

Narvik

Northern Norway · Norway

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Narvik is a small port town on the Ofotfjord, about 220 km north of the Arctic Circle. Steep mountains rise straight behind the streets, and the fjord stays free of ice all year. The town was founded in 1902 to ship Swedish iron ore, and the ore trains still roll down to the harbour every day.

Most visitors come for the Arctic outdoors and for history. In winter you can ski above the fjord and watch for the northern lights. In summer the midnight sun makes long hikes possible at any hour. Narvik is also famous for the 1940 battles, one of the first big clashes of the Second World War. The scenic Ofoten Line runs from here over the mountains into Swedish Lapland, so Narvik works well as the start or end of a rail trip.

When to visit

Winter, from about December to March, brings snow, skiing and the best chance of northern lights. The sun does not rise at all from early December to early January. Spring skiing continues into April and May, when the days get long fast. Summer is cool and often rainy, but the midnight sun shines from late May to about 20 July, which is the best time for hiking.

The biggest event is the **Winter Festival** (Vinterfestuka) every March. It celebrates the navvies who built the railway, with about 200 events and many locals in old work costumes.

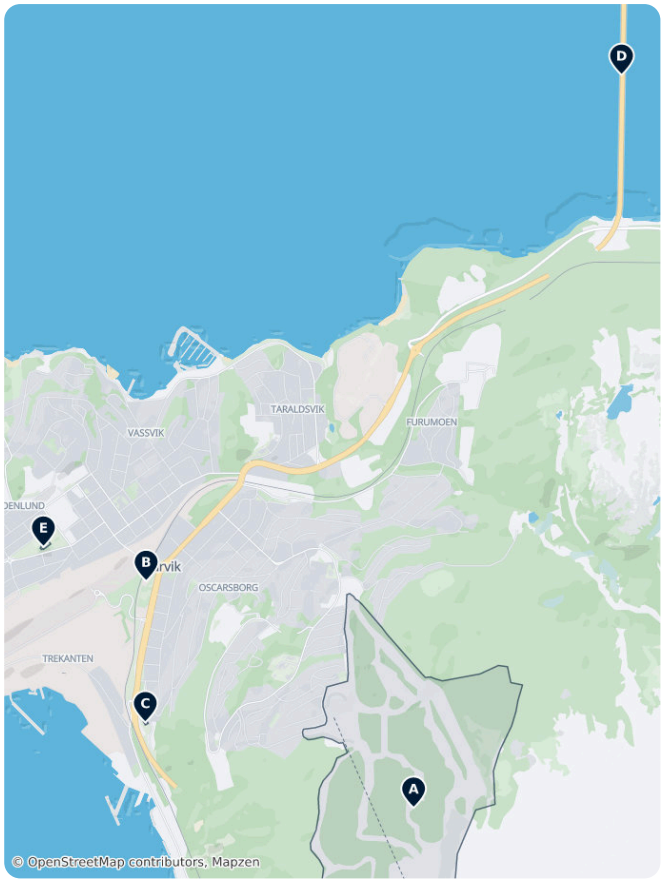
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Good Good for skiing	-5° / 3° Feels like -10°	-11° / -21°	16 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
February	Good Good for skiing	-5° / 3° Feels like -10°	-10° / -21°	16 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
March	Good Good for skiing	-3° / 3° Feels like -8°	-8° / -18°	18 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
April	Good Good for skiing	1° / 7° Feels like -3°	-3° / -11°	17 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
May	Fair Fair for skiing	6° / 13° Feels like 3°	1° / -4°	18 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Fair Fair for hiking	12° / 20°	6° / 1°	18 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
July	Good Good for sightseeing	17° / 24°	11° / 6°	18 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
August	Fair Fair for hiking	15° / 22°	10° / 5°	19 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
September	Fair Fair for hiking	10° / 17°	5° / -1°	19 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
October	Fair Fair for aurora viewing	3° / 10° Feels like 0°	-1° / -9°	18 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Good Good for skiing	-2° / 5° Feels like -5°	-6° / -15°	16 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Good Good for skiing	-4° / 3° Feels like -8°	-9° / -20°	17 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds

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

Top sights

Narvik's sights are mostly about the mountains, the railway and the war. The centre is compact, and the gondola is a short bus ride away.

- A Narvikfjellet is the mountain right above the town. A gondola takes about four minutes to the upper station at 656 m, with a restaurant and a wide view over the Ofotfjord. It runs all year: for skiing in winter, and for hiking and the midnight sun in summer.
- B Narvik War Museum tells the story of the 1940 fighting for Narvik and of life under German occupation. It shows weapons, models, films and personal objects, and has texts in Norwegian and English.
- C Narvik Museum is in the former railway head office from 1902. It covers the building of the Ofoten Line, the iron-ore company and the growth of the harbour.
- D Hålogaland Bridge crosses the Rombaksfjord just north of town. Opened in 2018, it has the second-longest bridge span in Norway, and it looks best from the fjord shore or the gondola.
- E Narvik kirke is a stone church from 1925, a short walk west of the centre. It is the town's main church and seats about 700 people.
- **The ore harbour** is the reason Narvik exists. You can watch long ore trains unload and large ships load from the streets near the station.



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What to experience

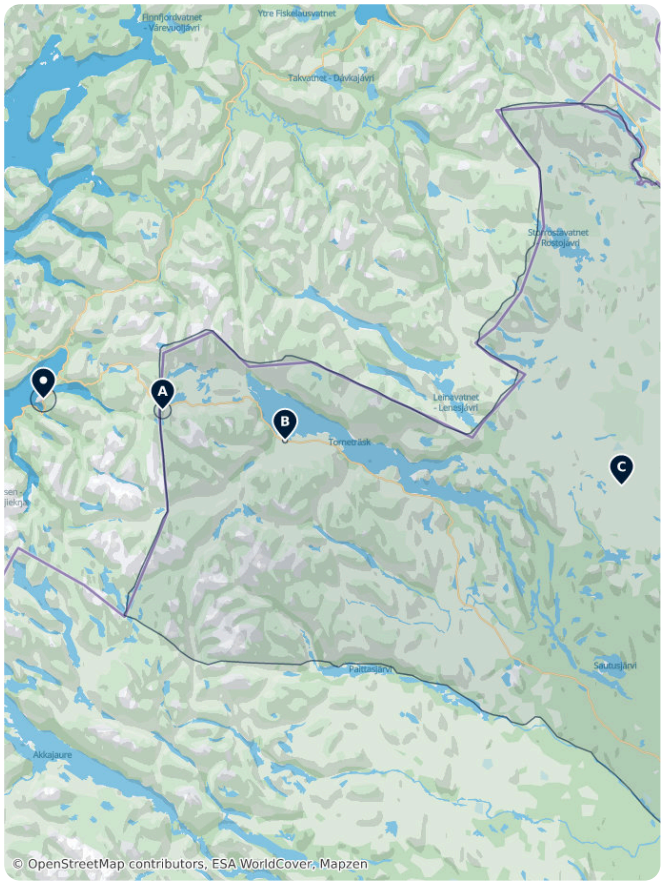
Narvik's best moments happen outdoors, and many depend on the season.

- **Northern lights from the mountain**: On clear winter evenings, ride the gondola up Narvikfjellet and watch the sky away from the town lights.
- **Ski with a fjord view**: The slopes on the mountain drop towards the sea. Narvik will host the Alpine World Ski Championships in 2029.
- **Ride the Ofoten Line**: The train climbs from the fjord to the Swedish border through tunnels and along steep slopes. In summer, a tourist train, the Arctic Train, also runs round trips to Bjørnfjell at the border.
- **Hike the Navvies' Road (Rallarveien)**: This old construction road follows the railway down from the border. Take the train to Riksgränsen or Bjørnfjell and walk about 16–19 km down to Rombaksbotn, at the end of the fjord. From July to mid-September a boat and bus bring you back to Narvik.
- **Midnight sun hike**: From late May to late July there is daylight all night, so you can walk the mountain trails at midnight in full daylight.

Day trips

The Ofoten Line makes the Swedish mountains an easy day out. Book train seats with SJ, and check the timetable first, as there are only a few trains a day.

- A Riksgränsen — about 45 minutes by train. This ski resort sits right on the border, with skiing into early summer and wide views over the mountains.
- B Abisko — about 1.5 hours by train. The village is the gateway to Abisko National Park, with easy trails, a canyon and the famous U-shaped valley of Lapporten. It is also known for clear skies and the northern lights.
- C Kiruna — about 3 hours by train. The town has a huge iron-ore mine, where the ore on Narvik's trains is mined. It makes a long day trip, so many visitors stay a night.



Where to explore

Narvik sits between the islands of the Norwegian coast and the mountains of Swedish Lapland.

- **Along the coast**: Harstad shares Narvik's airport, and Vesterålen lies beyond it.
- **Lofoten**: Svolvær is the main town of the islands, and the fishing villages Henningsvær and Reine are further out.
- **Further north and south**: Tromsø is the largest city in Northern Norway, and Bodø is the gateway to the south.
- **Across the border**: Riksgränsen, Abisko and Kiruna are on the railway into Sweden.

Getting there

- **By air**: Harstad/Narvik Airport Evenes is about 1 hour away. The Flybussen airport bus meets most flights and stops in the centre and at some hotels; pay on board or at flybussen.no.
- **By train**: Narvik has no rail link to the rest of Norway. SJ trains on the Ofoten Line run once or twice a day to Kiruna (about 3 hours) and on to Luleå. SJ also runs a night train between Narvik and Stockholm; at times the service needs a change in Boden, so check SJ when booking.
- **By bus**: Regional buses leave from the bus terminal in the Amfi Malmporten shopping centre. Bus 100 runs to Tromsø two to four times a day, and bus 300 runs to Svolvær in Lofoten in about 4 hours. Reis Nordland

Getting around

- **On foot**: The centre is small and easy to walk, but the streets climb steeply from the harbour. In winter, wear shoes with good grip or ice spikes.
- **Bus**: City buses run to the gondola and the suburbs. Buy tickets in the Reis app, or pay by bank card on board. Reis Nordland
- **Taxi**: Taxis are available but expensive; a taxi is handy for the gondola station on a cold evening.
- **Visitor information**: Visit Narvik

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

The centre is compact, but streets climb steeply from the harbour and are icy in winter.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Low

Steep hills, snow and ice for much of the year make cycling hard outside summer.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Not for the town itself, which you can walk, and the railway covers the Swedish side. A car helps for the coast, Vesterålen and Lofoten.
- **Winter roads**: Snow and ice are normal from autumn to spring. The E10 mountain pass to Sweden at Bjørnfjell can need convoy driving or close in bad weather, so check road status before you go.
- **Tolls**: The Hålogaland Bridge on the E6 north of town has a toll. Payment is automatic by number plate.
- **Parking**: Parking in the centre is mostly paid. Hotels often have their own parking.

Food & drink

Narvik eats like the rest of Northern Norway. Look for fresh cod in winter, Arctic char, and reindeer on many menus.

Most cafés and restaurants are in the centre, along Kongens gate and around the Amfi shopping centre. For a meal with a view, eat at the mountain restaurant at the top of the gondola, especially at sunset or under the midnight sun.

What to eat & drink

DINNER

Fårikål
Lamb and cabbage stew simmered with whole peppercorns; widely regarded as Norway's national dish, especially in autumn.

Cured salmon · Gravlaks
Salmon cured in salt, sugar, and dill, served thinly sliced with a mustard-dill sauce.

Fermented fish · Rakfisk
Trout fermented for months, eaten cold with flatbread, sour cream, and onion. A strong-smelling acquired taste.

Dried salted cod · Klippfisk
Cod salted and air-dried, then rehydrated and cooked into stews such as bacalao.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Brown cheese · Brunost
A caramel-colored whey cheese with a sweet, slightly tangy flavor, typically sliced thin onto bread or waffles.

Potato flatbread · Lefse
A soft flatbread made from potato, rolled up with butter and sugar or cinnamon.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Waffles · Vafler
Heart-shaped, thin waffles served with sour cream and jam, a common café treat.

DRINKS

Caraway spirit · Akevitt
A potato-based spirit flavored with caraway and other spices, traditionally aged in oak sherry casks and served at holidays.

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Safety & health

Narvik is very safe, and crime against visitors is rare. The real risks come from the weather and the terrain.

- **Cold and ice**: Winter days are dark and cold, and pavements are often icy. Dress in warm layers and use ice spikes on your shoes.
- **Mountains**: Weather on the mountain changes fast. Stay on marked trails, and never ski off-piste without avalanche gear and local advice.
- **Tap water**: Safe to drink.

History

Narvik was a small settlement until the Ofoten Line opened in 1902. The railway was built so that Swedish iron ore from Kiruna could reach an ice-free port. The town grew up around the harbour, and Narvik Museum now fills the old railway head office. Navvies built the line largely by hand, and their road through the mountains is still a popular hike.

The ore made Narvik a target in 1940. German troops landed here on 9 April, and British warships attacked in two naval battles on 10 and 13 April. Ten German destroyers were sunk, and some wrecks still lie in the fjord. Norwegian, British, French and Polish troops retook the town on 28 May, the first major Allied victory on land in the war. They left again in early June, because the Allies needed their troops in France. Narvik War Museum tells the full story, including the hardship of the occupation that followed.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Norway at a glance:

CURRENCY
NOK kr

ELECTRICITY

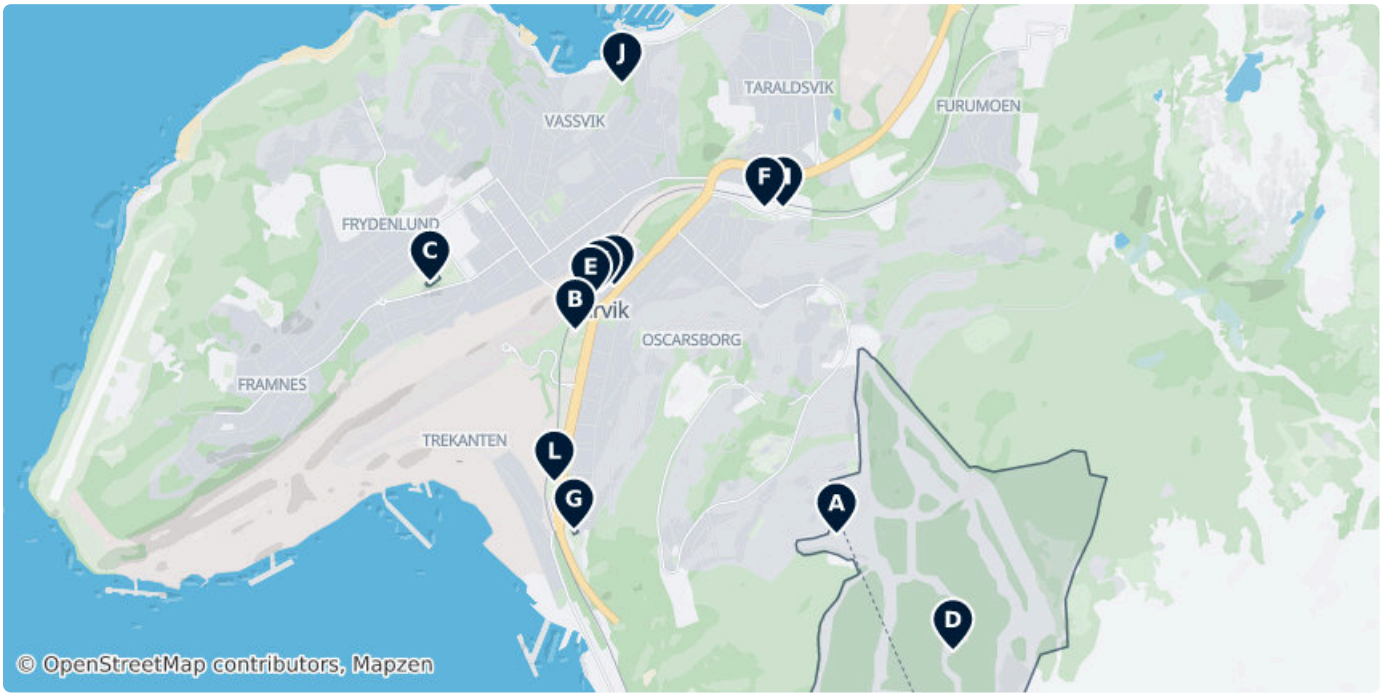
Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
Norwegian Bokmål,
Norwegian Nynorsk

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Narvik Essentials

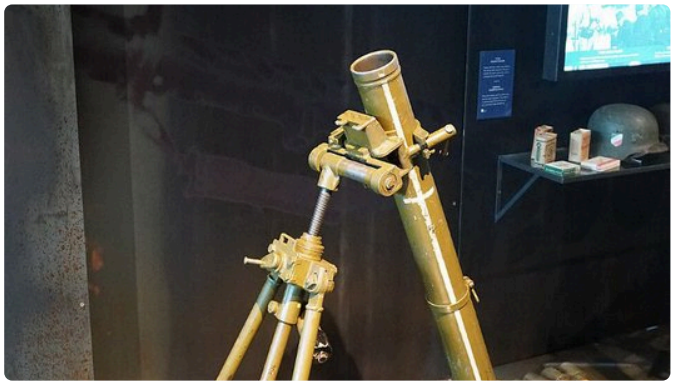
Narvik is defined by its deep-water port and the Ofoten Railway, which transports iron ore from Sweden. This list covers the town's pivotal role in World War II at the War Museum and highlights its unique geography via the Narvikfjellet cable car. Discover 5,000-year-old rock carvings, historic steam locomotives, and the resilient stone architecture of Narvik Church. These sites provide a comprehensive overview of the town's industrial heritage, military history, and Arctic landscape.



A New Narvikfjellet lift

Modern cable car rising to 656 meters above sea level, providing panoramic views of the Ofotfjord and the surrounding Arctic mountains.

(68.43149, 17.44728)



B Narvik War Museum

Educational center documenting the 1940 Battle of Narvik and the German occupation, featuring military equipment and exhibits on universal human rights.

39 Kongens gate, Narvik 8514, Norway
(68.43778, 17.42537)

Mo–Sa	10:00–16:00
Su	12:00–16:00

narviksenteret.no



C Narvik Church

Stone church designed by architect Olaf Nordhagen and consecrated in 1925. It is one of the few major buildings to survive the 1940 bombings.

1 Kirkegata, Narvik 8516, Norway (68.43927, 17.41321)



D Narvikfjellet

An alpine facility and recreational area offering downhill skiing in winter and hiking trails in summer, situated directly above the town center.

Kobberstadløypa, 8515 Narvik, Norway (68.42790, 17.45703)



E Narvik

Central orientation point and wheelchair-accessible guidepost located in the heart of the town.

45 Kongens gate, Narvik 8514, Norway (68.43877, 17.42667)

Mo–Su Open 24/7

F Narvik

The northern terminus of the Ofoten Line, connecting the ice-free port of Narvik to the Swedish border and the iron ore mines of Kiruna.

(68.44155, 17.44126)



G Narvik Museum

Located in the former railway administration building, this museum focuses on the engineering of the Ofoten Railway and Narvik's industrial history.

Administrasjonsveien, 8514 Narvik, Norway
(68.43163, 17.42526)

Mo–Fr Open

museumnord.no/en/our-venues/narvik-... , +47 76 96 96 50

H Damplokomotiv "Bifrost"

A preserved steam locomotive on display, originally used during the construction of the Ofoten Railway at the end of the 19th century.

(68.44155, 17.44279)

I Ankeret

A naval anchor monument commemorating the maritime battles and the sailors who served in the waters off Narvik during World War II.

(68.43914, 17.42865)

J Stone Painting

Site of prehistoric rock carvings, including a 5,000-year-old depiction of an elk, representing the area's earliest human inhabitants.

(68.44538, 17.42930)

K Narvik rådhus

The administrative town hall of Narvik municipality, featuring mid-century civic architecture.

(68.43899, 17.42752)

narvik.kommune.no

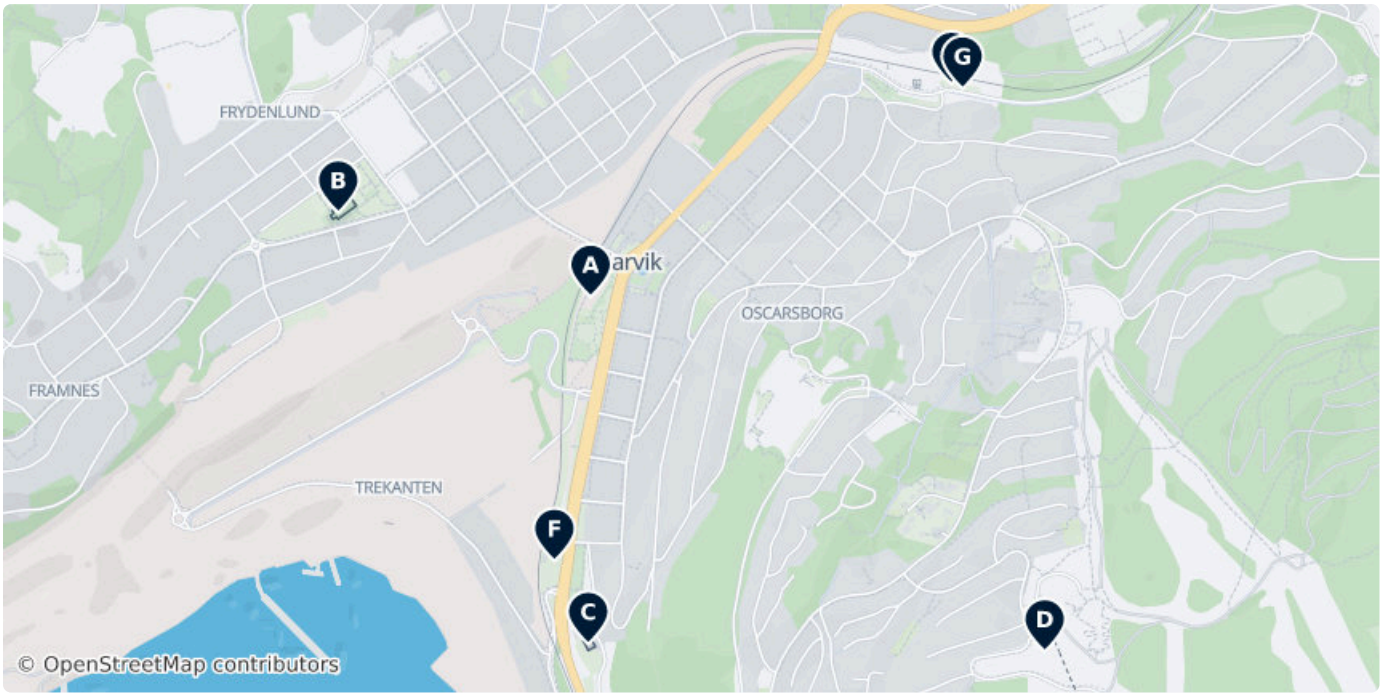
L Sjømannskirka

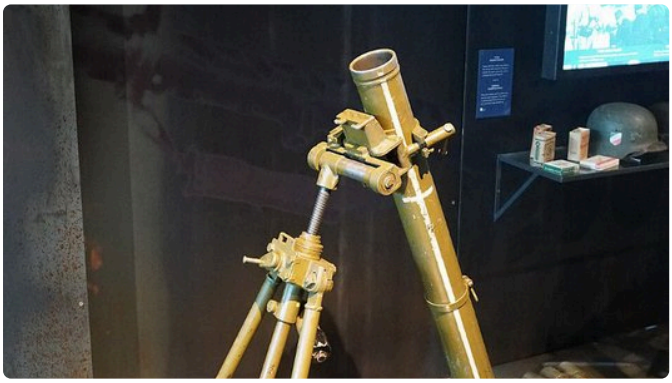
The Norwegian Seamen's Mission church, serving as a cultural meeting place and social hub for the local community and visiting sailors.

(68.43310, 17.42363)

Narvik's Top Sights

Narvik’s identity is defined by its deep-water port and the Ofotbanen railway. This selection highlights the city's strategic importance during World War II at the War Museum and its industrial heritage at the Narvik Museum. Visitors can explore early 20th-century architecture at Narvik Church, view historical railway artifacts like the 1882 Bifrost locomotive, and ascend Narvikfjellet via the gondola lift for views over the Ofotfjord and the surrounding Arctic landscape.





A Narvik War Museum

Explores the 1940 Battle of Narvik and the subsequent Nazi occupation through interactive exhibits and historical artifacts. The museum focuses on both military history and universal questions regarding war and human rights.

39 Kongens gate, Narvik 8514, Norway (68.43778, 17.42537)

Mo–Sa	10:00–16:00
Su	12:00–16:00

narviksenteret.no



B Narvik Church

A stone church designed by architect Olaf Nordhagen and consecrated in 1925. It is one of the few major structures in the town center that survived the heavy bombardment of World War II.

1 Kirkegata, Narvik 8516, Norway (68.43927, 17.41321)



C Narvik Museum

Housed in the former railway administration building, this museum documents the construction of the Ofotbanen railway and the development of Narvik as a global iron ore port.

Administrasjonsveien, 8514 Narvik, Norway
(68.43163, 17.42526)

Mo–Fr Open

museumnord.no/en/our-venues/narvik-... , +47 76 96 96 50

D New Narvikfjellet lift

A modern gondola transporting passengers to the mountain station at 656 meters above sea level. The site provides views of the city, the Ofotfjord, and the surrounding peaks.

(68.43149, 17.44728)

E Damplokomotiv "Bifrost"

A steam locomotive built in 1882 and used during the construction of the Ofot Line. It stands as a monument to the region's industrial beginnings near the railway station.

(68.44155, 17.44279)

F Sjømannskirka

A former Norwegian Seamen's Mission church that historically served the international maritime community in Narvik's port. The building is a recognized piece of local cultural heritage.

(68.43310, 17.42363)

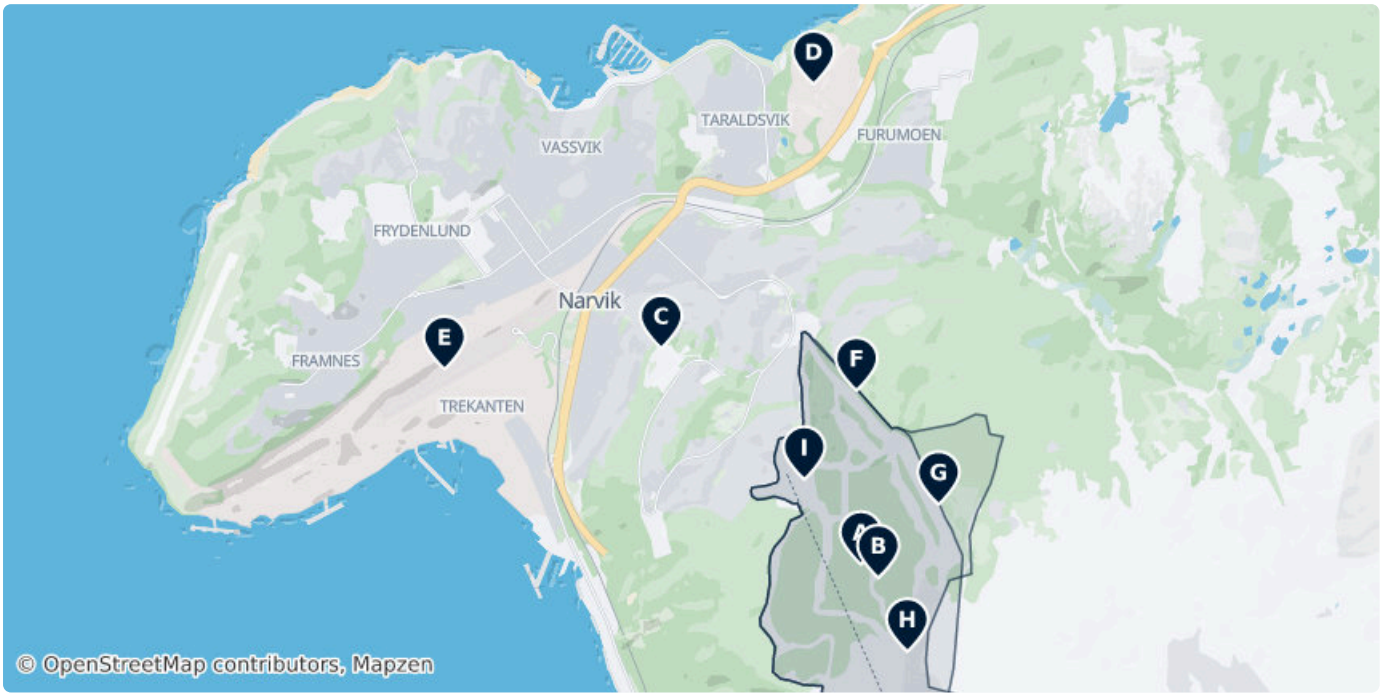
G Commemorative Stone for Ofot railway 1903

A monument marking the official 1903 opening of the Ofot Line, the vital railway link connecting the Swedish iron ore mines to Narvik's ice-free harbor.

(68.44147, 17.44333)

Outdoor Adventures in Narvik

Narvik offers a concentrated hub for Arctic sports, centered around Narvikfjellet, which features one of Scandinavia's largest vertical drops and views over the Ofotfjord. Indoor facilities include Kraft Klatrehall for rope climbing and 68° Nord Buldrehall for bouldering. For ice sports, Nordkraft Arena serves as a modern venue for hockey and skating. The mountain's lift system, including Barneheisen and various drag lifts, provides access to diverse terrain ranging from beginner slopes to advanced off-piste areas.



A Narvikfjellet Ski Resort

Urban ski resort featuring one of Scandinavia's largest vertical drops. Offers alpine skiing and off-piste terrain with views of the Ofotfjord.

(68.42842, 17.45523)



B Narvikfjellet

Mountain area rising 1,170 meters above sea level. Includes hiking trails, mountain biking paths, and a cable car reaching 656 meters.

Kobberstadløypa, 8515 Narvik, Norway
(68.42790, 17.45703)

C Kraft Klatrehall Narvik

Indoor climbing center featuring high walls for lead and top-rope climbing, as well as dedicated bouldering sections.

(68.43661, 17.43461)

Mo–Su 05:00–24:00

narvik.kraftsportssenter.no/index.php/klatring

D 68° Nord Buldrehall

Specialized indoor bouldering facility located in the northern part of the town center.

(68.44664, 17.45033)

Mo–Su 05:00–22:00

narvikbuldrehall.no

E Nordkraft Arena

Modern ice hockey and skating rink. Home arena for local teams and used for public skating sessions.

(68.43582, 17.41222)

Mo–Su 10:00–22:00

F Heis 1

T-bar drag lift located within the Narvikfjellet ski area.

(68.43501, 17.45478)

G Heis 2

Drag lift serving the middle sections of the Narvikfjellet alpine slopes.

(68.43069, 17.46326)

H Heis 3

Upper-level drag lift providing access to higher terrain on the mountain.

(68.42511, 17.46003)

I Barneheisen

Beginner-friendly drag lift situated in the dedicated children's and learning area of the ski resort.

(68.43164, 17.44938)

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