

A Trip to Norway

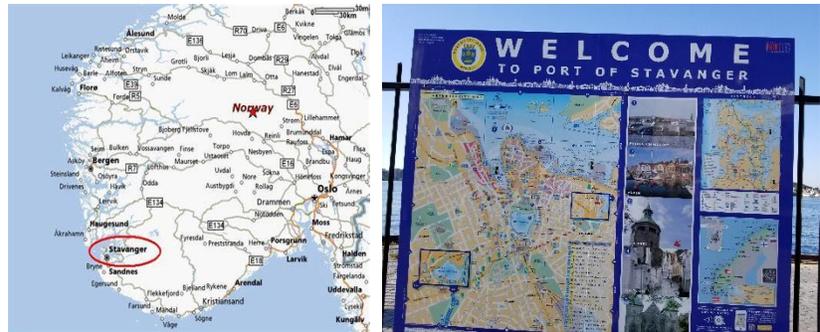
courtesy of SRA and the University of Stavanger

by Dr. Divinia Ries

First, thank you to Dr. Terje Aven, the SRA, and those who donated their time on the idea. Winning this raffle was a huge surprise. I still could not believe it!!

So now, I share my trip and how it highlighted my life both as a lucky SRA member and a travel-eager person. Stavanger, Norway is a picturesque city, like San Francisco but better – tranquil, less crowd, and loads of history.

My hosts at Stavanger were our SRA President, Professor Terje Aven, and his lovely wife, Anne Grethe. I could not have



had better hosts. Terje kept my husband and I wide awake on our first day (Norway is 6 hours ahead of EDT) by providing Norwegian meals (brown goat cheese is now my favorite), walks to the top of the huge boulder (beside their cottage) and a boat ride to the local lighthouse landmark.



(view from our hotel room)

The University of Stavanger (UiS) is located on top of a hill and the view from the observatory tower of the city is simply beautiful. Did you know that Terje is the “lord” of risk analysis and risk management studies at UiS? I like the friendly students at UiS, which appear to have the same diverse makeup as US universities.



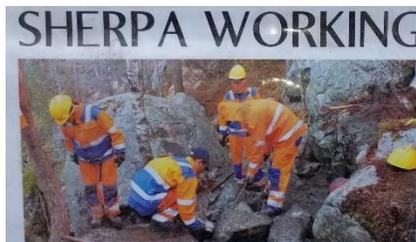
The “day of hiking” to Preikestolen’s famous Pulpit Rock was full of trepidation. I have not done a long-distance hike for a while. It took almost 3 hours on the way up but the magnificent view of the Lysefjorden fjord was well worth it. The rock formations are a sight to behold!!



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Interesting note: the trail to the Pulpit Rock has been paved by



small glacial boulders carved by hand by Sherpas, mountaineering men from Nepal.

The SRA president did make me work a bit at Stavanger: discussion of SRA visions/goals and a presentation to his group about my human health risk analysis work. Terje's enthusiasm for SRA and risk analysis is so palpable and irresistible.



At Stavanger and Oslo, the old Scandinavian way of life is visible in its well-preserved historic town areas, the architectures, and the art. This trip is made more memorable by the warm hospitality of the Aven family and a short glimpse of real Norwegian life that is not so different from any of us when it comes to love of family, pride in our roots, and hope for a bright future for the next generation.

The short visit to Oslo and Stockholm gave me a glimpse of Vikings, World War 2 history, fjords, castles, fortresses, old buildings and churches, and Scandinavian food. I encourage fellow SRA colleagues to see for themselves.



(floating house on the fjord)