

Arendal, Aust-Agder, Norway

Billed as the 'Venice of the North', Arendal wraps a handsome 18th-century old town around a lively inner harbour — most ships dock right in the thick of it, leaving you free to wander islands, eat shrimp by the quay, and be home before dinner.

Docked (Batterikaien or Hotelkaien pier)

Typical call: 6–8 hrs

Norwegian Krone (NOK) — cards widely accepted

Norwegian; English spoken everywhere

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____ Arrive: _____ All aboard: _____

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Ships berth at Batterikaien or Hotelkaien in the inner harbour; very large vessels may anchor and tender to Pollen quay

Best for: Historic wooden architecture, island hopping, kayaking, local seafood

Walk to centre: 2–5 min on foot from either pier to Pollen promenade and Tyholmen old town

Don't miss: Tyholmen old town, a shrimp lunch at Pollen, and the ferry to car-free Merdø island

Getting around: Taxi NOK 100–200 · Rideshare Uber, Bolt

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Tyholmen Old Town Walk** — Tyholmen is Arendal's historic island district, packed with immaculately preserved 18th- and 19th-century white wooden houses.
- Ferry to Merdø Island** — A short Merdøferga ferry hop from Pollen quay reaches car-free Merdø — sandy beaches, the 18th-century Merdøgaard Museum (a preserved sea-captain's...
- Kayaking the Archipelago** — Paddle through the sheltered skerries around Arendal, including within Raet National Park.
- KUBEN Museum (Aust-Agder Museum)** — Arendal's main cultural history museum covers Viking-age artefacts, maritime heritage, and 19th-century local life.
- Glass Lift & Panorama Views** — The Glass Lift connects the Market Square (Torget) to the hillside above, giving sweeping views over Galtesund strait and the islands of Tromøy and...

BEST WALKS

- Tyholmen & Pollen Harbour Loop** 1.5 km · 30–45 min · Easy — From the pier, walk to Pollen promenade, cross to Tyholmen island via the short bridge, and loop through the old-town lanes past the Old Town Hall back to the waterfront.
- Market Square to the Glass Lift** 0.5 km · 20 min · Easy — Walk from Pollen up to Torget (Market Square) and take the Glass Lift up to the hill for panoramic views.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		50°	37°	8d
Jun		66°	53°	10d
Aug		66°	55°	13d
Sep		61°	52°	14d
Oct		52°	44°	16d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 6:12AM–8:38PM · Jun 4:17AM–10:33PM · Aug 5:46AM–9:10PM · Sep 6:54AM–7:43PM · Oct 8:01AM–6:18PM

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Go cashless — Norway is nearly card-only. Krone notes are rarely needed; tap-to-pay works everywhere including ferries.
- Eat shrimp at Pollen — fresh reker (shrimp) sold by the bag or at harbour restaurants is the local must-try. Budget NOK 120–200 for a generous portion.
- Check ferry times before heading to Merdø — the Merdøferga schedule is limited, so confirm the return departure before you cross.
- Pack a layer — Arendal is Southern Norway's sunniest city, but sea breezes and passing showers are common. A light waterproof fits in any bag.
- No need for a ship excursion here — the pier is central, English is universal, and the main sights are all walkable. Save ship excursion budget for ports where you really need transport.
- Heimdal Chokolade is a short walk from the waterfront near Pollen — Norway's oldest artisan chocolate shop is worth a detour for a small souvenir.

Arendal, Aust-Agder, Norway — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



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| 1 KUBEN, Aust-Agder museum og arkiv | KUBEN is Aust-Agder's regional museum and archive. | 2 Tromøy Church | Tromøy Church is a historic medieval stone church. |
| 3 Sandviken Fort | Sandviken Fort is a historic coastal defense fortress. | 4 Parc Barbu | Parc Barbu is a modern waterfront park with sculptures. |
| 5 Glassheisen til Fløyheia | Glassheisen is a scenic glass elevator to Fløyheia viewpoint. | P Cruise port / terminal | |