Alexandra Diem, ultracyclist and machine learning consultant

50 words: Situated between fjords, forests and hills, Oslo combines urban opportunities with unrivalled natural experiences. "I've lived in several big cities. This is the only place I know where you get all the benefits of being in a capital city while having beautiful nature basically on your doorstep," says machine learning consultant and avid cyclist Alexandra Diem.

200 words: Alexandra Diem, machine learning consultant with a background in applied mathematics, has had a whirlwind career spanning several countries and continents. An avid outdoorsy person since childhood, she had one criteria when looking for a place to settle: easy access to nature. "I sit in front of the computer all day, so I like to be outside as much as possible in my free time".

Diem, a native of Nuremberg, Germany, soon found that there are a limited number of places that can offer exciting prospects for an up-and-coming scientist. while also enabling her to live out her hobbies to the fullest. Then, three years ago, she went to a conference in Oslo, where she promptly received a job offer. After seeing the city, saying no was not really an option.

"Here, it can take as little as fifteen to thirty minutes to get out into nature. I like biking in Follo, Nordmarka and Svartskog. I can reach all of them easily by bike, or by using public transport."

Her main passion is cycling, but she also takes a keen interest in skiing and hiking.

"I've lived in several big cities. This is the only place I know where you get all the benefits of being in a capital city while having beautiful nature basically on your doorstep," she adds.

"Oslo is unique in that it is like a really big city in terms of how much goes on here, but that you don't have to go far at all to feel like you're in the middle of nowhere."