



Nordsjøløypa

Værlandet

Askvoll



North Sea neighbour

Værlandet and Bulandet are the western most inhabited island communities in Norway. Værlandet has quite a unique landscape, with its special crags combined with marshland and lakes.

Bulandet covers more than 350 islands and is often referred to as the "Venice of the north".

The islands are home to more than 450 inhabitants.

Important industries are fishing, fish processing, salmon farming and slaughtering, stone quarries and stone processing, fishing net rigging and tourism. The new road connecting Værlandet and Bulandet is impressive, spanning 5 km and with 6 bridges totalling 950 metres. This is the true gateway to the North Sea!



"The "Makrelen" has been restored by pupils from Værlandet, a project which has taken 14 years with fantastic results! Photo: Gry Leite

North Sea trail

Start off from the ferry quay and follow the main road to find the North Sea trail. The footpath takes you over rocks and through open pine forest, crossing fields and joining the old school road. It follows the school road west, through a pleasant grove and out onto the marsh. The view of the crags from here is delightful. The footpath crosses the marsh and there are bridges to prevent you getting wet feet. You then climb over a gap in the hills and can take a detour to reach the top of Høgkletten, the highest point at 163 metres above sea level. The view from the top makes the climb worth while. You can also take detours to Duklettskaret or Mannsheia for more excellent viewpoints. You then continue over rocks, marshland and following bays and sounds with views towards Melvær and Bulandet until the footpath rejoins the main road. You can now see the houses in Myrevågen in the west. The footpath is about 2.5 km. If you are fit, you could continue by foot or cycle over the bridges towards Bulandet. You can also choose between following the footpath back again or returning by the main road. Cycles are for hire in both Værlandet and Bulandet.

Værlandet - nature

The landscapes of Værlandet are delightful, with exciting waters between islands and islets and a rich bird life. A large number of pine, spruce and larch were planted in the 1970s as shelter planting and this is now an adult forest providing cover from the wind and protection for the islands' animals. You may be lucky and spot deer, white-tailed eagle and heron. The early summer brings blossoms of butterwort and milkwort while the bell heather and red heather dominate the later summer months. You can also find the beautiful and rarer purple heather in areas between rock and marsh.



You are never far from the fishing grounds in Værlandet – even though not every evening is as calm as this! Photo: Helge Landøy

ing a balanced exploitation of the nature reserve. Activities include horse riding centre, shop, youth club, small cinema and sports club. The islands are great for outdoors pursuits and have plenty of waymarked footpaths. There is also a beach and sand volleyball court.

The school road

The old school road is the route the children from Myrevågen had to follow to get to school in Sjørgården. Only the stone walls remain from the old school. The first pupil to follow the school road was Teodor Myrevåg in 1900. The walk took almost one hour and the route was in use until 1939. The children had to dress well in bad weather. The half-way point between Myrevågen and the old school was marked by a stone known as "Strykkejærnet". Another stopping point on the route was the house by Gåsevatnet lake. By this point, the children always had wet feet after crossing the marsh, and would hang their socks to dry here so that they could change into dry socks on the way home.










School trip! Taking a break on the bridges over the marsh. Photo: Torhild Landøy

Sørværet nature reserve covers a large part of Værlandet, at 7,800 decares. This area was set up as a reserve to safeguard an important area of islands and marshland with its flora and fauna. The nature reserve is an important site for bird life and marshland. The youth of Værlandet have taken part on several projects linked to Sørværet, including picking up rubbish on the shoreline and investigating the actual source of the rubbish.

Værlandet has taken part on a project for utilisation of natural landscapes in order to create a good environment and create more jobs by achiev-

Værlandet

Fasilitetar og opplevingar:

-  Chapel
-  Shop
-  Horse riding centre
-  Beach
-  Cycle hire
-  Guest moorings
-  Accommodation





The characteristic crags on Værlandet are a wonderful sight! From the left: Børekletten, Mekletten and Høgkletten Photo: Leif Grane



Seagulls: Photo: Magne Hamre

The young girls from Værlandet spend much of their time on horseback – a popular activity! Photo: Gry Leite



Fascinating bedrock

The greenstone of Værlandet is ancient seabed lava. Movements in the earth's crust led to a rise in the seabed, which folded and compressed somewhere between Norway and Greenland. A mountain range formed, something like the Himalaya today. The breccia rock is a result of the crushing caused by the folding of this mountain range. The conglomerate is formed by stone and sand transported west and south on rivers.

Værlandet harbour

The harbour buildings are worthy of protection. The fisherman's cabins still standing date back to the last half of the 19th century, and only three of them were built in the 1900s. New cabins were built as the older ones fell to ruin. Fylkesbaatane boats sailed with passengers and cargo to this harbour since the end of the 19th century and until the Nordsjøporten road opened in 2003. The harbour has a history as an important fishing harbour. The jetty was built in the 1930s and the road to the harbour was built during the war. Today, the harbour is home to a fishing net rigging company and Værlandet Båt.

Travel

The ferry crossing from the mainland and municipal centre of Askvoll takes around one hour. The ferry also stops at Fure in Fjaler and corresponds with the express boat from Bergen, Sogn, Måløy and Florø. The drive from the ferry quay on Værlandet to the old ferry quay på Bulandet is 12 km long.



The harbour in 1939: Photo: S. Halsøy
Thrift: Photo: Magne Hamre



All these materials were folded together and transported down into the depths when Iceland and Norway were compressed together some 400 million years ago. The various layers of rock types are now at a slant far below us. You can find greenstone in the northern parts of Værlandet and this was originally a part of the seabed. Breccia can be seen stretching as a belt over the whole of Værlandet and out to Steinen to the west of Sandøy. The conglomerate is more common on the southern parts of the island and in the nature reserve. The top stratum was a thick layer of sand which we can now see as sandstone in the islands south of Værlandet – Sørværet. Landøyer stone industry mined blocks of breccia and conglomerate, used to make unique home interiors such as kitchen worktops and bathroom tops. The special shapes of the crags are most probably caused by the combination of hard and solid rock types and erosion from ice and sea during the last Ice Age.



COMMON RIGHT-OF-WAY IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

Right-of-way:

- Hiking and skiing
- Picnic stops and camping
- Horse riding and cycling on footpaths and roads
- Free access by boat, mooring and going ashore along the entire coast
- Picking berries, mushrooms and flowers
- Swimming in the sea, lakes and watercourses
- Fishing with angling tackle for salt-water fish

Duties:

- Not to damage the natural environment or disturb animals and birds
- Not to walk over cultivated fields and meadows
- Not to build fires in forests or fields between 15 April and 15 September
- To keep all dogs on leash on public roads or in the countryside. When crossing fields, you must keep dogs on a leash from 1 April to 15 October and when animals are grazing

NB

Always close gates behind you and respect all signs marking no entrance. It is prohibited to go ashore in Sørværet nature reserve from 1 April to 1 August in the area south of the southern end of Kjerringa and Nordre Leiaskjeret.

More information:
Askvoll municipality,
cultural department
Tel.: + 47 57 73 02 00
www.jensbua.no

Author:
Lene Gjelsvik
Map: Uglund IT Group
Format:
eko Førde



North Sea trail



NAVE Nortrail is a cooperative project for the protection of the cultural heritage of the North Sea region as a channel for communications and transport.

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