



RABOTHYTTA CABIN
on the edge of the
Okstindan glacier



2018



WELCOME TO HEMNES



Hemnes kommune
Skaperglæde mellom smul sjø og evig snø



HEMNES

- a creative community in the heart of Helgeland

We invite you to visit Hemnes, a municipality with magnificent scenery and cultural delights situated in the heart of Helgeland. Here you can hike Northern Norway's tallest mountain, explore a glacier and sheltered fjords, and enjoy great fishing in the lakes and rivers. Our cultural calendar includes many concerts, festivals and an outdoor historical play. We are eager to share our natural and cultural treasures with visitors.

Welcome to Hemnes!



Settle down and join us!

The Municipality of Hemnes boasts a lush countryside and idyllic valleys, and encompasses five villages: Bleikvasslia, Korgen, Bjerka, Finneidfjord and Hemnesberget. The total population is about 4500. In addition to friendly services and a thriving community of artists and musicians, Hemnes offers boat production, window and furniture factories, significant hydropower production, and agriculture.

Our district enjoys excellent communications as well as scenic surroundings – and we have plenty of room should you wish to settle here, with your family or your business! Many residents commute to jobs in Mosjøen, Sandnessjøen and Mo i Rana. Hemnes has railway connections; highway E6 passes through our district, and the new Toven Tunnel makes for a short drive to Sandnessjøen. We have a deep-water quay, and are looking forward to a new airport in Mo i Rana.

Do contact us to find out more about settling in Hemnes and the opportunities here.



Fascinating facts

- Hemnes' coat of arms shows a golden boat-builder's clamp on a blue background, symbolising the area's ancient traditions. Since we started counting in 1850, close to 300 000 boats have been built in Hemnes!
- Leif Eirikson, a replica of the ship sailed by the Viking explorer to the New World, is displayed in its own park in Duluth, Minnesota. Crafted by the skilled boat-builders on a farm in Leirskarddalen, the replica ship sailed across the Atlantic in 1926.
- On 10 May 1940, allied bombers sank the steamer SS Nordnorge, which had been seized by the Germans and was being used to transport troops and military materiel. The shipwreck lies on the bottom of the fjord just beyond the quay at Hemnesberget.
- NCP at Hemnesberget is Norway's northernmost furniture producer, and Natre is the largest window producer in Northern Norway.
- "The Blood Road" across Korgfjellet was built during Nazi Germany's occupation of Norway. 646 Yugoslav prisoners died as slave labourers, hence the road's name.
- Kamkaka, a local bread from Hemnes, has long traditions, and was mentioned by the 17th-century poet Petter Dass.



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HEMNES BÅT OG SPORTSFISKEFORENING

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Friendly Hemnesberget

Be sure to visit the idyllic village of Hemnesberget, situated on a peninsula surrounded by tranquil fjords and majestic mountains, and only a 10–15 minute drive from highway E6. Rent a holiday home or stay at an artist's place, park your camper, or anchor up in the guest harbour. Take a stroll along the harbour to the neighbourhood of old wooden houses at Lapphella. Enjoy a cup of coffee and a delicious piece of cake at the goldsmith on the quay, and explore the friendly shops and galleries in our village. We host popular festivals such as Hemnesjazz and the Boat & Fjord Festival. Throughout the year you can enjoy concerts at Jernvaren, the venue of one of the hottest jazz clubs in Norway.

A TAILORED HOLIDAY

The local adventure guides (see next page) will gladly tailor exciting holidays for individuals and groups. With a base at Hemnesberget village, your holiday menu might include hearty meals based on local ingredients, experiencing the art and culture of the indigenous Ume Sámi, visits and workshops with local artists, entertainment by local musicians, meeting traditional boat builders or experts on local World War II history, summit hikes, deep-sea fishing, salmon fishing, kayaking, yoga and much more.



GET UP and get out

- GUIDED TOURS TO THE OKSTINDAN GLACIER
- HIKES TO OKSSKOLTEN SUMMIT
- RELAXED WALKS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY
- TAILORED TO YOUR GROUP
- CERTIFIED SÁMI GUIDE

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Foto: Vegard Olsen

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summer and winter activities IN HEMNES



Photo: Frode Solbakken

Hemnes offers great opportunities for an active life. We have five sports clubs, an enthusiastic local chapter of the Norwegian Trekking Association (DNT), and many clubs, teams and associations.

In the winter, you can enjoy cross-country skiing, and every village has illuminated trails. Bleikvasslia also offers a slalom slope. Korgfjellet has dozens of kilometres of prepared cross-country tracks. From Easter onwards, you can park by Korgfjellet Fjellstue on top of the mountain and start your ski trip there. For further information about the ski tracks, check out "Korgen" at www.skisportet.no.

Snowmobiles are now allowed in Hemnes, and our trails are connected to the snowmobile trails of neighbouring Hattfjelldal, Grane and Vefsn. For more info and an overview of these trails, download the app *GoMap AS*.

During the summer, too, you will find scenic adventures, whether you prefer sheltered fjords or exotic glaciers. Popular destinations include Korgfjellet, and the trails and cabins of Okstindan. The next pages provide more details. Download the app *TrimPoeng* to find other hiking destinations in Hemnes – you can score points and win prizes.



*Kotaplassen, reconstructed
Sámi settlements in Bleikvasslia.*

OKSTINDAN – HIKING ON THE “ROOF” OF NORTHERN NORWAY

FOUR GREAT GATEWAYS TO OKSTINDAN

Gateway/ altitude	Distance from Korgen	Description of road	Starting point for marked hiking trail to DNT cabins/distance/hiking time:	Parking	Note
Inderdalen Farm in Brygfjelldalen (342 m)	12 km	Fv806, a road of good standard. Then Fv323, a narrow paved road, for 6 km.	Gråfjellhytta cabin (7 km/3h) Rabothytta cabin via Gråfjellhytta cabin and Mørkbekken (18 km/8 h)	Parking just below Inderdalen Farm, at the end of the road.	The DNT trail starts at a charming, privately-owned mountain farm. Café and farm shop occasionally open. Gråfjellhytta cabin is situated at 1000 m on the edge of the glacier. Rabothytta cabin is situated at glacier's edge at 1200 m. Mørkbekken is situated at 680 m
Leirbotn/Tippen in Leirskarddalen (650 m)	18 km	Fv322, a narrow paved road of varying standard for 13 km. Then a steep, narrow construction road for 5 km (closed in the winter).	Rabothytta cabin (5 km/ 1.5 - 2 h) Kjensvasshytta cabin (10 km/ 3 h) Gråfjellhytta cabin (6 km/ 3 h)	Large parking lot towards the end of the construction road (650 m).	Fv322 passes through the courtyard of several private farms. Please reduce your speed and drive considerably
Kjensvatnet lake (525 m)	120 km	E6 to Mo i Rana, then E12 to Umbukta, continuing on a gravel road of varying standard for 40 km (closed in winter until mid June)	Kjensvasshytta cabin (by the road) Gressvasshytta cabin (8 km/ 3 h) Rabothytta cabin (10 km/ 4 h)	Plenty of parking at the three trail heads: - Oksskolten: parking at Leirbekkmoen. - Gressvasshytta cabin: parking by the dam at Gressvatnet. - Rabothytta cabin: parking by Kjensvasshytta cabin.	Oksskolten is about 7 km from the parking lot. Allow at least 10 hours for the round trip hike. The unmarked ascent is very steep in places, with large rocks and boulders. Glacier trek equipment is required.
Spjelfjelldalen/Granheim at Røssvatnet lake (390 m)	56 km	Fv806 and Fv324. Both are paved roads.	Gressvasshytta cabin (18 km/ 6 h) Kjensvasshytta cabin (28 km/ 10 h)	Parking on the west side of the bridge.	This trail, which passes through Spjelfjelldalen nature reserve, is part of the 570-km-long Nordlandsruta Trail. Accommodation available at Stekvasselv Farm, 2 km away.

There is no summer bus service to the Okstindan gateways; these buses operate only during the school year. A taxi from Bjerk Station to the end of the road Fv322 in Leirskarddalen, or to Inderdalen Farm in Brygfjelldalen, costs approx. NOK 550 (day rate). During the summer, you can request that the taxi drive you all the way to Leirbotn. Please note that taxi rates are 21% higher during the evening, and 35% higher at night and during the weekend! Some of the places that offer accommodation can arrange transport for their guests.

FOUR GREAT CABINS IN THE OKSTINDAN MOUNTAINS

Rabothytta, also known as DNT Cabin No. 500, is situated at 1200 metres on the very edge of the glacier. The cabin accommodates 30 overnight guests and is self-service, with occasional staff in the summer. Kjensvasshytta, situated near the trailhead to Oksskolten, the highest peak in Northern Norway, offers 28 beds. In the summer, you can drive all the way up and park by the cabin, which is now being refurbished with facilities for disabled guests. Gråfjellhytta and Gressvasshytta cabins have 12 and 20 beds respectively. All four cabins are self-service and fully equipped, but hikers must bring their own food and a sleeping bag or sheet bag. At least one person in the group must be a member of DNT and have a DNT key.

For further information, see www.htf.dnt.no / www.rabothytta.dnt.no (mainly in Norwegian)



HEMNES TURISTFORENING

The four cabins are run by Hemnes Turistforening (HTF), the local chapter of the Norwegian Trekking Association (DNT). For prices for day visits and overnight stays, see www.htf.dnt.no. An online calendar shows on which dates accommodation is available. To make a reservation, please send an email to booking@hemnesturistforening.no. HTF can put you in contact with experienced guides and also arranges excursions. Please check out the tour calendar on the website.

TRAIL MAPS AND CRAMPONS

An informative trail map (scale 1:50,000) with suggested hikes may be purchased from Hemnes Turistforening, and at Circle K gas stations in Korgen or at Gruben. Crampons are also available for rent at the stations.



Distance from Korgen to other Okstindan gateways:

Lille Målvatn Gård, Bjerkadalen	23 km (333 m.o.h)
Skardelva/Røssvatnet	44 km (390 m.o.h)
Bessedør/Røssvatnet	48 km (390 m.o.h)
Steikvasselv/Røssvatnet	54 km (390 m.o.h)
Nymoen /Nordlandsruta/Røssvatnet	58 km (390 m.o.h)

SEASON

The hiking season lasts from mid-June until October.

The best skiing season is from January-February until May-June.

NB. In the table above, please note the list of access roads that are closed in the winter. If you are driving, make sure your car is equipped with good winter tires!

Let your dog enjoy the hike, but...

Hikers are welcome to bring their dog – but you must keep it on leash. For centuries these mountains have been an important summer grazing area for sheep of local farmers and the Sami's reindeer herds. Even a kind and gentle dog may frighten these animals and cause them to injure themselves as they flee. Thank you for respecting this important rule!

A selfie on the glacier?

Many visitors are tempted to photograph themselves on the glacier. But please be sure to bring the necessary safety equipment, and show the utmost caution. The constantly shifting glacier can be lethal! Crampons and safety lines are a must, and any hiking on the glacier is at your own risk. Guided tours are recommended.

Please bring back your trash

Perhaps you're looking forward to a much lighter backpack on your return trek? Even though there are cabins in Okstindan, there is no trash service. In order to keep our beautiful wilderness pristine, we rely on you to take all empty bottles, cans and other trash with you and dispose of them properly back in the nearby village.

A smart backpack – with everything you need
Conditions are often demanding in the Okstindan mountains, and the weather may change suddenly – irrespective of good weather forecasts. For your own safety, please always bring the following equipment: trail map and compass, extra warm clothes, raingear and windproof clothing, warm mittens and hat, extra food and beverage.

The mobile phone coverage is variable and generally poor throughout the Okstindan mountain wilderness.
Emergency: 113



INDERDALEN FARM coffee and kamkake BY THE GATEWAY TO OKSTINDAN

Enjoy fresh-baked kamkake and coffee at the head of the trail to Gråfjellhytta cabin in Okstindan. A great stop on your hike up to the mountains and glacier, but also a worthwhile destination in its own right.

Your hosts at Inderdalen Farm invite you to their farm shop and café. Traditional fresh-baked kamkake are offered from 11am–5pm on:

23–24 June
30 June – 1 July
7–8 July
4–5 August

On 17 June and 29 July, the farmhouse doubles as a café, and a tasty lunch or dinner is served between noon and 6pm.



Fresh baked KAMKAKE

In Bleikvasslia you can visit “Sørkjelltunet” with its reconstructed Sámi settlements. Both young and old will appreciate the attractive recreational area here.

Every day in July, 10am–3pm, the old school here offers traditional fresh-baked kamkake and coffee. This facility was awarded the prestigious St. Olav's Rose for its contribution to preserving Norway's cultural heritage. A nice stop along the Villmarksveien from Korgen to Majavatn.



Rabothytta

Fascinating facts

- Oksskolten (1916 m) is the highest mountain in Northern Norway.

- Austre Okstindbre is one of the oldest glaciers in Norway, and is especially interesting to climate researchers.

- Røssvatnet is Norway's second-largest lake.

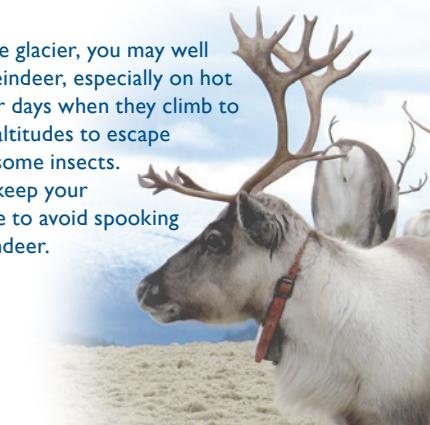
- Rabothytta cabin is named in honour of Charles Rabot. In 1883 the French glaciologist, explorer and friend of Fridtjof Nansen, made one of the first recorded ascents of Oksskolten.

- A Sami man named Klemet Persson, who was Rabot's guide on his expeditions in Okstindan, lived beneath a cliff overhang at the foot of the mountain. He was reputed to be a shaman. His story is presented in a biannual historical musical play (www.klemetspelet.no)

- The indigenous Southern Sami still herd reindeer in the Hemnes district.

- On the glacier, you may well meet reindeer, especially on hot summer days when they climb to higher altitudes to escape bothersome insects.

Please keep your distance to avoid spooking the reindeer.



*on top
of the mountain!*

MAGNIFICENT VIEW OF OKSTINDAN
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"The Blood Road" (Blodveien), the old road over Korgfjellet Pass, was built during Germany's occupation of Norway. Between June 1942 and May 1944, 646 Yugoslav prisoners died here as slave labourers, hence the road's name. A series of information boards – from Korgen village to the north, or from the picnic area by highway E6 to the south – point out many details of this tragic history. An important part of the story is the friendships that developed between the prisoners and local people, and the bonds between families have endured for generations. Today, Hemnes is a friendship municipality with Prokuplje in Serbia.



TO THE TOP OF KORGJELLET!



Cycle or drive the old E6 highway to a great viewpoint over the Okstindan mountain range. The lodge Korgfjellet Fjellstue is open whenever the road is - usually from Easter through November.

Between the towns of Mosjøen and Mo i Rana, cyclists must take the old E6 highway across Korgfjellet pass. The Korgfjell Tunnel is not open to cyclists and pedestrians.

Korgfjellet was featured in two legs of the 2016 Arctic Race of Norway.

Despite a gruelling climb averaging a 6.5 % grade, top cyclists from around the world took as little as 20 minutes to climb the 9 kilometres from Korgen village to the top of the pass at 555 m!

Even if you cannot match their time, you will be rewarded by the magnificent panorama of the Okstindan range, mount Luktindan and the Svartisbreen glacier.

To replenish your energy, consider a bite at the lodge Korgfjellet Fjellstue.

If you feel the wilderness beckon, Korgfjellet offers many miles of excellent hiking. And there are several short paths if you just wish to stretch your legs.

*welcome to a cycling
adventure at Korgfjellet!*



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fjord trips ON THE VETERAN FISHING BOAT **MK "REMI KETIL"**



Photo: Tore M Furuhatt

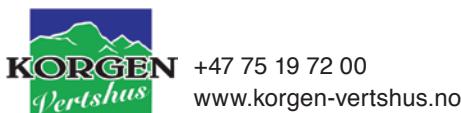
Hemnes Historic Boatbuilders Association (HBBF) are the proud owners of this 64-foot fishing boat, built in Hemnesberget in 1967.

We offer fjord trips by appointment.
Please contact Stein Dahlberg, tel.: +47 907 60 837

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INSIGHTS INTO
our local
heritage

OPENING HOURS

Hemnes museum, Bjerka:

1 June – 20 July, Tuesday–Saturday 10am–6pm

Traditional fresh-baked kamkaker

(the old bakehouse at Jamtjord):

23–27 July, and 30 July – 3 August, 11am–5pm

Maritime cultural heritage at Ranheim-brygga wharf:

3–28 September, 12pm–3:30pm (Mon–Fri)

www.helgelandmuseum.no

Tel.: +47 948 99 566

(Guided tours also
by appointment)





Foto: Henrik Fredriksen

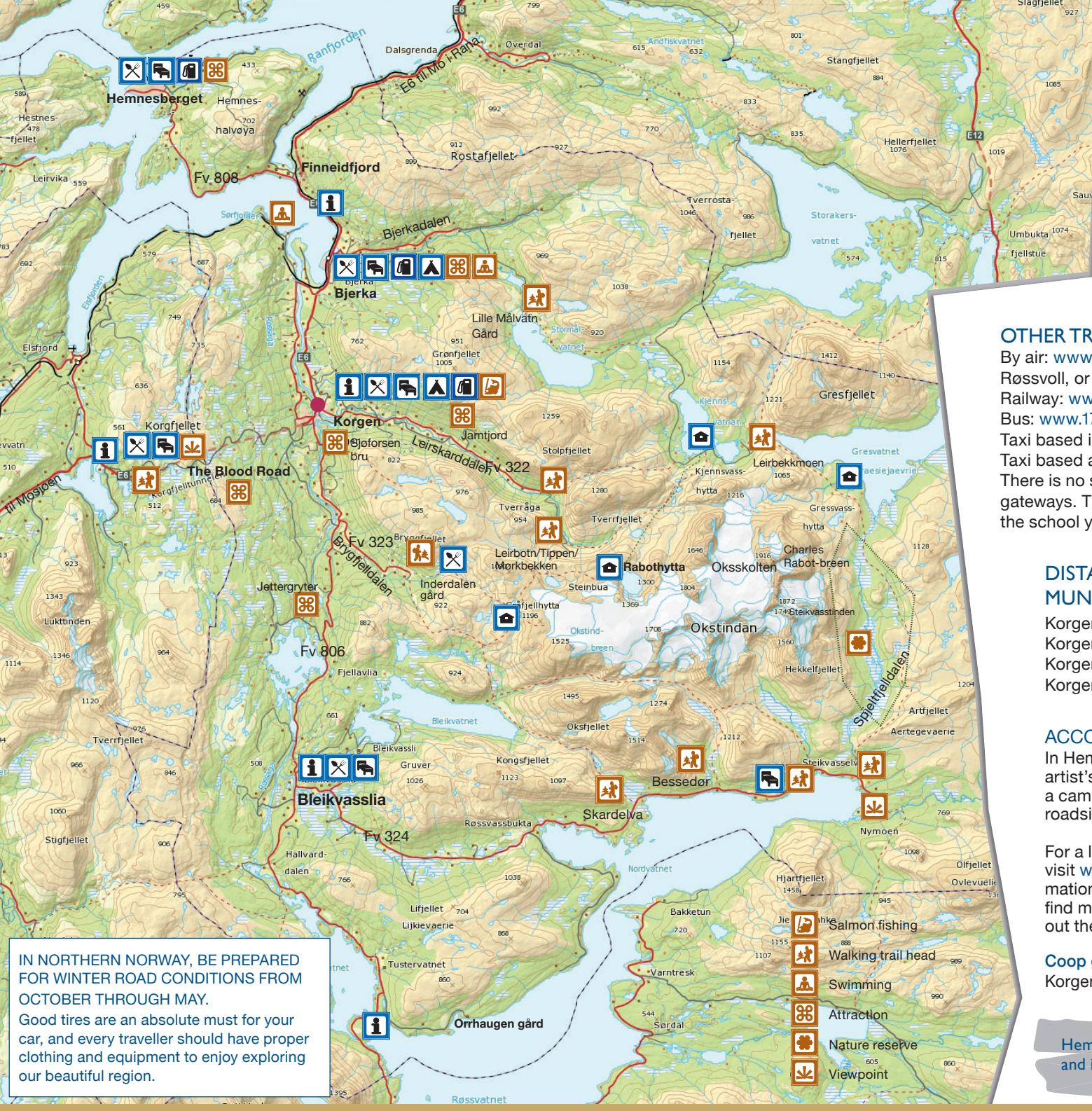
A FISHERMAN'S PARADISE

The river Røssåga offers excellent salmon and trout fishing. In times past, Røssåga was a favourite river of English lords who came here to catch large salmon. Now you can experience the excitement of casting for the big catch, while enjoying the tranquillity of beautiful surroundings. Korgen Camping is an excellent base for eager anglers. Parts of the Røssåga river are open for fishing throughout July and August. You must have a valid local fishing license, and to avoid any risk of introducing invasive species be sure to disinfect your fishing gear at Korgen Camping or Korgen Vertshus. Both places sell fishing licenses.

To fish our mountain lakes, you need to purchase the Statskog Norway License. Please note, however, that fishing in the sea and sheltered fjords is free. Boat rental is available from Hemnes Ferie, and groups can book a fishing trip on the MK "Remi Ketil".

For further information, please visit www.korgen-camping.no/salmon-fishing and www.inatur.no

Happy angling!



IN NORTHERN NORWAY, BE PREPARED FOR WINTER ROAD CONDITIONS FROM OCTOBER THROUGH MAY.
Good tires are an absolute must for your car, and every traveller should have proper clothing and equipment to enjoy exploring our beautiful region.

DISTANCES – TRAVELLING BY ROAD

Northbound

Korgen – Mo i Rana	40 km / 35 min.
Korgen – Arctic Circle	120 km / 1h 45 min
Korgen – Bodø	270 km / 3h 50 min
Korgen – North Cap	1200 km / 18 hours

Southbound

Korgen – Mosjøen	50 km / 45 min
Korgen – Sandnessjøen	70 km / 55 min
Korgen – Trondheim	440 km / 6 hours
Korgen – Oslo	930 km / 12h 15 min

OTHER TRANSPORTATION

By air: www.wideroe.no to Mo i Rana Airport

Røssvoll, or Mosjøen Airport Kjærstad

Railway: www.nsb.no to Bjerka Station

Bus: www.177nordland.no

Taxi based in Korgen, tel. 959 59 153

Taxi based at Hemnesberget, tel. 959 59 157

There is no summer bus service to the Okstindan gateways. These buses operate only during the school year.



DISTANCES WITHIN HEMNES MUNICIPALITY

Korgen – Bleikvasslia	20 km
Korgen – Bjerka	10 km
Korgen – Finneidfjord	15 km
Korgen – Hemnesberget	30 km

ACCOMMODATION & DINING

In Hemnes you may opt for a farm holiday, be a guest in an artist's home, head for a lodge on a mountaintop, choose a campground on one of our rivers, or stay at a friendly roadside inn. You can also rent private accommodation.

For a list of accommodation and dining options, please visit www.visit.hemnes.kommune.no. (Currently this information is in Norwegian only, but on our website you will find maps and contact information.) You can also check out the English website of www.visithegeland.com

Coop grocery stores are located in Hemnesberget, Bjerka, Korgen and Bleikvasslia

Hemnes offers nice guest harbours at Hemnesberget, Bjerka, and in Finneidfjord.



Photo: Tore M. Furuhatt

Events 2018

7. – 15. APRIL	BLEIKVASSLI WINTER FESTIVAL
3. – 17. JUNE	KORGEN SUMMER FESTIVAL
29. JUNE – 01. JULY	BOAT AND FJORD FESTIVAL at Hemnesberget
21. – 22. JULY	MEDIEVAL MARKET at Bjerka Bygdetun/Museum
02. – 05. AUGUST	HEMNESJAZZ at Hemnesberget
11. – 12. AUGUST	THE KAMKAKE FESTIVAL in Bleikvasslia
18. – 19. AUGUST	OKSTINDAN MOUNTAIN MARATHON
2. SEPTEMBER	OPEN FARM at Reinåga Samdrift
24. – 25. NOVEMBER	CHRISTMAS MARKET, at Hemnesberget

SCENIC ALTERNATIVES TO HIGHWAY E6

- The Wilderness Road (Villmarksvegen), from E6 in Korgen to E6 at Majavatn lake, offers views of the Okstindan range, Røssvatnet lake and Børgefjell National Park. This paved scenic road is 133 km long.
- The old E6 across Korgfjellet, "the Blood Road", passes an inn situated at 555 metres altitude, which enjoys a magnificent panorama of the Okstindan range and Svartisbreen glacier.
- A detour on scenic road Fv808 leads to Hemnesberget, an idyllic fjord side village surrounded by a great mountain wilderness.

For more information on the region, please see www.visithelgeland.com
The Tourist Information Office located at the Circle K gas station in
Korgen will be open from July 1st to August 10th. Tel.: +47 48 29 58 11.