Cruise ships dock at the Kilden Performing Arts Center near Fiskebrygga, the fish market with upscale restaurants. It’s a 13 minute, 1 km walk to the Cathedral in center city.
Kristiansand is located on Norway’s idyllic southern coast (map at right). The city is surrounded by sea and fjords perfect for sailing and fishing and mountains ideal for hiking and skiing.

Cruise ships dock near Fiskebrygga, the famous fish market with excellent restaurants, cafes, an ice cream parlor, etc.

Kristiansand is “ideal” for a walking tour

- There are many things to see and do: impressive architecture, colorful buildings, scenic parks, marinas, museums, a cathedral, excellent restaurants, cafes, coffee shops, ice cream shops, great shopping, and more! Kristiansand has Northern Europe’s largest collection of low, terraced, white, wooden houses dating back to the 18th and 19th centuries in the Posebyen area of Old Town.
- It’s a pedestrian friendly city with flat walkways = no hills to climb nor steeply inclined streets. Streets are laid out in a grid and street signs are prominently displayed so it’s easy to find your way.
- Walking distance is not very far. The city is a square measuring 0.5 mile by 0.6 mile. You can walk the full distance north-south or east-west in about 10 to 12 minutes. The city is clean and safe.

If you wish to minimize walking, there’s a Tractor Pulled Train and Segway rental next to the cruise ship dock to tour the city.

Start your internet research for your shore excursion by reading:

About Kristiansand – an excellent, comprehensive description of the city and area with photos. [https://www.kristiansand.kommune.no/politikk-og-administrasjon/om-kristiansand/about-kristiansand/](https://www.kristiansand.kommune.no/politikk-og-administrasjon/om-kristiansand/about-kristiansand/)

The official Kristiansand tourism website - excellent descriptions, photos, and outstanding maps. [https://www.visitnorway.com/places-to-go/southern-norway/kristiansand/](https://www.visitnorway.com/places-to-go/southern-norway/kristiansand/)

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Tom Sheridan

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Cruise ships dock next to the Kilden Performing Arts Center. My suggested walking route is shown as a dotted red line from the ship through the parks to the Fortress, the Center City area, and back to the ship. This route is ~ 1.7 miles and takes ~ 34 minutes without stopping. Center city has a Cathedral, two museums, restaurants, shops, cafes, pubs, etc. See pages 19-22 of this guide for an optional walking route from the Fortress to Bystranda City Beach, Aquarama Bad water sports complex, and Posebyen area with 18th C wooden houses.
GPS Coordinates

I provide GPS Coordinates so you can view details of the location on Google or Microsoft Bing maps at any map scale on using “road”, “satellite”, “birdseye”, “earth”, or “terrain” maps.

- Create travel maps to take with you see http://www.tomsportguides.com/map-user-guide.html

- Program your hand held GPS, tablet, or phone with the GPS coordinates

The format for GPS coordinates is Degrees, Minutes, and Seconds   ddd° mm' ss.ss" N ddd° mm' ss.ss" E

Copy and paste GPS coordinates from this guide into Google or Microsoft Bing maps or type the coordinates into the map search box replacing the symbols for degrees, minutes, and seconds with spaces.

For example: the **Cruise Ship Dock** has GPS coordinates of 58°08'17.6"N 7°59'48.6"E

Type 58 08 17.6 n 7 59 48.6 e into the map search box and press enter to see the **Cruise Ship Dock**

The map below shows detail of the dock area – the place to start your walking tour
Tractor Pulled Train 30 minute ride see http://citytrain.no/
The City Train is 15 euros, 10 pounds, 15 USD, or 100 kr (Sept 2016 prices). The train goes past Fiskebrygga, the parks, the fortress, city beach, and through Posebyen to see the old wooden houses. The train tour ends in Center City where you can get off to explore the area and then walk ~ 12 minutes ~ 1 km back to the ship.

Guided Segway Tours begin next to the Cruise Ship Dock. The sign at left shows the prices in September 2016. For more information, see www.segway-tours.no

A Walking Tour of Kristiansand from the Cruise Ship
Below, I describe a step-by-step walking tour with photos, and maps of the route and descriptions of tourist sites.
The route I recommend is along the harbor through the parks to the Fortress. From the Fortress, I walk to the Cathedral along Kirkengata. After exploring the center city area, I walk back to the ship on Markens Gate and walk back to the ship. There are several other streets you can use to/from center city.
It’s a very scenic walk with many things to stop and photograph.
I did not walk to Posebyen to see the old wooden houses. However, I describe the area in detail in this guide.
The starting point for the walk is the **Cruise Ship Dock at GPS 58°08'17.6"N 7°59'48.6"E**

Walk from the ship along the water in front of the **The Kilden Performing Arts Centre**.

The centre provides artistic experience for the whole region for generations to come.

The goal is to create experiences for life by taking a broad-based approach and achieving a reputation as an important arena for arts and culture. At the same time, as a building and institution, Kilden, radiates grandeur, pride and sense of community.


When you reach the north corner of the Kilden Performing Arts Centre (photo below), you will see Fiskebrygga, the fish market, on your left.

Cross the street. Fiskebrygga will be on your your left. (Photo below)
Fiskebrygga, the fish market, is a must visit site. It’s a scenic boat basin surrounded by restaurants and stands selling beer and drinks. The food, local beer, drinks, and ice cream are great! There’s a foot bridge to cross the canal as shown in the photo below.

Note: Most restaurants open mid to late day. Other than taking photos, there isn’t much to do in the morning. It’s probably best to visit Fiskebrygga on your way back to the ship in the afternoon.

Immediately past Fiskebrygga, you’ll see a bridge in front of you. Walk across the bridge as shown by the yellow arrow in the photo below. Be sure to stop on the bridge for photos of the Marinas.

At the end of the bridge, turn right to the path through the parks as shown by the yellow arrow on the photo at right.

To locate the end of the bridge on Google maps, search for 58°08'30.9"N 7°59'48.5"E

Google shows the location of the GPS as a down pointing red arrow on the map.

I have marked up a Google map on the next page to show the walking path to the Fortress.
A down-pointing red arrow on the Google map above shows where you step off the bridge onto the walking path thru the parks. Take time to explore the parks. Enjoy all the sculpture and the whimsical, “fun” works of art designed to be enjoyed by children and people of all ages.

**Google estimates it’s a 13 minute, 1.2 km walk from Kildens Performing Arts Center to the Fortress.**

The parks and marinas are close to center city. Please note these streets:

- **Ostre Strandgate** is the major north-south street on the edge of the city.
- **Markens Gate** is the major cross street in the city for shopping, restaurants, bars, etc.
- **Kirkegata** is the cross street into the city to the front of the Cathedral in Center City.
View from the bridge approaching the park (photo below)

Sculpture in the park – there’s a lot to see
Statues and Sand Castles

A Fountain in the park
Sjøhuset Restaurant (photo below) has been a landmark among Kristiansand's finest restaurants for two decades. The menu includes fish and shellfish of supreme quality, lobster, reindeer meat, lamb, etc. It’s a highly rated, popular, and expensive restaurant with great views of the harbor. Open 15.00-23.00. From April open from 11.00. GPS = 58°08'32.5"N 7°59'57.0"E See http://www.sjohuset.no/

Christiansholm Fortress (photo below) GPS = 58°08'38.9"N 8°00'12.6"E

The fortress was built by Fredrik III in 1672 to guard the coastline entering the city. The rotunda walls are five meters (16 feet) thick. It’s open from 15 May to 15 September, 09.00-21.00. Entry was free when I visited it in September 2016. The fortress is used for weddings and other functions.
There’s a spiral staircase to climb to the top of the Fortress for scenic views of the area (photo below)

One of the cannons at the fortress (photo below)
View from the Fortress (photo below)
I did not climb the spiral staircase of the Rotunda. I wish I had because the views of the city and harbor must be beautiful from that perspective. I would recommend climbing the stairs to the top of the Rotunda for photos.

When you are done exploring the park area, walk to center city.
The street along the edge of the park is Ostre Strandgate. From Ostre Strandgate, you can either turn on Kirkegata and walk directly to the Cathedral or take Markens Gate to the area just south of the Cathedral.
Markens Gate is the main street in center city for shopping, restaurants, cafes, coffee shops, banks, etc.
I walked Kirkegata to the Cathedral and returned to the ship on Markens Gate.
The photo at right is at the corner of Ostre Strandgate and Kirkegata.
GPS = 58°08'39.3"N 7°59'57.3"E
Kristiansand has many impressive buildings.
This map shows the Tourist Information Office, banks, some of the most popular restaurants, two museums, the Cathedral, and the Commune. Spend time exploring Center City area. Be sure to walk North-South on Markens Gate to visit the shops, restaurants, cafes, coffee shops, pubs, etc. A section of Markens Gate is closed to traffic in center city for the convenience of pedestrians.
Sorlandets Kunstmuseum (Art Museum)  GPS 58°08'48.5"N 7°59'37.6"E
The exhibits include paintings and sculpture. It’s a place for art lovers.
Hours: Tuesday – Saturday 11am – 5pm Sunday 12pm – 4pm Monday Closed
Adult admission: 60 Norwegian Krone ~ 8 USD
See http://skmu.no/english/

Kristiansand Kunsthall - Art Gallery
Kristiansand Kunsthall is one of the largest and most spectacular locations for Norwegian and international contemporary art in Southern Norway. It’s located on the top level of The Public Library next to the Cathedral. The gallery presents changing exhibitions of guided tours for groups by appointment, adapted teaching program for children and youths in separate workshops. Admission is free. Hours are 12-16 Tuesday-Sunday, closed on Monday.

There are many artists in Kristiansand. The Kristiansand Kommune is for visiting artists http://www.transartists.org/air/kristiansand-kommune  GPS = 58°08'42.7"N 7°59'47.3"E
The City of Kristiansand offers a residency to professional artists, preferably, fine artist and craft artists. The aim is to strengthen, promote and develop collaboration and network between contemporary artists in Kristiansand and other national and foreign artists and to enrich the cultural stage of our town. The apartment is situated in the centre of Kristiansand not far from Posebyen, the city’s charming old quarter with white wooden houses. The apartment is approx. 80 square m and is situated on the second floor. It has a kitchen, living room, bathroom, 2 bedrooms attached together and a small studio. It is possible for two artists to stay together if that is desirable. It is equipped with essential furniture, linen and towels, cooker, refrigerator and kitchenware. In addition to two single-beds, the apartment is provided with a sofa bed. Artists can stay for 3 months.

Photo of buildings on Radhusgata across the street from the Cathedral
Major street and building renovation in center city near the Cathedral.

When I visited Kristiansand in September 2016, the streets in front of the Cathedral and the entire block of buildings south of the Cathedral had been torn down.

**GPS Coordinates for the Cathedral = 58°08'46.1"N 7°59'40.8"E**
There’s a garden next to the Cathedral with a statue of Jonathan C. Heuch (photo at left). He was a popular bishop, a Commander, First Class of the Royal Norwegian Order of St. Olav from 1896, and held the Grand Cross of the Swedish Order of the Polar Star.

Building façades near the Cathedral were being held in place while the entire building interior is torn down and rebuilt. Photo Below

Major construction in center city is not a problem for tourists. There were well marked, clean, and safe paths around the construction sites. Most important, all the restaurants, shops, etc. were open for business as usual. The Cathedral was open.

The fact that some buildings had been leveled made it easier to take photos of sites which would normally be difficult to photograph.

**Hos Naboen restaurant** at the corner of Markens Gate and Radhusgata  see [http://hosnaboen.no/](http://hosnaboen.no/)
### List of some of the popular restaurants with their websites and GPS Coordinates

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<tr>
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<th>Address</th>
<th>Website</th>
<th>GPS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Hos Naboen</td>
<td>Markens Gate &amp; Radhusgata</td>
<td><a href="http://hosnaboen.no/">http://hosnaboen.no/</a></td>
<td>58°08'43.0&quot;N 7°59'36.4&quot;E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patricks Pub</td>
<td>Markens Gate 10</td>
<td><a href="http://mat-uteliv.no/patricks">http://mat-uteliv.no/patricks</a></td>
<td>58°08'40.4&quot;N 7°59'43.4&quot;E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Asylum</td>
<td>Japanese Markens Gate 9</td>
<td><a href="http://www.foodasylum.com/">http://www.foodasylum.com/</a></td>
<td>58°08'38.5&quot;N 7°59'45.3&quot;E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gastropuben på Kick</td>
<td>Dronningens Gate 8</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gastropuben.no/">http://www.gastropuben.no/</a></td>
<td>58°08'38.0&quot;N 7°59'43.2&quot;E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slakter Sorensen</td>
<td>Markens Gate 8</td>
<td><a href="http://mat-uteliv.no/slakter-soerensen">http://mat-uteliv.no/slakter-soerensen</a></td>
<td>58°08'40.6&quot;N 7°59'43.2&quot;E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother India</td>
<td>Markens Gate 6</td>
<td><a href="http://motherindia.no/">http://motherindia.no/</a></td>
<td>58°08'39.2&quot;N 7°59'45.6&quot;E</td>
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**The location of these restaurants is shown on the map on page 13.**

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**Slakter Sorensen**

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Sandens is a women’s store with 35 shops on three floors. See the photo of the interior below.

Street view of Sandens (photo below)

McDonalds is an impressive building (photo below)

Kristiansand is a beautiful, incredibly clean city with impressive architecture. There are a variety of places to visit, shop, have a meal or drink, and relax. Plan on spending time in center city.
Posebyen
Posebyen is an area in Kristiansand with the longest, continuous collection of wooden houses in northern Europe. The map below shows the suggested walking route (red dotted line) from the Fortress to the Brystanda City Beach, past Aquarama Bad, along the scenic river, turning left onto Skippergata through the Posebyen area to Radhusgata and turning left onto Radhusgata for two blocks to the Cathedral in center city.
For reference, the walking route from the ship to the Fortress to the Cathedral in Center City and back to the ship is 1.7 miles and takes 34 minutes without stopping. Adding Posebyen to your walking tour from the Fortress will add a minimum of 0.8 miles and 16 minutes to your walk “without stopping”. You could walk up-down all the streets in Posebyen. At minimum, walk along Skippergata, the route taken by the City Train.

“Technically”, Posebyen includes two streets to the left of the yellow outlined area on this map. I did not include them because the concentration of white houses is in the area outlined by yellow lines.
How to use Google maps to explore Posebyen from your home computer, before your cruise.

Google maps are incredibly powerful to study and “see” the city. Open a Google “Earth” map and change the angle of view to see all the white wooden houses in Posebyen by changing to a 3D tilted view.

The 3D view allows you to see the landscape from almost any angle – note the white wooden houses.

Here is a 3D tilted map view of the houses on Skippergata near Elvegata street.
Experiment with 3D views to see not only the houses but also hills in the background of the city.

I entered GPS coordinates of 58°09'01.1"N 7°59'57.5"E into a Google map search box and pressed the enter key. Then I switched to “Earth” map and clicked on “3D” to tilt the map. I used the Ctrl key with the mouse to rotate the map and tilt it very low so that I could see the mountains in the background.

**Below is the resulting Google Earth 3D, tilted, and rotated view of the house on Skippergata.**

This is an excellent way to study the landscape and explore the port area.

In addition to earth views, Google has street level photos. These photos are limited to public streets because Google takes the photos by driving cars on public streets with a bank of cameras on the roof.

To access the street level photos, drag the little yellow man icon from the bottom right of the screen onto the Google map. The streets with street level photos will be shown with a blue line down the center of the street.

Place the little yellow man icon onto one of the blue lines in the streets. The screen will divide with a street level photo on the top and a map view of the area on the bottom. Move the yellow man icon down the street to see what you would see if you were walking or driving on that street. Rotate the icon to see the views in different directions. The Google street level images are reasonably good quality.

I use this technique on my home computer “before” I visit a port to decide where I want to walk and where the best photos opportunities are. In a few minutes, I was able to preview the Posebyen area. I had planned to walk to Posebyen, but I spent a lot of time at Fiskebrygga, in the park area near the Fortress, and wanted to focus on center city, so I decided to cancel my visit to the Posebyen area.

If I had visited it, I would have concentrated on Skippergata and Radhusgata streets in Posebyen. These streets have some of the best examples of the old, white wooden houses.
Search Google maps for 58°09'01.1"N 7°59'57.5"E then drag the little yellow man onto the map and place it at the down-pointing red arrow. Rotate the yellow man icon to this street level photo as shown below. Google shows this street level photo was taken in June 2014 at 106 Skippergata in Kristiansand. The second house from the corner at Elvegata is 131 Skippergata. It has a green front door.

Street level photos have two, independent screens. The upper screen is the street level photo. Use the mouse to change the horizontal and vertical angle of view of the photo. You can also change magnification of the photo.

The street map screen is below the photo and can be moved independent of the photo. Click on the icon on the left lower corner to make the map screen fill the full width of the viewing area. Click on the + and – bars on the right side of map to change magnification of the street map.

The location of the street level photo is shown on the map by the location of the little yellow man icon and the arrow at his feet shows the direction he is facing as if the little yellow man icon were taking the photo. Click anywhere on the street map to see the photo that location.
Goal
My guides are designed to help you plan a great cruise vacation by providing information such as where the ship docks, location of tourist sites, public transit, walking tour maps, things to see and do, travel issues unique to the port, etc. Knowledge of ports is important when planning shore excursions because you have to make many decisions and commitments long before your ship docks. I believe the information in this guide is accurate, however you are responsible to verify accuracy of the information that you use to plan your vacation.

Information on cruise ports frequently changes such as bus routes, admission fees to sites, rental car locations, etc. Cruise Critic is the best source for up-to-date, detailed information on travel details for shore excursions, reviews of cruise ships, etc. There are many knowledgeable people on Cruise Critic who are willing to share their expertise and travel experience. I highly recommend [www.CruiseCritic.com](http://www.CruiseCritic.com); it's free to join.

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Fortunately, a friend of mine on that ship complained to the purser and the ship stopped violating my copyright.

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Tom Sheridan