FÆRDER

THE ARCHIPELAGO WE DREAM ABOUT
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 km², 325 km of which are seabed. Ytre Hvaler National Park, which borders up to Kosterhavet National Park in Sweden, is due east of Færder.
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 Bolære, 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.
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 tønsbergite. 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.
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 Bolærden alone, many of them Red Listed.

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 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.
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, Sando, 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 have lived in the archipelago for the past 3000-4000 years. Some of the oldest remains can be found on Mellom Bolærnen, 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 Bolærnen and elsewhere. A compass carved into the rock on Østre Bolærnen 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 Bolærnen has a particularly tragic example in the shape of a Russian prisoner-of-war camp and cemetery.
Færder National Park

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 Bolærne 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

Coastal track cabins to rent
On Mellom and Østre Bolæren, Ildverket, Fulehuk and Færder (planned), and also at Hvasser (Sandøsund and Tjønneberget). See 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 Mostranda, Havna, Verdens Ende (all at Tjøme), Fjærholmen (Nøtterøy) and Torgersøya (Tønsberg).

Tips
Island hopping with the passenger boat to Bolærne (in summer) See www.flybaten.no
Activities in the archipelago: www.allonboard.no

Map
1:50 000 - Ytre Oslofjord

Designated 2013

Area
340 km², 15 km² 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, phone +47 33 37 10 00
Norwegian Nature Inspectorate, www.naturopsyn.no
Archipelago Service, www.skjaergardstjenesten.no

More information
www.fylkesmannen.no/faerdernasjonalpark
www.norgesnasjonalpark.no
www.ytreoslofjord.no
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.