biggest oil companies in Norway.

# WORK

## Main industries in the Bergen area:

- Energy (oil and gas, hydroelectric power production)
- Fish farming and the fisheries
- Shipping industry including shipyards for vessels and rigs
- Information and communication technology
- Finance
- Tourism
- Culture

StatoilHydro's business area Technology & New Energy is located in Bergen.



### High technology

The level of education is high in Norway. Working life is generally marked by high technology and innovative surroundings. The oil & gas sector in particular has been a driving force in this development over the past 30 years.

### Exports

No county in Norway exports more than the Bergen region. Refined petroleum products and fish make up the main part. The west coast exports are higher than those of Eastern Norway, Mid-Norway and Northern Norway put together.

### International outlook

Bergen is an ancient trading and commercial town with strong international connections. Today you can fly to Bergen directly from 23 airports abroad, or arrive by ferry from four foreign ports. The international activity is high.



**"I feel there is a compromise between spending time with my children but yet continuing my career."**

# NATURE

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**“The good thing about living in Bergen is that you are not just near the nature, you’re in the nature. The city is surrounded by mountains and you can easily go on a hike in the mountains from a walk downtown.”**

## **Connectivity with nature**

Nature is one of the Bergen area main assets. Connectivity between the sea, the mountains, the people and industry is strong. It is a core value in Norwegians and Norwegian industry to care for and respect the nature and environment.

## **Exploiting natural resources**

Not only is the spectacular nature a magnet for tourism, utilizing the archipelago, the fjords and the mountains, but regional industry depends on and function together with nature. Natural resources, like waterfalls, are exploited for hydroelectric power production. All along the coastline you will find companies and activities related to the sea. Small farms exist even in the most remote mountain valleys and fjords.



Photo: Alligator



Photo: Alligator



Photo: Alligator



Photo: Hordaland reiseliv

# COMPETENCE

## Well developed public school system

Most children in Norway first attend kindergarten, and then go to public sector schools. The educational system is generally very good. In Bergen there is also an international school.

When the students have completed their ten years of compulsory schooling, all those who wish to continue are guaranteed a place in upper secondary or vocational education schools. Norwegians are in general quite good at foreign languages.

## Bergen - the student city

Bergen is a university city with more than 35 000 students and strong ties between education, R&D and industry. An EXPAT centre is to be established in Bergen.

Many research institutes in the area are highly acclaimed internationally.

## In the Bergen area:

### Higher education institutions

- University of Bergen
- Bergen University College
- Norwegian School of Economics and Business Administration
- Norwegian School of Management
- Royal Norwegian Naval Academy
- Bergen School of Architecture
- Bergen National Academy of the Arts

### Norwegian Centres of Excellence

- Bjerknes Centre for Climate Research
- Centre for Integrated Petroleum Research
- Centre for Medieval Studies
- Centre for Geo-Biosphere Research: Deep Seafloor, Deep Biosphere & Roots of Life

### Norwegian Centres of Expertise

- NCE Subsea

### Centres for Research-based Innovation

- The Michelsen Centre for Industrial Measurement Science and Technology

### Other scientific institutions

- Institute of Marine Research
- Nansen Scientific Society
- SINTEF
- CMI - Christian Michelsen Institute
- CMR - Christian Michelsen Research AS
- Institute for Research in Economics and Business Administration
- The National Institute of Nutrition and Seafood Research
- Intervet Norbio AS
- IRIS

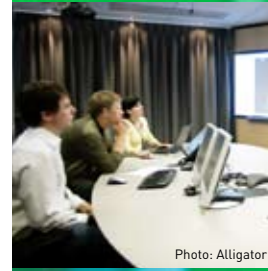


Photo: Alligator



Photo: Alligator



Photo: Alligator

# QUALITY

## Good sports facilities

- Bergen's major football team is named "Brann" and aims for the European Champions League.
- The "Ulriken Eagles" is one of the best basketball teams in Norway.
- The Bergen area has world-class athletes in several major sports; athletics, swimming, skating, ski-jumping, cross country skiing, alpine skiing and biathlon.
- There are large sports facilities open to the public throughout the region.
- Performers from the whole world come to the Bergen area to enjoy extreme sports.
- There are clubs for activities such as american football, ice hockey and underwater rugby.

## Cultural diversity

- Bergen is well known for its active music scene, with such diverse performers as the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra, Sissel Kyrkjebø, Ralf Meyerz & The Jack Herren Band, Enslaved and Sondre Lerche
- Bergen was European City of Culture in year 2000
- Bergen has several theatres and stages, one of which is the oldest in Norway (Den Nationale Scene)
- The Rolling Stones picked Bergen as their only venue in Norway in 2006.

## Annual festivals and events

- Bergen International Festival (culture)
- Bergen International Film Festival
- Nattjazz (international jazz festival)
- Bergenfest (music festival)

## In the Bergen area you will find:

- 150 restaurants, cafés and coffee shops
- 70 museums and collections
- Several bars, pubs, concert venues and other places to go for a night out



Norwegians are "joiners", there are lots of organisations and activities.



"Safety and benefit packages are important. But there is something above and beyond that – and that is the value of quality of life."

# Join us

## Bergen – the main city on the west coast

- The second largest city in Norway
- 250 000 inhabitants
- A coastal city between 'the seven mountains'
- In the county of Hordaland

The county of Hordaland is aiming to be one of the most innovative regions in Europe.

