

When August and Harriette Gosch began their summer tour to the southern regions of Norway in 1890, widespread tourism in that part of Scandinavia was to some extent still in its infancy. August, who was a well known zoologist and political writer from Copenhagen came to London where for many years he was an attache at the Danish Legation. Harriette on the other hand came from a well-to-do family living at Old Park House in Wiltshire. After describing the initial journey by rail via Brussels, Hamburg and Copenhagen, this middle-aged couple continued on to Christiania (now Oslo), where they made their first major stop. One of the things that soon becomes clear, is that Madame was unfortunately not entirely in the best of health. This resulted in a variety of difficulties as their journey progressed. However, Monsieur le Tramp, as August also called himself, was not put off by these complications, and found other ways of enjoying his holiday, by exploring the countryside and studying the scenery, amongst other things. After leaving Christiania they travelled to the small town of Honefoss. It was from here that they began their explorations of the Norwegian interior proper. Their general idea was to travel to the area of Valdres, thence across the Filefjell Pass to Sognefjorden and Hardangerfjorden, in the region of Bergen. They would then complete the round trip to Christiania, via Haukeli and Kongsberg. These excursions were undertaken variously by train, steamboat, various types of horse-drawn carriage, including the ubiquitous carriole and stolkjarre as well as on foot. For a considerable distance they travelled in the general direction of the modern Norwegian E68 & E76 road systems, and interestingly a number of the ancient country tracks were in the process of being upgraded at the time of their visit. Throughout Gosch gives a colourful and varied account of the interesting people and places they encountered on their travels. For example their visit to the sanatorium at Bredablik is quite revealing about the lifestyle endured by visitors and patients alike. Monsieur and Madame Gosch obviously expected to be treated with a considerable amount of deference. The evidence for this is clearly detectable in some of the descriptions of places they stayed at during their Tour. These included several of the best hotels Norway had to offer, as well as many of the local establishments in the southern Norwegian hinterland. Many are on the receiving end of August's critical comments, and where praise is given, it must be considered praise indeed! Some of the people and places appeared to them very old fashioned, and Gosch describes the Norwegian population in general as being very honest, but in many respects naive. This included, for example, such simple aspects of life as how to prepare a bed according to Christian principles! However, the final judgement on their tour was at least in tourist terms excellent and he highly recommended Norway for a summer holiday. This book contains some 60,000 words

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Despite the blizzard that hit the East coast this week, we made it back from our Norway trip. We had such an amazing time! If you follow us on. THAT CELEBRATED CLIPPER SHIP VICKSBURG (Travel Diary). A TOUR IN NORWAY (Travel Diary). Log in to get trip updates and message other travelers. Like many reviewers have said, Norway in a nutshell is not a guided tour and simply an easy stress- free way to book all your transport We did the winter tour as a round trip to Bergen as we were staying Bergen. .. It costs more or less kronas (euros).

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