

Summer Festivals In Norway

June

Viking Festival

Karmøy, June. Bringing **Viking history and culture** to life, this festival in the coastal community of Karmøy, half-way between Bergen and Stavanger, is the largest of its kind in this part of Norway. Taking place in a reconstructed Viking settlement, [the Viking festival](#), which centers around a big market, offers archery workshops, Viking music, Viking arts and crafts, Viking food, storytelling, sports and more. Next: 4-7 June 2015.

Grieg in Bergen

Bergen, June-August. This 10-week festival, which celebrated its 17th year in 2013, is Bergen's largest event for **classical music**, with some 40 concerts taking place in Korskirken (The Church of the Cross) between June and August. Next: 15 June - 22 August 2015. Read more about the [Grieg in Bergen Festival](#).

Norwegian Wood Festival

Oslo, June. Started back in 1992, the Norwegian Wood Festival is now **Norway's top rock music festival** – and a highlight of the summer calendar. The festival, held in Frognerbadet in western Oslo, attracts big names – Alanis Morissette, Mark Knopfler, Nick Cave and the Foo Fighters (among many others) have all performed here in recent years. Next: 10-13 June 2015. Read more about the [Norwegian Wood Festival](#).

Arts Festival of Northern Norway

Harstad, June. First held in 1965, this festival is the region's largest cultural event, reflecting the **many faces of Arctic Norway**, and its cultural links to the outside world, through music, theatre, dance and art exhibitions, as well as performances for children. Next: 20-27 June 2015. Read more about the [Arts Festival of Northern Norway](#).

Oslo Pride

Oslo, June. Known as "Skeive Dager" in Norwegian, Oslo Gay Pride is the largest cultural event for Norway's **lesbian and gay** community. Events include a film festival, concerts, exhibitions, entertainment, political debates and a large festival area on Rådhusplassen, just outside City Hall. Next: Dates yet to be announced. Read more about [Oslo Pride](#).

Midnight Sun Marathon

Tromsø, June. The **world's northernmost marathon** attracts every year runners from over 50 nations, who compete at night, but in broad daylight – courtesy of the midnight sun, which doesn't set in this part of Arctic Norway from mid-May to mid-July. The marathon itself is the main event, but there is also a half-marathon, a 6-mile race, a 2-mile fun-run, and a children's race, so the whole family can take part. Please note that pre-registration is necessary. Next: 20 June 2015. Read more about the [Midnight Sun Marathon](#).

Ekstremsportveko

Voss, June. International **extreme sports competition** attracting hundreds of top national and international athletes, as well as devoted fans. Sports represented include sky-diving, rafting, kayaking, paragliding, hang-gliding, climbing, BASE and MTB Freeride. There are also concerts throughout the festival. Next: 21-28 June 2015. Read more about [Ekstremsportveko](#).

Risør Chamber Music Festival

Risør, June-July. Established in 1991, and for several years under the direction of Leif Ove Andsnes, one of Norway's (and the world's) most talented classical pianists, this music festival presents an exciting repertoire covering a broad range of music from the 18th century to the present day, and the best of Norwegian and contemporary music. Next: To be announced. Read more about the [Risør Chamber Music Festival](#).

Oscarsborg Akustiske

Drøbak, June. This **acoustic music festival** takes place in picturesque surroundings in the town of Drøbak along the Oslofjord, not far from central Oslo. The festival has a strong focus on domestic bands, both new and established – perfect if you want to explore Norway's current, acoustic music scene. Next: 26-27 June 2015. Read more about [Oscarsborg Akustiske \(only in Norwegian\)](#).

July

Kongsberg Jazz Festival

One of Scandinavia's top jazz festivals, held in July every year, the Kongsberg Jazz Festival has since 1965 attracted big names to this little town west of Oslo. The four-day festival focuses on contemporary jazz, and many events are free. Next: 1-4 July 2015. Read more about the [Kongsberg Jazz Festival](#).

Førde International Folk Music Festival

Førde, July. This is Scandinavia's main festival for **folk, world and acoustic traditional music**. The programme includes concerts, but also workshops, exhibitions, children's events, dance evenings and more. Next: 1-5 July 2015. Read more about the [Førde Festival](#).

Riddu Riddu Festival

Kåfjord, July. This Sami festival in Northern Norway puts on an extensive programme featuring music, film and art from around the world, attracting some 200 artists and 3,000 visitors every year. There are many activities for children too. A platform for various indigenous and non-indigenous people to meet, [Riddu Riddu](#) celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2011. Next: 8-12 July 2015.

The Træna Festival

Træna, July. A music festival out of the ordinary, set on the island of Træna, more than 60 kilometres off the Helgeland Coast in Northern Norway. Visitors arrive by boat and camp on the island as alternative accommodation is limited. Rugged nature provides a special background for the music, which consists of local bands for the main part. The setting makes up for the lack of big names, particularly later in the evening when the midnight sun creates a magical atmosphere. Next: 9-11 July 2015. Read more about [The Træna Festival](#).

Molde International Jazz Festival

Molde, July. Established in 1961, this is **Norway's largest jazz festival**, and Europe's oldest, showcasing jazz from all corners of the world, and attracting some of the biggest names in the field, from Herbie Hancock to Jamie Cullum, as well as some emerging home-grown talent. 100 concerts, many of them free. Next: 13-18 July 2015. Read more about the [Molde Festival](#).

Slottsfjell Festival

Tønsberg, July. For over a hundred years, this has been a site for music and festivities. To this day major international names are booked on a yearly basis to perform at this festival, set amid the ruins of a medieval fortress. Next: 16-18 July 2015. Read more about the [Slottsfjell Festival](#).

Gladmat Festival

Stavanger, July. **Scandinavia's largest food festival** is a popular event, drawing some 250,000 visitors every year. Offering an arena for consumers and food producers to meet, the festival is a great place to discover niche products, taste local ingredients and get the lowdown on the latest culinary trends. Popular cooking classes cover anything from Italian food and wine to gluten-free tapas, and the odd celebrity chef has been known to make an appearance - Gordon Ramsay was guest of honour in 2010. Next: 22-25 July 2015. Read more about the [Gladmat Festival](#).

Månefestivalen

Fredrikstad, July. **Gamlebyen, Fredrikstad's Old Town**, makes an interesting and unique setting for this home-grown festival, which features concerts, street entertainment, outdoor cinema, local food and more. Take the kids along - this is a child-friendly event. Next: 24-26 July 2015. Read more about [Månefestivalen](#).

Norway Cup

Oslo, July-August. Every summer, Norway hosts the **world's largest football tournament for children** and young people, the Norway Cup. The tournament, which dates back to 1972, is hugely popular - in 2010 it attracted some 30,000 participants, with 1,380 teams from 54 nations. Next: 26 July - 1 August 2015. Read more about [Norway Cup](#).

St Olav Festival

Trondheim, late July-early August. The largest festival in Trondheim is Olavsfestdagene (St. Olav Festival), which celebrates **Norway's historical and religious heritage**, as well as its patron saint, Olaf II Haraldsson. Many of the events take place in Nidarosdomen, Norway's largest cathedral, an important pilgrimage centre. Expect concerts, church services, riding contests, a bustling medieval market, and more. The festival celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2012. Next: 28 July - 2 August 2015. Read more about the [St Olav Festival](#).

August

Notodden Blues Festival

Notodden, July-August. First arranged in 1988, this festival in Telemark now attracts well over 20,000 visitors every year, and is the largest of its kind in Scandinavia. Many **big blues names** have played here in the past two decades, among them Jeff Healey, Solomon Burke, Joe Bonamassa, Beth Hart, Gary Moore, Jack Bruce, Robin Trower, Ray Davies, Buddy Guy and John Mayall. Workshops and youth seminars also form part of the programme. Next: 30 July - 2 August 2015. Read more about the [Notodden Blues Festival](#).

The Hamsun Days

Hamarøy, late August. This is a unique festival celebrating the work and life of the famous author and Nobel Prize Laureate Knut Hamsun (1859-1952), widely regarded as the **father of the Norwegian novel**. The 10-day festival, a forum for literature, music, theatre, and art and folk traditions, takes place on Hamarøy, where Hamsun grew up. Every other year only. Next: 3-7 August 2016. Read more about the [Hamsun Days festival](#).

Risør Wooden Boat Festival

Risør, August. The picturesque seaside town of Risør, famed for its white wooden buildings and its pretty harbour, celebrates its maritime heritage with this hugely popular festival, which attracts **hundreds of wooden boats** every year during the busiest weekend in the town's calendar. The bustling harbour is the centre of the action, with sea culture and traditional handicrafts very much in focus, but there are also street parades and entertainment all throughout Risør. A real festive atmosphere, and a great time to visit this Sørlandet idyll. Next: 6-8 August 2015. Read more about the [Risør Festival](#).

Peer Gynt Festival

Vinstra, July-August. Named after Ibsen's famous character, the festival, which features some 30 events in 15 different locations in and around Vinstra in the Gudbrandsdalen Valley, aims to **bring Ibsen's work to a larger audience**. Events include theatre, concerts, art exhibitions, literary lectures, stand up comedy (performed by both professionals and amateurs) and wilderness hikes. Much of it takes place outdoors, with the Norwegian landscape providing a suitable backdrop for Ibsen's work. Next: 31 July - 9 August 2015. Read more about the [Peer Gynt Festival](#).

Øya Festival

Oslo, August. Featuring some top rock and indie acts, this five-day event is the largest **outdoor music festival** in Oslo, and features every year a line-up of musicians from around the globe. Held at Tøyenparken, the festival attracts music fans of all ages. Øya is also an environmentally friendly festival, with 100% organic food and green ethics. Next: 11-15 August 2015. Read more about the [Øya Festival](#).

The Arctic Race of Norway

Northern Norway, August. Norway's own international road cycling competition tests riders' endurance and courage over four stages of winding and mountainous roads. Taking place just a few weeks after the Tour de France, the Arctic Race of Norway starts and finishes in some of the most spectacular scenery that Arctic Norway has to offer. The race is managed by the same organisation as Tour de France and the Paris Dakar Rally. Next: 13-16 August 2015. Read more about the [Arctic Race of Norway](#).

Norwegian International Film Festival

Haugesund, August. This well-established festival, showcases the best of Norwegian and international movies. The winners of the Amanda Awards, or **Norwegian "Oscars"**, are also announced during the festival. Next: 15-21 August 2015. Read more about the [Haugesund Film Festival](#).

Fall Festivals in Norway

Autumn Art Exhibition (Høstutstillingen)

Oslo, September-October. Established in 1882, this is Norway's largest (and most controversial) exhibition for **contemporary art**, featuring dozens of artists under one roof, and drawing tens of thousands of visitors every year. Well-established names appear side by side with little-known Norwegian artists hoping for their big breakthrough, and the media used, which range from painting and sculpture to video installations and performance, are as varied as the artists themselves. Most of the artwork is for sale. Read more about [the Autumn Art Exhibition](#). Next: 12 September - 18 October 2015.

Ultima Festival

Oslo, September. **Scandinavia's largest contemporary music festival** takes place over 10 days in September every year in Oslo. Concerts, workshops, live music, improvs and related exhibitions take place in various venues around the capital. [Read more about the Ultima festival](#). Next: 10-19 September 2015.

Oslo Marathon

Oslo, September. Fast growing in popularity, the [Oslo Marathon](#) actually consists of three races in one – a 6 mile race, a half marathon and a full marathon. The event, which attracted **more than 17,000 participants in 2012** (from a mere 1,500 in 2004), is a big street party for runners and spectators alike, with entertainment in and around the course, including a big screen on which to follow the race. The race starts outside the Akershus Fortress, and takes in many of the capital's main sights. Next: 19 September 2015.

Nuart (Street Art Festival)

Stavanger, September. The only festival of its kind in Norway, [Nuart](#) takes place every year in Stavanger. The street art festival has in the past attracted home-grown talents such as Dolk and Pöbel, but also big international stars like Banksy, who, armed with spray cans, leave their mark on every street corner with their **thought-provoking graffiti and huge murals**. Cool stuff. Next: 5 September to 11 October 2015.

Trondheim Chamber Music Festival

Trondheim, September. If you thought chamber music was dull, think again. This festival, which attracts a number of **international performers** every year, is one of the most innovative of its kind, featuring not just classical music, but anything from tango-inspired compositions to folk, jazz, rock and more. See [the Trondheim Chamber Music Festival](#). Next: 20-27 September 2015.

Oslo Comedy Festival

Oslo, October. Need cheering up? This festival should bring a giggle or two. **Many events are in English**, and past performers have included the likes of Romesh Ranganathan, Stephen Merchant, and Kevin Bridges, among many others, both Norwegian and foreign. [See this year's line-up here \(Website only in Norwegian\)](#). Next: Dates yet to be announced.

DølaJazz

Lillehammer, October. A small, unpretentious music festival, which for over 30 years has been attracting local jazz musicians and fans with its **small, intimate format**. The festival is also a platform for young Scandinavian artists to perform in front of a wider audience. There are concerts throughout the day, and several free events. Various venues. Read more about [DølaJazz](#). Next: 15-18 October 2015.

Bergen International Film Festival

Bergen, October. [The Bergen International Film Festival](#) features **more than 100 films from around the world**, as well as an exciting competition programme, documentaries, "cinema extraordinaire" and animation. Next: 23-30 September 2015.

Oslo World Music Festival

Oslo, October/November. [Oslo World Music Festival](#) takes place over six days every autumn, and aims to reach a broad, music-loving and curious audience with an **annual music festival with high artistic quality** and social sting. Around 300 artists from all over the world are performing in around 15 different venues in Oslo. Next: 27 October to 1 November 2015.

Rakfisk Festival

Fagernes, November. A festival dedicated to this very Norwegian culinary speciality. Rakfisk, which literally means brine-cured fish, is trout, sometimes char, that has been salted and left to **ferment in brine** for two to three months. It is an acquired taste, but judging by the 500 tons consumed each year in Norway, it has its fans. Fagernes in Valdres, Eastern Norway, is the birthplace of rakfisk, and the festival draws thousands of enthusiasts every year. Next: 5 - 7 November 2015.

Fredrikstad Animation Festival

Fredrikstad, November. The **oldest animation festival** in the Nordic and Baltic countries, this is an important platform for animators throughout Scandinavia to showcase this increasingly popular art form. The festival, which lasts for five days, features screenings, talks, workshops and events for children, many of which are free. [Fredrikstad Animation Festival](#). Next: 12-15 November 2015.

Winter Festivals In Norway

Nobel Peace Prize Ceremony

Oslo, 10 December. The Norwegian Royal family and the cream of Norwegian society gather every year in Oslo Town Hall for the Nobel Peace Prize award ceremony, a tradition dating back to 1905. The event itself is by invitation only, although proceedings are shown live on TV. The high profile concert taking place at the Oslo Spektrum the following day, on the other hand, is open to all, and attracts its fair share of celebrities, both on and off the stage. Read more about [the Nobel Peace Prize](#).

Christmas Market

Folk Museum, Oslo, December. Christmas markets are a popular feature in Norwegian towns and cities from the end of November up to the day before Christmas Eve. One of the most famous is the open air market held at [the Folk Museum on Bygdøy](#), Oslo, the first two weekends in December. The market boasts some 120 stalls selling all manners of arts and crafts, Christmas decorations, and seasonal food. Christmas carols and a Santa's workshop add to the fun. Next: Dates yet to be announced.

Gingerbread Town (Pepperkakebyen)

Bergen, December. The world's largest gingerbread town is on display at Sentralbadet in the centre of [Bergen](#). Every year since 1991, the inhabitants of Bergen (kindergartens, schools, companies and private persons) have been bringing their home-made contributions to help build a brand new gingerbread town. This is one to appeal to both kids and grown-ups - a feast for the eyes, if not the tastebuds. Next: Dates yet to be announced.

Drekkedagsnatta

Kongsberg, 22 December. A local tradition dating back to the 17th century, when many locals worked in the town's mines. The miners lived difficult lives, working deep in the mines for weeks on end. But on the 22 December, the beginning of their Christmas holiday, they would all come out from the mines, torch in hand, and walk to the town - a snake of fire sliding down the mountainside. Once on the main square, they would get "gløgg" (mulled wine), and their wages. Then the party could begin. Today locals gather to commemorate their forefathers, following the same path down the mountain - and partying with the same enthusiasm.

Tromsø International Film Festival

Tromsø, January. Norway's largest film festival, established in 1991, screens a selection of films from around the world, most of which have not previously been shown in Norway. More than 300 screenings take place during the festival, some of them on a big outdoor screen set up on Tromsø's main square. Documentaries and short films from the region are shown together with feature-length movies by big international names, as well as up-and-coming talent. Talks, quiz, silent film concerts and other events also take place during the week-long festival. Next: 18-24 January 2016. Read more about [Tromsø International Film Festival](#).

Ice Climbing Festival

Rjukan, February. There are many waterfalls in Telemark, and come winter these turn into huge ice walls clinging to the mountain side, much to the delight of local climbers. As it happens Rjukan boasts the world's tightest concentration of frozen waterfalls (more than 170 within a radius of 12 miles), making it the perfect place for such a festival. Guided climbs, lectures, clinics and more. All welcome, from beginners to professional climbers. Dates yet to be announced. Read more about [Ice Climbing Festival](#).

Ice Music Festival

Geilo, January/February. An alternative music festival where both the stage and the instruments are carved out of local ice and snow. Much is left up to nature, from the date (the festival takes place at the first full moon of the year) to the music itself (the quality of the ice depends on the weather conditions, so the sound varies with the temperature), making this a rather unpredictable, but no less fascinating, event. Next: 21-24 January 2016. Read more about the [Ice Music Festival](#).

Northern Lights Festival

Tromsø, January-February. Established in 1988, this festival is a big musical extravaganza that has attracted high profile artists such as Jan Garbarek, Mari Boine and Dee Dee Bridgewater, among many others. Some of the best symphonic orchestras in Scandinavia have also performed here. Over the past two decades the festival has had an interesting mixture of top quality performances, including many by artists from the North. Next: 29 January to 7 February 2016. Read more about [Northern Lights Festival](#).

Polar Jazz

Longyearbyen, Svalbard, February. The world's northernmost music festival. Wrap up warm for this one, as temperatures in Svalbard in February are no joke (Polar Jazz has adopted the phrase "Cool place, hot music" as its slogan). Over the years many of Norway's best jazz musicians have played at the festival, and increasingly other music genres, such as blues and bluegrass, are also represented. Next: 4-7 February 2016.

Rørosmartnan (Røros Fair)

Røros, February. Røros makes an ideal backdrop for this annual fair, which has been held in the UNESCO world heritage town since 1854. Attracting some 75,000 visitors every year, the fair is one of the region's largest events, and a real trip down memory lane. The "backyards", where people used to gather to trade, play music, dance and tell stories, is where the action takes place. Try some local food, see how traditional crafts were performed, take part in an auction or even go on a sleigh ride. Next: 16-20 February 2016. More info about [Rørosmartnan](#) (only in Norwegian).

Spring Festivals in Norway

Oslo International Church Music Festival

Oslo, March. Aiming to put together a high-quality program of church music for Norwegian audiences, this festival, which has been held annually in Oslo since 2000, is one of Norway's leading church music festivals, featuring a blend of **church music ranging from the Middle Ages to the present day**. Concerts in Oslo churches are complemented by workshops and masterclasses. Read more about [Oslo International Church Music Festival](#). Next: 5-17 March 2015.

Narvik Winter Festival (Vinterfestuka)

Narvik, March. Dating back to 1956, this week-long festival is one of the largest of its kind in Northern Norway. It celebrates Narvik's cultural history and particularly the construction of the Ofoten iron-ore railway (which still runs between Narvik and the Swedish border) and the railway workers who built it. The programme features **concerts, exhibitions, art performances and parades**, among other events, with many locals wearing period costumes for the occasion. Next: 6-14 March 2015.

Borealis Festival

Bergen, March. **Contemporary experimental music and sound art** are at the heart of Borealis, but the festival also features talks, films, literature and visual arts events as a contribution to the conversation about music's place in our lives. The Borealis festival features local, national and international artists and organisations, and regularly commissions and premieres new works. Next: 11-15 March 2015. Read more about [The Borealis Festival](#).

World Cod Fishing Competition

Lofoten Islands, March. For centuries fishermen from all over Norway have been heading to the Lofoten Islands between January and March, to take part in the big Lofoten cod fisheries. During those months the big cod stocks from the Barents Sea swim south to spawn along the coast of the Lofoten Islands, and the sea is swarming with fish. While professional fishermen are out at sea making a living, teams of sports anglers from around the world gather at the World Cod Fishing Competition, attracted by the prospect of **catching a record-breaking cod**. Over 660 participants took part in 2012, and the biggest cod caught was a sizable 57 lbs. Read more about the [World Cod Fishing Competition](#). Next: 20-21 March 2015.

Holmenkollen Ski Festival

Oslo, March. The highlight of the winter-sport season in Oslo, this hugely popular event dates back to 1892, and draws thousands of skiing enthusiasts (both competitors and spectators) every year to Holmenkollen, home to Oslo's famous ski jump, and Nordmarka, the big forested area north of the city centre. **Ski jumping and cross-country skiing** both feature on the programme, and this is a great opportunity to watch Norwegian athletes in action on home turf. The official name of the event is Holmenkollen FIS World Cup Nordic. Next: 13-15 March 2015.

Birkebeinerrennet

Rena to Lillehammer, March. This race, one of the oldest and **most challenging long-distance cross-country races in the world**, is very popular, and attracts over 16,000 participants every year. The course is 33 miles long, starting in Rena and finishing in Lillehammer. The race commemorates a trip made in 1206 by the Birkebeiner loyalists (thus called because they wore shoes made of birch bark) to save the heir to the Norwegian throne, Håkon Håkonsson, then one year old. All participants carry a backpack weighing at least 8 lbs, symbolizing the weight of the infant. Read more about the [Birkebeinerrennet](#). Next: 21 March 2015.

Scandinavian Ski Pride

Hemsedal, March. An annual happening where gay and lesbian people of all ages gather to have fun in the snow at Hemsedal, one of Norway's best known ski-resorts. At [Scandinavian Ski Pride](#), you can learn how to ski or snowboard, hike to one of the peaks in the area, catch a show, or just party the days away. Next: 12-15 March 2015.

Inferno Metal Festival

Oslo, April. Norwegian black metal, an extreme sub genre of heavy metal, might not be to everybody's liking, but the genre enjoys a popular following, not least abroad. It even has its own festival, the aptly named Inferno Festival, held in Oslo every year in April, which attracts bands with names such as **Mayhem, Immortal, Dark Throne** etc. Read more about the [Inferno Festival](#). Next: 1-4 April 2015.

The Easter Festival, Karasjok and Kautokeino

Easter, Finnmark. Traditionally Easter was the time of year when the reindeer-herding Sami gathered in the towns of Karasjok and Kautokeino to celebrate the end of winter. Easter was also a time for weddings. Today celebrations are still religious in character, but Easter is also a time when [Sami culture takes centre stage](#), with many events taking place in both Karasjok and Kautokeino. **The Sami Grand Prix** and the **annual reindeer race** are two of the highlights, but other events include concerts, theater performances and exhibitions. Next: 1-4 April 2015.

Nordic Light International Festival of Photography

Kristiansund, April. Nordic Light International Festival of Photography features the **elite of national and international photographers**. During the festival you have the unique opportunity to meet the stars of the photographic world face-to-face at **exhibitions, lectures, workshops** or even down the pub. Next: 21-25 April 2015. Read more about [Nordic Light International Festival of Photography](#).

Kristiansand International Children's Film Festival

Kristiansand, April. This festival presents quality feature **films, shorts and documentaries for children** and young people, as well as seminars, workshops and presentations of **new films from the Nordic countries**. Many of the films shown are screened with English subtitles (or in English language), with the exception of a few films for young children, which are given live Norwegian voice-overs (but English subtitles remain). Read more about [Kristiansand International Children's Film Festival](#). Next: 21-26 April 2015.

Norway's National Day

Nationwide, 17 May. After being ruled by Denmark for 400 years, Norway acquired its own constitution in 1814 and joined in a loose union with Sweden, which lasted until 1905. Norway's Constitution Day is celebrated to this day with **parades and festivities** throughout the country. Colourful processions of children with their banners, flags and bands lead the way, while everywhere people wearing the traditional costume (*bunad*) cheer on. The highlight of celebrations is in the capital Oslo, where huge processions descend on Karl Johans Gate, Oslo main street, on their way to see the Royal Family wave to them from the palace balcony. Read more about [Norway's National Day](#).

Norwegian Festival of Literature

Lillehammer, May. This is the largest literature festival in the Nordic countries, whose main focus is **Norwegian contemporary literature** and the interaction between literature and society. Featuring best selling authors from around the world, the festival, which takes place in Lillehammer, attracted 543 authors and artists from 20 countries, and 36,514 visitors last year. Seminars, writing courses, debates, performances, exhibitions, meeting with authors, and more. Read more about [Norwegian Festival of Literature](#). Next: 26-31 May 2015.

Bergen International Festival

Bergen, late May-early June. This festival, the largest of its kind in Scandinavia, was founded in 1953. Taking place every year over two weeks in spring, the festival presents over 150 events in the fields of **music, ballet, opera, theatre, dance and the performing arts**, with many of the events taking place outdoors. With its focus on Nordic Impulses, the festival also aims to be a meeting place for creative and performing artists from the Nordic countries, celebrating their diversity and differences. His Majesty King Harald V is the festival's Royal patron. The festival attracted some 60,000 visitors in 2009. Read more about [Bergen International Festival](#). Next: 27 May-10 June 2015.