

Harstad

Northern Norway · Norway

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Harstad is the second-largest town in Troms county, on the northeast coast of Hinnøya, Norway's largest coastal island. It is a working harbour town with a long history. A thousand years ago, nearby Trondenes was a Viking-age power centre. Today the town is the centre of the oil industry in Northern Norway and the armed forces have a base at Trondenes.

Most visitors come for a short stay on the way to somewhere else. Harstad is a practical gateway to Vesterålen, Lofoten and Senja, and the coastal ships call here every day. Give it a day for the history of Trondenes, just north of the centre. Stay longer if you want to hike the hills above town or see the summer arts festival. Plan your stay with Visit Harstad.

When to visit

Summer is cool and often rainy, but the midnight sun shines from late May to mid-July, and this is the best time for hiking and boat trips. Autumn and winter bring the northern lights, from about September to March. The sun does not rise at all from the end of November to about mid-January, and snow is likely from October to May.

The biggest event is the **Arctic Arts Festival** (Festspillene i Nord-Norge). It runs for about a week in June, around midsummer, with concerts, theatre, dance and art across the town. It has been held in Harstad since 1965.

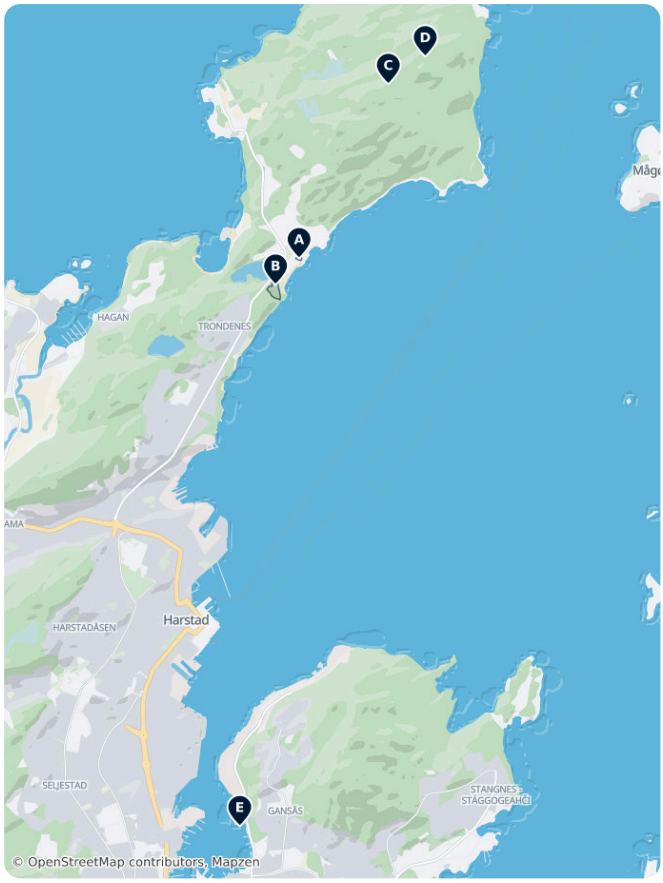
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Good Good for aurora viewing	-3° / 4° Feels like -8°	-8° / -19°	16 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
February	Good Good for aurora viewing	-3° / 4° Feels like -8°	-8° / -17°	16 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
March	Poor Poor for sightseeing	-1° / 4° Feels like -6°	-6° / -14°	18 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
April	Poor Poor for sightseeing	3° / 8° Feels like -1°	-2° / -9°	17 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
May	Poor Poor for hiking	8° / 17° Feels like 5°	3° / -3°	17 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Fair Fair for hiking	13° / 21°	7° / 3°	17 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
July	Good Good for hiking	16° / 23°	10° / 7°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
August	Fair Fair for hiking	15° / 22°	10° / 6°	18 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
September	Fair Fair for hiking	11° / 17°	6° / 1°	18 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
October	Fair Fair for aurora viewing	5° / 11° Feels like 1°	1° / -6°	19 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Good Good for aurora viewing	1° / 7° Feels like -4°	-3° / -12°	17 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Good Good for aurora viewing	-2° / 5° Feels like -7°	-7° / -18°	17 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds

Climate data: NASA POWER + Copernicus ERA5-Land and ERA5 · 1996–2025

Top sights

The main sights are on the Trondenes peninsula, 3–4 km north of the centre.

- A Trondenes Church is a white stone church finished around 1435. It is the northernmost medieval stone church in Norway. Inside are three Gothic altarpieces and remains of medieval wall paintings.
- B Trondenes historiske senter stands next to the church. Its exhibition tells the story of the area, with a focus on the Middle Ages and the Viking-age chieftains who ruled from Trondenes.
- C Trondenes kystfort was built by the German army in 1943 as part of the Atlantic Wall. It is one of the best-preserved coastal forts of its kind, and the Norwegian Coastal Ranger Command is based here today.
- D Adolfkanon is one of the fort's four 40.6 cm guns from the Second World War, and one of the largest land-based battleship guns in Europe. The site is inside a military area, so you can only visit on a guided tour. **Book in advance and bring photo ID.**
- E Skonnerten Anna Rogde is a wooden sailing ship launched in 1868, with Harstad as its home port. It is probably the oldest sailing schooner in the world, and it still offers public trips.



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Getting there

- **By air**: Harstad/Narvik Airport Evenes is about 44 km south of town, with daily flights to Oslo, Trondheim, Bodø and Tromsø. The Flybussen airport bus meets most flights and takes about 45–55 minutes to the town bus terminal.
- **By boat**: Express boats run to Tromsø two to four times a day, in about 3 hours. They stop at Finnsnes, the gateway to Senja. Hurtigruten coastal ships call every day, both northbound and southbound.
- **By bus**: Regional buses run to Narvik in about 2 hours. Buses to Sortland in Vesterålen and to Svolvær in Lofoten often need a change, sometimes at the airport.
- **In town**: City buses in Harstad do not take bank cards on board. Buy tickets in the Svipper app.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Norway at a glance:

CURRENCY
NOK kr

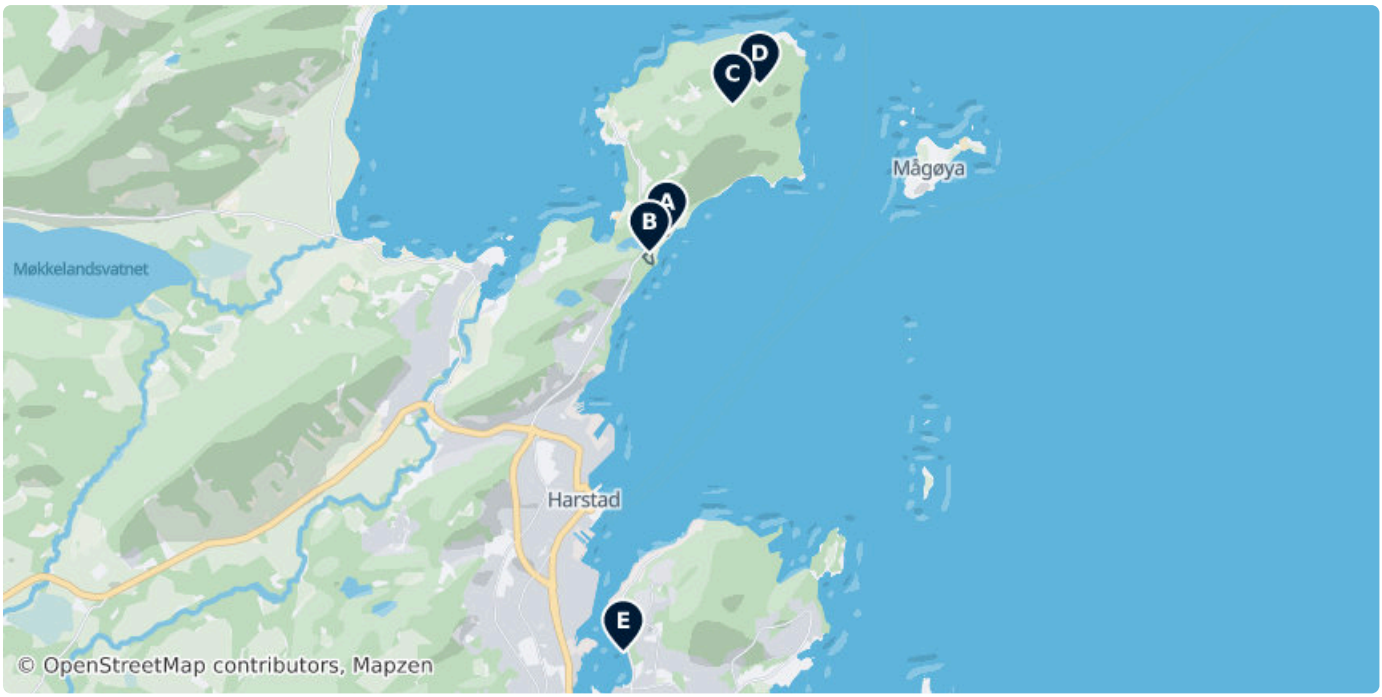
ELECTRICITY

Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
Norwegian Bokmål, Norwegian Nynorsk

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Top sights





A Trondenes Church

White medieval stone church from around 1435, the northernmost of its kind in Norway and the world's northernmost surviving medieval building.

128 Trondenesveien, 9404, Norway (68.82192, 16.56298)



B Trondenes historiske senter

Museum on the Trondenes peninsula presenting more than 2,000 years of regional history, from the Viking Age to the German occupation of 1940–1945.

122 Trondenesveien, 9404, Norway (68.82031, 16.55905)

stmu.no/attraksjoner/trondenes-histori..., (+47) 77 01 83 80



C Trondenes kystfort

Second World War coastal fort on the Trondenes peninsula, built in 1943 as part of the Atlantic Wall and armed with some of the largest land-based guns ever made.

(Unnamed Road), 9404, Norway (68.83249, 16.57796)



D Adolfkanon

German 40.6 cm coastal gun from the Second World War, one of four in Batterie Theo, now preserved as a museum with guided tours.

(68.83417, 16.58415)

E Skonnerten Anna Rogde

Wooden flat-topped schooner launched in 1868 and billed as the world's oldest sailing schooner. It has Harstad as its home port.

Mercurveien, 9408 Harstad, Norway (68.78744, 16.55303)

annarogde150.no/about, +47 770 18380

DATA SOURCES

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- Trondenes kystfort — "Adolph Gun Harstad 2007-01-31" by Jaknudsen, cc-by-sa-3.0
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