

Sandefjord

Vestfold and Telemark County · Norway

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Sandefjord is a harbour town on the Vestfold coast, at the head of a fjord that opens onto the Skagerrak. For more than fifty years it was a world centre of whaling, and the money from the Antarctic whaling fleets still shows in its museums and monuments. Before that, it was a fashionable spa town, and the Viking past is close too: a famous Viking ship was dug out of a burial mound at the edge of town.

The town suits a short, easy stay that mixes maritime history with time by the sea. The centre is small and walkable. The peninsulas of Vesterøya and Østerøya, south of town, have beaches, small islands and coastal walks. Many visitors also pass through on the ferry to Sweden or the nearby Torp airport.

When to visit

June to August is the best time to visit. Days are long, the sea is warm enough for a swim in July and August, and the whale catcher in the harbour is open to visitors from mid-June to August. May and September are quieter and good for coastal walks. Winters are dark, cold and often wet, with some snow.

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 -4°	-2° / -10°	Dry air
March	Poor Poor for sightseeing	5° / 11° Feels like 0°	-1° / -7°	Dry air
April	Poor Poor for sightseeing	9° / 15° Feels like 5°	3° / -1°	Dry air
May	Fair Fair for sightseeing	14° / 21° Feels like 11°	8° / 3°	Dry air
June	Good Good for sightseeing	18° / 23°	12° / 9°	Dry air
July	Great Great for sightseeing	20° / 25°	15° / 12°	Dry air
August	Great Great for sightseeing	19° / 24°	14° / 11°	13 rainy days · Dry air
September	Good Good for sightseeing	16° / 20°	11° / 8°	12 rainy days · Dry air
October	Poor Poor for sightseeing	10° / 15° Feels like 6°	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 Sandefjord Museum, known as the Whaling Museum, opened in 1917 as a gift from the whaling owner *Lars Christensen*. It tells the story of whaling and of the Antarctic, where the Sandefjord fleets

hunted. The highlight is a full-size model of a blue whale, 21 m long, hanging from the ceiling.

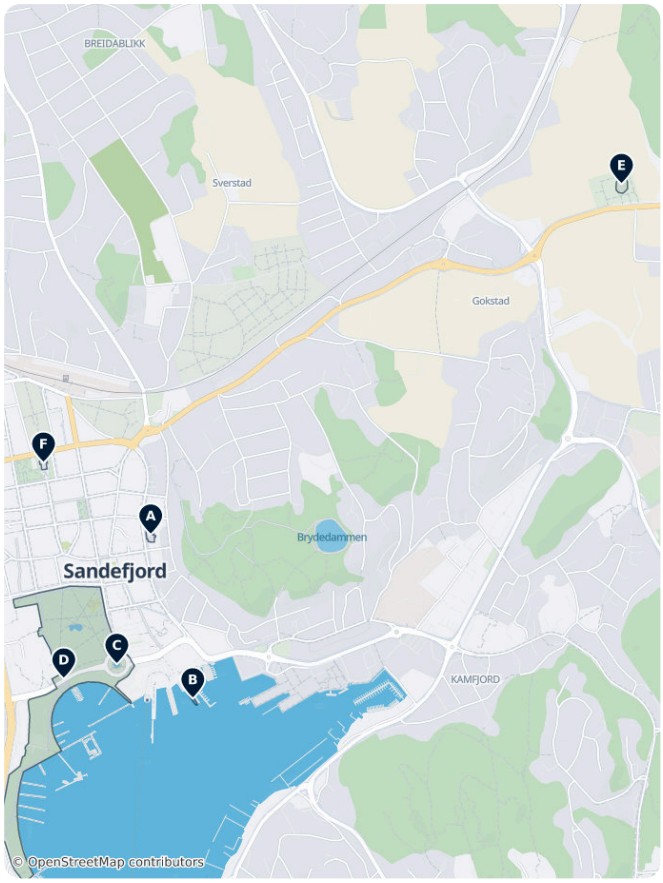
B The Whaler «Southern Actor» is a steam whale catcher built in England in 1950 and kept in working order, engine included. It is moored at the museum quay and opens to visitors from mid-June to August when it is in port. Entry is included in the Whaling Museum ticket.

C Hvalfangstmonumentet is the town's best-known landmark, a bronze fountain by *Knut Steen* unveiled in 1960. It shows whalers in an open boat lifted by a whale, and it turns slowly. It stands by the harbour at the end of the main street, Jernbanealleen.

D Badeparken was laid out in 1902 for guests of the town's spa, one of the most visited spas in Europe until it closed in 1939. Today it is a green space with sculptures, a playground and paths down to a small beach on the fjord. The restored spa building, Kurbadet, stands nearby and now hosts cultural events.

E Gokstadhaugen is a large grass-covered burial mound where the 9th-century Gokstad Viking ship was found in 1880. The ship itself is now in Oslo, but the restored mound, ringed by birch trees, is a peaceful place to stop. It lies about 2 km north-east of the centre.

F Sandefjord kirke is the main church in the centre, built in red brick after a fire destroyed the town centre in 1900. Its 60 m tower is a landmark visible across town.



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Getting there

- **By air:** Sandefjord Airport Torp (TRF) is just north of town. A shuttle bus, with its own ticket separate from the train, links the terminal with Torp station, where trains run to Sandefjord in a few minutes and to Oslo in about 1.5 hours. From Oslo Airport Gardermoen (OSL), take the train via Oslo.
- **By train:** Vy trains on the Vestfold Line run from Oslo to Sandefjord in about 2 hours, via Tønsberg. The line continues to Larvik and Skien. Buy tickets in the Vy app or at Vy.
- **By ferry:** Color Line sails between Sandefjord and Strömstad in Sweden. The crossing takes about 2.5 hours, and the terminal is in the town harbour.
- **By car:** The E18 motorway links Sandefjord with Oslo and Larvik.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Norway at a glance:

CURRENCY
NOK kr

ELECTRICITY

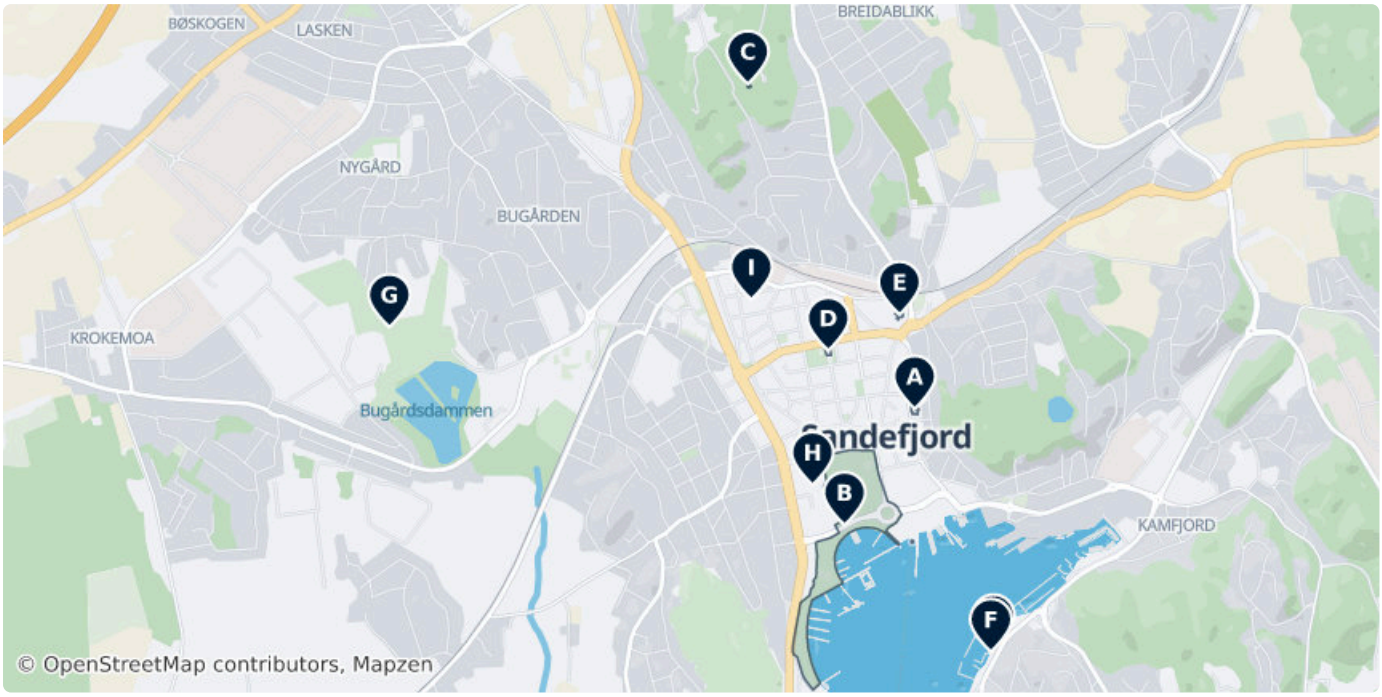
Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

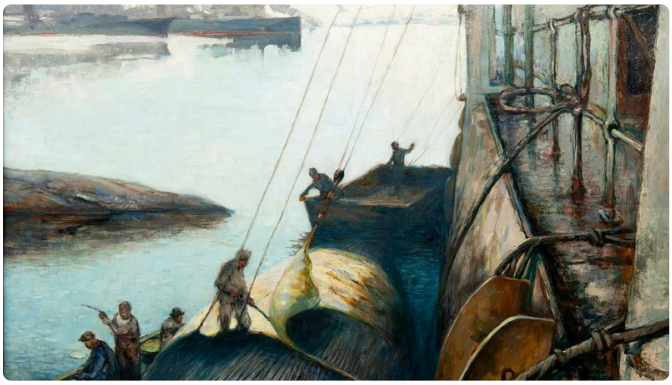
LANGUAGES
Norwegian Bokmål,
Norwegian Nynorsk

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Sandefjord Essentials

Sandefjord's identity is anchored in its history as Norway's whaling capital. This selection features the Hvalfangstmuseet, Europe's only museum dedicated to whaling, alongside the coastal heritage preserved at Gokstad Kystlag. The town's architectural landscape includes the 18th-century wooden Sandar kirke and the Midtås estate, former home of Anders Jahre, which houses a sculpture pavilion. Recreational spaces like Badeparken and Bugårdsparken offer green expanses, while historic sites like Øvre Myra showcase the region's rural heritage and traditional craftsmanship.





A Sandefjord Museum

Sandefjordmuseene is a museum located in Sandefjord, Norway. It is dedicated to the whaling industry and is the only specialized museum on...

39 Museumsgata, Sandefjord 3210, Norway
(59.13105, 10.22751)

vestfoldmuseene.no/hvalfangstmuseet



B Badeparken

Seaside park located on the site of the former Sandefjord Spa. It features open lawns and sculptures, serving as a central green space near the harbor.

Strandpromenaden, Sandefjord 3208, Norway
(59.12703, 10.22278)

C Midtås Skulptur Paviljong

A glass-walled pavilion on the former Anders Jahre estate, showcasing twelve bronze and four marble sculptures by artist Knut Steen.

2A Midtåsveien, Sandefjord 3226, Norway (59.14227, 10.21626)



D Sandefjord Church

Neo-Gothic brick church completed in 1903. It features an altarpiece by Dagfin Werenskiold and serves as the town's main parish church.

11 Stockfleths gate, Sandefjord 3211, Norway (59.13306, 10.22168)

sandefjord.kirken.no

E Sandar kirke

Built in 1792, this white wooden cruciform church stands on the ruins of a 13th-century stone building. It is a significant example of late 18th-century architecture.

2 Peter Castbergs gate, Sandefjord 3216, Norway (59.13431, 10.22649)

F Gokstad Kystlag

A maritime heritage association based at Framnes, dedicated to the restoration and preservation of traditional wooden boats and coastal culture.

(59.12265, 10.23265)

gokstadkystlag.no

G Bugårdsparken

A regional park centered around Bugårdsdammen pond. It includes sports facilities, a duck pond, and a network of forest trails.

(59.13387, 10.19209)

H Sandefjord Kunstforening

An art gallery located in the historic Kurbadet (spa) building. It hosts rotating exhibitions of contemporary art by regional and national artists.

Virik, 3208 Sandefjord, Norway (59.12842, 10.22062)

I Øvre Myra Husmannsplass

A restored 18th-century crofter's farmstead that provides insight into local rural living conditions and agricultural history of the pre-industrial era.

6 Solvangveien, Sandefjord 3211, Norway (59.13482, 10.21650)

visitsandefjord.com/no/attraksjoner

J Motormuseet

Located at the old Framnes shipyard, this museum displays a collection of restored marine engines, showcasing the evolution of maritime propulsion technology.

(59.12279, 10.23283)

DATA SOURCES

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