

# ÅSGÅRDSTRAND

1. - 4. APRIL 2026

It had been a long time since we had been on a trip, so we found out that we should take an Easter trip. We didn't want any more snow, so we looked for a hotel by the sea. We thought the [Grand Hotel](#) in [Åsgårdstrand](#) looked good, so we booked a room there from 1 to 4 April.

The plan was to just relax.

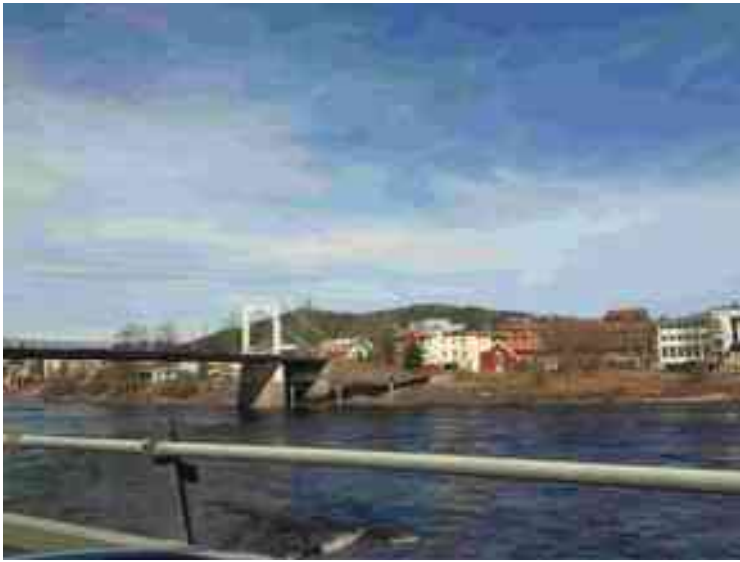


A bit of Åsgårdstrand with the guest harbor and hotel to the left.



Åsgårdstrand became a loading dock from 1650. From the beginning of the 19th century, Åsgårdstrand was a lively export port for timber, including to the Netherlands. Trade stagnated with the end of the sailing ship era. The place has been classified as a 'tourist town' since 2007. Åsgårdstrand has had town status since 2010. Today, approximately 3,000 people live in the town.

Åsgårdstrand is known as an artists' town, historically much visited by [Edvard Munch](#), [Christian Krohg](#) and [Hans Heyerdahl](#) because of the special light.



Here we are starting, driving through Kongsvinger.



The Easter traffic had probably started, because the traffic was congested out of Oslo.



Here we come to the Ekeberg Tunnel through Oslo.



In the tunnel.



Color Line.



After we had driven through the tunnel south of Drammen, we took the first exit to take local roads further south.



Here we come to Holmestrand.



Then we were in Åsgårdstrand.



Almost at the hotel.

In the trees we can see some clusters that look like small round brooms. At first we thought it was witches' brooms, but when we had a visit from Jorunn and Ole Kjærnes they told us it was mistletoe.

Witch's broom is growth that come from various fungal diseases.

Mistletoe is a plant that lives as a parasite on trees. It mostly lives by the Oslo Fjord. The largest occurrence is in the Horten district.



Witches' broom



Mistletoe.

From a distance, it is not so easy to tell the difference between the two.



Then we were in the room in the hotel. There was plenty of room here. We had splurged and booked a junior suite with a balcony and sea view.

There was also a separate bedroom.

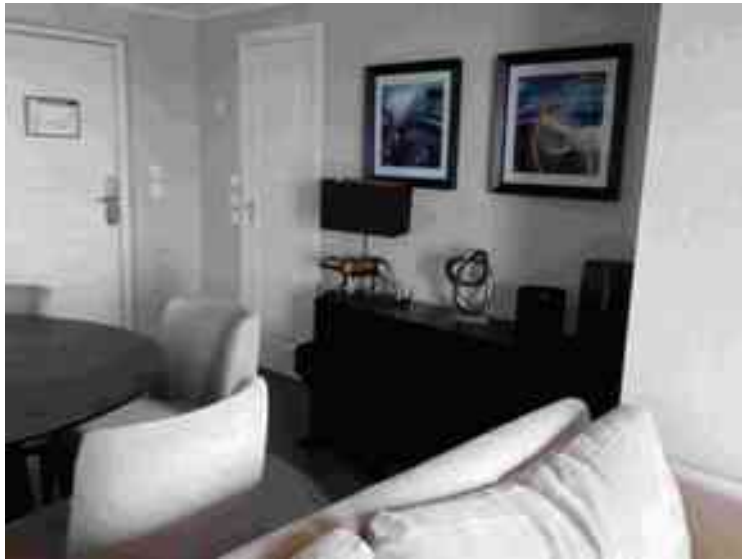
The room was also decorated with various pictures and other decorative items.



The bed.



TV in the living room. There was also a TV in the bedroom.



Testing the balcony.



Here we are in the restaurant. They opened the dinner service at 6pm and we were the first guests.



Here we are back towards the entrance.

The restaurant has a capacity of up to 100 people, and it is used for various company events in addition to ordinary à la carte serving. The Grand Restaurant has good cuisine and a rich selection of wines.

In the summer months, the hotel's terrace is opened with outdoor seating. In addition, Grand Brygge, the hotel's wharf restaurant, is opening down by the water's edge.



We first had an appetizer which we took pictures of after it was half eaten.

Anne Berit had Akevittgravet salmon with horseradish cream and dill sauce.

I had roasted scallops with cauliflower puree and dill mayonnaise.



Then we had a main course.

Anne Berit had pan-fried fresh cod from the fish pier with creamy herb risotto, fresh spinach and beurre blanc.

I had Norwegian beef tenderloin with celery root puree and seasonal vegetables and pepper sauce.



View from the balcony the day after. It rained all day.



We drove along the coast past Tønsberg to the [Gokstad Mound](#).

The Gokstad Mound, also known as 'King's Mound', is a large [burial mound](#) on Gokstad farm in [Sandefjord municipality](#). In 1879, it was discovered that the mound contained a Viking ship, and the following summer, the 'Gokstad ship' with a burial chamber and grave goods from the [Viking age](#) was brought out. The remains of the ship are today on display in the Viking ship house in Oslo.

For dinner, I was the only one who had an appetizer. It was Pan-fried Scampi with carrot puree and dill mayonnaise. Afterwards we ate long-braised beef shank marinated in Amarone, salt-baked shallots and homemade mashed potatoes. It was very good.



For dessert, Anne Berit had homemade caramel pudding with freshly whipped cream.

I had Ice Flensburg with vanilla ice cream, cherries and egg liqueur. In addition, I had a contreau with ice cream.



The day after, 3 May, was as gray as the day before.

At the end of the day, we were visited by Jorunn and Ole Kjærnes.

We had lunch together.

The dishes we had were

Chop sandwich with onion & salad

Prawn sandwiches with hand-peeled prawns

The house's traditional fish soup with bread and butter

There was also a large Easter buffet, so the restaurant eventually got quite full.



For dinner we had fallow deer fillet with creamed savoy cabbage, red wine sauce and cranberries. It was good, but we thought the beef shank the day before was better.

For dessert we had Ice Flensburg with vanilla ice cream, cherries and egg liqueur + cointreau on the side.



On the last day we woke up to snow on the ground.



Fortunately, it had cleared up, and the snow had started to melt.



Here we can also see the mistletoe on the tree.



The sun gradually shone.



In the reception.



Time to pay for the stay.

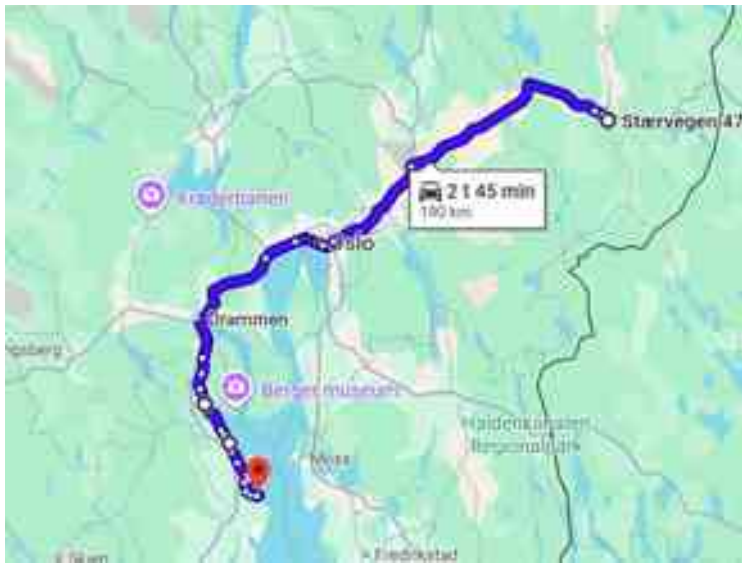


A tree with lots of mistletoe.

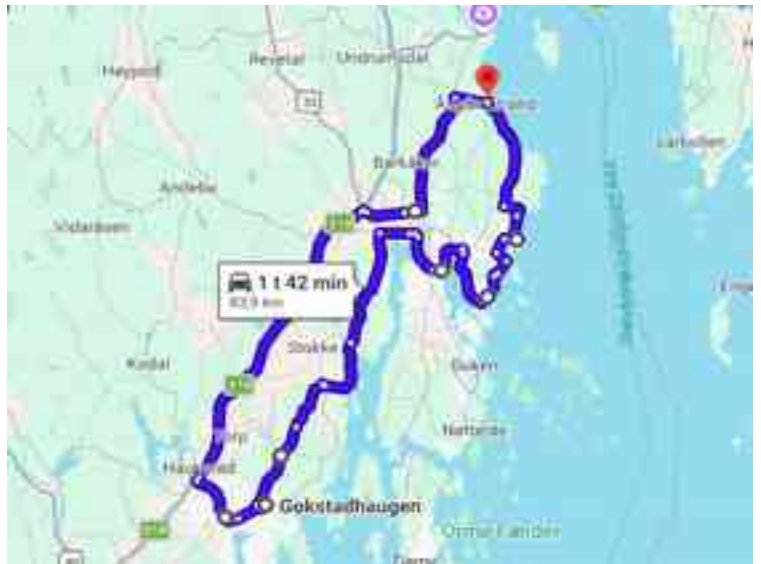


The snow lay along the road.





The driving route to and from Åsgårdstrand.



This was the route we drove to Gokstadhaugen.