

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

Now we are well underway with the trip along [the coastal pilgrimage route](#). We have had 4 nights so far, in Tvedestrand, Bryne, Husnes and Lindås. On July 27, the next stage went to Florø.



Before we left the hotel we saw a picture on one of the walls in the hotel of [Lindås locks](#). It is a sea lock that was built in 1908 in a narrow strait with a strong tidal current. This was done so that Lindås would have a regular ferry call.



The first ferry trip this day was from Leirvågen to Sløvågen. Here comes the ferry.



MF Storfjord operates this route.



Here we are soon ready to drive on board.



Here we are on board the ferry. The ferry quay at Leirvåg is located right next to [Mongstad](#), where there is a large oil refinery.



Here we are almost across [Austfjorden](#) and see the oil refinery in the distance.





Deiving ashore in Sløvåg.



Looking back to the ferry.



The first stop this day is at [Eivindvik](#).  
This is Borgstova.



This sign is on the wall of Borgstova.



This is Herresalen. It has been a town hall, but is now used as a library.



This is from the center and the harbor in Eivindvik.

It is uncertain where the first assemblies were held, but it is believed that it was in the center of Eivindvik. Later, they were held in Flolid, a little further into the fjord.





A statue of [Niels Griis Alstrup Dahl](#).  
He was a priest, mayor and member of the Storting.



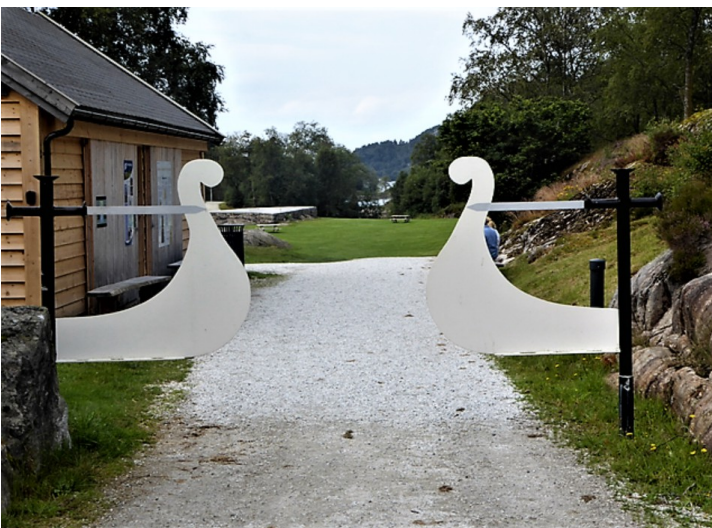
Outside the church gate is this stone cross. There is a similar cross further up the hill.



Up on a hill is [Gulen Church](#).  
This church was built in 1863, but there have been several churches here before this.



Outside the church gate is also this memorial to the fallen of the last world war.



Here we drove to [Flolid](#), just outside Eivindvik. This is the 1000th anniversary of [Gulen](#) municipality.



This is right by the entrance. It is a gift from Hyllestad stonemason guild. It depicts the sword Kvernbit, with which Håkon the Good is said to have split a millstone into the eye.





We can see Tinghella in the middle of the picture.



The circle of fire.

Here we look into the place where the [Gulating \(Pilegrimsleden\)](#) was probably held. The Gulating was one of the first [Norwegian](#) legislative assemblies, or [things](#), in the Nordic countries. The Gulating Act is the oldest preserved collection of laws in the Nordic countries. The Gulating was the largest parliament in Norway from 900 to 1300. The parliament was a legislative, executive and judicial power, where the legal areas applied to the entire coast, as well as Hallingdal, Setesdal and Valdres. It is estimated that the older parts of the Gulating Act date from before the year 900, but it was not written down until the middle of the 1000s.



This is the Thing wall.



View to the exit.

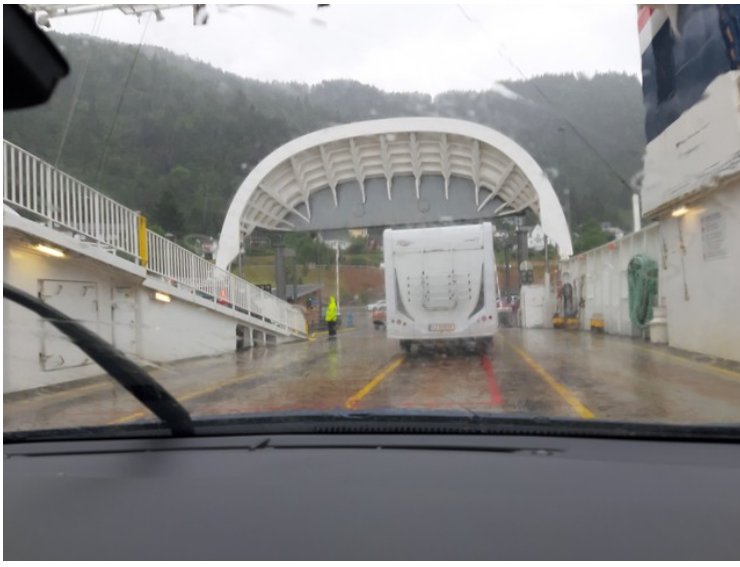


Here we see from the entrance and down towards the bay.



Ducks swim out in the bay.





Here we have taken a ferry across the [Sognefjord](#) from [Oppedal](#) to [Lavik](#).

This [ferry connection](#) is part of E39 and is served by 3 ferries: [MF Oppedal](#), [MF Stavanger](#) and [MF Ampere](#).



Now it started to rain quite a bit.



We had considered driving past the [millstone quarries](#) in [Hyllestad](#), but when it started to rain so much, we agreed to skip it. Here are a few pictures taken from the web. ([Pilgrimsleden](#))



[The Millstone Park](#) is an outdoor museum in the largest quarries from the Viking Age and the Middle Ages in Scandinavia.



Here we come to [Førde](#). It was not raining here. Førde received city status in 1997.



Here we drive on a bridge that crosses [Jølstra](#). We have left the E39 and drive in the direction of Florø.





We drove on the north side of [Førdefjorden](#). It rained quite heavily.

It was still raining when we came to Florø. [Florø](#) is Norway's westernmost city and administration center in Kinn municipality. Florø was granted city status in 1860 and was then a center for herring fishing both in the 19th century and in the 1950s.



In Florø stayed at [Comfort Hotel Florø](#).



The room looked like this.



It is common for hotel restaurants in Norway to open for dining at 6 pm. This was also the case here. We were hungry, so we showed up at 6 p.m. I had an Entrecote as shown.



Anne Berit had chicken and pasta.





This was the dining room at the hotel.



This was the view from the room.



More view.



This is the view from the hotel in the direction of the harbor and Florevågen.



On the way out of town we drove past Florø Primary School.



One of the key places on the Coastal Pilgrim Route is [Svanøy main farm](#). In the Middle Ages, the farm belonged to Bergen's bishop's chair and became the crown estate after the Reformation. It is now privately owned. The main house is listed. ([Wikipedia](#))

We did not travel to this island.

Svanøy's history is diverse and goes back a long way. Here you will find a stone cross erected in honor of [Saint Olaf](#) and a sacrificial site from the [Viking Age](#), when [Eirik Bloodaxe](#) was born on the island.

In the last century, the island was the most important center in the region, with great activity on exports and shipping. More than 100 men worked in the copper mines, the Haugians were large producers of salt, ships were built here and large farms were operated. ([Wikipedia](#))





On the way further north on July 28, we drove past this waterfall called [Brudesløret](#). It flows down into Haukåvatnet. There are many waterfalls in Norway with the same name.



This is in [Svelgen](#).

At the beginning of the 20th century, there were only five farms here. The first electric power plant was completed in 1918. The power was to be used for zinc smelting. In 1928, the iron smelter started. We see that in the upper left.



Some of the buildings in Svelgen.



Here we are on our way over to Nordfjord. We look in the direction of [Ålfotbreen](#). It is estimated that the Ålfotbreen glacier has an annual rainfall of 5600 mm, which makes it the wettest place in Norway.



Looking down in direction of [Isfjorden](#).



Then we are at Isane ferry port. The ferry is arriving.





We drive on board.



It is [MF Selje](#) that operate this route between Isane and Stårheim.



One of the key places on Kystpilegrimsleia is [Selje abbey](#).

The establishment of the episcopal seat at Selja and later the construction of a Benedictine monastery are seen in connection with the legends of the Seljemen and [St. Sunniva](#)

Sunniva is said to have been a royal daughter from Ireland. A brutal suitor threatened her marriage, but instead of submitting to this man, she voluntarily surrendered to the unknown fate by leaving Ireland with her people in three ships without sails, rudders or oars. The ships drifted north and then east until they reached Selja. [Haakon Sigurdson](#) sent people to kill them in the belief that they were soldiers, but then God saved Sunniva and her people by burying them under large stones. Myth has it that when [Olaf Tryggvason](#) came to Selja, he found fragrant bones, while Sunniva still looked like she was sleeping. A church was built on the site.

Benedictine monks from England later settled on Selja, building a monastery which they dedicated to one of the saints on the island, St. Alban, who was Sunniva's brother.



To get there you have to take the [Klosterbåten](#) which is operated by [Fjordguiding](#).

We skipped this trip.



Then we are on the next ferry port, on Koparneset. The ferry is coming.



Almost at the quay.





This route, from Kopanaset to Årvika on [Gurskøya](#), is operated by [MF Sand](#).



Here we are on the east side of Gurskøya.



This is the fjord between Gurskøya and [Hareidlandet](#).



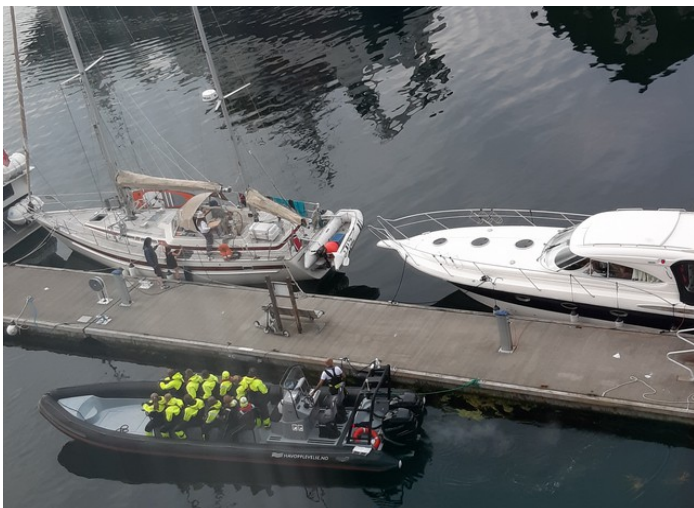
To get to our hotel, [Thon Hotel Fosnavåg](#), which is located on Bergsøya, we had to drive from Gurskøya across Nautøya, Jensholmen, Blankholmen and [Leinøya](#),



Here we are in the room.



View from the room at the harbor basin.



Here are some who are going on safari.







We had dinner at the hotel restaurant. I had the entrecôte.  
It was OK.



Anne Berit had halibut. It was very dry.



The view from the room the next day. The sea mist is about to disappear.

[Fosnavåg](#) became a town in 2000. The business community in Fosnavåg is closely linked to fishing and shipping.  
In 2008 and 2010, Fosnavåg was named Norway's business town by the magazine [Kapital](#).



When we drove from Fosnavåg we took a picture of [Herøy church](#).  
It was inaugurated in 2003.



Here we drove over the Røysund bridge.  
From Nautøya we made a detour to Herøya.





Here we have come to Herøy.  
 Here is also the [coastal museum](#).  
 A [Herøy musical](#) is also held every summer.



Information poster on the wall.  
 Herøy was the first important harbor north of Stadt, and here was a courthouse and church in the Middle Ages. In the 1700s and 1800s, a trading post grew on Herøy, and both scheduled boats and postage passed through the island. Among other things, herring fishing was important.  
 ([Pilegrimsleden](#))



Some pictures of the strait between Nautøy and Herøy.



Outbuilding on the farm.





The main house on Herøy farm. It was built in 1752 and until 1761 [Herøy farm](#) functioned as a vicarage and then as a trading place until 1916.



A menhir.  
The millennium site of Herøy municipality.



There have been two churches on the island. In the Middle Ages - probably in the 12th century - a Romanesque-style stone church was built on the eastern headland of the island. The church stood on the highest plateau, and was clearly visible from the shipping lane. It gradually became too small, and in 1859 it was demolished. Today, only the ruins remain.



This is a monument in memory of those from Herøy who died at sea. It was built by the fishermen's organisation in Herøy and by Herøy History community.



Then follow some views and pictures of plants that grow on Herøy.









From Herøy we drove back to Nautøya and Gurskøya. From there we drove over to Hareidlandet, and via [Ulsteinvik](#) to Hareid. Here the ferry is ready.



The ferry section from Hareid to Solavågen on Sula is served by [MF Hadarøy](#), [MF Suløy](#) and [MF Giskøy](#). We traveled with MF Suløy.



Here we are directed up to the side on the second floor.



We were going to Giske, but we did not 'hit' the tunnel that goes there. We ended up in the center of [Ålesund](#) before we turned around.

We managed to take a picture of [Skårungen](#) (Fisher boy) in passing. It is a statue that will remind of the many young boys who had to start working as fishermen at a young age.



We also got a glimpse of [Sildekona](#). In honor of all the wives who worked with salting herring. It was a gift to Ålesund Municipality from private individuals and several companies. Made by sculptor Tore Bjørn Skjølsvik and was set up in 1991.





We turned in Ålesund and made another attempt. Here we have come through both the [Ellingsøy tunnel](#) and the [Valderøy tunnel](#). Here we come to [Giske bridge](#) which goes from [Valderøya](#) to [Giske](#). Here the mighty Giske family had a seat in the Middle Ages and they were close to the royal power.



This is [Giske church](#) from 1130. It is the only church in Norway that is built only of marble. It testifies to great wealth. Giske church was probably built as a family chapel for the Giske family. ([Pilegrimsleden](#))

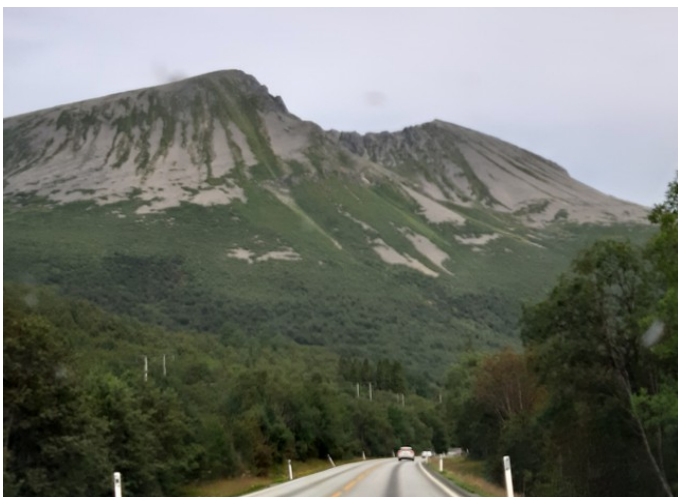


This is Mjeltehaugen. The mound, which is 30 meters in diameter and 6-9 meters high, contains a decorated burial coffin. It must have been a person of great rank who was buried in this mound around 1300-1100 BC. ([Pilegrimsleden](#))

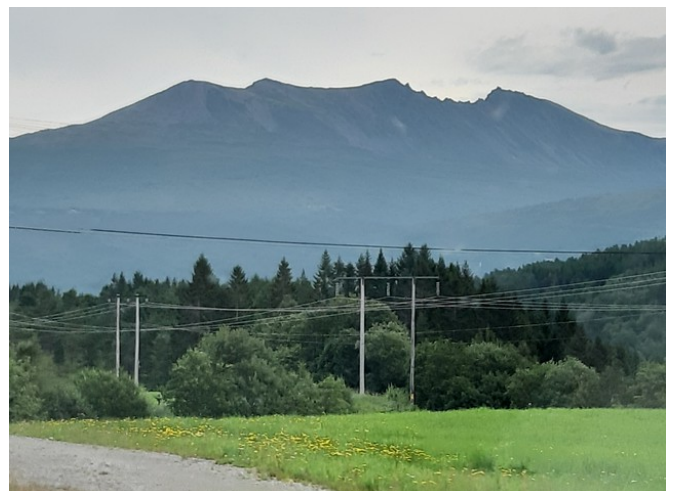


[Borgund church](#) just outside Ålesund. It is from around 1300.

Borgund by Ålesund was a center of power. A trading place with a good harbor and a place where people traveling along the coast could shop and find shelter and rest. ([Pilegrimsleden](#))



Here we have come to Ørskogfjellet where there is a [ski center](#). We look towards Trolltinden.



When we look the other way, we see Høgfjellet, Sprovstinden, and Sandtinden.





This is [Tresfjord bridge](#) that crosses [Tresfjorden](#) from Remmen to Vikebukta.



Then we have arrived at the last ferry of the day from [Vestnes](#) to [Molde](#).



This route is operated by MF Harøyfjord, MF Karlsøyfjord, MF Selbjørnsfjord and MF Preikestolen. We traveled with [MF Preikestolen](#).



A key place along the Pilgrim Route is [Veøya](#). Veøya has a central location in the middle of [Romsdalsfjorden](#) with good natural harbors and a rich history. Veøya means 'the holy island' and here we find both traces of a pre-Christian cult, the oldest proven Christian tombs in the country from the 900s, a medieval stone church from the 12th century, a rectory from 1750 and a beautiful cultural landscape. ([Pilegrimsleden](#)) It was not so easy to get there that we skipped this place.



Here we are on [Gjemnessund bridge](#). It goes across Gjemnessundet from Gjemnes on the mainland to Bergsøya.



The last stop this day was at [Thon Hotel Kristiansund](#). It is located on the island Innlandet in Kristiansund.





This is the view from the room.  
We look at [Sørsundet](#) and [Sørsundbrua](#) that goes between [Kirkelandet](#) and [Innlandet](#).



Seagulls on the sea outside.



From the room.



From the restaurant.



We ate in the restaurant when they opened for dinner.  
I had bacalao.



Anne Berit had halibut. The same as at Thon Hotel Fosnavåg. Unlike the fish in Fosnavåg, this was very good.