

Norway

Business Guide

Compiled by:

Embassy of Switzerland in Norway

Oslo, August 2018

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

Norway is a member of the Schengen agreement.
Swiss citizens need a valid passport or ID card.

LANGUAGES USED FOR BUSINESS

The official language is Norwegian. In business, English is widely used and most Norwegians have very good English language skills.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Please note the list of official holidays on the [website of The Embassy of Switzerland in Norway](#).

HEALTH AND INOCULATIONS

No particular requirements. Tap water safe to drink.

TIME ZONES

Norway is on MET - same time zone as Switzerland and changes from summer to winter time.

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

200 volt – European bi-polar plugs. Plugs from Switzerland (apart from the “Dreiphasenstecker”) do not need an adapter in Norway.

METHODS OF PAYMENT

The local currency is the Norwegian “Krone” (NOK): 1 CHF = 8.49 NOK (August 2018). The use of credit cards is very widespread and all major credit cards are accepted, even for smaller amounts. The most common are Eurocard/MasterCard, Visa, American Express and Diners Club. Since 2015, *Vipps* is also a method of payment. It is a Norwegian mobile payment application designed for smartphones developed by DNB.

TRANSPORTATION

Oslo Airport is the largest airport in Norway (www.osl.no). Located 47 km north of Oslo and there are several connections to Oslo Central Station.

[Airport Express Train \(Flytoget\)](#)

19 min./22 min. NOK 180

[Norwegian National Train \(NSB\)](#)

23 min. NOK 90

[Ruter](#)

Public Transport in Oslo

There are several bus and taxi operating companies.

BY AIR

[Airports in Norway](#)

Direct flights from Zurich to Oslo and Zurich to Bergen:

- [SWISS](#)

- [SAS](#)

Direct flights from Geneva to Oslo:

- [Norwegian](#)

Other Norwegian Airlines:

- [Widerøe](#)

BY SEA

There is daily ferry traffic between Norway, Denmark, Sweden and Germany.

[DFDS Seaways](#)

Oslo/Norway – Copenhagen/Denmark

[Stena Line](#)

Oslo/Norway – Frederikshavn/Denmark

[Color Line](#)

Oslo/Norway – Kiel/Germany

Larvik/Norway – Hirtshals/Denmark

Sandefjord/Norway – Strömstad/Sweden

[Hurtigruten](#)

Coastline of Norway

BY ROAD

[Vegvesen](#)

Norwegian Public Roads Administration

[AutoPass](#)

Toll Roads

BY RAIL

[Norwegian National Train \(NSB\)](#)

HOTELS

There is a big variety of hotels of different quality and price classes in the big towns. In smaller places the choice is more restrictive.

COMMUNICATION

Norway has well developed modern communication technologies.

Telephone: The international country code for Norway is +47.

Police	112
Fire	110
Medical	113

CELL PHONES

It is highly recommended to carry a mobile phone with you. The mobile networks work normally without any problems in whole Norway.

BUSINESS HOURS

Depending on the sector the business hours vary. In general 09.00-15.00 is the best time to reach offices.

ADDRESSE OF THE EMBASSY OF THE COUNTRY IN SWITZERLAND

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ADDRESSES OF THE SWISS EMBASSY

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M osl@eda.admin.ch
W <https://www.eda.admin.ch/oslo>

HONORARY CONSULATES

Consulate Arendal
Sagåsen 4
N- 4825 Arendal
Norway
T +47 944 36 986
M arendal@honrep.ch

Consulate Lofthus in Hardanger
PB 83
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4/6

N- 5787 Lofthus
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T+47 930 48 773 / +47 53 67 00 04
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Consulate Tromsø
Petersborggata 13
N- 9009 Tromsø
Norway
Telefon Zentrale: +47 906 65 472
Mail: tromso@honrep.ch

CONSULAR SERVICES FOR SWISS CITIZENS

Regional Consular Centre for the Nordic Countries
Embassy of Switzerland in Stockholm
Valhallavägen 64
Box 26143
S-100 41 Stockholm
Sweden
P +46 8 676 79 00
E sto.vertretung@eda.admin.ch
W www.eda.admin.ch/stockholm

TIPS FOR INITIATING BUSINESS CONTACTS

During the main holiday season from the middle of June until the middle of August no new business should be initiated. Recommendable time for first contacts: autumn/winter/spring, except December. Please use English (or Norwegian) as your business language.

BUSINESS PRACTICES

The way to do business in Norway does not differ from what is generally considered as good business practice. Reliability is appreciated and that promises made are met without fault. Swiss quality has a good reputation in Norway.

SPECIAL FEATURES ON THE MARKET

Norway combines free market activity and government intervention, which widely controls key areas of the economy such as the petroleum sector. The Government has moved ahead with some privatization processes though.

Norway remains opposed to EU membership and the last refusal date back to the 1994 referendum. With the exception of the agricultural and fisheries sectors, Norway enjoys free trade with the EU under the framework of the EEA.

The bilateral economic trade between Switzerland and Norway is mainly based on the EFTA agreement. Large sums of investment capital poured in the offshore oil sector have led to a greater increase in Norwegian production costs and wages than in most European countries. As another consequence of the economic expansion, Norway has further developed its already extensive social welfare system.

Norway mainly exports natural resources, since the country is richly endowed with oil, gas, hydropower, fish, forests and minerals. As Norwegians have an important consumer power and the variety of items available still more limited than in other European countries, there is a great potential for investments in and exports of products to Norway. The Swiss label has a good reputation in Norway and could be further exploited.

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