

Femundsmarka National Park



Photo: Tom Gustavsen



**Femundsmarka
National Park**

Map and information
Welcome to
Norway's national parks

Welcome to Femundsmarka

Crooked and twisted giant pine trees, a multitude of lakes and rocks characterise this landscape which has hardly changed since the ice retracted 10,000 years ago. Many visitors discover a unique atmosphere in Femundsmarka and return year after year.

Femundsmarka is one of Norway's oldest national parks. Combined with the protected areas on the Swedish side of the border, it is one of the largest areas of wilderness in southern Scandinavia. The trees are left standing until they die and transform into silvery grey monuments to nature, before they eventually fall to the ground for a multitude of species to feed on.

The national park landscape is characterised by soft and undulating terrains and elongated, gently rising lines. There are many distinct summits as high as 1,500 metres above sea level. One special landscape feature is the narrow, wavy ridges that end in the lakes and form a multitude of headlands and islands. These are Rogen moraines, named after the large Lake Rogen.

Femundsmarka provides a habitat for a rich diversity of birds and animals. Binoculars are therefore a must,

whatever the season. You may be lucky enough to spot rare species that need vast areas to thrive. In the far north of the national park, there is a small herd of musk ox. They migrated from the Dovre region in the 1970s. Along the lakes and river systems there are signs of otters and beavers. Beavers thrive in Femundsmarka and leave their distinctive mark on the terrain.

Human activities have also left their mark on the area. There are ancient trapping pits and the vestiges of 18th century mining. The area is still important for South Sami reindeer herding, and there is a good chance of coming across herds of these beautiful animals.

Welcome to the many natural and cultural attractions of one of Scandinavia's most magnificent wilderness areas.



Photo: Kjartan Traene

The landscape is gentle and wooded, with large ancient pine trees.



Photo: Kjartan Traene

Many choose to access Femundsmarka by vintage passenger ferry. The MS Fæmund II has several stops between Elgå in the south and Synnervika in the north. Here at Røsanden.

Experiences

Femundsmarka can be enjoyed all year round, but July and August are the most popular months. There are several short walks to choose from, but many visitors prefer to spend longer in the area to truly immerse themselves in the sense of wilderness.

The call of the wild

Many seek untouched wilderness, where you can find your own campsite and experience the changing moods of nature. Perhaps you'll catch a big fish while reindeer shuffle past. In these areas, you will hardly notice when you cross the Swedish border, and you may find evidence of beavers and otters, as well as bears and wolverines. Perhaps you'll spot an osprey looking for prey, or hear the distinctive call of the black-throated loon.

Summit hikes

Femundsmarka is most famous for its gentle woodland landscapes, but there are distinctive summits as well, some as high as 1,500 metres and all with magnificent views. Stor-Svuku (1,421 metres above sea level) sits in the centre of the national park and provides magnificent views of Lake Femunden towards Rondane and Sweden. In the north-eastern corner of Femundsmarka sits majestic Storviglen (1,561 metres above sea level). This is the highest peak in the national park and commands wide vistas of a mighty alpine area.

Canoeing

Femundsmarka is speckled with lakes, tarns and river systems. Enjoy taking your canoe or packraft along calm waters and winding rivers. The Langtjønna area is excellent for family-friendly canoeing. The Røa river system is particularly popular with visitors. If you are out in a canoe on a quiet evening, you may well find that the fishing is good. However, be aware that there is some carrying involved with the Røa river system. If you would like to visit one of the national park's hidden gems, then the northerly river system of Muggavassdraget may be just your thing.

Historical hiking trail

Malmveien is a waymarked Historical Trail trail from Røros to Femundsmarka. This is a three-day walk within the circumference of the Røros copper mines – a Unesco World Heritage Site.

Fæmund II

Many choose to access the wilderness by vintage passenger ferry. The MS Fæmund II carries people and equipment between Synnervika in the north and Elgå in the south. The boat has several stops on the way to give passengers easy access to the various parts of the national park.



Photo: Rune Hov

The national park is a paradise for anyone who enjoys fishing. There are large trout to be caught!







Photo: Bjarne Saetrand

The many river systems in Femundsmarka make the canoe an excellent means of transport.

Facts and information

Femundsmarka National Park was established in 1971 and covers an area of 573 km²

	Where is Femundsmarka?	Røros and Engerdal municipalities in the counties of Trøndelag and Innlandet.
	How do I get there?	There is a bus service to Engerdal and onwards to Elgå. Trains and buses go to Røros, where there is a bus service to Synnervika. The MS Fæmund II will take you to your chosen destination on Lake Femund.
	Visitor Centre National Park	Femundsmarka and Gutulia www.femundsmarka.no
	Plan your trip	www.femundsmarka.no www.ut.no
	Tourist information	Destination Røros www.roros.no Destination Femund-Engerdal www.femundengerdal.no
	Protected areas nearby	Langtjønna and Femundslia landscape protection areas Grøvelsjøen Nature Reserve Gutulia National Park Rogen and Långfjället Nature Reserve (Sweden)
	Management and monitoring	The National Park Council for Femundsmarka and Gutulia E-mail address: sftlpost@statsforvalteren.no The Norwegian Nature Inspectorate www.naturopsyn.no
	More information	www.norgesnasjonalparkerer.no

Flora and fauna

Carpets of reindeer lichen, colourful orchids and small, hardy alpine plants – the diversity is such that you can see ancient pine trees and heather grow next to haggberry blossom and ripe raspberries. The local animal and bird life is also rich, so make sure to bring your binoculars!

Wolf lichen

One of the most distinctive species that you are sure to notice in Femundsmarka, is wolf lichen. Look closely for a brightly-coloured yellow shrubby fungus. It grows almost exclusively on dry, dead pine trees but can also be found on birch trees and old timber walls. As ancient pine woods are in short supply, the wolf lichen is now rare and has been red-listed. The trees in Femundsmarka provide an excellent habitat that may safeguard the survival of this species.

Beavers

Large and small trees line the banks of countless watercourses in Femundsmarka. This makes for beaver paradise. The felled trees that criss-cross various clearings in the national park demonstrate how beavers are making their mark on the landscape and creating woodland diversity. They gnaw through the trunks of large trees to make dams. Then they build a hut from

twigs and branches, with a secret underwater entrance. Beavers can live for 20–30 years. They have an extra pair of see-through eyelids that work like inbuilt swimming goggles.

Osprey

Femundsmarka's large flat-topped pine trees and numerous river systems teeming with fish make for osprey paradise. Ospreys are first rate hunters. Few other bird species are as efficient and accurate when diving for fish. Unlike other birds of prey, the osprey's talons can bend both ways, which is a great advantage for holding on to prey.

Ospreys build their twig nest at the top of a tall tree, normally a large flat-topped pine. The nest can weigh well over a tonne. Norwegian ospreys normally over-winter in sub-Saharan countries. They start the long trek north in late winter, with many spending the summer in Femundsmarka.



Photo: Steinar Johansen

The area is of key importance to South Sami reindeer herding, and there is a good chance of coming across grazing reindeer.



Photo: Kjetil Trana

Beavers leave their mark.



Photo: Bård Bredesen

Osprey.



Photo: Jan Nordvalen

Wolf lichen is a common sight in Femundsmarka.

History and culture

The earliest signs of human activity in Femundsmarka date from the Late Stone Age. There is evidence of Stone Age settlements and large-scale trapping systems with animal pits.

Røros Copper Works

Many of the more recent cultural remains in and around the national park stem from the Røros Copper Works. The smelting works to the west of Lake Femunden were in operation between 1743 and 1822, after which there were smelting works at Drevsjø until 1834. There are clear signs of timber felling and charcoal burning as far as the Swedish border. The river banks bear witness to log driving operations in the form of dams, timber chutes and log driver bothies.

In the 18th century, the area saw the formation of several settlements. The seasonal farmsteads of Haugen and Svukuriset gradually developed into year-round farms, which they remain to this day. The farms at Sylen near the Swedish border are also inhabited all year. There is no road access to the village, which is surrounded by the national park.

Important Sami area

The Sami population have been herding domestic reindeer for ages, but in earlier times they lived from hunting, trapping, foraging and fishing. The Sami people associate certain sites within the national park with Sami traditions and

beliefs, although the terrain often bears no sign of this. Visible Sami cultural remains in Femundsmarka include ancient turf hut settlements, various food cellars and reindeer round-up sites.

Reindeer herding

Reindeer husbandry is a small industry on a national scale, but the entire Femundsmarka is being used as a grazing area for domestic reindeer. The areas to the south are used all year, while the areas to the north provide winter grazing only.

Reindeer owners form partnerships and work together to round up their herds within specific areas. These herding partnerships are referred to as 'sijte' in the South Sami language. Today, Saanti sijte and Gåebrien sijte have their grazing areas in the northern parts of Femundsmarka, while Svahken sijte has its grazing areas to the south. Visitors often come across these beautiful animals. But reindeer need to feel at ease in order to graze, so please be considerate and refrain from disturbing them unnecessarily. The reindeer are particularly vulnerable during the calving season. Keep your dog on a lead during the statutory period, and never follow the reindeer.

Welcome, please take care of our nature

Welcome to the national park! National parks represent the very best of Norwegian nature. Their protected status helps conserve the landscape and a diverse flora and fauna. This means it will be possible to create wonderful memories of hikes and treks to this landscape even for future generations.

Save the trees! All trees that grow within the national park are protected by a preservation order against harm and damage. The ancient dried-up pine trees are also covered by this preservation order. The silvery grey trunks are characteristic of Femundsmarka, and dead trees provide a habitat for many rare plants and animals.

Campfires. You are welcome to use small twigs from live trees, but you should preferably stick to picking brushwood off the ground. Be mindful of the nation-wide ban on campfires between 15 April and 15 September, although exceptions are made if it is obvious that there is no fire risk. Make sure to re-use existing stone circles rather than building new ones.

Rubbish. Make sure to tidy up after yourself and take your litter home.

You are welcome to walk or ski wherever you want, but please show due consideration. You should leave no trace that might detract from other visitors' enjoyment of the area. This is particularly important in spring and early summer during the nesting and breeding season, when the wildlife is particularly sensitive to interference.

Camping. A multitude of vulnerable species nest near rivers, lakes and islands. No camping is therefore allowed on any islands.

If you need the loo, dig a hole in the ground, at least 15 centimetres deep, and cover it afterwards. If you feel that moss is too rough against your skin, you must either use biodegradable paper or take your wipes back home with you.

Dogs are welcome, but there is a statutory obligation to keep them on a lead at all times between 1 April and 20 August. It is important that no dogs disturb grazing domestic reindeer.

Drones can disturb the wildlife and other visitors to the national park. Unauthorised use of drones is therefore not permitted.

Remember to obtain a fishing and hunting permit, and make sure to seek the permission of the landowner where required.

Good planning makes for great experiences!



Femundsmarka National Park

Map information



National Park Visitor Centre
Elgå

When in Elgå in the municipality of Engerdal, call in at the visitor centre for Femundsmarka and Gutulia national parks. The centre provides information about the two parks, and has an exhibition about local wildlife and heritage. The centre offers natural history workshops and the shop has maps, books, souvenirs etc. for sale. The staff will be happy to advise on local walks.



Starting point
Synnervika

From the north, Synnervika is a popular starting point. From here, you can catch the Fæmund II vintage passenger ferry which has several stopping-off points on the way, giving passengers easy access to different parts of the national park. Canoeing is another way of accessing the national park area.



Starting point
Elgå

From the south, Elgå is a good starting point whether you set out on the footpath to Svukuriset or cycle along the toll road. Alternatively, you can catch the Fæmund II vintage passenger ferry which has several stopping-off points on the way, giving passengers easy access to different parts of the national park.



Norwegian Historical Trails

Malmveien is a waymarked Historical Trail between Røros and Femundsmarka. This is a three-day walk within the circumference of the Røros Copper Works – a Unesco World Heritage Site. Overnight accommodation is available at Marenvollen and Fjølburøsta. There are twenty waymarker posts with interpretive flip panels that tell you about interesting features along the way. You can follow part of the route for a one-day walk.

Unlocked cabins

There are 17 unlocked cabins in the northerly part of Femundsmarka. These were originally built as accommodation for forestry workers. They have been preserved for their heritage value. The cabins are unlocked and anyone is welcome to stay there. The standard of accommodation is basic and all visitors need to tidy up after themselves. For further details, see the Statskog website, under the 'Hytter og friluftsliv' tab.



Parking



Bus interchange



Information



Boat connection



Accommodation



Self-serviced tourist cabin



Serviced tourist cabin



Café/restaurant



Hiking trail



Cycling trail



Canoe/kayak launching site



Summer trails



Road closed

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