

TOUR OF  
SCANDINAVIA  
-BATTLE OF THE NORTH-



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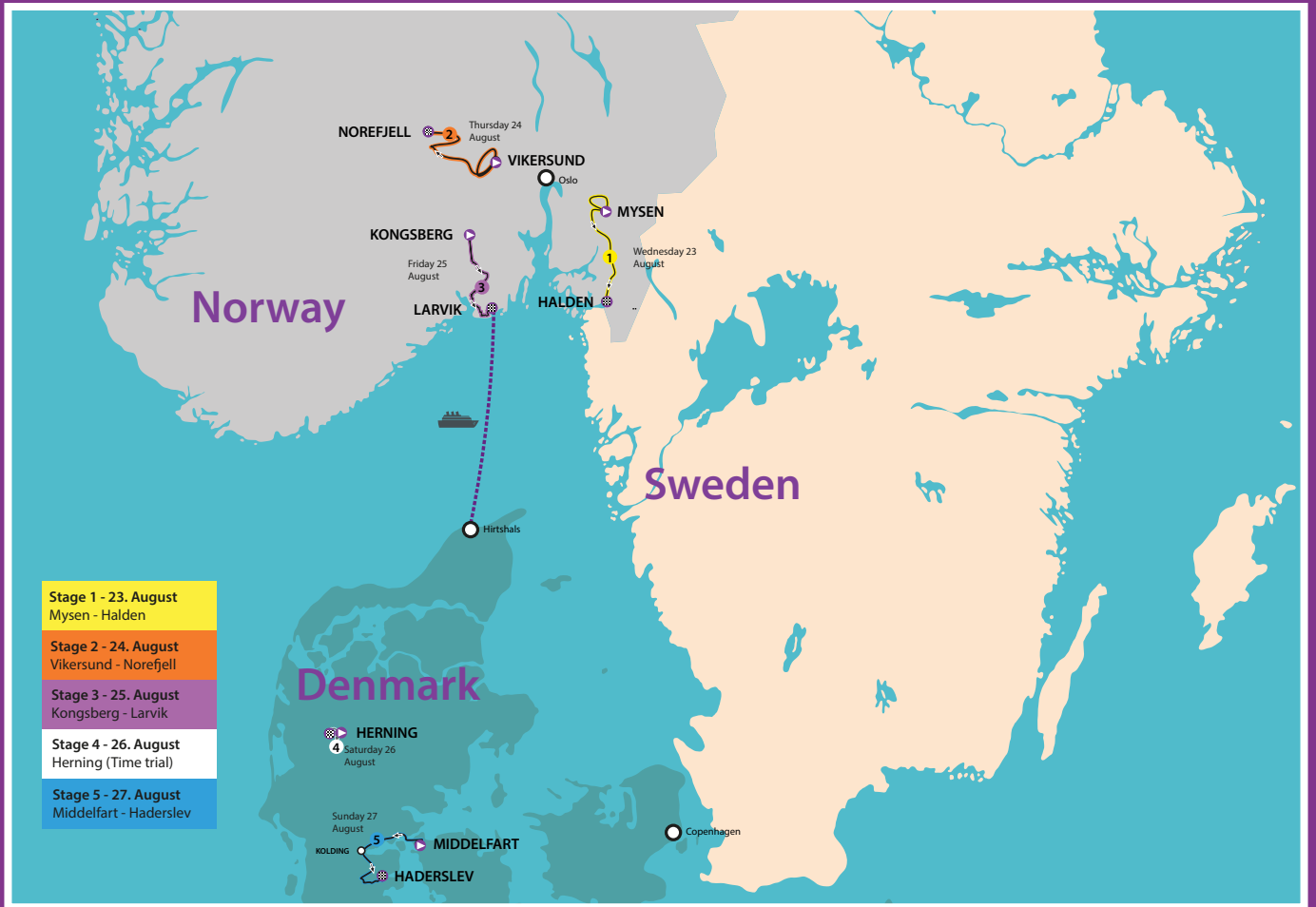
WOMEN'S  
WORLDTOUR

# TOURIST GUIDE

## Tour of Scandinavia 2023

- about the places where you ride





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# TURISTGUIDENS INNHOLD OG FORMÅL

## CONTENT AND PURPOSE WITH THIS GUIDE

The guide has been prepared primarily for the media with a purpose to describe history, activities, culture, sights etc. associated with the various stages and host cities for this year's Tour of Scandinavia.

The guide is available in both Norwegian and English, but only in digital form.

Tour of Scandinavia is the only stage race in Scandinavia, both for men and women, who have WorldTour status. The ride is a continuation of formerly Ladies Tour of Norway, and was arranged for the first time in 2022.

As the name indicates, the intention was also this year to have stages in both Norway, Sweden and Denmark, but it was unfortunately not possible to arrange the stage in Sweden. So the race has been shortened to 5 stages, with 3 stages in Norway, before it finish with 2 stages in Denmark.

The tourist guide does not include the sporting part of the race, here we refer to our own technical guide (road book) which is available on our website:  
[www.tourofscandinavia.eu](http://www.tourofscandinavia.eu).

We hope the guide will be useful and will be used extensively as a reference work before and during the race week.

Roy Moberg  
General Manager







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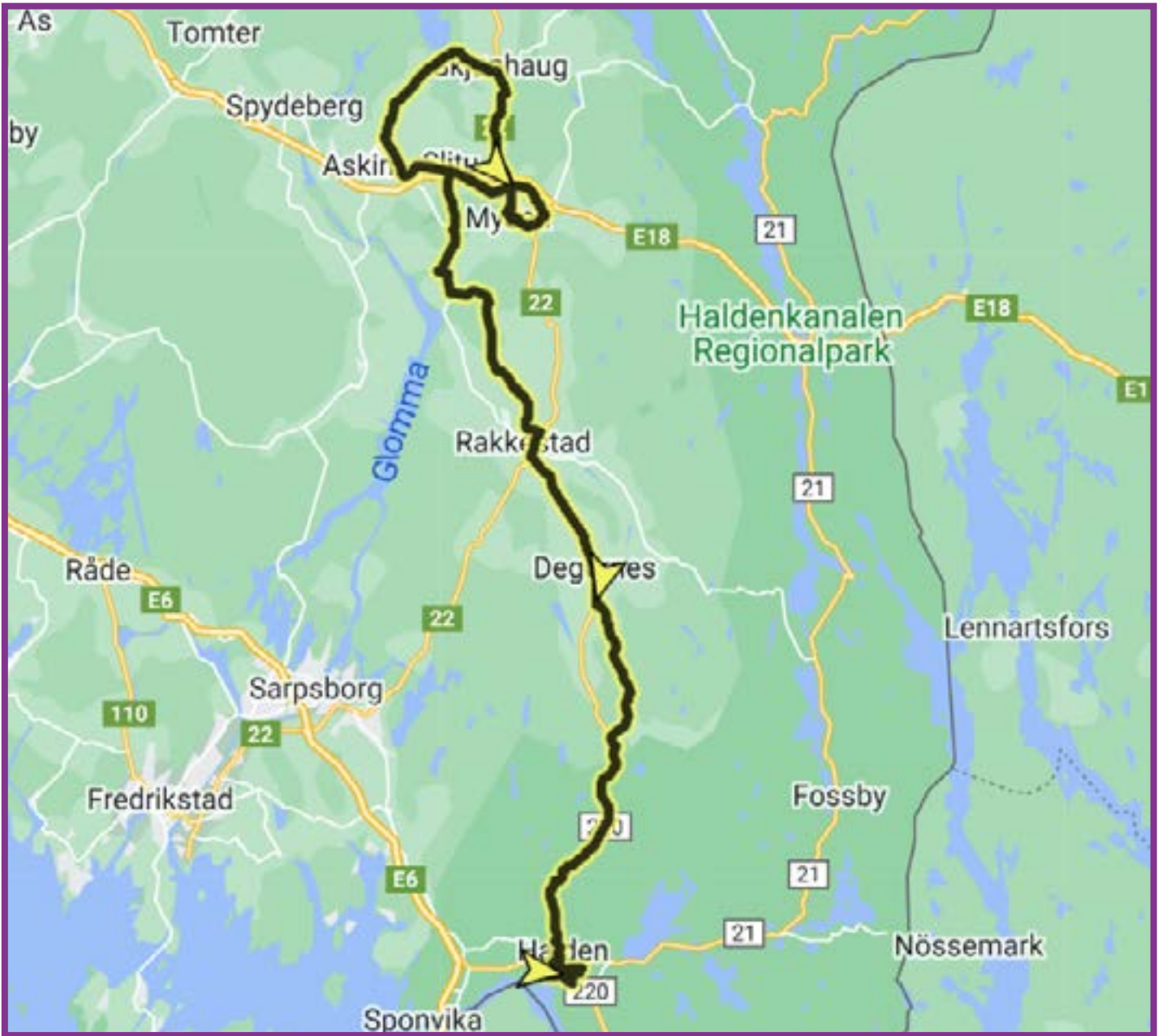
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# Wednesday 23. August - 1. stage : Mysen - Halden



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## GENERAL INFO

Well-known roads for the ladies who have raced either the Ladies Tour of Norway or the Tour of Scandinavia in the past. From inner to outer Østfold. The starting city is Mysen, which has become a more or less a fixed stop on the tour to the race's home town of Halden. That's where it all started, and that's where most things are managed.

The riders first do a round of Indre Østfold municipality and visit both Askim and Trøgstad before taking a turn through Mysen again. Then via Slitu and Eidsberg church to Rakkestad. After that through Degernes to Halden where a big news awaits:

The final lap now includes the steep and challenging climb Knardalsbakken up to Fredriksten fortress. Therefore, it may not be certain that there will be a sprint from a big group on this year's opening stage.



## Here are the places they pass on the 1st stage:

### MYSEN



Mysen is a nice little town. With active teams and associations. And nice shops and several cafes and restaurants. A hiking trail has been created - the Health Trail, along the Mysen river which is a popular area to use. A great path for walkers and runners along the river. It is used daily by hundreds of people. Along the river there are pedal boats that you can use.

Just outside the city center is the Folkenborg Museum, which is the birthplace of the king's son Håkon Håkonsson. Folkenborg is an open-air museum, with a farmyard and farmstead. Folkenborg Museum has relocated houses from the Indre Østfold region, with the main emphasis on Eidsberg. Particularly interesting is the large Narvestad building from 1723, with its richly decorated interior. Folkenborg Museum is located in an area characterized by long historical lines. The large museum barn contains exhibition areas, study magazine, seminar room, cafe and offices.

There are deep historical roots here. In the 12th century, this was the site of a church and Inga from Varteig gave birth to the king's son Håkon Håkonsson here in 1204. He was later smuggled over the mountain at Lillehammer, which is the origin of the famous Birkebeinerrennet, when the Birkebeiner saved him from the Bagels who were chasing him.

Above Mysen lies Høytorp Fort and towers over Mysen town. Høytorp fort is Norway's largest inland fort and is well preserved. This is also a popular outdoor area. Høytorp fort was the main fort in the Fossum district's fortress, and was built in the period 1912-1918. The first contingent of recruits arrived at Høytorp Fort on 10 August 1915. The fort took part in the battles against German forces on 9-14. April 1940. The fort was closed down as a military facility in 1994, protected by the National Archives in 2001 and handed over to Eidsberg municipality in 2003.

During the war, the Germans removed the fort's four tower guns, and the Association for Høytorp fort has since 1996 worked to get the tower guns back. In 2009, the parts for the first two 7.5 cm Cockerill turret guns returned, and these were fully assembled in 2014. A 12 cm Schneider turret gun was dismantled and retrieved in 2014, and was fully assembled on Høytorp fort in July 2015, so that it was ready for the 100-year celebration of the fort. Thus, three out of four turret guns have been returned. The 12 cm turret cannon is active, and is fired at certain events.

In the area there are over 40 buildings which today house, among other things, a restaurant, applied arts outlet, home improvement, second-hand market etc. The area is open to the public every day. There is a tour every Sunday at 2 pm in June, July and August. Here you are guided for approx. 90 minutes through dark, exciting corridors, inside and outside the tower cannons, hear interesting history and experience great views from the top of the mountain complex. The tour ends in a separate exhibition with uniforms, weapons and objects.



A separate artillery museum is open from 12.30 to 1.30 pm every Sunday in June – August. The cannon exhibition is in building 11, and consists of cannons from 1870 - 1944. The cannon is continuously restored by the Association for Høytorp fort.

### Train and city status

There are trains to Oslo from Mysen city, normally once an hour, with twice an hour during rush hour. The train journey takes about an hour. In addition, the E18, which is the main road between Oslo and Stockholm, passes by. Today it takes about 50 minutes by car as there is only 15 km left between Oslo and the border, which is not a four-lane motorway (through Ås and Nordre Follo).

Mysen received city status in 1997.

### Famous people from Mysen:

- Håkon Håkonsson (1207-1263), king of Norway 1217-1263
- Fredrik Nannestad (1693-1774), bishop in Trondheim, later in Oslo
- Halvor Heyerdahl Rasch (1805-1883), professor of zoology
- Thea Foss (1857-1927), Norwegian-American businesswoman
- Trygve Gulbrandsen (1894-1962), author
- Eva Røine (b. 1928), psychologist and author
- Otto Ruge, general from World War II
- Jan Erling Haugland (b. 1943), leader of several expeditions to the Arctic and Antarctic
- Per Fosser (b. 1945), orienteer, WCH gold relay 1970
- Jan Garbarek (b. 1947). jazz musician
- Tømm Kristiansen (b. 1950), foreign employee at NRK and author
- Cecilie Løveid (b. 1951), playwright and author
- Halvard Haugerud (b. 1957), visual artist Britt Juul (b. 1964), visual artist
- Svein Erik Bjerkreim, former national handball player
- Vibeke Skofterud (1980-2018), Olympic champion in skiing (from Slitu)
- Erik Unaas, former mayor and board member of the Norwegian Sports Federation
- Gøran Antonsen, owner and driver of the world star "Lionel" - winner of the Olympic Trot 2017
- Per Oleg Midtfjeld, well-known trotting driver, winner of Elitloppet and Oslo GP with "Steinlager"
- Kjell-Erik Kristiansen, world-renowned sports announcer (8 Olympics, almost 50 World Championships, 1000+ World Cup-races)
- Brage Vestavik, one of the world's best downhill cyclists

## MOMARKEN

Momarken Trotting Raceway in Mysen has a trot most weeks. Here there are union runs with Sweden, V65 and V75. Good food is also served. Previously, the square was best known for the annual Momarkedet, which is no longer held.

The trotting track at Momarken was opened in 1920, and has a track length of 1,000 metres. The track has normally had a race day on Tuesdays. One of the biggest events they have is Easter, when all those who don't know how about trotting, but who like a beer and good company, come. The Momarken race track has Østfold's largest restaurant with seating for close to 800 people.

There is also a motocross event on the track - both NM rounds and other events in motocross and other motor sports and horse sports are regularly organized here.



**The Momarkedet** was an annual festival at the Momarken trotting track outside Mysen.

Traditions back to the 17th century. So incorporated that it was mentioned in the old almanacs. In 1830, the authorities had to intervene because of "excessive excesses and delete the three merry days from the almanacs". 120 years later in 1950, the Red Cross took up the old traditions. A number of famous artists have been on stage. Now the scene is history, was removed last year. According to tradition, there was a live TV show from the Momarkedet every year.

On 26 April 2012, the board of the Mysen Red Cross decided not to organize the Momarkedet in 2012 for financial reasons. The event was then taken over by a separate foundation, which held Momarked on the last weekend in August of the same year, but then at Høytorp fort.

In 2013, the Momarkenfestivalen was held in July, over a weekend, but in the traditional "momarken weekend" in August, there were no events.

From August 2014, Lund Gruppen has organized the concept Festdager på Momarken, with a fairground, stalls and entertainment over a long weekend. Free entry, great artists, very popular.

### **Monaryggen – the sand marshes**

3-4 km long – 208 m above sea level. 80 meters over area around. The ridge was formed at the end of the last ice age in connection with the melting for approx. 9-10,000 years ago. At Mysen and Eidsberg, the landscape is broken up in several places into a series of small, steep stream valleys and ravines. This ravine landscape has been formed by running water digging into the deposits outside Monaryggen.

The Monaryggen is the largest formation of its kind in the whole of Northern Europe, but is now greatly reduced by several large mass withdrawals and the development of E18, which runs right through it. Eidsberg municipality applied before the municipal merger in the latest municipal plan to preserve one segment of the ridge intact so that the profile is intact both on the distal and proximal side. There are also several burial fields from the Iron Age up on the ridge and on the southern slope.

Along the Morenen is also a new hotel, Scandic Brennemoen, which opened in autumn 2019. 99 rooms, very pleasant service and the hotel is well visited. The Morenen shopping center is also located along the Morenen. Where more stores are constantly being expanded. McDonalds opened here in autumn 2019.

Furthermore, we pass Mysen prison, which was completed in 2017. It is a high-security prison for men. The prison has an ordinary capacity of 102 places. The prison has a tailored offer for 25 to 40 young inmates between the ages of 18 and 25, a drug addiction ward based on the Stifinner model and, beyond that, will accept all categories of inmates.

The prison also has a shop with the appropriate name "Tyven tyven" where everyone can come and buy products produced by the prisoners.

## **TRØGSTAD/SKJØNHAUG**

Previously Trøgstad municipality had just over 5,000 inhabitants. The settlement Skjønhaug was the center of the old municipality where Båstad and Havnås are also settlements.

Trøgstad fort is located on Skjønhaug, which was also part of Fossumstrøket's fortification as Høytorp Fort in Mysen. Trøgstad fort is a border fortress in Østfold. Trøgstad fort was begun at about the same time as Høytorp fort and was completed in 1917. This fort, Høytorp fort, the bridge galleries at Fossum bridge and Langnes railway bridge formed the fortress of the Fossum region, the most powerful fortress of the time. This was a barrier fortress and it was to be fought to the last man or until the army had marched up. The fort is divided into two armored batteries. Armored battery A and armored battery B. All military activity ceased at Trøgstad fort in January 1997 and it is today owned by the municipality.

The fort is maintained as a museum and outdoor area. Volunteers and former officers and soldiers at Trøgstad fort have put in a lot of volunteer work for the fort.

Trøgstad Bygdemuseum is located just south of Trøgstad church and was built in 1928 and is one of Norway's oldest rural areas with 14 listed buildings spread over 3 areas. The museum has a large collection of useful objects that have found their place in the various buildings in which they belong.



Trøgstad church is a stone church from the first half of the 13th century, added with a sacristy on the north side in 1697. The church is in the Romanesque building style and was restored in 1905. The decoration is special with scriptures as a belt around the entire church room, and otherwise has beautiful decoration with an acanthus altarpiece from 1712.

During the war in 1808, Prince Christian August lay in bivouac with the Norwegian troops at the church. A monument to Prince Christian August has been placed by the church.

The former sports commentator Kjell Kristian Rike in NRK is buried here

### **Moose safari**

Not far north of Skjønhaug is Olberg Camping in Båstad, here you can join a moose safari and get a moose guarantee. If you don't see a moose, then you get your money back. This is particularly popular with foreign guests. The Germans are absolutely crazy to see moose.



## ASKIM

Regional center in Indre Østfold. Became Norway's 46th city on 1 January 1996. Mysen became a town not long afterwards. Those are the two cities we have in Indre.



The industry in Askim until 1860 was mostly small dung, sawmills and brickworks. Then came the Rom nickel works in the 1860s. The Eastern line was opened in 1882. With the railway, the village had good communications to the Oslo area and Outer Østfold.

The power plant at Kykkelsrud was built 1900-1903: and the other two plants within a couple of ten years after this. And railways were built to all the power plants.

The power plants attracted many people to the site. In 1901, 1,200 workers were employed at Kykkelsrud alone. During this rally period, 2/3 of the population in Askim were men.

1920 forms in many ways a distinction between new and old times in Askim. In 20 years, the place had built up a working-class culture and had the country's lowest tax rate, cheap electricity. And this year also saw the start of Askim Gummivarefabrikk, which in its heyday had 2,000 employees. In 1922, the municipality got an infirmary with 8 beds and an operating theatre. The current center has grown up around the railway. The industrial growth led to increased population.

### Østfoldbadet

Norway's finest water park. The story goes all the way back to 1930 when Askim got a bathtub. In 1936 also a swimming pool. In today's Østfoldbadet, HM King Harald V was present at the opening on Saturday 16 December 2000. Østfoldbadet is a very well run and profitable bath. People come from far and wide to bathe in Østfoldbadet, or Askimbadet as it is also very often called. It is one of the largest lighthouses we have in Indre Østfold, and has 200,000 visitors a year. Constantly renewing itself with new developments. In the summer of 2019, a new outdoor facility was opened by the pool, so now there is an opportunity for both outdoor and indoor swimming. In Askim there is now both bounce, bowling and a trampoline park. Paddle tennis hall can be found in Østfold Næringspark.

### Romsåsen mines in Askim

Nickel mines from 1866. Here you can get a guided tour or you can take part in activities such as climbing and abseiling inside the mines, treetop climbing outside. Great campsite outside the mines where you can barbecue and enjoy yourself. The mines are located just outside the center of Askim. It is the only open nickel mine in Norway.

The first industrial enterprise in Askim was Romsåsen mines and Roms Nikkelværk which was founded by Anders Zakariassen Dahl in 1866. He was a supply officer and road builder. In the mid-1860s, he received permission to take samples in Romsåsen. These were analyzed at the University of Christiania and showed traces of nickel. At that time, several nickel works had already been established around the country because the price on the world market was good and the demand high. At the time, Norway was the largest nickel producer in the world!

With black powder, chisel and hand drill, more extensive samples were taken from various places (sharp). The nickel deposits proved to be large enough for profitable mining. Roms Nikkelværk was founded as an interest company. In the early days, there were 40-50 jobs in the mines, and when the smelter came into full operation there were a total of around 122 jobs at the nickel plant. In the autumn of 1876, operations stopped, and almost all workers were dismissed on the day.

During the Second World War in April 1940, the local population sought refuge in the mine tunnels to escape the skirmishes at Fossum bridge.

There are two golf courses in the area: Askim golf and Mørk golf in Spydeberg. Mørk Golf was the venue for World Championships in orienteering 2019.

## SLITU

Slitu is a village in Indre Østfold municipality. The settlement has a total of 782 inhabitants as of 1 January 2021, and is located in former Eidsberg municipality on the E18 between Askim and Mysen. The place has both industry, trade and agriculture. The name comes from the farm Slitu. The word Slitu itself comes from the word "slette".

Slitu, with its associated railway station (opened 1882) along the Eastern line, was from olden times an important trading center in Eidsberg.

Tenor church ruins at Slitu show remains of a small medieval church from the 13th century. The church was an annex to Eidsberg church. The National Antiquities and Østfold Museum are working on the site and the ruins have now been preserved with new joints and a new top cover.

The facility was officially opened with a church service and baptism in June 2008.

### Famous people from Slitu :

- Vibeke Skofterud, skier/Olympic champion

### Eidsberg Church

This church is known as the "Østfold Cathedral". It was built in the second half of the 13th century. It burned down in the 15th century and has since been rebuilt. It was added to and restored in 1880-1881, and the interior was restored in the 1950s. Some of the walls are from the old medieval church. Medieval front door with soapstone carvings and decorations. Altar from approx. 1600. Medieval soapstone in the baptismal font. Wooden carved pulpit from 1662.



Sculptures of Adam and Eve dating from the 17th century in carved and painted oak. King Haakon Håkonsson's nobleman Arnbjørn Jonsson from Valdisholm (island in Glomma nearby) met Earl Skule in the church in 1236. They both had a group of men with them for all eventualities, but parted peacefully after reaching an agreement.

A legend: A great man worked on the construction of the church. He was so tall that he crossed the river to the Skiptvet side to fetch timber. He was so strong that he could carry 12 logs on his back and he used one log as a walking stick. How tall was he? You can find the head about 8m up on the south wall of the

tower, near the west corner.

The former ski star Vibeke Skofterud is buried at Eidsberg church, her funeral was broadcasted live on NRK.

### Valdisholm an island/castle out in Glomma by Eidsberg church.

The castle was built during the civil wars in the 13th century as part of a larger defense system. It was King Håkon Håkonsson (who was born at Folkenborg in Eidsberg) who fortified the islet, and from 1225 Arnbjørn Jonsson held here as one of the king's most important supporters.

Duke Skule took the castle after Arnbjørn Jonsson's death in 1240. Further on, the castle is mentioned in King Magnus Lagabøte's Hirdskrå as a state prison from 1273, and it received murderers from parts of Borgarsyssel.

In 1346, Valdisholm castle is mentioned for the last time, under the name Wallethøhus. After this, the castle obviously lost its importance and the discovery of coal and ash on the islet testifies that the castle was probably burnt down.

## RAKKESTAD

Rakkestad is centrally located in Østfold and has two towns, Rakkestad and Degernes.

The first people came to Rakkestad already 10,000 years ago. They settled at Høgnipen, on the Rørmyr and Mellommyr trapping sites, which are among Norway's oldest trapping sites. Discoveries of burial mounds and village citizens bear witness to life through the millennia. Discovery of 3,000-year-old petroglyphs was made in the summer of 1986 on the farm Bjørnstad søndre.

The municipality has abundant and attractive areas, excellently suitable for all types of outdoor life, in all seasons, with marked trails, shooting ranges, fishing ponds and hunting grounds in connection with the hiking and departure points. There are opportunities to rent on a farm or in cabins, and also to rent a canoe

### Rudskogen Motor park

Rudskogen Motorpark South of Rakkestad center lies Rudskogen; Norway's main facility for motorsport. Here you will find the Racing track at 3254 metres. Outdoor go-kart track with European standard. The course is 1201 meters long in hilly terrain. The karts have 390 cc engines of 13 hp, you need a car license to drive them. Here you can participate as a private individual or take part in racing days. They have many events throughout the year. And houses one of Indre Østfold's biggest events - Streetcar (Gatebil) where 30-40,000 people come.



### Historica - historical collections

Close to Rakkestad you will find this museum which has an exhibition of chainsaws, tools, minerals and stone. Environmental exhibitions with clothes, from pharmacies, corps, school, mechanical workshop and watchmaker.

## Hjemmefrontmuseum

In the center of Rakkestad you will find the Hjemmefrontmuseet (Resistance museum). The museum has over a hundred meters of glass cases containing around 4,000 objects from the Second World War. The exhibitions are extensive and touch on occupation, acts of war, milorg, agents, national assembly, the civilian side, the concentration camps and peace. In the vicinity of the Hjemmefrontmuseet is Rakkestad bygdetun. Rakkestad Bygdetun consists of a main building, general store, storehouse, barn, playroom, forge and shop. There is a farmstead with a living room, barn and storeroom. Bygdetunet is a combination of a museum and utility yard.

## Famous people from Rakkestad:

- Anne Rasmussen (1936-), Visual artist, lives in Rakkestad
- Asgeir Midthjell (1955-), Visual artist, born in Rakkestad
- August Christian Manthey (1811-1880), County Commissioner in Hedmarkens County - held several posts as minister in various ministries, born in Rakkestad
- Bent Skammelsrud (1966-), Football player, born in Rakkestad
- Gunerius Johansen (1898-1980), Inventor, Rakkestad
- Hans Spilde, Inventor - ditch plough, Rakkestad
- Helga Kristine Eng (1875-1966), Psychologist and pedagogue, pioneer in child psychology, born in Rakkestad
- Jarle Ragnar Teigen Olsen (1969-), Visual artist, born in Rakkestad
- Karl Rådahl, Inventor - ditching machine, Rakkestad
- Liv Stubberud (1930-1997), Parliamentary representative for Østfold Ap, Rakkestad
- Marit Hulaas Stubberud (1945-), Puppet Theatre, Rakkestad
- Odd Steinar Holøs (1922-2001), Parliamentary representative for Østfold KrF, Rakkestad
- Olaf Wilhelm Haaje (1904-1985), Theologian and teacher, born in Rakkestad
- Sigrid Sundby Dybedahl (1942-1977), Speedskater - for a long period in the 1960s Norway's best female skater, Rakkestad
- Thor Lannem (1943-), Potter, Rakkestad
- Tore Stubberud (1947-), Author, philosopher, publisher and organic farmer, Rakkestad
- Øystein Westlie (1966-) and Marit Røttingsnes Westlie (1970-), Cookbook authors, Rakkestad

## DEGERNES

Degernes is a village in Rakkestad municipality in Viken. Degernes has 324 inhabitants as of 1 January 2022, and is located on national highway 22 towards Halden, approximately eight kilometers southeast of the municipal center Rakkestad. Degernes was its own municipality from 1917 to 1964, when it was merged with Rakkestad municipality.

In the center of Degernes there are, among other things, Kirkeng primary school, Kirkeng kindergarten, library branch, sports hall, Degernes church, grocery store, hardware store and petrol station.

The economy consists largely of agriculture, with the entire range of production from grain cultivation to all kinds of animal husbandry. In the 1950s, there was a lot of mining in the municipality, and there are open mines from that period in many places. Degernes has many fine fishing lakes, beautiful scenery with forests and open fields that are well suited for walking and cycling.

There is a diverse cultural life in the village, with many teams and associations.

## Famous people from Degernes:

- Hilde Midthjell (b.1960-), Norwegian businesswoman with great success.

## HALDEN

Halden, an idyllic small town located by the Iddefjorden. Cobble streets, large and small shops, cozy restaurants, river promenade and guest harbor can be found right in the centre. Above Halden's town center sits the mighty Fredriksten fortress. This 600-acre, beautiful facility is one of the country's most visited tourist attractions.

After a failed attack on the capital, the Swedish king Karl XII turned his forces against Fredrikshald (Halden was called Fredrikshald until 1928). After heavy losses on both sides, the defense forces of the fortress and the city were fought to their knees. On 4 July 1716 - as a last resort - citizens set the town on fire to drive out the Swedish king and his soldiers.

On a visit to Halden, famous author Bjørnstene Bjørnson heard this story and wrote about the incident in Halden in the national anthem - where Halden is the only Norwegian city mentioned. (Rome is the second city)



**Certainly there were not many of us; but we still reached,  
when we were tried sometimes, and it was at stake;  
for we would rather the land burn than fall;  
just remember what happened down at Fredrikshald!  
("Ja, vi elsker", Norway's national anthem, verse 4)**

### **Fredriksten festning**

A living history for over 350 years - from the country's most important defense building to one of the country's most spectacular cultural arenas. The fortress is a favorite hiking area, and offers, among other things, accommodation and dining. Every year over 200,000 people visit the fortress.

Fredriksten fortress was begun, as a direct result of Norway losing Bohuslän and Bohus fortress to Sweden in 1658. Three successive attacks by the Swedes against Halden in the period 1658-60 convinced the Danish king Fredrik III of the need for a modern and strong border fortress. The Swedes attacked Fredriksten Fortress three more times, and during the war in 1718, King Karl XII ended his days in front of the walls of Fredriksten Fortress.



### **In 1716 he traveled - 1718 he fell**

All the attacks on Halden after 1658 clearly showed the need for a strong fortress in city. By royal order, a large-scale development of Fredriksten fortress therefore began in 1661. So when the legendary Swedish king Karl XII with 2,000 men made a surprise attack on Halden on a foggy July night in 1716, a well-developed fortress towered over the town. The guard forces down in the city were taken by surprise. In just their underwear, they rescued themselves in the fortress. The fighting raged in many places, and beyond the morning the Swedes had control of the city, although there was still fights in the streets and houses. Eventually all the Norwegian defenders gathered in the fortress, while children and women were taken to safety outside the city.

Bombs and cannonballs rained down on the city from the fortress, shots were fired at the square from a barge out in the harbor and Norwegians lay on the slopes shooting at everything Swedish. Then the Halden inhabitants decided to set fire to their own town, or as it says in the patriotic song: "Thi we rather the Land burned, than it came to Fald".

Two maids and a servant boy threw burning streamers into several of the town's houses, and soon the entire south side of the town was on fire. The Swedes had to escape to the north side, where they set fire to the houses to cover their retreat.

Two years later Karl XII tried again. With 6,000 men he took Fredriksten. He conquered the fort Gyldenløve, and dug the trenches ever closer to the main fortress from the north. On the evening of December 11, he crept up on the edge of the trench to get an overview of the excavation work. Suddenly he collapsed, hit by a bullet that had passed through his head. The following day, all Swedish forces withdrew from Norway. Since then, it has been debated whether Karl XII was shot by his own or by an "honest Norwegian bullet".

### **1814**

In 1814, Fredriksten was again surrounded by Swedish forces. They set up cannon batteries in several places around the city and bombarded the fortress with heavy artillery. The fortress returned fire, and it was severe damages on both sides. After just over 14 days, emissaries from the highest ranks on both sides arrived at Fredriksten: An agreement has been reached on a cease-fire and the fortress gates are to be opened for the Swedish troops. Norway was no longer subject to Denmark, but in union with Sweden.

### **The dissolution of the Union**

The situation was also very tense at the dissolution of the union in 1905. Thousands of soldiers were mobilized and lined up on both sides of the border. On Fredriksten and around the district, powerful, modern cannons were mounted. However, negotiations led to a peaceful solution. One of the points of the agreement meant that Fredriksten would no longer be an operational fortress. But it could be kept intact - as a historical memorial.

### **Fredriksten fortress today**

Fredriksten is Norway's largest, most important and most glorious border fortress. Many also believe that it is one of the most beautiful in Europe where it towers majestically over Halden. From here there is a fantastic view over the city, the fjord - and far into what was once enemy land.

Fredriksten Fortress is a large arena for a wide range of events. Everything from small, intimate theater productions to large car exhibitions, concerts and sports events are held here. Several large outdoor areas and smaller detached forts are available. The fortress is alive with hotels, restaurants, information center and small and large events throughout the year.

### **Other attractions and "fun facts" about Halden:**

- Rød Herregård – a cultural gem with over 300 years of history. Tours throughout the year. It was owned and inhabited by the Tank and Anker families from 1733-1961. The garden was laid out as a large baroque garden, and later expanded with an English landscape garden. Rød Herregård has taken part in Toppen Beck's TV-program "Her skapelige".
- Halden Cruise Night – Halden is the city in Norway with the most American cars. Local and visiting cars often gather for cruising in the streets.
- Purke: A genuine Halden speciality, a large bowl that is eaten as it is or smeared on. Can be bought at all bakeries in Halden.

### **The industrial revolution in Norway - started in Halden:**

In Tistedalen. The initiator was the wealthy businessman Mads Wiel. During a visit to Copenhagen in 1812, he met Charles Axel Nordberg, who was developing spinning machines and cotton manufacturing machines. Mads Wiel first applied to the king in Copenhagen for the privilege to start up a textile factory. Before there was any answer, Mads Wiel started to build his factory building already in the spring of 1813. When the union with Sweden was a fact in the autumn of 1814, Mads Wiel again wrote an application, but this time to the king in Stockholm - Karl XIII. Wiel got his privilege and a new chapter in Norwegian industrial history had been created. Halden's Bomulspinneri and weaving mill closed down in 1972.

**Shoe industry** - in the 1950s and 1960s there were 17 shoe factories in Halden with 800 employees.

**Empireby** - The center of Halden is dotted with many Empire-style houses.

### **Famous architects - "The three G's":**

Grosch: Latin school (1826-30), Immanuel's church (1827-33), Søylegården (ca. 1830), Bruniusgården/the old town hall in Borgergata (probably designed by C.H. Grosch ca. 1830) Pedge: Wielgården/Kongegården (1817-20), Fayegården (ca. 1826-30), Tollboden (1830-31) Garben: Dietzgården (1829), Tungegården (ca. 1830s), Tollboden, extension (1837), Fredrikshald's theater (1838)

### **Halden borders Sweden in the east, south and west !!!!**

**The last woman who was executed in Norway** was in Halden. Sofie Johannesdatter was executed on 18 February 1876. The executioner's name was Theodor Larsen. Over 2,000 people turned out to watch. Sofie Johannesdotter was a maid, a poison murderer who gave arsenic to a fellow maid and to two of her employers. In prison in Halden, Sofie had become a Christian, so her last words were "Now I'm going home to Jesus!"

### **Halden Prison**

**The old:** The prison where Sofie Johannesdatter was in the center of town. It was built in 1863. There is now a bakery here, so guests can eat lunch or drink coffee in the old cells.

**The new:** Halden prison is described as Europe's most modern. Is one of Norway's largest prisons with more than 250 inmates. The prison has a high level of security, in addition to transitional housing, and carries out pre-trial detention and prison sentences of various categories. Halden Prison has a high professional level and emphasizes interdisciplinary cooperation. In the opening year of 2010, the prison was mentioned in Time magazine as "the world's most humane prison".

### **The White Lady – The fortress's own ghost**

Unrequited love... She still hovers around the clock tower looking for her great love, a young soldier she never got. Do you want to see her? At midnight and full moon she hovers around the clock tower....

**Ife - Institute for Energy Engineering** was established in 1948 and conducts research in Halden nuclear safety and reliability. Today, Ife also does a lot of research on the manufacture of solar cells and renewable energy. Ife is also the initiator of the Halden project, which is an international research project in which state security organisations, national research foundations and industrial companies in 20 countries collaborate. The Halden project contributes to developing technology that benefits Norwegian industry and is one of the few places in the world where the USA, China and Russia are able to cooperate. Haldenreaktoren

### **The Halden reactor**

Ife has two research reactors and the Halden reactor is used for research into materials technology and nuclear fuel safety, in other words there is no danger of another Chernobyl accident in Halden.

The Halden reactor is located 100 meters inside the mountain, with a cover of 30 to 50 metres. The energy produced in the reactor is delivered via heat exchangers as steam through pipes to Norske Skog Saugbrugsforeningen, which uses it in its paper production.

## Sports in Halden

Halden Ski Club is one of the world's leading elite clubs in orienteering and has won the big relays Tiomila in Sweden and Jukola in Finland several times. Among the many national team runners over the years, multiple world champions such as Petter Thoresen and Olav Lundanes can be mentioned.

In recent years, Halden has also become a big handball town, although the lack of halls has meant that some matches have been played in Rakkestadhallen. Unfortunately, the women's team went bankrupt and had to start over at the bottom of the league system. But the men are still in the elite league.

In ice hockey, Comet from Halden has had a good team for many years, while Kvik Halden is the city's best football team. Cycling is also big and the ladies have been the best. Emilie Moberg was one of Norway's best female cyclists together with Elise Marie Olsen, while Ingrid Bøe Jacobsen is an outstanding mountain cyclist with National Championship titles on her CV.

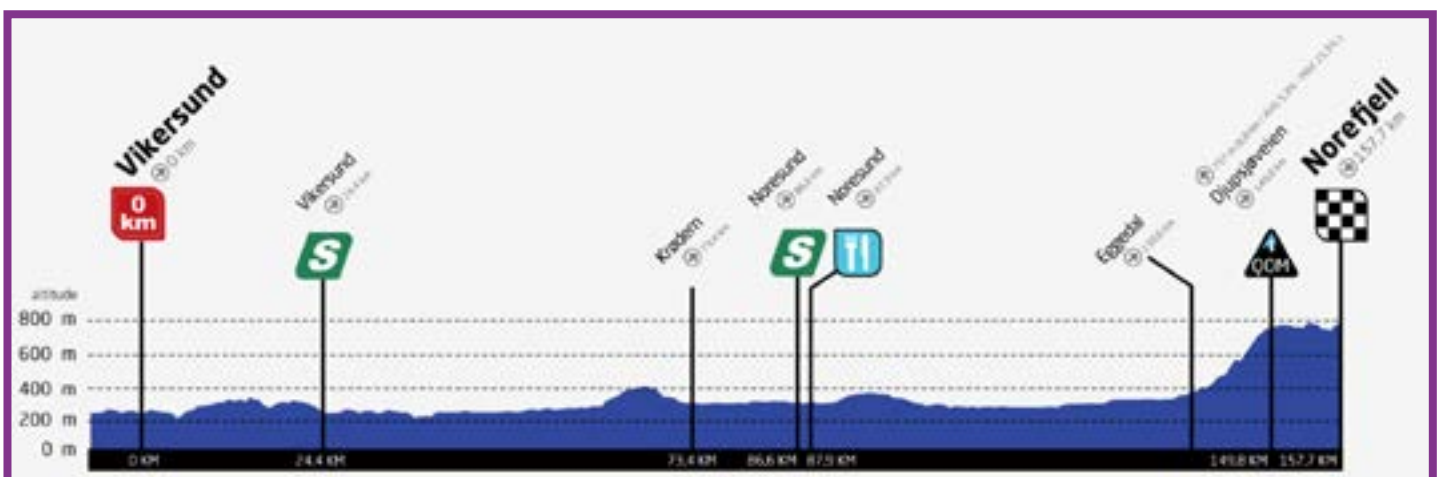
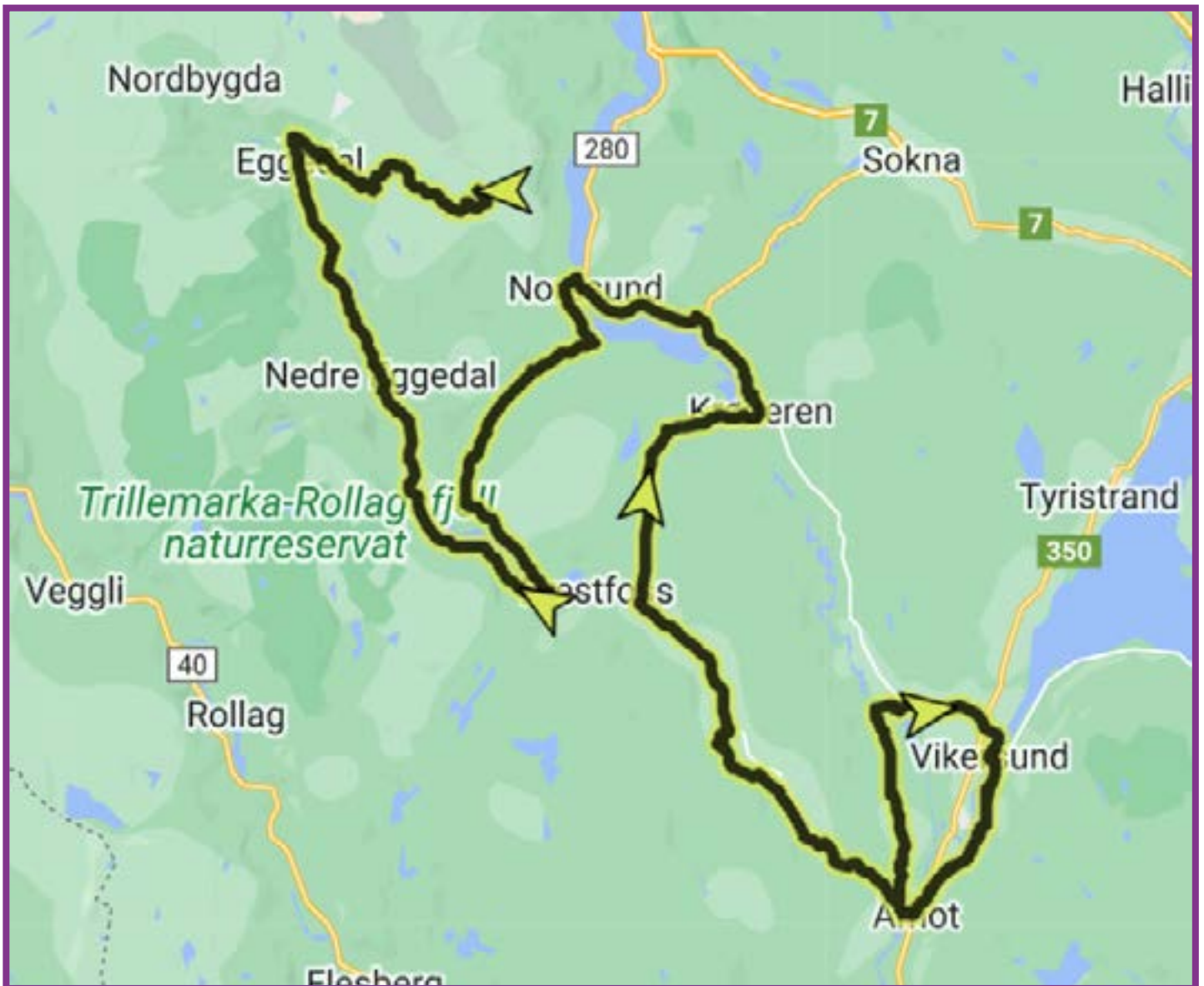
## Famous people from Halden:

- Peter Anker (1744-1832), civil servant and governor
- Carsten Anker (1747-1824), civil servant and politician
- Thomas Fearnley (1802-1842), painter
- Arnstein Arneberg (1882-1961), architect
- Sven Elvestad (1884-1934), journalist and author
- Egil Hjorth-Jenssen (1893-1969), actor/theatre manager
- Harald Rønneberg (1973-), talk show host and comedian
- Ole Evenrud, musician/"creator" of Allsang på Grensen
- Henning Kvitnes, musician
- Knut Nærum (1961-), writer and comedian
- Lars Sponheim (1957-), politician, minister and county governor
- Petter Thoresen, world champion orienteering
- Olav Lundanes, world champion orienteering
- Emilie Moberg, professional cyclist
- Ingrid Bøe Jacobsen, MTB-cyclist
- Elise Marie Olsen, professional cyclist
- Dag Solstad, author
- Yngve Hågensen, former LO leader, worked at Saubrugs
- Rolf B Wegner, Chief of Police
- Ninni Roll Anker, author
- Oscar Borg, composer b.1851
- Arvid Johansson, former editor and minister
- Roy Moberg, race director for Tour of Scandinavia





# Thursday 24. August - 2. stage : Vikersund - Norefjell



# Thursday 24. August - 2. stage : Vikersund - Norefjel

## GENERAL INFO

The second stage also goes on well-known roads for those who have cycled the last editions of the race. But with a big difference: the climb to Norefjell now takes place from the other side via Eggedal. As a result, it will not be the same hard hill up from Noresund, but the same number of meters up as the destination is in the same place at Norefjell Ski & Spa. The course goes through areas where skiing is popular in the winter. First skijumping at Vikersund with the skiflying hill, then the biathlon location Simostranda, where Ole Einar Bjørndalen comes from. And then you finish in the world of alpine skiers at Norefjell, the venue for the alpine events during the Winter Olympics in Oslo 1952.

### Here are the places passed on stage 2:

#### VIKERSUND

Vikersund is a small town and administrative center in Modum municipality in Viken county. The town has 3,232 inhabitants as of 1 January 2020 and is located furthest south-west in the Tyrifjorden, where the outlet of the fjord forms the Drammenselva river at Vikerfossen. Vikersund is 30 kilometers south of Hønefoss and 40 kilometers northwest of Drammen.

The road 35 passes by Vikersund, while Vikersund station is connected to the Bergen Railway via the Randsfjord Railway. Norway's longest museum railway, the Krøderbanen, runs between Vikersund and the town of Krøderen.

Historically, Vikersund has been important in wood processing and the paper industry. Timber was floated on Tyrifjorden, further out Vikerfossen and down the Drammenselva river from Vikersund. Today, the largest employers in Vikersund are Modum municipality, Modum Bad and the contractor company Albert Kr. Hæhre.

#### Vikersundbakken (ski flying hill)

Vikersund is perhaps best known for its skiflying hill, Vikersundbakken. In April 2010, development began so that the hill became the world's largest skijumping hill. It was put into use for the first time during the trial World Cup in February 2011, and regularly organizes World Cups in skiflying. Johan Remen Evensen set a new hillrecord and world record during the trial WC in 2011 with two jumps of 243 and 246.5 metres, in the 2nd trial round and the qualification respectively.



In February 2012, the World Championships in skiflying were held there. The hill was further developed before the World Cup races in 2013. Stefan Kraft set a new hill- and world record on 18 March 2017 with a jump of 253.5 metres.

In 2022, the WCH in skiflying was again organized in Vikersundbakken, which has also gained a new attraction. It's the new zipline where, for NOK 700, you can experience what it's like to soar down the world's largest ski jump. You pass the jump at up to 100 km/h.

If you think it's too scary, you can walk the 1,078 steps from the plain up to the top. A steep, short hike with a high heart rate and fantastic views.

#### ÅMOT (MODUM)

Åmot is located in Modum municipality in Viken. The place is located by highway 35, county road 287 and by Randsfjordbanen/Bergensbanen, but no trains stop at Åmot station anymore. Åmot has a long history as an industrial site, but is now mainly a trade and school centre. The place has grown together with Geithus, and they make up the settlement Åmot/Geithus.

The name Åmot is used for a place where rivers meet. In this case, it is the Simoa that flows into the Drammenselva at Åmotsund. The four waterfalls (Embretsfoss, Døvikfoss, Kongsfoss and Haugfoss) in the immediate vicinity have contributed greatly to Åmot's industrial history.

At Kongsfossen by Kongssagene, in 1870, a wood grinding mill, Kongssagene Brug, was built. Another wood grinder, Embretsfoss Fabrikker, was started at Embretsfoss in 1874.

Haugfossen got its wood grinder, Haugfoss Træsliberi, in 1894, four years before the business at Blaafarveværket ended for good. Haugfoss Træsliberi was closed down after a fire in 1926, Kongssagene Brug ceased operation in 1938. Embretsfoss Fabrikker expanded its production to include cellulose and paper and was, until its closure in 1971, Åmot's most important workplace.

At all of Åmot's four waterfalls, one or more power plants have been installed. At first, all the power was used by the businesses around the falls, but with the establishment of Modum Elverk in 1913, the electricity was also distributed to private households.

### **Blaafarveverket and the cobalt mines**

An important event in Åmot's industrial history was the discovery of cobalt in 1772. This led to the founding of Kongelige Modumske Blaafarveværk four years later. The color work itself was added to the plain below Haugfossen. The work's heyday was before 1849, and the work was in its time Norway's largest workplace. Blaafarveværket closed operations in 1898.

Today, Blaafarveværket is a museum that is one of Norway's most visited tourist attractions. The foundation Modums Blaafarveværk runs the museum, which in 2018 celebrated 50 years since industrial development stopped in the area where the Blaafarveværk is located, and started work to preserve the area, the buildings and the industrial history on the site.

## **SIMOSTRANDA**



Simostranda is a village in Modum municipality in Buskerud. The village is located by the river Simoa, along county road 287, and is best known for the sports club and its focus on biathlon and its biathletes. The best known is Ole Einar Bjørndalen, but also his brother Dag Bjørndalen, Hildegunn Mikkelsplass (born Fossen) and Ida Lien are or have been on the national team.

Olympic king Ole Einar Bjørndalen stands on a statue in Simostranda, close to the national road where the ladies cycle past.

## **SIGDAL MUNICIPALITY**

Sigdal is a municipality in Viken county. It borders Flå in the north, Krødsherad in the east, Modum in the southeast, Øvre Eiker and Flesberg in the south and Rollag and Nore and Uvdal in the west. Most of the inhabitants live in the towns of Nerstad, Prestfoss, Nedre Eggedal and Eggedal. The municipality is characterized by high mountains and valleys. Approximately 72% of the municipality is covered by forest, 20% is mountain – essentially a low alpine zone. 4% of the area is cultivated and approx. 4% is water and waterways. A total of 842 km<sup>2</sup>. The inhabitants live mainly from agriculture and forestry and tourism.

During the Second World War, Milorg forces (resistance forces) from Base Elg were stationed in parts of Sigdal. Airdrops were made in the mountains. Towards the end of the occupation, there was a battle between the Home Forces and German police soldiers of Norwegian and German origin at Haglebuvannet, called the Haglebuslaget. 14 people were killed. Two members of Hirden were also shot on the same day near the water.

This well-known landmark is both exciting and legendary. The characteristic mountain has given life to both legends and fairy tales. The famous artist Theodor Kittelsen lived nearby, and he used the mountain as inspiration for his most famous troll drawings. Today, Andersnatten is a favorite pilgrimage site for adventurous mountaineers, and the steep wall is described as a mountaineer's paradise, but there is also a popular hiking trail up to the top from the back of Andersnatten.

Theodor Kittelsen is known for his atmospheric paintings and fairytale drawings of trolls, animals and landscapes. He lived with his family in Lauvli, which is beautifully situated by the Soneren in Sigdal. It was the beautiful view that gave him inspiration for his paintings and drawings.



The famous artist Christian Skredsvig (known among other things for the painting "The Boy with the Willow Flute") lived and worked here for a large part of his life. The place has a fantastic view over the entire valley, which with its beautiful nature has inspired many artists over the years. The house itself bears the stamp of being an artist's home. Here, all the furniture and paintings are intact as when the artist himself lived there.

Here you can experience the distinctive character and charm that gave him inspiration for his paintings and books. The municipality's millennium venue is the Sigdal Museum, which is the folk music center in Buskerud. The municipality's millennium project was the construction of an old building, Plassanebygningen, on the museum grounds.



## Famous people from Sigdal

- Christian Skredsvig (1854-1924), painter
- Theodor Kittelsen (1857-1914), painter and draftsman
- Olaf Solumsmoen (1896-1972), editor, state secretary (Ap)
- Olaf Knudson (1915-1996), representative of the parliament (H) 1954-1977
- Erling Kroken (1928-2007), skijumper
- Anne-Lise Berntsen (1943-2012), singer (soprano)
- Carl Hiaasen (b. 1953), American writer and journalist with roots in Sigdal
- Gudmund Olsen (b.1960), 3 NM gold medals in the decathlon for Sigdal FIK
- Josefine Frida Pettersen (b. 1996), actress in TV-program Skam

## PRESTFOSS

Prestfoss is a village and the administrative center of Sigdal municipality. The village has 488 inhabitants as of 1 January 2020, and is located by Kråkefjorden, the eastern part of lake Soneren. Holmen church from 1853 is located here.

At Prestfoss is the Folk Music Center in Buskerud. The folk music center in Buskerud is also an open-air museum. The museum offers a good picture of the building style and traditions in the district. The folk music center is mainly responsible for collecting, storing and promoting local folk music and dance. The folk music archive contains historical materials relating to local folk music. Sigdal and Eggedal Museum is an open-air cultural heritage museum that gives a good picture of the building style and traditions in the district. Sigdal and Eggedal Museum is located on the site of the former Sigdal Nickel Works (1874-1879).

## Soneren

Soneren is a lake located in Sigdal municipality. It has gained a place in Norwegian art history because the visual artist Theodor Kittelsen chose to build his home Lauvliå on a plot nearby. From his studio window he had a magnificent view of Andersnatten reflected in the water.

The Simoa River flows into and out of the lake, which also has inlets from Eidalselva and Horga. Soneren is also called Storfjorden.

## Sigdal Motorsenter

Sigdal Motor Center has one of Norway's toughest courses on which rental karts are driven. It is 750 meters long and 7 meters wide. The normal rental karts come up at a speed of 50 km/h on the long side. this is fast when you are sitting so close to the ground.

The club's children's gokarts have different sizes to suit both small and large from the year the child turns 8. Run by NMK Modum & Sigdal.

## KRØDEREN (lake and village)

Krøderen is a lake in Krødsherad and Flå municipalities in Viken. It extends approx. 41 kilometers north from the town of the same name and ends at Gulsvik in Flå, south of Hallingdal. The most important water supply comes from Hallingdalselva in the north, and the outlet is via Snarumselva at the southern end of the lake. The lake has an area of 43.91 km<sup>2</sup>.

On the west side of the lake is, among other things, the approach to the Norefjell mountains. A little south of Noresund lies Bjørøya with Villa Fridheim, known from, among other things, the TV-series Soria Moria.

At Noresund (along county road 280) there is a bridge over the lake, which at that point is approx. 200 meters wide. National highway 7 ran along the lake between Ørgenvika and Gulsvik, parallel to the Bergen Railway, but now a new tunnel has been built which means that the national highway no longer runs through the center of Noresund. Until 2014, national highway 7 ran along the lake between Noresund and Ørgenvika, this stretch is now county highway 280.



From Krøderen station at the southern end of the lake there was a connection by steamboat to Gulsvik. The boat trip took 2 1/2 hours with D/S "Haakon Adelsten" (from 1861), "Krøderen" and "Norefjeld". The last steamboat ran in 1925. When the section Voss-Gulsvik on the Bergen Railway was put into use on 10 June 1908, there was a lot of traffic on the Krøder Railway, but after the Bergen Railway opened to Hønefoss and Oslo in 1909, there was only local traffic on the Krøder Railway.

## **Olberg Church**

Olberg church is a cross church from 1859 in Krødsherad municipality. It is part of the Church of Norway and belongs to Eiker parish in Tunsberg diocese. The building is made of wood and has 600 places.

## **NORESUND**

Noresund is a village and the administrative center of Krødsherad municipality. The village has 349 inhabitants as of 1 January 2020, and is located by the lake Krøderen. Krøderen is only about 200 meters wide at Noresund.

National highway 7 used to pass through the place, and Norefjell ski center is located 3 kilometers north-west of Noresund. Krødsherad rectory natural monument stands here.

## **EGGEDAL**

Eggedal is a mountain village at the top of Sigdal municipality in Viken county. It has previously been an agricultural and forestry village, but from the 1960s until today, the factory Sigdal Kjøkken (Kitchen) has employed large parts of the working population. Sawmills/timber shops and cabin construction are other important workplaces. In the center of the village there is a grocery store, liquor store, hardware store, cafe, Eggedal church and tourist office.

Eggedal school is a primary school and has around 50 pupils from Eggedal and Nedre Eggedal (lower Eggedal).

As the gateway to parts of Norefjell, Haglebu and Vestfjella towards Numedal, Eggedal has a large influx of people who have cabins in these areas. Eggedal Vestfjell (western mountains) have great hiking and skiing terrain in large untouched natural areas. In the south, the area borders Norway's largest nature reserve, Trillemarka.

In winter, there are groomed ski tracks in the areas around Eggedal. The tracks are located in magnificent hiking terrain, mainly from 700 and up to 1100 m above sea level. The trails are also connected to the trail network at Norefjell.

There are good mullet areas in Eggedal, and there is access to rod fishing for trout in several of the waters in the area.

In Eggedal, seven Norwegian Milorg soldiers and six German police soldiers of Norwegian and German origin fell during a skirmish at Haglebuvann on 26 April 1945. A prisoner of war in uniform was also liquidated by Milorg. The skirmish has been called the Haglebuslaget.

Eggedal Mølle, an old newly restored town mill, can be seen in operation on Saturdays and Sundays in the summer, here, in addition to the old mill, there is a collection of old buildings brought from the area, including a sawmill.

In the center of Eggedal is the statue "The man with the cat", with a motif from Chr. Skredsvig's picture "Idyll", which the artist Nils Aas created in connection with the 150th anniversary of Skredsvig's birth.

## **Norefjell Ski & Spa**

Norefjell Ski & Spa is a resort with everything you can dream of. The location is in the middle of the hill at Bøseter. Ski in/out makes the resort perfect for those going skiing.

The resort consists of 244 rooms, divided into 121 double rooms and 123 family suites. In the village outside the resort you will find 161 apartments suitable for 4-8 people. All suites and apartments have their own kitchen.

In terms of activities, the resort has a 16-metre high climbing wall, bouldering wall, swimming area with swimming pool, jacuzzis and two saunas, well-equipped fitness department, wellness department, children's zone, après-ski, nightclub and activity program for children during holidays and weekends, etc.

Just below Norefjell Ski & Spa, Seterliv is organized in the summer. Here the children can meet goats, pigs, rabbits and chickens. Possibility of horse riding and driving with horse and carriage. There is canoe rental and an open kiosk.

Norefjell is also known as the arena for the alpine events during the Winter Olympics in Oslo 1952. Many people probably remember the classic image of Stein Eriksen as he lies vertically in the air with only one hand as contact with the ground. In addition to Norefjell Ski & Spa, there is a favorite outdoor area that has lots of cabins and is also used extensively in the summer.



# Friday 25. August - 3. stage : Kongsberg - Larvik





# Friday 25. August - 3. stage : Kongsberg - Larvik

## GENERAL INFO

A new area for the Tour of Scandinavia, although these are well-known roads for those involved in cycling in Norway. From the silvermining town of Kongsberg through an industrially heavy Grenland with both Skien and Porsgrunn. Then in coastal areas past pearls such as Helgeroa and Stavern before ending up in Larvik with a hill up to the finish here as well.

An undulating stage suitable for brakeways if anyone has thoughts about it. There are plenty of opportunities to attack. The area is classic Norwegian eastern part terrain with both flat areas, hilly terrain and coastal terrain where the wind might play a role.

### Here are the places passed on stage 3:

#### KONGSBERG

Kongsberg (originally Konningsberg) is known as the mountain town in old Buskerud county, now Viken. The town is located at the top of Lågendalen and at the bottom of Numedal..

Kongsberg borders Flesberg in the north, Øvre Eiker and Holmestrand in the east and Skien, Siljan and Larvik in the south and Notodden and Midt-Telemark municipalities in the west.

Kongsberg has just over 27,000 inhabitants (2016).

It was Christian IV who founded the mountain town of Konningsberg in 1624 when he visited Sandsvær to inspire the silver discoveries. He himself actively participated in the planning of the city and the silver works and, among other things, ordered the construction of his own royal residence.

The silver mines were the starting point when Kongsberg was established as an industrial town in 1623. From 1983, Kongsberg and Røros were the two mining towns in Norway. Kongsberg was Norway's largest mining community and the country's oldest industrial town, and in the middle of the 18th century was Norway's second largest town.

The traditions from Kongsberg Våpenfabrikk (weapon factory) have given the city significant professional environments in the production of high-tech weapons, car parts and equipment for shipping, aviation and the oil and gas industry. The industry in Kongsberg has an annual turnover of close to NOK 40 billion.

The largest companies are Kongsberg Gruppen (Kongsberg Defense & Aerospace and Kongsberg Maritime), FMC Technologies and Kongsberg Automotive.

Numedalslågen river divides the city in two. The west side ("Vestsia") is the oldest and most original part of the mining town, with the unique baroque church as a landmark towering above the rest of the buildings. The east side (Nymoen) has a more modern city center with shopping streets, schools, hotels and a bus and railway station.

Despite its industry, Kongsberg has large natural areas with forests and mountains. To the south you can see the mountain Skrimfjell, to the north lies another mountain, Blefjell. An alpine resort and well-developed ski track network is located right next to the town centre. The historic mining hill with Jonsknuten mountain to the west is a protected cultural landscape which, with its distinctive nature and many cultural monuments from the mining era, is a popular outdoor area all year round.

In 1964, Kongsberg, Øvre Sandsvær, Ytre Sandsvær, Jondalen in Flesberg and Øvre Jondalen in Gransherad were merged into the new Kongsberg municipality. The municipality has an area of 792.0 km<sup>2</sup>. Most of the inhabitants live close to the city centre, or in the surrounding areas of Heistadmoen, Skollenborg, Saggrenda, Hvittingfoss and Passebekk.

Kongsberg is Norway's 6th largest inland city, i.e. without a coastline. As an inland city, it is surpassed only by Sarpsborg, Skien, Lillehammer, Hamar and Gjøvik in terms of population.



For Kongsberg Sølvverk (silver mine), Christian IV brought Germans from the silver mines in Saxony and the Harz. In addition, there were Germans from other mines in Norway. The Germans came to assist with essential knowledge about mining, and this was particularly important in the start-up phase for the mining town of Kongsberg. Before 1623, the area where the town is now located was open land for farms in the large village of Sandsvær.

Four years after the founding of the Silver Works, most of the 150 workers and clerks were still German. Norwegians gradually gained entry into the workforce, and were employed as supervisors (ladders). In 1636, 137 Germans and 160 Norwegians worked at the works, in 1648 150 Germans and 240 Norwegians.

In 1683, the Sølvverket became the state's property for good. Rapid expansion caused the number of workers to rise considerably towards the end of the 17th century. The proportion of Norwegians in the workforce increased, but white-collar positions continued to be German-dominated for a long time.

Kongsberg almost became a small piece of Germany in Norway: The mines were given German names, the church service was at first only in German, later both in German and in Danish. At Kongsberg, they also followed the German mountain law system. Legally, this meant that the city was governed according to ordinances that partially exempted the mining community from the country's other legislation. The Germans brought with them their own miner's uniform and a social system (Knappschaft) with, among other things, free medical care, pension schemes, sick pay for the workers and Saturdays off.

The income from the Silver Board provided valuable subsidies to the depleted Danish treasury. It has been claimed that Denmark-Norway largely financed the constant wars against Sweden with silver from Kongsberg. The precious metal also became increasingly important in the Danish-Norwegian state's currency production. In order to get closer to the raw material source, the Royal Mint was therefore moved from Akershus to Kongsberg in 1686.

With 8,086 inhabitants at the 1769 Census, Kongsberg was Norway's second largest city after Bergen, and the workers made up around 90% of the city's population. In 1770, the Silver Works employed 4,200 men. In this period, Kongsberg was a clear social hierarchy, where the majority consisted of workers at the Silver Works, organized in a strict rank system based on various occupational titles and amount of responsibility associated with the mining operation. In addition, the mining community also included the local peasantry, craftsmen and a more exclusive circle of the bourgeoisie and civil servants of the Danish-Norwegian state.

Shaped according to Christian IV's order for a quarter form, the city center was concentrated on the west side of Numedalslågen river. Here were workers' housing, stately patrician houses, smelters and the Royal Mint. A Latin school was established in 1719, and in 1757 the Bergseminar was established, Norway's first higher education institution.

In 1802, the town received full market town rights. The beginning of the 19th century was nevertheless particularly difficult for Kongsberg. The silversmith's falling production and rising operating deficit, combined with Denmark-Norway's serious economic and political problems, made the situation precarious. In 1805, the works were closed down and most of the mining stopped. The crisis worsened further with the great city fire in 1810. There was great distress, and the population fell drastically.

In 1814, the Kongsberg Arms Factory was founded to remedy unemployment and make the newly established Norwegian state self-sufficient in weapons. In 1816, mining resumed. In the decades that followed, unexpectedly large deposits of silver were found in the so-called Overberget. In the 1830s, the income from Kongsberg's mining financed around 10% of Norway's state budget. Production reached a peak of 10-12 tonnes of silver per year, but throughout the 20th century profitability declined. When the Sølvverket was finally closed in 1958, a total of 1,350 tonnes of pure silver had been extracted.

On 1 January 1964, Kongsberg city municipality, Øvre and Ytre Sandsvær manor municipalities, as well as certain other areas, were merged into one city municipality.



**KONGSBERG**

After the Second World War, Kongsberg Våpenfabrikk (KV) developed into an international industrial group. In addition to weapons production, KV developed and supplied computer systems, gas turbines, equipment for the oil industry, navigation equipment, as well as aircraft and car parts. In the mid-1980s, the company experienced a dramatic financial crisis and was technically bankrupt. At the same time, it was accused of violating the CoCom rules when selling sensitive technology to the Eastern Bloc. In 1987, as a consequence, the factory was split up and partly sold to private investors, partly reorganized under state ownership. Today, large parts of the business live on, and form a central high-tech industrial cluster in Norway. Kongsberg Gruppen and Kongsberg Auto motive are listed companies.

Among what is made and/or developed at Kongsberg, mention can be made of rocket technology, advanced smart missiles such as NSM, NASAMS2 and Penguin, weapon systems such as CROWS, parts for the F-35 (JSF), robotics, jet engine production, car parts and offshore technology (FMC Technologies).

On 13 October 2021, the mass murder at Kongsberg took place, when Espen Andersen Bråthen killed five people and injured three others, with stabbing weapons and a bow and arrow.

The town is known for its skiing traditions, technology companies and the international Kongsberg Jazz Festival, which has been held every year since 1964. Two new festivals have also been started at Kongsberg in the 2000s: the Glogerfestspillene (from 2001) and Kongsberg Krim (from 2004). The EnergiMølla music house is Kongsberg's music and cultural scene. Several of the city's cultural associations organize performances here all year round.

Athletes from Kongsberg have long traditions in winter sports such as skijumping, biathlon and snowboarding. Examples of well-known winter sports athletes from the district are Birger Ruud, Sigmund Ruud, Asbjørn Ruud, Daniel-André Tande, Silje Norendal, Stian Sivertzen and Erlend Bjøntegaard.

Kongsberg also has Norway's best elite league team in basketball, the Kongsberg Miners, who have won league gold and NM gold in recent years.

There is also a large motorsport environment at Basserudåsen Motorsenter, which is located on the road towards Kongsberg from Drammen before driving down towards the city. There are, among other things, facilities for autocross, motocross, go-kart and speedway. NMK Kongsberg runs the centre.

Kongsberg Sports Association (KIF) also bets on cheerleading as a competitive sport, and has achieved good results both as a team and with individual athletes. Among other things, one of the teams from KIF won a silver medal in the European Championship in cheerleading in 2017. KIF has also qualified for the World Cup in cheerdance.

The municipality's millennium site is Kirketorget, which is centrally located on the West side. The square was refurbished and "reopened" in 2003 and is today the municipal hall.

## **SKOLLENBORG**

Skollenborg is a place in Kongsberg municipality in Buskerud, approx. 7 kilometers south of the city centre. The place is located at the road junction between Rv. 40 (Geilo-Larvik) and Rv. 286, which leads onto the E134 at Krekling, 7 kilometers to the northeast.

Skollenborg station is a station on the Sørlandsbanen. West of the village is the Skollenborg power plant in Lågen river (88 MW), and a waterways museum. The name Skollenborg probably comes from the Norse verb "skolla" which means "hill", due to the farm's relatively high location. From 2015, it is no longer considered a separate village, but as part of the Kongsberg town and municipality.

## **EFTELØT**

Efteløt is a village located in Ytre Sandsvær in Kongsberg municipality (Buskerud). Efteløt has its own primary school and church. Among other things, the former national team cross-country skier Børre Næss (1982) comes from here.

## **HVITTINGFOSS**

Hvittingfoss is a village in Kongsberg municipality in Viken. Before the municipal amalgamation in 1964, Hvittingfoss was located in Ytre Sandsvær. The settlement has 1,143 inhabitants as of 1 January 2022. Hvittingfoss borders Larvik and Holmestrand. Numedalslågen river flows through Hvittingfoss and is a salmon and sea trout carrier from here to the sea.

Hvittingfoss has a primary and secondary school, and an active association life, including a volunteer-run cultural center with library, alpine slope and youth club. There is also an active air sports environment in the area.

The Greenland Express stops here.

People must have lived at Hvittingfoss since the Stone Age. There are several petroglyphs here, and they are among Kongsberg municipality's oldest cultural monuments. The rock carvings depict five ships, two pairs of soles and a hand with splayed fingers. They are probably so-called agricultural carvings.



In 1936, a new A/S Vittingfoss company was founded with Einar Wahlstrøm as manager of the company. The company bought the paper mill and the grinding facilities from Tønsberg municipality. The paper mill was now rebuilt for higher production and other paper qualities. Operations began in June 1937. The factory now produced, among other things, "greaseproof" (greaseproof paper) and fine paper. A/S Vittingfoss rented power for the paper mill, and water from Tønsberg municipality.

The new paper grades were better paid in the market compared to the thin paper that was previously produced. Transport costs were then not so high, and people moved away from rail transport and switched to road transport for goods to and from the factories. The Holmestrand-Vittingfoss line was closed down in June 1938. It was operated this way until 1946.

During the 1940-45 war, among other things, a type of black paper for blackout curtains was produced. Something called twine paper was also produced. It had to be very strong paper, as it had to be twisted into twine and other rope.

In 1946, a so-called "Yankee machine" (an American machine) was installed for the production of thinner special qualities. The machine was used, and bought from Union & Co in Skien.

In the 1950s, approx. 200 to 215 people at A/S Vittingfoss. The workforce decreased somewhat in the 1960s to an average of 190 people. In 1961, production was 8,600 tons of paper and 12,400 tons of wood pulp.

In the 1970s, the grinding mill was converted from operation with hydropower turbines to electric operation. New grinding devices with greater capacity were also installed. For a period in the 1970s, A/S Vittingfoss leased Vestfoss Cellulosefabrikk's paper machine, which they operated. Wood pulp for use in production here was delivered from the sander at Hvitvingfoss. During this period, the workforce was up to 270/275 people, the highest number in the company's history. New times and unprofitable operations at Vestfossen were a contributing factor to A/S Vittingfoss having to cease operations in 1978.

New Vittingfoss A/S continued operations, they were foreshadowed the possible production of copying paper. Great expectations were placed on this product and a machine was purchased for the purpose. It was a type of coating paper based on self-produced paper. However, it was a very complicated process and difficult to produce. The company made a loss and had to give up again in 1980. Tønsberg municipality still operates electricity production at Hvitvingfoss.

Until 1932, much of the timber was bought in Numedal and floated in Lågen down to Reinemoen, a couple of kilometers above the company. From 1936, most of the timber was bought in the local area and transported by car to the company.

## **SVARSTAD**

Svarstad is a village in the north of Larvik municipality in Vestfold. The settlement has 611 inhabitants as of 1 January 2022 and is located by Numedalslågen river, approx. 46 kilometers north of central Larvik and approximately 11 kilometers south of Hvitvingfoss in Kongsberg municipality. Svarstad was the administrative center of the former municipality of Lardal. Svarstad church, which was built in 1657, is located here.

Holemyra is a fairly large forest field located in the center of Svarstad. Holemyra is a very popular hiking area for many of Svarstad's residents. Svarstad won the Norwegian championships in cross-country skiing relay in Steinkjer in 1979 with the trio Pål Sjulstad, Jan Erik Bårnes and Jan Vidar Skaug. They surprisingly beat Bjerke IL and Lillehammer Ski Club, who followed closest.

### **Kjærra Fossepark**

Kjærra Fossepark is located by Kjærrafossene (waterfalls) in Larvik municipality in Lågendalen in Vestfold county. Kjærrafossene, which is part of Numedalslågen river, is a place rich in tradition for salmon fishing, which can be documented all the way back to the Middle Ages. Here they used different fishing tools adapted to different fishing spots in the river.

The salmon stones are mounted between large stone-filled wooden tubs that have been built out in the river. The traditional fishing stopped in the 1950s, but was taken up again in the 1980s. The fish that are caught are auctioned off to the spectators in attendance. The Kjærra Laxefiske Foundation is the organization behind it, and the aim is to develop a unique watercourse environment for the general public.

A footbridge has also been built over the river, and Kjærrabrua was formerly Lardal municipality's millennium site. The project began in autumn 2000 and the bridge was opened on 5 July 2001.

## Høyt & Lavt Vestfold

Høyt & Lavt Vestfold (<https://hoytlavt.no/vestfold/>) is a climbing park for the whole family with many different offers, not just climbing. It is a very popular place to visit for the whole family in the summer.

The climbing park is for everyone – both young and old. It doesn't matter what shape you're in or if you've never climbed before. Here, grandparents can climb together with their grandchildren, friends can create new memories together - and colleagues can take their workplace to completely new heights, says the advertisement for this great park.

Here everyone will find climbing routes they can enjoy. The climbing routes have color codes that show the degree of difficulty – from orange (which is the easiest) via light green, green, blue, red and finally black (which is the most difficult).

The youngest in the family deserve to have as much fun as the older children. That is why Nett & Sprett has been developed - where children can play and have fun in various nets with possibilities for resilient bounces. Nett & Sprett does not require any kind of equipment or training. Here, the children can run straight in after getting the ticket band in their hand and play as much as they want. For children up to 12 years.

If you are extra tough, you can try Himmelfallet and feel a tingling sensation in your stomach, a higher heart rate and mastery. Here you bet from 30 meters above the ground!  
In addition, there is an obstacle course, treetop hiking, mountain bike hire and options for accommodation.

## Vindfjelltunet Gjestegaard

Vindfjelltunet Gjestegaard (guest house) is located in a scenic area along highway 32, midway between Siljan and Steins-holt in former Lardal municipality. It is 20 km from Skien and 35 km from Larvik and 55 km from Kongsberg.

The central location of Color Line in Larvik, Fjordline in Langesund, as well as Torp airport in Sandefjord, makes the guest house popular as a "loading point" for families with children and globetrotters. Vindfjelltunet Gjestegaard is an accommodation with a pleasant and relaxed atmosphere.

Here there are opportunities for a range of activities and entertainment, courses and conferences.

## SILJAN

Siljan is a municipality in Grenland in Vestfold and Telemark county. It borders Kongsberg in the north, Larvik in the east, Porsgrunn in the south and Skien in the west. The highest point is Rådmannen, 646 meters above sea level.

The population per 1 January 2022 in Siljan was 824 inhabitants.

More than half of the employees in Siljan work in the neighboring municipalities of Skien, Porsgrunn and Larvik.

Siljan has been named Telemark's best housing municipality several times. In the 2016 municipality barometer, Siljan was the second best municipality in the country, and at the top in Telemark.

Siljan municipality has around 80 good fishing lakes, both those that are easily accessible and those that are located deep in Siljan's deep forests. These are managed by Siljan Hunter and the fishing association. A fishing license is required.

Siljan municipality was called Slemdal until 1917, changed by royal decree on 3 November 1917. No one in the village thought of a name change. The proposal came from the Ministry of the Church, which during the First World War was eager for such changes and sent circulars to the country's municipalities.



Foto: Visit Telemark

The municipality's millennium site is the coal cellar at the Moholt ironworks. "Kø lakjeller'n", as the place is called locally, was a large coal warehouse in the 18th century. Iron production required enormous amounts of charcoal, and therefore a large coal cellar was a necessity.

Today, the coal cellar is used, among other things, for concerts and theater productions.

Midtbygda school is the municipality's only primary school. In addition, there is Siljan secondary school. There is no upper secondary school in the municipality.



## Famous people from Siljan

- Ole Andersen Kiste (1891–1950), trade unionist and politician (AP/NKP)
- Otto Austad (1926–), sk jumper, winner of the special jumping at Holmenkollen in 1953
- Rolf Nerli (1951–), visual artist
- Terje Moe Gustavsen (1954–2019), road director and former transport minister
- Kjell Abraham Sølverød (1957–), mayor (Sp) and former chairman of Telemark Bondelag (farmers association)
- Jan Sæthre (1960–), municipal director and church leader
- Tore Hogstvedt (1963–), visual artist
- Edel Therese Høiseth (1966–), former speedskater
- Jeanne Bøe (1967–), actress
- Kristian Norheim (1976–), politician (FrP)

## SKIEN

Skien is a city, municipality and the county capital in Vestfold and Telemark counties. Skien was the administrative center of the province that went by the names Skiensysla, Bratsberg county, Bratsberg county and Telemark county from the Middle Ages until 2020.

Skien borders Midt-Telemark and Kongsberg in the north, Siljan in the east, Porsgrunn and Bamble in the south, and Drangedal and Nome in the west. Historically, today's Skien was partly counted as Grenland and partly as Grenmar or Skiensfjorden, but over time the whole area was seen as part of Grenland.



The city is one of Norway's oldest, and the settlement grew around the year 1000. It is one of the few medieval towns in Norway that was not founded by a king. Through the timber and sawmill industry, Skien became one of Norway's most important commercial and cultural centers from the 16th century, and retained its position as one of Norway's leading cities until the beginning of the 19th century. Today, ICT and other knowledge-based businesses are about to take over as the most important business avenue in Skien.

Skien is known as the birthplace of the author Henrik Ibsen, who often takes motifs from Skien in his poetry, and the municipality spends a lot of resources on managing and communicating the artist's life and works. The polar explorer Hjalmar Johansen was also from Skien, and he helped found the Odd Sports Association. Norway's oldest existing football club, Odds ballklubb, has its origins in this sports association. Skien has three large theater buildings, Ibsenhuset from the 1970s, Festiviteten which was completed in 1891 and Teater Ibsen on Klosterøya which was completed in 2016.

The municipality and the city is Norway's 11th largest, with 55,739 inhabitants per 2nd quarter 2022. The city of Skien is part of a contiguous urban area in the municipalities of Skien, Porsgrunn and Bamble, and the conurbation Porsgrunn/Skien is the seventh largest in the country with 93,255 inhabitants as of 1 January 2011 (of which in Skien 49,265, in Porsgrunn 33,813 and in Bamble 10,177).

Skien municipality comprises 778 km<sup>2</sup>, of which approx. 479 km<sup>2</sup> is forest area, 46 km<sup>2</sup> agricultural area and 57 km<sup>2</sup> fresh water. The remaining 197 km<sup>2</sup> are urban areas, residential areas and industrial areas. The landscape in Skien is characterized by dense housing from the center and southwards along the Skienselva towards Porsgrunn, rich agricultural areas in Gjerpen east of the centre, and to the north and west large wooded hills except in the drabant town of Gulset.

The highest points in the municipality are Skårråfjellet (814 m) and Ørnenuten (811 m). Both of these mountain peaks are located in the north of the municipality, close to the border with Sauherad. Closer to the center are Vealøs (491 m), Skrehelle (553 m), Geitebuvarden (525 m) and Ulvskollen (405 m).

Lake Norsjø, which is the main source of drinking water in Skien, is located on the border between Skien and Nome municipality. Norsjø is a central part of the Norsjø–Skienkanalen, with Løveid locks at Skotfoss.

The town itself is laid out by Bryggevanet lake in the innermost part of the Skienselva river, and Hjellevanet lake, which lies at the bottom of the Telemark waterway. Between these two waters there were originally four waterfalls: Klosterfoss, Langfoss, Bollefoss and Damfoss. The Skienselva offers the possibility of sailing in from the sea, which has probably been decisive for the town's location.

Bryggevanet lake has been partly filled in over the years. In the past, this water has gone all the way up to where today's town hall is located. In Hjellevanet lake there has also been considerable filling, most recently in the 1970s.



Below the Skienselva there is a densely built-up area along the entire stretch between Skien and the center of Porsgrunn.

West of the city center is Gulset. Just under 8,000 inhabitants live here (Gulset and Vestre Gulset together). Gulset is Skien's largest district in terms of population. The area north of Gulset is called Vestmarka. Here you will find many mines from the 16th century. Åfoss and Skotfoss are also located in the west, at the outlet of lake Norsjø.

There are eight nature reserves in Skien. Børsesjø (1165 daa), located in Gjerpensdalen, is one of the country's richest bird biotopes. Over 230 bird species have been recorded in the area around the lake.

The town's name has nothing to do with the means of transport, skiing, although it has a common origin with the word "ski", which means split stick. The word "ski" is derived from to separate. The name (Norse) Skiðan was probably originally a river name, probably with the meaning the one who separates (river names were most often active).

The name Skiða probably comes from a time when there was no watershed in Skien. At that time, the current Bryggevanet and Hjellevannet flowed together. In the 9th century, whetstone traders began to set up shops at Skiða, and so the river's name has gradually become attached to what, within a short time, became an important trading place.

From around the year 1000 there was an extensive settlement in the center of Skien which can be defined as a settlement. This was determined through the archaeological excavations led by Siri Myrvoll at the end of the 1970s.

Industrial development in Skien took off in the 16th century. In 1539, the operation of Fossum Jernverk, the oldest ironworks in Norway, began. The iron ore was taken from Glasergruva, which is located in the west marka north of Gulset. In 1546, the first Gimsøydaler was produced on Klosterøya. It was only 28 years after the very first Daler, the precursor to the Dollar, was pressed in Joachimsthal in Bohemia. In 1625, the first blast furnace was built at the ironworks.

A sawmill was set up in the center that utilized the waterfall. Log rafting on the river started in the 17th century, and Skien became the country's leading timber centre. The city was an important export port for timber and planks, and an import port for grain. Land raising and development in shipping had gradually made the city less accessible to merchant ships, and the loading points Porsgrunn, Brevik and Langesund gradually grew up.

At the beginning of the 17th century, it is estimated that around 1,000 people lived in the center of Skien. By comparison, around 2,000–3,000 people lived in Christiania (Oslo now) at the same time. In 1835, the city had 2,158 inhabitants, and in 1885 this had risen to 7,538. Extensions of the city limits are part of the explanation for this strong increase.

Also in the 17th century, the city was haunted by many fires. There were town fires in 1652, 1671 and 1682. In the fire in 1671, 90 townhouses were lost. In the 18th century there were also a number of catastrophic fires. Large parts of the city burned down in 1732 and in 1766, where all the city's most important documents were lost. In 1777 it burned again. This time 172 apartment buildings, 32 sawmills and 2 watermills burned down.

In the 18th century, a number of well-known trading families settled in Skien. Families such as Løvenskiold, Wesseltøft, Ording and Cappelen exist in the city to this day.

The 19th century was characterized by major changes and rapid development, but ended in a terrible disaster. The city still had an important position as a commercial and industrial city.

There were many technological innovations at this time, and Skien was an early adopter in many areas. In 1862, the Norsjø-Skienkanalen was opened. Two years later, in 1864, a gas plant was opened to supply Skien's residents with gas and heat. In 1882, the Vestfold Railway came to Skien. And Norway's first electricity utility that supplied electricity to subscribers, Laugstol Bruk, started up in Skien in 1885.

In 1875, Skien had 5,450 inhabitants. At the time, both Gjerpen and Solum were separate municipalities. The population for Skien therefore did not include people who lived in these areas.

In 1881 there was a great fire at Union, but it was still only a foretaste of what was to come. In 1885, another warning came, when Cappelen's residence at Gjemsø monastery burned down. In 1886 the town burned again. It was the biggest fire in the city's history. A total of 244 apartment buildings burned to the ground. The city center was completely destroyed. In the 1890s, the center was rebuilt. A new town plan was drawn up, and walling was introduced in the center of the town.

At the beginning of the 20th century, new residential areas were built around the city centre. Brekkeby, Brekkejordet, Gimsøy, Falkum and other places are residential areas that were built at that time. In the 1970s, there was development of new districts in Gulset and Klyve, and blocks of flats typical of the time grew up.

In 1920, the railway line Bratsbergbanen was opened. The interwar period was also characterized by conflicts. In 1931, the great Menstad team stood in Skien. Then Defense Minister Vidkun Quisling, who is also buried in Skien, sent soldiers against the workers. In 1940, Skien was occupied by the Germans, and the town had Nazi rule until 1945.

In 1964, the town of Skien was merged with the parishes of Solum, Gjerpen and Valebø district in Holla municipality to form the large municipality of Skien. In addition, there was a border adjustment in 1968, which led to 3,554 people being transferred from Skien to Porsgrunn.

In Skien, 89% of the population lives in densely built-up areas.

In 1968 Skienhallen was completed and where the European Championships in gymnastics were held in 1975. In the 1970s there were several important cultural events in the city. In 1973, Skien's new cultural center Ibsenhuset was opened. In 1978, a separate regional theatre, Telemark theater (now Teater Ibsen) was established.

In 1986 came a new signal of changing times. Then Skotfoss bruk, the paper factory at Skotfoss, was closed down. Twenty years later, in 2006, Norske Skog Union on Klosterøya was also closed down.

From 1 January 2020, Skien is the county capital of Vestfold and Telemark county and is the seat of the county municipality, while the head office of the Statsforvalteren (county governor) in Vestfold and Telemark was added to Tønsberg. The new county hall is located in Skien.

Skien is also the seat of the Nedre Telemark District Court and the Agder Court of Appeal, with court premises in Statens Hus in Nylende. Telemark police district has its headquarters at Myren, together with Grenland police station. The Skien fire brigade is also based in this area. Skien prison is located on Rødmyr.

The city's largest health institution is Sykehuset Telemark (hospital), which is owned by the health company Helse Sør-Øst.

Cycling has always been strong in Skien and the surrounding area. Grenland sykkelklubb has for many years been one of the leading ones in Norway. Former cycling president Harald Tidemann Hansen is from Skien and of today's cyclists, Jonas Abrahamsen, called the "Grenlands plow", in Uno-X is perhaps the best known.

## **PORSGRUNN**

Porsgrunn is a town and a municipality in Grenland in Vestfold and Telemark county. The municipality includes the former urban municipalities of Brevik and Porsgrunn and the rural municipality of Eidanger. Porsgrunn borders Skien and Siljan in the north, Larvik in Vestfold in the east, and Bamble in the west. The highest point is Fjerdingen, 360 m above sea level. The municipality is part of the area called Grenland.

Around 13,000 inhabitants live in the city center itself.

Porsgrunn city is located at the outlet of the Telemark waterway and is an important industrial city.

Of business activities in Porsgrunn, the processing industry dominates. Previously, this business was part of Norsk Hydro, but today it is Yara and Ineos that operate the processing plants for artificial fertilizers and polymer and are Porsgrunn's largest industrial employers. Yara, one of the world's largest mineral fertilizer factories, is located here. Bilfinger Industrial Services Norway AS, Equinor, RHI Normag AS, Porsgrunds Porselænsfabrik, Isola, BEHA, Eramet and Norcem are other important industrial players in Porsgrunn. Many of the businesses are located at Herøya Industripark. For the industry, all the infrastructure is in place; power grids, steam, gas supply and ports. It is therefore attractive for companies to establish themselves in the municipality.

2,300 students attend the University of Southeast Norway, study site Porsgrunn.

A double-track railway between Porsgrunn and Larvik was completed in 2018.

It has been claimed that Porsgrunn was originally the name of one of three small islands located where the Down Town shopping center is today. Although it seems correct that one of these islands has been referred to as "Postgrund", it is likely that the name was originally used for Vestsida. In the Middle Ages, this was a swamp area where the pors plant (Myrica gale) grew freely, and the plant was collected here by the nuns from Gimsøy monastery. It is mostly likely that these gave the name to the place, which literally means "ground where pors grows".

Porsgrunn really developed as a port for timber in the 17th century, when the river up to Skien was partly filled up with sawdust, and partly shallower as a result of clay erosion along the river banks towards Skien. When the tollbooth was moved from Skien to Porsgrunn in 1653, it led to further flourishing of the port. The city eventually developed into a charging station with ever-increasing trade and craft activities.

In 1764, the plac was separated from the surrounding manors of Eidanger, Solum and Gjerpen as its own parish. By then, the townspeople had already built churches on both sides of the river, Vestre Porsgrund church in 1758 and Østre Porsgrund church was completed in 1760.

In 1807, Porsgrunn received market town rights, and in 1842 it became its own town municipality. In the 18th century, a number of shipyards were established and eventually the large timber merchants who dominated the city's business life acquired a significant fleet of sailing ships. From the 1850s, industrialization gained momentum with shipbuilding and sawmilling.

Sailing was successful towards the end of the century and several shipowners invested in land and the restructuring in the business world led, among other things, to the establishment of Norrøna Fabrikker (sharpening and grinding stones) in 1884 and Porsgrunds Porselænsfabrik A/S with its first production in 1887. Some shipowners invested in large, old sailing ships that had been replaced by steamboats abroad. Porsgrunn thus became Norway's largest sailing town in the early 20th century, but after the First World War that time was over. By then, the electrical, iron and metal industries had already become the dominant workplaces. In 1929, Norsk Hydro built its factory on Herøya for the production of artificial fertiliser.

In 1964, Porsgrunn was merged with the municipalities of Eidanger and Brevik, as well as smaller parts of Solum, Gjerpen, Hedrum and Brunlanes. Porsgrunn has developed as an educational city in recent years. Today, the University of Southeast Norway is established in Porsgrunn, also with civil engineering education and a doctorate. Nursing education have also been established at the University College's department in Porsgrunn.

The center of Porsgrunn currently has around 350 businesses at street level with many pubs, restaurants, nightclubs and entertainment venues. Porsgrunn's largest shopping centre, "Down Town", is also located here. Porsgrunn is also known for Porsgrunds Porselænsfabrik, Winterfestival, the cultural center Ælvespeilet, DuVerden vitensenter, Beer Festival, Porsgrunn International Theater Festival and more.

On the west side are the PP-Senteret and Porsgrunds Porselænsfabrik. "Vessia" is a classic working-class district, with around 3,000 inhabitants. In 2006, a new school was built in the district. The district's sports club, IF Pors, provides a wide and good leisure offer for children and young people. Pors is based in the far north of the district, at the Pors stadium. Pors Stadium is also the home arena for the football team Pors Grenland, which plays in the 3rd division today, but has played in the top division and 1st division previously.

## **BREVIK**

Brevik was previously an independent city municipality. The buildings have largely consisted of low wooden houses, and Brevik appears as a small, white coastal town. The Breviksbrua bridge on the right is named after this settlement, and was part of E18 until 1996. Today, Breviksbrua is part of county road 354.

Kjølnes is home to the University of Southeast Norway, Porsgrunn high school and Kjølnes secondary school. In the area there is also a swimming pool, tennis hall, sports center with medical center and several football pitches on grass and one on artificial turf. In August 2010, the new skate facility opened in Kjølnes. The facility is located in connection with the sports facility at Kjølnes. Porsgrunn municipality has invested 5.5 million in a concrete park at Kjølnes in Porsgrunn, which consists of a large "bowl" and a 66 meter long "street".

## **LANGANGEN**

The village of Langangen had 513 inhabitants as of 1 January 2012, and is located on the border of Vestfold and Larvik, deep in the Langangsfjorde.. Langangen has, among other things, its own primary school, shop and church. Previously, the village was divided by the main road between Porsgrunn and Larvik, but in 1979 the E18 was rerouted and bridged over the village.

The name Langangen comes from lang and angr (fjord, cove) and means "the long fjord". In this sense, one would think that the pronunciation was Lang-angen. But locally and in the surrounding areas, the name is normally pronounced Lang-gangen.

"The corkscrew" ("Korketreeren") is the old road down to Langangen, which goes around itself, 360°. For several years, a very popular car downhill race has also been organized here.



## HEISTAD

Heistad is located by the Eidangerfjord, approx. 9 kilometers south of the center of Porsgrunn. Before 1964, Heistad was part of Eidanger municipality. The place name comes from the farm name Heistad (also "Heiestad" and "Heidinstad"). E18 used to go through the center of Heistad, but in 1996 was added outside of Heistad. The local sports team is called IL Hei.

The all-Norwegian, family-owned company BEHA Fabrikker/BEHA Elektro, which makes electrical items, mainly white goods, has its factory and head office in Lundedalen in Heistad.

## HELGEROA

Helgeroa is a village in Larvik municipality in Vestfold and Telemark county, on the east side of the Langesundsfjord.

In the summer, Helgeroa is a popular resort, with, among other things, Helgeroa Marina and Blokkebukta beach and campsite. There used to be a loading station here. In Helgeroa is the Norwegian Mapping Authority's water level measurement station with information from 1965.

There is a ferry that takes passengers and bicycles from Helgeroa via Arøya to Langesund on the west side of the fjord.

Helgeroa harbor is located in the lee of Skagerrak on the north side of an isthmus of pebbles, Mølen. From Mølen, the big raet with the ra road runs through Vestfold. Due to difficult topography, including in Langangen, there was a long transition from land to sea transport precisely in Helgeroa. From Helgeroa there was then a boat connection either inland to Langesundsfjorden and Frierfjorden or westwards to the towns in Agder county..

Before the bridge between Brevik and Stathelle was opened in 1961, the ferry route Langesund - Helgeroa was an important connection for road traffic between Eastern Norway and Southern Norway.

The former professional cyclist and TV personality Dag Erik Pedersen (3 stage victories in the Giro d'Italia) lives in Helgeroa.

## STAVERN

Stavern (until 1930 Fredriksvern) is a town in Larvik municipality in Vestfold and Telemark county. Stavern was its own municipality until 1 January 1988 when, together with the municipalities of Hedrum, Tjølling and Brunlanes, it became part of the new large municipality of Larvik. Stavern was Norway's smallest town until the amalgamation.

The municipality had an area of only 2.3 km<sup>2</sup> and 2,538 inhabitants at the time of the merger. The municipal center was Stavern.

Stavern has subsequently regained city status when the rules for it were liberalized, but is no longer Norway's smallest city. The city has 5,902 inhabitants as of 1 January 2022.

Stavern has probably been a harbor and anchorage since ancient times. The name is found in the Norse form "Staferni" in written sources from the 12th century. "Staferni" comes from stafr, that is, "staff", and erni, which has an uncertain meaning. From the 13th century, Stavern was described as a fishing village with a good harbour. Later, the place got a loading station and developed trade and large shipping traffic. The place gained further importance when Ulrik Fredrik Gyldenløve built the fortifications on Citadeløya in the 17th century and the naval station and galley yard for the navy were moved from Lagmannsholmen in Kristiansand to Stavern around 1758.

Both the old place name and the current name are Stavern, but from 1799 to 1930 the whole area had the same name as the military station, namely Fredriksvern. Stavern was also the last place in Norway to be granted the status of market town. It happened in 1943 and was confirmed by the King in the Cabinet after the war.

The city's oldest parts have many listed buildings, including Gisken and Herman Wildenvey's home, Hergisheim. Stavern belongs to Tunsberg diocese and the parish church Fredriksvern church is located by the square in the center.

Stavern has many landscape painters. In particular, the sea is a favorite motif for painters in the area.

The blockhouses, which look like storehouses, are located on a couple of Stavern's hills. They were built in 1788–1790. They were part of an outer fortification around the town and the shipyard. Originally there were three block houses on the land side.

The Maritime Rescue School in Stavern was founded at Fredriksvern shipyard in October 2007.

Stavern harbor has around 900 places for small boats.

The Stavern Festival is an annual rock festival with outdoor concerts in Skråvika. It was held for the first time in July 2001. From 2015, the festival is at the Larvik golf course.

Military activity in Stavern began with the construction of Stavern's Fortress from 1675 to 1679.

In the winter of 1748–1749, Fredrik V decided to build a new galley yard and a main station for the naval fleet in Norway. He saw the possibility of war with Sweden. The main station in Norway had to be able to support the land forces in the event of a march into Sweden, while a naval force could stop a similar Swedish advance over land towards Norway.

In 1750, construction began on what would later become Norway's first main naval station, Fredriksvern Verft (Friderichsværn (1801), Fredriksværn (1865), Fredriksværen (1900)). The facility was located in Stavern and had military activity until 2002.



In addition to being an important naval port, Stavern in the 17th and 19th centuries was also an important hub in the civil shipping traffic from Norway to Denmark and Sweden. Norway's first two steamships, DS "Constitutionen" on the coastal route between Oslo and Kristiansand and DS "Prinds Carl" on the Gothenburg and Copenhagen route corresponded and exchanged mail in Stavern from 1827.

In recent times, the Air Force has been active in Stavern. Officer, sanitation, driver and MP education has been located here. After 2002, the Justice Sector's course and training center (JKØ) has used large parts of Fredriksvern Verft as a course and training area. From 2004, Utrykningspolitiet (UP) has had its main base in the old outbuildings at the shipyard. From 2010, the Police Academy established its own department in Stavern.

The Memorial Hall is Norway's national monument to fallen sailors. It was erected on the rocky outcrops towards the Skagerrak in Stavern. It was inaugurated by King Haakon VII on 1 August 1926. The memorial hall is shaped like a pyramid. The idea is that it should appear as a sea mark and cairn. It was originally built in memory of Norwegian sailors who died in the First World War, but since 1945 it has also been a memorial to those who died at sea in the Second World War.

Stavern has been known as a tourist town for over 100 years. From Midsummer until the beginning of August is the period with the largest number of visiting summer guests. In Brunlanes outside Stavern, there are many who have leisure cabins or caravans.

Stavern was voted Norway's nicest summer town by the website Din side in the summer of 2007. In 2013, Stavern was voted Norway's best summer town by the website Reiseguiden.

### **Famous people from Stavern**

- Jens Schow Fabricius (1758-1841), member of the National Assembly at Eidsvoll 1814, vice admiral
- Jacob Lerche Johansen (1818-1900), rear admiral and minister
- Jonas Lie (1833-1908), author
- Andreas Baalsrud (1872-1961), Norwegian engineer, head of the Norwegian Road Administration 1919-1945
- Herman Wildenvey, (1885-1959), poet
- Reidar Thommessen (1889-1986), composer
- Gisken Wildenwey, (1892-1985), author
- Sigurd Bodvar (1901-1996), author
- Tore Sinding (1903-1969), composer
- Ørnulf Bast (1907-1974), sculptor
- Odd Hjorth-Sørensen (1918-1973), author
- Steinar Sørille (1942-), author
- Morten Bjørgan (1949-), musician
- Mari Bjørgan (1950-2014) singer and actress
- Tomas Colin Archer (1952-), lieutenant general
- Terje Moe Hansen (1953-), professor (Norwegian Academy of Music)
- Jan Warholm (1956-), artist
- Jan Espen Kruse (1956-), foreign correspondent (NRK) in Moscow and Washington
- Camilla Warholm (1958-), artist
- Tom Sundby (1960-), footballer

## Famous people from Stavern cont.

- Anneli Eide (1963-), visual artist and jewelery artist
- Jørn Lier Horst (1970-), crime writer
- Anders Anundsen (1975-), politician (Fremskrittspartiet), Minister of Justice 2013-2016
- Anne Sewitsky (1978-), film director
- Geir Jensen (1954-) artist
- Tom Erik Oxholm, former speedskater
- Atle Pedersen, ex professional cyclist (1 stage victory in the Vuelta España)

## LARVIK

Larvik is a town and municipality in the Vestfold region in Vestfold and Telemark county. It borders Kongsberg and Holmestrand in the north, Sandefjord and Tønsberg in the east, and Porsgrunn, Siljan and Bamble in the west.

The current large municipality was created when the five municipalities of Larvik, Tjølling, Hedrum, Stavern and Brunlanes were merged in 1988 to form the new large municipality of Larvik. The municipality was further expanded in 2018 in connection with the municipal reform. They also became Lardal municipality, part of Larvik municipality.

Larvik is a coastal municipality, which also includes large, good agricultural areas, as well as forests and mountains. In a north-south direction, the municipality has an extent of approx. 40 km. The highest point is Vindfjell with its 622 meters (before the merger with Lardal, the highest point was Vettakollene 453 m).

The Rakkebåene and the Svenner lighthouse are well-known landmarks in the archipelago outside the city. Larviksfjord leads from Skagerrak into the city.

Lake Farrisvannet is 20.5 km long and has a depth of 131 metres. Topographically, Farrisvannet is a continuation of Larviksfjorden. The water is dammed up by the ridge at Farriseidet, so that the fjord becomes a lake. The fall of 22 meters from the lake to the sea was utilized for various types of industrial activity. On the outside of the raet, a natural spring emerges, which constantly provides water for the production of Farris in bottles. Lake Farris also supplies drinking water to large parts of the former Vestfold county.

Hallevannet is another larger lake, located in the southwest of Larvik municipality. On the border with Sandefjord in the west lies Goksjø.

One of the country's largest rivers, Numedalslågen, with its source on Hardangervidda, has its outlet in the sea east of the city. A large part of Lågendalen, formerly the municipalities of Hedrum and Lardal, is part of Larvik.

The bedrock throughout the municipality is larvikite, a blue, crystalline deep rock. The rock is named after the town of Larvik, and the entire southern part of Vestfold lies on this rock, which also means a lot economically. Larvikite is a sought-after stone that is exported in large quantities.

The beech forest is Larvik's foremost symbol, and was the motif in the town's old municipal coat of arms. In connection with the municipal merger with Lardal in 2018, the municipality received a new municipal coat of arms with a beech tree. Bøkeskogen lies like a large park on top of the ridge behind the city. Three-ply beech is found in Norway mainly only on the Skagerrak coast.

The Fritzøe park with Fritzøehus is protected as a landscape conservation area. There are several nature reserves within Larvik municipality.

Statistics Norway defines a total of six urban areas in the municipality. The largest is Larvik with 26,851 inhabitants as of 1 January 2022. The town of Stavern has 5,902 inhabitants. The towns of Helgeroa and Nevlunghavn have grown together to form the town of Helgeroa/Nevlunghavn, and have 1,962 inhabitants.



Ever since ancient times, Farriseidet near Larvik must have been strategically important for traffic in the area. This property is the only possibility to pass on land between lake Farris and the Larviksfjorden. Above Farriseidet, the motorway with the E18 runs in a viaduct, while the old main road and the railway lie below.

The Vestfold railway (R11) runs through Larvik. Every hour there is a connection to and from Oslo/Skien. A new high-speed line has been built between Larvik and Porsgrunn, reducing the journey time from 40 to 12 minutes.



Larvik has a ferry connection to Denmark and is one of the most important harbor cities in Norway. Color Line originates in Larvik through the former Larvik-Frederikshavn ferry (later Larvik Line). From April 2006, the city lost its ferry connection to the twin city of Frederikshavn, "Peter Wessel" changed its home port to Hirtshals in April 2006. After MS Peter Wessel was sold, the ferry MS Christian IV operated between Larvik and Denmark before MS Superspeed 2 was deployed from 20 June 2008. The new ferry has a new ferry terminal located at Revet in Larvik, somewhat outside the city centre. The reef is also the location for the city's freight port.

Larvik harbor is Norway's second largest container port and an important gateway to Europe for the transport of goods. Up to 65,000 container units are loaded and unloaded annually via the port. In addition, the import and export of bulk and piece goods such as steel and wood products, granite, project loads, offshore installations and the import of raw materials for Felleskjøpet form a large part of the daily activity in the port. Part of the stone transport also takes place from Svartebukt harbor in the innermost Helgeroa fjord, a short distance to the larvikite quarries in Tvedalen.

#### **Friend cities:**

- Borlänge (Sweden)
- Frederikshavn (Denmark)
- Jyväskylä (Finland)
- Vestmannaeyjar (Iceland)
- Malbork (Poland)
- Andorra (Italy)

Larvik is also known for the family business Treschow-Fritzøe, a former industrial giant in timber and sawmills, iron works, mills, etc. Today, the company consists of large forest properties and significant areas around the river Farriselven. Fritzøe Brygge, a complex of apartments, offices and shops was completed in 2003.

Larvik is also home to the Farris factory with King Haakon's and King Olav's springs.

Dypbergart larvikite is named after the town of Larvik. Surrounding the town are large quarries where larvikite is extracted. Larvik Museum has an interesting exhibition on all aspects of larvikite.

Larvik is also a significant agricultural municipality. Large parts of Tjølling and Brunlanes have moraine soil. Brunlanes is known for strawberry and potato growing.

New archaeological investigations in connection with the new route for the motorway west of Farris have in recent years uncovered several Stone Age settlements in Larvik municipality. The oldest, which is more than 127 m above sea level. dated to be about 10,200 years old; perhaps the glacier was even visible when there were people at the site which has now been named Pauler I.

In the Viking Age, the first urban community in what is now Norway probably grew up in Kaupang by the Viksfjorden, near the place where the city of Larvik is now located. The place Tjodalving by Tjølling church seems to have been the center of power in the area. The latest excavations of Kaupang put the whole area in a new and interesting historical light. There is a lot of evidence that Kaupang was a city in the Danish kingdom, and that Kaupang and Hedeby were trading places located at the outer edges of this kingdom.

The name Larvik itself is older than the city. In the earliest times, it was pronounced Lagarvik, which meant Lågens vik, i.e. the cove at Lågen's outlet on the east side of Larviksfjorden. Eventually, a beach town developed in the innermost part of the fjord, which became known as Lagarvik. The name Lagarvik was later "Danished" to Laurvigen, and the fjord was also called Laurvigsfjorden. A beach town was a small settlement along the coast that had no formal trading rights or other privileges. Most beach towns could not be considered cities since they lacked a multifaceted central function such as an economic central place, a center of governance, a center of religious cult and a general cultural central function. But some eventually became charging points and some also purchase points.

The first time one encounters the name Larvik/Laghervik is in 1512, when an Oslo citizen, Haakon Eskildsson, was going to Amsterdam, but encountered headwinds and had to enter the harbor, which he refers to as Laghervik. At this time there is no beach resort, and only the fjord is called Laghervik.

In 1881, the Vestfold Railway was completed as far as Larvik. The polar ship "Fram" was launched in Larvik in 1892.

On 15 December 1986, the Parliament decided to carry out a municipal merger. On 1 January 1988, the five municipalities of Brunlanes (8,138 inhabitants), Hedrum (10,449 inhabitants), Stavern (2,538 inhabitants), Tjølling (7,878 inhabitants) and the then Larvik municipality (8,045 inhabitants) were merged into the the new large municipality of Larvik with 37,048 inhabitants.

On 28 September 1988, the new municipal council decided to introduce a flag and a coat of arms, and on 20 January 1989 this was approved by the Ministry of Local Government and Labour. The municipal coat of arms showed a silver mast with three sails on a blue background.

In Larvik there are a number of ancient monuments from the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. The cobblestone piles from the Bronze Age at Mølen are particularly highlighted. At Kaupangkilen, a few years ago traces of the country's oldest urban community, Kaupang, were excavated. Within the municipal boundaries you will find no fewer than four medieval stone churches. In Stavern there are interesting cultural monuments from the time as a naval town. In the center of Larvik, Stavern, Nevlunghavn, Helgeroa, Ula and Kjerringvik there are interesting old wooden buildings.

The beech forest with its special green color in early spring is a hallmark of Larvik. The beech forest is located on a hill with its green roof above the city. Here you will find a restaurant, a music pavilion and a number of hiking and fitness trails. Another popular hiking area is Vestmarka, which lies between Larvik town and lake Farrisvannet.

Visitors to Larvik should, among other things, see Larvik Museum's exhibitions in Verksgården on Langestrand and at the Maritime Museum on Tollerodden. The manor house, where governor Ulrik Fredrik Gyldenløve and his descendants had their residence, is also managed by the museum. In the rock wall in Herregårdsbakken you will find a number of inscriptions with greetings from previous royal visits. Larvik church is also worth a visit, here you can find e.g. a unique picture painted by Lucas Cranach.

Svenner lighthouse on an island outside Larvik is also a sight to see.

The town of Nevlunghavn is also located in Larvik municipality. "Havna" has a population of approx. 700 permanent residents, but in the summer months this number is multiplied by 10. The harbor is an old pilothouse, and in the beginning only pilots and their families lived there. As people started fishing, the harbor grew into the attractive village Nevlunghavn is today. The harbor is also mentioned on the UN's lists of places worth preserving, and approx. 120 of the houses are listed.

Southeast of Larvik is the town of Ula. Ula has approx. 200 permanent residents, but this multiplies in the summer half-year. Ula has beautiful rocky cliffs, swimming beaches, a campsite, cabins and a guest jetty for boat tourists. Ulabrand has had a monument placed overlooking the Skagerrak.

The ferry terminal in Larvik, which is located on Revet, south of the old working-class district of Torstrand, is one of the most modern terminal facilities in Europe. It was designed by architect Einar Lunøe.

There are a total of six war memorials in the municipality, erected in memory of approximately 200 people in Larvik and the district who gave their lives during the Second World War. It also has the Memorial Hall and the war memorial at Halle Mølle over ten downed Americans. It was unveiled in July 2006 and will be crowned on April 21, which is the date their plane was shot down. The others will be crowned on 8 May.

At Lovisenlund sports ground, a memorial was erected in 1946 over fifteen named club members of Larvik Turn, including seven members of the Sachnowitz family, who died in concentration camps during the Second World War.

At Larvik church, Arne N. Vigeland's granite memorial to the war's 72 fallen in Larvik was unveiled in 1952.

Outside the southern exit to Tjølling cemetery, Gunnar Janson's monument to Tjølling's 48 war victims was erected in 1950.

Ørnulf Bast's memorial to thirteen fallen sailors from Stavern was unveiled in front of Stavern church in 1951.

In Brunlanes, the fallen from each of the parishes in 1950 were honored with memorial plaques in the churches. The memorial plaque in Berg wooden church, on which ten names are inscribed, was mounted on a bollard outside the church in 1996.

Larvik also has a very rich sports life. Fram is the football team that is the highest in the division system, but plays at the third level today.

Cycling has always been strong here and especially the brothers Dag Erik and Atle Pedersen as well as their father and former cycling president Odd Pedersen have meant a lot to the cycling environment in the city. The former Olympic speed skating champion (1980) Bjørg Eva Jensen has also been active in the cycling community and several major cycling races have started or finished here (Norwegian Champs, Tour of Norway etc.)

**Honorary citizens of Larvik:**

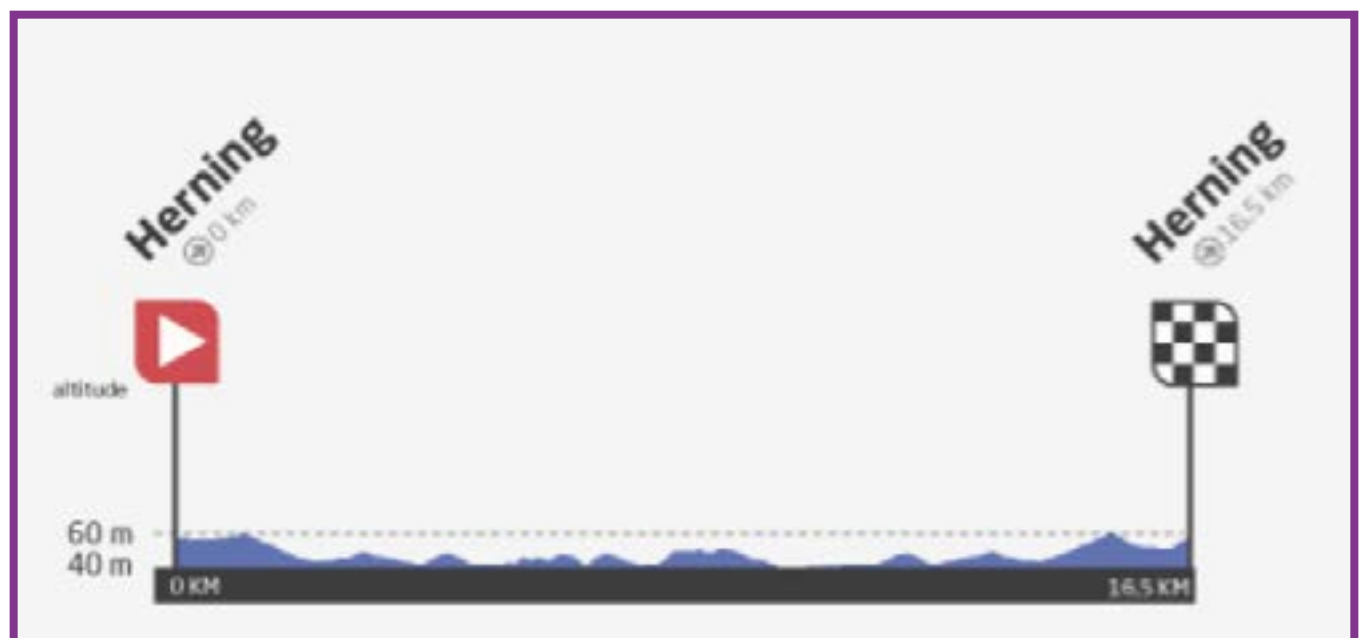
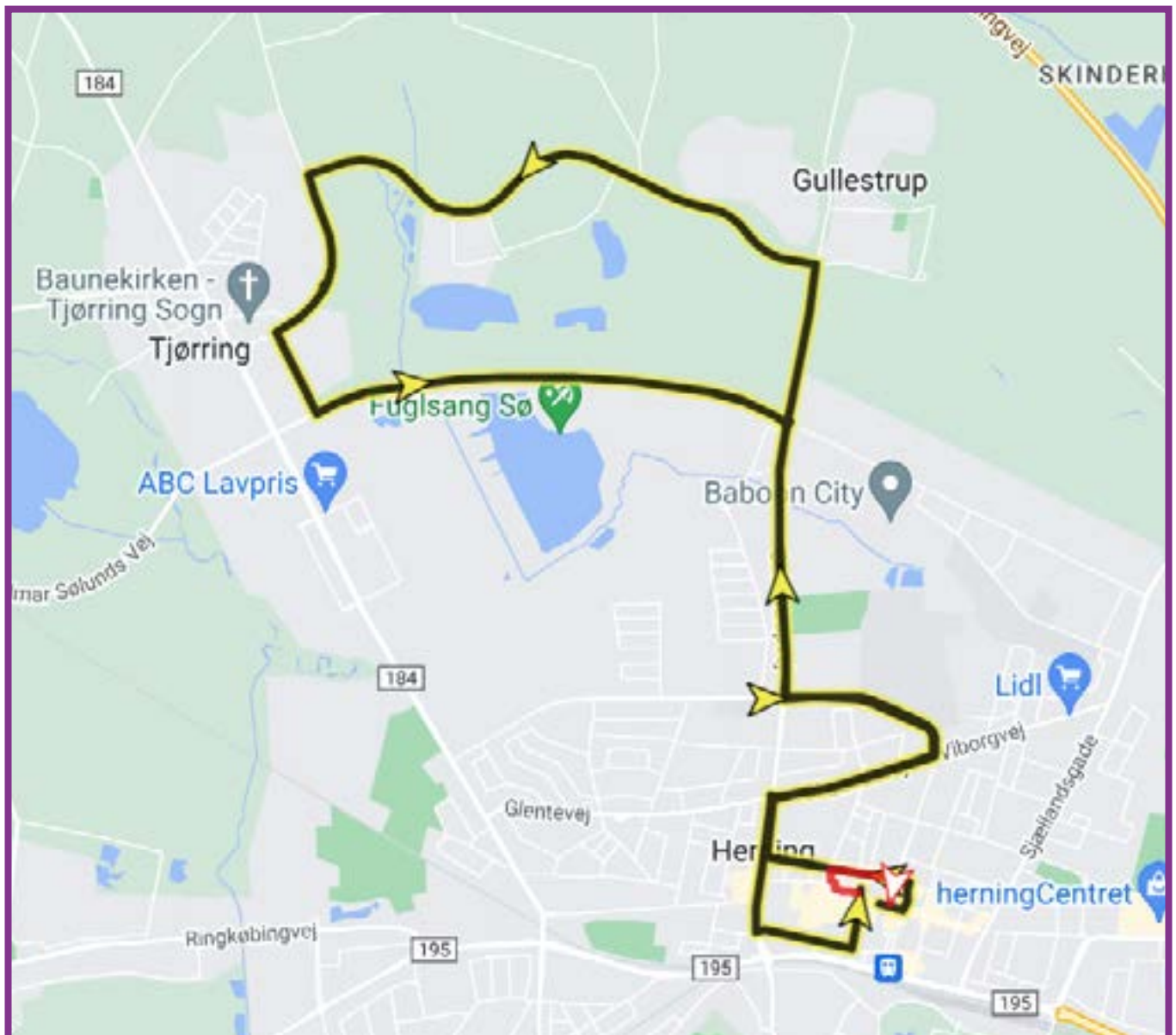
1971 Thor Heyerdahl  
1986 Arne Nordheim  
1996 Antonio Bibalo  
2001 Carl Nesjar  
2009 Ingvar Ambjørnsen

**Famous people from Larvik:**

- Fritz Treschow (1841-1903), landowner and industrialist
- Carl Anton Larsen (1860-1924), whaler, explorer, founder of Grytviken
- Oscar Wisting (1871-1936), polar explorer and sea captain
- Herman Wildenvey (1885-1959), poet
- Thor Heyerdahl (1914-2002), ethnographer, writer and adventurer
- Carl Nesjar (1920-2015), visual artist and sculptor
- Gunnar Thoresen (1920-2017), footballer
- Arne Nordheim (1931-2010), composer
- Ingvar Ambjørnsen (1956-), author
- Hilde Merete Aasheim (1958-), CEO of Norsk Hydro from May 2019
- Anne Holt (1958-), author
- Jarle Andhøy (1977-), sailor and adventurer
- Bjørg Eva Jensen (1960-), Olympic speedskating champion



# Saturday 26. August - 4. stage : Herning (Time trial)



# Saturday 26. August - 4. stage : Herning (Time trial)

## GENERAL INFO

Tour of Scandinavia is adding a time trial stage of 16.5 km this year. It is organized in Herning, the cycling town in the middle of Jutland. Giro d'Italia has started here and Bjarne Riis comes from the city. But football is also strong in this beautiful city with FC Midtjylland as the city's pride in that sport.

Here, the audience have the opportunity to get close to the riders. Both the start and finish are located in the city centre, and it will be great Saturday entertainment.

## HERNING

Herning is located in West Jutland and is the capital of Herning municipality in Denmark. The city is the fourth largest in Region Central Jutland and has 44,557 inhabitants (2018) including Tjørring, Snejbjerg, Lind, Birk, Hammerum and Gjellerup, which via industrial areas have grown together with the city itself. Herning is Denmark's 11th largest city. The name Herning comes from the older Hørningh (horn, i.e. protruding hill and the ending -ing).

In 1840, Herning had 21 inhabitants and was far from being a town. The cultivation of the heath in the early 19th century led to rising population numbers and Herning developed as a trading center for the area. Somewhat atypical for town formations, the town of Herning arose around a courthouse and a pharmacy. When the country road between Ringkøbing and Silkeborg was built through the sparse settlement in the 1840s, the village began to grow.

The sparsely populated and poor moors in central and western Jutland have had a tradition of wool production since ancient times. Farmers and shepherds knitted stockings and other woolen clothes which were sold on by itinerant peddlers. The inhabitants are also called Ulljyder, today rather jokingly. Husfliden developed into an extensive textile industry in Herning, Ikast and Brande. In 1873, a steam-powered wool spinning mill was built, which in 1876 became a fabric factory. The following year, Herning became the terminus of the railway from Skanderborg-Silkeborg. In 1887-89, the medieval Romanesque church was demolished and replaced by the current Herning church.

Other buildings from the period are Hotel Eyde from 1893, Herning Tinghus from the same year and Missionshuset Bethania from 1898. The writer Nis Petersen's childhood home from 1905 still exists (Nygade 14). At Torvet stands Hedebanken from 1912, which today is considered one of the city's most beautiful buildings. Around 1900, Herning had approx. 4,000 inhabitants.

From 1941, civil defense corps were established throughout the country. The first column was housed at Herningsholm, which was fitted out as barracks. In 1966 the column moved to an actual barracks in the northwestern part of the city. The department is today the Emergency Management Agency Midtjylland.

In 1961, Herning Højskole opened with its striking 16-storey high-rise on the eastern outskirts of the city. The college had to close in 2007 for financial reasons. In 1982, a large thermal power plant was built south of the city. Since then, several tall buildings have sprung up in Herning. The square was restored in 1996.

Herning has twice been voted City of the Year: in 1965 for being a good city to live in and in 2003 for being a city with exuberance.

Herning is located as a road and rail hub on the sparsely populated West Jutland heath, which is largely cultivated today. The nearest neighboring towns are Ikast (11 km to the east), Brande (25 km to the south), Ringkøbing (44 km to the west), Holstebro (34 km to the northwest) and Viborg (48 km to the northeast). Further afield, it is 79 km to Århus, 66 km to Vejle and 128 km to Aalborg.

The Struer-Vejle (DSB) and Skjern-Århus (Arriva) railways cross each other in Herning. Herning is 25 km from Karup Airport and 57 km from Billund Airport. 5 km north-east of the city is Herning Airport, which does not have regular scheduled traffic. The Herning-Viborg railway existed from 1906 to 1971 (freight traffic until 1977).

Herning is known as a congress and exhibition city because of Messecenter Herning. The traditional textile industry does not characterize Herning and the neighboring towns in the same way as in the past and many of the jobs have been moved abroad. In Herning, there is a large Danish Crown branch, one of Denmark's largest pig slaughterhouses.

Herning is today an economic center with a large selection of both chain stores and specialist stores. Among the city's large businesses are Egetæpper founded by Mads Eg Damgaard, Herning Tankskibsrederi, Bankernes EDB-Central and men's underwear manufacturer JBS.



In the north-eastern part of the city is the Blicher Museum at the Herningsholm manor from 1579. There are exhibitions about the priest and writer Steen Steensen Blicher.

The Herning museum was established in 1892 and tells about the cultural history of the moors; in addition, a small open-air museum with buildings is attached to the museum.

On the eastern outskirts of the city is the Herning art museum, which is characterized by architect C.F. Møller's ceramic colored building, Carl-Henning Pedersen and Else Alfelts Museum. The building dates from 1976 and contains more than 4,000 works of art by this artist couple. The other part of the art museum was created in a shirt factory from 1965. In the same district stands Elia, a 32-metre-

high and 60-metre-wide, black-painted, factory-like sculpture that spits out an 8-metre-high flame every 18 days. The sculpture was created by Ingvar Cronhammar in 2001.

Denmark's Photo Museum depicts the history of photography since 1839. Baboon City is an indoor amusement center for children and adults. At Haunstrup, 12 km west of Herning, is the animal park, Jyllands Park Zoo.

In 2004, the MCH Arena was inaugurated, a football stadium near Messecentret with a capacity of 12,000 spectators and home to FC Midtjylland, one of Denmark's best football teams playing in the highest league.

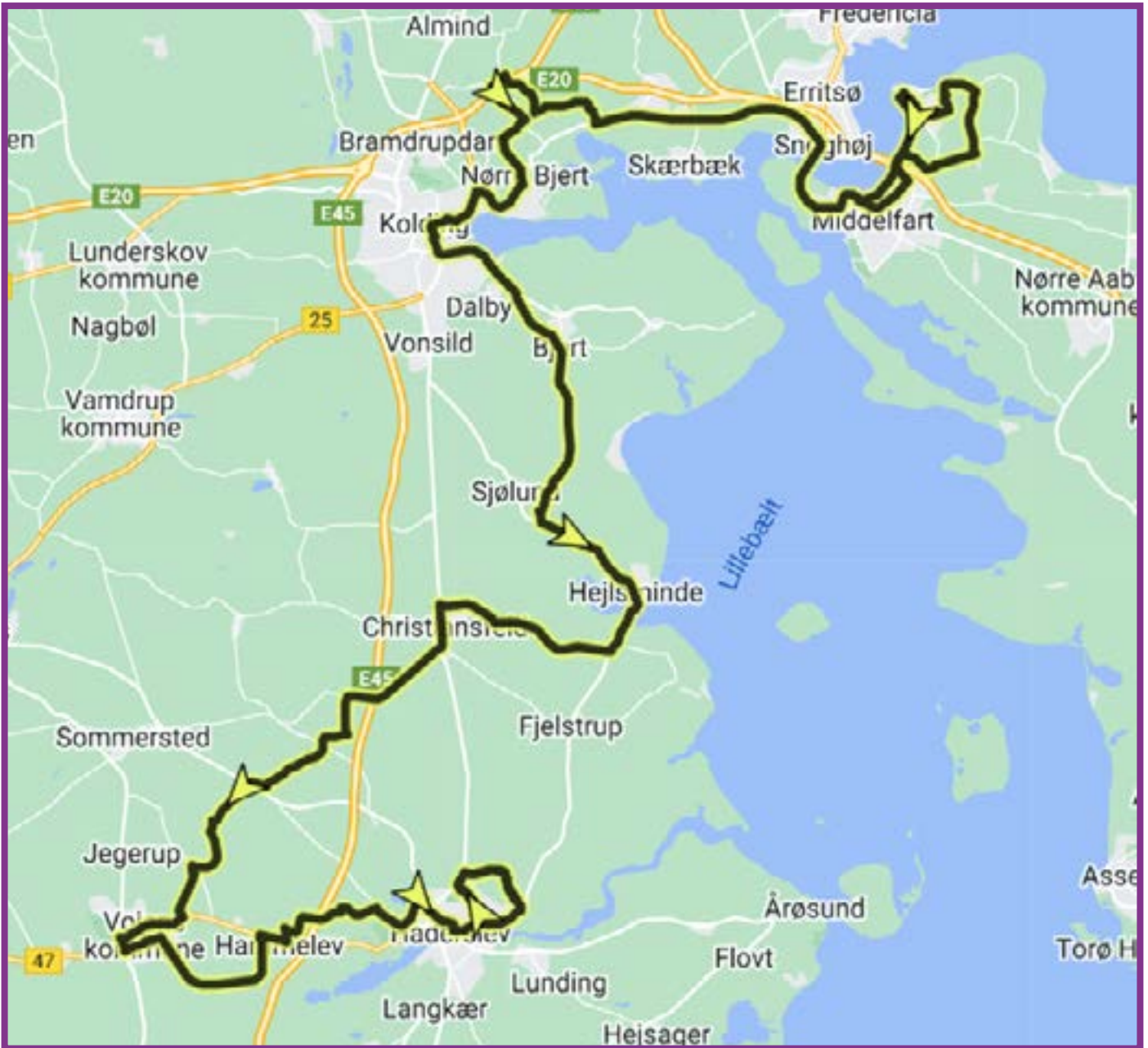
In 2007, Herning was designated as a national industrial monument by the Cultural Heritage Agency.

Herning has always been a cycling town and had the start of the Giro d'Italia in 2012 when the first three stages took place in Denmark. Bjarne Riis was called "The Eagle from Herning" and comes from here.





# Sunday 27. August - 5. stage : Middelfart - Haderslev





# Sunday 27. August - 5. stage : Middelfart - Haderslev

## GENERAL INFO

For the first time, the Tour of Scandinavia will finish in Denmark. Last year, Cecilie Uttrup Ludwig won, and if there is a Danish victory this year too, there will be a big celebration in the finishing town of Haderslev. The last stage follows in the footsteps of the men's Tour de France from 2022 when the first stages were run in Denmark. Today's stage is largely identical to last year's TdF stage for the men.

Let's hope for almost as many spectators when the ladies now race from beautiful Middelfart at Lillebæltsbroen bridge and end up in equally beautiful Haderslev with a rather tough finish.

### Here are the places passed on stage 5:

#### MIDDELFART

Middelfart is a market town in Middelfart municipality on Fyn, with a population of 14,755 (2013). Middelfart's city coat of arms shows a ship. The town is located where the Lillebælt is at its narrowest, between the Lillebæltsbroen and the old Lillebæltsbro. It is 11 kilometers to Fredericia, 34 to Assens and just under 46 to Odense.



**Middelfart**  
KOMMUNE

The city's oldest market town rights date from 1496, granted by King Hans. Middelfart was at this time already a central city in Denmark due to its crossing point, and it was therefore exposed to many attacks. The town was burned down during the Count Feud, and in the wars against Sweden in the 17th century, the town was badly damaged. In the wars against the Germans in 1848 and 1864, Middelfart was a bastion in the defense of Fyn and was exposed to a bombardment from the Jutland side by German cannons.

The name comes from being the middle of the three crossing points over the Lillebælt, the other two being Strib and Fønsøre.

#### Friend cities of Middelfart are:

- Korsholm, Finland
- Mandal, Norway
- Habo, Sweden
- Oskarshamn, Sweden
- Barmstedt, Germany

#### Birkemose Golf Club

Birkemose Golf Club is located approx. 6 kilometers north-east of Kolding - close to the E45. Beside the 18 holes (par 70) in hilly terrain and with a fantastic view, the club offers a 9-hole pay-and-play course where everyone is welcome. The entry requirement on the 18-hole course is handicap 54.

#### Kolding Fjord

Kolding Fjord is a 10 km long fjord between Kolding and Lille Belt. It has a 7 km long ship channel that links it with the harbor in Kolding. In 1943, a shipwreck known as Kolding's cogwheel was found in the fjord. It dates from around 1190.

#### KOLDING

Kolding is a harbor and market town in South Jutland in Denmark with 58,757 (2015) inhabitants. It is an administrative center in Kolding municipality and belongs to Region Southern Denmark.

The oldest traces of Kolding in the archaeological material are from the early Valdemar period (last half of the 12th century); in written sources in the first half of the 13th century. Border town on the border between the kingdom and the Duchy of Schleswig, dominated by the royal castle Koldinghus.



Between Slotssøen and Koldinghus to the north and Kolding to the south, the street plan that still characterizes Kolding's town center arose during the Middle Ages. The castle and St. Nikolaj's church date back to the 13th century, the town's other houses are much younger. Few, well-preserved half-timbered houses date from the city's first heyday between 1550 and 1630, but the city's violent expansion in the 20th century has meant that much of the older buildings have disappeared and been replaced by modern townhouses.

#### **Kolding is twinned with the following cities.**

- Anjo, Japan (since 1997)
- Delmenhorst, Germany (since 1979)
- Drammen, Norway (since 1946)
- Huéscar, Spain (since 1982)
- Villmanstrand, Finland (since 1947)
- Panevėžys, Lithuania (since 2000)
- Pisa, Italy (since 2007)
- Stykkishólmur, Iceland (since 1979)
- Szombathely, Hungary (since 1991)
- Örebro, Sweden (since 1946)

#### **SØNDER BJERT**

Sønder Bjert is a village with just over 2,000 inhabitants approximately 7 km south-east of Kolding and part of Kolding municipality.

Sønder Bjert Krike (church) was built at the end of the 12th century from stones cut out of cliffs and originally had no tower. The church's roof consists of lead, which was renovated in 2000.

Sønder Bjert Kro was established in 1750, but the current building was built in 1855. The inn was renovated in 2022 so that it now contains both meeting and conference rooms.

#### **Famous people from Sønder Bjert:**

- A.J. Iversen (1888-1979), Danish furniture designer
- Holger Lissner (1938-), Danish priest and hymn writer, worked in Sønder Bjert 1980-2003.
- Villy Søvnald (1952-), politician, former leader of the Danish Labor Party from 2005-2012, lives in Sønder Bjert.

#### **Hejlsminde Feriesenter (holiday center)**

Located directly facing Lillebælt, Hejlsminde Badehotel was renovated from 1912. Here there is, among other things, a children's pool, spa bath, cafe, mini golf and much more.

Hejlsminde Badehotel has 24 individually furnished apartments - all with sea views. The location is unique - in the middle of nature and next to Lillebælt and Hejlsminde Nor. Here there are good opportunities for swimming or fishing from the hotel's own jetty or you can take a walk and just enjoy the fresh air and the beautiful view.

#### **CHRISTIANSFELD**



Christiansfeld is a town in South Jutland with 2,898 inhabitants (2013). The town is located in Kolding municipality and is part of Region Southern Denmark. Christiansfeld was the capital of the former Christiansfeld municipality.

It is named after Christian VII and was founded by the herrnhuters - the Brethren - at Lorenz Prätorius in 1773, when the king granted tax exemption for 10 years and in addition a state grant of 10% of the construction cost of all new buildings. The majority of the town's houses were built in the period 1773-1800.

The reason for the Congregation of the Brethren settling here was Christian VII's trip to Europe in 1768. Together with Johann Friedrich Struensee, the king and his traveling companions came to Zeist in the Netherlands, which was built by the congregation. In 1771, Struensee allowed himself to be persuaded by his brother Carl August Struensee, who was then employed in the financial college, to invite the Herrnhutters to Southern Jutland in the king's name. At the time, the Herrnhutters were known for their hard work and craftsmanship and the hope was that the town would promote trade and industry.

The original buildings are very well preserved and follow a strict urban plan. Among the sights are the Brødremenighet's church hall and the Gudsageren cemetery, where men and women are buried on opposite sides of the cemetery in graves with no other decoration than simple tombstones.

The town is famous for its gingerbread – a tradition that dates back to 1783.

On 4 July 2015, Christiansfeld was listed on UNESCO's list of world heritage sites.

The Norwegian writer Camilla Collett attended the Brødremenighetens school in Christiansfeld from 1827 to 1829.

## HJERDRUP

Hjerndrup Sogn is a parish in Haderslev Domprovsti (Haderslev Stift). Hjerndrup Parish belonged to Sønder Tyrstrup Herred in Haderslev County. Hjerndrup parish municipality was incorporated into Christiansfeld Municipality during the municipal reform in 1970. After its dissolution by the structural reform in 2007, Hjerndrup came to Haderslev Municipality.

Hjerndrup Church is located in Hjerndrup Parish.

## VOJENS

Vojens is a railway town with 7,480 inhabitants (January 2023). It is today the second largest city in Haderslev municipality. The city has its own airport.

Vojens church is a reunion church from the beginning of the 1920s and was consecrated on 6 September 1925. The cemetery is older than the church itself and was already used on 28 January 1878. In the middle of the cemetery is the "red chapel" which was built a few years after the cemetery.

Speedway is the big sport here and Vojens has twice organized the WC final (in 1988 and 1994). The Speedway track is partly owned by Denmark's first three-time world champion Ole Olsen who organized the Speedway Grand Prix of Denmark as part of the Speedway Grand Prix in the years 1995-2002. After that, the event was moved to Parken in Copenhagen.

The Speedway center in Vojens has also hosted the World Team cup finals in 1983, 1986, 1991 and 1998. This competition was replaced by the Speedway World Cup where the finals took place in Vojens in 2000, 2003, 2008, 2010 and 2015. The Pair WC in speedway took place here in 1979 and they have also organized the EC for drivers under 21 years..

### Famous people from Vojens:

- Hans Christian Schmidt (1953) is a Danish politician and former Minister of Transport. He was a teacher and was food minister from 2004 and 2007. Before that he was climate minister from 2001. He is a member of Venstre and has lived in Vojens for a long time.
- George Galbraith (1955) is a professional ice hockey player born in Canada. He is a goalkeeper and played for Vojens IK and in the WC for Denmark in 1986 and 1994.
- Kurt Thiim (1956) is a Danish racing car driver who competed in the period 1978-1984.
- Kim Lykkeskov (1883) is a professional ice hockey player who participated for Denmark in the WC 2010.

## HAMMELEV

Hammelev is a village in Southern Jutland with 948 inhabitants (2023), located 7 km east of Vojens and 7 km west of Haderslev. The village belongs to Haderslev Municipality and is located in Region Southern Denmark. South of the city, Haderslev Tunneldal(valley) stretches with Stevning Dam and the recreated forest lake Hindemade.

Tørning Mølle is located down in the tunnel valley at the site of the ramparts that surrounded Southern Jutland's largest castle Tørninghus from the 13th century. The mill has been burned and rebuilt several times, but the hydropower in Tørning Å has at least been used since 1494. Christiansdal Elværk has produced electricity since 1911, but from 1770 the hydropower operated a large versatile factory until it burned in 1907.



Foto: Tørning Mølle

When the Vojens-Haderslev line was opened in 1866, Hammelev was given the only stop between the two terminuses. In 1922, Hammelev was given the status of its own station. It was on a siding, but in 1953 the station was downgraded and in the 1950s the station was demolished. After a period of only freight traffic, the line was definitively discontinued from 1 January 2001. But the track remained and sometimes vintage trains run on the line.

## HADERSLEV

Haderslev is a town in eastern South Jutland with 21,485 inhabitants (as of 2013). Since 1 January 2007, in connection with the municipal reform in 2007, Haderslev has been the administrative center of the merged Haderslev municipality in Region Southern Denmark.

The city is located in Southern Jutland's longest tunnel valley. East of the city is the Haderslev fjord and west of the city is the Haderslev Dam. Haderslev was mentioned by Saxo Grammaticus as early as the beginning of the 13th century, and in 1292 it received market town rights. Settlement in the area over which the city today extends, however, dates back even further. Finds from the Viking Age at the church in Starup suggest this.

Haderslev was created where the fjord could be crossed near the road from Denmark's oldest city, Ribe, to the ferry site at Årø Sund where there had been ferry traffic to Fyn since the Middle Ages. During the "German era", i.e. in the period 1864–1920, a number of railway lines were built which were collectively called Haderslev's railways.

Haderslev's landmark is Haderslev Cathedral, which has existed since the middle of the 13th century and which since 1922 has been the seat of the Haderslev diocese. The town was one of the hotbeds of the Reformation in Denmark, and as early as 1526, Christian III as Duke of Schleswig-Holstein introduced the Reformation in Haderslev, eight years before he became King of Denmark.

Another church is the whitewashed Gamle Haderslev church, which is located on the shore of the inner pond.

A renovation of the town's older houses has led to Haderslev offering a unique collection of houses and buildings from the 15th century to the beginning of the 20th century, and the town centre's cobbled streets and alleys form an obvious background for city walks.



In the past, the town had the castle Haderslevhus, which the street name Slotsgade (Castle street) still bears witness to. The castle is believed to have existed since the 13th century, but in the mid-16th century it was demolished and replaced by Hansborg, which was built as a modern Renaissance castle by Duke Hans the Elder. After his death, it fell back to the Danish crown, and Frederik II, who was himself born at the old Haderslevhus, finished building Hansborg. It was the size of Kronborg Castle. The new castle was henceforth again given the old name Haderslevhus. It became one of Christian IV's favorite castles. Here he married, and many of his children were born in the castle. Unfortunately, Haderslevshus was burnt down during the Hannibal feud in 1664 and since then it has never been rebuilt. In the 1660s, part of the stones were used to build the Royal Library.

The Schleswig music house is built above the Haderslev barracks for use by the Schleswig music corps and the area's other musical activities. The town experienced a disaster in the Haderslev dam on 8 July 1959, when a fire broke out on board the tour boat Turisten. It all ended with the loss of 57 lives. On the 50th anniversary in 2009, a commemorative stone was erected in a park by the pond.

Haderslev is the only town in Denmark outside of Copenhagen with a vigil parade, as the Schleswig band marches through town to the cathedral most Fridays at 12.

Town signs in German and Danish have long been common in Northern Germany, and in 2015 Haderslev was the first Danish town to attempt parallel German names on the town signs, so that "Haderslev" also reads "Hadersleben".

Haderslev is the headquarters for the sports club Sønderjysk elitesport, which, among other things, has a football team in the Superliga and which has its home ground at the Haderslev football stadium.

### Haderslev is a twin city with:

- Wittenberg, Germany
- Daugavpils, Latvia
- Varberg, Sweden
- Sandefjord, Norway
- Nystad, Finland
- Braine, France
- Rybnik, Poland





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