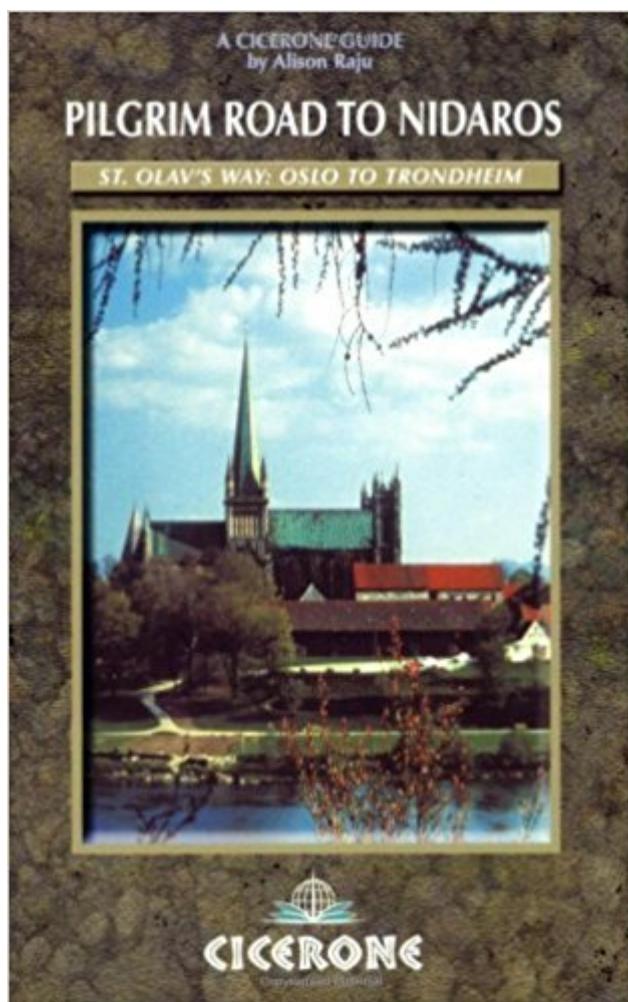


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Pilgrim Road To Nidaros, The: St Olav's Way - Oslo To Trondheim (Cicerone International Walking)



Synopsis

A walker's guide to the 643km medieval pilgrim road from Oslo to Nidaros (Trondheim) cathedral, where Saint Olav (king of Norway, and responsible for much of the conversion of the country to Christianity) was buried. His shrine was the focus not only of many miracles but also of the fourth most important pilgrim route in Europe after Rome, Jerusalem and Santiago de Compostela, and from the tenth century until the Reformation it attracted pilgrims not only from Norway and the rest of Scandinavia but from Russia, the Baltic countries, Germany and Britain as well. Cleared and waymarked in 1997 The route has been 'rediscovered', and is being actively promoted as a walking pilgrim path. This is the only guide to the route in English. As well as giving directions for walking the route, the book also provides information on places of interest along the way and the history of the pilgrimage, a list of suggestions for further reading and a glossary of geographical and useful terms.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

'This is a walker's guide of the 643km medieval pilgrim route from Oslo to Nidaros Cathedral, Trondheim, where Saint Olav was buried. Saint Olav, king of Norway, was responsible for much of the conversion of the country to Christianity. Visits to his shrine, the focus of many miracles, culminated in the route becoming the fourth most important pilgrim route in Europe, after Rome, Jerusalem and Santiago de Compostela. Following the arrival of the Reformation in Norway and the prohibition of pilgrims, the route fell into disuse some time after 1537. Between 1994 and 1996, however, many of the old tracks were cleared and re-opened and the western (cultural) route, via

Gjovik, was waymarked in its entirety in 1997. This coincided with the millennium of the founding of Nidaros Cathedral. The eastern route goes via Hamar and waymarking was completed in 2000. The two branches join up about 20km north of Lillehammer. Directions for both branches are covered in the guidebook. The introduction contains a brief history about Saint Olav and the pilgrimage routes that developed following his death in 1030. It is estimated that pilgrims took 25 days to cover the route from Oslo to Nidaros, many aiming to arrive on the saint's day (July 29th). The author informs us that, unlike his historical counterpart, the modern pilgrim no longer returns home by foot; thus the route is waymarked only in one direction. Along the way one can visit many of the medieval churches and wells that still exist. On the language front, the author includes a short glossary of geographical and other useful items in an appendix at the rear of the book. Although English is regarded as the second language of Norway it is always worth taking along a small dictionary. It is the 'sing-song' intonation of the spoken word that causes most difficulty (this sounds a bit like the Welsh language). Information about accommodation, returning from Trondheim and other relevant facts are included in the preamble. The route description is well laid out and easy to follow. Points of interest along the route have been printed in light blue and consequently stand out against the black print of the route directions.' (Les Maple, Strider)

Alison Raju is a former teacher of French, German and Spanish to adults and the author of *The Way of Saint James: Le Puy to Santiago - A Walker's Guide and Via de la Plata*.

I followed this excellent guide to walk the pilgrimage route St. Olav's Way July 2009. Much of the walking is strenuous, and this combination of valley scenery (equal to Switzerland or Scotland), remote wilderness of Dovre, isolated farmsteads, elegant churches and gentle people left pleasant and unique memory. This guide contains clear directions with helpful route diagrams, and is written by an experienced walker who has written guides for other pilgrimage routes. Cicerone guides come in an ideal pocket size, and this one contains many delightful photographs. Since the guide was published in 2002, the Way has been re-routed for 6 miles to allow expansion of Oslo's main airport at Gardermoen - yet this remains a good guide. Local groups perform periodic maintenance: the author describes one section as too overgrown, but in 2009 this had been cleared and neatly mown and became most pleasant. In another section, heavy rain run off had eroded hill surfaces, hopefully since repaired by slabbing or steps. Before setting out, it will be good to check conditions with Eivind Luthen at the Pilgrims office, Kirkegata 34A, 0153 Oslo who will be more help than the Pilgrim Centre in Trondheim who seem more interested in tourism. This guide is out of print now, but a new

edition is anticipated for 2014.

This book was aimed for a largely British audience. It gives extremely thorough descriptions of the long route from Oslo to Trondheim, as well as fair and forthright critiques of the state of lodgings & etc. along the way. I have yet to take the journey myself, so can't comment on how reliable it is as an actual guide, but the historical information, resources and advice seem like the perfect starting point should one want to do the route.

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