

RAISE A GLASS: EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO PLAN A BACKYARD BEER BASH

# DENVER LIFE<sup>®</sup>

CULTURE | ADVENTURE | STYLE

## MOUNTAIN GETAWAY

Hidden gems in nearby Frisco

## SNACK PATROL

How to eat healthy when summer fun comes calling

## TOTES WITH THE MOST

Bags to keep you cool by the pool

## HOME GROWN

Bean Acres is keeping it fresh



# 10 TOP HIKES

Where to hit the trails this summer

JUNE 2016

PLEASE DISPLAY UNTIL 7.10.2016 **\$4.95**



DENVERLIFEMAGAZINE.COM



**DEPARTURES**

**To Catch a Thief**

Steal some time away at The Thief boutique hotel in Oslo, Norway

BY GIGI RAGLAND

**T***juvholmen.* Pronouncing the name of the Oslo neighborhood I was staying in escaped my limited grasp of Norwegian language skills. “Say ‘shoe’ with a ‘v’ on the end,” instructed Dominic Gorham, the guest relations manager of The Thief, the upscale boutique property in the city’s Frogner borough.

Easy enough. “Shoove,” I responded. This assistance is something Gorham obviously has done many times over, and he smiles at me as he offers instruction in how to pronounce the second half of the word: “Now say, ‘hole men.’” It was quite the Eliza Doolittle moment as I joined the jumble together and slowly enunciated “shooveholemen,” pleased with my attempt. Learning a few key phrases or words in the language of the country one is visiting always is a good idea, as you never know what situation you might encounter.

Chances are, had I strolled along the waterfront of Tjuvholmen 250 years ago, I might not have made it out of the area without incident. The place harbored a tainted reputation for being one of Oslo’s most notorious

areas, one rife with unsavory characters, piracy, prostitution and all manner of mayhem. But times have changed and Tjuvholmen is now the place to be.

Gaze across the Oslo Fjord today—with its panoramic waterfront lined with brilliantly designed contemporary buildings—and one might find it hard to believe that, centuries ago, the docks were lined with ramshackle buildings filled with thieves, thugs and pirates. Now, within half-a-block walking distance from The Thief hotel, positioned on the point of the harbor, you will see what is arguably the finest home to modern art in Northern Europe, the Astrup Fearnley Museum, designed by world-famous architect Renzo Piano.

The most eye-catching element, when staring at the building from outside, is the

massive curved glass roof that spans across the canal to connect with the other two buildings of the museum. But this is just one example of the stunning architecture taking root across the waterfront of

the Oslo Fjord. Walk less than a mile along the pedestrian path for more majestic views of the new face of Oslo, including the acclaimed Oslo Opera House with its marble covered roof.

These days, the only thing that reflects the past origins of the neighborhood is the name of the small luxury hotel.

“This area, Tjuvholmen, if I translate it literally, is ‘thief island’ or ‘thief inlet.’ We wanted to find

a sense of history, and by calling the hotel The Thief, we tapped into what was going on back in the day,” Gorham explains. And the new incarnation on the inlet promises to



**EYES ON OSLO** The Thief hotel, above, sits between the Astrup Fearnley Museum and the striking Oslo Fjord, top.

VISIT OSLO/TORD BAKLUND

## ADVENTURE



**ON DISPLAY** Many of the works of art in The Thief hotel are on loan from the famed Astrup Fearnley Museum, conveniently located next door.

“steal you away from everyday life”—in only the most pleasant of ways.

With that in mind, summer in Norway offers a treasure trove of activities for the outdoor enthusiast. Guests of The Thief can enjoy a “car-free” vacation and simply stroll the harbor, swim, kayak, fish the fjord or hop on the hotel’s private boat to a remote island for a picnic. Evenings bring live music at the hotel’s scenic rooftop terrace, as well as free concerts and a lineup of plays and events atop the marbled roof of Oslo Opera House. Camera buffs can scan the panoramic fjord archipelago that showcases choice scenery of the city, charming and colorful traditional wooden summer houses and the nearby sloping green hills and mountains beyond.

Perhaps the ultimate escape, however, lies within the living spaces of The Thief. Hold yourself captive inside to view the hotel’s world-class contemporary art and design collection, admire the clever modern design of the lobby area, library, rooftop terrace and restaurant and succumb to a relaxing

treatment at the spa. The art adventure continues in the hotel’s 119 guest rooms and suites, where the works were curated by world-class art curator Sune Nordgren.

Many of the art works are on loan from the Astrup Fearnley Museum next door (guests receive complimentary admittance), while others are part of the hotel’s permanent collection. “From the hotel point of view, there is definitely a difference between art in a museum and art in a hotel,” Nordgren says. “We aim for the absolute best from the museum collection, finding the perfect place for it in the hotel’s common areas, and hope it will be available from the museum. Since we have more than 100 art works from our own collection at The Thief, it is also about a ‘perfect match’ and a complement to what is already in the house.”

Interactive televisions can be found in the guest rooms and public areas, featuring contemporary video art, as well as “art on demand” and themed art, design and architecture tour maps. In the elevators,

animated films by British contemporary artist Julian Opie were created exclusively for the hotel. When checking in, guests are given a treasure hunt map, explaining the art throughout the hotel.

Of course, there is plenty to like at The Thief besides the innovative art and design: the discreet, yet personal and professional manner of the staff; the evening turndown service of a thermos filled with hot water and a teapot with specially blended herbal tea to ready you for a good night’s sleep; or the unexpected gift (think a box of locally made chocolates) left in your room during your stay from the hotel’s signature “thief.”

And then there is the complimentary breakfast that’s not just the typical Euro spread of cheese, bread and meats. Guests are personally greeted by the charming Gorham, who will put a smile on your face, no matter how groggy you may be. The buffet includes a vast selection of Norwegian local foods, from breads, pastries, cheeses, jams and jellies and honey to varieties of smoked fish and meats to seasonal fruit and house-made granola, parfaits and local yogurts. And it doesn’t stop there. Care for a hot breakfast? The chef can do that, too.

Truly, the real hidden gem in Tjuvholmen is this small luxury hotel discreetly tucked away into a niche of space next to one of the world’s great art museums. While in Oslo, it would be a shame not to “steal” some time away at The Thief. **DLM**



### NEED-TO-KNOW INFO

The Thief, a luxury 119-room boutique hotel in Oslo, Norway, is located between the iconic Astrup Fearnley Museum, the canals on Tjuvholmen and the Oslo Fjord. All rooms include floor-to-ceiling windows, private balconies, king-size beds and curated artwork. Summer rates start around 2790 kroner (\$425) per night. [thethief.com](http://thethief.com)

### FOR MORE INFO ABOUT OSLO:

[visitoslo.com](http://visitoslo.com).

### STROLL THESE TJUVHOLMEN NEIGHBORHOOD ART GALLERIES:

**ASTRUP FEARNLEY MUSEUM:** Featuring some of the best contemporary and modern art in Scandinavia, this contemporary art museum offers rotating exhibitions of internationally renowned artists. [afmuseet.no](http://afmuseet.no)

**GALLERI BRANDSTRUP:** Established and emerging Norwegian and international contemporary artists are shown at this leading Norwegian gallery. [brandstrup.no](http://brandstrup.no)

**GALLERI HAAKEN:** Since 1961, this gallery has featured important Norwegian and international artists. [gallerihaaken.com](http://gallerihaaken.com)

**GERHARDSEN GERNER OSLO:** High-profile contemporary artists, both Norwegian and international, are displayed here. [gerhardsegener.com](http://gerhardsegener.com)

**PEDER LUND:** This gallery showcases international and contemporary art and emerging artists. [pederlund.no](http://pederlund.no)

**PUSHWAGNER GALLERI:** The art of Norwegian contemporary artist Pushwagner, one of the country’s most important artists, is featured. [pushwagner.no](http://pushwagner.no)