

THE COAST PILEGRIMAGE ROUTE (KYSTPILEGRIMSLEIA) 23. JULY – 3. AUGUST 2021

We talked many years ago about going the [Pilgrim Path](#) from Oslo to Trondheim in a suitable number of stages. Now it is no longer relevant, so when we read about another route that we did not know about, namely the [Coastal Pilgrimage route](#) from Egersund to Trondheim, we found out that we were going to drive that route by car. We did not visit all the key places mentioned in the description. We eliminated those who became too out of the way to get to by car.

The pilgrimage routes to Trondheim are a network of historical roads. The roads come from all directions to saint Olav's tomb in Nidaros Cathedral, which was the northernmost pilgrimage site for Christianity throughout the Middle Ages.

One of the most important and perhaps most used roads was along the coast. This was the country's main thoroughfare and it took the shortest time. It seems that it took 5 days to travel by boat along the coast from Egersund to Trondheim.

We started on July 23, and the first leg went to Tvedestrand. First some pictures along the way.



Barley.



Grass.



Potatoes.

It is the farm Tveite that has given its name to [Tvedestrand](#). The name simply means the beach of the farm Tveite.

Tvedestrand became a village in 1836 and was the shipping site for [Nes Jernværk](#).

Tvedestrand is one of the most sought after tourist districts in Sørlandet with a magnificent archipelago, several guest houses and many cabins.



We stayed at [Tvedestrand Fjordhotell](#).



The room looked something like this.
It faced the backyard, but it was all right.



The restaurant was on a floating pier at the quayside.
They called it Pir4.



We ate there after we checked in.



Here we are in place.
We had fish and shrimps.



I look quite happy, although I was expecting fresh shrimp
with shells. What I got were shrimp that had been lying
in the brine.



As we drove the next day, we drove past this fountain.



Then we drove out of town.



Last picture from the harbor. The hotel on the far right.

Then we drove on via [Eyje](#) and [Tonstad](#) to [Egersund](#). [Pilegrimsleden](#).

Egersund was an important port with densely populated areas already in the Viking Age. The place was early an important place for pagan worship. It got a church in the early Middle Ages.



[Egersund church](#).

It was built in 1623. Before it was built, the old church that stood there was demolished.



The church seen from a slightly different angle. The area where the church stands is called in old legends for Heidningholmen (The pagan place).



This statue stands near the church. The sculpture, [The Pilot](#), was the business community's gift to the city on the occasion of the 200th anniversary in 1998. It is made of granite by the sculptor [Hugo Wathne](#).



View of the harbor in Egersund.



View towards the square.



Here we have come to [Jæren](#).



Jæren is one of the best agricultural areas in the country, but also has a lot of industry. Much of the industry is traditionally linked to agriculture, and much is related to oil activities in the North Sea.



Here we approach Obrestad.



[Obrestad lighthouse.](#)

Obrestad lighthouse is from 1873. It was automated in 1991. The lighthouse building is today a lighthouse museum and stands as it was in 1991. [Pilegrimsleden.](#)



This is an aerial photo of the lighthouse with lighthouse keepers' homes. The picture is taken from the Pilgrim Trail's pages.



About 1 km from [Obrestad Lighthouse](#) lies [Hå gamle prestegard](#). [Wikipedia](#) [Pilegrimsleden](#)



Motif on one of the buildings.

The first vicarage on Hå was probably built around 1630 - then as a private vicarage and it was run as a vicarage until 1919. Two fires ravaged the vicarage - in 1725 and 1787. The current buildings are from the time after the last fire. In 1977, Hå municipality bought the farm, which was opened to the public in 1983. The facility now has exhibitions of Norwegian and international contemporary art and cultural history exhibitions, commission sales of art, a café with local food, seminars and rental of rooms.



These stones stand at the entrance.



One of the showrooms.



View from Hå gamle prestegard towards Obrestad lighthouse.



The next overnight stay was at [Bryne Kro & Hotell](#).
We ate with Stian, Hemming, Anne Siri, Maria, Oline and Johanne.



Anne Berit had poached salmon fillet with dill stewed potatoes and cucumber green salad as shown. I had tenderloin of Angus with celery root cream, today's vegetables, strong red wine sauce And oven-baked almond potatoes



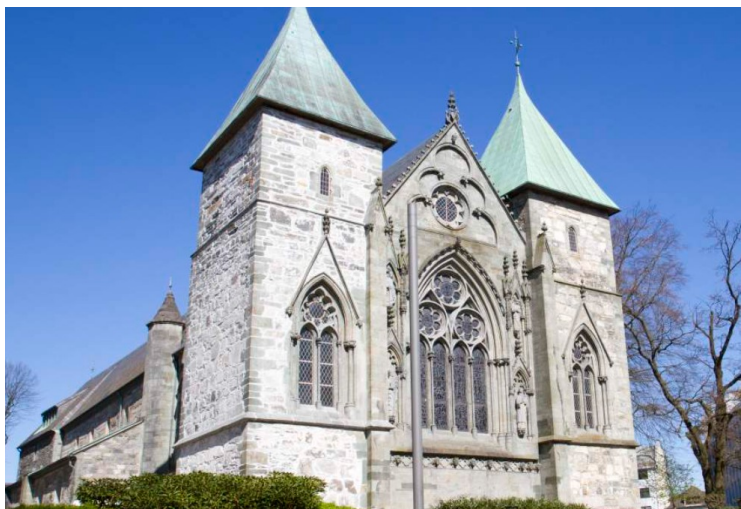
For dessert we had Pavlova - Lemon cream, vanilla ice cream from Iskremgarden and today's selection of fruits and berries.



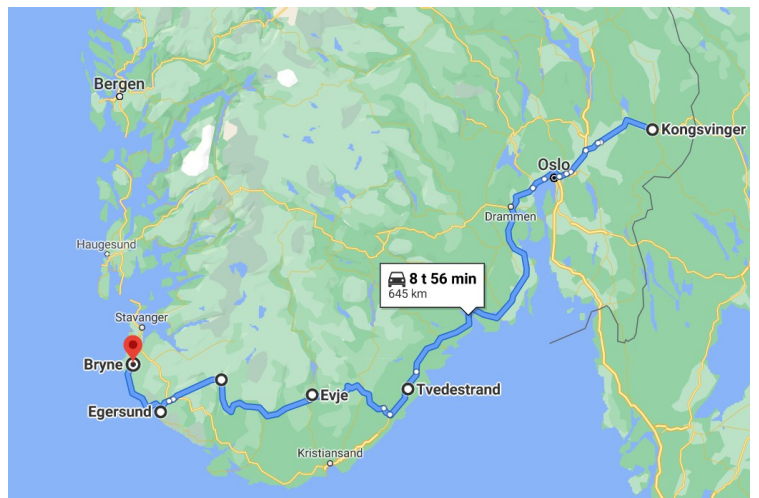
The room looked something like this.



We omitted [Sverd i fjell](#), ([Pilegrimsleden](#)) because we have seen it many times. It is a monument made by [Fritz Røed](#). It should be a memory of [the battle of Hafrsfjord](#) in 872. It is on [Mølleberget](#) by [Hafrsfjord](#).



We skipped [Stavanger cathedral](#) ([Pilegrimsleden](#)) too. Der har vi vært mange ganger. Den er fra begynnelsen på 1100-tallet.



Kjøreruta vår så langt har vært slik som dette.

We have not driven through underwater tunnels or gone by ferries so far on the trip, but on July 25, it will be a bit of both. First comes the [Byfjord tunnel](#) from [Randaberg](#) to the island of [Sokn](#) and the [Mastrafjord tunnel](#) between [Mosterøy](#) and [Rennesøy](#). Then there was a ferry between Mortavika on Rennesøy to Arsvågen on [Vestre Bokn](#).

On the trip further, the [Bømlafjord tunnel](#) comes between [Valevåg](#) on [Haugalandet](#) and the island of [Føyno](#). Finally this day there was a ferry between Skjersholmane on [Stord](#) to Ranavik on [Halsnøya](#) and the [Halsnøy tunnel](#) between Halsnøya and [Husnes](#).



This is one of 5 gas ferries that run between Mortavika and Arsvågen.



This is one of two ferries that run between Skjersholmane and Ranavik.



The first stop this day was [Utstein Pilgrimsgard \(Pilgrimsleden\)](#). It is located on Klosterøy, just west of Rennesøy. Here there are events and accommodation for pilgrims and others.



Just beyond the Pilgrimgarden is located [Utstein Abbey \(Pilgrimsleden\)](#) ([Wikipedia](#)).



Utstein monastery is Norway's only preserved medieval monastery

Here Harald Hårfagre had his royal court.

In the Middle Ages, it was a monastery for Augustinian monks. At most no more than 10-12 brothers lived here, but with many more servants who were in charge of farm care, house building and cooking. The monastery had significant land holdings and could feed about 250 people annually.

In the 18th century The property was run as a farm.

Utstein monastery is today run as a museum, conference venue and concert arena.



Old trees around the monastery.



This is Klostervågen.



Klostervågen with the monastery to the right.



We also drove over to Fjøløy. There was a farmer who had sown wild flowers to increase the population of bees

[Fjøløy](#) lirs just south of Klosterøy. Her lies [Fjøløy lighthouse](#) and [Fjøløy Fort](#).

Fjøløy fort is a fort that was built during World War II. It was the Germans who established Fjøløy fort in 1941, and it was taken over by the Norwegian Armed Forces in 1945. The fort served as a coastal fort until 1999 and became a training area for the defense until 2009. The fort was closed down in 2009, but is still operational.



Fjøløy lighthouse was built in 1849. It was the herring fisheries in the middle of the 19th century that made people push for a lighthouse. It was automated in 1977.



On the way further on the north side of Rennesøy.



Then we come to Mortavika ferry quay. The ferry is located by the pier.



Ombord på ferga mellom Mortavika og Arsvågen.

We skipped the places located on Karmøy. We were there in 2014..

[Feøy](#) is located outside Karmøy. Here are accommodation offers.

[Geitungen fyr](#) south of Karmøy. ([Wikipedia](#))

[Fredtun](#) offers accommodation.

[Visnes Mines](#). ([Wikipedia](#))

[Olavskirken på Avaldsnes](#). ([Wikipedia](#))

[Vikinggarden på Bukkøy](#) ([Visithaugesund](#))

[Nordvegen Historiesenter](#) ([Avaldsnes](#))

After we have driven through the Bømlafjord tunnel, we arrive on the island of Føyno. From there, bridges continue to Nautøya, [Spysøya](#), [Bømlo](#) and [Moster](#). It is only a shallow sound that separates Bømlo and Moster. It's called [Røyksundkanalen](#). [The Kulleseid Canal](#) is a similar canal that separates northern Bømlo and southern Bømlo.



Here we are at Moster old church. We noticed this cross at the top of Vetahaugen.



This is the Mostra park.



Up in the hill in Mostra Park is a statue of [Tora Mostrastong](#). She was one of [Harald Fairhair's](#) concubines and the mother of [Håkon the Good](#).



This is [old Moster church](#). [Olaf Tryggvason](#) is said to have landed on Moster in 995 and founded a church here. With him in his entourage he had priests from England. The stone church that today stands on Moster still does not date from Olaf Tryggvason's time, and we do not know who built the church. It is nevertheless considered one of Norway's oldest churches.



Old Moster church seen from another angle.



Right next to the church is [Moster Amfi](#). Here was a lime mine from 1870 to the end of the 1960s. In 1984, it was first used as a theater and the concert arena.



We also drove down to the harbor in [Mosterhamn](#).

The other side of the amphitheatre.



After Moster we drove via Stord to Halsnøya. Here we are on the ferry between Skjersholmane and Ranavik.



Here we are at [Halsnøy Abbey](#). ([Pilegrimsleden](#))



The main building seen from another angle.



The entrance.

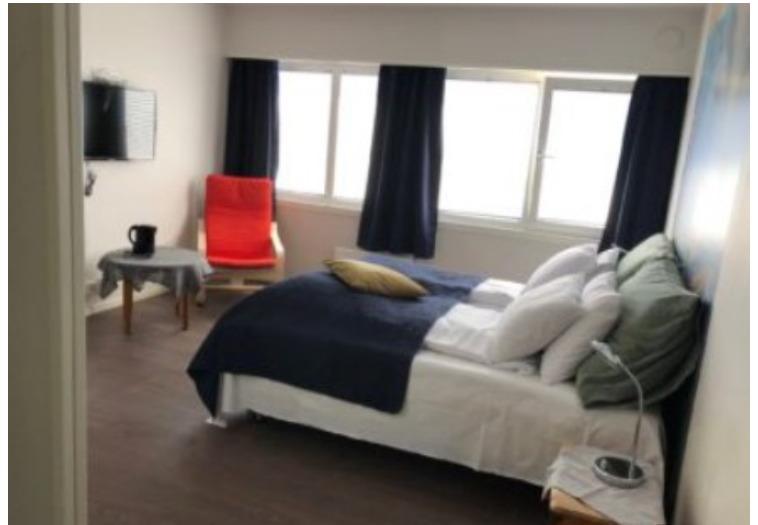
Halsnøy monastery is said to have been founded in 1163–64 by [Earl Erling Skakke](#), in connection with his son [Magnus Erlingsson](#) being crowned Norwegian king. At the [Reformation](#) in 1536, the monastery was closed down and then became a crown estate. Around 1840, the remains of the inner monastery complex and the church ruin were demolished, and a new [farmhouse](#) was built of the stone.



Remains of the monastery church.



This evening we checked in at [Husnes Sentrum Hotell](#) ([Booking](#)). The hotel is in the wing on the right. We got a room on the ground floor with a terrace at the front. There was no food service at the hotel, so for dinner we bought a large pizza at [Pizzabakeren](#) which is located in the same building on the left. It was so big that I had breakfast the next day. Anne Berit went to a [Kiwi](#) store and bought something she could eat for breakfast.



The room looked like this.



On the way further the next day, we drove through [Rosendal](#). The Barony was not on our list this time, but we drove up towards the entrance through a long alley.



We took the picture of this sign with a map showing all the buildings on the barony.

[The Barony Rosendal](#) ([Wikipedia](#)) was Norway's only barony and was established in 1678 by [King Christian V of Denmark-Norway](#). The castle itself was completed in 1665, and is today run as a living museum with guided tours, concerts, lectures, theater, art exhibitions, accommodation and dining.



The next ferry was from [Årsnes](#) to [Gjermundshamn](#). On this stretch it is MF Sildafjord and MF Lærdal that go. Here it is Sildafjord that docks.



This is [MF Sildafjord](#) seen from the side.



Driving out of the ferry.



There was one ore ferry trip this day, from Venjanaset to Hatvik, with [MF Årdal](#).

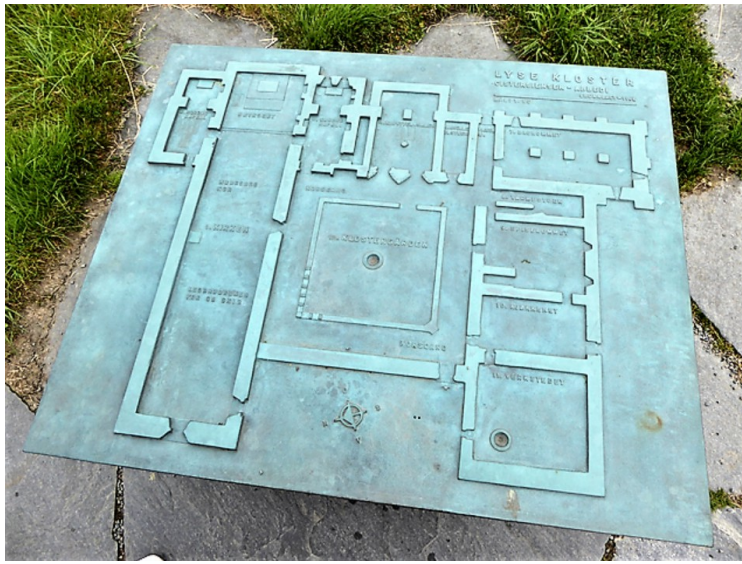


Then we were in Hatvik and driving out of the ferry.

The next stop was at [Lyse Abbey \(Pilegrimsleden\)](#). The monastery was founded in 1146 by monks from [Fountains Abbey](#) in England and was in operation until 1536. The monastery was run by [Cistercian monks](#) 1146-1536. The ruins of the buildings were excavated in 1822 and 1838 and restored around 1930. In 2019, Lysekloster is a large farm of about 2000 acres, an area that is a smaller part of the original monastery estate.

Here are a number of pictures of the ruins.





A little closer to the fjord we find [Lysekloster chapel](#). The chapel was built by Lyse Abbey's first private owner, and consecrated in connection with [St. Michael's Mass](#) in 1663. The church is privately owned under Lysekloster's main farm.



We drove a little wrong before we found the Lysekloster ruins, so then we got a picture of [Ole Bull's villa](#). It is today a [museum](#).



We thought a bit about driving to [Bergen](#) with [Bryggen](#), [Bergenhus fortress](#) and [St. Mary's church](#), but we have been there before, so we drove straight through on E39. ([Pilgrimsleden](#))



Here we come to [Nordhordaland Bridge](#). It connects [Flatøy](#) to the mainland.



This is at the north end of the bridge where it comes to Flatøy.



Here is another bridge, [Hagelsund Bridge](#). This time from Flatøy to Knarvik on the mainland.



At the end of the bridge.



The next stop was at [Håkonshaugen](#) at [Seim](#). ([Pilgrimsleden](#))



Wrought iron entrance gate.

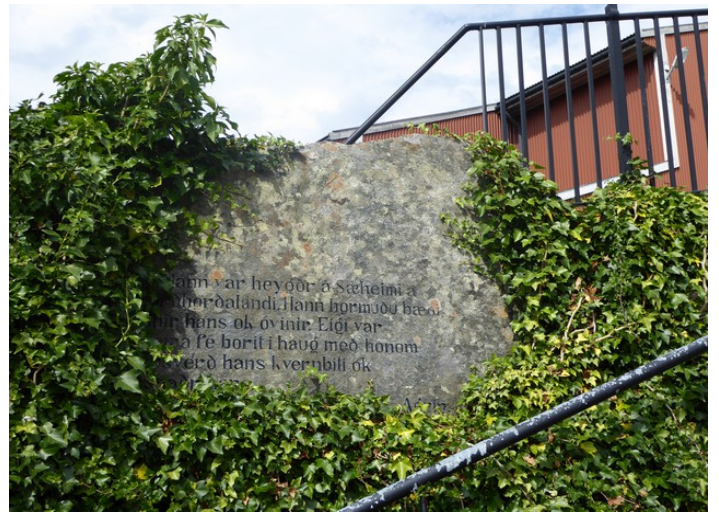
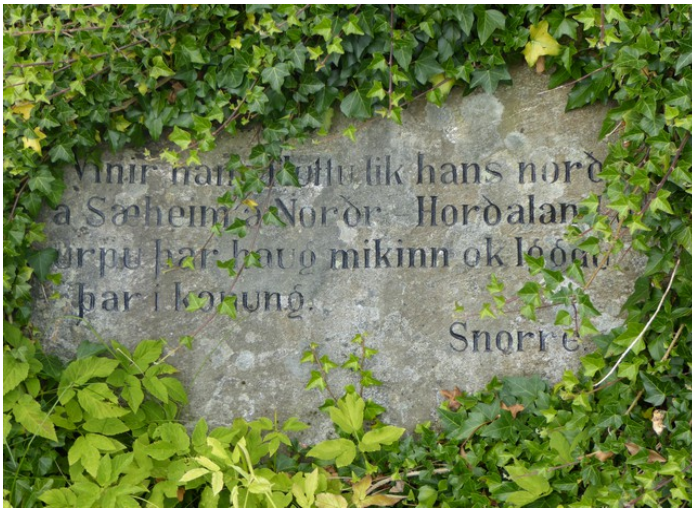


I go upstairs for a closer study.



Text has been engraved on several stone surfaces by the mound. The texts are from various Norse sources.

Seim is said to have been one of [Harald Fairhair's](#) royal guards. Several of the first royal kings have lived here, and the farm was a royal estate until the 15th century. According to the saga tradition, [Håkon the good](#) is buried on the farm. The mound was quite destroyed before it was examined archaeologically in 1870 and in 1958. Håkonshaugen was then built as it is today to a historical monument and opened by [King Olav](#) in 1961.



© Westland hotel
The last stop this day was at [Westland Hotel](#) at Lindås.
([Booking](#))



The room looked like this.



The view from the room.



We had dinner in the dining room when we arrived.
There we were the only guests.

The hotel opened in 1978. Since then it has probably been modernized a bit, because inside it was good, but outside it seemed very worn. Some replacement of rotten wood and some coats of paint will probably be needed.

There was a robotic lawnmower on the lawn, but otherwise the plants were not taken care of. There were many flower pots in the outdoor area, but the plants were not watered and were completely withered.

We could have dinner from 4 pm. We showed up in the dining room, but we were told that the chef had not arrived yet, but that he was on his way. We looked at the menu and ordered the reindeer fillet with mushroom sauce and vegetables. While we waited, we ordered red wine. We waited and waited and were eventually tired to sit there, so we went to the room. The food was to be served in the room when it was ready.

The food finally arrived and we were given a glass of extra red wine for the inconvenience we had had. The reindeer fillet was dry and the sauce was mushroom free. It was far from the best food we ate on the trip.

We also found out that there was only one other guest in addition to us that night, so the hotel can hardly go particularly well.