GOING FOR A WALK

AN INTRODUCTION TO NORWAY’S WALKING CULTURE
WHY WE GO FOR WALKS

Many people in Norway enjoy going for walks, whatever the season. This could be anything from strolling around the neighbourhood, walking in the local park or in the forest, to more difficult hikes in the mountains.

There are many reasons why people in Norway enjoy going for walks and being in the countryside. Some people do it to relax and improve their mood, others for better health. Absolutely everyone can go for a walk. You don’t need to have a special reason, but many people like to go for a walk and harvest mushrooms or berries, or to go fishing.

In Norway, children begin to take walks in the countryside with their whole family from when they are very young, and often on Sundays. We call this a Sunday walk. Going for a walk can be a great way of spending time with others, but going for a walk on your own can also be enjoyable.

When you are out for a walk, it is common to greet the people you meet. It is often easier to get in contact with other people when you are out walking. Many people have backpacks with them. They’re carrying food and drink, preferably something hot in a thermos, and perhaps some chocolate and an orange.
ALLEMANNESRETTE

In Norway, we have a legal right that is known as the allemannsretten. This is the right that allows everyone to spend time in the outdoors, regardless of who owns the forest, mountain or beach. It allows you to use the countryside, go for walks and sleep outside almost anywhere you want in the whole of Norway. It is also allemannsretten that allows you to pick berries and mushrooms.

THE OUTDOOR ACCESS CODE

The Outdoor Access Code applies to everyone in the countryside. For example, you are responsible for being respectful of others, and not throw litter in the nature. This is called leaving no trace, and is to make sure it is pleasant for everyone to return to a particular place.
DID YOU KNOW...?
That there are lots of paths to follow when you go for a walk in the forest? These are often signposted so it is easier for you to find the way.

DID YOU KNOW...?
That just 5 minutes in the outdoors reduces your stress levels and makes you happier.
ACTIVITIES AND EQUIPMENT LOANS

Norsk Friluftsliv is an umbrella organisation for 16 Norwegian outdoor organisations. To the right is an overview of the activities that the organisations offer. Some of them also offer a wider range of activities.

The activities are adapted for children, youths, adults and the elderly. Many of the organisations also have equipment that you can borrow, such as fishing rods, kayaks and canoes. There are also activities that are specially designed for beginners in the outdoors.

If you would like to know more about what activities and opportunities are offered by the various organisations, please visit www.norsk-friluftsliv.no/tur.

There are also many loan centres in Norway, where you can reserve and borrow equipment to take with you on walks. More information about this is available at www.bua.io.

ENJOY YOUR WALK!
DID YOU KNOW...?
That 90 per cent of the body’s vitamin D production comes from daylight? This is why it’s important to get outside all through the year so you don’t get tired and worn down.