

Disposition of Remains Report

The report below describes local requirements for burial, cremation, embalming, preparation of remains for shipment, transportation to the United States, exhumation of remains, and the price range for each service.

Part I. Name of Country

Kingdom of Norway

Part II. U.S. Embassy or Consulate Information

U.S. Embassy, American Citizen Services

Mailing: P.O. Box 4075 AMB, 0244 Oslo, Norway

Visiting: Morgedalsvegen 36, 0368 Oslo, Norway

Telephone (+47) 21 30 85 40

Fax: (+47)

After Hours Emergencies: (+47) 21 30 85 40

Country Information and Travel Advisory:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/legal/Judicial-Assistance-Country-Information/Norway.html>

Register with the U.S. Embassy: <https://step.state.gov/>

Part III. Profile of Religions of the Host Country and Religious Services Available to Visitors

Host Country Religions:

Norway is a predominately Christian country, with more than 70 percent of the population being members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Norway, although regular church attendance is low. Other major religions include Roman Catholic, other Christian, and Muslim. Other religions account for less than 2 percent of the population.

Religious Activities for Visitors:

There are a number of houses of worship in Norway, and especially Oslo, offering services in English, including Lutheran, Catholic, Baptist, Pentecostal, Anglican, and Muslim. There are also

houses of worship for Jewish, Orthodox and Methodist believers, but services are not in English. LSD services are in Norwegian but translations services are provided.

Part IV. Funeral Directors, Morticians and Related Services Available in the Host Country

DISCLAIMER: The U.S. Embassy in Oslo, Norway assumes no responsibility or liability for the professional ability or reputation of, or the quality of services provided by, the following persons or firms. Names are listed alphabetically, and the order of which they appear has no other significance. Professional credentials and areas of expertise are provided directly by the funeral directors, morticians and other service providers.

The following funeral homes provide all general special funeral services, including repatriations of human remains.

- **Jolstad Begravelsesbyra**

Address: Grefsenveien 70, 0487 Oslo, Norway
Telephone: (+47) 22 79 77 00
Email: post@jolstad.no
Website: <https://jolstad.no/>

Remarks: The funeral home has several affiliates throughout Norway. Their main office in Oslo has a native English speaker, and coordinates all repatriations of U.S. citizens for Jolstad affiliates.

- **Koba Christensen Begravelsesbyra**

Address: Dreggsallmenningen 36, 5003 Bergen, Norway
Telephone: (+47) 55 30 08 00
Email: post@koba.no
Website: <http://koba.no/>

Remarks: The CEO is a native English speaker.

- **Obed Begravelsesbyra**

Sandnes: Telephone: (+47) 5168 13 00, Adress: Hoveveien 38, 4306 Sandnes
Stavanger: Telephone (+47) 51 91 10 70, Address: Lagardsveien 17, 4010 Stavanger
Bryne: Telephone: (+47) 51 77 80 80, Adress: Sveinsvollsvegen 4, 4340 Bryne
Email: post@obed.no
Website: <http://obed.no/>

Part V. Profile of Services Available in the Host Country Regarding Preparation and Shipment of Remains

Both burial and cremation are common in Norway. Hospitals have refrigerated morgues, and it is uncommon for funeral homes to have them. The police and hospitals usually have local funeral home contacts available for families of deceased individuals.

Autopsies are generally only performed when the death is not due to natural causes. In cases where the death is due to an infectious deceased, the Public Health Institute will determine how the remains will be disposed.

1. Maximum Period before Burial of Remains

Remains must be buried or cremated within ten business days, according to the Norwegian Funeral Act.

2. Embalming

Embalming of remains is uncommon in Norway, and is only done in rare cases, for example if required by the receiving state if the remains are to be expatriated. Embalming is usually done by hospitals. Only a few funeral homes offer embalming.

3. Cremation

Remains can be cremated, unless it was against the wishes of the deceased. Cremation must take place in an authorized crematorium no less than ten business days after the death. Cremations must be reported to the police no less than three days before they take place. Ashes can be buried (must take place no less than six months after the cremation), be spread (by application to the County Governor "Fylkesmann" only), or exported. Ashes may not be split, and is stored in a sealed urn by the crematorium or local burial authorities until disposition of the ashes have been determined. If exported, flight information or a burial permit will be required to have the urn released.

4. Caskets and Containers

Caskets and urns are available through funeral homes. Very basic urns are provided at no cost from the crematorium. Decorative urns range from approximately USD 80 and up to USD 470, depending on the model. Caskets range from approximately USD 560 and up to USD 6400, depending on the model. The most common caskets in Norway are smaller and less ornate

than what is normal in the United States. U.S. style caskets are available, but will be in the upper end of the price range.

5. Exportation of Remains

A zinc-lined coffin is required when remains are expatriated to a country outside the Nordic region. A body bag is required for all exportations. The exporter (usually the funeral home) is responsible for familiarizing themselves with the requirements and laws of the receiving country, as well as the carrier and any potential transit countries.

6. Exportation of Ashes

If the exportation takes place by plane, a cremation certificate stating that the urn contains only the ashes is usually required by the airport authority. This certificate is issued by the crematorium.

7. Costs

Norwegian funeral homes are required by law to keep a price list of all their services available on their websites. Most funeral homes operate with price samples for small, medium and large funerals, as well as minimum and maximum prices.

Below is a list of typical costs for different services offered by a funeral home. Keep in mind that these prices are average, and could vary greatly depending on the location in Norway and the funeral home.

Residents of certain municipalities are entitled to a gravesite and cremation at no cost. For non-resident U.S. citizens, a fee may be incurred. For example: A non-resident U.S. citizen in Oslo would need to pay a fee of USD 2,800 to the Oslo municipality for a 20-year lease of a gravesite. After the 20-year lease expires a fee of USD 47 would be incurred annually. A cremation for a non-resident U.S citizen in Oslo would incur a fee of USD 820 to the municipality.

Costs are based on the exchange rate of April 5, 2018: USD 1 = NOK 7.848

Service type	Minimum cost (USD)	Maximum cost (USD)
Local burial, without funeral expenses	\$ 1,280	\$ 4,100
Local burial, with funeral expenses	\$ 1,920	\$ 8,920
Local cremation, without funeral expenses	\$ 1,280	\$ 2,550
Local cremation, with funeral expenses	\$ 1,920	\$ 8,920

Shipment of body to the United States	Cost (USD)
Preparation for shipment to the United States	\$ 1,200
Light embalmmment	\$ 630
Full embalmmment	\$ 950
Zinc coffin approved for shipment to the United States	\$ 980

Airfreight costs for coffin based on average weight (140 kg./309 lbs.)	Cost (USD)
Airfreight of coffin to New York	\$ 1,400
Airfreight of coffin to Chicago	\$ 1,400
Airfreight of coffin to Atlanta	\$ 1,600
Airfreight of coffin to Los Angeles	\$ 1,800

Airfreight costs for urn (delivery of urn to airport comes in addition)	Cost (USD)
Airfreight of urn to New York	\$ 450
Airfreight of urn to Chicago	\$ 450
Airfreight of urn to Atlanta	\$ 450
Airfreight of urn to Los Angeles	\$ 450

8. Exhumation

Permission must be granted by the local Diocese, according to the Norwegian Funeral Act of July 6, 1996, Chapter 1, Section 7.