

Voss

Vestland · Norway

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Voss is a lakeside mountain town between Bergen and the western fjords. It sits on the shore of Lake Vangsvatnet, with steep green slopes rising on every side. The town centre is small and mostly modern, but a medieval stone church and old wooden farm buildings survive close by.

Voss is best known as an outdoor and adventure base. Rivers, lakes and mountains are all close to town, and local operators run rafting, kayaking, paragliding and skydiving. In winter the same slopes become ski areas. Voss is also a stop on the Bergen Railway and the classic gateway to Nærøyfjorden, so it suits both an active stay of several nights and a scenic stopover on a fjord trip.

When to visit

Summer, from June to August, is the main season: days are long and mild, and all outdoor activities run. Rain is common in every month, so pack a waterproof layer whatever the season. Autumn turns wet and dark quickly. From winter into early spring the mountains are snowy, and Voss becomes a ski town.

The biggest event is **Ekstremsportveko** (Extreme Sport Week), a festival held for one week around late June. It mixes rafting, kayaking, paragliding, BASE jumping and skydiving with evening concerts. Book accommodation early if your trip falls in that week.

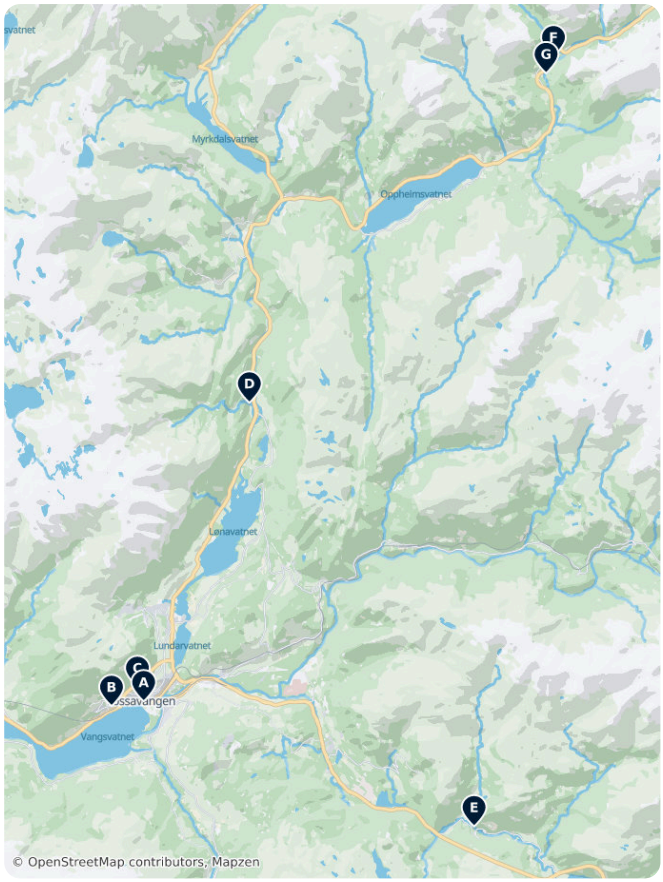
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Fair Fair for skiing	1° / 6° Feels like -4°	-4° / -13°	22 rainy days · Dry air
February	Good Good for skiing	2° / 6° Feels like -3°	-4° / -15°	20 rainy days · Dry air
March	Fair Fair for skiing	4° / 7° Feels like -1°	-3° / -12°	20 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
April	Fair Fair for skiing	6° / 12° Feels like 3°	1° / -4°	16 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
May	Fair Fair for hiking	13° / 22°	6° / 1°	17 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Good Good for sightseeing	18° / 25°	10° / 6°	19 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
July	Good Good for sightseeing	20° / 27°	13° / 9°	22 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
August	Good Good for sightseeing	19° / 26°	12° / 9°	21 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
September	Fair Fair for hiking	16° / 22°	9° / 5°	20 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
October	Poor Poor for hiking	10° / 15° Feels like 7°	5° / 0°	21 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Fair Fair for skiing	5° / 10° Feels like 1°	0° / -9°	20 rainy days · Dry air
December	Fair Fair for skiing	2° / 7° Feels like -3°	-2° / -13°	22 rainy days · Dry air

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

Top sights

Voss has a few historic sights in town and several big waterfalls within a short drive.

- A Vangskyrkja is the stone church in the town centre, completed in 1277. Its octagonal spire is a local landmark, and a restoration returned the interior to its pre-Reformation look.
- B Finnesloftet is a medieval timber hall within walking distance of the centre, built around 1295. It is the only secular building in Norway that uses stave construction, and it opens to visitors in summer.
- C Mølstertunet is the farmstead of Voss Folk Museum, on the hillside above town. Its sixteen buildings show traditional farm life, the oldest from 1634, and the site has wide views over the lake.
- D Tvinnefossen is a broad, stepped waterfall about 12 km north of town, right beside the E16 road to Flåm. It is an easy stop with a parking area close to the falls.
- E Skjervsfossen is a waterfall in several steps on the road towards Granvin and Hardanger. The old road runs right past it, between the upper and lower falls.
- F Stalheimskleivi is a historic mountain road from the 1840s that winds down more than a dozen hairpin bends below Stalheim. It is now open only to walkers and cyclists; check for restoration closures before you go.
- G Stalheimsfossen drops into the Nærøydalen valley beside that road, and you can see it from the bends on the way down.



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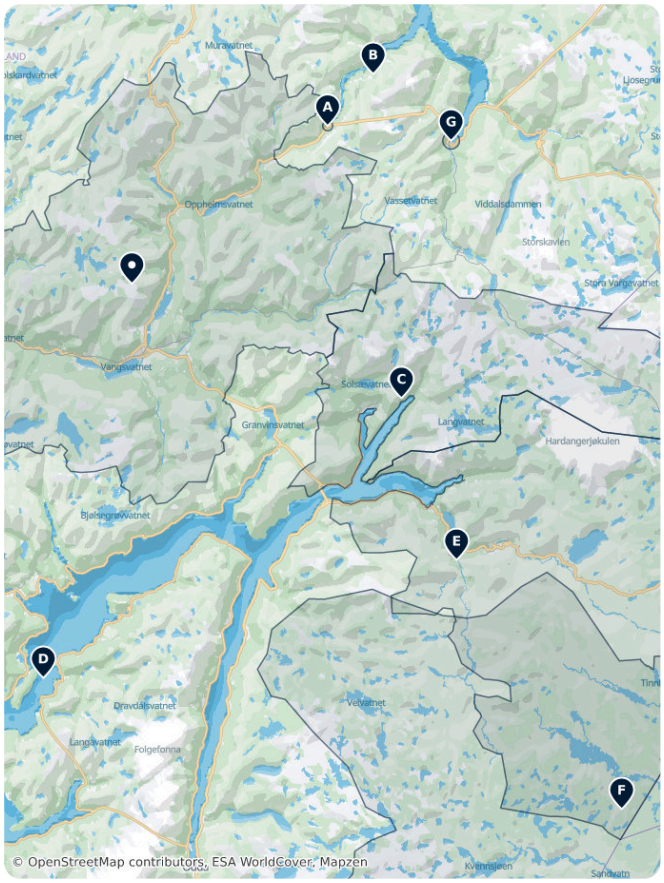
What to experience

Voss is one of Norway's main centres for outdoor sport.

- **Rafting and kayaking**: Local operators run guided rafting and river trips on the rivers around Voss in the summer season.
- **Paragliding and skydiving**: Tandem paragliding flights launch from the mountain above town, and a skydiving club operates from the Bømoen airfield nearby.
- **Gondola ride and summit walk**: Ride the gondola to Hanguren and walk the short panorama loop for views over the lake and mountains. Longer trails continue from the top station.
- **Ekstremsportveko**: For one week around late June, the town fills with competitions, shows and concerts.
- **Walking the old road**: Walk or cycle Stalheimskleivi, past two waterfalls, on a road now closed to cars.
- **Winter skiing**: In the snow season, ski at Voss Resort, reached by the gondola from town, or take the ski bus to Myrkdalen.

Day trips

Voss is well placed for day trips into fjord country. Most need a car or the regional buses.



- **Stalheim** — about 35 minutes by car, or by the bus towards Gudvangen. The viewpoint at Stalheim Hotel looks straight down the Nærøydalen valley.
- **Myrkdalen** — about 30 minutes by car, with a ski bus in winter. A mountain valley with a ski resort and summer hiking.
- A Gudvangen and B Nærøyfjorden — about 1 hour by bus. Gudvangen sits at the head of the Nærøyfjord, one of the narrowest fjords in Norway and part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Boats run from here along the fjord.
- C Ulvik — about 50 minutes by car. A quiet village on an arm of the D Hardangerfjord, known for its orchards.
- E Eidfjord — under an hour by car, over the Hardanger Bridge. A good base for the waterfalls and plateau edge of F Hardangervidda.
- G Flåm — about 1 hour 45 minutes by train via Myrdal. Ride the steep Flåm Railway down to the fjord, or return by boat and bus via Gudvangen.

Where to explore

Voss sits between Bergen and the inner fjords, so many nearby destinations are easy to combine with a stay here.

- **Towards the fjords**: Aurland and Flåm lie on the Norway in a Nutshell route, while Vik and Balestrand sit on the Sognefjord further north.
- **Hardanger**: Ulvik, Eidfjord and Odda line the Hardangerfjord, with the Folgefonna glacier above it.
- **Mountains and glaciers**: Hardangervidda is the high plateau to the southeast, and Jostedal Glacier is a longer trip north.

Getting there

- **By air**: The nearest airport with scheduled flights is Bergen Airport Flesland. Take the airport bus or the light rail into Bergen, then continue to Voss by train.
- **By train**: Voss is on the Bergen Railway. Trains from Bergen take about 1 hour 10 minutes, and from Oslo about 5 hours 25 minutes. Book on Vy.
- **By bus**: Express buses link Voss with Bergen, Sogndal and Lillehammer. Bus 950 to Gudvangen, part of the Norway in a Nutshell route, leaves from the bus terminal beside Voss station.
- **By car**: From Bergen it is about 100 km on the E16, roughly 1 hour 30 minutes. From Oslo, allow six to seven hours on any of the mountain routes.

Getting around

- **On foot**: The town centre, the station, the church and the lakeshore are all within a short walk. Finnesloftet and Mølstertunet are walkable too, though the museum is uphill.
- **Gondola**: The Voss Gondol leaves from beside the train and bus station and climbs to Hanguren at 820 m in about nine minutes. In winter it serves the Voss Resort ski area.
- **Buses**: Skyss runs the regional buses around Voss. Buy tickets in the Skyss app, or on board by card or cash. Plan trips on Skyss.
- **Taxi**: Voss Taxi runs around the clock and can be booked in the Vy app.
- **Cycling**: Quiet valley roads make cycling pleasant in summer, but the climbs out of town are steep.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The compact town centre, station, church and lakeshore are all a short walk apart; the folk museum is uphill.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

Quiet valley roads are pleasant in summer, but climbs out of town are steep and many roads have tunnels.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Not for the town itself, which is compact. A car helps for the waterfalls and the Hardanger villages, though buses cover the main routes.
- **Parking**: VossaPark costs about 50 NOK for 24 hours.
- **Mountain roads**: Roads around Voss are narrow and winding, with many tunnels. In winter, expect snow and ice, and check road conditions before mountain crossings.

Food & drink

Voss is closely linked to **smalahove**, a salted, smoked and boiled sheep's head served with potatoes and mashed swede. Norway's only commercial producer is a family business in Voss, and the dish is mainly eaten in autumn, before Christmas. It is an acquired taste, but a famous local tradition.

For everyday meals, the cafés and restaurants cluster in the small town centre between the station and the church. Up the mountain, the restaurant at the gondola top station has a view over the valley. Dining customs follow the Norwegian norm.

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

Voss is very safe, and crime against visitors is rare. The real risks are outdoors. Weather in the mountains changes fast, so carry warm, waterproof clothing even in summer. Book adventure activities such as rafting and paragliding only with established, guided operators.

Rivers and waterfalls are powerful, especially in early summer when snow melts. Stay behind barriers and off wet rocks near the falls. On mountain roads, watch for tunnels, narrow bends and, in winter, ice.

History

Voss has been the centre of an inland farming district for many centuries. Local legend says King Olav converted the people here to Christianity, and an old stone cross in town is linked to that story. Vangskyrkja was completed in 1277, and in the Middle Ages it was the main church for a wide region.

The farms around Voss were wealthy enough to build in timber on a grand scale. Finnesloftet dates from around 1295 and was probably used for feasts. Later farm life is preserved at Mølstertunet.

In the 1800s many people from Voss emigrated to North America. The statue of Knute Rockne in the centre honours the famous American football coach, who was born in Voss. In April 1940, German bombing destroyed the old wooden town centre. That is why most buildings in town today are post-war, while the stone church survived.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Norway at a glance:

CURRENCY
NOK kr

ELECTRICITY

Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

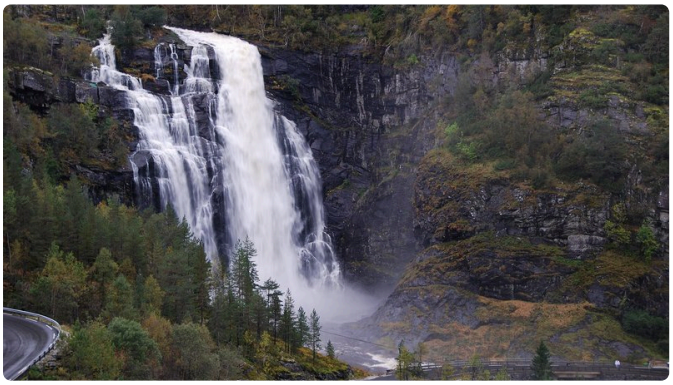
LANGUAGES
Norwegian Bokmål, Norwegian Nynorsk

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Voss Essentials

Voss serves as Norway's central hub for extreme sports and medieval history. This selection features architectural landmarks like the 13th-century Vangskyrkja and Finnesloftet, alongside significant natural sites including the Bordalsgjelet gorge and the tiered Tvinnefossen waterfall. The list highlights cultural heritage at the Mølstertunet farmstead museum and offers access to high-altitude views from Bakkanosi and the historic Stalheim Hotel overlooking the Nærøydalen valley.



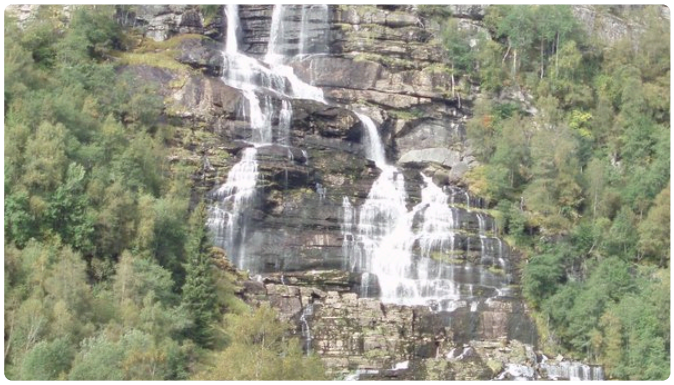


A Skjervsfossen

A 150-meter twin waterfall featuring a nature trail and award-winning architecture at the parking area's facilities.

5736, Norway (60.58794, 6.63642)

youtu.be/r97uVpUZDNU



B Tvinnefossen

A 110-meter high tiered waterfall. Local folklore suggests the cascading water possesses rejuvenating properties.

5710, Norway (60.72606, 6.48711)

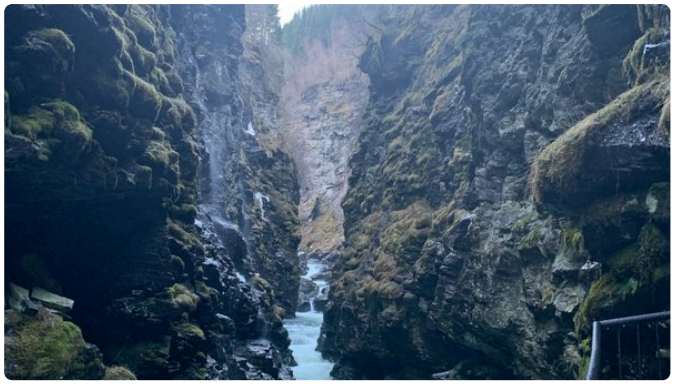


C Voss Church

A stone church dating back to 1277. It survived World War II bombings and contains a Baroque pulpit and altar.

1 Bergsliplassen, Voss 5700, Norway (60.62877, 6.41688)

voss.kyrkja.no



D Bordalsgjelet

A deep, narrow gorge accessible via a developed path, showing potholes and rock formations carved by the river over centuries.

(Unnamed Road), 5708, Norway (60.61241, 6.42373)



E Mølstertunet

An open-air museum featuring 16 original farm buildings on their original site, showcasing regional building traditions from the 16th century.

138 Mølstervegen, Voss 5705, Norway (60.63344, 6.41267)



F Stalheim Hotel

Historic hotel situated at the top of the Stalheimskleiva road, offering views of the UNESCO-listed Nærøydalen valley.

131 Stalheimsvegen, 5715, Norway (60.83529, 6.68136)

stalheim.com, +47 56 52 01 22



G Finnesloftet

A wooden banquet hall built around 1295. It is one of Norway's oldest non-religious wooden buildings, featuring medieval timber construction.

16 Finnesvegen, Voss 5704, Norway (60.62722, 6.39546)

fortidsminneforeningen.no/museum/finnesloftet/

H VossVind

An indoor vertical wind tunnel designed for simulated skydiving and bodyflight training.

28 Oberst Bulls veg, Voss 5705, Norway (60.63443, 6.44498)

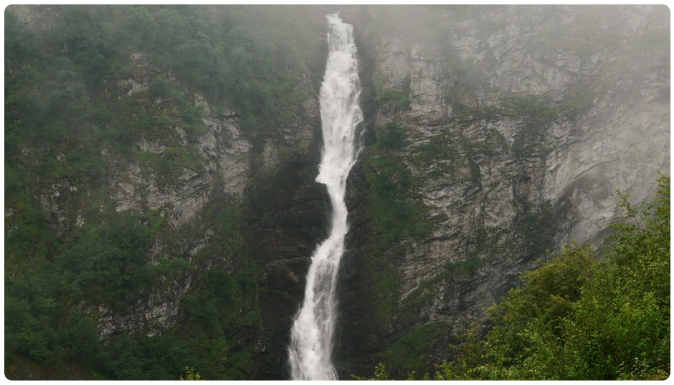
vossvind.no



I Bakkanosi

A mountain peak reaching 1,398 meters above sea level, providing a direct vertical view down to the Nærøyfjord.

5749, Norway (60.91193, 6.84535)



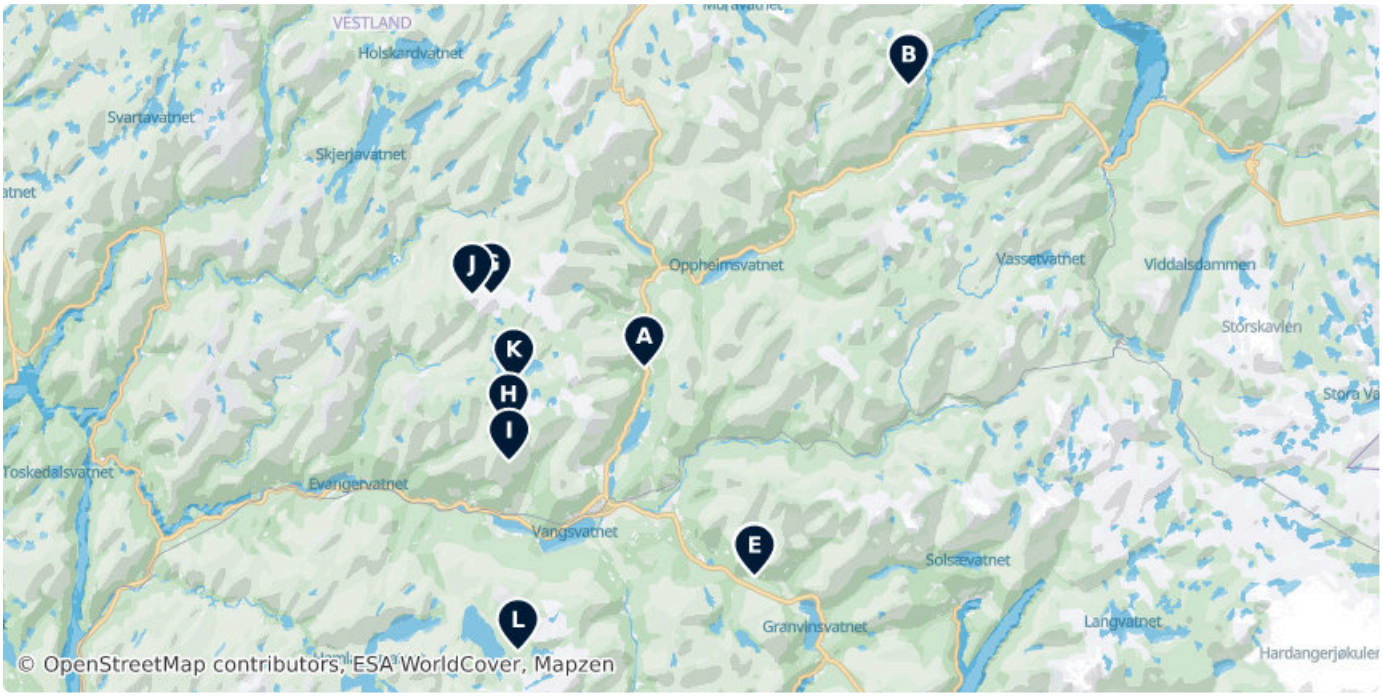
J Stalheimsfossen

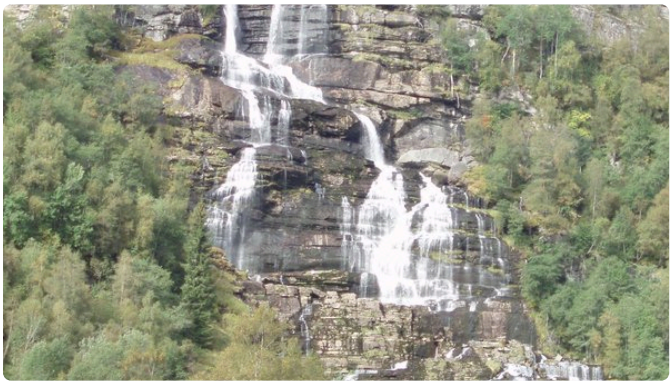
A waterfall with a 126-meter vertical drop, accessible via an easy walking path from the Stalheim Hotel area.

5715, Norway (60.83308, 6.68423)

Mountain Peaks & Viewpoints

Explore the rugged highlands of Voss and the surrounding Stølsheimen range through this collection of peaks and viewpoints. The list features the 1,433-meter Kvitanose, the highest point in Stølsheimen, alongside traditional stone navigation cairns like Tunnasetvarden and Sleavarden. Highlights include the dramatic Bakkanosi plateau, which provides a 1,300-meter vertical perspective of the UNESCO-listed Nærøyfjord, and unique natural features such as the walkable path behind Tvinnefossen waterfall.





A Tvinnefossen

A waterfall where the trail allows visitors to walk behind the curtain of falling water.

5710, Norway (60.72606, 6.48711)



B Bakkanosi

A 1,398-meter summit offering a direct vertical view of the UNESCO-listed Nærøyfjord and the village of Bakka.

5749, Norway (60.91193, 6.84535)

C Viewpoint Bakkanosi

A steep cliff edge on the Bakkanosi plateau overlooking the Rimstigen trail and the fjord below.

(60.91343, 6.84792)

D The Lower Ledge

A lower rock ledge situated on the steep hiking ascent overlooking the fjord landscape.

Skjervsvegen, 5736, Norway (60.58781, 6.63587)

E The Shower

A natural rock feature on the mountain trail where water runoff creates a shower-like effect over the path.

5736, Norway (60.58751, 6.63655)

F The Ledge

A prominent rock balcony offering expansive views of the surrounding valleys and fjord arms.

Skjervsvegen, 5736, Norway (60.58794, 6.63577)

G Høgevarde

Mountain summit in the northern Voss region marked by a traditional stone cairn.

(60.77437, 6.27983)

H Sleavarden

A traditional stone navigation cairn marking a high point between Myrkdalen and the Vikafjell mountain plateau.

(60.68776, 6.30332)

I Tunnasetvarden

A stone cairn located on the ridge above Tunnaset, serving as a historical navigational landmark for hikers.

(60.66389, 6.30408)

J Kvitanose

The highest peak in the Stølsheimen mountain range, standing at 1,433 meters above sea level.

5707, Norway (60.77371, 6.25431)

K Gråeskorvi

A mountain peak located in the rugged terrain between Voss and Myrkdalen.

5707, Norway (60.71737, 6.31053)

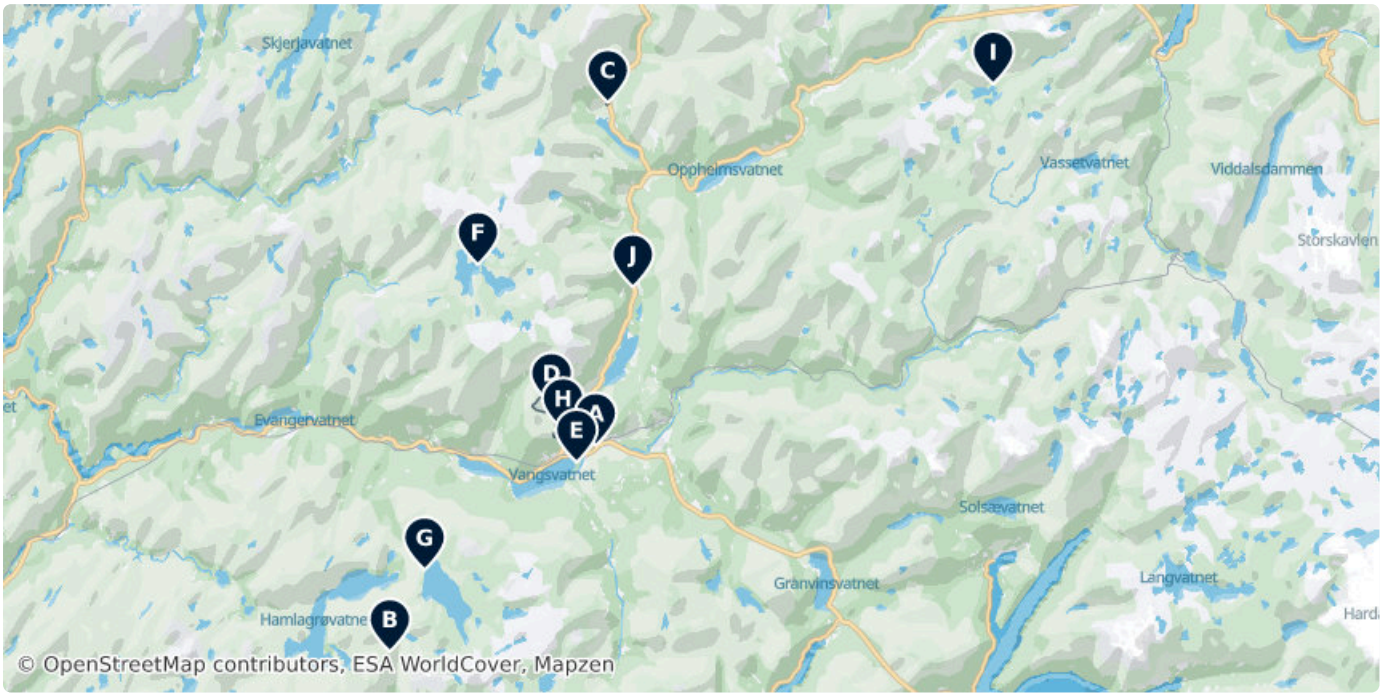
L Mannen

A summit offering views of the valleys south of Voss and the surrounding mountain plateaus.

5708, Norway (60.53780, 6.31611)

Outdoor Adventure in Voss

Voss serves as a hub for year-round outdoor activity, offering a network of self-service mountain cabins managed by the Norwegian Trekking Association, including Kiellandbu and Volahytta. The region features diverse terrain for paragliding at Hanguren and indoor skydiving at VossVind. Winter sports are centered around Voss Resort's lift system, while accommodation options range from lakeside camping near the town center to sites positioned directly beneath the Tvindefossen waterfall.



A VossVind

Vertical wind tunnel for indoor skydiving and free flying training.

28 Oberst Bulls veg, Voss 5705, Norway (60.63443, 6.44498)

vossvind.no



B Kiellandbu

Small self-service trekking cabin situated on a ridge with views over the Fyksesund fjord.

5610, Norway (60.51459, 6.20128)

ut.no/hytte/kiellandbu

C Myrkdalen Camping

Campsite located near Myrkdalen Mountain Resort, providing year-round access to skiing and hiking trails.

(60.83278, 6.45925)

myrkdalen-camping.no, +47 95146472

D Voss Resort Fjellheisar

Cable car and lift system providing access to alpine ski runs and mountain hiking trails from Voss town center.

(Unnamed Road), 5710, Norway (60.65764, 6.39280)

vossresort.no/no/vinter/, +47 4700 4700

E Voss Camping

Lakeside facility offering caravan hookups and tent sites within walking distance of the train station.

(60.62469, 6.42229)

vosscamping.no, +47 56 51 15 97

F Volahytta

Self-service mountain cabin located in the eastern part of Stølsheimen, accessible via marked hiking routes.

5707, Norway (60.73926, 6.30547)

ut.no/hytte/volahytta

G Torfinnsheim

Self-service mountain hut on the plateau between Voss and Hardanger, used by cross-country skiers and hikers.

5708, Norway (60.56214, 6.24237)

ut.no/hytte/10428/torfinnsheim

H Voss, Hanguren

Mountain plateau and launch site for paragliding and hang gliding, accessible via the Voss Gondol.

5704, Norway (60.64306, 6.40639)

flightlog.org/fl.html

I Grindaflethytta

High-mountain cabin located at 1,091 meters above sea level on the trekking route toward the Aurlandsfjord.

5713, Norway (60.84347, 6.91552)

ut.no/hytte/grindaflethytta

J Tvinde Camping AS

Campsite situated at the base of the 110-meter Tvindefossen waterfall, featuring cabins and space for caravans.

(60.72627, 6.48893)

tvinde.no, +47 56 516919

DATA SOURCES

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