

M/Y SHEERGOLD

NORWAY

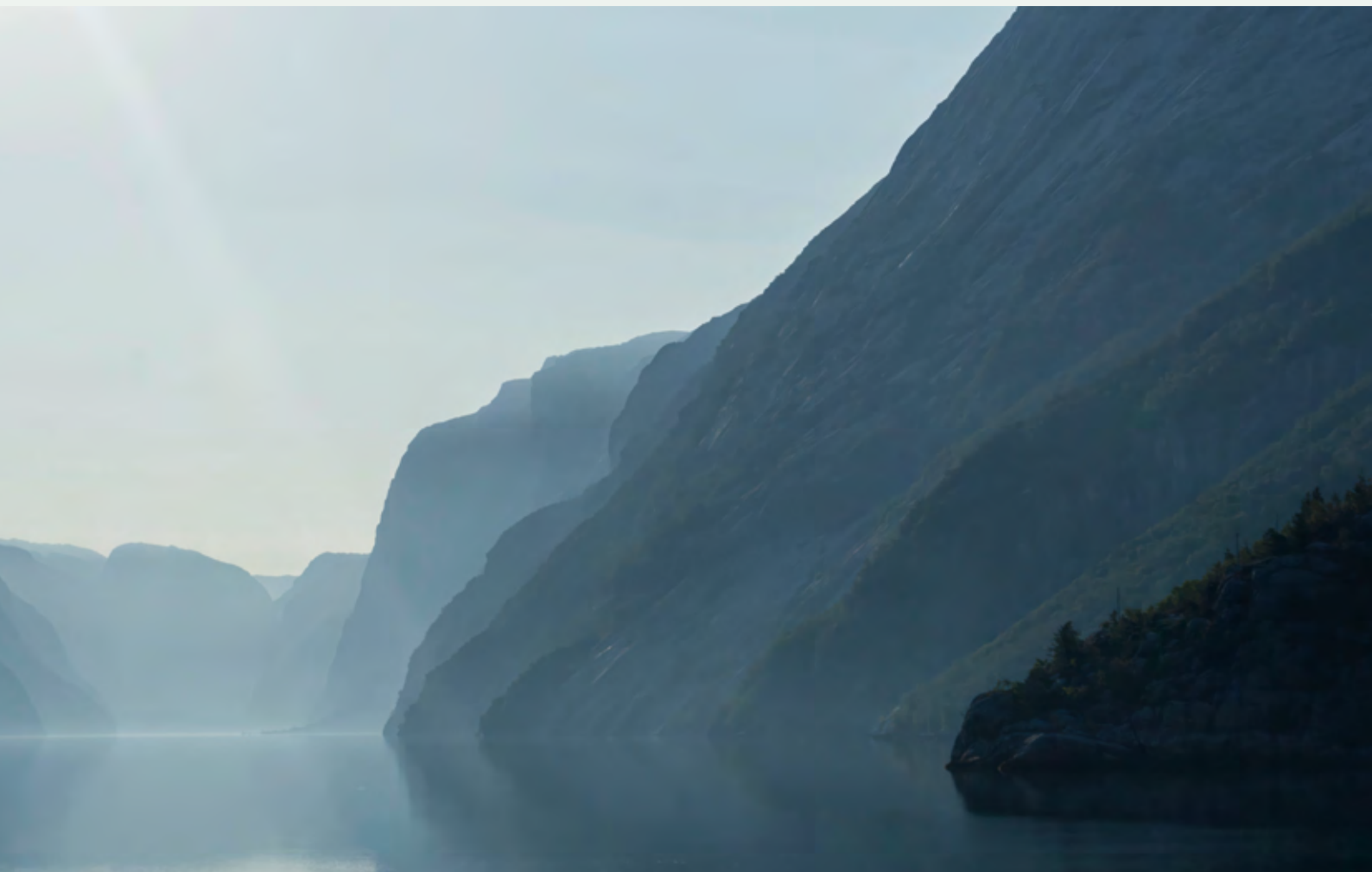
7 DAYS

SUMMER ITINERARY

1<sup>st</sup> EDITION

*The*  
SOGNEFJORD  
ROUTE

INTO THE DEEP



“

I can't imagine that I could have  
worked anywhere as I do here.  
It's the quiet and, perhaps,  
the wonderful scenery;  
I mean its quiet seriousness.

**Ludwig Wittgenstein**

Austrian-British philosopher, in a letter  
written from Sognefjord, 1936.





Welcome aboard SHEERGOLD,

This summer, we're sailing into one of the oldest, most continuously inhabited waterways in Europe. People have been on these shores since around 8,000 BC, hunting, fishing, carving stories into stone. The Vikings built an empire from them; a philosopher came here for decades just to be still.

That sense of time is what stays with you on the Sognefjord. As the fjord deepens and the mountains close in around you, the modern world falls away. As far as the eye can see are sheer, rugged rockfaces, the snow-capped peaks of the mythical Jötunheimr, and pretty wildflowers running rampant along the banks of this most legendary of places.

SHEERGOLD is well-suited to it. She's a vessel with her own history, and she carries it with her. I think you'll find the two of them understand each other.

I'm looking forward to sailing this with you. These seven days will allow us to go deep into the fjord, into everything it holds. I don't think you'll want to leave.

We hope you'll join us.

Fair winds,

ALEX  
Captain of SHEERGOLD

# The SOGNEFJORD ROUTE

Before Norway had kings, it had gods.

And before the gods had order, they had Jötunheimr, the realm of the giants. This was a place beyond the edge of the known world, a world where chaos held dominion.

But the Vikings didn't place this realm in the abstract; it was right here, in the very real world, at the foot of mountains that still bear its name. The innermost arm of the Sognefjord continues to reach towards Jotunheimen National Park; for the Vikings, this was the boundary of existence itself.

At 205 kilometres, it is the country's longest fjord, and, at 1,308 metres, the deepest in Europe. Its shores have been inhabited since 8,000 BC—hunters, fishers, fighters, and gatherers long before those first kings.

These waters were once the spine of western Norway. Warlords sailed its length, levied armies along its shores, and built their power in its shadow. When Snorri Sturluson wrote his great chronicle of the Norse kings in the 13th century, the Sognefjord was a well-established Viking highway, a seafarer's corridor of travel and trade.

By the 19th century, a different kind of traveller had found it. Painters arrived first, then writers, then royalty. In 1913, a young Ludwig Wittgenstein followed, sailing into the Sognefjord and built a small cabin on a rock above a lake. At 24 years old, he was one of the wealthiest men in Europe. He would later give most of his fortune away, but what he kept was this cabin; a place where he could think. The work he produced there—written in near-total isolation, in a landscape he described as having a “quiet seriousness”—

laid the foundation for the *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*, one of the most important philosophical works of the 20th century.

Today, Sognefjord remains ancient and unchanged. Its branches reach deep into glacier country, past Viking burial mounds and stave churches centuries old.

SHEERGOLD was made for this. A 1987 Amels classic—her interiors by Jon Bannenberg, refitted in 2025—she carries warm pear wood, polished brass, and heated decks that make her a capable cruiser through these rugged, time-worn waters.

This itinerary begins and ends in Bergen, and we'll trace a route northeast through Sognefjord's most compelling arms. Wittgenstein would have approved.



LEGENDA

→ DAY 01  
BERGEN

→ DAY 02  
FINNAFJORD

→ DAY 03  
FLÅM

→ DAY 04  
NÆRØYFJORD

→ DAY 05  
05.1 - LUSTERFJORD  
05.2 - FJÆRLAND  
05.3 - BALESTRAND

→ DAY 06  
GULEN

→ DAY 07  
BERGEN



“

We're sailing into one of the oldest, most continuously inhabited waterways in Europe; people have been on these shores since around 8,000 BC...



## DAY 01

## BERGEN

Founded in 1070, Bergen was for centuries the largest city in Scandinavia—a Hanseatic trading hub where the wealth of the north passed through the colourful old wharf at Bryggen, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The city sits between two mountains; take the Fløibanen funicular for a seven-minute ride to 320 metres above the harbour, with the islands and the first long stretches of the Sognefjord below. Back at sea level, KODE art museums hold works by Edvard Munch and JC Dahl across four galleries. Inside KODE 4 is Lysverket, a Michelin-starred restaurant with chef Chrisopher Haatuft at the helm, serving “neo-Fjordic” cuisine the New York Times described as “redefining Nordic cuisine.” Bergen has been a City of Gastronomy since 2015, and the menus here show why.



## DAY 02

# FINDEN VIA FINNAFJORD

Finnafjord is the smallest and most secluded arm of the Sognefjord. There are no roads, no signal, and it's accessible only by boat. The mountains here drop sheer into the water; waterfalls thread throughout the rockface in gossamer-fine lines. At the narrow sound

**Bergen to Finden:** 100 nautical miles

**Time to destination:** 7 hours, 52 minutes

of Finden, tidal currents push through the passage, the water visibly moving against itself. Further in, the fjord appears to end—then the channel narrows to almost nothing, opening again into Finnabotn, a fjord within a fjord. This is one of the more breathtaking geological formations in western Norway. Kayak or

paddleboard in the stillness or ask Captain Koetsier to arrange a local fishing guide for the evening.



## DAY 03

## FLÅM

As you reach the end of Aurlandsfjord—another branch of the Sognefjord—you'll reach Flåm, a village of just a few buildings crowding the water's edge. It is best known for the Flåmsbana, the Flåm Railway, named by Lonely Planet as one of the world's most scenic train journeys thanks to panoramic views of the fjord, waterfalls, and mountain farms. It was built almost entirely by hand over a 20-year period, beginning in 1923, climbing over 800 metres. Once at the top, you can zipline back down to earth on Scandinavia's longest zipline. Before departing, take a drive to Stegastein Viewpoint on Norway's National Tourist Road, another engineering marvel designed by Canadian architect Todd Saunders and Norwegian Tommie Wilhelmsen. The platform is suspended 650 metres above the fjord, constructed of pine, glass, and steel and designed to work with the environment, not against it.

**Finden to Flåm:** 25 nautical miles

**Time to destination:** 1 hour, 55 minutes

## DAY 04

## NÆRØYFJORD

At its narrowest, Nærøyfjord is just 250 metres wide, encompassed by mountains on either side towering 1,800 metres from the waterline; sheer, dark, and close enough that sunlight disappears for stretches at a time. It's the world's narrowest navigable fjord, and one of only two in Norway to hold

UNESCO World Heritage status. That designation prevents any further road construction along its shores, meaning the only way in is by water.

There is not much to do here, but that's rather the point. At the far end, the Viking settlement of Njardarheimr occupies the site of a community that

once numbered more than 600 people. Today, fewer than 100 remain, and the village has become a living museum of a world left behind.

**Finden to Nærøyfjord:** 7.5 nautical miles

**Time to destination:** 35 minutes



## DAY 05

# LUSTERFJORD, FJÆRLAND & BALESTRAND

The Lusterfjord is the innermost arm of the Sognefjord, its water an unusual pale green from glacial melt off Jostedalsgreen, the largest glacier on the European mainland—474 square kilometres of ice pressing down into the valleys below. On its eastern shore, perched on a promontory above the water, stands Urnes Stave Church. Built around 1130 AD and UNESCO-listed since 1979, it is the oldest surviving stave church in Norway, but the carved portal on its north wall is older still, salvaged from a previous church on the same site. The carvings are in what art historians call

→

**Nærøyfjord to Lusterfjord:** 25 nautical miles

**Time to destination:** 1 hour, 55 minutes



→ the Urnes style: interlaced animals and vines that carry the last traces of Viking ornament into the Christian era. Norway had shifted from paganism to Christianity only a few generations before Urnes was built, and you can feel the overlap here. Continuing up the Fjærlandsfjord, the glacier arms Bøyabreen and Supphellebreen both meet at the valley floor

**Lusterfjord to Fjærland:** 18.7 nautical miles

**Time to destination:** 1 hour, 26 minutes

at Fjærland. Both are branches of Jostedalbreen. Guided walks onto the glacier are available, as are kayaking and hiking routes ranging from an easy hour to a full day on the mountain. Be sure to plan your day ahead of time.

Balestrand, on the northern shore of Sognefjord, was a magnet for 19th century painters, writers,

and European royalty; it was a place of unusual refinement for somewhere so remote. Just south of the village, a pair of Viking burial mounds yielded a boat burial with two skeletons, jewellery, and weapons; one mound is now topped with a statue of King Bele, erected by Kaiser Wilhelm II during one of his annual summer visits. The Kviknes Hotel, which

**Fjærland to Balestrand:** 13.4 nautical miles

**Time to destination:** 1 hour, 2 minutes

has been receiving guests since 1877, still stands at the waterfront—the Kaiser is said to have received news of the outbreak of the First World War from a chair in its carved wooden lounge.



## DAY 06

## GULEN

Gulen sits at the mouth of the Sognefjord, where the fjord opens onto the North Sea across a scatter of more than 1,500 islands. The area was of critical importance in the Second World War, and these waters hold more than 25 wrecks within diving range. The most celebrated is *Frankenwald*, a 122-metre German freighter that ran aground on 6 January 1940 and settled upright on the seabed. Voted Norway's best wreck, she is large enough to require several dives to explore fully. For those who prefer marine life, there's Stingray City, named for the near-certainty of encountering thorn-tail rays gliding across the sandy bottom while, nestled among dense kelp forests, wolffish, dogfish, and nudibranchs make themselves at home.

**Balestrand to Gulen:** 58 nautical miles

**Time to destination:** 6 hours

DAY 07

# BERGEN

One final day on board SHEERGOLD, en route to Bergen. The journey back follows the outer coast. This landscape is called skjærgård in Norwegian, a fringe of skerries and small islands where fjords give way to the rough North Sea. If you're lucky, you'll

spot harbour seals watching from rocks; porpoises surfacing to spot opportunities to play; perhaps even a white-tailed eagle soaring overhead, their two-metre wingspan casting shadows over the world beneath. Without an itinerary today, the day is slow

and yours—enjoy a last, lazy day on your way to disembark.

**Gulen to Bergen:** 48 nautical miles  
**Time to destination:** 2 hours and 16 mins





**M/Y SHEERGOLD**

42m (137'1") | Amels | 1987/2025

Beam	8.05 m (26'5")
Draft	2.8 m (9'2")
Cabins	4
Guests	10
Maximum speed	13.5 knots
Cruising speed	11.5 knots
Charter rates	€140,000/150,000 + expenses



While she may look like a classic, SHEERGOLD is built for adventure. She is ideal for unhurried days at sea—wherever that sea may be. Her heated decks make her supremely comfortable for high-latitude cruising.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT SHEERGOLD](#)

# NORWAY *in* the WINTER

SWAP SUMMER'S MIDNIGHT  
SUN FOR WINTER'S  
NORTHERN LIGHTS.

IN THE FJORDS OF NORTHERN  
NORWAY, IN THE MONTHS  
WHERE DAYLIGHT BARELY  
REACHES BETWEEN STEEP,  
CRAGGY CLIFF FACES, AN  
EXTRAORDINARY SPECTACLE  
TAKES PLACE.

THE HERRING ARRIVE FIRST,  
TURNING THE BLUE WATER  
OF THE FJORDS SILVER.  
THEN THE ORCAS, HUNTING  
IN PODS, FOLLOWED BY  
HUMPBACKS, GLIDING IN  
THROUGH THE CHAOS.

AND ABOVE IT ALL, ON A  
GOOD NIGHT, THE NORTHERN  
LIGHTS PAINT THE SKY.

SHEERGOLD  
IS AVAILABLE  
IN NORWAY  
THIS WINTER.

REQUEST OUR WINTER  
BROCHURE.





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Pierluigi Mesolella

#### TEXT

Chloé Braithwaite

#### PHOTO CREDITS

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*The*  
**SOGNEFJORD ROUTE**  
INTO THE DEEP