

To: Teknatool
Hi Anthea!

Sorry it's taken me a while to get back to you. I had surgery on my shoulder and the recovery has been a challenge. I think things are starting to get cleared up finally.

As for the Norway trip, I can simply sum it up as the most incredible trip of my life. As a seasoned traveler, I don't say this lightly but Norway is the most beautiful country I've ever seen with the Geiranger Fjord as the highlight. Each day we would see something that took our breath away! (Actually we heard from a New Zealander that New Zealand also has incredible fjords. Maybe our next trip? ☺) Even the weather cooperated! We only had rain for parts of 3 days. The seas we're like glass most of the time. Even the North Cape was clear and sunny (if a bit cool).

And we fell in love with the cities of Trondheim, Alesund and Bergen. They are all cosmopolitan cities with cafés and bars where we could sit outside in the sunshine. Trondheim is a university town with a vibrant youth and art culture. Alesund reminded me of a small version of Amsterdam with houses right on the canals. And Bergen is alive with activity at the harbor and the fish market.

The wood turning was also fantastic. I had the opportunity to work with Nick Agar and Glenn Lucas one-on-one and learned an amazing amount. We would spend hours watching all the demonstrators and taking furious notes so we could try the techniques at home. Jimmy Clewes was great to work with also. My only regret was that there was not enough time to get with all the demonstrators.

One thing that I didn't expect was the camaraderie with the other passengers and demonstrators. We met some fantastic people from 13 different countries. There were quite a few world-class turners who took the cruise without being demonstrators. I found myself having casual conversations about wood turning and later finding out that I was talking to a famous turner. I've posted 90 pictures on Facebook and will friend you. Then you can grab anything that looks good to you. Much easier than sending many megabytes in an e-mail. We're already talking about going back for the 2014 cruise.

Brad Duckett

(Comment: Brad was the winner of Teknatool's competition in 2011. He won a free cruise for himself and his wife! This is a copy of an email he sent to Teknatool after the cruise)