

Larvik

Vestfold and Telemark County · Norway

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Larvik is a harbour town on the Vestfold coast, where the Larviksfjord meets the open sea. Behind the centre lies Farris lake, which shares its name with a well-known Norwegian mineral water brand. The local larvikite stone, a dark rock that shines blue when polished, is quarried here and shipped around the world.

The town suits a short, calm stay that mixes beech woods, coastal walks and maritime history. In summer, many visitors base themselves in Stavern, a small resort 7 km south, with an old naval base and a guest harbour. Explorer *Thor Heyerdahl* of Kon-Tiki fame was born in Larvik, and boat designer *Colin Archer* built his famous ships here.

When to visit

June to August is the best time to visit. Days are long, the sea is warm enough for a swim, and Stavern is full of life. May and September are quiet and good for walking, and the beech forest turns gold in October. Winters are dark and cold, with some snow.

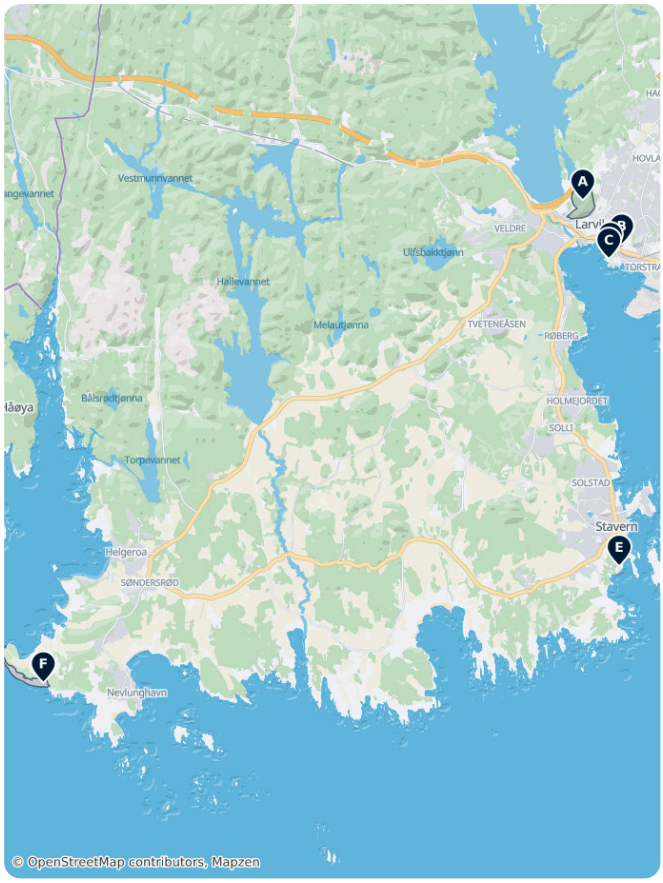
The biggest annual event is **Stavernfestivalen**, a large music festival in Stavern in July. Book a room well ahead for that week.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	1° / 7° Feels like -4°	-2° / -11°	13 rainy days · Dry air
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	2° / 8° Feels like -3°	-2° / -10°	Dry air
March	Poor Poor for sightseeing	5° / 11° Feels like 0°	-1° / -7°	Dry air
April	Good Good for hiking	10° / 16° Feels like 6°	3° / -1°	Dry air · Calm winds
May	Good Good for hiking	14° / 21° Feels like 11°	8° / 3°	Dry air · Calm winds
June	Good Good for sightseeing	18° / 23°	12° / 8°	Dry air · Calm winds
July	Great Great for sightseeing	20° / 26°	15° / 12°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
August	Great Great for sightseeing	19° / 24°	14° / 12°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
September	Good Good for hiking	16° / 20°	11° / 8°	12 rainy days · Dry air
October	Fair Fair for hiking	11° / 15° Feels like 7°	7° / 2°	14 rainy days · Dry air
November	Poor Poor for sightseeing	6° / 11° Feels like 1°	3° / -3°	15 rainy days · Dry air
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	3° / 8° Feels like -3°	-1° / -9°	14 rainy days · Dry air

Best months: July, August

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

Top sights



A Bøkeskogen is a protected beech forest just north of the centre, along the shore of Farris lake. Paths lead past Viking Age burial mounds to viewpoints over the lake.

B Herregården is a large timber manor house built in the 1670s for *Ulrik Frederik Gyldenløve*, the first Count of Larvik. It is now part of Larvik Museum and opens for guided tours in the museum season, so check the dates before you go.

On the Tollerodden headland by the harbour, statues of C Colin Archer and D Oscar Wisting honour two local men of the sea. Archer designed the polar ship Fram and the famous Colin Archer rescue boats, and Wisting stood at the South Pole with *Roald Amundsen*. A larvikite statue of *Thor Heyerdahl* stands nearby, and his childhood home in Steingata opens for guided tours in summer.

E The Seamen's Memorial Hall is a stone pyramid just outside Stavern, the national memorial to Norwegian sailors lost in the two world wars. Copper plates inside list thousands of names, and the site has wide views over the sea.

F Mølen is Norway's largest beach of round stones, a short drive south-west of town. Around 230 ancient burial cairns line the shore. It is part of the Gea Norvegica UNESCO Global Geopark, and a coastal path runs along it.

Larvik – Plan Your Trip

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Getting there

- **By air:** Sandefjord Airport Torp (TRF) is the nearest airport. A shuttle bus links the terminal with Torp station, where trains run south to Larvik. From Oslo Airport Gardermoen (OSL), take the train via Oslo.
- **By train:** Vy trains on the Vestfold Line run from Oslo to Larvik in about 2 hours, via Tønsberg and Sandefjord. The line continues to Skien. Buy tickets in the Vy app or at Vy.
- **By ferry:** Color Line sails between Larvik and Hirtshals in Denmark, usually twice a day. The crossing takes about 4 hours, and the terminal is close to the town centre.
- **By car:** The E18 motorway from Oslo takes about 1.5 hours.
- **To Stavern:** Local buses from Larvik station reach Stavern in about 15 minutes.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Norway at a glance:

CURRENCY
NOK kr

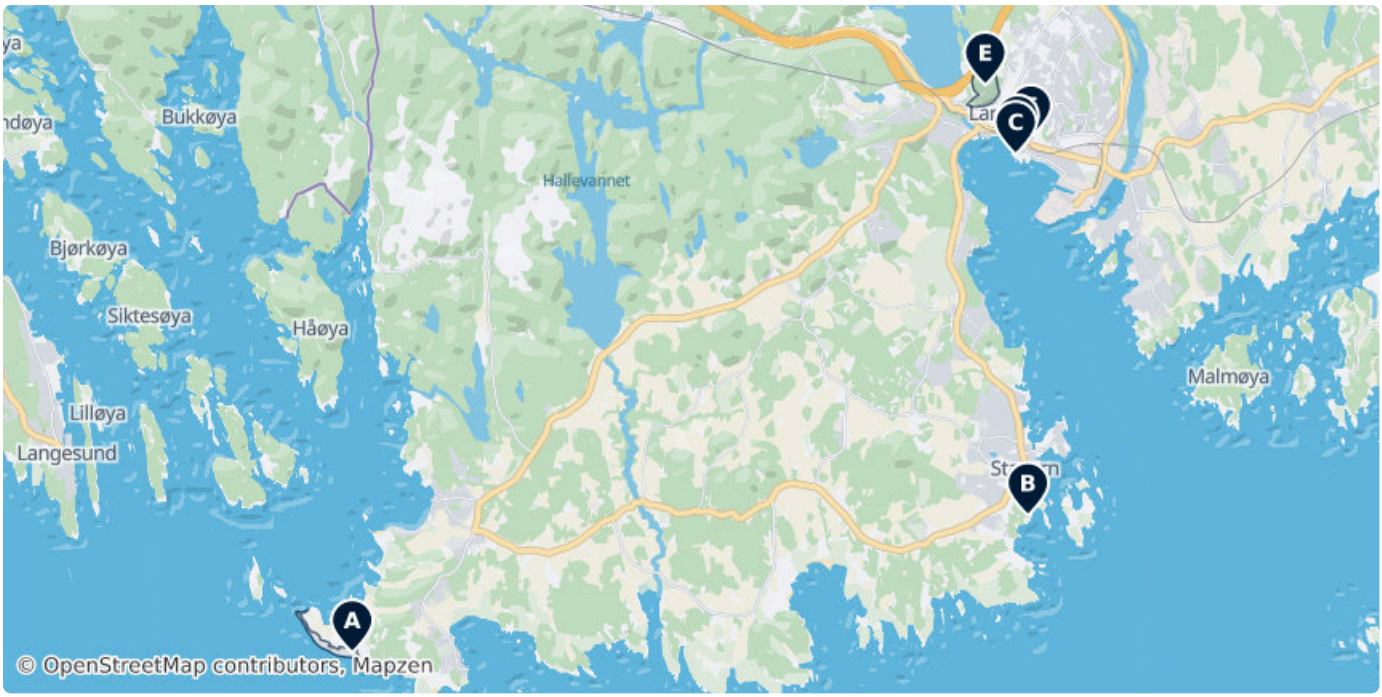
ELECTRICITY

Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
Norwegian Bokmål, Norwegian Nynorsk

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Top sights





A Mølen

Norway's largest beach of rolling stones, a glacial moraine headland with about 230 ancient burial cairns. It is part of a UNESCO Global Geopark.

Mølenveien, 3296 Nevlunghavn, Norway
(58.97006, 9.83416)



B The Seamen's Memorial Hall

Minnehallen or Hall of Remembrance is a national memorial located outside Stavern in Larvik, Vestfold, Norway.

(Unnamed Road), Stavern 3290, Norway
(58.99124, 10.03693)

minnehallen.no



C Colin Archer

Colin Archer was a Norwegian naval architect and shipbuilder known for his seaworthy pilot and rescue boats and the larger sailing and...

9 Kirkestredet, Larvik 3263, Norway (59.04700, 10.03328)



D Oscar Wisting

Oscar Adolf Wisting was a Norwegian Naval officer and polar explorer. Together with Roald Amundsen he was the first person to reach both the...

5 Kirkestredet, Larvik 3263, Norway (59.04802, 10.03385)



E Bøkeskogen

Beech forest on the Farris lakeshore, Norway's first public recreation area, with Iron Age burial mounds and walking trails. Protected as a landscape area since 1980.

Larvik 3256, Norway (59.05766, 10.02414)



F Herregården

Timber manor house begun in 1674 as the residence of Ulrik Frederik Gyldenløve, first owner of the Laurvigen county. Protected since 1923, it is now a museum.

6 Herregårdssletta, Larvik 3257, Norway (59.04953, 10.03780)

DATA SOURCES

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- Colin Archer — "Kirkestredet 11, Larvik" by Morten Bakkeli, cc-by-sa-3.0
- Oscar Wisting — "Sydpolmedaljen" by TomEG, cc-by-sa-3.0
- Bøkeskogen — "Paviljongen, Bokeskogen" by Morten Bakkeli, cc-by-sa-3.0
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