



2017



WELCOME TO HEMNES



Hemnes kommune
Skaperglede mellom smul sjø og evig snø



HEMNES

– a creative community in the heart of Helgeland

The Municipality of Hemnes has a lush countryside, idyllic valleys and five villages: Bleikvasslia, Korgen, Bjerka, Finneidfjord and Hemnesberget. The total population is about 4 500. In addition to friendly services and a thriving community of artists and musicians, Hemnes offers boat production, window and furniture factories, agriculture and significant hydropower production. Our cultural calendar includes popular summer festivals and an outdoor historical play. In Hemnes you will also find Northern Norway's tallest mountain, the eighth largest glacier on the Norwegian mainland, sheltered fjords, wonderful fishing opportunities, and a wilderness that will tempt you to memorable holiday adventures.

The residents of Hemnes keenly appreciate their recreational activities in the mountains and on the fjords – and we are eager to share our natural treasures with visitors.

Welcome to Hemnes!

Be sure to visit Hemnesberget village. Rent a room at an artists' place. Take a stroll along the harbour to the neighbourhood of old wooden houses at Lapphella. Enjoy a cup of coffee at the goldsmith on the quay, and explore the friendly shops and galleries in our village.



Hemnes – a great place to live!

The Municipality of Hemnes is situated in the heart of Helgeland. Our district enjoys excellent communications as well as scenic surroundings – and we have plenty of room should you wish to settle here, with your family or your business!

Many residents commute to jobs in Mosjøen, Sandnessjøen and Mo i Rana. Hemnes has railway connections, highway E6 passes through our district, and the new 10.6 km Toven Tunnel makes for a short drive to Sandnessjøen. We have a deepwater quay, and there will be a new airport at Mo i Rana in some years, which is only a 45-minute drive away.

To find out more about settling in Hemnes, and the opportunities here, please email us at postmottak@hemnes.kommune.no



Røssvatnet – picnic by the lake

Fascinating facts

- Hemnes' coat of arms shows a golden boat-builder's clamp on a blue background, symbolising the area's ancient traditions. Since we started counting in 1850, close to 300 000 boats have been built in Hemnes!

- *Leif Eirikson*, a replica of the ship sailed by the Viking explorer to the New World, is displayed in its own park in Duluth, Minnesota. Crafted by the skilled boat-builders on a farm in Leirskardalen, the replica ship sailed across the Atlantic in 1926.

- On 10 May 1940, allied bombers sank the steamer *SS Nordnorge*, which had been sized by the Germans and was being used to transport troops and military materiel. The shipwreck lies on the bottom of the fjord just beyond the quay at Hemnesberget.

- NCP at Hemnesberget is Norway's northernmost furniture producer, and Trenor Vinduer is the largest window producer in Northern Norway.

- *Kamkaka*, a local bread from Hemnes, has long traditions, and was mentioned by the 17th-century poet Petter Dass.

- "The Blood Road" across Korgfjellet was built during Nazi Germany's occupation of Norway. 646 Yugoslav prisoners died as slave labourers, hence the road's name.



kamkaka

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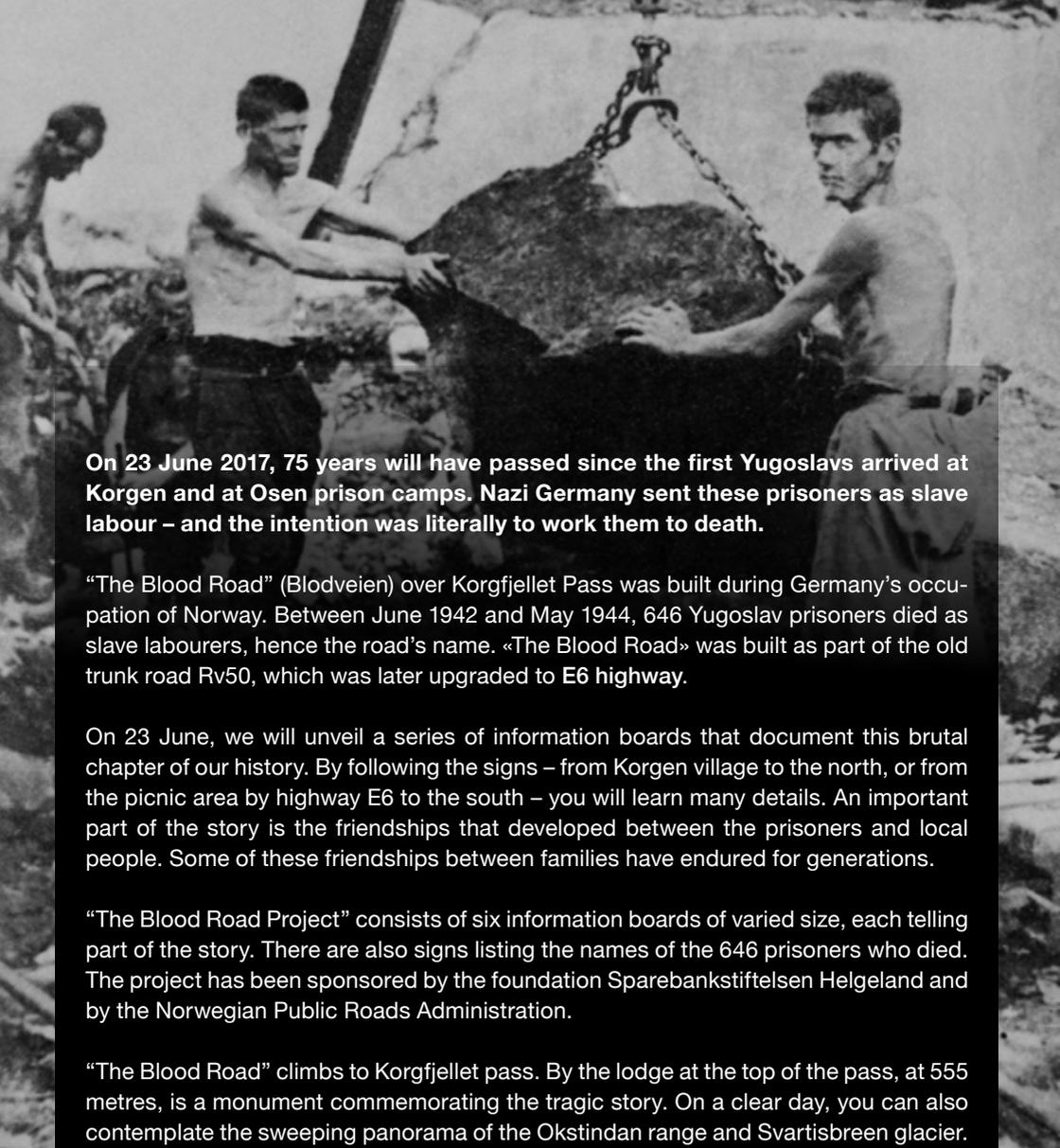
Kråkeslottet

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[Facebook.no/krakeslottet](https://www.facebook.com/krakeslottet)



Kråkeslottet



On 23 June 2017, 75 years will have passed since the first Yugoslavs arrived at Korgen and at Osen prison camps. Nazi Germany sent these prisoners as slave labour – and the intention was literally to work them to death.

“The Blood Road” (Blodveien) over Korgfjellet Pass was built during Germany’s occupation of Norway. Between June 1942 and May 1944, 646 Yugoslav prisoners died as slave labourers, hence the road’s name. «The Blood Road» was built as part of the old trunk road Rv50, which was later upgraded to E6 highway.

On 23 June, we will unveil a series of information boards that document this brutal chapter of our history. By following the signs – from Korgen village to the north, or from the picnic area by highway E6 to the south – you will learn many details. An important part of the story is the friendships that developed between the prisoners and local people. Some of these friendships between families have endured for generations.

“The Blood Road Project” consists of six information boards of varied size, each telling part of the story. There are also signs listing the names of the 646 prisoners who died. The project has been sponsored by the foundation Sparebankstiftelsen Helgeland and by the Norwegian Public Roads Administration.

“The Blood Road” climbs to Korgfjellet pass. By the lodge at the top of the pass, at 555 metres, is a monument commemorating the tragic story. On a clear day, you can also contemplate the sweeping panorama of the Okstindan range and Svartisbreen glacier.



OKSTINDAN

– HIKING ON THE “ROOF” OF NORTHERN NORWAY

The Okstindan mountain range and its ruling summit Oksskolten, the highest mountain in Northern Norway, are situated in Hemnes. Our municipality offers a magnificent wilderness and pristine mountains a mere stone's throw from lush farms and villages. Glacier arms stretch in every compass direction, and the surrounding area is dotted with beautiful lakes large and small. There are several gateways to Okstindan, and four DNT cabins are available to hikers.

FOUR GREAT GATEWAYS TO OKSTINDAN

Gateway/ altitude	Distance from Korgen	Description of road	Starting point for marked hiking trail to DNT cabins/distance/hiking time:	Parking	Note
Inderdalen Farm in Brygfjelldalen (342 m)	12 km	Fv806, a road of good standard. Then Fv323, a narrow paved road, for 6 km.	Gråfjellhytta cabin (7 km/3h) Rabothytta cabin via Gråfjellhytta cabin and Mørkbekken (18 km/8 h)	Parking just below Inderdalen Farm, at the end of the road.	The DNT trail starts at a charming, privately-owned mountain farm. Café and farm shop occasionally open. Gråfjellhytta cabin is situated at 1000 m on the edge of the glacier. Rabothytta cabin is situated at glacier's edge at 1200 m. Mørkbekken is situated at 680 m
Leirbotn/Tippen in Leirskarddalen (650 m)	18 km	Fv322, a narrow paved road of varying standard for 13 km. Then a steep, narrow construction road for 5 km (closed in the winter).	Rabothytta cabin (5 km/ 1.5 - 2 h) Kjensvasshytta cabin (10 km/ 3 h) Gråfjellhytta cabin (6 km/ 3 h)	Large parking lot towards the end of the construction road (650 m).	Fv322 passes through the courtyard of several private farms. Please reduce your speed and drive considerately
Kjensvatnet lake (525 m)	120 km	E6 to Mo i Rana, then E12 to Umbukta, continuing on a gravel road of varying standard for 40 km (closed in winter until mid June)	Kjensvasshytta cabin (by the road) Gressvasshytta cabin (8 km/ 3 h) Rabothytta cabin (10 km/ 4 h)	Plenty of parking at the three trail heads: - Oksskolten: parking at Leirbekkmoen. - Gressvasshytta cabin: parking by the dam at Gressvatnet. - Rabothytta cabin: parking by Kjensvasshytta cabin.	Oksskolten is about 7 km from the parking lot. Allow at least 10 hours for the round trip hike. The unmarked ascent is very steep in places, with large rocks and boulders. Glacier trek equipment is required.
Spieltfjelldalen/Granheim at Røssvatnet lake (390 m)	56 km	Fv806 and Fv324. Both are paved roads.	Gressvasshytta cabin (18 km/ 6 h) Kjensvasshytta cabin (28 km/ 10 h)	Parking on the west side of the bridge.	This trail, which passes through Spieltfjelldalen nature reserve, is part of the 570-km-long Nordlandsruta Trail. Accommodation available at Stekvasselv Farm, 2 km away.

FOUR GREAT CABINS IN THE OKSTINDAN MOUNTAINS

Rabothytta, also known as DNT Cabin No. 500, is situated at 1200 metres on the very edge of the glacier. The cabin accommodates 30 overnight guests and is self-service, with occasional staff in the summer. Kjensvasshytta, situated near the trailhead to Oksskolten, the highest peak in Northern Norway, offers 28 beds. In the summer, you can drive all the way up and park by the cabin, which is now being refurbished with facilities for disabled guests. Gråfjellhytta and Gressvasshytta cabins have 12 and 20 beds respectively. All four cabins are self-service and fully equipped, but hikers must bring their own food and a sleeping bag or sheet bag. At least one person in the group must be a member of DNT and have a DNT key.

For further information, see www.hemnesturistforening.no or www.rabothytta.no (mainly in Norwegian)

HEMNES TURISTFORENING

The four cabins are run by Hemnes Turistforening, the local chapter of the Norwegian Trekking Association (DNT). For prices for day visits and overnight stays, see www.hemnesturistforening.no. An online calendar shows on which dates accommodation is available. To make a reservation, please send an email to booking@hemnesturistforening.no. They can also put you in touch with experienced guides.

TRAIL MAPS AND CRAMPONS

An informative trail map (scale 1:50,000) with suggested hikes may be purchased online from Hemnes Turistforening, and at Circle K gas stations in Korgen or at Gruben. Crampons are also available for rent at the stations.

Distance from Korgen to other Okstindan gateways:

Lille Målvatn Gård, Bjerkadalen	23 km (333 m)
Skardelva / Røssvatnet lake	44 km (390 m)
Bessedør / Røssvatnet lake	48 km (390 m)
Steikvasselv / Røssvatnet lake	54 km (390 m)
Nymoan / Nordlandsruta Trail / Røssvatnet lake	58 km (390 m)

SEASON

The hiking season lasts from mid-June until October.

The best skiing season is from January-February until May-June.

Let your dog enjoy the hike, but...

Hikers are welcome to bring their dog – but you must keep it on leash. For centuries these mountains have been an important summer grazing area for sheep of local farmers and the Sami's reindeer herds. Even a kind and gentle dog may frighten these animals and cause them to injure themselves as they flee. Thank you for respecting this important rule!

A selfie on the glacier?

Many visitors are tempted to photograph themselves on the glacier. But please be sure to bring the necessary safety equipment, and show the utmost caution. The constantly shifting glacier can be lethal! Crampons and safety lines are a must, and any hiking on the glacier is at your own risk. Guided tours are recommended.

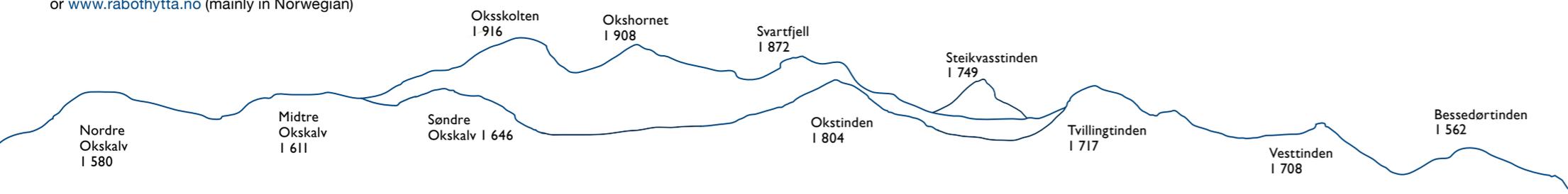
Please bring back your trash

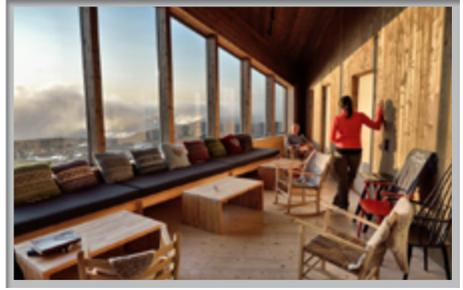
Perhaps you're looking forward to a much lighter backpack on your return trek? Even though there are cabins in Okstindan, there is no trash service. In order to keep our beautiful wilderness pristine, we rely on you to take all empty bottles, cans and other trash with you and dispose of them properly back in the nearby village.

A smart backpack – with everything you need

Conditions are often demanding in the Okstindan mountains, and the weather may change suddenly – irrespective of good weather forecasts. For your own safety, please always bring the following equipment: trail map and compass, extra warm clothes, raingear and windproof clothing, warm mittens and hat, extra food and beverage.

The mobile phone coverage is variable and generally poor throughout the Okstindan mountain wilderness.
Emergency: 113





Rabothytta

A FISHERMAN'S PARADISE

The river Røssåga offers excellent salmon and trout fishing. In times past, Røssåga was a favourite river of English lords who came here to catch large salmon. Now you can experience the excitement of waiting for the big catch, while enjoying the tranquillity of our beautiful surroundings.

Parts of the Røssåga river are open for fishing throughout July and August. You must have a valid local fishing card, and proof that your fishing gear has been disinfected to avoid any risk of introducing invasive species. You will find additional information on salmon and trout fishing at www.korgen-camping.no

To fish our mountain lakes, you need the Statskog Norway License. For further information and to purchase your fishing license, please see www.statskog.no

Please note, however, that fishing in the sea and sheltered fjords is free.

Happy angling!

On the glacier, you may well meet reindeer, especially on hot summer days when they climb to higher altitudes to escape bothersome insects. Please keep your distance to avoid spooking the reindeer.

Fascinating facts

- Oksskolten (1916 m) is the highest mountain in Northern Norway.
- Austre Okstindbre is one of the oldest glaciers in Norway, and is especially interesting to climate researchers.
- Røssvatnet is Norway's second-largest lake.
- Rabothytta cabin is named in honour of Charles Rabot. In 1883 the French glaciologist, explorer and friend of Fridtjof Nansen, made one of the first recorded ascents of Oksskolten.
- A Sami man named Klemet Persson, who was Rabot's guide on his expeditions in Okstindan, lived beneath a cliff overhang at the foot of the mountain. He was reputed to be a shaman. His story is presented in a biannual historical musical play (www.klemetspelet.no)
- The indigenous Southern Sami still herd reindeer in the Hemnes district.
- In Bleikvasslia you can visit "Sørfjelltunet" with reconstructed Sami settlements, an attractive recreational area that young and old will appreciate and an old school that occasionally serves as a café offering fresh-baked kamkake.



This facility was awarded the prestigious St. Olav's Rose for its contribution to preserving Norway's cultural heritage

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Tvillingtinden
| 717

Vesttinden
| 708

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KORGFJELLET

Cycle or drive the old E6 highway to a great viewpoint over the Okstindan mountain range



Between the towns of Mosjøen and Mo i Rana, cyclists must take the old E6 highway across Korgfjellet pass. The Korgfjell Tunnel is not open to cyclists and pedestrians.

Korgfjellet was featured in two legs of the 2016 Arctic Race of Norway. Despite a gruelling climb averaging 6.5 %, top cyclists from around the world took as little as 20 minutes to climb the 9 kilometres from Korgen village to the top of the pass at 555 m!

Even if you cannot match their time, you will be rewarded by the magnificent panorama of the Okstindan range, mount Lukttindan and the Svartisbreen glacier. To replenish your energy, consider a bite at the lodge Korgfjellet Fjellstue.

If you feel the wilderness beckon, Korgfjellet offers many miles of excellent hiking. And there are several short paths if you just wish to stretch your legs.

Welcome to Korgfjellet!

Join us for a
GUIDED hike this summer!

15 July and 12 August Day excursion to Gråfjellhytta cabin and the glacier's edge in the Okstindan mountain range. We start our hike at Inderdalen Farm in the valley of Brygfjelldalen at 09:30. No sign-up required. NOK 750 per person.

29 July Day excursion to Gråfjellhytta cabin and the glacier's edge in Okstindan, with dinner at the cosy Inderdalen Farm. We start our hike at Inderdalen Farm in the valley of Brygfjelldalen at 09:30. NB Sign-ups required. NOK 900 per person.



For details about these and other excursions, please visit www.fri-og-frank.com



DISTANCES – TRAVELLING BY ROAD

Northbound

Korgen – Mo i Rana	40 km / 35 min.
Korgen – Arctic Circle	120 km / 1h 45 min
Korgen – Bodø	270 km / 3h 50 min
Korgen – North Cap	1200 km / 18 hours

Southbound

Korgen – Mosjøen	50 km / 45 min
Korgen – Sandnessjøen	70 km / 55 min
Korgen – Trondheim	440 km / 6 hours
Korgen – Oslo	930 km / 12h 15 min

OTHER TRANSPORTATION

By air: www.wideroe.no to Mo i Rana Airport Røssvoll, or Mosjøen Airport Kjærstad

Railway: www.nsb.no to Bjerka Station

Bus: www.177nordland.no

Taxi: +47 959 59 157

DISTANCES WITHIN HEMNES MUNICIPALITY

Korgen – Bleikvasslia	20 km
Korgen – Bjerka	10 km
Korgen – Finneidfjord	15 km
Korgen – Hemnesberget	30 km



ACCOMMODATION & DINING

In Hemnes you may opt for a farm holiday, be a guest in an artist's home, head for a lodge on a mountaintop, choose a campground on one of our rivers, or stay at a friendly roadside inn. You can also rent private accommodation.

For a list of accommodation and dining options, please visit www.visit.hemnes.kommune.no. (Currently this information is in Norwegian only, but on our website you will find maps and contact information.) You can also check out the English website of www.visithelgeland.com

Hemnes offers nice guest harbours at Hemnesberget, Bjerka, and in Finneidfjord.

- Salmon fishing
- DNT trail head
- Swimming
- Attraction
- Nature reserve
- Viewpoint



Klemetspelet

Summer 2017

- 9. JUNE** PARKROCK in Korgen
- 23. JUNE** NATIONAL COMMEMORATION of Yugoslav prisoners and MIDSUMMER CELEBRATION at Korgfjellet
- 30. JUNE - 02. JULY** BOAT & FJORD FESTIVAL at Hemnesberget
- 22. - 23. JULY** Medieval Market at Bjerka Bygdetun/Local Museum
- 03. - 06. AUGUST** HEMNESJAZZ - concerts at Hemnesberget
- 12. - 13. AUGUST** THE KAMKAKE FESTIVAL in Bleikvasslia
- 25. - 27. AUGUST** KLEMETSPELET - historical play in Leirskarddalen
- 1. - 3. DESEMBER** JUL PÅ BERGET - Christmas marked at Hemnesberget

SCENIC ALTERNATIVES TO HIGHWAY E6

- The Wilderness Road (Villmarksvegen), from E6 in Korgen to E6 at Majavatn lake, offers views of the Okstindan range, Røssvatnet lake and Børgfjell National Park. This paved scenic road is 133 km long.
- The old E6 across Korgfjellet passes an inn situated at 555 metres altitude, which enjoys a magnificent panorama of the Okstindan range and Svartisbreen glacier.
- A detour on scenic road Fv808 leads to Hemnesberget, an idyllic fjord side village surrounded by a great mountain wilderness.

For more information on the region, please see www.visithelgeland.com
The Tourist Information Office located at the Circle K gas station in Korgen will be open from 26 June to 11 August. Tel. +47 48 29 58 11.

