

International Association for the Study of Popular Music  
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4 March 2019

### **Proposal to Host the 2021 IASPM Biennial Conference**

To the IASPM Chair and Executive Committee:

We are writing to apply to host the 2021 IASPM Biennial Conference in the Department of Musicology (IMV) at the University of Oslo (UiO). In terms of **details about the hosting institution**, IMV is the largest musicology department in Northern Europe and boasts one of the world's largest concentrations of doctoral, postdoctoral, and tenured popular music researchers. IMV is also highly multidisciplinary, producing world-leading research across sound studies, ethnomusicology, gender and queer studies, historical musicology, music philosophy, and cognitive musicology. The wider Faculty of Humanities is among the most prominent centers for humanistic research in Scandinavia. Having celebrated its 200th anniversary in 2011, the University of Oslo is Norway's oldest and most prestigious institution for research and higher education, with 28,000 students and 6000 employees. The University of Oslo has 8 faculties, 2 museums, and several research centers. The Department of Musicology has a strong administrative support structure to assist with the planning and running of events, and it has experience hosting other major conferences for organizations such as the Art of Record Production (ARP) and New Interfaces for Musical Expression (NIME). We have tenured academic staff and permanent administrative staff that have committed their working time to organizing and hosting IASPM 2021, and we have budgeted for a project coordinator to join the Organizing Committee in the months leading up to the conference. We will also hire 10 full-time conference assistants to provide on-site help during the conference, plus 2 full-time technical support staff.

Should we be selected to host the 2021 IASPM Biennial Conference, **our local branch, IASPM-Norden, has agreed its support**. IASPM-Norden had its most recent general meeting in Turku, Finland during December of 2018. Here the plans for the proposal to host the conference were presented and discussed. The attendees fully supported the idea that IMV would host the 2021 Biennial Conference. The board of the local organization has agreed to take part in the planning and administration of the conference at the level of the Organizing Committee, with the chair of IASPM-Norden, IMV's Associate Professor and Head of Masters Teaching Hans T. Zeiner-Henriksen, as one of the primary members of the Organizing Committee. Associate Professor and Head of Research Kyle Devine (also of IMV) will be the other primary actor in the Organizing Committee.



The University of Oslo's main campus has high-quality **conference facilities**. The campus is located about three kilometres northeast of central Oslo and is easily accessible by metro, tram, and bus from anywhere in Oslo. We will most likely make use of two of three possible locations on campus, which are about 200 metres apart: the ZEB Building (which is where IMV is housed), the Georg Sverdrups Building (which is where the University Library is housed), and the Helga Eng Building. Plenary events could be held either in Auditorium 1 at the Georg Sverdrups Building, which has a capacity of 456 people. At the Georg Sverdrups Building there is another auditorium with a capacity of 76 people, three seminar rooms with a capacity of 48 people, and eight group rooms with a capacity from 12 to 32 people. The Georg Sverdrups Building also has a canteen, a coffee bar, and a large entrance hall. At the ZEB Building, we have two auditoriums with capacities of 60 and 66 people, three seminar/meeting rooms with capacities ranging from 12 to 30 people, as well as a mixing suite with a capacity of twenty people. All rooms are equipped with state-of-the-art visual projectors and sound systems. Many also contain pianos. The Helga Eng Building, a third option, has basically the same facilities and capacities as the Georg Sverdrups Building, though the largest auditorium for plenary panels, meetings, and keynotes has a capacity of 236 people. The buildings we use will depend on the number of registered conference attendees. If required, delegates will have access to the Department of Musicology's sound recording and production studios as well as an online portal for real-time, low-latency communication (which could aid the participation of delegates who are not able to travel to Oslo for financial, health, or other reasons).

The University of Oslo does not offer on-site student or researcher accommodation. However, there are many **accommodation options** in central Oslo. There are budget hotel options starting at about NOK 650 per night (ca. €70). UiO is required to work with its preferred suppliers for hotels, and we will cooperate with these suppliers in the interest of receiving discounted rates for a large booking such as this. There are also hostels and Airbnb options in central Oslo, with rooms starting around NOK 200 (ca. €20) per night. Central Oslo is well served by express trains from the airport, which generally take around 20 minutes to reach the city center. Please see the enclosed slideshow for further information about Oslo as a city.

In terms of **cost breakdowns, funding opportunities, and grants planning**, we plan to institute a registration fee of ca. NOK 2000 (ca. €200). There will be an appropriate discount for unwaged attendees. The main function of the registration fee will be to defray costs associated with providing refreshments and lunches during the conference itself. Other costs include printing programs and nametags, website design and maintenance, and paying reasonable sums to a small technical support staff (to help ensure the audiovisual systems are running properly) as well as volunteers (to help with registration and to guide delegates from public transit stops as well as between and within the conference buildings). We anticipate a total cost of approximately €80,000, with €60,000 of that covered by registration fees (see attached budget). We are currently exploring external funding opportunities to host the conference and defray those costs that are not covered by registration fees. This has proven more challenging than expected, as the Norwegian Research Council (which would normally be the go-to external source for funding such an event) is not in 2019 publishing its usual call for grant applications to host international conferences. Nor

has the Research Council said whether they will be publishing such a call in the future. We will continue to pursue other possibilities with other organizations in Norway. Leading popular music publishers (e.g. Bloomsbury, Cambridge University Press, Duke University Press, Equinox, Oxford University Press, Palgrave Macmillan, Routledge, University of California Press) will be invited to setup showcases, and the fees they pay will cover some costs. Please see the enclosed file for an anticipated breakdown of the budget.

Three final points warrant mention regarding the limitations of hosting the 2021 Biennial Conference in the Department of Musicology at the University of Oslo. First, it is no secret that Oslo is an expensive city. In addition to the traditional optional conference dinner (for which delegates will register and contribute an additional ca. NOK 500 or ca. €50), we will also strive to provide cost-effective entertainment options during the evenings of the conference. There are numerous art galleries and museums in and around Oslo (including the Viking Ship Museum), possibilities for fjord tours and island hopping, frisbee golf, and other activities. It is possible that the conference will overlap with OverOslo (19–22 June 2019), one of the city's most popular summer music festivals with acts across electronica, hip hop, pop, and rock. Second, we are aware that some branches of IASPM have expressed interest in holding the Biennial Conference in July rather than June. July is a month of holiday for most public sector employees in Norway, meaning that we would not have the administrative support necessary to host the conference during that month. Third, we are aware that IASPM will give preference to host institutions that are able to offer childcare services. Unfortunately, due to the childcare support structure in Norway as well as its various rules and regulations, we would not be able to offer childcare services.

We are optimistic and enthusiastic about hosting the 2021 IASPM Biennial Conference, and we look forward to learning of the Executive Committee's decision at the 2019 IASPM Biennial Conference in Canberra (which both Hans and Kyle are attending). Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have further questions.

Faithfully,

Kyle Devine, PhD  
Head of Research and Associate Professor

# Welcome to Oslo!



## ***Oslo – Capital of Norway***

Oslo is one of Europe's fastest-growing cities, with a population approaching 700,000 and new neighborhoods with eye-catching architecture. The largest city in Norway is quickly transforming from a regional leader to a global contender with an abundance of world-class museums, restaurants and art, but still maintains the relaxed atmosphere of a friendly and compact city.

The city is nestled between the Oslofjord and hundreds of square miles of forested hills, and is a green city in more ways than one. The compact city centre is easily explored on foot or by bike, and an efficient public transport system makes the whole city accessible without bus transport.

Norway's capital since 1814, Oslo is home to the Norwegian government and the Royal Family. The country's largest cultural institutions, which include the Norwegian Opera & Ballet, the National Theatre, Astrup Fearnley, Munch Museum and The National Gallery. **Live music is a big part of the city's identity, and every year Oslo's clubs and arenas host thousands of concerts that showcase the talents of everyone from local bands to international superstars.** Oslo is home to more than 50 museums, and top attractions include the Opera House, Holmenkollen Ski Jump, Vigeland Sculpture Park and the Munch Museum.

Oslo has been selected by the European Commission to be European Green Capital 2019. The conference compactness, venue proximity and easy availability on foot, public transport and city bikes is in line with the city's strategy for a greener city – Green Oslo – an extensive programme to tackle climate change. By the time of IASPM 2021, the whole inner city of Oslo will be free of private cars.

- *Entertainment*

- In Oslo there is a variety of theatres, operas, concerts and festivals throughout the year. The Norwegian Wood Music Festival, Oslo Jazz Festival, Oslo Chamber Music Festival and other great festivals all attract world-class musicians and thousands of fans to Oslo.
- There is always something happening at Oslo's many concert, dance and show venues which often host international superstars. The fantastic Opera House is the place to see world-class opera and ballet, and the Oslo Concert Hall is home to the famous Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra.

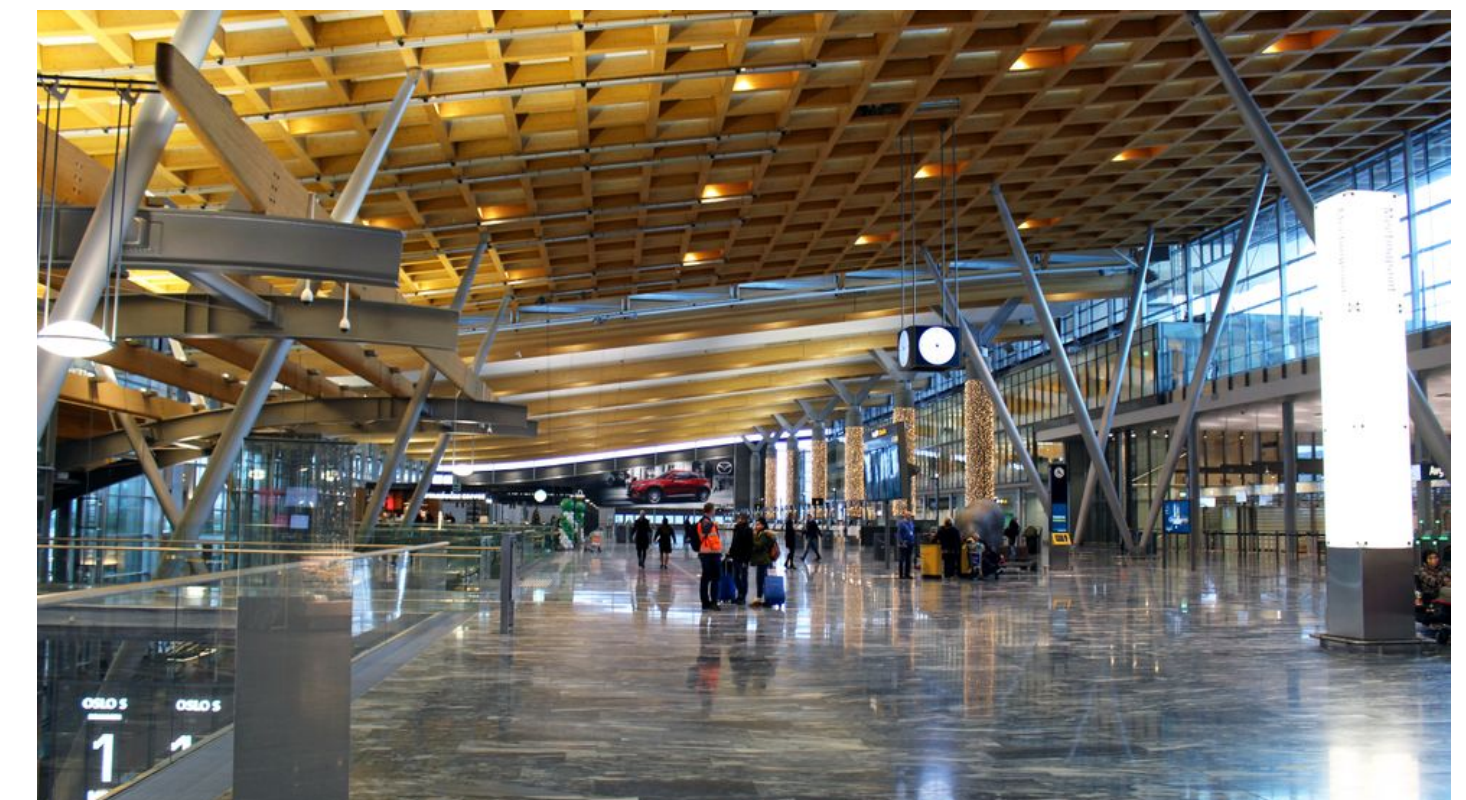
# Oslo Airport

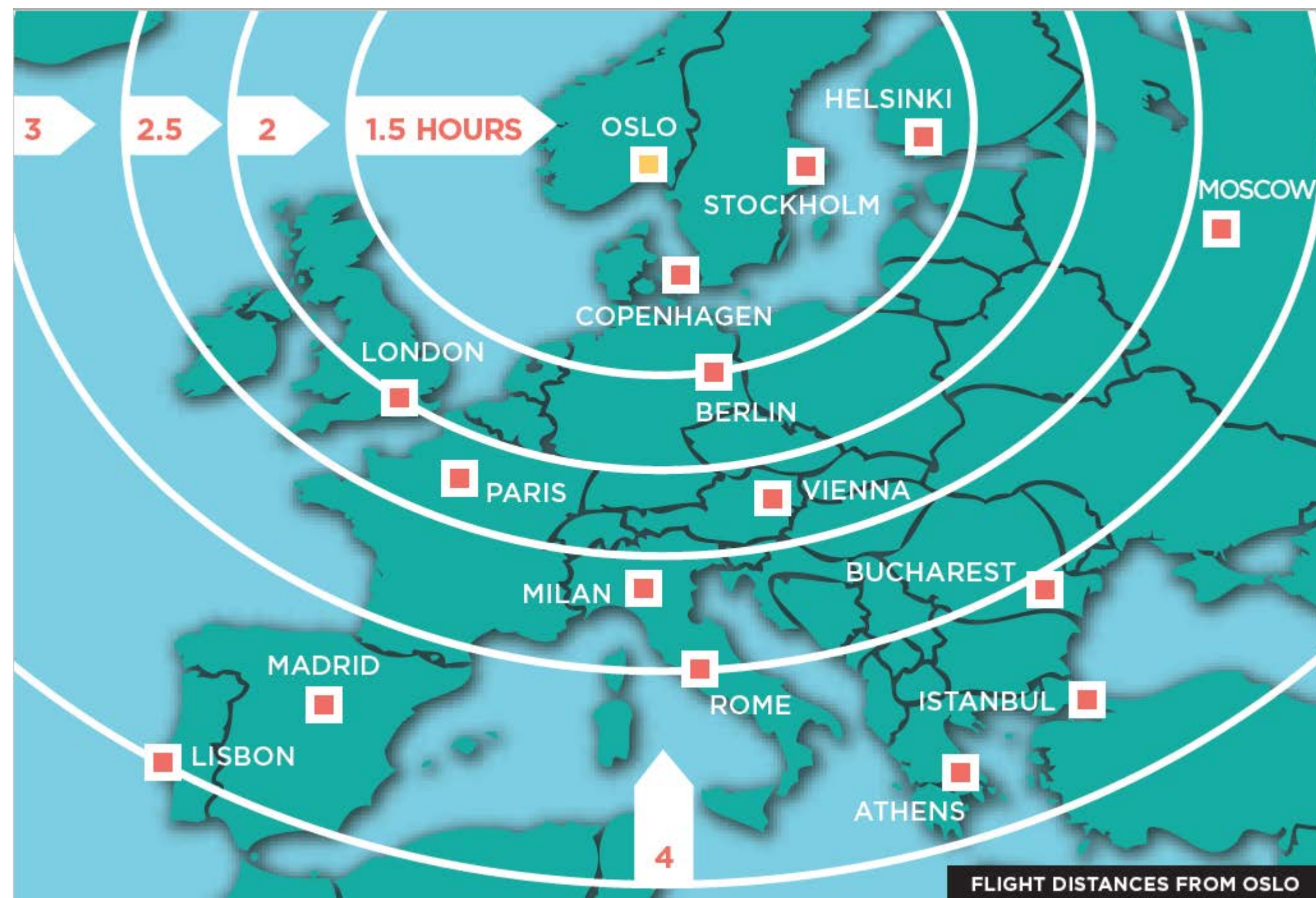


**Oslo Airport Gardermoen (OSL) is one of the most modern airports in Europe, situated less than 47 kilometres north-east of the city.**

The airport has a strong environmental profile which includes major focus on public transport to and from the airport. We advice everyone to travel by public transport, and to leave their green footsteps.

- With the high-speed Flytoget (Airport Express Train) the airport is linked to the city centre in 19 minutes – Oslo Central Station. Oslo Congress Center is in walking distance from the Central Station in only 5 minutes.
- NSB (Norwegian Rail) travels between the airport and the city centre 3 times per hour and takes 23 minutes.
- Oslo Airport offers direct flights to 121 international destinations.
- In 2017, OSL served 28 million travellers and was Scandinavia's second largest airport.





# *Accessibility*

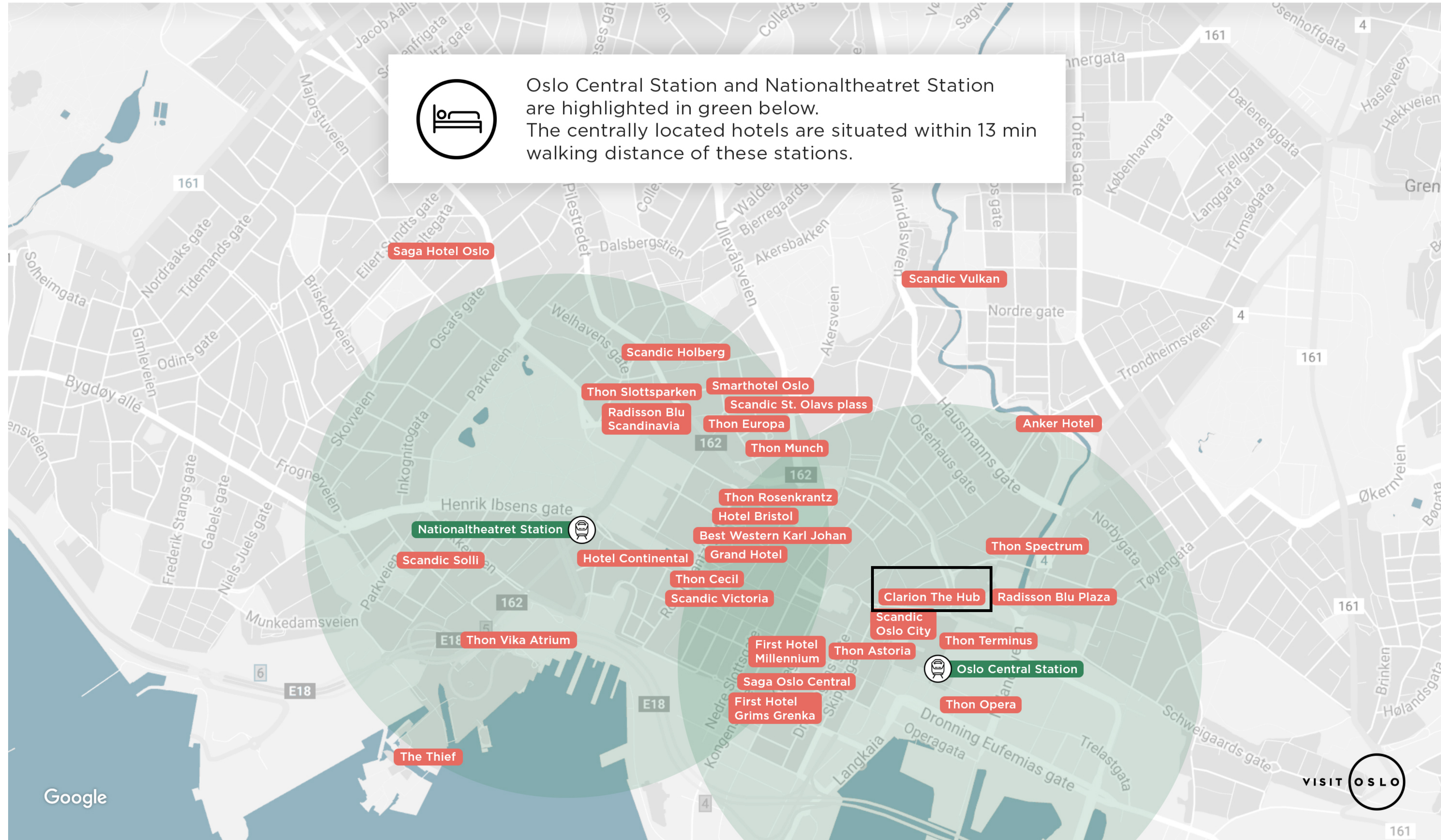
Oslo is easily reached by car, ferry, train, bus, and plane. Once you are here, effective public transportation makes it simple to get around the city. The main airport, Oslo Airport Gardermoen, is located 45 km north of Oslo and serves over 150 domestic and international destinations. The Airport Express train will speed you into the city centre in 19 minutes.



# Hotels within walking distance of Oslo Central Station and Nationaltheatret Station



Oslo Central Station and Nationaltheatret Station are highlighted in green below. The centrally located hotels are situated within 13 min walking distance of these stations.



- Oslo will in 2021 have more than 75 hotels, and 15100 hotel rooms in city center. There is no star-rating in of hotels in Norway, however they are ranging from first class business hotels to top quality bed & breakfast, mostly located in the heart of the city. There are no hidden costs, where breakfast, tax, service charge and WiFi is always included in all our hotels.

# Networking activities



The quality of Oslo as a touristic destination has been recognized internationally by serious actors such as the Lonely Planet Guide, which lists Oslo as one of the top 10 cities to visit in 2018 and Conde-Nast Traveller which lists Oslo as one of the Europe's top 10 most welcoming cities. Together with a local DMC we will look into different activities in co-operation with our partners;

## **Munch Museum**

Edward Munch was one of Modernism's most significant artists and is very well known for the painting "Scream". The new Munch Museum in Oslo will be situated on the waterfront of Bjørvika and open in June 2020.

## **Astrup Fearnley Museum of Modern Art**

This museum is showing one of the most significant collections of its kind in Northern Europe. The building itself is an attraction, designed by world famous architect Renzo Piano.

## **Norwegian Opera House & Ballet**

Maybe we can walk onto the Main Stage, or visit the costume workshop or scene painting room, and possibly even meet a singer or dancer as we make our way around. Learn about the architecture, stagecraft, opera and ballet from knowledgeable tour guides.

## **Cruise the Oslo fjord**

Explore the city from the sea,.It is a must to see Oslo from the seaside. A cruise on the Oslo Fjord takes you around a maze of narrow sounds, idyllic bays and small islands with summer houses. We will be able to use different type of boats like sailing boat, rib, sightseeing boat e.g.

## **Holmenkollen Ski Jump and Ski Museum**

Holmenkollen is the hill you see on the north western side of Oslo. It takes 20-30 minutes to get here from the city centre – the view from the subway on the way up the hill is worth the trip alone! The Holmenkollen area is a gateway to Nordmarka, one of the most popular recreational areas in the city. In addition to beautiful scenery, Oslo's top attraction is located up here; Holmenkollen Ski Museum and Ski Jump. Popular nature based activities are; zipline in the tower, rappelling from the tower (60 metres), biathlon, Nordic walking, bicycling etc.).

## **Vigeland and Ekeberg Sculpture Parks**

The Vigeland Sculpture Park is one of Oslo's most famous sights, and most visited attraction in Norway. A walk through this park of more than 200 sculptures in bronze, granite and cast iron, is a journey through life. The Ekeberg Sculpture Park opened in 2013 and has quickly gained status among Europe's many sculpture parks. This is a modern park with approx. 25 sculptures and installations today, but more are planned in the coming 50 years. Guided tours through these parks are offered in several languages.



# *Networking activities*



## **Morning run**

Guided running tours are a fun and healthy way to experience and to see the main attractions in the city. At seven o'clock in the morning the streets of Oslo are almost empty. If you bring your running shoes, we will guide you along the path upstream Akerselva or the track all along the city's new seaside passing the Opera House, The Akershus Fortress, Oslo City Hall, Anstrup Fearnley Museum of Modern Art and Aker Brygge. Or a run up to Ekebergparken Sculpture Park.

## **Oslo City bike**

Oslo is a great city for bicycle trips, with a compact city centre and short distances to major attractions. Whether you want to see attractions or scenery, or just get some morning exercise, Oslo has a bike route that suits your needs - anything from relaxing, flat cycle routes to challenging off-road cycling in the hilly forests. The most efficient way to get around Oslo is on a bike.

## **Sauna life by the Oslo Fjord**

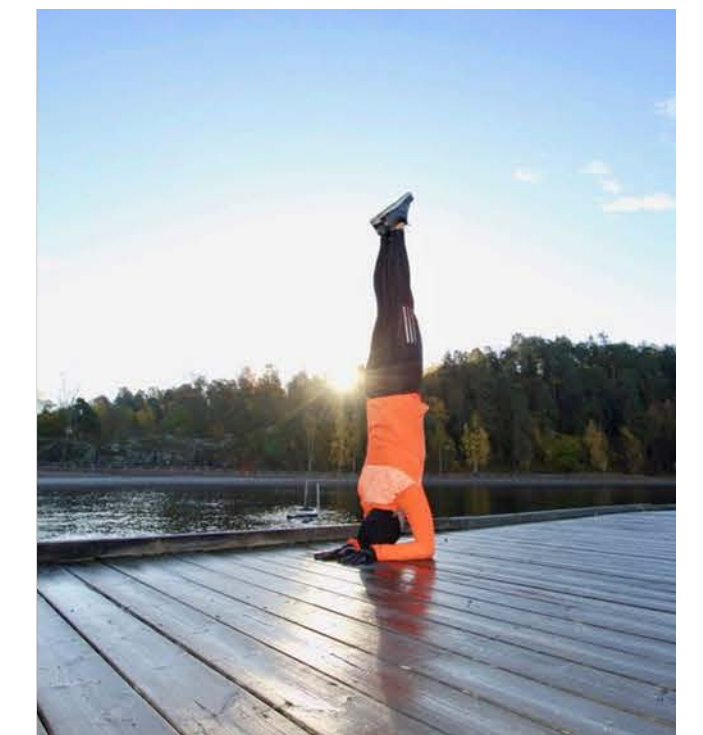
Urban sauna culture has taken Oslo by storm, and the Oslo harbour now boasts several options for sauna sessions followed by refreshing dips in the fjord. The joys of sauna life include relaxation, cleansing of the body and a great social atmosphere. A sauna session in Oslo may also be combined with cultural events and fjord sightseeing. Oslo's fjordside saunas are all located along the pier known as Langkaia, a mere stone's throw from the city centre. They each have their special features – get your swim gear out and pick your favourite.

## **Norway Heritage – Viking Concept**

Visit to the museums at Bygdøy; Norway Folk Museum, Viking ships museum, Polar ship Fram, Kon-Tiki

## **Nobel Peace Prize**

Visit The City Hall, Nobel Peace Prize Senter and Grand Hotel.



# *Hospitality*

Oslo has the capacity to host meetings up to 7000 delegates, and has centrally located congress venues from walking distance or 10 min y train from the city. Also, Oslo has over 12500 hotel rooms ranging from first class business hotels to top quality bed & breakfast, mostly located in the heart of the city. There are no hidden costs, where breakfast, tax, service charge and WiFi is always included in all our hotels.

## ***Did you know...***

*Oslo host about 200 congresses pr year, and is one of the fastest developing cities in Europe?*

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## **Contact us**

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# *The city of Oslo – welcome reception*

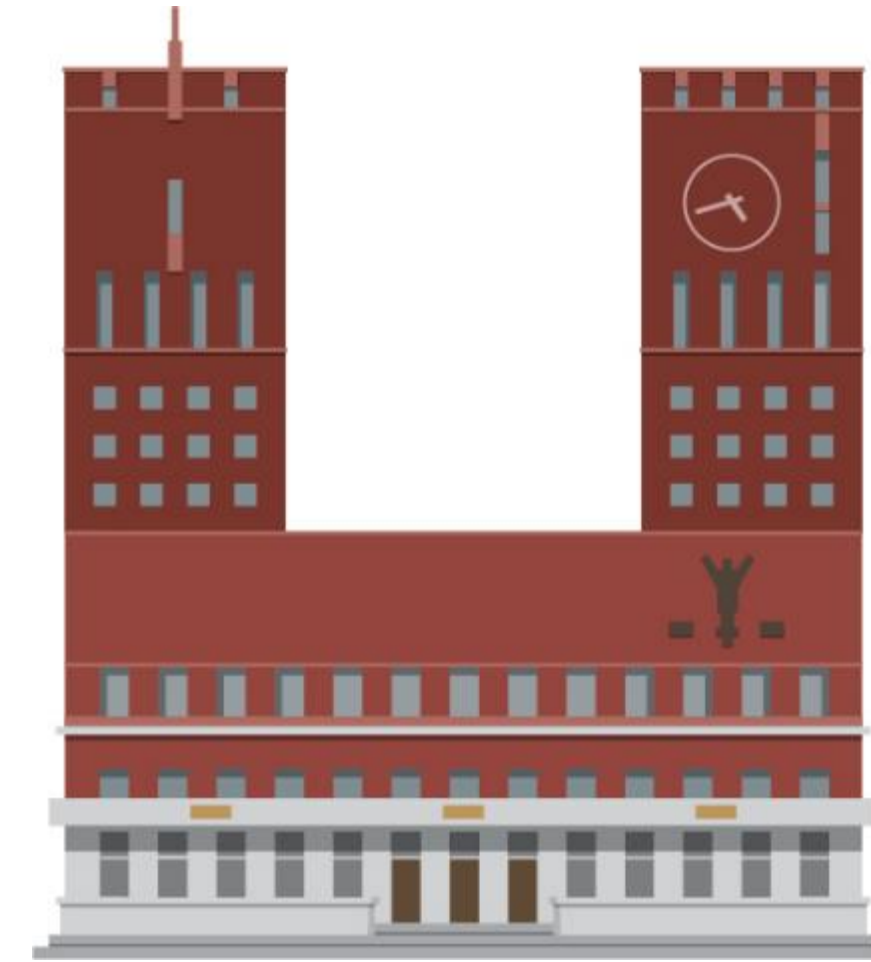
The City of Oslo offers a civic reception in Oslo City Hall for up to 1,000 people to international, scientific congresses, upon application and subject to availability. An application may be submitted one year in advance, and they are usually granted as long as there is nothing of significance happening in the City Hall on the requested date.

The civic reception includes:

- Welcome speech by the Mayor's office.
- Finger food.
- Sparkling wine.
- A private guided tour of the City Hall.

The City Hall is full of art and history, and is also the venue for the Nobel Peace Prize Ceremony each year in December.

- *Please note a civic reception is not possible to arrange on Sundays.*
- *VisitOSLO Convention Bureau will assist with the application for a civic reception.*



City of Oslo



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