Travel Information ICDL-EpiRob 2019 in Oslo, 19-22 August 2019

Weather

In northern Europe, autumn arrives earlier than it does in the south. Although there will not be frost at this time of the year, it can still be chilly in the evenings (including on the fjord trip which is a part of the conference). Please make sure to bring some warm clothing and be prepared for the possibility of rain on the walk to and from the social events (8-10 minutes walk). Weather forecast: http://www.yr.no/place/Norway/Oslo/Oslo/Oslo/

Money

Currency: Norwegian krone. 1 US$ = 8.9 NOK, 1EUR€ = 10.0NOK.

Norway has, to a large extent, become a cash-less country where payments are made by cards. It is possible to pay with debit cards (Cirrus, BankAxept) most places, and many shops also take credit cards (Visa/MasterCard and sometimes also Diners and American Express). If you for some reason should need cash, there are lots of ATMs in the city centre, at metro stations and inside many 7-eleven providing cash withdrawals.

Travel to Oslo from the airports

There are two airports surrounding Oslo with Oslo airport Gardermoen (OSL) being the largest airport, where most airlines fly to. You will effectively get to downtown by taking train for slightly more than 20 minutes.

The other (and smaller) Torp Sandefjord airport (TRF) is located on the south-west side of the city with some international flights (low-cost airlines). Approximately 1 hour and 35–40 minutes by bus from downtown Oslo. You save a little bit on buying a return bus ticket (NOK 488 regular, NOK 388 student).

Travel to Oslo from the main airport

The most effective and convenient way of getting from the main airport in Oslo (Gardermoen/OSL) is normally the Airport express train in the direction of Drammen: http://www.flytoget.no/flytoget_eng It runs four times per hour and cost NOK 196 one way (students half of that price, nothing to save on return tickets). However, the regular train by VY (https://www.vy.no/en) is much cheaper for regular travellers (NOK 105 regular/student price) and takes only 2-3 more minutes but runs only 2-3 times per hour. Tickets are available from ticket machines and apps from the respective train provider. A ticket from VY is valid for transfer to the metro system for a certain time.

If staying at or near the conference venue, you should take the train to the “Nationaltheatret” station (National Theatre in English, follows after Oslo Central Station). It takes 26 minutes and arrives very close to the conference venue (Ingeniørenes Hus).

Please note that in between the Airport express train departures to Drammen, trains ending at Oslo S also run which is less convenient regarding the venue and potentially, your hotel location. Most of the regular trains by VY stops at the “Nationaltheatret” station.

Be aware that taking a taxi from the airport can be very expensive (!), especially with evening/night rates, and will also take much longer than the airport train.

Getting to the venue

The conference venue is Ingeniørenes hus møtesenter (Engineer’s House Conference Centre). It is centrally located with a 5 minutes walk from the National theatre station (metro and train):

Conference venue address: Ingeniørenes Hus, Kronprinsens gate 17, 0251 Oslo

Registration

Conference registration Monday opens at 08:00 and with workshops starting 09:00. We encourage especially workshop organizers to show up well in advance of 09:00 to locate their allocated room and test the technical equipment. The conference officially opens Tuesday 08:50 by both the Rector of the University of Oslo and the organizing committee. So please plan your arrival to be seated at that time. There is limited parking by the venue, and we encourage those with cars, leaving it at the hotel or elsewhere.

The conference program is available here: https://tinyurl.com/y4xd8oqe A printed program will be provided you at the registration desk, so please don’t print the one on the web page.
Travel in Oslo
The city centre of Oslo is defined by the shopping street Karl Johans gate, going from the central station (Oslo sentralstasjon, called Oslo S) to the National theatre station (Nationaltheatret).

Oslo has an extensive public transport system, with metro, buses, trams, boats, trains and city bikes. The easiest and most efficient way to get around is probably to use the metro system (T). Tickets for public transport in Oslo can be purchased in a large number of kiosks and shops as well as from ticket machines in addition to by the Ruter Smartphone app (https://ruter.no/en/buying-tickets/mobile-ticket-app). You can buy single tickets (NOK 36), a 24-hour pass (NOK 108), or a week pass (NOK 285). The electronic pass ticket should be activated by swiping it in front of the validator before starting the first trip. http://ruter.no/en/ can be used to plan your travel.

Power and Connectors in Norway

Norway uses the Europlug Type C & F (Schuko) connectors and 230V, 50Hz mains power, so you might need a travel adapter if coming from outside of Europe. There will be some power connectors available in the lecture rooms but still, it is a good idea to start the day with fully charged electronic devices.

What to do in Oslo
What to see and do is much dependent on interests and preferences. Speaking of own experience, the museums at Bygdøy (ferry from Aker brygge or bus) like Kon-tiki (Thor Heyerdahl) and Polar Ship Fram (Roald Amundsen, the first to reach the south pole) are quite OK. In the same area is the Viking ship museum which is famous. Closer to downtown is the Vigeland sculpture park and museum (one activity there is to follow the 3000 m long labyrinth-path in stone surrounding the large fountain). The Munch museum should probably also be mentioned as a popular place to visit in Oslo (located in the east side of the city). A nice free “glacier hike” in Oslo is to walk on the roof of the Opera house close to the central station. A daytime walk along Oslo’s river Akerselva is another free experience that can be warmly recommended.

A trip close to Oslo is up to the top of the Holmenkollen ski jump with a great view (a part of it is a skiing museum, regular metro ticket to get there). Up there is also a climbing park. We’ll do a Oslo fjord cruise Wednesday at the conference but if you want to see even more breathtaking fjord views, consider tours like the Norway in a nutshell trip.

Contacts
Please direct any conference enquiries to Kai Olav Ellefsen (+47 4764 1058) or Jim Torresen (+47 9284 6669).

Emergency phone numbers in Norway:
- Fire: 110
- Police: 112
- Ambulance: 113

The European Commission has awarded Oslo the European Green Capital title for 2019.