



# FÆRDER

THE ARCHIPELAGO  
WE DREAM ABOUT





## SCENIC ARCHIPELAGO

Færder National Park is one of the richest wildlife habitats in Norway and has many traces left by people in bygone days. The area is also much used by holidaymakers and people seeking outdoor recreation.

The magnificent scenery, shaped over millions of years by volcanic activity, ice ages and land uplift, and in the past three or four thousand years, by a wide variety of human activity, is almost unique on a global level.

The park covers an area of 340 km<sup>2</sup>, 325 km of which are seabed. Ytre Hvaler National Park, which borders up to Kosterhavet National Park in Sweden, is due east of Færder.



Windsurfers at Færder in December (SB)



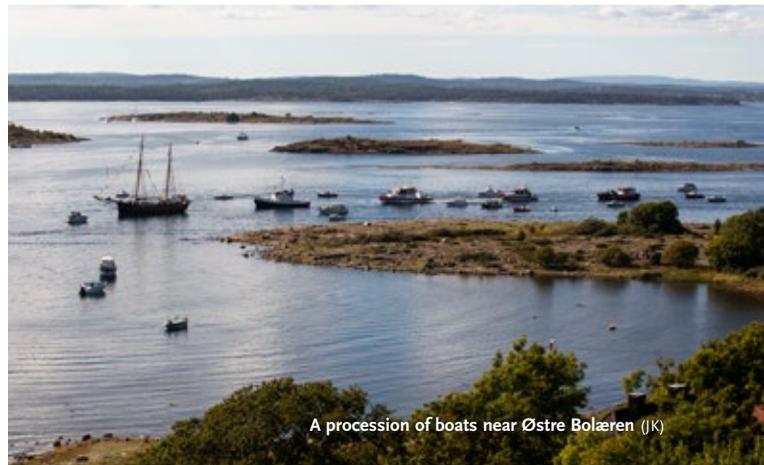
## EXPERIENCE NATURE

**No lack of things to do**

Most of us associate the archipelago with sun and summer, but it may be at least as exotic on a freezing winter's day or when autumn storms wipe out the distinction between rocky shores and the sea. All the year round, the area offers thrilling experiences shaped by Nature and Man. Apart perhaps from the holiday month of July you will always find spots where you can experience nature undisturbed, whether you come in your own boat, canoe or kayak, or by public transport. You can also cycle here; a cycle track goes all the way from Tønsberg to Verdens Ende (the End of the World).

The park has many places where you can spend the night, including several coastal trail cabins that can be rented, and you can also use your own tent, for instance

on Vestre Bolæren, Ramsholmen and Ildverket. Just when and how you want to experience the park is really entirely up to you. There are plenty of thrills just waiting to be experienced.



A procession of boats near Østre Bolæren (JK)



Thrilled with the countryside, Moutmarka (KA)



## LANDSCAPE AND GEOLOGY

### The creation is exposed

Traces of Nature's creation are obvious in Færder National Park, with its long, narrow islands and a multitude of gently rounded islets and skerries. Yet hardly anyone knows how this landscape was formed.

It all began with deep-seated intrusions of molten volcanic rock nearly 300 million years ago. These formed the dominant rock types hereabouts, larvikite and its close relative tønbergite. Later, during at least 40 ice ages, glaciers carved the rock and polished it to shape the whaleback formations we know today with their gentle northern slope and often a steep, south-facing slope where the ice tore loose pieces of rock which it carried away as it moved ever further south. In addition, mud-laden meltwater flowed between the ice and the bedrock, polishing the rock to create the many characteristic "plastic" surfaces, which land uplift in the past ten thousand years has left as the islands, islets and skerries we now see.

The areas of sea in the national park vary greatly, from shallow water within the archipelago to deep water further out. The shallow-water areas have extensive kelp forests and lush eelgrass meadows, both valuable habitats for growing-up fish. The deeper water has an exciting seabed landscape with big, rocky clefts and soft-bottom flats right down to 340 metres. These areas have been little investigated, and we still do not know whether there are coral reefs here, like on the east side of Oslofjord.

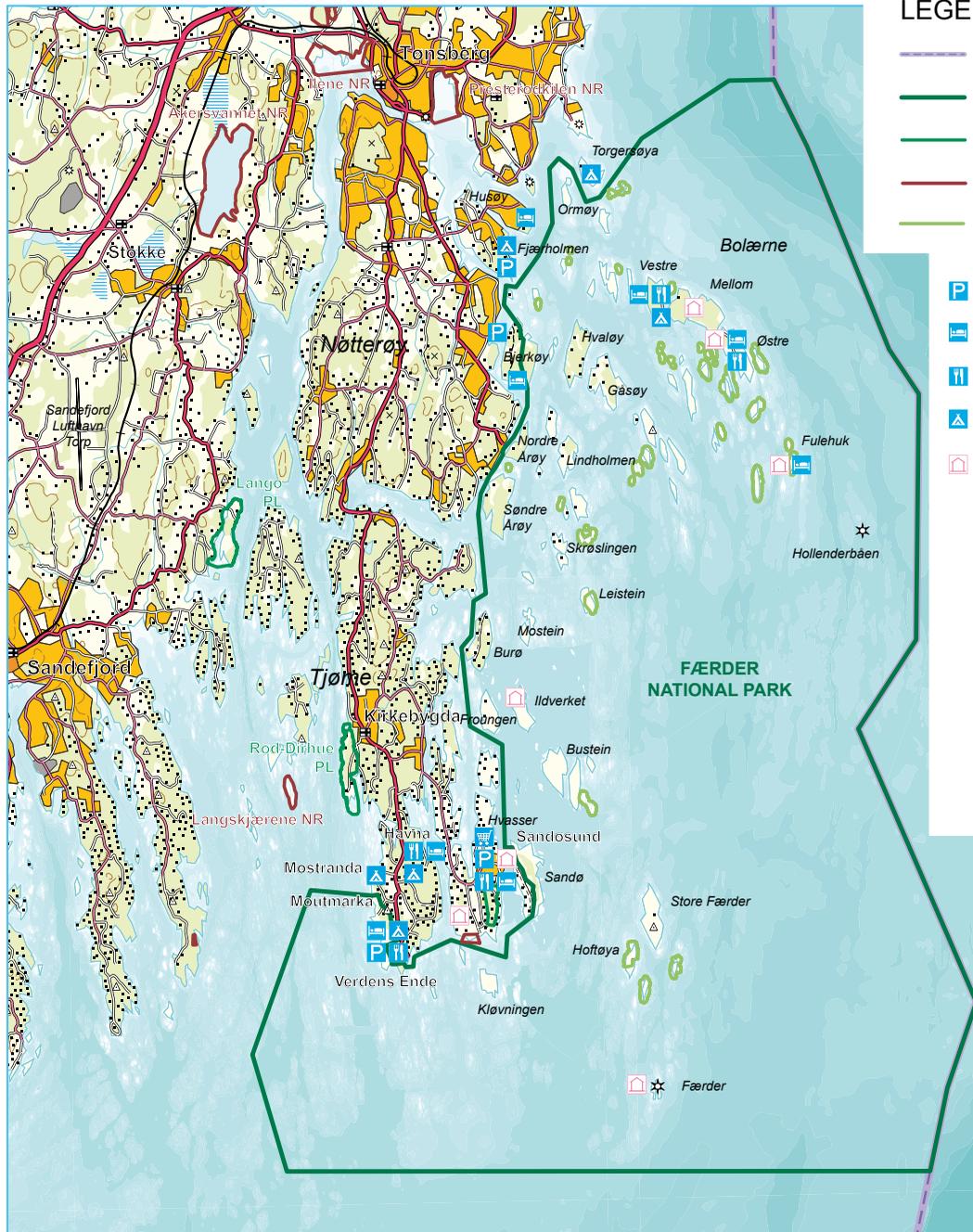
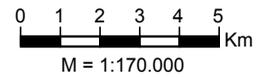


Coastal landscape, with Færder Lighthouse in the background (BB)

## LEGEND

-  County border
-  National Park
-  Protected Landscape
-  Nature Reserve
-  Travel ban from 15 April to 15 July

-  Parking
-  Accomodation
-  Café/restaurant
-  Camping
-  Unstaffed cabin





Gull (JPM)



Lobster (YR)



Dead spruce tree (BS)



## ANIMAL AND PLANT LIFE

Færder National Park is home to an unusually wide variety of plants and insects. As many as 309 Red Listed species have been recorded. These are either threatened by extinction or rare from the outset. Sandø, Bolærne, Østre Bustein and Moutmarka are particularly valuable. Red Listed plants like *Melampyrum cristatum*, yellow horned poppy, streambank sedge and strawberry clover can be found, as well as *Eupithecia ochridata*, a moth, and the Glanville fritillary butterfly, both of which are critically endangered. 907 species of butterflies and moths have been recorded on Østre Bolæren alone, many of them Red Listed.

The bird life is dominated by large numbers of passerines and seabirds, but there are also more unusual species like the nightingale, which nests on several islands and at Moutmarka. Birds of prey include peregrine falcons and kestrels, and white-tailed eagles have been observed on many occasions in recent years.

Moutmarka and Store Færder are important staging sites for migrating birds. The ornithological station on Store Færder has recorded 272 bird species. Since many islets in the park are valuable nesting sites for seabirds, it is forbidden to go ashore there or sail closer than 50 m between 15 April and 15 July. This ban includes such activities as surfing, windsurfing, kiting, paragliding and diving.

Harbour seals have settled in the outer part of the archipelago. The park is also home to roe deer, hares, badgers and red foxes. Elk occur more sporadically, generally when ice conditions encourage them to cross between the islands and the mainland.

The submarine wildlife is also rich and varied. Soft-bottom areas provide habitats for shrimps, Norway lobsters, bristle worms (polychaetes), starfish, cnidaria and molluscs. In shallower waters, the kelp forest and eelgrass meadows offer food and protection for fish, crabs, shellfish and various species of algae and anemones.



Small pasque flower (BA)



Melampyrum cristatum (BS)



Færder Lighthouse (JK)



## CULTIVATED LANDSCAPE

People used to live on 26 of the islands in the national park, and domestic livestock grazed still more islands. This has created a special kind of coastal landscape with an extremely rich flora and fauna. Grazing and other forms of management are vital to maintain the centuries-old, open landscape and secure important habitats containing many rare and endangered species of plants and animals, like small pasque flower.

Nowadays, sheep and cattle graze on 20 of the islands. Active management of the cultivated landscape takes place particularly on Søndre Årøy, Bjerkøy, Sandø, Hvaløy, Gåsøy and islands belonging to the Jarlsberg Estate.

The archipelago east of Nøtterøy and Tjøme is one of 22 cultivated landscapes selected for special agricultural funding, including subsidies to put livestock out to graze and for haymaking and scrub clearance.

People lived on many of the islands in the 19th century and part of the 20th century, and they left traces behind them. In some places, such as Sandø and Froungen, their houses have been converted into holiday homes. On other islands, like Ildverket, only foundation walls, fruit trees and berry shrubs remain visible; the buildings themselves have disappeared.



## HISTORY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE REMAINS

People have lived in the archipelago for the past 3000-4000 years. Some of the oldest remains can be found on Mellom Bolæren, where several well-preserved burial cairns date from the Bronze Age (ca. 1800-500 BC). Lighthouses have stood on Fulehuk, Store Færder and Tristein (Færder) for more than 300 years, and pilots have been stationed on Østre Bolæren and elsewhere. A compass carved into the rock on Østre Bolæren has been dated to the 16th century and is the only one known in Oslofjord. Such carvings are generally associated with the Agder coast, further southwest.

The archipelago contains many buildings and forts dating from the last war, for instance at Verdens Ende and on Bolærne. Mellom Bolæren has a particularly tragic example in the shape of a Russian prisoner-of-war camp and cemetery.



Hereford cattle, Søndre Årøy (CAE)



## Welcome – as a guest of Nature

- You can travel on foot and by boat throughout the national park, except for the zones reserved for nesting seabirds from 15 April - 15 July. Remember the speed limits of 5 knots within 100 metres of land and 30 knots everywhere else. Water scooters are banned in the park.
- Motorised travel on land is not permitted, except for some farming jobs, for example.
- Stop wherever you wish, and you may camp, but the Outdoor Recreation Act allows you to camp at the same place for only two consecutive nights without specific permission from the landowner. There are good camping facilities at Vestre Bolæren and Ildverket, for example.
- Tidy up and take your rubbish with you. You must not empty the boat toilet in the sea anywhere in the park. There are facilities for this at Verdens Ende and Østre Bolæren.
- You can light a bonfire or a throw away grill, but never on bare rock and between 15 April and 15 September.
- It is in order to fish and to pick shellfish, berries, mushrooms and common flowers for your own use.
- You can have a dog with you, but it must be on a leash from 1 April to 15 October and throughout the year in the seabird sanctuaries.



## Færder National Park in brief

### Where

The boroughs of Nøtterøy and Tjøme in the county of Vestfold.

### How to get there

From E 18, take Fv 308 to Tønsberg and continue to Nøtterøy and Tjøme. Moutmarka and Verdens Ende on the southern tip of Tjøme are in the national park. A good cycle track goes from Tønsberg to Verdens Ende. In summer, a passenger boat sails regularly from Husvik to Bolærene and on to Engelsviken in the county of Østfold. Visit other islands with your own boat or a taxi boat. Frequent bus service between Tønsberg, Nøtterøy and Tjøme.

### Accommodation and other services

Tønsberg Tourist Information Office, phone +47 480 63 333, [www.visittonsborg.com](http://www.visittonsborg.com), [www.theconferencecoast.com](http://www.theconferencecoast.com)

### Coastal track cabins to rent

On Mellom and Østre Bolæren, Ildverket, Fulehuk and Færder (planned), and also at Hvasser (Sandø Sund and Tjønneberget).

See [www.oslofjorden.org](http://www.oslofjorden.org)

### Other huts and rooms to rent

On Vestre and Østre Bolæren, Bjerkøy and Fulehuk, and on the outskirts of the park at Havna and Verdens Ende (Tjøme), Kruge and Fjeldhøi (Hvasser) and Husøy (Nøtterøy), for example, and in the centre of Tønsberg.

### Camping

Vestre Bolæren and the outskirts of the park at Mostrand, Havna, Verdens Ende (all at Tjøme), Fjærholmen (Nøtterøy) and Torgersøya (Tønsberg).

### Tips

Island hopping with the passenger boat to Bolærene (in summer)

See [www.flybaten.no](http://www.flybaten.no)

Activities in the archipelago: [www.allonboard.no](http://www.allonboard.no)

**Map** 1:50 000 - Ytre Oslofjord

**Designated** 2013

**Area** 340 km<sup>2</sup>, 15 km<sup>2</sup> of which is land

### Nearby protected areas

Ytre Hvaler National Park

Storemyr-Fagerbakken Protected Landscape Area

Sønstegård Plant and Animal Life Sanctuary

Pirane Nature Reserve

### Management and supervision

Færder National Park Board, [fmvepost@fylkesmannen.no](mailto:fmvepost@fylkesmannen.no),

phone +47 33 37 10 00

Norwegian Nature Inspectorate, [www.naturoppsyn.no](http://www.naturoppsyn.no)

Archipelago Service, [www.skjaergardstjenesten.no](http://www.skjaergardstjenesten.no)

### More information

[www.fylkesmannen.no/faerdernasjonalpark](http://www.fylkesmannen.no/faerdernasjonalpark)

[www.norgesnasjonalparker.no](http://www.norgesnasjonalparker.no)

[www.ytreoslofjord.no](http://www.ytreoslofjord.no)

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**Layout:** Guri Jermstad AS. **Photo:** Bjørn Strandli (BS), Bjarke Anderson (BA), Steinar Bjørseth (SB), Jon Petter Martinsen (JPM), Kim Abel/Naturarkivet.no (KA), Yngve Rakke (YR), Birgit Brose (BB), Cato A Erichsen (CAE), Jørgen Kirsebom (JK)

**Front cover:** Girl running on the rocks (KA), Thrift (BS). **Rear cover:** Girls bathing (BB)



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NORWAY'S  
NATIONAL PARKS



## **Norwegian National Parks are our common natural heritage**

We set up national parks to safeguard large areas of countryside – from the seashore to the mountaintops. For Nature's own sake, ourselves and future generations. National parks boast magnificent scenery with varied animal and plant life, waterfalls, glaciers, lofty mountains, endless plateaus, deep forests and lush woodlands, and beautiful fjords and coasts. You will also find cultural heritage remains showing how the areas were used in the past. The national parks offer a multitude of opportunities for thrilling encounters with natural history.

Make use of our magnificent nature – on its own terms.

Welcome to Norwegian national parks.

