



Facts and history

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Population	approx 570 000, in greater Oslo region: approx 1 mn
Population density	approx 1200 per km ²
Immigration	25 %
Area	454 km ²
Lakes	343 (Maridalsvannet largest)
Islands in the Oslo Fjord	40 (Malmøya largest)
Highest point	Kirkeberget (629 m.a. sea level)
Tallest building	Radisson SAS Plaza Hotel
Average temperature	Summer 20°C/ Winter -4°C

There are some doubts as to the meaning of the name of Oslo. Researchers agree that the term "Os" can be understood as either a long and narrow hill or as a reference to a pre-Christian God. The second half of the name, "Lo", generally refers to a field. Hence the ancient name of Oslo may either mean "the field below the hill" or "the field of the Gods".

The first signs of urban settlements date back to around the year 900 and by the year 1300 Oslo was already an important trade centre. After the great fire in 1624 the Danish King Christian IV rebuilt the city and renamed it Christiania. At the beginning of the 19th century, the city was still the size of a small town, but its population began to grow rapidly with the mid-19th century economic surge. In the period from 1850 to 1900 the population increased from a mere 30 000 to 220 000 inhabitants. When Norway gained independence in 1905, national awareness increased and this sentiment led to a Parliamentary Decree renaming the city Oslo in 1925.

Oslo is presently going through the biggest changes it has seen for decades. The city continues to grow in population and the building of new housing, business properties and recreational areas along the harbour is in full progress. The new Opera house is already one of Norway's most visited attractions. Today Oslo boasts a larger selection of museums, shopping, restaurants, festivals, nightlife and entertainment than ever before.





1000 ca.	The city of Oslo is founded
1100 ca.	Oslo's first Bishop ordained
1300 ca.	King Håkon V builds Akershus Fortress
1536	Norway becomes a Danish province
1624	Oslo changes its name to Christiania after the Danish King Christian IV
1811	The University of Oslo is founded
1814	The union with Denmark is dissolved
1814	The Norwegian Constitution is signed at Eidsvoll on May 17th
1814	Union with Sweden
1848	The Royal Palace is completed
1905	Norway gains its independence and Haakon VII is crowned King
1925	The city changes back to its old name, Oslo
1952	Oslo hosts the VI Olympic Winter Games
1998	Opening of Oslo Airport at Gardermoen
2000	Oslo celebrates its 1000th year anniversary
2005	Norway celebrates 100 years as an independent nation
2008	The Norwegian National Opera in Bjørnvika opens on April 12th