



VESTERÅLEN

Travel guide 2026

MORE THAN 200 HIKES

HIKERS
PARADISE

EXPERIENCE THE DIVERSITY
ARCTIC WILDLIFE UP CLOSE

WHALES &
WILDLIFE

MEET THE LOCALS
FLOURISHING
COMMUNITIES

Hikers Paradise and Kingdom of the Whales

Welcome to Vesterålen

Vesterålen is a unique destination in Norway, offering year-round whale watching with professional operators and a diverse range of activities for families. With over 200 marked hiking trails suitable for all levels of ability and difficulties, it's an ideal hikers' paradise. The region emphasizes the importance of preserving its beautiful nature. Visitors and locals are encouraged to follow the unwritten rule of taking home what you bring with you on your hikes, ensuring that everyone can enjoy the stunning surroundings also in the future. Recognized as a Sustainable Destination, Vesterålen is continuously working towards enhancing sustainability efforts. If you plan to drive through the area, please be mindful of cyclists and other drivers. During

the winter season, driving in Vesterålen can be challenging. Please take care, adjust your driving speed, and keep distance to other drivers when the roads are slippery, and the visibility is low.

For more information, we recommend you to visit our website at visitvesteralen.com. The regional tourist information in Sortland is open year-round, and inquiries can be directed to touristinfo@visitvesteralen.no.

Welcome to Vesterålen! If you have any questions or need further assistance, feel free to ask!

TEAM VISIT VESTERÅLEN

VISIT
VESTERÅLEN

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Hikers
Paradise

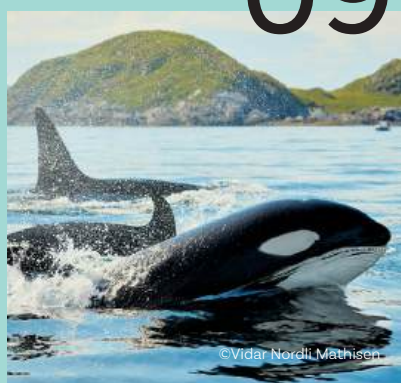
Whales &
Wildlife

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Flourishing
Communities



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Sandvikbukta

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A Culinary Journey in Vesterålen

In the archipelago of Vesterålen, there is always something new waiting around the next corner or over the next bridge; locally sourced food.

Traveling around in our region, you will find several local producers of award-winning cheeses, local sausages and cured meats, flatbreads, and many other delicious products. Don't be surprised if you find the tallest homemade cakes and perhaps the best cinnamon rolls in Northern Norway on your way, some good pastry with the coffee is never wrong. Good restaurants and cafes can be found throughout Vesterålen. Look at page 47 for our recommendations.

We have varied dining establishments offering everything from homemade traditional food to gourmet restaurants with acclaimed chefs and kitchen managers at the highest level. Several restaurants focus on the seasons and the fantastic

ingredients that the region offers. World-class food is served with great pride and love for the ingredients. There are short travel distances in Vesterålen. Relax and explore the food experiences in combination with nature, culture, and fun activities.



©Mariell Lind Hansen / Kvitnes Gård

At the end of January and until the beginning of April, the skrei (premium, seasonal Norwegian cod) comes towards the coast to spawn. This is a product that we have been exporting to the rest of Europe for over a thousand years - back to the Viking Age.

In Vesterålen, we have the unique «Ishavsørøye Vesterålen» (Arctic char), a protected geographical designation that means it can only be produced in the municipalities of Vesterålen. Arctic char is the queen of salmon fish and has reddish flesh, a firm texture, and a mild taste. Another cherished food in the region is Vesterålen lamb, and not

least, for many, an old and dear memory; Vesterålen's fish balls. The local semidry fish (Boknafisk) is also highly valued.

FALL OFFERS HARVESTING FROM NATURE

In the autumn, the forest is full of berries and mushrooms, nature's own pantry. We also have game such as grouse and moose, as well as reindeer from the local slaughterhouse. The cloudberries marshland on Andøya, are among the largest contiguous marshes in Norway. Don't be tempted to pick them without permission from the landowners. In Northern Norway, there are special rules for picking cloudberries. For example, it is forbidden to pick

them if the landowner has put up signs. You can find detailed information in the Outdoor Recreation Act § 5 (Public Harvesting Rights).

There is a lot of tasty food along the shore. Shellfish, sea urchins, crabs, and seaweed. Before you gather shellfish, make sure there is no toxic algal bloom in the sea.

Scan the QR code to learn more about culinary experiences, local producers, and food traditions in Vesterålen.



READ MORE ONLINE
Culinary Journey

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A WORTHWHILE EXPERIENCE



Holmvik Brygge in Nyksund

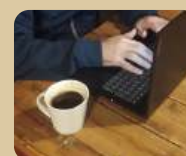
Where Time Slows Down



Local Food



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Guesthouse



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all year round

The perfect base for hiking Dronningruta, joining a whal safari, watch the northern lights or simply enjoying nature. End the day with great food in our restaurant.



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Hikers Paradise

Vesterålen is a true hikers' paradise, with over 200 marked trails through mountains, forests, and along the coastline, scattered across the region.

Here, unforgettable natural experiences are just steps away. The trails are easily accessible, and every peak rewards you with breathtaking views of endless mountain ranges, deep fjords, scattered islands, and the open sea. Options range

from short, family-friendly walks to challenging routes for experienced hikers, all set in dramatic and stunningly diverse landscapes.

Whether you hike alone, with friends, or with family, the trails offer a sense of freedom, peace, and connection with nature. Take your time to pause, breathe in the fresh air, and let your eyes wander. If you're lucky, a majestic sea eagle may soar overhead, curiously following your journey. Locals use these trails all year round – if you want to meet them, this is where to go.

HELP US PROTECT NATURE

Norwegian Outdoor Recreation Law allows free movement, resting, and camping in uncultivated land, but everyone must respect the environment. Take your trash with you. Use public toilets where available, and if not, carry waste with you until you can dispose of it properly. Dogs must be on a leash during the summer months. Exercise extreme caution with fire; there is generally a fire ban from April 15 to September 15, except where it is clearly safe.



DRONNINGRUTA

The Queen's Route in Øksnes is a spectacular 15 km coastal cultural route between the fishing villages of Stø and Nyksund. The round trip takes 5–8 hours and traverses varied and dramatic landscapes, reaching 450 meters at its highest point. Some steep sections are secured with ropes. This trail is for those in good physical condition who can handle some elevation. It has been named one of Norway's most beautiful hikes – and for good reason.

WINTER IN HIKERS PARADISE

Winter adds a magical dimension to the hiking paradise. Several nearby mountains are frequented daily by locals, with well-trodden paths ready for walkers. Bring crampons or chains, or try snowshoes. Groomed lighted trails offer miles of scenic experiences for cross-country skiers.

For ski mountaineering enthusiasts, the mountains provide easily accessible peaks and spectacular descents. Always check avalanche warnings on varsom.no/en/, hike with companions, and let someone know your route and expected return time.



READ MORE ONLINE
Hikers Paradise



→ CLOTHING & HIKING SAFETY

Always check the weather forecast and remember to bring food and beverage. Good waterproof hiking boots are

important and remember to bring warm and windproof clothes. Inform someone of your route! We recommend that you acquire a Vesterålen hiking map including marked

trails. Guided tours are offered on several of our most popular mountains, and you can find the offerings on Vesterålen's official website: visitvesteralen.com.

WHALE WATCHING

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Norway
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Arctic Whale Tours | arcticwhaletours.com | info@arcticwhaletours.com



Whales & Wildlife

The region's unique geographical location makes Vesterålen one of the best places in the world for whale watching.

Vesterålen is located on a narrow continental shelf that slopes steeply down to over a thousand meters deep just a few kilometers from the shore, where the large whales graze in the nutrient-rich water. From the boat, you can experience the world's largest sea mammals up close all year round.

In autumn, winter and spring there are safaris departing two or three days a week. The boats used for whale safaris vary in size, fittings, and motor power. All boats and crew follow strict requirements of government licensing, regulations, and animal



welfare. Therefore, safety and comfort are focused on by everyone on board. This also means that whale safaris will only depart under suitable weather conditions, so plan to stay in the area for two or three days.

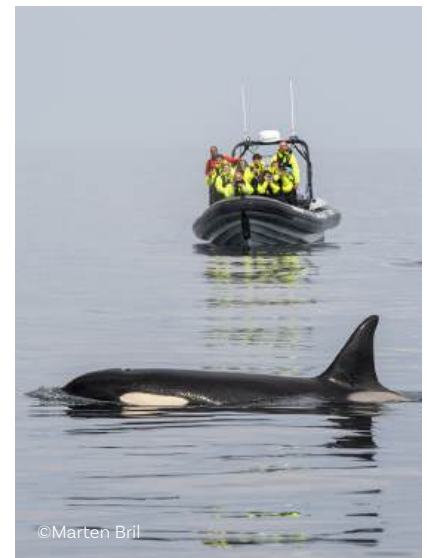
SAFARI FOR THE FAMILY

Due to safety regulations, children under the age of 9 can only go on a larger vessels, children over the age of 9 can also go by RIB.

ARCTIC WINTER

In the winter season the whales follow the herring into the many fjords of the region. In wintertime it is possible to see killer whales, humpbacks, (long-finned) pilot whales and fin whales. Snorkeling with killer whales is also a possibility in winter.

During the main seasons there is a great influx of whale enthusiasts, and we recommend that you book your safari well in advance.



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AND SEA-EAGLE SAFARI

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Rich Wildlife & Wild Nature

In Vesterålen you will encounter wild and wonderful nature with a wow-factor that takes your breath away.

The region consists of hundreds of islands that form a fantastic skerry landscape. The terrain varies from craggy alpine mountains to gentle, green hillsides, deep valleys, white sand beaches and narrow fjords. There are many ways to experience the natural beauty of Vesterålen. Why not participate in a seal and bird safari to the bird preserves of «Bleiksøya» or Anda Lighthouse, the nesting grounds for several thousand sea birds. Because of the warm and nutrient-rich ocean currents, Vesterålen is host to teeming bird life and a large variety of rare flora during the summer. There are several bird rocks and preserves in Vesterålen where one can observe birds of prey, seabirds and shoreline bird life at close range. Some of the most distinctive of these include the white-tailed sea eagle, long-tailed ducks, northern gannets, cormorants, puffins, auks, guillemots, herons, kittiwakes and swans.

DIVERSED ANIMAL LIFE

Many of the species that you will be able to experience are seasonal visitors. Quite a few of the animals and birds stay

year-round, but migratory birds visit Vesterålen seasonally. Our local nature guides offer interesting activities for those who want to experience the rich fauna, including the king of the forest – the moose, one of our greatest attractions. Other fascinating animals you may encounter include reindeer, otter, stoat, red fox, hare and others. The region is popular among bird watchers too, with a rich diversity of species in and around the cultural landscape and wetlands. The natural attractions in Vesterålen are as diverse as nature itself and offer you memorable experiences both

on land and at sea.

BIRDING

For those who are interested in birds, we have several natural preserves and IBA areas (important bird and biodiversity areas) where you can observe special species, some of them are so rare that they are on the red list. There are abundant nesting birds in Vesterålen, but also several rare migratory species such as cranes, the Eurasian hoopoe, the king eider and Steller's eider.

ARCTIC WINTER

In winter, eagle and moose safaris are popular activities for the whole family. Both moose and reindeer move towards the roads when there is a lot of snow, so be careful when driving. Snow often provides clues as to whether there are small animals to look for if you are in the nature.

MOOSE SAFARI *and more!*

Join our guided moose safari in Vesterålen all year. We also offer other wildlife safaris, northern lights and Scenic Route Andøya tours.

**EACH
SEASON IS
DIFFERENT!**



Vesterålen Tours

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WHALE WATCHING

- DID YOU KNOW?

The sperm whale produces click sounds up to 235 dB using echolocation in its hunt for food. This is the loudest sound in the animal kingdom!

Would you like to learn more?

**BEST
QUALITY!**

We combine whale
watching & research,
offering knowledge-
based experiences!

**Your best
choice!**



Photos: © Marten Brill

KNOWLEDGE-BASED EXPERIENCES

From Andenes, we are close to the whale grounds, and throughout the season, we see several different whale species. We offer tours with both large boat and RIB boats. During peak season, we also offer puffin and eagle safaris, as well as a midnight tour combining whale and bird safaris. At our Whale Centre, you'll find a café, souvenir shop, and a whale exhibition featuring, among other things, three whale skeletons! In addition, we have lectures every evening during the summer season for a deep dive into the whales off Andøya and the research being conducted here.

WELCOME AND REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR CAMERA!

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**ARCTIC NORTH
ADVENTURES**

Arctic Light

SEASONS WITH MAGIC



The Northern Lights

Feel the magic of Vesterålen's sky: A Northern Lights experience like no other.

With its location right under the northern light oval, Vesterålen is an ideal base for observing the Northern Lights. Here, it is possible to see the Northern Lights from September to March, after sunset. The phenomenon can be observed in the night sky in a belt around the magnetic pole - the aurora oval. The Northern Lights appear as a waving light that varies in shape, color, and intensity, from dark blue through green and yellow, to red and orange. It is possible to see the Northern Lights when it is dark and clear weather in areas with little light pollution, i.e. little artificial light.

THE AURORA SUPERSTITION

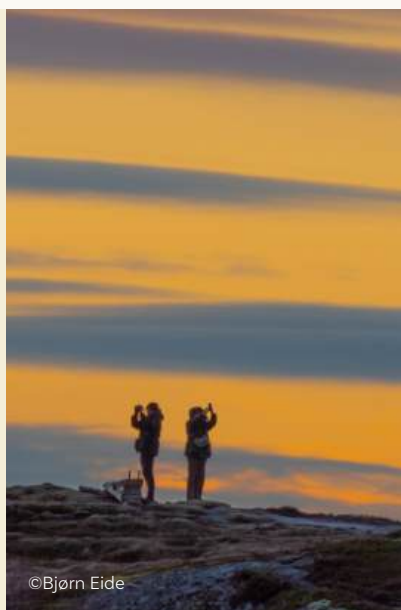
The word «nordlys» or «nordurljos» first appears in «King's Mirror» (a Norwegian didactic text in Old Norse from around 1250 AD). In the olden days it wasn't unusual for northerners to interpret the flaming lights in the skies as a bad omen, and the stronger the light, the worse the future was. Some people however, believed the lights to be a good weather indicator and called them «weather lights» or «wind lights».

FACTS ABOUT THE "AURORA"

The Northern Lights phenomenon occurs when solar winds hurl electrically charged particles towards earth. The particles are electrons and protons which create light when they collide with the gases in the atmosphere. The Northern Lights occur between 90 and 180 km above the earth's surface. The phenomenon in the northern hemisphere is called Aurora Borealis or Northern Lights.

FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

It's exciting for everyone to hunt for the Northern Lights. If it appears in the sky, try waving a white flag to see if it comes closer! Many a young local in Vesterålen did this in their childhood. We recommend you to go to a secluded beach with little light. Maybe light a small fire, bring cocoa and wait for the Northern Lights to appear. Visit the Spaceship Aurora experience center to learn more about the «Aurora».



Color Season

Each season has its unique color spectrum.

Many associate Arctic light with the Northern Lights alone, but the large variations in light and colors extend throughout the year here in the north.

Each season has its unique color spectrum, a fascinating experience that everyone should experience at least once in their lifetime. Especially during the transition when the sun disappears below the horizon for a few months, and when it returns in late winter. The sky is then bathed in bright red, pink, and orange colors.



READ MORE ONLINE
The Northern Lights

Midnight sun



It's 1am, and the Sun is still Shining?

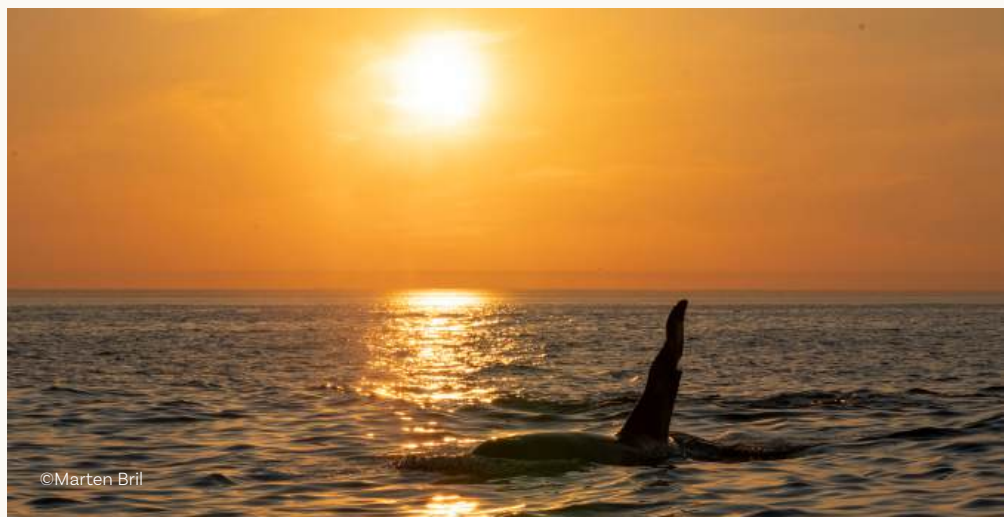
In the summer months, the sun doesn't set below the horizon and bathes the landscape in a golden glow.

This phenomenon, known as the midnight sun, creates a surreal, almost dreamlike quality to the landscape that is impossible to describe in words. In Vesterålen, the sun does not set between May 23 and July 23. For a truly special experience, we therefore recommend delaying bedtime a few hours in the summer and taking the trip in the evening or night instead. There are many advantages to turning the day around a bit in the summer.

During busy summer months with a lot of traffic on the roads, a mountain hike, bike ride, or kayak trip would be ideal to do in the late-night hours. Less noise gives your senses a completely new and special experience. There is a tense silence "disturbed" only by birds and animals that may otherwise be at rest during the day. Smells are intensified and the light is very special.

FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

It can be difficult for both young and old to go to bed when the sun shines 24/7. Sleeping outdoors, or just taking advantage of a few extra evening hours give you



the opportunity to experience wildlife that you don't see and hear during the day. The many beautiful beaches in Vesterålen are worth a visit in the evening and at night. Bleik beach on Andøya is a 2.8 km long white beach. Here you can combine both swimming and a hike.

Moose safaris are always exciting at night. Whale watching in the midnight sun is very popular.

Several suppliers offer activities during the midnight sun.



READ MORE ONLINE
Midnight Sun

Meet the Locals

"Crazy" and happy because of the midnight sun.

The people of Northern Norway go a little bit mad with all the light, in the best sense of the word.

It's perfectly normal to mow the lawn or throw a coffee party at midnight, or to suddenly decide to walk up the nearest mountain to see the sun. Children's bedtimes are suddenly not that important.



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Welcome to Quality Hotel™ Richard With

Along the seafront in the center of Stokmarknes, you will find Vesterålen's largest hotel, Quality Hotel™ Richard With. The hotel becomes part of its spectacular harbor promenade which is adjacent to The Hurtigruten Museum and the Hurtigruten House. With its 8 floors, many of the hotel's rooms offer a unique sea view that simply has to be experienced.

A new great meeting arena!

Quality Hotel™ Richard With will give the people from Vesterålen a new large living room for the small and large occasions, and a meeting place that binds the whole city together.

Raw, spectacular and magical

Everything you've heard is true! Vesterålen offers wonderful nature experiences you've never seen the likes of. Do you dream of a proper fishing trip? Paddle kayak when the sea is colored azure blue? Or maybe you want to climb up the mountain peaks that give you the whole picture? Vesterålen is the starting point for the most exotic treasures Norway has to offer.

Dinner with a view

The hotel's restaurant can be found by the sea, where you are warmly welcomed to enjoy Nordic quality food, inspired by the French kitchen. The kitchen offers a varied and well-composed à la carte menu where you can choose between classic favorites with a local twist.

Welcome to Vesterålen - welcome to Quality Hotel™ Richard With!



Welcome to

SCANDIC SORTLAND

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Our restaurant, Bistro Panorama, serves delicious dishes made from local ingredients. Guests can also enjoy facilities such as a sauna just outside the door and exciting activities like RIB safaris to the fjord. With us, you'll find the perfect balance of relaxation, experiences, and great food.

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Scandic
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Bleik

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Flourishing Communities

Some of the richest fishing grounds in our country are located in Vesterålen. Fishing is the foundation for the settlement in Vesterålen.

There is a lot of coastal history in a visit to the old fishing villages along the coast, but the converted, modern fishing harbors with flourishing activities are also worth a visit. What they all have in common is the proximity to the open sea and a rich history.

Many visitors want to travel to Vesterålen precisely for the rich fishing opportunities they find here.

NOTE: The fishing rights in rivers and lakes belong to the

landowner and fishing can only be carried out with permission from the landowner (fishing permit). A fishing fee must be paid to the Norwegian state when fishing for salmon, trout and char in freshwater. Fishing near rivers is only allowed 50 meters or more away from the estuary. Leisure and tourist fishing is regulated in Norway. More information: fiskeridir.no/english



©Katrine Celius

WINTER FISHING

For professional fishermen, the winter season at sea is synonymous with cod fishing. With today's advanced boats and equipment, recreational fishermen are also able to participate in the hunt for this quality fish. From February to April, it is the season for ice fishing in the inland lakes. Fishing permits are purchased locally.



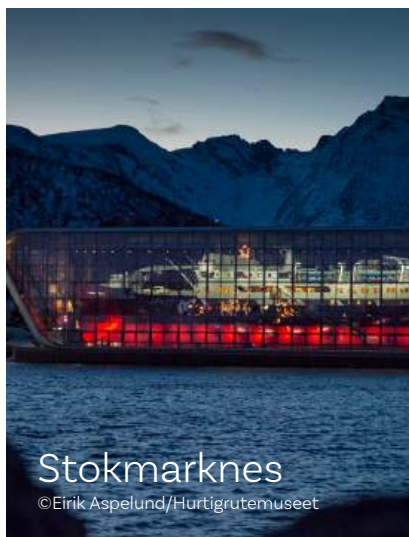
©Hannaleena Välsänen

Fishing Villages

Vesterålen has many small, vibrant and authentic fishing villages, but also some large and modern ones.

One of the most famous historical fishing village is Nyksund, which was one of the largest towns in Vesterålen around 1900. In the early 1970s, the harbor became too small for modern boats, the school was closed, and relocation subsidies from the state meant that Nyksund was abandoned.

Today, Nyksund is inhabited again and accommodation, fantastic food, and experiences are offered. The last part of the road to Nyksund is an experience in itself, with steep mountains on one side and the open ocean on the other.



Birthplace of Hurtigruten

Captain Richard With was born in Stokmarknes in Vesterålen and founded the original Hurtigruten (coastal express) in 1893.

Together with Anders Holte they began to map the Norwegian coast. This led to the first major navigation method of the coast, based on accurate observations of the sea and the coast. Richard With hired skilled

captains who could use the system to navigate in the dark at night. This saved valuable time on each journey while the competitors slept. When the Norwegian state in 1892 announced a tender to operate a state-sanctioned route between Trondheim and Tromsø or Hammerfest that sailed at night, Captain Richard With was ready to achieve his dream of a «fast route».

Today, the Hurtigruten Museum stands as a monument to Norway's coastal history in the center of the birthplace of Hurtigruten, Stokmarknes.

Sami Culture

Unique experience of pure and authentic local Sami culture.

The Sami culture which originates from the nomadic indigenous people in sápmi (Northern Norway, Northern Sweden, and Northern Finland) is an important part of Vesterålen's cultural history.

We highly recommend a visit to a Sami family to learn about this culture and meet the reindeer - an important part of Sami culture.

Norway's Highway No. 1 – for over 130 years. Discover its coastal and transport history, a true landmark of Lofoten and Vesterålen.

Come on board the former coastal steamer MS Finnmarken (1956) ≈ Visit the bridge Engine room ≈ Mail room ≈ Crew quarters ≈ Cabins ≈ Lounges and more Experience the atmosphere of the DS Finnmarken (1912) section ≈ Themed exhibitions about life along the coast ≈ Onboard café ≈ Family-friendly

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SCAN QR



Behind the Scenes

Coastal Culture Meets Modern Aquaculture

One of Vesterålen's most unique visitor experiences: an exhibition centre that allows you to experience, understand, and taste the story of Norwegian salmon.

The small village of Blokken is just a 30-minute drive from Sortland. Marieke is greeted by the guide, who welcomes her and explains that they are about to gain insight into aquaculture history, wild salmon, and modern fish farming. Akvakultur i Vesterålen has preserved and restored the more than 100-year-

old Gladbrygga – a piece of Norwegian coastal history where guests can now learn about and taste Norwegian salmon. The pier is buzzing with life. Schoolchildren practice tying knots, while locals tend to their boats down by the harbour.

THE SALMON'S JOURNEY

Marieke follows the guide into the exhibition, letting her gaze wander across old photographs, models, and interactive installations. Here, the stories are woven together – from the earliest attempts at salmon farming along the coast, through the importance of wild salmon to Norwegian nature and culture, to today's high-tech, knowledge-based

aquaculture industry. The guide speaks passionately about life in the pens, feed, fish welfare, and how the industry is constantly evolving to become



more sustainable. For Marieke, it becomes clear that salmon is not just a product, but the result of generations of coastal knowledge, innovation, and respect for the sea.

Midway through the visit, the experience takes a new turn. Marieke puts on a pair of VR goggles and, in her own language, is able to journey beneath the surface and see what is otherwise inaccessible. In a virtual world, she moves between the pens, follows the salmon's life cycle, and has complex relationships explained in a simple way. The virtual reality experience is available in several languages, making the visit accessible to guests from all over the world.

UP CLOSE

Then it's back outside. As the RIB boat accelerates out into the fjord, Marieke grips her seat tightly. The mountains are reflected in the deep blue water, and the sea air is sharp and clear. The guide points toward the facility anchored in the fjord. Here, guests get up close, see the pens, learn about daily operations, and ask questions directly to the people who work with the salmon every day. Beneath the surface, silvery fish glide calmly past – a moment that leaves a lasting impression. On her first day in Northern Norway, Marieke had imagined mountains, sea, and fresh air, but not this: a real fish farm and an understanding of how Norwegian salmon is actually produced.

TASTE EXPERIENCE

Back on land, a completely different atmosphere awaits. In the cozy and venerable



“Ekspedisjonen,” with creaking floors and warm wooden walls, the table is set for a tasting. Here, house-produced smoked salmon is served, refined with pride and local traditions. The flavour is mild, rich, and fresh – and for Marieke, it makes sense in an entirely new way after having seen the whole journey from fjord to plate.

Akvakultur i Vesterålen is more than an exhibition centre. It is a story of Norwegian coastal culture, of people who live from and with the sea, and of how modern aquaculture has become a cornerstone of coastal communities. For travellers who want more than

beautiful pictures – who want to understand, experience, and taste Northern Norway – this is a stop that creates lasting memories.

Behind the scenes, in the heart of Vesterålen's powerful nature, an intimate encounter with the sea, history, and the future of food production awaits.

+47 958 81 822

booking@akvakulturivesteralen.no



READ MORE ONLINE
akvakulturivesteralen.no

«The Man from the Sea»

(Artist: Kjell Erik Killi Olsen)

The sculpture is 4.3 meters tall and made of cast iron. The obelisk he holds in his hand is made of rock crystal, an offering to his former residence. A female figure in gold is embedded in the back as a symbol of his family.



Culture & Creativity

Culture and art are hopefully on the agenda when you visit Vesterålen. A variety of local events, festivals and cultural days give you plenty of choices.

MUSEUM

Vesterålen is a region shaped by stories of fish, trade, seafaring, and great pioneers. The many local museums take you back in time, offering insight into how life here has evolved into what it is today. Get to know the industrial pioneer Frederiksen, the coastal history at Hurtigruten Museum, go to the top of the Andenes Lighthouse, step inside one of Northern Norway's oldest wooden buildings – Alsvåggården – and discover tales of adventure and local heroes at the region's museums.

ART

Vesterålen is a scenic region that has inspired many to express their creativity through art. Several professional artists have galleries and art shops in the region. Beautiful paintings, handmade jewelry and glass creations, or travelling exhibitions of world-famous artists is just some of what the area has to offer. Not far

from the sculpture «The Man from the Sea» in Bø you will find a unique outdoor gallery with photographs of all the sculptures in the county-wide project Artscape Nordland. Several of the artworks in Vesterålen are some of the most visited in the project. A number of transformer sheds are artistically decorated and in the skerries you will find «RÆK» installations. Sortland is «the blue city» with blue buildings, street art and literary decorations throughout.

The sculpture «**Rodd fiske**» by the artist Christin Løkke, is located at sea, close by the outdoor gallery in Vinje.

THE BLUE CITY

Sortland is known as «The Blue City» with blue colors dominating much of the town center with street art and literary embellishments.

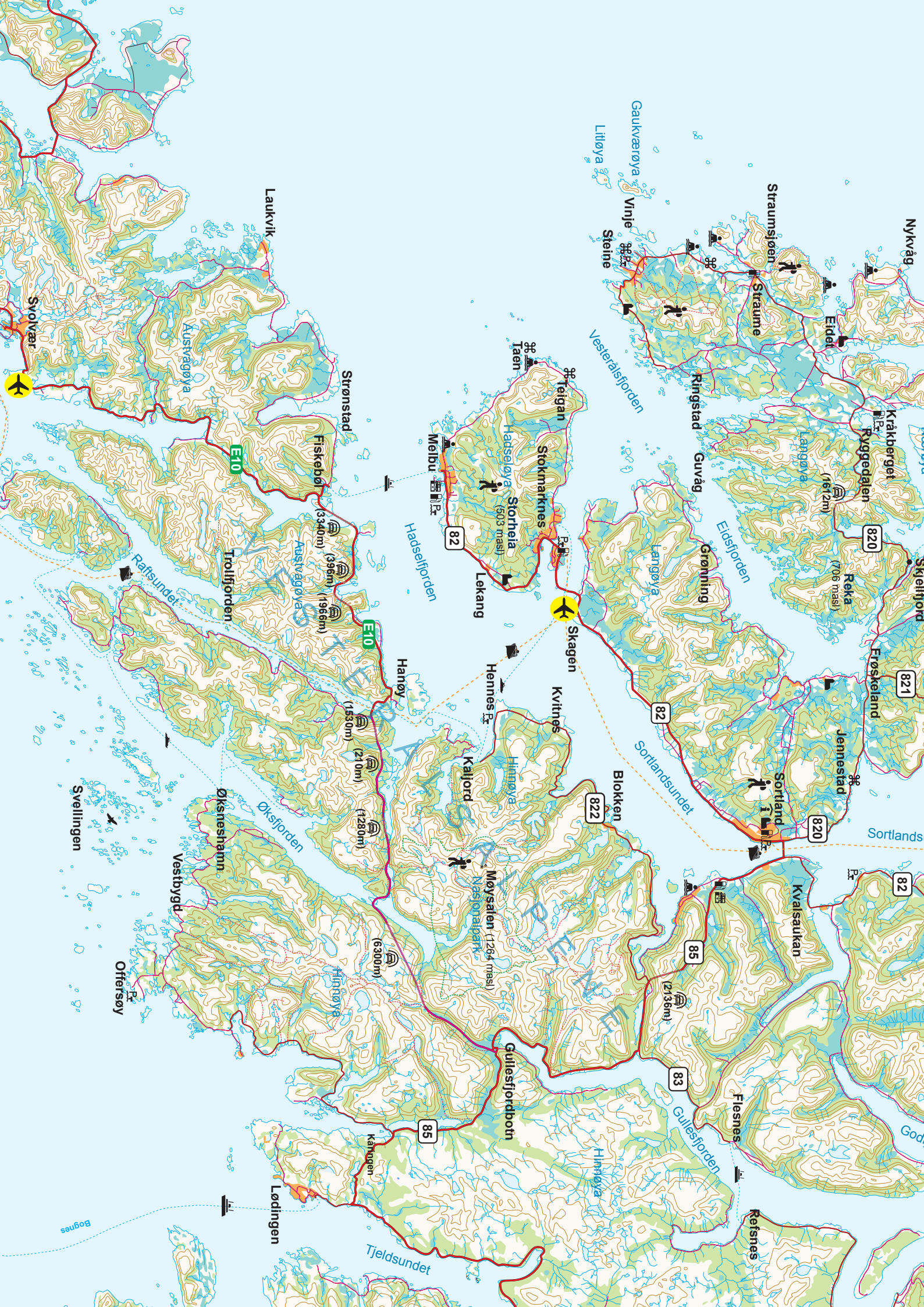
EVENTS

The region has a varied cultural program within music, theatre, film and outdoor activities. Throughout the year you can attend concerts within several genres – everything from Scandinavian hard rock to classical and jazz. The theatre groups perform several plays each year. Vesterålen has several great annual music festivals. The festivals all try to provide concerts and events for the whole family, with specific events for children and youths.

kunstivesteralen.no presents galleries, ateliers, and outdoors art in Vesterålen. Use the map-function to navigate your way around the different art installations and galleries.



©Kultursamarbeidet i Vesterålen





Andenes
iP
11



The Journey to Vesterålen

The trip to Vesterålen is an experience in itself, whether you travel by car, bus, plane, the coastal express, train or a combination of these.

ROUTE INFORMATION BUS, FERRY AND SPEED BOAT

reisnordland.no

Tel.: +47 910 09 600

BY CAR

E6 through Norway, via Riksgrensen E10 from Sweden.

TRAFFIC & ROAD INFORMATION

vegvesen.no/en/traffic-information

Tel.: 175

PLANE

From Oslo/Bergen/Stavanger/Trondheim to Harstad/Narvik (Evenes) or by Bodø/Tromsø to the local airports Skagen Airport, Stokmarknes or Andenes Airport, Andøy.

We are continuously getting more seasonal and year-round direct routes from Europe to Evenes, such as Frankfurt, Zurich and Paris. More are coming.

BUS TO/FROM AIRPORT

Airport shuttle Evenes to/from Sortland: flybussen.no/en/
Airport shuttle to/from Sortland – Skagen: 07550.no/sortland/

TRAIN

Oslo – Fauske: vy.no/en
Train through Sweden to Narvik: sj.se

KYSTRUTEN

Bergen – Kirkenes – Bergen: hurtigruten.com/en/ / havlavoyages.com
Calls at Stokmarknes, Sortland and Risøyhamn.

On the Roads in Vesterålen

All of the people in Northern Norway is on wheels in the summer; tourists on visit and the locals are travelling.

Festivals with large audiences take place, and buses, trucks and all other vehicles share the roads.

KEEP A SLOWER SPEED, AND LET OTHERS PASS

If you usually drive on straight roads with a wide field of vision you may want to be cautious on the coastal roads. It is okay to keep a slower speed, but do consider those driving behind you by stopping on designated

meeting points or exits to let them pass.

PHOTO STOPS

There are endless photo motifs along the roads, but one should not stop just anywhere. Find a suitable and safe place to stop the car, and look both ways before crossing the road or setting up the camera.

CARS AND CYCLIST

Whether you're here on two or four wheels - please be considerate of each other. Vehicles should keep a 1.5 meter distance from cyclists!

DRIVING IN THE WINTER

Adjust your speed and distance to the car in front, the braking

distance is much longer on snowy/icy roads even if plowing and sand spreading work well. Rental cars are equipped with studded tires or good winter tires.





Map references for the companies and their offers is referred to the map above, on pages 44-54.

Useful Information

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

To call into Norway use +47 (mobile) / 0047 (landline). To call from Norway using mobile: country code + phone no. / Landline: 00 + country code + phone no.

TIME/ROUTE INFO FOR NORDLAND COUNTY

reisnordland.no

For traffic reports call the Norwegian Public Roads Administration (+47) 22 07 30 00
See also vegvesen.no/en

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Police: 112
Medical emergency help: 113
Fire: 110

WASTE DISPOSAL POINTS TOURIST BUSES & MOTORHOMES/CARAVANS

Andenes	Andenes Camping	FV 82
Bleik	Midnattssol Camping	FV 7702
Bø	Vinje båtforening	FV 820
Sortland	Best Sigerfjord	RV 85
Sortland	Havna Service (Esso)	RV 85
Hadsel	Bobilcamp, Melbu	RV 85
Hadsel	Rema 1000, Melbu	RV 85
Stokmarknes	Vesterålen Kysthotell	FV 82
Hennes	Møysalen NPS-camping	FV 822
Øksnes	Esso Myre	FV 821

REFILLING OF GAS BOTTLES

Industrifeltet (only 11 kg)
Shell oljesenter/Hålogaland Varmeservice AS
Markveien 25, Sortland
Tel.: +47 76 12 00 29

QUICK CHARGERS

There are about 50 charging stations in varied locations in Vesterålen, see an overview at ladestasjoner.no

DRIVING

Cars must have headlights switched on at all times. The drink-driving laws in Norway are strict. The legal limit is 0.02 % blood alcohol content.

MIDNIGHT SUN / NO SUN (BLUE) SEASON

23.05. - 23.07. / 23.11. - 17.01.

Northern Norway's most legendary fjord

Experience Trollfjord

Carved deep into the mountains of Raftsundet, Trollfjord is one of Northern Norway's most dramatic fjords.

Raftsundet is the main artery between Vesterålen and Lofoten. Both emperors and royalty have walked in the mountains surrounding the 20-km-long, 220-metre-wide (at its narrowest) strait. You will be able to experience the majestic Trollfjord in Raftsundet – the most

photographed and fabled fjord in Northern Norway throughout the ages. Few fjords can compete with Trollfjord, 3 km long and with an opening 70 meters wide! It is a channel that cuts deep into the side of the 1000-metre-high Trolltind peak. Nature here is frighteningly dramatic.

TRIPS TO TROLLFJORD

From Vesterålen we recommend guided RIB tours from Stokmarknes and Sortland, which goes all year round. These trips offer birdlife, history and steep mountain. We

also recommend going with Kystruten ("Coastal Express") from Stokmarknes to Svolvær in Lofoten. You can either take a bus back from Svolvær, or you can take the northbound coastal express in the same evening.



READ MORE ONLINE
Trollfjord

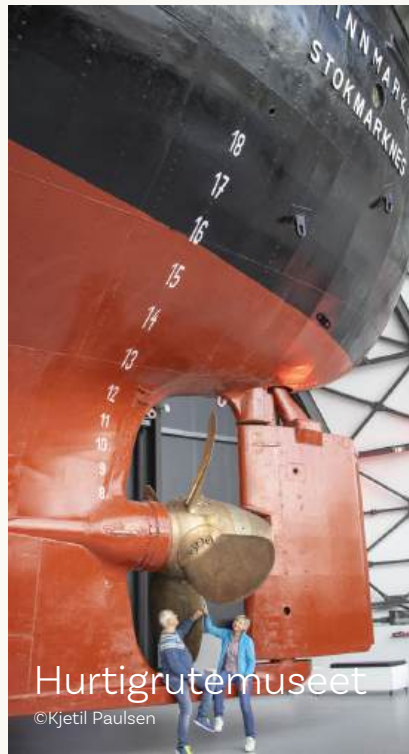


Attractions

Experience Trollfjord, the Scenic Route, Hurtigrutemuseet, rocket launches, and the upcoming The Whale – Vesterålen offers world-class attractions.

HURTIGRUTEMUSEET

The Hurtigruten Museum is located in Stokmarknes, in the "Birthplace of the Hurtigruten". The old coastal express «MS Finnmarken» is placed on land, surrounded by a great architectural building with over 4000 m2 with exhibits to explore.



SCENIC ROUTE ANDØYA

The Norwegian Scenic Route Andøy (58 km) stretches between the open, bare outer coastline, grass-covered mountain peaks, and the flat cloudberry marshes further south. Only Bleik Island's nearly perfect cone-like shape breaks the vast horizon that reaches toward Greenland. The road follows a broad coastal shelf of cultivated land where people have lived for centuries between the wide ocean and jagged peaks. Along the way, you may spot seals, whales, and eagles from your car window. The Gulf Stream provides a mild climate and turns the surrounding waters into a rich feeding ground for a variety of wildlife. Highlights along the route include the tiny fishing village of Bleik and the striking rock formation Bukkekjerka between Nordmela and Næss,

where nature itself has formed a natural altar and pulpit. Andøya also offers excellent opportunities for cyclists and hikers, and those who wish to explore from the water can enjoy kayaking along its scenic coastline.

ROCKET LAUNCH

Andøya Spaceport is the first operational spaceport for satellites in continental Europe. The spaceport is located south of Nordmela on the west side of the Andøy island. This will give access to space from Vesterålen, and back to Europe! Andøya Space has a long history of providing infrastructure for launching research rockets. This means that when you visit Vesterålen, you can actually see the launch of some of the largest rockets launched in Europe!



THE WHALE

The Whale is a new, knowledge-based visitor experience on Andenes in Vesterålen, open year-round. The vision is to create the world's most significant encounter between humans and whales. The attraction combines spectacular experiences with close encounters with the fascinating world of whales, offering insight into their lives through engaging interpretation. With a strong focus on science, art and sustainability, The Whale aims to inspire visitors to care for whales and the ocean.

The Whale opens on 3 June 2027 – thewhale.no.



READ MORE ONLINE
Attractions

Actively Grounded in the Place You Visit

Regenerative Experiences

Do you want to explore local nature and culture while also helping to make the places you visit better? In Vesterålen, there are local tourism operators that invite you—as both guest and temporary local—to actively co-create meaningful experiences for the future.



©Mariell Lind Hansen / Kvithes Gard

Most nature- and culture-based experiences benefit both visitors and local communities. However, in some places tourism gradually depletes the very “soil” it depends on, by exhausting local resources and residents’ goodwill. This has led many to ask whether tourism needs to be completely rethought—or perhaps not. Maybe the answer lies in learning more from nature itself, and from people who live in closer balance with it. So how can you be part of this change? To begin with, we need to look at a few key concepts, and how they influence the way tourism develops experiences for you—or together with you.

The Difference between Sustainable and Regenerative

Many people wonder what distinguishes the concept of **regenerative**—most commonly associated with agriculture—from the more established concept of **sustainable**. For many, sustainability has become a misunderstood and overused term that has contributed little to real change. Because sustainability is complex and often adapted to suit whoever uses it, the risk of greenwashing is high. Working regeneratively requires much deeper local grounding, and is therefore far less susceptible to greenwashing. Here is an attempt to clarify the similarities and differences between these two approaches:

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

Sustainable tourism is based on **reducing negative impacts while creating (generating)**

value through operations. The focus is often on value creation and meeting expectations from authorities, customers, and owners (so-called shareholders). This is a practice where tourism is generative: it secures jobs and creates value by utilizing local resources, while at the same time seeking to **prevent harmful (degenerative) effects of its activities**—such as limiting emissions and overtourism.

REGENERATIVE TOURISM

Regenerative tourism starts from a different place: **what local nature, culture, and communities actually need from tourism**. The aim is to give more back to the local environment and society than is taken from it (the stakeholders). This approach requires far more dialogue, insight, and connection to place. Experiences are co-created by local communities, tourism businesses, and visitors alike. Together, participants **actively contribute to improving (regenerating) a destination**—through shared activities such as contribution-based tourism and citizen science.

THINK OF A GARDEN

Sustainable practice is like carefully walking through a garden without stepping on the plants—a more passive approach to your surroundings.

Regenerative practice goes further. It also involves pulling weeds, enriching the soil, planting seeds, and watering them—so the garden is healthier afterward. This represents a far more active relationship with the environment.



THINK OF A POWER OUTLET

Sustainability can be compared to a two-pronged power outlet, which works well as long as the appliances are small and operate within closed indoor systems. Metaphorically, this resembles tourism experiences that function well individually, but at a larger scale—and in direct contact with their surroundings—carry a higher risk of overloading local communities.

Regenerative tourism, on the other hand, can be illustrated by a three-pronged, grounded outlet. The additional grounding protects against overload and electric shock. In tourism terms, this represents experiences that are better connected and “grounded” in their surroundings—making them safer and more resilient for local communities.

continues on next page →



Brakøya
©Brakøya

Tourism with Local Responsibility

Here are some of those who are at the forefront of this ongoing development.

Over the past few years, several tourism operators in Vesterålen have developed regenerative experiences where you, as a guest, actively contribute to making the places you visit better. These are experiences that both preserve and strengthen local values.

BRAKØYA

Brakøya is operated as a regenerative tourism destination by restoring biodiversity through grazing, forest management, and species-rich wildflower meadows. At the same time, unique experiences are created where guests actively take part

in nature stewardship and learn how tourism can give back more than it takes.

KVITNES GÅRD

At Kvitnes Gård, Halvar Ellingsen practices regenerative agriculture and is largely self-sufficient in products for the restaurant. What truly sets Kvitnes Gård apart is the strong connection between farming and restaurant operations. *"For us, it's about using absolutely*

everything we have available on the farm. Nothing goes to waste," Halvar explains.

He elaborates on how they make use of animal bones after slaughter: *"After boiling the bones for stock, we burn them and turn them into biochar, which we use as fertilizer in the vegetable garden"*. By reviving and further developing traditional methods such as pickling,



Kvitnes Gård
©Kvitnes Gård



Inga Sami Siida
©Trym Ivar Bergsmo / nordnorge.com

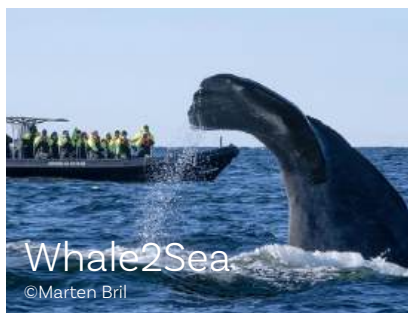
curing, and fermentation, the farm has been self-sufficient in vegetables and nearly all meat production since 2020.

Animals also play an active role as “farm workers,” with goats clearing scrub and young forest, while pigs plough and fertilize the soil. *“This cycle is the foundation of our regenerative farming”*, says Cathrine Thoresen, who is the operations manager for the entire farm. The hosts share the farm's philosophy and history in a way that gives guests new knowledge and a deeper respect for plants, animals, and nature.

INGA SÁMI SIIDA

The Inga family has practiced reindeer herding continuously for around 150 years. They are Sámi—Northern Europe's Indigenous people—and reindeer herding is a distinct and exclusive Sámi livelihood. Today, however, only about 7% of Sámi in Norway are reindeer owners. *“We started Inga Sámi Siida in 2009 after winters with difficult grazing conditions forced us to build a fenced enclosure at our home farm. We brought much of the herd back to be able to feed them through the harshest winter periods”*, explains Laila Inga.

In Vesterålen, steep mountains cause reindeer losses to avalanches every winter, and icy ground can also prevent animals from accessing food. *“Buying reindeer feed is very expensive, which is when the idea emerged to welcome paying guests in order to finance feed for the animals. In other words, as a guest you not only experience this important tradition of reindeer*



herding—you also help secure the reindeer's livelihood. This eventually developed into Inga Sámi Siida, which today welcomes tourists from all over the world, as well as locals”, Laila Inga concludes about their regenerative workplace.

WHALE2SEA

At Hvalsafari Andenes, you do more than just observe. At one of Europe's most reliable locations for whale watching, the tours combine close encounters with real scientific research. On board, guides share insights from researchers about whale behavior, migration, and the threats they face. Ticket revenues support this work, ensuring that every journey contributes to protecting the whales people come to see. Here, close-up whale encounters are transformed into understanding and care.

MARMELKROKEN

- Based on the farm's resources, we wish to pay tribute to the local culture and lushness experienced here in Northern



Norway. Rooted in the belief that sustainability is achieved through frugality and respect for both people and nature, says Lisbeth.

Through harvesting, foraging and nature walks, several hundred years of cultural history are conveyed. Experiences that connect people, nature, and local communities. Creating lasting bonds and impact extending beyond the visit.

NORHEIM VINEYARD

Norheim Vineyard is organically certified, award-winning, and Eco-Lighthouse approved. Here you'll find Økolonialen, with local products and non-alcoholic beverages, fruit and vegetable wines, and syrups made from Arctic ingredients. The shop holds Debio's Gold certification, and 20% of profits are donated to environmental and community projects.

Source: nordnorge.com
Written by: Roger Johansen

Inga Sámi Siida



SAMI CULTURE
Experience, take part and have a taste of Sami culture and reindeer herding.

Summer and winter experiences
Get up close and meet the reindeer by feeding them - right from your hand! Exhibits. Dining featuring Sami foods.

Drop-in: 15.06-31.08, Mon-Thu 10:30-14:00. Booking in advance the rest of the year.

Laila Inga: + 47 908 77 558
lailainga@hotmail.com / www.ingasamisiida.no

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Regardless of what you choose to see and experience when you visit Vesterålen, we can get you there in style. Service, comfort and safety are key words for us when our customers climb aboard our vehicles.

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We offer authentic Arctic experiences – from coastal life to the Northern Lights.

We guide our guests safely and up close in the nature of Vesterålen and Lofoten.

NORDSPOR Experience Center & Café in Nyksund is our cosy meeting place for information, inspiration, and great breaks.

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post@nordsporguiding.no
Tel.: +47 47 99 01 06

SCAN ME

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We are a family-driven restaurant at Offersøy Feriesenter. Our exciting menu varies seasonally with **local food**.



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www.offersoy.no tel. +47 769 33 900

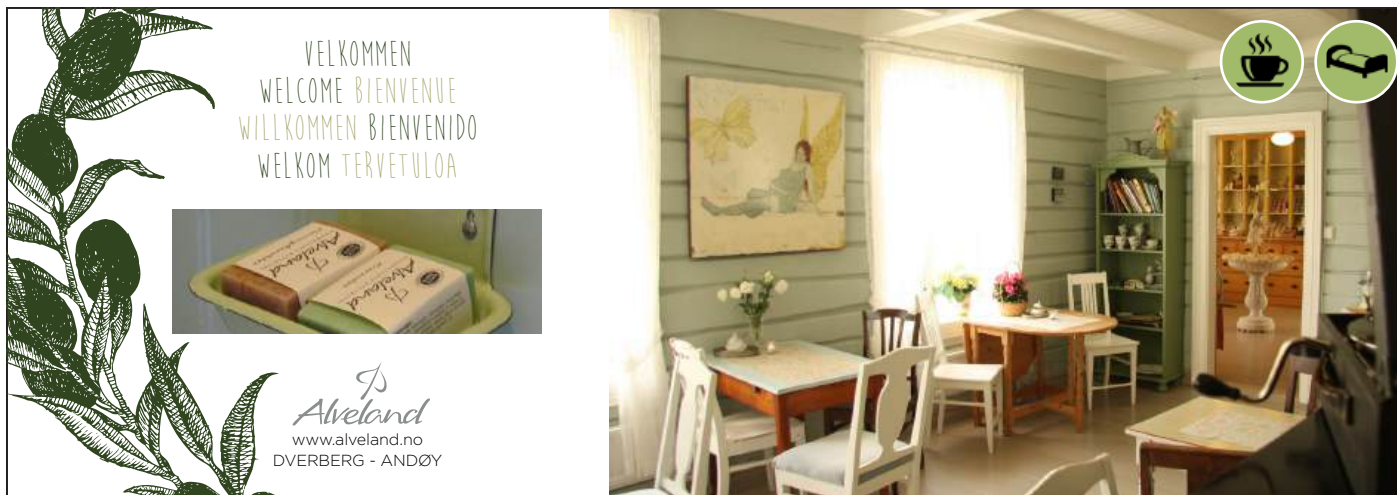
Fiskeværret Skipnes

Welcome to us; at the far end of the coast



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- Shore power • Museum • Cultural arena • Wedding arena • Coastal culture
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Art exhibition and café

Art gallery and candle foundry

Opening hours
 June 13th - August 16th
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 July: Tuesday - Sunday: 12-17

Rest of the year
 Saturday - Sunday: 12-16

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BUS



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Among Islands, Mountains and Coastal Islets

Kayaking & Cycling

Vesterålen is ideal for many activities both on land and at sea.

If you like kayaking, you can experience beautiful fjords, idyllic skerry landscape and fascinating sea landscapes, with a rich bird and animal life, pristine and wild nature through the prism of ever-changing wind and weather conditions. Exploring Vesterålen by bike or kayak is possibly even better than by car. The roads in Vesterålen are slightly hilly along the coastline and well suited for cycling with a trailer and luggage.

SEA KAYAKING

There are many wonderful areas for sea kayaking, both in fjords, archipelagos, and the outer side of the region. The outer side of Vesterålen has both return currents, underwater reefs, and currents - and weather conditions change rapidly. Inexperienced paddlers should choose the fjords and the archipelago with calmer waters. Here, it is also easier to come ashore if the weather turns. We recommend that those unfamiliar with the region contact local guides or tourist information for advice on route choices or sign up for guided tours.

RENTAL AND GUIDED TRIPS

Both kayak and bicycle hire are offered in Vesterålen. If you want to hire equipment or take part in guided tours, you will find an overview of providers from page 48 in this brochure.



READ MORE ONLINE
Kayaking



THE BRIGHT SUMMER NIGHTS

We recommend postponing bedtime by a few hours in the summer and take the trip in the evening or night instead. There are many advantages to flipping the day around during the summer. For cyclists, you will largely have the roads almost entirely to yourself. Gone is the traffic noise at daytime, instead you will only hear nature and experience the fantastic light at night.

HADSEL ISLAND & AROUND

The island of Hadseløya is 42 km and is recommended as a nice daytrip. A stop at Uværshula (Storm Shelter) or Taen Outdoor Recreation Area are highly recommended! Just outside Melbu, at Husby, those who want to challenge their bicycle climbing skills can take the 3.5-kilometre-long detour to the summit of Storheia 504 masl.

ANDØYA AROUND, 100 KM

The most fit people might manage this roundtrip in one day, but we recommend taking some time to experience the island with all it has to offer. Perhaps a break from the bike saddle can be used to push the legs a little extra on one of Vesterålen's most popular mountains; Måtind, on the



north side of the island. The west side of Andøya is National Scenic Route, with several beautiful sights and campsites.

OTHER RECOMMENDED GEMS

If you plan to cycle to Bø in Vesterålen and through the tunnel, remember to have lights on your bike and preferably a reflective vest! There are many great gems in Bø, and the road to Hovden is spectacular. That is also the case with the road out to Nyksund in Øksnes. This trip can also be combined with a walk along «Dronningruta». We also recommend a round-trip by combining the express

boat from Stokmarknes to Kaljord on the Hadsel Innland, and from there, cycling towards Sortland.

NOTE

Even in the middle of summer, days can be chilly at 68° north. The sea is much colder here than in the south of the country. Therefore, we recommend that you bring plenty of clothes to keep warm and dry! If you are going on a trip and are unfamiliar with the area, contact the tourist information or local guides for recommended routes. Always check the weather forecast!

→ ARCTIC SEA KAYAK RACE

Vesterålen has been hosting the world's most beautiful paddling adventure since 1991. Every year, at the end of July, kayak enthusiasts from around the world come together

for a social and educational paddling event under safe conditions. The first part of the week is spent on trips, either on the outer side of Vesterålen in exposed waters, or in the beautiful archipelago in Øksnes.

The base for the event is the historic fishing village of Skipnes, where participants stay and experience authentic Vesterålen coastal culture.



Welcome to Vesterålen Kysthotell - in the heart of Lofoten og Vesterålen



Hotel • Fisherman's cabins • Nordland houses
• Camping • Conference facilities • Restaurant
- enjoy the calm and beautiful surroundings!



Postboks 64 - N-8455 Stokmarknes
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Welcome to Sortland Camping & Motell

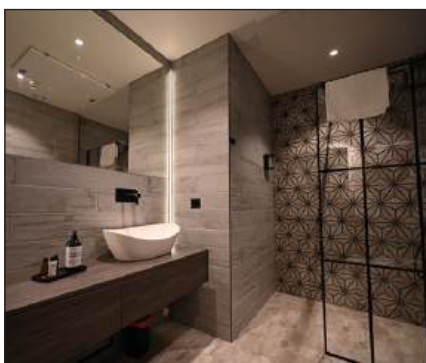
Comfortable cabins with easy access to Vesterålen's beautiful nature. Enjoy relaxing surroundings, practical facilities such as free Wi-Fi and a cosy public area. Catering is offered.

Cabins, Motel rooms, Motorhomes/Caravans and Tents.



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www.andenessuitehotel.no





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Toftenes Sjøhuscamping offers accommodation in Lifjorden in Øksnes. If you are looking for a peaceful and beautiful area you will find it here. In the summer you can enjoy the midnight sun, go deep-sea fishing or just relax. In autumn and winter, without light pollution – we have perfect Northern Lights conditions.

Our cosy restaurant serves high quality local food.

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- Conference and meeting rooms
- Motorhome/Caravan camping
- Tourist information

MYRE KYSTHOTELL



www.myrekysthotell.no

WELCOME

You also find us here: [booking.com](https://www.booking.com) and Facebook



RINGSTAD RESORT

NATURE CALLS – ADVENTURE AWAITS

At the south-western tip of Vesterålen, surrounded by majestic mountains and a sheltered archipelago, lies Ringstad Resort – a tranquil retreat offering unforgettable experiences far from everyday stress.

The 24 spacious ocean suites blend elegance, comfort and panoramic views, while the restaurant serves refined, locally sourced à la carte cuisine. Year-round activities and adventures are available for every preference.

A stay at Ringstad Resort seamlessly blends well-being, high-quality experiences and a deep connection to nature.



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ACTIVITIES &
ACCOMMODATION
IN VESTERÅLEN



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ACCOMMODATION

44



Food & Drink

EATING OUT

		RESTAURANT CAFÉ	PIZZERIA	BAR / PUB	ALCOHOL SERVED	FISH / SEAFOOD	WHALE REINDEER / DRIED FISH	LOCAL FOOD	VEGETARIAN		SEASON
J2	Arresten Prinsens gate 6, 8480 Andenes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		+47 911 24 444 arresten.no	02.01 31.12
F10	Bistro Panorama Havnegata 3, 8400 Sortland	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		+47 76 11 06 02 scandichotels.no	01.01 31.12
B10	Damperiet Bryggekafe Handkleppveien 14, 8475 Straumsjøen	●	●	●	●	●				+47 952 34 229 vesteralenrorbuer.no	01.07 20.08
F10	Du Verden Sortland Rådhusgata 26, 8400 Sortland	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		+47 76 20 21 50 duverdensortland.no	01.01 31.12
D6	Holmvik Brygge Ungsmaløya 8, 8439 Myre	●			●	●	●	●	●	+47 958 63 866 nyksund.com	01.06 31.08
B10	Hotell Regine Veaveien 19, 8475 Straumsjøen	●	●		●	●				+47 906 40 591 hotellregine.no	01.01 31.12
D12	Hurtigrutemuseet Richard Withs Plass 1, 8450 Stokmarknes	●	●		●			●		+47 909 96 412 hurtigrutemuseet.no	01.12 31.12
C12	Keramikk Kafé Blå Yttersida 1062, 8450 Stokmarknes		●					●		+47 480 05 685 keramikkkafe.com	01.01 31.12
E12	Kvitnes Gård Møysalveien 2659, 8413 Kvitnes	●	●		●	●	●	●		+47 469 08 005 kvitnes.com	01.01 31.12
H15	Lille Offersøy Offersøyvegen 311, 8412 Vestbygd	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		+47 769 33 900 offersoy.no	01.01 31.12
G5	Marmelkroken Bøveien 272, 8484 Risøyhamn	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		+47 941 36 633 marmelkroken.no	01.01 31.12
D12	Mormors Richard Withs gate 9, 8450 Stokmarknes		●		●			●	●	+47 910 00 295 mormorslandhandel.no	01.01 31.12
E7	Myre Kysthotell Storgata 52A, 8430 Myre	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		+47 76 11 99 20 myrekysthotell.no	01.01 31.12
D6	Nordspor Café Nyksundværet 20, 8430 Nyksund		●					●		+47 479 90 106 nordsporguiding.no	01.01 31.12
D6	Nyksund Ekspedisjonen Nyksund, 8439 Myre	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	+47 481 18 068 nyksund.no	01.01 15.12
D12	Restaurant 1893 Havnegata 2, 8450 Stokmarknes	●		●	●	●		●	●	+47 480 89 048 restaurant1893.no	01.01 15.12
C10	Ringstad Resort Ringstadveien 28, 8475 Straumsjøen	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	+47 906 40 591 ringstadresort.no	01.01 31.12
D12	Rødbrygga Markedsgata 6, 8450 Stokmarknes	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	+47 76 15 26 66 rødbrygga.no	01.01 31.12
F10	SULT Grill House Vesterålskata 59, 8400 Sortland	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	+47 76 10 84 00 thonhotels.no	01.01 31.12
J2	Whale2Sea Whalesafari Hamnegata 1C, 8480 Andenes		●					●		+47 76 11 56 00 whalesafari.no	01.05 31.08

F10 Map reference / location

● Eco-certification

HANEN

Biosphere committed

First Mile

Adventures & ACTIVITIES

BOOK



ONLINE
visitvesteralen.com

WHALE WATCHING BY CATAMARAN

From Andenes, we sail out toward the continental shelf to encounter majestic whales in spectacular surroundings. A safe, educational, and unforgettable experience for the whole family.

15 MAY - 30 SEPT

Arctic Whale Tours
arcticwhaletours.com
+47 48 15 10 97



J2

©Connie Larsen

WHALE WATCHING WITH RIB - ALL YEAR

In our RIB boats, you're close to the water and get a spectacular view of the whales. We combine research with whale watching as the basis for our knowledge-based experiences. Bring your camera!

01 JAN - 31 DEC

Whale2Sea Whalesafari Andenes
whalesafari.no
+47 76 11 56 00



J2

©Marten Bril

WHALE WATCHING WITH LARGE BOAT

Explore the world of whales off Andøy with MS Reine, a historic vessel with coastal heritage. We combine research and whale safaris as the foundation of our knowledge-based experiences.

MAY - SEPT

Whale2Sea Whalesafari Andenes
whalesafari.no
+47 76 11 56 00



J2

©Marten Bril

WHALE & BIRD SAFARI FROM STØ

From the harbor, we head out onto the open sea to encounter the giants of the ocean. After the whale experience, the tour continues around Anda, an island renowned for its rich birdlife.

01 JUN - 31 AUG

Arctic Whale Tours
arcticwhaletours.com
+47 47 38 46 21



E6

©Kirsti Aljanen

PUFFIN & SEA EAGLE SAFARI WITH RIB

Experience puffins, majestic sea eagles, and abundant seabirds in stunning surroundings. Expert guides share captivating facts about Bleiksøya, one of Norway's most famous puffin colonies.

MAY - AUG

Whale2Sea Whalesafari Andenes
whalesafari.no
+47 76 11 56 00



J2

©Marten Bril

PUFFIN & SEA EAGLE SAFARI

Bleiks island has a bird cliff with a colony of around 80,000 puffin pairs, plus cormorants, razorbills, guillemots and sea eagles. Trip duration is 1.5 hours. Daily departures from 11 am, 1 pm and 3 pm.

28 APR - 20 AUG

Puffin Safari
puffinsafari.no
+47 908 38 594



I2

©Alessandro Seletti

WILDLIFE EXPERIENCE WITH RIB

We offer seal and bird safaris, transport, sea rafting, midnight sun safaris, trips to Trollfjord, guided trips to the center of salmon farming, company trips and tailor-made trips.

01 JAN - 20 DEC

Seasafari Øksnes
seasafarioksnos.no
+47 920 70 309 / +47 992 25 113



D6/D12

©Seasafari Øksnes



MOUNTAIN & MIDNIGHT SUN TRIPS

Adventure 4 Life offers authentic experiences in Vesterålen based on tradition, history and nature. In summer, we have regular departures on mountain hikes and midnight sun trips.

01 JAN - 31 DEC

Adventure 4 Life
adventure4life.no
+47 959 24 921



C12

©Kenn Løkkegaard

GUIDED TOUR TO MØYSALEN

Hike to Møysalen 1264 masl., the highest mountain in Vesterålen and get an unforgettable nature experience through Møysalen National Park with experienced guides. Tours start with boat transport.

20 JUN - 26 SEP

Møysalen nasjonalparksenter
moeysalen.no
+47 482 68 837



F12

©Kenn Løkkegaard

SEA EAGLE SAFARI TO TROLLFJORDEN

Sit back and relax as we guide you through landscapes, history, and wildlife aboard our seaworthy RIBs. This tour takes you to the Trollfjord, known for its steep cliffs and narrow passage.

02 JAN - 31 DEC

Vesterålen Adventures
vesteralenadventures.no
+47 99 444 000



F10

©Vesterålen Adventures

FJORD AND SEA EAGLE SAFARI

Easygoing RIB tour through local fjords. Our skilled guides take you on a journey through history, while you experience up-close the nature and wildlife unique to the Arctic archipelago.

02 JAN - 31 DES

Vesterålen Adventures
vesteralenadventures.no
+47 99 444 000



F10

©Vesterålen Adventures

RISØYHAMN SJØHUS GUIDED TOURS

We offer tours both on land and sea with our certified skippers and drivers. Enjoy the wildlife, northern lights, deep-sea fishing, Trollfjorden, Nyksund and more. Experience northern Norway at its finest.

20 JAN - 30 NOV

Risøyhamn Sjøhus
risoyhamnsjohus.no
+47 980 70 777



G6

©Risøyhamn Sjøhus

WITH RIB 68° NORD YOU CAN

Join an unforgettable adventure in nature's grandest cathedral! Watch Sea eagles up close, seabirds in their element, and enjoy the ocean's tranquility under the midnight sun or northern lights.

01 MAR - 20 DEC

RIB 68° Nord
rib68nord.no
+47 991 67 341



©Vesterålen Rorbuer



D12

©RB 68° Nord

NORWEGIAN FJORD EXPLORER LINE

Departure from Svolvær on Fridays, via Trollfjorden and Raften to Stokmarknes, with an overnight stay. Return to Svolvær the following day. We also offer charter cruises. Changes may occur.

01 JUN - 30 AUG

Norwegian Fjord Explorer Line
norwegianfjordexplorer.com
+47 947 91 130



D12

©Norwegian Fjord Explorer Line

FJORD CRUISE VESTERÅLEN

We offer guided Trollfjord cruises with eagle safari and midnight sun tours - spectacular nature experiences in the archipelago in and around Vesterålen.

01 MAY - 30 SEP

Fjord Cruise Vesterålen
fjordcruisevesteralen.no
+47 41 32 65 98



F10

©Fjord Cruise Vesterålen

RISØYHAMN SJØHUS

Our sea lodges are idyllically located in the charming village of Risøyhamn, offering a wonderful panorama view over Andfjorden from our lodges or sauna. We are fully equipped for deep-sea fishing with rental boats and fishing gear.

20 JAN - 30 NOV

Risøyhamn Sjøhus
www.risoyhamnsjohus.no
+47 980 70 777



G6

©Andre Rise

NATURE & BIRD LIFE EXPERIENCES

Architect-designed shelters, bird boxes, seating areas, a wide variety of avian species and native plants and a hiking trail, extending from shore to forest. We invite you to discover our environment.

01 JAN - 31 DEC

Marmelkroken
marmelkroken.no
+47 941 36 633



G5

©Marmelkroken

ADVENTURES & FISHING TRIPS

Experience the unique Øksnes Vestbygd. We offer boat rides, fishing, Midnight Sun and Northern Lights tours, exclusive sightseeing, accommodation, and tailor-made packages.

01 JAN - 31 DEC

Skipnes Event
skipnesevent.no
+47 905 22 035 / +47 911 92 665



C8

©Skipnes Event

FISHING TRIP

Our local guides take you to the best fishing spots in the area where you can try your fishing luck at sea. Plenty of space for fishing out on deck – warmth and comfort inside the boat. We have all necessary equipment.

02 JAN - 31 DEC

Vesterålen Adventures
vesteralenadventures.no
+47 99 444 000



F10

©Vesterålen Adventures

ARCTIC OCEAN LODGE

We offer tailor-made whale safaris aboard our unique wooden boat, Alma. We also run sea eagle safaris by RIB to Trollfjord and fishing trips. At the lodge, you'll find Amundsen's Bar, a sauna, wood-fired hot tubs, and a private beach.

01 JAN - 31 DEC

Arctic Ocean Lodge
arcticoceanlodge.com
+47 972 53 625



G7

©Arctic Ocean Lodge

VISIT A REAL FISH FARM

Join us for a guided tour in our exhibition, a RIB trip to the fish farm and a delicious taste experience with smoked salmon from our own production. The visit takes around 2.5 hours and is an educational adventure for the whole family.

01 JAN - 31 DEC

Akvakultur i Vesterålen
akvakulturivesteralen.no
+47 958 81 822



G11

©Akvakultur i Vesterålen

PUST SORTLAND TAKE A BREAK

Enjoy the unique combination of the Arctic Sea and a warming sauna experience in the heart of Sortland. Swim in the crystal-clear waters and relax in our floating sauna.

01 JAN - 31 DEC

PUST Sortland
pust.io
+47 457 22 456



F10

©Pust Sortland

SEA FARM "JOSTEIN ALBERT"

Experience the world's largest floating steel structure! Join us on a RIB boat tour to Nordlaks' sea farm, producing salmon in an entirely new way. You'll get up close and behind the scenes with a local guide.

01 JAN - 31 DEC

Akvakultur i Vesterålen
akvakulturivesteralen.no
+47 958 81 822



D12

©Akvakultur i Vesterålen

SAUNA AT MIDNATTSOL CAMPING

Sauna with breathtaking panoramic views of the midnight sun and Norway's most beautiful sandy beach! After relaxing in the sauna, you can take a run down to the sea to cool off.

01 JAN - 31 DEC

Midnattsol Camping
midnattsolcamping.com
+47 478 43 219



I2

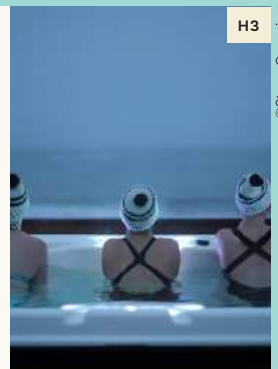
©Rakel Strøm

STAVE CAMPING & HOT POOLS 38°

Camping, apartments, cabins and kayak rental. We offer rental of delightful 38°C (100°F) outdoor hot tubs with magnificent views of the sea and a sauna by the beach.

20 MAY - 10 SEP

Stave Camping
stavecamping.no
+47 926 01 257



H3

©Stave Camping

MOOSE SAFARI WITH LOCAL GUIDE

Moose safari in stunning landscape in Vesterålen by car with a local guide year-round. Daily tours for small groups or private trips. Photos included.

01 JAN - 31 DEC
Vesterålen Tours
vtours.no
+47 917 88 260



F10

©Vesterålen Tours

YEAR-ROUND SIGHTSEEING TOURS

Experience Vesterålen like a local! Join wildlife safaris, northern lights tours, sightseeing trips, Scenic Route Andøya and Nyksund. Personalized experiences in small groups with local guide.

01 JAN - 31 DEC
Arctic North Adventures
arcticnorthadventures.com
+47 909 15 387



G11

©Alex Robins

REINDEER & SAMI EXCURSIONS

With a lavvu, photo exhibition, Sami food, a shop, and reindeer encounters. Learn about Sami culture and "meet" the reindeer through feeding. Summer drop-in; year-round by reservation.

01 JAN - 31 DEC
Inga Sami Siida
ingasamisiida.no
+47 908 77 558



G10

©Trym Ivar Bergsmo

ANDØYA SPACE VISITOR CENTER

The visitor center of Andøya Space have activities for space enthusiasts of all ages. Learn about Andøya Space, the northern lights, and the universe through films, exhibitions, and audio guides.

MAY - AUG
Andøya Space
spaceshipaurora.no
+47 761 44 650



I2

©Andøya Space

NORTHERN LIGHTS TOUR WITH LOCAL GUIDE

Northern lights chase by car with a local guide. With many years of experience, we know the best spots to see the aurora. Daily tours for small groups or private trips. Photos and videos included.

01 SEP - 05 APR
Vesterålen Tours
vtours.no
+47 917 88 260



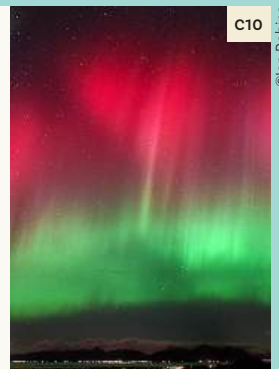
F10

©Vesterålen Tours

UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCES

We offer activities such as the "chase" for the northern lights, kayaking, snowshoeing, fishing trips, moose safaris, midnight sun tours, sightseeing, sea eagle safaris, and photography courses.

01 JAN - 31 DEC
Vesterålen Apartment
vesteralenapartment.com
+47 990 45 361



C10

©Ian Robins



KAYAKING IN STUNNING NATURE

Experience Vesterålen from the water. Join a kayaking tour among islands and mountains, gliding silently over the sea for a unique encounter with the coast's magical nature.

01 JAN - 20 DES
See Vesterålen
seevesteralen.no
+47 919 94 359



E10

©See Vesterålen

ARCTIC SEA KAYAK RACE

Kayak festival in one of the world's most beautiful archipelagos: Vesterålen. Welcome to a social and informative week of kayaking. Beginners' courses, kayaking trips and half-marathon.

19 JUL - 25 JUL
Arctic Sea Kayak Race
askr.no
+47 450 05 890



C8

©askr.no

NATURE CALLS ADVENTURE AWAITS

We offer sightseeing tours, sea eagle safaris by catamaran, fishing trips, kayaking, snowshoeing, hiking, northern lights safaris by car or boat, tailor-made tours, and bike rentals.

01 JAN - 31 DEC
Ringstad Resort
ringstadresort.no
+47 906 40 591



C10

©Ringstad Resort

KVITNES GÅRD

Chef Halvar Ellingsen runs Kvitnes Gård, offering 15 double rooms and unforgettable dining. The farm's homegrown vegetables and livestock feature in a delicious tasting menu for all guests.

01 JAN - 14 DEC
Kvitnes Gård
kvitnes.com
+47 469 08 005



E12

©Mariell Lind Hanssen

NORHEIM WINERY WITH WINE SHOP

Norheim Farm is a Debio-certified organic winery on Hadseløya. The vineyard uses traditional Northern Norwegian craftsmanship to transform local plants into exquisite beverages.

01 JAN - 31 DEC
Norheim Gård
norheimgard.no
+47 952 73 827



C12

©Økolonialen

ØKOLONIALEN LOCALLY RUN SHOP

Økolonialen is a shop that takes the environment seriously, offering organic foods, books full of knowledge for all ages on caring for nature, organic cosmetics, and more.

01 JAN - 31 DEC
Økolonialen
ekolonialen.no
+47 952 73 827



C12

©Økolonialen

GALLERI UVER

Art gallery, candle foundry, and café on the outskirts of Hadseløya, at the entrance to scenic Teigan Valley. Surrounded by hiking trails and fishing lakes, the gallery café offers homemade cakes, treats, and canoe rentals.

28 JAN - 21 DEC
Galleri Uver
uver.no
+47 917 20 382



C12

©Bjørn Eide

BOUTIQUE, CAFÉ & ACCOMMODATION

We offer freshly baked goods and coffee. Our boutique features unique natural soaps and products, all housed in the century-old former district sheriff's building in town.

01 JAN - 31 DEC
Alveland
alveland.no
+47 761 46 149



I4

©Alveland

ATELIER NØSS ART GALLERY

The gallery is on the farm where artist Gunnar Tollefsen was born (1933) and raised, showcasing paintings, sculptures, photography, textiles, graphics, literature, and unique souvenirs.

27 JUN - 09 AUG
Atelier Nøss
atelier-noss.com
+47 415 59 078



G5

©Espen Tollefsen

KERAMIKK KAFÉ BLÅ

Unique little cafe and ceramics gallery in our home. Fantastic view over the sea to the Lofoten mountains and eagles. Homemade cakes, different types of coffee. Beautiful ceramics are made on site. We offer ceramics courses.

01 JAN - 31 DEC
Keramikk Kafé Blå
keramikkkafe.com
+47 480 05 686



C12

©Keramikk Kafé Blå

HURTIGRUTEMUSEET

In Stokmarknes, the Hurtigruten Museum stands as a monument to Norwegian coastal and transport history. MS Finnmarken, with its iconic building, is a new landmark, recognized among Europe's top 20 maritime museums.

01 JAN - 31 DEC

Hurtigrutemuseet
hurtigrutemuseet.no
+47 909 96 412



D12

© Bjørn Eide

ANDØY MUSEUM

Andøy Museum features an exhibition on the polar regions, focusing on the life of trapper Hilmar Nøis, as well as an exhibition showcasing Andøya's unique geology. Also enjoy the fantastic view from Andenes Lighthouse!

01 JAN - 31 DEC

Andøymuseet
museumnord.no
+47 467 06 847



J1

© Andøymuseet

GAIIVESTERÅLEN

Gaia Vesterålen will present a new exhibition in summer 2026, bringing Vesterålen's past, present, and future to life in a former shopping center. A high-tech model of Vesterålen is the centerpiece at Sortland Museum.

01 JAN - 31 DES

GaiaVesterålen
museumnord.no
+47 960 05 997



F10

© Elias Jonassen

JOIN US ON A TRAVEL BACK IN TIME

Jennestad Handelssted, built in 1863 just outside Sortland, offers a journey back in time. The old store's shelves display original goods from the turn of the century until 1982.

23 JUN - 09 AUG

GaiaVesterålen
museumnord.no
+47 46 70 45 60



F9

© Sortland Museum

MELBO MANOR

From quiet farm to a small industrialized city within a few decades (1890-1920). The businessman and landowner Chr. Fredriksen was in the center of the activities. Visit the mansion that has been restored to its former glory.

23 JUN - 16 AUG

Melbo Hovedgård
museumnord.no
+47 481 88 590



C12

© Kjell-Ove Størvik

BØ MUSEUM

The author Regine Normann wrote about the North-Norwegian coastal culture. Her stories are the backbone of our exhibitions. Our buildings were once the home of the local policeman and his family. Visit our Museum shop.

16 JUN - 23 AUG

Bø Museum
museumnord.no
+47 474 68 564



B11

© Bø Museum

ØKSNES MUSEUM

Visit one of Northern Norway's oldest wooden buildings, with over 450 years of history. Discover Øksnes by the open sea, join a guided tour, browse the museum shop, or enjoy coffee in historic surroundings.

26 JUN - 09 AUG

Øksnes Museum
museumnord.no
+47 404 48 202



F7

© Kjell-Ove Størvik



© Kjetil Paulsen / Hurtigrutemuseet

TINDEN TRADING POST

Tinden trading post is a protected cultural monument that conveys 500 years of continuous cultural history. Guided tours, cafe, and authentic rorbu for rent. Express boat transportation, visitors' quay, and area tickets.

JUN - SEP

Stiftelsen Tinden Handelssted
tindenhandelssted.no
+47 909 45 727



C8

©Lise Bjelland

NORDSPOR EXPERIENCE CENTER

Provides an insight into Nyksund's nature, wildlife, and history, featuring small exhibits, interactive elements, and local artworks – an inspiring stop for both children and adults.

01 JAN - 31 DEC

Nordspor
nordsporguiding.no
+47 479 90 106



D6

©Nordspor

GUIDING IN VESTERÅLEN

I'm Lauri, a former fisherman and whale safari guide. You are warmly welcomed to come experience the history, nature, and the unique coastal culture together with me, in the kingdom of cod and whales.

01 JAN - 31 DEC

Northern Guiding Service Lauri
laolav@gmail.com
+47 468 42 667



E6

©Anne Mäkinen

VESTERÅLEN EXPLORER 6 DAYS, 6 STORIES

Monday to Saturday: explore new places with nature, culture, and authentic encounters. Full-day tours with guides include snacks, lunch, and experiences in Vesterålen and East Lofoten.

01 JUN - 31 AUG

Nordspor
nordsporguiding.no
+47 479 90 106



F10

©Nordspor

EXPLORE VESTERÅLEN ON WHEELS AND WATER

Rent water-, terrain-, and e-bikes to explore fjords, beaches, and nature at your own pace. Flexible options provide excitement, comfort, and memorable experiences in beautiful Vesterålen.

02 JAN - 31 DEC

Elvic Adventures
elvicadventures.no
+47 967 01 573



F10

©Elvic Adventures

BICYCLE & EQUIPMENT RENTAL

We offer bike rentals (hybrid and e-bikes), cycling accessories, and other sports equipment for adventures on the road or in the mountains.

01 JAN - 31 DEC

Vesterålen Outdoor
www.sykkeltutleie.com
+47 761 52 270



D12

©Bjørn Eide

YOUR LOCAL TAXI IN SORTLAND

Sortland Taxi is Vesterålen's largest taxi service with 11 licenses. We operate a modern fleet, including maxi taxis and vans with up to 16 seats.

01 JAN - 31 DEC

Sortland Taxi
07550.no/sortland/
+47 07550



F10

©Sortland Taxi

BØ TAXI - A RELIABLE TRANSPORT SERVICE

No matter where or what you choose to experience while traveling in Vesterålen or elsewhere, we offer reliable transport. Service, comfort, and safety are our top priorities.

01 JAN - 31 DEC

Bø Taxi
botaxi.no
+47 76 13 77 00



B10

©Bø Taxi

ARCTIC ROUTE HOP-ON/HOP-OFF

Travel around Vesterålen and Lofoten with Arctic Route buses, offering daily departures to major and "hidden" attractions. Safe, reliable, flexible, and comfortable transport in the Arctic.

15 JUN - 20 AUG

Best Arctic
bestarctic.com
+47 953 03 888



©Best Arctic

FÆSTERÅLEN

Fæsterålen is a vibrant, authentic, music-loving festival set in beautiful Vesterålen. Held annually in Sortland, it attracts some of Northern Europe's best audiences and offers family-friendly events for children and youth.

21 AUG - 22 AUG

Deadline Event
festeralen.no



F10

©Deadline Event





VESTERÅLEN

Travel guide 2026

