

Røros Municipality

Trøndelag · Norway

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Røros is a small copper-mining town high on a mountain plateau in central Norway, close to the Swedish border. For 333 years its life turned around the copper works. The result is one of Europe's best-kept wooden towns, with about 2,000 low timber houses, courtyards and turf-roofed sheds along two main streets. The town and its wider mining landscape are a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Come for the history you can walk through, the hearty local food and the real winter. Røros is one of the coldest towns in Norway, and snow, horse sleighs and dog sleds are part of daily life for much of the year. Two or three nights are enough to see the town, go down a mine and spend a day in the wilderness nearby. The writer Johan Falkberget told the story of the miners in his novels, and many Norwegians first came to know Røros through his books.

When to visit

Summer is mild and green, with long light evenings, and it is the best time for hiking and boat trips. It is also the wettest season. Winter is long, dark and very cold, but dry snow and clear frosty days make it the most atmospheric time to visit. Spring and autumn are quiet, and snow can fall in any month outside high summer.

The biggest event of the year is **Rørosmartnan**, the winter market held in late February. Horse-drawn sleighs arrive from the surrounding villages and Sweden, the streets fill with market stalls, and old-time dance music plays in cafés from morning to night. Book accommodation well ahead for market week and for the Christmas market in early December.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	-5° / 2° Feels like -11°	-11° / -21°	17 rainy days · Dry air
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	-4° / 2° Feels like -10°	-11° / -21°	15 rainy days · Dry air
March	Poor Poor for sightseeing	-2° / 2° Feels like -7°	-9° / -18°	18 rainy days · Dry air
April	Poor Poor for sightseeing	2° / 8° Feels like -3°	-5° / -12°	16 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
May	Poor Poor for hiking	9° / 18° Feels like 5°	1° / -6°	19 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Fair Fair for hiking	14° / 22°	6° / 0°	22 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
July	Fair Fair for sightseeing	17° / 24°	9° / 4°	24 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
August	Fair Fair for hiking	15° / 21°	8° / 4°	23 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
September	Fair Fair for hiking	11° / 17°	5° / -1°	19 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
October	Poor Poor for sightseeing	4° / 10° Feels like 0°	-1° / -8°	19 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Poor Poor for sightseeing	-2° / 5° Feels like -6°	-7° / -16°	17 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	-5° / 2° Feels like -10°	-10° / -20°	17 rainy days · Dry air

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Top sights



A Bergstaden Røros is the heart of any visit: a compact grid of timber houses, workers' cottages and merchant yards that looks much as it did in the mining era. Walk the two main streets and look into the courtyards behind them.

B Røros Church is a white octagonal stone church from 1784, known locally as Bergstadens Ziir, "the ornament of the mining town". It seats about 1,600 people and is one of the largest churches in Norway, with a richly painted pulpit and altar.

C Røros Museum Smeltery is the main museum and World Heritage centre, run by Rørosmuseet on the site of the old smelting house. Its exhibitions explain mining and smelting, the Sami history of the mining town and life in the old copper town.

D Slag Heaps are the black and grey heaps of waste slag left by three centuries of smelting. They sit right next to the town centre and give the best view over the roofs and the church tower.

E Olav's Mine lies about 13 km from town. A one-hour guided tour takes you 50 m below ground through workings from the 17th and 20th centuries. Bring warm clothes and solid shoes, even in summer.

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What to experience

Røros is at its most distinctive in winter, but every season has something special.

- **Rørosmartnan in late February**: watch horse-drawn sleighs arrive in town and join the crowds at a winter market held since 1854.
- **The Christmas market in early December**: stalls of local crafts and food, reindeer in the streets, open fires and carols in the snow.
- **Dog sledding**: from winter into spring, local operators offer guided rides and trips of one or more days in the snowy valleys around Røros.
- **A guided walk through the mining town**: a local guide shows you the miners' cottages, the old workplaces and the stories behind the houses.
- **Farm visits to local food producers**: in summer, taste the cheese, meat and baking the region is known for.

Day trips

The wilderness around Røros is the main reason to go out of town for a day. A car makes most trips much easier.

- **Femunden and Femundsmarka nasjonalpark** — Synnervika on Norway's second-largest natural lake is about 30 km from Røros. In summer the boat MS Fæmund II sails the lake every day, and a bus links Synnervika with Røros. The national park east of the lake is a wilderness of pine forest, lakes and rivers. Musk oxen and wild reindeer live there.
- **A Trondheim** — about 2.5 hours by train or car. Go for Nidaros Cathedral and the old wooden wharf houses by the river. It works better as an overnight stop than a day trip.



Where to explore

Røros is part of Trøndelag. These destinations combine well with it:

- **North by train**: Trondheim is the region's main city, and the trains on the Røros Line end there.
- **South along the railway**: the Røros Line follows the forests and rivers of Østerdalen towards Hamar and Oslo.
- **Mountains to the west**: Oppdal is a ski and hiking resort next to Dovrefjell, home of wild reindeer and musk oxen.
- **History to the north**: Stiklestad is the site of the battle where King Olav fell in 1030.

Getting there

- **By air**: Røros Airport is about 2 km from the town, with flights from Oslo of about 50 minutes on most days. There is no bus from the airport, so take a taxi or walk. For more choice of flights, fly to Trondheim and continue by train or bus.
- **By train**: the Røros Line connects Røros with Trondheim in about 2.5 hours, and with Hamar in about 3.5 hours. From Oslo, change at Hamar; the whole trip takes about 5 hours. The line is run by SJ Norway; plan and buy tickets at Entur.
- **By bus**: express buses reach Røros from Trondheim in about 2 hours.
- **By car**: about 2.5 hours from Trondheim via the E6 and road 30, or about 5 hours from Oslo via road 3 through Elverum.

Getting around

- **On foot**: the historic centre is small and flat enough to see on foot. The station, the church, the museum and the slag heaps are all within about ten minutes' walk of each other.
- **Guided walks**: guided town walks run all year, with tours in English in summer.
- **Outside the town**: there is no public transport to Olav's Mine, and buses to the lakes and national parks are few. Use a car, a taxi or an organised trip.
- **Taxi**: there are local taxis, but book ahead, especially late in the evening and for the airport.
- **In winter**: wear shoes with good grip or ice spikes, as the streets are often packed snow and ice.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The historic centre is compact; the station, church, museum and slag heaps are all within about ten minutes' walk. Streets are icy in winter.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

Fine in the town in summer, but the climate and snow limit cycling for much of the year.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: not for the town itself, which you can see on foot. A car is very useful for Olav's Mine, Femunden and the national parks.
- **Parking**: park in the public car parks at the edge of the historic centre and walk in; the narrow old streets have little space.
- **Winter**: roads are snowy and icy for much of the year. Make sure your car has winter tyres, drive slowly and expect reindeer and moose on rural roads.

Food & drink

Røros is one of Norway's best-known regions for local food. Look for reindeer and other game, mountain trout, organic dairy products and cheese from local farms, flatbread and traditional baking. Many restaurants in town build their menus around produce from the surrounding mountain farms.

The best eating is along the two main streets of the old town and in the courtyards just off them, where cafés, bakeries and restaurants sit in historic timber buildings. Shops there sell local cheese, cured meats and other produce to take home.

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

Røros is a very safe town, and crime against visitors is rare. The real risk is the cold. Winter temperatures can stay far below freezing for days, so wear proper winter clothing, a hat and gloves, and take care on icy streets.

If you go hiking or skiing in the mountains or national parks, check the weather forecast, tell someone your plans and carry extra warm layers. Phone coverage can be weak in the most remote areas.

History

Copper ore was found here in 1644, and the mining town grew up around the copper works. In 1646 the Danish-Norwegian king gave the company rights to the forests, rivers and land in a wide ring around the mines. This area is called the Circumference, and it is now part of the World Heritage Site.

Swedish troops burned the town in 1678 and again in 1679, during the Scanian War. It was rebuilt in wood, and that is largely the town you see today. The prosperity of the 18th century paid for Røros Church, finished in 1784. Workers smelted ore by the river. Beside the town, the Slag Heaps grew year after year.

The railway arrived in 1877 and connected Røros with the rest of Norway. Mining continued until the copper works went bankrupt in 1977, after 333 years. Røros became a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1980, and the site was extended in 2010 to include the Circumference. The area has also long been home to Southern Sami reindeer herders, and the town's Sami name is Plaassja.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Norway at a glance:

CURRENCY

NOK kr

ELECTRICITY



Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES

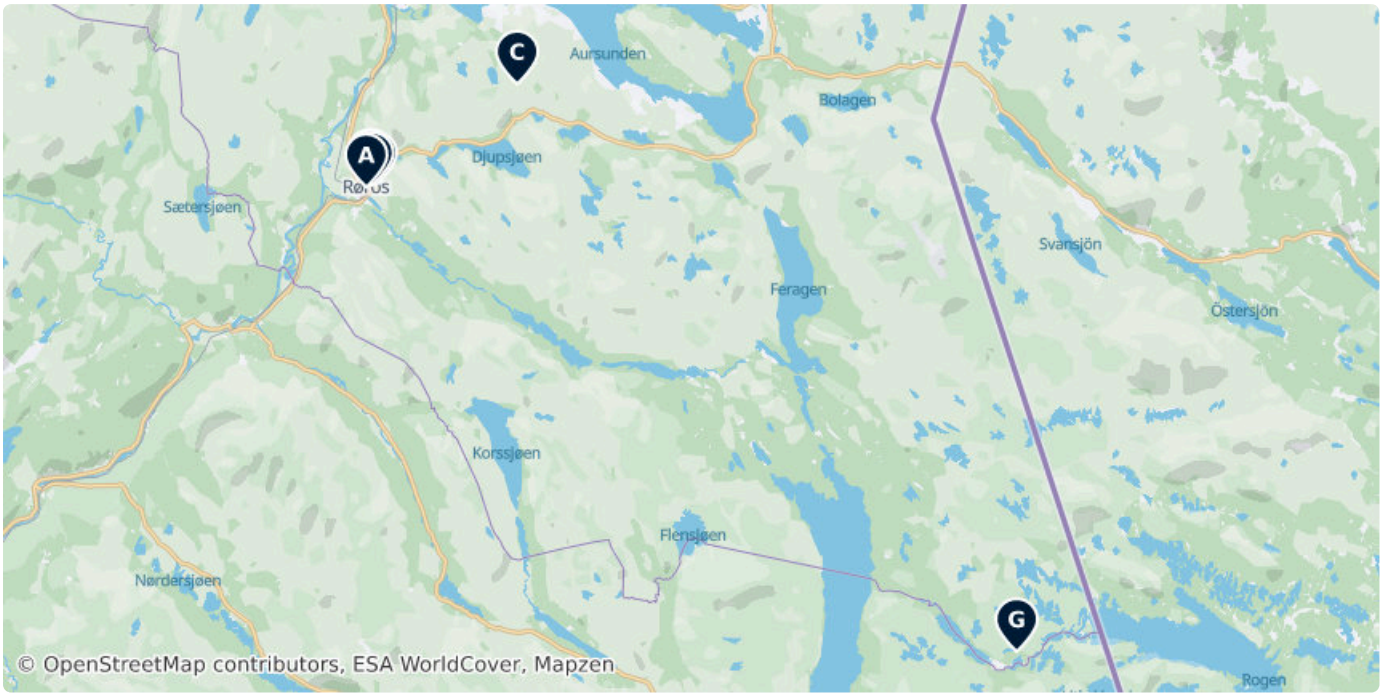
Norwegian Bokmål,
Norwegian Nynorsk

TAP WATER

Safe to drink

Røros Essentials

Explore the UNESCO World Heritage town of Røros, a remarkably preserved 17th-century copper mining hub. This selection covers the industrial heart of the town, from the iconic 1784 stone church to the massive slag heaps of Slegghaugan. Discover the subterranean world of Olav's Mine, the historic workers' dwellings along Sleggveien, and the Smeltery museum. Beyond the timber-clad streets, the list extends to the rugged wilderness of Femundsmarka National Park, known for its ancient pine forests and glacial landscapes.





A Røros Mining Town

or Rosse is a municipality in Trøndelag county, Norway. The administrative centre of the municipality is the town of Røros.

2 Kjerkgata, Røros 7374, Norway (62.57489, 11.38407)

roros.no, +47 72 41 00 00



B Røros Church

Røros Church or Bergstadens Ziir is a parish church of the Church of Norway in Røros municipality in Trøndelag county, Norway.

1 Ol-kanelesaveien, Røros 7374, Norway (62.57738, 11.38778)

roroskirke.no

C Olav's Mine

Located 13 kilometers from the town center, this museum offers guided tours 50 meters underground through the Nyberget and Olav's mines. The site showcases 300 years of copper mining history and includes a subterranean concert hall.

612 Gruvveien, 7372, Norway (62.63104, 11.56291)

rorosmuseet.no/olavsgruva, 72 40 61 70

D Røros Museum Smeltery

Housed in a reconstructed smelting hut at Malmplassen, this museum features working scale models of 18th-century mining machinery and exhibitions detailing the history of the Røros Copper Works from 1644 to 1977.

45 Lorentz Lossius gata, Røros 7374, Norway (62.57719, 11.39125)

Mo–Su 10:00–15:00

rorosmuseet.no/smelthytta, 72 40 61 70

E Slegghaugan

Large mounds of slag, a byproduct of copper smelting, that provide an elevated viewpoint over the town's wooden architecture. These dark hills are a protected landmark representing three centuries of industrial waste.

(62.57590, 11.39533)

F Sleggveien

A historic street lined with small log houses from the 18th and 19th centuries. These dwellings were originally occupied by miners and craftsmen who lacked their own farmland, illustrating the living conditions of the town's lower social classes.

Spjellet, 7374 Røros, Norway (62.57580, 11.39114)



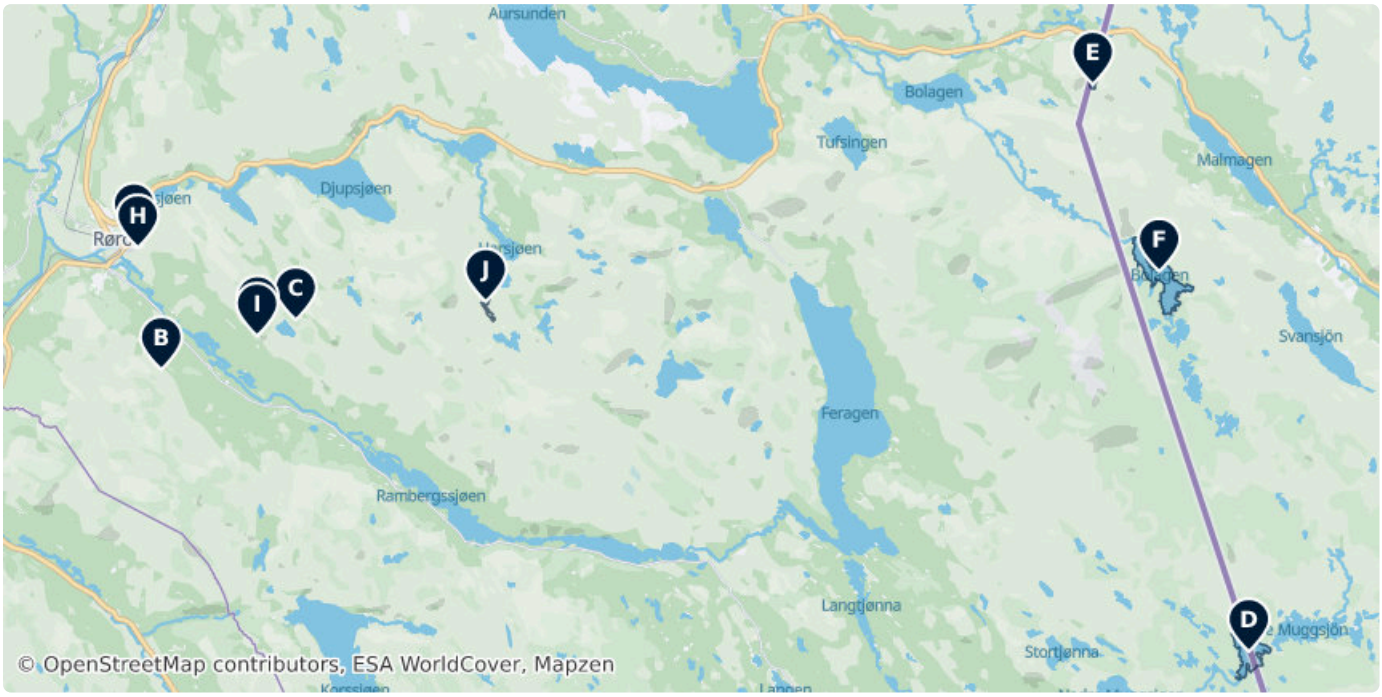
G Femundsmarka National Park

Femundsmarka National Park is a national park in Innlandet and Trøndelag counties in Norway. The landscape is largely marshes and lakes.

7374, Norway (62.32028, 12.15500)

Røros Nature Highlights

Røros sits within a high-altitude plateau characterized by its mining heritage and subarctic climate. This collection highlights the region's diverse topography, ranging from the man-made slag heaps of Slegghaugan to the remote glacial lakes of Femundsmarka like Midtre Muggsjøen and Bolagen. The landscape features prominent peaks such as Stor-Gråberget and unique geological markers like Skåkåsstenen, alongside the high-altitude wetlands of Rauhåmmårslåttan, illustrating the transition between industrial history and pristine wilderness.



A Slegghaugan

Large mounds of slag remains from the Røros Copper Works smelting process. They offer a panoramic view over the UNESCO-listed mining town and surrounding mountains.

(62.57590, 11.39533)

B Storvarden

A prominent cairn and viewpoint located on the mountain ridge, providing views toward the town and the distant Femundsmarka mountains.

(62.53278, 11.41435)

C Skåkåsstenen

A large, distinctive glacial erratic boulder that serves as a landmark and natural lookout point over the Røros plateau.

(62.54882, 11.50842)

D Midtre Muggsjøen

A remote mountain lake situated in the rugged terrain near the border of Femundsmarka National Park, accessible via hiking trails.

7374, Norway (62.44177, 12.17521)

E Ruttjärnen

A small, high-altitude tarn located in the border region between Norway and Sweden, typical of the area's subarctic landscape.

Sweden (62.62471, 12.06596)

F Bolagen

A large, transborder mountain lake known for its clear waters and surrounding tundra vegetation, used for wilderness fishing and trekking.

Sweden (62.56444, 12.11248)

G Stor-Gråberget

One of the higher peaks in the immediate Røros vicinity, featuring a rocky summit with expansive views of the highland landscape.

(62.54603, 11.48168)

H Ulvstugguhaugen

A hill located near the town outskirts, offering a short ascent to a viewpoint overlooking the Håelva river valley.

(62.57209, 11.39790)

I Gråberget

A rocky peak situated near Stor-Gråberget, contributing to the characteristic undulating skyline of the Røros highland plateau.

7374, Norway (62.54364, 11.48136)

J Rauhåmmårslåttan

An area of high-altitude wetlands and bogs, historically significant for mountain haymaking and local biodiversity.

7374, Norway (62.55477, 11.64135)

DATA SOURCES

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