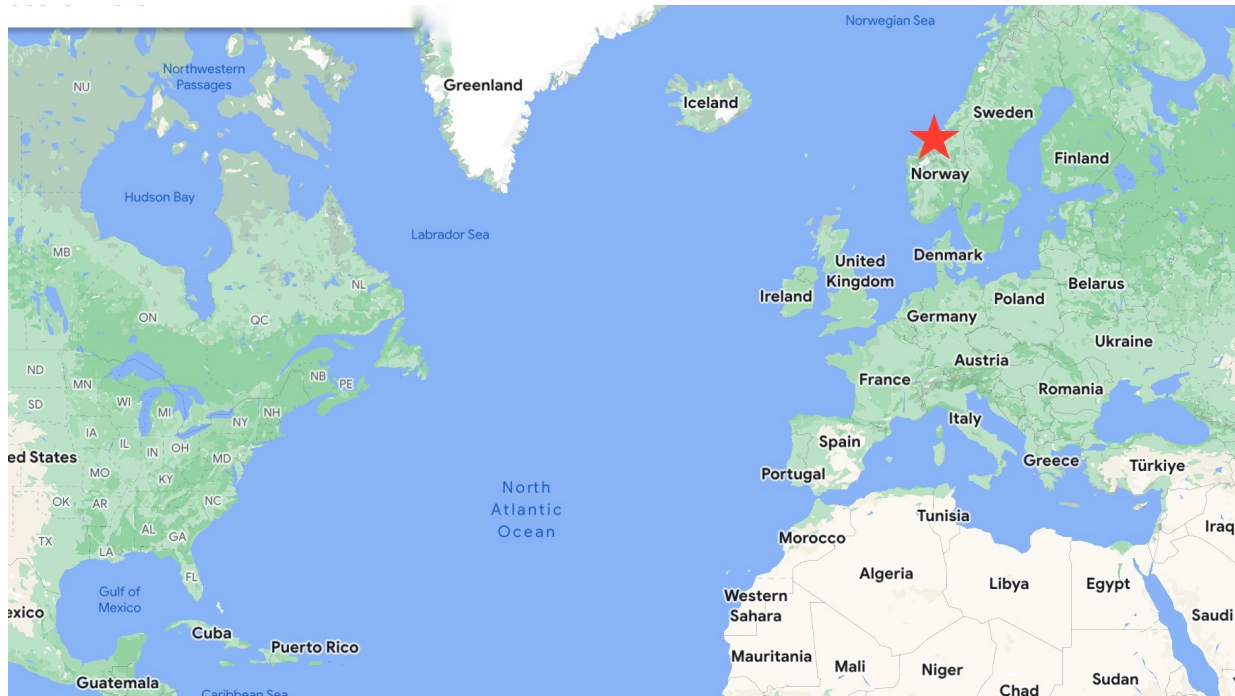


Norwegian Dreamin' 2024: A Day In Trondheim



It's February 2024 and we're in Trondheim, Norway to start our Norwegian coastal cruise. We're looking forward to exploring the rugged landscape in wintertime.



We board our ship, the MS Trollfjord, run by Hurtigruten, a 130 year old Norwegian line. This should be an authentic experience — and intimate, too, as the capacity is only 500 guests.



The day dawns clear and crisp — very crisp, at -5C (that's 22F). But at least it's clear — there was a monumental snowstorm last week. Usually they don't get that much snow at the coast.



Today we're going on a bus tour of the city. Bundle up and let's go!



Trondheim was a Viking stronghold and a major trading hub in Medieval times.
There's still an old fortress up on the hill.



As the statue attests, they are proud of their Viking heritage!



Our first stop is the Nidaros Cathedral, built over the tomb of Viking King Olav II, who led the Viking's conversion to Christianity. He died in battle in 1030, and one year later was canonized as Saint Olav to become the patron saint of Norway.



We confess we had no idea such a magnificent structure existed in this distant Northern locale. It seems so off the beaten path, but in the past the city was wealthy & prominent due to trade. The church was founded in the 13th Century, but this facade dates from the early 20th.



There are dozens of statues on the facade, but I zoom in on St Olav, wielding his trusty Viking battle-axe!



Inside, it's magnificent! The scale is on a par with any of the great cathedrals of Europe. This view looks forward to the altar.



This view looks back to the rear with the pipe organ and the stained glass rose window.



Close-up of the rose window



The organ on the left is modern, from 1960; but there's another one on the right from 1740.



Judy admires the grandeur. Truly impressive!



Next stop, a scenic overlook to take in the view. There's the Cathedral down below.



And there's our ship at the pier, nestled in the fjord.



Yes, it's cold, but we came prepared. But it's still cold!



Back at the pier, a monument to Leif Erikson, the “real” discoverer of America. Reportedly he sailed from Trondheim, but who knows? And actually he found Newfoundland, so who cares? And if you're thinking he looks cold... you'd be right.... and so are we!



The sun's starting to set and it's getting colder. It's not even 4PM, but the winter days are very short this far north. Let's return to the ship and thaw out.



Back on board, we watch the sun set and prepare to start our Norwegian voyage northbound. What a fine day we've had in Trondheim!