

Remote and inaccessible



photo Guro Lien

AROUND 150 PEOPLE live in Møsstrand, one of the highest-lying mountain villages in the country. Around 40 of them have no road access, and many are livestock farmers. The motor road ends at Varland, where the “waterway” across Lake Møsvatn begins. From here it is 30 km to the most remote farm. The lack of a road means that many people in Møsstrand make a living from offering boat and snowmobile transport as well as from tourism, hunting, fishing and farming. For those without a road the lake serves as a road all year round, whether it is clear or frozen over. When the lake begins to freeze and thaw during autumn and spring it can be weeks between each time they receive mail or go shopping.

The “centre” of Møsstrand is Hovdøyi with its church and former boarding school (1869–2001). The school has closed down, and the children at Møsstrand now attend school in Rauland.

The church, which is the highest-lying parish church in Norway, is still in use.

WHAT YOU MIGHT SEE ON YOUR WALK

HEATHER:

Staple food for deer during winter. The willow grouse eats young shoots and seeds.

Photo: Guro Lien



Why build a church on an island?



Møsvatn 900 - 918,5 moh

photo Guro Lien

THE ANSWER IS SIMPLE: When the church was built Hovden was on the mainland. Water levels rose forming an island here when Lake Møsvatn (once 3 lakes) became heavily regulated for hydroelectric power production around 1900. Hydroelectric power from Møsvatn provided the basis for the industrial plants in Rjukan.

Buyers from Norsk Hydro travelled the area to purchase lakeside farms including Argehovd, the mountain farm you can see from Kvennavegen. They were interested in piping the River Kvenna and the Argehovdfossen waterfall. Owners, Nils and Olav Argehovd demanded NOK 1 million. “If we do not get a million, the waterfall can continue to run as it always has done,” they said and so it is still here, now protected for all to enjoy.

Layout: Nina Akerstveen / Trykk: Erik Tørriche Nilssen as



Vandreregionen
www.vandretelemark.no www.visitrauland.com
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FOOTPATH MADE FROM ORE

PINE: Stay dry as you cross the marshes walking on slow-grown pine impregnated by nature.

Photo: Guro Lien



ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD:

The most common bird of prey on the Hardangervidda plateau.

Photo: Morten Vang



EASY WALK →



Møsstrand – Telemark

WALK **Kvennavegen**

THEME Walk through a pedestrian village



photo Guro Lien

BLUETHROAT:

The most cheerful song of spring?

Photo: Kjetil Hansen



Description of the walk

A LIGHT WALK on pram-friendly gravel and plank roads to the eroded rocks and bathing place by River Kvenna. Great views over the mountain farm Argehovd in the foothills of the Hardangervidda plateau. Learn about life at Møsstrand through the years from the information boards along the way. Listen to the "talking post" to learn about life here today.

START THE TRIP at the Mogen Turisthytte (cabin) and follow the village road towards Argehovd. After the bridge at Hellegjubekken take a left along the dirt road that runs parallel to the stream. After about 100 m turn right and follow the path towards Kvenna. From there follow the rocks along the river before turning right and crossing the marsh using the plank road, ending up on the village road. Follow the village road back to Mogen.

Driving directions



Start in the centre of Rauland. Follow RV37 towards Rjukan.



After 26.5 km turn left towards Skinnarbu harbour.



Park at the harbour. Pay the parking charge (cash only) at the ticket office and leave the receipt clearly displayed in the car. (GPS: N59°48.982' E008° 18.769')



Take the Fjellvåken II ferry to the Mogen rambler's cabin, where the walk starts. Timetable: www.visitrauland.com



You are responsible for your own safety during the walk. Treat the countryside and grazing animals with respect. Take only photos, leave only footprints. Please take your rubbish home with you. Enjoy the trip!



Map:
Lågaros 1515 III 1: 50 000
Hardangervidda Sør-Øst 1: 60 000

NB:
Remember to bring something to drink, a windproof top and swimwear.



Accessibility: End of June – early September. 940 m above sea level



Foto: Guri Lien