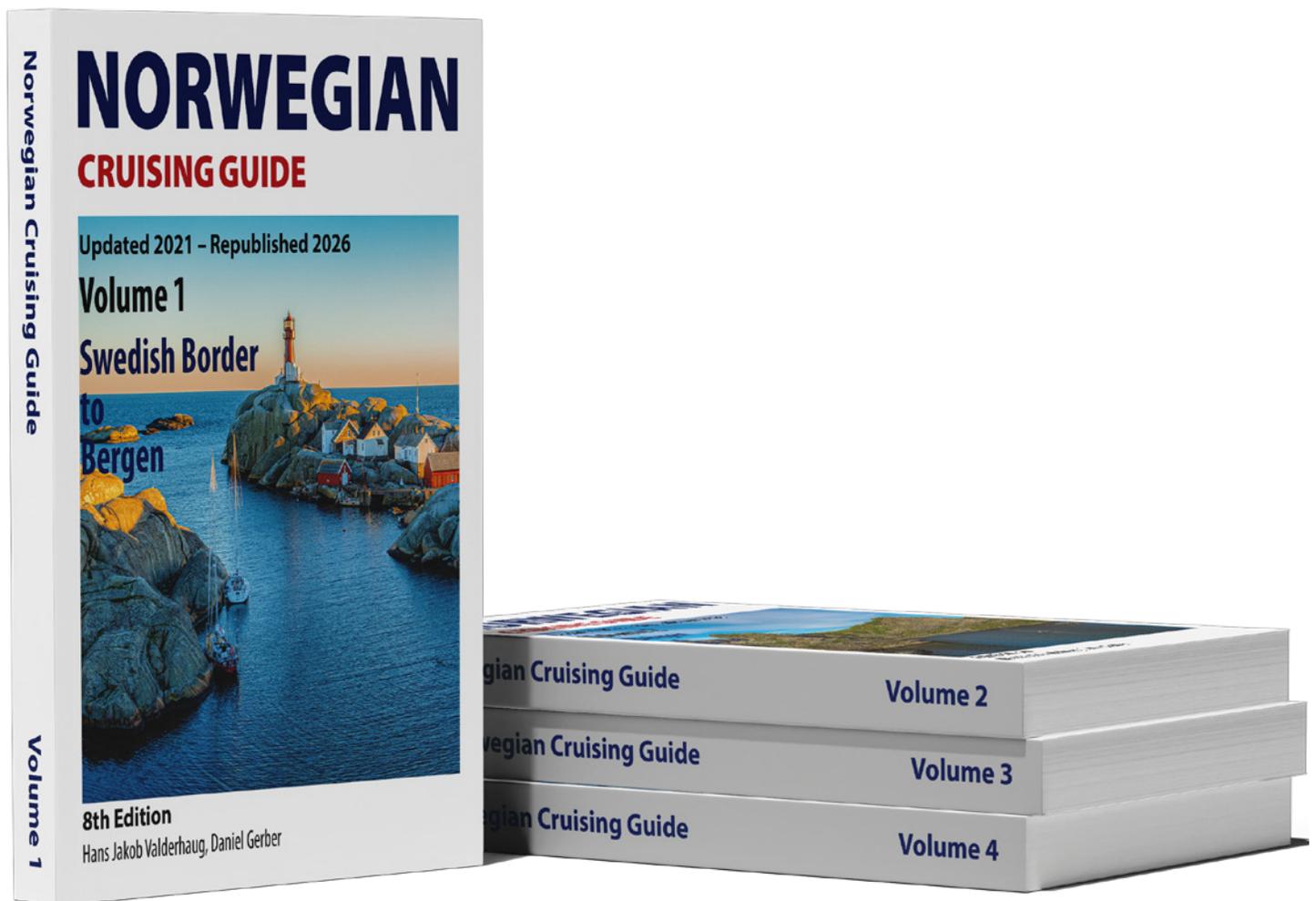


NORWEGIAN

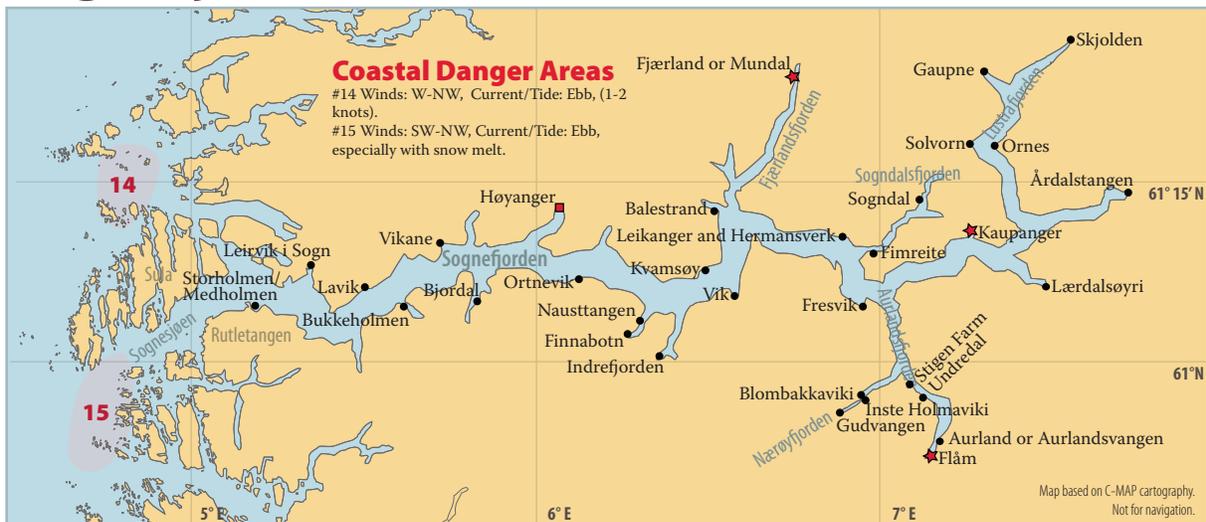
CRUISING GUIDE

Sample Chapter

Sognefjorden



Sognefjorden



Den Norske Los

(scroll down for PDF)

Vol. 3

Sognefjorden is the longest fjord in Norway, extending 80 nm inland from Rutletangen Light, where the fjord proper begins, to the end of the main fjord, and a great deal farther up some of the long side branches, notably Lustrafjorden. Sognefjorden is entered through Sognesjøen, either through the inner leads from north or south, or direct from the sea. With a relatively shallow and uneven bottom, seas in Sognesjøen can be extremely unpleasant in rough weather, until the relative protection of the fjord proper is reached. As Sognesjøen extends for 19 nm from the sea to the mouth of the fjord, the main inlet is therefore around 90 nm long, and the heads of some of the branches are well over 100 nms from the sea.

The passage up the fjord is straightforward, with no offshore hazards whatever once the skerries and rocks either side of Rutletangen have been negotiated.

This is a wild, grand and harsh part of the world, with water depths of up to 1,300 m many nm into the fjord, and with snow-capped mountains over 1,400 m high standing close to the water's edge on both hands. Squalls are frequent and can be very violent, even in fine weather. The more usual difficulty, however, is areas of total calm, and it would be most unwise to visit here without reliable power, particularly as sheltered harbours or anchorages may be quite far apart.

There are three side fjords of major importance. The first, Fjærlandsfjorden, branches off to the north at 06°35' E, and there are good views of glaciers from its head. The mouth of the fjord is 46 nm from Rutletangen Light, and the fjord is 14 nm long.

The next branch, Aurlandsfjorden, is to the south at 07°01' E, 57 nm from Rutletangen, and it has its own branch, Nærøyfjorden, some 6 nm inland on the west side, which extends about 9 nm to the southwest. A world heritage site, Nærøyfjorden is one of the most spectacular fjords in Norway, narrowing to under 400 m in places and towered over by almost vertical cliffs over 1,000 m high.

Another important branch of Sognefjorden is Lustrafjorden, running off to the north at 07°24' E, about 69 nm from Rutletangen. Its main point



The entrance to Hopperstad stave church, Vik.

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of interest is that as it is 22 nm long, its head is 91 nm from Rutletangen, and 106 nm from the sea.



The Urnes stave church, a UNESCO World Heritage site located at Ornes.

Landfalls and Favourites: From offshore, the mouth of Sognefjorden is approached from the southwest, passing between Sogneoksen and Kvereknapp Lighthouses. Note that there are unmarked offshore rocks and areas with less than 10 m depth that may break in strong on-shore winds. If heading up Sognefjorden, the first official Port of Entry is Høyanger.

Our favourite harbours are Kaupanger, for its all-weather protection, and Flåm and Fjærland,

which offer spectacular hiking and harbours where it is safe to leave the boat unattended in most weather conditions.

Tides and Tidal Streams: *Den Norske Los* reports that the inflowing current in Sognefjorden is not very noticeable except as back eddies and in strong onshore winds. The outgoing currents, however, are very noticeable, especially in the spring and summer. The current flows more strongly along the north shore than along the south. It reaches a good rate at springs, 1.5 to 2.5 knots, around the various headlands and points. HW occurs in Sognefjorden 10 to 15 minutes earlier than in Bergen. Tidal amplitude is also greater than in Bergen.

Looking south from Flatbrehytta over Fjærlandsfjorden.



Chapter Organization: As Sognefjorden is quite narrow, you will probably end up crisscrossing the fjord as you choose the anchorages and harbours that suit the weather and your preferences. To reflect this, we have listed the anchorages and harbours starting from the fjord entrance and working

our way to the head of the fjord, rather than up one side of the fjord and its branches and down the other, as we have done with the wider fjords.

Storholmen/Medholmen (Rutletangen)

61°04.47' N, 05°10.6' E

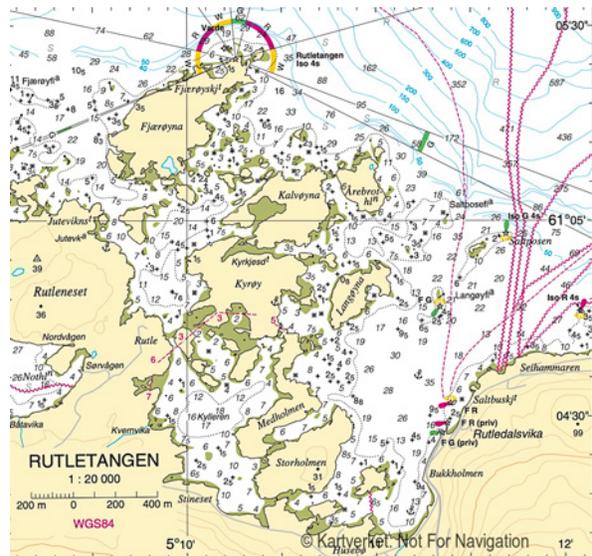
Last Updated: 2022

[Google](#)

DNL, Vol. 3, sketch map

The small Rutletangen archipelago has several places where anchoring is possible, although the seemingly inviting bays to the S have private moorings and pontoons and are overlooked by houses.

Our preferred anchorage is the bay between Medholmen and Storholmen. The area has recently been re-surveyed. The approach to the bay is now charted as 3 m where the old plan (see above) shows 5 m.



The approach to the bay is now charted as 3 m where the old plan (see above) shows 5 m.

Approaches: Approach from the NE, keeping clear of the shallows between Saltposen and Langøyflu and keeping clear of the ferry. Keep well S in the final approach to avoid the charted rocks along Medholmen.



S/V Anna in the anchorage between Storholmen and Medholmen, looking northeast. You can just make out the quarry at Listraumen (Sognefjorden to Statt) in the far left background.

Anchorage, Moorings: This bay provides a good anchorage in winds from the W; however, it is open to the NE. Anchor in 5 to 7 m depth in the basin, bringing lines ashore if you are uncomfortable with the swinging room available.

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Leirvik i Sogn (Bøfjorden)

61°08.2' N, 05°20.7' E

Last Updated: 2022

Google

DNL, Vol. 3, sketch map

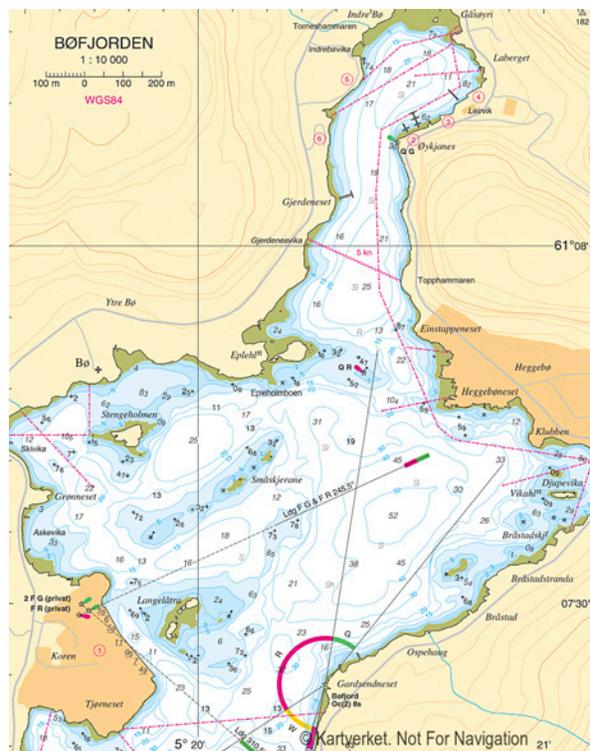
Leirvik i Sogn offers all-weather protection N in Bøfjorden at the mouth of Sognefjorden.

Approaches: Approach from the S passing E of the shipyard. There are numerous rocks W in the approaches marked by a single perch—keep well to starboard. In the final approach keep the perch with the red light to port.

Anchorage, Moorings: Moor alongside the docks off the Leirvik Kro og Motell or, if less than 30' long, at a vacant pontoon berth—enquire at the motel.

For The Boat: Electricity (for an extra charge) and water are available. There is a diesel pump by the visitors' berths—enquire at the motel.

For The Crew: Toilets and showers are located on the docks. There is a grocery store and P.O. The express boat to **Bergen** travels out of Rysjedalsvika, 5 km W. The hotel provides internet connections for a fee.



Leirvik i Sogn, looking west, with the harbour entrance off the left side of the photograph.



Things To Do: There is a restaurant and pub in the motel.



Lavik

61°06.2' N, 05°30.4' E

Last Updated: 1996

[Google](#)

Anchorage, Moorings: Although once a useful harbour, two new ferry quays have restricted anchorage space so severely that it is now best regarded as for emergency use only.

Bukkeholmen (Ikjefjorden)

61°04.8' N, 05°36.7' E

Last Updated: 2022

[Google](#)

This is a useful pit-stop on the way in or out of Sognefjorden, if your air draft is less than 18 m, that is!

Approaches: From Sognefjorden pass under the 18 m high bridge across the mouth of Ikjefjorden. Keep E and then S of the small island (Bukkeholmen) on the W side of the fjord.

Bukkeholmen, looking north.
Note the bridge with 18 m clearance in the entrance to Ikjefjorden.



Anchorage, Moorings: Anchor S/SW of Bukkeholmen, bringing lines ashore and/or to Bukkeholmen as appropriate. There are large mooring bolts on Bukkeholmen. As you head N on the W side of Bukkeholmen, where there are private moorings for small vessels, it shallows rapidly. The anchorage is open to the S.

Vikane

61°09.7' N, 05°43.8' E

Last Updated: 2022

[Google](#)

This is one of the best harbours in outer Sognefjorden, providing sheltered anchorage in all but SE winds.

Den Norske Los refers to this anchorage as Nordrevik.

Note that Storholm and Fureholmen are nature reserves and access within 50 m of the shore is not allowed April 1st to July 31st.

Approaches: Beware of a dangerous wreck that lies alongside the N-most 25 m of Storholm and extends out for about 10 m; this covers at HW, but is otherwise plainly visible and effectively blocks the N entrance to the cove.

Anchorage, Moorings: Anchor in the bay in relatively deep water (25 to 30 m) with good holding in sand and clay. Outside the bird breeding season it may be possible to bring lines ashore to the small islands.

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Bjordal (Fuglsetfjorden)

61°04.65' N, 05°49.75' E

Last Updated: 2010

[Google](#)

Sailboat alongside the quay in Bjordal.

Bjordal is the centre for Fuglsetfjorden and is sheltered from the S and E.

Anchorage, Moorings: There is a working quay (tyre fenders and steel pilings) with space for 3 boats alongside.

For The Boat: Diesel and water are available.

For The Crew: There is a shop.

Things To Do: There is a pleasant walk up the valley along a dirt road.



Høyanger (Høyangsfjorden)

61°12.7' N, 06°04.5' E

Last Updated: 2022

[Google](#)

DNL, Vol. 3, aerial photo

Right: Høyanger, looking west over the visitors' pontoons.

Høyanger is an industrial town based on hydroelectric power and the aluminum industry and does not cater to the tourist industry to the same extent as many of the other towns in Sognefjorden.

Approaches: Approach from Høyangsfjorden with no particular hazards.

Anchorage, Moorings: The local boat club has pontoons with finger-berths behind an island and wave breaker NE in the bay. Visiting boats can moor inside the wave breaker or enquire about vacant fingerberths.



For The Boat: Water, but no electricity, is available on the pontoons and diesel is available for cash on the docks NE of the pontoons.

For The Crew: There are toilets in the clubhouse, which is open occasionally. There is a wide range of shopping including a liquor store.

Things To Do: There is both an indoor and an outdoor swimming pool.

There are spectacular walks in the region, two of which start with steps built along the water pipes for the hydroelectric power plant. For an evening stroll that really hurts, try the 1200 steps up the water pipe E of the industrial plant (closed for repair in 2022).



Eli walking the stairs along the water pipe for the hydroelectric plant at Høyanger.



Ortnevik

61°06.75' N, 06°08' E

Last Updated: 2009

[Google](#)

[Website](#)

Ortnevik, looking north, with the visitors' pontoons on the bottom left of the picture.



Looking north towards Ortnevik old church.

Den Norske Los says that strong E or NW winds create a sea in the bay; the former may also produce heavy squalls.

Approaches: A shoal extends from the E side of the bay, marked by a *varde* and two iron posts. Keep well over to the W shore until past the S-most post.

Anchorage, Moorings: Moor alongside outside of the wave breaker. Alternatively, you can anchor in 15 to 20 m with good holding in a sand and clay bottom. This is a particularly attractive anchorage though open to the N and NE.

For The Crew: There is a shop by the quay on the W side of the bay.

Things To Do: There is a small beach. Ortnevik is a starting point for hikes in the Stølsheimen mountain region. A hike all the way to Voss is possible, following marked paths and staying in cabins run by the DNT (Den Norske Turistforening/Norwegian Trekking Association). Day trips from Ortnevik can be made to the Den Norske Turistforening cabins Solrenningen and Nordalshytta.



Sognefjorden

Nausttangen (Finna fjorden)

61°02.9' N, 06°18.3' E

Last Updated: 2008

[Google](#)

Looking southwest over the anchorage north of Nausttangen. The narrow approach to Finna botn is just off the photo to the left.

This is a lovely anchorage protected from the S by Nausttangen (the point about halfway up the W side of Finna fjorden) but it is deep and open to the N.

Anchorage, Moorings: In settled weather it is possible to anchor in 15 to 25 m depth off the sandy beach. There are remnants of an old wooden dock, suitable for bringing lines ashore.



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Things To Do: There is a lovely beach.

Finnabotn (Finnajorden)

61°02.2' N, 06°16.2' E

Last Updated: 2022

[Google](#)

Looking northwest towards the anchorage at Finnabotn.

This rather dark and ominous bay is among Sognefjorden's more spectacular spots. The small farm at the head of the bay has been restored and is inhabited year-round.

Approaches: The narrows (Straumen) is allegedly dredged to 2.7 m; however, there seems to be less water than this at low tide, so we recommend approaching on a rising tide. Keep closer to the E shore in the first half of the approach, then veer W to pass E and rather close to the rock with the pointer.

Also beware of the 17 m overhead cable in Straumen (note that some charts show a second overhead cable with 14 m clearance; this cable has been removed).

Anchorage, Moorings: There is a small dock used by boats carrying visitors to the farm. Do not leave your boat unattended here. A mooring may be available; enquire at the farm.

If you wish to anchor, the depth is 30 m or more off the farm, with the bottom consisting of large rocks. Local boats anchor in the bight N of the farm, bringing lines ashore. The sign-posted cable (uncharted) runs straight out from the sign on shore to 60 m depth and then follows the shore to the E.

Things To Do: Finnabotn is the starting point for some of the region's most dramatic hikes. For aerial views of your boat, follow the path behind the farm up to the pass N of Såta (alt 860 m).

The owners of the farm run a restaurant and rent out rooms. Among the farm specialties are venison and goat cheese.



Looking east over Finnabotn, from the top of Såta.



Indrefjorden (Arnafjorden)

61°00.3' N, 06°21.9' E

Last Updated: 2008

[Google](#)

If falling asleep to the thundering of waterfalls cascading down the surrounding hillsides is your idea of the perfect anchorage, this is your place. While the anchorage is overlooked by several houses and there is a quarry W in the bay, this does not overshadow the beauty of the surroundings.



Indrefjorden, looking south.

Approaches: Pass Arnafjord settlement and some mussel farms before rounding Ryneset.

Anchorages, Moorings: Past the charted submarine cable, anchor in 15 to 25 m depth S in the bay, by the small beach. If there are strong *williwaws*, you may wish to enquire about going alongside one of the docks in the bay.

Kvamsøy

61°07.8' N, 06°29' E

Last Updated: 2008

[Google](#)

This ancient anchorage is now famous as it is protected by one of the smallest islands in the world to have its own church!



The anchorage at Kvamsøy, looking north towards the mainland.

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Approaches: Approach from the SW, passing W of Kvamsøy. Further passage E between Kvamsøy and the mainland is not possible due to shallows and an overhead cable with only 9 m clearance.



The old stone church at Kvamsøy.

Anchorage, Moorings: Anchor in 5 to 15 m depth, W of the submarine cable, in good holding in mud. There are mooring bolts on Kvamsøy.

The old wooden dock on Kvamsøy and the old cement barge on the mainland by the timberyard offer temporary alongside mooring for shallow draft vessels.

For The Crew: Toilets and garbage disposal are available at the public recreation site on the mainland.

Things To Do: Kvamsøy's old stone church dates back to the 1300s when the fjord was the main highway for the region. The church is in use only a couple of times a year now and is in need of repair; however, the site is very peaceful and as such provides a different experience than the other old churches in the region.

Balestrand (S Esefjorden)

61°12.7' N, 06°31.8' E

Last Updated: 2009

[Google](#)

DNL, Vol. 3, aerial photo

[Website](#)

Balestrand is located on the S side of Esefjorden, and is a tourist centre for the area. The harbour is useful only in settled weather.

When WWI broke out, Kaiser Wilhelm II was on holiday here, staying at Kviknes Hotell, which is still popular today.

Anchorage, Moorings: You can tie up next to the ferry dock at the visitors' dock, which has space for 3 or 4 boats. Note that these berths are untenable in E winds.

There is also a marina for small boats just to the N behind a small mole. The marina has only private places, but visitors may moor along the inside of the mole where you can get some protection from E winds but in limited depth.

Alternatively, you can anchor in the mouth of Esefjorden, W of the submarine cables.



Balestrand, visitors' docks and docks for the express boats, looking east/northeast.

For The Boat: Electricity is available but you must have a long cable. Water is available on the dock. For diesel, contact the harbourmaster whose telephone number is posted on the notice board by the private marina.

For The Crew: Balestrand is a good place for crew changes and for provisioning. There is a new service building with toilets, showers, and laundry facilities.



Things To Do: Kviknes Hotell has a wonderful restaurant.

The English church of St. Olav, located on a hill overlooking the water, was built in 1897 at the request of an English *émigré*. It remains part of the Diocese of Gibraltar, which sends out Anglican priests to conduct weekly services in English in the summer. About 200 m S of the church are two Viking burial mounds (supposedly the tombs of King Bele and his wife, said to be rulers of this area of Norway in the 14th century) with a statue erected by Kaiser Wilhelm II in 1913, who was fascinated by Nordic mythology.



Looking northwest over Kviknes Hotell and the ferry docks at Balestrand. The visitors' docks are just beyond the ferry docks.

You can take the ferry to **Mundal** to browse the secondhand bookstores.

Like most other villages in Sognefjorden, Balestrand has much to offer hikers. Several different walks can be started from the docks, to peaks from 300 to nearly 1300 m high. The Tourist Information Centre has free maps showing the different colour-coded routes.

Fjærland or Mundal (Fjærlandsfjorden)

61°24' N, 06°44.5' E

Last Updated: 2008

[Google](#)

DNL, Vol. 3, aerial photo

[Website](#)

If you do not wish to take your own boat this far up long Fjærlandsfjorden, there are daily express boat departures from **Balestrand** to Mundal.

Den Norske Los warns that severe squalls may be experienced here when it is blowing hard from the NW.

Anchorage, Moorings: There is a visitors' pontoon outside the Mundal Hotell.



The Mundal Hotell.

© Hans Jakob Valderhaug

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For The Boat: Electricity is available for an additional charge.

For The Crew: There is a public toilet 100 m S of the docks. The grocery store has cold beer!



Mundal, looking north.

Things To Do: The lovely Mundal Hotell was built in 1891 and is maintained in its original style. In May it is a popular watering hole for skiers who have completed the 3-day trip along the Jostedal glacier. They have a pleasant bookstore/*café*/bar.

Mundal is known as *den norske bokbyen* (Norway's book town) and has a dozen second-hand book stores that line both sides of the waterfront main street in historic houses, offering thousands of volumes on every imaginable sub-

ject in a multiplicity of languages.

This harbour also gives access to the magnificent Jostedal glacier. A guide may be available through the hotel. It is a 2 km walk/cycle to the glacier museum, where they show a spectacular film of the glacier. Bicycles can be rented at the Tourist Information Centre.

The hiking possibilities from Mundal are numerous. Most famous is the hike from Øygarden to Flatbrehytta (alt 1000 m; see the photograph at the beginning of this chapter). Maps are available at the Tourist Information Centre and the glacier museum. Øygarden is a 7 km bicycle ride from Mundal. Note that this is a serious expedition, which even the fit find taxing; make sure someone in the village is aware of your departure.

Vik

61°05.5' N, 06°35' E

Last Updated: 2012

[Google](#)

DNL, Vol. 3, aerial photo

Vik is famous for its agricultural produce rather than for its harbour. There are no facilities for visiting boats and the bay is wide open to the N and suitable only for a day visit in settled weather.



Vik, looking north, with S/V *Anna* moored at the cruise ship tender dock.

Anchorage, Moorings: There is a wooden quay next to the town for visiting boats.

The small marina SW in the bay is suitable only for smaller boats and has no transient spaces.



The Romanesque Stone Church of Hove, c. 1170, at Vik.

© Hans Jakob Valderhaug

It may be possible to moor alongside a private dock with permission or to anchor on the E side of the bay NW of the cannery.

For The Boat: Diesel can be carried in jerry cans from the petrol station 300 m from the dock.

For The Crew: There are several shops, a bank, doctor, etc. There is good provisioning.

Things To Do: The wooden Hopperstad stave church dates from around 1140, and is well worth a visit. A longer walk will bring you to the tiny Romanesque Stone Church of Hove, c. 1170.

If old boat engines are your thing, you can

visit the extensive [marine motor museum](#).

Leikanger and Hermansverk

61°10.65' N, 06°51.5' E

Last Updated: 2022

[Google](#)

DNL, Vol. 3, aerial photos

Leikanger and Hermansverk have grown and are now one settlement. It is the administrative centre for this part of Vestland county.

Approaches: Both mole harbours are approached directly from Sognefjorden. During the construction of the new E mole harbour, the approach to the old W harbour has become narrow and shallow—at low tide there may be less than 1.5 m depth and the approach now involves a tight 90° turn to port.



© Hans Jakob Valderhaug

Leikanger and Hermansverk, looking southwest. Note the old and new mole harbours. Pontoons are not yet in place in the new harbour in this photo.

Anchorages, Moorings: Visitors' berths are offered in the new east mole harbour. Moor alongside the pontoon on the inside of the mole. The old west harbour is suitable only for the smaller boat and has no dedicated visitors' berths.

For The Boat: For water and/or electricity you will need to enquire about a vacant fingerberth. Diesel is available but you will need assistance from a boatclub member. See the [Leikanger Båtlag website](#) for contact information.

For The Crew: There are shops in town.

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Things To Do: There is a marked footpath to Bjørgahaugen (alt 360 m) for good views of the fjord.

Sogndal (Sogndalsfjorden)

61°13.7' N, 07°06.3' E

Last Updated: 2022

[Google](#)

DNL, Vol. 3, aerial photo

Sogndal is the largest town in Sognefjorden; a useful rather than pretty stop.

Approaches: Approach from the S up clear Sogndalsfjorden.

Anchorage, Moorings: Small vessels may be able to moor at the pontoons at the Stedje camping site S of the river mouth.

Otherwise, moor alongside the extensive docks N of the river mouth and S of the express boat dock. Part of the docks are council property, the rest belong to Lerum Industries, manufacturers of jam. Construction of apartment buildings is underway on part of the Lerum waterfront, and there are plans to locate visitors' pontoons here.



S/V Anna alongside at the Lerum jam factory's docks, looking south.



Sogndal, looking southeast, with the Lerum jam docks in the centre of the photograph.

For The Boat: A diesel mechanic is available in Sogndal and diesel fuel can be purchased at Slinda, 6 nm SW in the approaches. (The fuel pump in Sogndal is unavailable for most sailboats as it is past the 13 m high bridge.)

For The Crew: There is a good range of shopping including liquor and hardware stores. Sogndal is the end stop for the express boat to **Bergen**. There is also an airport.

Things To Do: It's a nice evening stroll to Åberge for views of the town. Enquire at the Tourist Information Centre for other walks in the area and for bus tours to Nigardsbreen, a branch of the Jostedal glacier.



Fimreite (Sogndalsfjorden)

61°09.1' N, 06°58.7' E

Last Updated: 1996

[Google](#)

Anchorage, Moorings: One correspondent found this to be a sheltered anchorage at the mouth of Sogndalsfjorden. He anchored NE of the village and found good holding in clay and sand, depth 10 to 15 m.

Fresvik

61°04.6' N, 06°56.4' E

Last Updated: 2008

[Google](#)

[Website](#)

Fresvik is a useful stop for provisioning and fueling in settled weather. It is exposed to the N.



Right: Looking south over the council dock at Fresvik.

Anchorage, Moorings: Moor alongside the council dock, by the shop and fuel pump. The dock is occasionally used by the express boat, but not

on a daily basis. Enquire in the shop for the ferry timetable.

For The Boat: Diesel is available during shop opening hours.

For The Crew: There is a toilet on the dock and a small shop with post-in-shop.

Things To Do: There is a small beach and bathing area E in the bay. Like most of the settlements in this area, Fresvik has a lovely old wooden church overlooking the fjord. For those with a restless

crew, there is an unmarked footpath across the mountains to Dyrdal in Nærøyfjorden.



Fresvik, looking northwest.

Blombakkaviki (Nærøyfjorden)

60°55.12' N, 06°52.16' E

Last Updated: 2013

[Google](#)

This is a stunning anchorage across the fjord from **Inste Holmaviki**.

Anchorage, Moorings: Anchor in 6 m depth with good holding with shelter from S and W winds. Alternatively, there is a dock outside the Bakka Church where boats occasionally moor alongside for the night.

Things To Do: Bakka Church is open to the public. The church was drawn by architect Christian Heinrich Grosch, more famous for designing prominent buildings in Norway's capital (Oslo University, Bank of Norway, several hospital buildings, etc.).

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Inste Holmaviki (Bakkasundet, Nærøyfjorden)

60°55.15' N, 06°52.6' E

Last Updated: 2008

[Google](#)

Anchorage, Moorings: Anchor across the sound from the small Bakka settlement, NE of the conspicuous church. Anchor in 6 to 10 m depth, E of the passageway and the charted submarine cables. You may wish to take lines to trees ashore if necessary. There will be some wash from traffic passing on the way to **Gudvangen**.

The marked anchorage at Holmaviki, N of Holmaneset, is an alternative in S winds, though it is less attractive due to a private dock.



Inste Holmaviki, Nærøyfjorden, looking south.

Things To Do: Remains of the old postal route between **Bergen** and **Trondheim** can be found ashore on the E side of the sound, leading to the old settlement at Styvi, 2 nm NE, which is now a museum. The path is subject to occasional rock avalanches, particularly after heavy rains.

Gudvangen (Nærøyfjorden)

60°53' N, 06°50.7' E

Last Updated: 2013

[Google](#)

[Website](#)

Gudvangen is a village at the head of Nærøyfjorden, which is considered by guidebooks and *Den Norske Los* to be one of the most spectacular fjords in Norway. It's very narrow, but easily navigable, with thundering waterfalls that tumble precipitously down twisting glaciated ridges. The Kjelsfoss, one of the 15 longest waterfalls in the world, descends the valley wall above Gudvangen.



Looking north from the visitors' pontoon at a cruiseship approaching Gudvangen.

Anchorage, Moorings: There is room for one or two vessels on the outside of the fingerberths, which are all private, at the pontoon SE in the bay. The key to the security gate is available at the fuel station 100 m up the road. There is some noise from the nearby road.

The wooden dock that extends out from the shore W of the pontoon is used by small charter boats during the daytime but may be vacant at night.

The wooden dock that extends out from the shore W of the pontoon is used by small charter boats during the daytime but may be vacant at night.



Alternatively, you can anchor off in about 20 m depth, but the bottom shelves very steeply. There is a mooring bolt on the headland N of the pontoons. A better anchorage can be found at **Inste Holmaviki**, 2.5 nm N.



Gudvangen, looking south over the visitors' pontoon.

For The Crew: There is a shop with a P.O. and a hotel.

Things To Do: Take the Norway in a Nutshell bus to Stalheim Hotel, up the dramatic Stalheimskleiva. The road has a grade of 18%. It is worthwhile walking down the road and catching the return bus at the bottom. The walk gives excellent views of the dramatic waterfalls Sivleffoss and Stalheimsfoss.

Stigen Farm (Aurlandsfjorden)

60°58.3' N, 07°04.1' E

Last Updated: 2022

[Google](#)

[Website](#)

Looking north over Stigen Farm.

This is not a harbour, neither is it an anchorage. It is still worth including here as the farm dock allows dinghy landings for those wishing to make the 45-minute hike up the well-marked but very steep trail to Stigen Farm (alt 360 m). You will have to linger off in the boat for the 1.5 to 2 hours that it will take for the hikers to sweat it out ashore or they can take the marked path on to **Undredal** to meet up with the boat (8 to 9 hours one way!).



The farm, dating from 1603, has been lovingly restored and is now inhabited in the summer months, when it can be rented for special events. Otherwise, it is not open to the public and we suggest you stay outside the fenced-in area. Visiting will give you an insight into how harsh it must have been, carving a living from these mountain farms.

Undredal (Aurlandsfjorden)

60°57.1' N, 07°06.4' E

Last Updated: 2022

[Google](#)

DNL, Vol. 3, aerial photo

Undredal is a charming small village with marginal harbour facilities.

Anchorage, Moorings: There is a large dock with rather rough tyre-fendering. The S part is used regularly by passenger vessels; the N part is seldom used but enquire before leaving your boat unattended. Although

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boats do moor here overnight, you may feel that the dock is best suited for a daytime stop.

There is also a small pontoon in place, best suited to smaller boats.

For The Boat: There is electricity on the pontoon.

For The Crew: Undredal is known for its production of goat cheese and the *café* on the dock sells local produce.

Things To Do: The stave church dates back to 1147 and is open to the public. There is a marked footpath to **Stigen Farm** (8 to 9 hours each way).

Aurland or Aurlandsvangen (Aurlandsfjorden)

60°54.25' N, 07°10.8 E

Last Updated: 2008

[Google](#)

DNL, Vol. 3, aerial photo

[Website](#)

Aurlandsvangen has retained much of the old charm that many feel Flåm has lost; however, harbour facilities are not good unless you can get inside the mole.

Aurland is renowned for lying at one end of the world's longest road tunnel (Lærdalstunnelen).

Anchorage, Moorings: Moor alongside at Fjordsenteret, S of the river mouth. There is considerable wash from passing ships so rafting up is not advisable.



The guest docks at Fjordsenteret, Aurlandsvangen, looking southeast.

Small vessels may get into the mole harbour immediately E of this, where depths reportedly are 2 m but there is limited room for manoeuvring. Spaces may also be available for visiting boats N in the basin; moor alongside the dock with the signpost *Gjestebrygge*.

For The Boat: Water and electricity are available in the mole harbour.

For The Crew: Aurlandsvangen has several small hotels and hostels where facilities may be used for a fee.

Things To Do: There are *cafés*, restaurants, galleries, and a reasonable range of shopping. The stone church dates from 1202 and is open to the public.

You can catch a bus to Østerbø for the classic trek down the Aurland valley (see Flåm for details).



Flåm (Aurlandsfjorden)

60°51.7' N, 07°07.3' E

Last Updated: 2009

[Google](#)

DNL, Vol. 3, aerial photo

Right: Looking southwest over Flåm harbour.

Flåm is central to the Norway in a Nutshell round trip and sees as many as 500,000 visitors every year. The harbour also gives access to many day trips in stunning scenery, including Northern Europe's steepest railway. Flåm is the birthplace of Norwegian poet Per Sivle.



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Anchorage, Moorings:

→ Flåm harbour authorities provide room for visiting vessels at the wooden quay that runs parallel to the shore between the marina and

the commercial part of the harbour; it is signposted and the dock is in good condition. The number of berths varies according to the needs of the tourist vessels; enquire with the harbourmaster before leaving your vessel unattended. If rafting up, special attention should be paid to the considerable wash from passenger vessels to avoid damage to your rigging.

- Flåm Marina has pontoon berths with spaces for a couple of visiting boats or you can moor alongside in front of the outdoor seating.
- You can anchor in 15 to 20 m depth, SE in the bay (Viki), in front of the pontoons. Make sure to keep well to the E to stay clear of commercial traffic.

For The Boat: There are water and electricity outlets at Flåm Marina.

For The Crew: Showers and laundry facilities are available at Flåm Marina. There is a small grocery store, with prices higher than average.



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Looking north over Flåm Marina and Appartement docks and out Aurlandsfjorden.

A stop on the classic hike down Aurlandsdalen, which you can access from Flåm or Aurlandsvangen.



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Things To Do: There are tourist shops and snack bars associated with the railway. The old Flåm village is a 3 km hike up the valley. Here you will find Flåm church from 1670, with a *décor* and character somewhat less pompous than the more famous churches in Sognefjorden.

The old Sinjarheim farm on the hike down Aurlandsdalen.



A wonderful excursion is to travel the famous Flåmbana, a 20 km long electric train ride up 900 m of altitude to Myrdal. From the train's wide windows you can see rivers pouring through ravines, waterfalls that cascade down the sides of snow-capped mountains, with miniscule farms nestled in snug gaps at their feet. The steep ride down through 20 or so tunnels is thrilling. It is also possible to walk along the old road that parallels the railroad—a 5 hour downhill hike or, if you get off at Berekvam station, a 2 to 3 hour downhill hike.

Flåm harbour also provides access to two classic daytrips that should be considered by the fit crew:

- **Aurlandsdalen:** A trek down the most beautiful part of the Aurland valley, taking 6 to 7 hours. From Flåm (or **Aurlandsvangen**), take the bus to Østerbø (alt 850 m) and walk to Vassbygdi, from where there are buses back to Aurlandsvangen and Flåm. You can find the bus timetable at Flåm Tourist Information.
- **Rallarvegen:** A cycle tour from Finse (alt 1222 m) to Flåm, following the supply road used while building the railway. Take the Flåmsbana to Myrdal, where you change for the train to Finse, which has a large, well-organized mountain bike rental outfit. The 60 km cycle ride back to Flåm takes 6 to 8 hours and brings you through breathtaking scenery.

Kaupanger (Amlabukti)

61°10.7' N, 07°14.8' E

Last Updated: 2022

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DNL, Vol. 3, aerial photo

Den Norske Los refers to Amlabukti (Amla bay) as one of the best harbours in the area.

Approaches: Approach from the S through the clear mouth of the bay, keeping clear of ferry traffic.

Looking northwest towards Kaupanger, from the marina.





Kaupanger stave church.

Anchorage, Moorings: There is a pontoon system for visiting boats N in the bay by the ferry docks, signposted Kaupanger Gjestehavn. There may also be vacant berths at the Kaupanger Båtlag pontoon system to port after entering the bay.

For The Boat: There is water and electricity at the visitors' pontoon.

For The Crew: There is a service building at Kaupanger Båtlag. Sogndal airport is close by and there are shops 3 km up the hill.

Things To Do: Kaupanger Stave Church (1184) is a 10-minute walk up the road; it is worthwhile asking the guide to give a tour as the church has a fascinating history. Also, the interior is shaped like an upturned Viking ship.

Sognefjord Båtmuseum by the ferry docks has a large collection of local wooden boats.

There is a small beach with a diving board.

Lærdalsøyri (Lærdalsfjorden)

61°06.1' N, 07°28' E

Last Updated: 2008

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DNL, Vol. 3, aerial photo

[Website](#)

Lærdalsøyri is a picturesque old settlement by the mouth of the Lærdal River, which has been popular with British anglers since the 1800s. Salmon fishing is still important for the settlement.

Part of the village is being rebuilt after a fire in January 2014 destroyed more than 40 houses.

Note that even the most recent charts do not incorporate the extensive land filling and artificial harbour developed SE in the bay and are of limited use for the river mouth, showing the area with pontoons as drying at LW.



The artificial small boat harbour at Lærdalsøyri, looking northwest.

Approaches: Approach straight up the fjord with no particular hazards.

If you wish to enter the small basin E of the Lærdal Hotel, your approach should be made on the last of the flood (HW is 15 minutes after **Bergen**). Identify the two private perches with pointers. Leave these to port, keeping midway between the perches and the land. The dredged channel had 2 m depth at HW in 2008, but it shallows rapidly if you veer off to the side.

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Anchorage, Moorings: If your boat draws more than 1.5 m, moor at the pontoon or dock by the ferry terminal, outside Lærdal Hotel, with 4 m depth. Enquire in the hotel about availability.

For those with smaller boats, there is excellent protection in the small artificial marina in the basin E of Lærdal Hotel. There is 2.5 m depth at the pontoons at HW, less in the approaches; the bottom is mud/soft sand. Moor at a vacant fingerberth.

Things To Do: You can walk through old Lærdalsøyri among the 18th and 19th century wooden buildings and lovely gardens. There are several *cafés*, galleries, and antique shops. Visit the Wild Salmon Exhibition Centre (Norsk Villakssenter).



Årdalstangen (Årdalsfjorden)

61°14' N, 07°42' E

Last Updated: 2022

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DNL, Vol. 3, aerial photo

This is a mainly industrial harbour at the end of Årdalsfjorden. *Den Norske Los* reports that there are powerful squalls here, especially in S and W winds.

Anchorage, Moorings: There are visitors' pontoons inside the mole harbour E of the river mouth. Controlling depth is reported to be 2 m. Contact the hotel for further information. The harbour is well protected.

For The Boat: There is electricity and water at the visitors' berths and fuel at the private boatclub W of the river mouth.

For The Crew: There are shops, a hotel, a bank, a doctor, etc.

Ornes (Lustrafjorden)

61°17.9' N, 07°18.6' E

Last Updated: 2009

[Google](#)

Looking southeast over S/V *Anna* rafted up alongside at Ornes Båtbyggeri.

Note the rock awash close SW from the point.

Anchorage, Moorings: In fair weather you may be able to berth at the old wooden dock immediately S of the ferry; enquire at the kiosk on the docks whether any ships are expected. Outside opening hours there is a telephone number posted.



For a more peaceful mooring enquire about berthing alongside at Ornes Båtbyggeri (Ornes Boatyard), .5 nm SE.



Alternatively, you can anchor as charted .1 nm SSW of the point though the anchorage is very constricted by small boat moorings.

For The Boat: Ornes Båtbyggeri has a marine railway and is able to undertake welding and marine repairs. You can get water and electricity at the Ornes Båtbyggeri dock.

For The Crew: Ornes Båtbyggeri has showers and laundry facilities.

Things To Do: Urnes stave church up the hill is on UNESCO's world heritage list and is well worth a visit. The *café* sells produce from Urnes gård (farm).



S/V *Anna* alongside the docks in front of the Walaker Hotell in Solvorn, looking southwest (below).

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Solvorn (Lustrafjorden)

61°18.1' N, 07°15' E

Last Updated: 2009

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DNL, Vol. 3, aerial photo

Solvorn is a pretty village with a rich cultural history, across the fjord from **Ornes**. 300 inhabitants live here year round; many more in the summer. The harbour is exposed to the E.

Anchorage, Moorings: Moor alongside the large dock with tyres N of the ferry docks, in front of the Walaker Hotell. There is some wash from the ferry.

Things To Do: The Walaker Hotell is a traditional hotel, currently run by the 9th generation of the same family. They run a restaurant and the Gallery Walaker 300, which is immediately behind the hotel and partially built using wood from Solvorn's old church.

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There is a beach.

Gaupne (Gaupnefjorden)

61°23.8' N, 07°17.9' E

Last Updated: 2008

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DNL, Vol. 3, aerial photo

Right: Looking southeast over the visitors' docks at Gaupne.



Above: Navarsete DNT cabin, 3 hours walk from Gaupne.

Right: Råum farm, 3 hours walk from Gaupne.

Gaupne is the centre for the local municipality, with the harbour located in an industrial area. Pontoon berths offer reasonable shelter except from the SE.

Anchorage, Moorings: Visiting boats primarily moor outside of the wave breaker NE in the harbour. There are also pontoons behind a new small mole W of this; enquire about vacant fingerberths.



For The Boat: Water and electricity are available at the pontoons NE in the bay. Diesel is available for small boats at the mole harbour at Marifjóra, 1 nm S.



For The Crew: There is a reasonable range of shopping available. The liquor store is open three days a week.

Things To Do: You can take a bus up dramatic Jostedal (the Joste valley) to the Breheimsenteret Visitors' Centre near Nidgardsbreen, an arm of the Jostedal glacier. There is a 1.5 hour walk from Breheimsenteret to the glacier. Guided trips on the glacier are available.

From Gaupne there is a marked path up to Sandviksberget, passing by the old farm Råum on the way back down. Enquire at the Tourist Office about finding the path.

A slightly longer walk takes you up to the Navarsete cabin, part of the Den Norske Turistforening chain of cabins (key required).



Breheimsenteret Visitors' Centre, reached by bus from Gaupne.



Skjolden (Lustrafjorden)

61°29.1' N, 07°35.8' E

Last Updated: 2008

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DNL, Vol. 3, aerial photo

[Website](#)

Lying at the head of Lustrafjorden, Skjolden's principal claim to fame is that it is the farthest from the open sea that you are ever likely to get and yet still find yourself in a tidal saltwater port.

Winds from SW through SE funnel up the fjord and in such conditions Skjolden is best avoided.

Anchorage, Moorings: In calm conditions you can moor alongside the pontoons outside the holiday development Skjolden Brygge. Larger boats can moor alongside the large quays S of this or anchor 600 m S of the town in 20 m depth in a mud and rock bottom.

For The Crew: There is a shop and hotel. Showers and laundry are available at the camp site.

Things To Do: There are buses to Fortun from where there are excellent hikes, most notably to



Looking northeast at the Skjolden Brygge docks.

the cabin Fuglesteget.

This is also a harbour from where Norwegian sailors make the ascent to Norway's highest peak, Galdhøpiggen. This involves rather complex logistics using bus/taxi/thumb to get to Spiterstulen, and also involves leaving your boat unattended at Skjolden overnight.

