



Attraction of the Month, Norway

Adventure awaits in the heart of Oslo

One hour. One goal: escape! The concept is as easy as it is ingenious. A group of people are locked together in a room and must solve a series of puzzles within 60 minutes to regain their freedom. The idea has taken the world by storm, and Oslo is no exception. AdventureRooms Oslo opened in January this year to the delight of locals and tourists alike.

By Helene Toftner | Photos: AdventureRooms Oslo

The concept of AdventureRooms debuted in Switzerland and has spread to 18 countries. While most people perhaps would not relish being locked in a room, AdventureRooms has intrigued men and women, children and teenagers, colleagues and friends with its world of puzzles. The escape room idea brings traditional board and video games to life, as players enter another reality where they are challenged to solve puzzles in order to escape.

"This is a team activity for absolutely everyone, regardless of age, physical

ability or academic background," says Hogne Kavlie, owner of AdventureRooms Oslo. "The players have to solve the brain teasers together, and everyone influences the group's dynamic. Attention to detail is as important as logical thinking and curiosity to explore and experiment to uncover hidden clues that bring the group closer to freedom."

Kavlie hits the nail on the head as to why this has captured the public's imagination, as businesses bring their employees for team-building events while others include it when celebrating

life's milestones. "There are very few activities on offer where every individual's skill set is equally valued," Kavlie says. "This isn't about being the fittest or smartest in class, but about challenging the way you think."

The 'a-ha!' moment

For those of you who mistakenly think that escaping from AdventureRooms is easy because it is 'for everyone', think again. Only 30 per cent of players succeed in escaping within 60 minutes. The remaining 70 per cent are, according to Kavlie, equally excited as those who escape, although presumably without the same sense of glory.

"Many say they experience an 'a-ha!' moment when they discover the solution, how it makes so much sense and is rather easy once you learn how," says Sharon Lai, co-owner and game designer

at AdventureRooms Oslo. "It encourages people to keep an open mind to solve puzzles by thinking outside the box."

AdventureRooms Oslo offers three different escape room games. The Original Swiss Game is their classic game and perfect for players new to escape rooms. The Black Queen beguiles players to find her in her dark castle, while The Piano revolves around the owner of a Tivoli who will bequeath his enormous wealth to the first team to escape his fun house. "The Original Swiss Game is our signature game for new players, while The Piano gives even experienced players an adrenaline rush," Kavlie says.

Perfect for team building

A quick look on TripAdvisor shows that locals and tourists alike have taken a fancy to AdventureRooms Oslo, as

they score an impressive five out of five possible stars. Recurring comments note "great family activity", "intense and challenging", and "great fun". "Many Norwegians have never heard of escape rooms before, so we were unsure how well our concept would be received. Since our opening, we have observed that they have come to love it. While our escape rooms are very popular among families and students, there is increased engagement by corporate clients who are in the market for team-building activities," says Kavlie. "In order to succeed, teams have to cooperate and communicate well to overcome obstacles together, which in many ways mirrors real-life work situations. Here at AdventureRooms, they do it in a far more enjoyable environment," Lai adds.

While most escape rooms can only take up to six players per game, Adventure-

Rooms Oslo has a unique dual set-up that can accommodate 12 to 14 players in the same game simultaneously. "It is hugely popular to compete against the clock and other teams concurrently," says Kavlie. "Our current capacity is 32 players."

Lai adds: "And if you're at a loss for gift ideas for someone who already has everything, why not give the gift of an escapade of a lifetime for a change? Our gift vouchers come concealed in a mystery box."

AdventureRooms Oslo is conveniently located in the heart of Oslo, with easy access to Oslo Central Station and tourist attractions such as the Royal Palace and the Opera House.

For more information and to book, please visit: www.adventurerooms.no



AdventureRooms Oslo was set up by Hogne Kavlie and Sharon Lai.

