

The distant and remote outpost which once was Christiania, has in recent years turned into one of Europe's fastest growing capital cities, its population of 700,000 is expected to reach the one million mark within the next twenty years. With this influx of people constantly moving to the Norwegian capital, the city is expanding at a rate that even most Osloites find hard to follow. Dozens of lively cafés, bars and restaurants have popped up, and continue to do so all over town. The once rusty docks have transformed into luxurious seafront architectural marvels and pearls of Oslo's industrial past have been re-discovered and revamped into food halls, colleges, bars, restaurants, festivals and art galleries, breathing fresh air into Oslo's cultural life. Recent years have seen the addition of modern landmarks by worldclass architects and the emergence of a brand new skyline that continues to change.

minutes.

Whether you are visiting for warm summery days on the fjord, skiing and trekking in the Oslo forest or fine Michelin star dining, a visit to this new undisputed capital of Scandi cool is a great choice for a short break from the UK. Fly into Gardermoen, one of the world's most eco-friendly airports with its award winning new terminal and the airport express train will have you in the city centre in just twenty

PLACES TO **STAY...**

9 1/ GRAND HOTEL AND ARTESIA SPA

LOCATION Karl Johans gate 31, 0159 Oslo, Norway

This deluxe full-service hotel is centrally located on Oslo's famous main street, Karl Johans gate and is surrounded by some of the city's best shopping areas and top attractions. Opened in 1874 the Grand Hotel is probably the most famous hotel in Norway and a great choice for undisputed luxury. Every year the winner of the Nobel Peace Prize resides in the hotel's Nobel Suite.

www.grand.no

2/ THE THIEF

LOCATION Landgangen 1, 0252 Oslo, Norway

Tjuvholmen (Thief Islet) used to be a haven for smugglers, thieves and scoundrels. Today it is home to THE THIEF, a modern hideaway right in the middle of downtown Oslo and just a short stroll from the Astrup Fearnley Museum of Modern Art. Filled with top international art pieces and carefully selected designer furniture this is the only hotel in the world to have its own art curator. Don't miss the 'Grandfather Knitting Clock' located in reception by Norwegian designer Siren Elise Wilhelmsen.

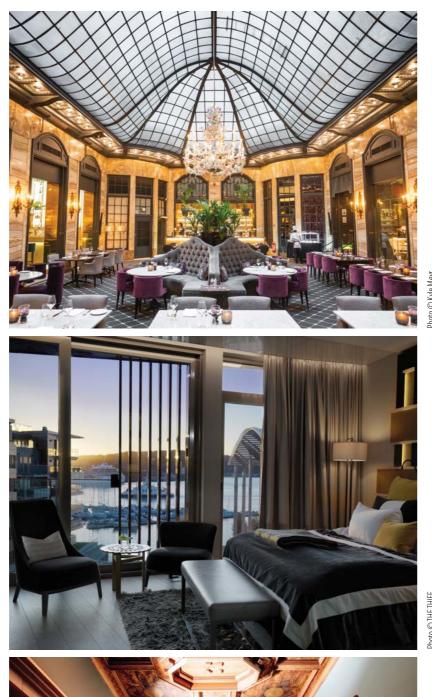
www.thethief.com

9 3/ AMERIKALINJEN **BOUTIQUE HOTEL**

LOCATION Jernbanetorget 2, 0154 Oslo, Norway

Originally the headquarters of the Norwegian American Line cruise-ship company this grand Neo-Baroque building was designed by Norwegian architects Andreas Bjercke and Georg Eliassen in 1919. Now exactly a century later it has been brought back to life as a luxury boutique hotel. Kritt Architects have incorporated the soaring vaulted ceilings and grand staircases to create vibrant spaces with reference to the building's maritime history. Amerikalinjen is not only a stylish place to stay, the food and service is fabulous too.

www.amerikalinien.com





PLACES TO **DINE...**

Q 4/ VULKANFISK

LOCATION Vulkangata 5, 0178 Oslo, Norway

A great place for casual dining when visiting the Mathallen Food Hall (a vibrant indoor food market with more than thirty speciality shops, cafés and eateries). This seafood bar and shop serve fresh, cooked, dried and smoked fish and has tables for eating both inside and out. The fish & chips with minted mushy peas come highly recommended.

www.vulkanfisk.no

9 5/ KONTRAST

LOCATION Maridalsveien 15, 0175 Oslo, Norway

A modern Scandinavian restaurant with a semi-industrial feel created by a concrete floor, exposed pipework and an open kitchen. New dishes are served daily using ingredients that are both local and at the peak of their season. Owner/chef Mikael Svensson states that 'The end result is never better than the quality of the product you start with', which is why perhaps at Kontrast they only use animals that have lived their lives free and wild. The restaurant has one star in the Michelin Guide.

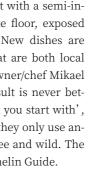
www.restaurant-kontrast.no

♀ 6/ MAAEMO

LOCATION Schweigaardsgt. 15b, 0191 Oslo, Norway

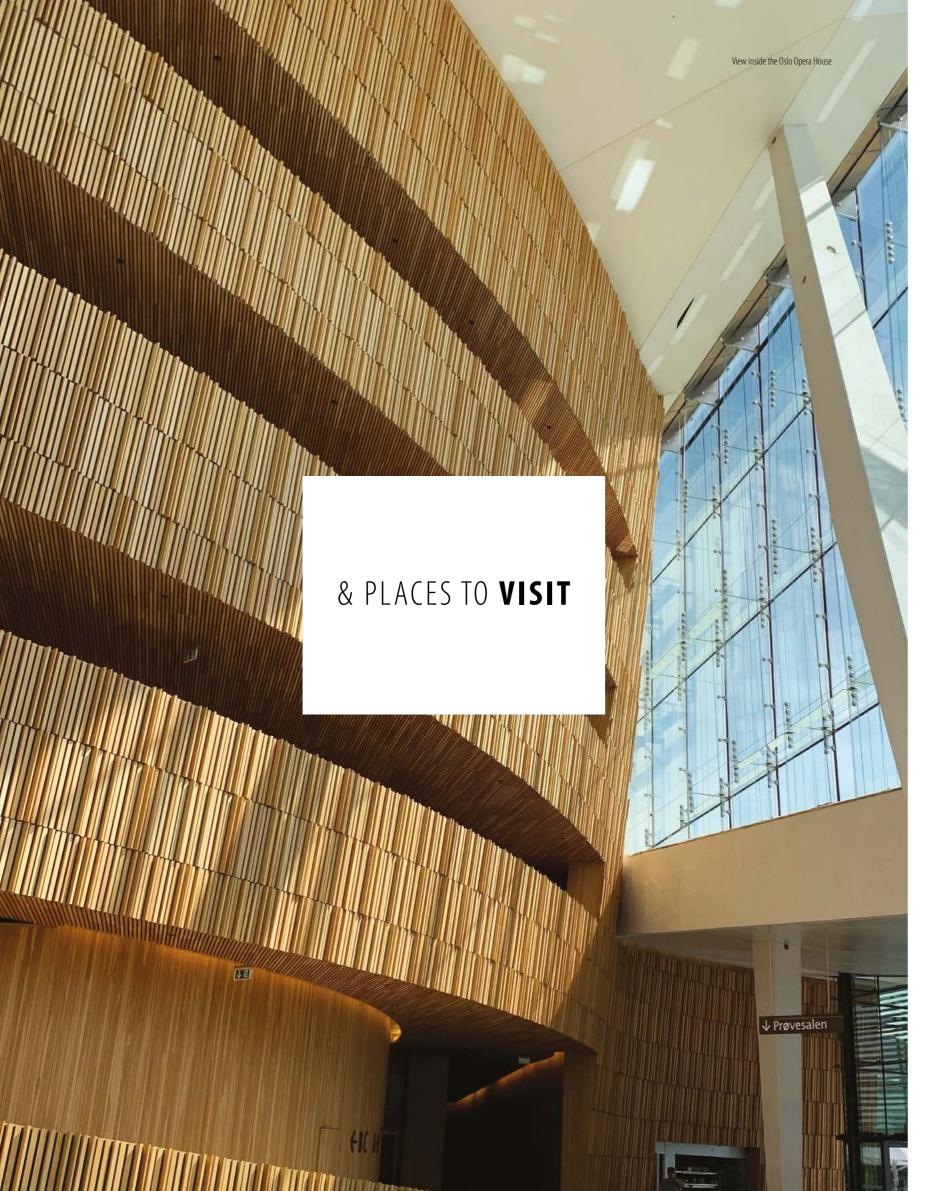
Oslo's ground-breaking three Michelin starred restaurant has won accolades from food critics around the world. It is run and co-owned by Head Chef Esben Holmboe Bang who takes his inspiration from nature. The restaurant exclusively serves a playful tasting menu that is a pageant of exquisite organic dishes. There are just eight tables in the main dining room and a private Test Kitchen table, which has a direct view of the chefs at work and modern skyline of Bjørvika. This is certainly a unique dining experience for a special occasion.

www.maaemo.no









7/ OSLO OPERA HOUSE

LOCATION Kirsten Flagstads Pl. 1, 0150 Oslo, Norway

One of the most iconic buildings in Scandinavia is home to the Norwegian National Opera and Ballet. It invites visitors to climb the white granite and Italian marble roof to enjoy magnificent panoramic views of Oslo and the fjord. Designed by the Norwegian architecture firm, Snøhetta, it has won several prestigious awards. The interior of the house is an equally breath taking vision of golden oak strips and glass punctuated by a variety of stunning art projects.

www.operaen.no

9 8/ ASTRUP FEARNLEY MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

LOCATION Strandpromenaden 2, 0252 Oslo, Norway

Made up of three pavilions that reside under one distinctive glass roof which is shaped like a sail, the museum was designed by renowned Italian architect Renzo Piano. It houses one of Norway's most important and extensive private art collections. Works by iconic artists such as Damien Hirst, Anselm Kiefer, Jeff Koons and Sigmar Polke are displayed alongside changing exhibitions by leading international and Norwegian contemporary artists.

www.afmuseet.no

9/ **VIGELAND** PARK & MUSEUM

LOCATION Nobels gate 32, 0268 Oslo, Norway

Frogner Park is home to more than 200 sculptures by Norway's most famous sculptor Gustav Vigeland. The stunning layout of the park and the intricacy and scale of these incredible monuments in bronze, granite and cast iron needs to be experienced first hand. An evocative tribute to humankind in all its complexities.

www.vigeland.museum.no







9 10/ VIKING SHIP MUSEUM LOCATION Huk Aveny 35, 0287 Oslo, Norway

A short ferry ride across the fjord to the Bygdøy Peninsula you will find the world's best-preserved Viking ships dramatically displayed in the most beautiful building. The plans to extend this museum to three times its current size with a stunning curved gallery connecting two wings of the present structure look amazing. The planned opening for the New Viking Age Museum is 2025. www.khm.uio.no

11/ HOLMENKOLLEN SKI JUMP & MUSEUM LOCATION Kongeveien 5, 0787 Oslo, Norway

This state-of-the-art arena for cross-country skiing, biathlon and ski jumping is only a 45-minute train ride from the city centre and well worth the journey. The viewing platform at the top of the jump tower, 60 metres in the air, offers stunning panoramic views of Oslo and the surrounding forests. Designed by the Danish architects JDS, it is made of 1000 tonnes of steel and brings together all amenities into one iconic structure. The museum is located underneath the famous ski jump and is the world's oldest ski museum.

www.skiforeningen.no/holmenkollen

9 12/ THE ROYAL **PALACE**

LOCATION Slottsplassen 1, 0010 Oslo, Norway

Situated on a rise, at one end of Karl Johans gate, The Royal Palace is one of Norway's most important buildings. Open to the public during the summer, a guided tour gives a fascinating insight into the recent history of the Norwegian royal family. Not to be missed are the magnificent Ballroom chandeliers (exact copies of the originals that were sold in 1903) with prisms that can be washed in the dishwasher!

www.kongehuset.no

To find out more about Oslo visit:

www.visitoslo.com

