

Post Conference tour was excellent!

*By Gordon Collie, President,
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The group which toured Norway after the IFAJ Congress. Gordon is pictured fifth from the left.

I can vouch for the excellent IFAJ post-congress tour in Norway!

Unfortunately my wife Sue and I spent most of the conference proper stranded in London when Heathrow airport went into terrorist-threat meltdown. A scheduled three-hour stopover en route to Oslo turned into a frustrating three days.

We arrived in Hamar just in time for the final conference session with the Norwegian Agriculture Minister Terje Riis-Johansen and the farewell dinner.

But the post-congress tour gave us an intriguing insight into the challenges facing Norwegian farmers in the region surrounding the beautiful city of Bergen.

We travelled by bus, plane, train, ferry and on foot in the rugged fjordland, visiting fruit and dairy farms and a modern dairy factory. A highlight was our visit to an integrated rural enterprise in the Flam Valley (pictured left) where mixed farming and food processing for the local market are combined with nature conservation and tourism.

Thanks to our tour guides Bjorn Brennskag and Margrethe Gudbrandsen from Tine Dairy and Lars Peter Taule from Norges Bondelag, the 60,000 member Norwegian Farmers Union.

