

NATURE AND CULTURE

## The industrial town Rjukan

**THE MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION** in this narrow valley emigrated to America in the 19th century. But where others saw problems, the entrepreneur and engineer Sam Eyde, saw opportunities. He was struck by the beauty of the Rjukanfossen waterfall but also by the possibility of taming the waterfall and generating power. Together with the scientist Kristian Birkeland, Sam Eyde built an industrial empire out of air and water: Norsk Hydro.

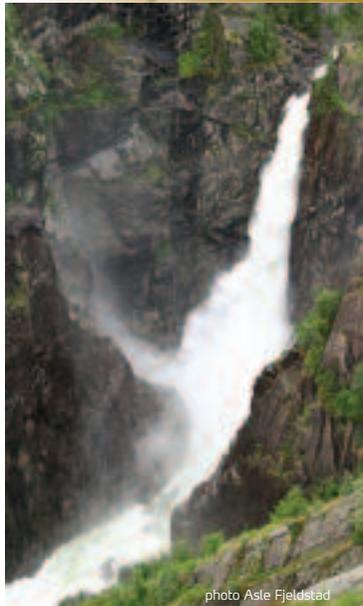


photo Aste Fjeldstad

Rjukan became an industrial town with infrastructure and architecture planned to the minutest detail. The power station was at the heart of the industrial development. The Såheim power station was completed and ready to start producing energy in 1915. The monumental building was hand-built by travelling labourers. Såheim was referred to locally as The Opera because of the intense "singing" of its turbines – sweet music to Sam Eyde's ears.

### WHAT YOU MIGHT SEE ON YOUR WALK

**RØDBYEN:** The semi-detached wooden houses between Torget and Såheim were designed and built by Hydro in the years before 1920. The houses were built for engineers and clerks.

Photo: Guro Lien



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## Tell me where you live

**SAM EYDES PASSION** for architecture is reflected in several architectural gems in the centre of Rjukan. Admini is Hydro's official guest residence and one of the first buildings to be erected in Rjukan. The building was intended to impress investors. The cost of establishing the industrial empire that became Rjukan came to one and a half times the national budget. Not only did factories have to be built; the workers also had to be housed, everyone from engineers and clerks to factory workers and cleaning ladies. "Tell me where you live and I can tell which position you have at Hydro," they would say. The class divide was prominent in the town, with engineers living up in the hills where the sun would first arrive in spring. Ordinary workers lived at the bottom of the valley. But the workers were also given their own building, Folkets hus, or the temple of socialism, as it was known. The labour movement was strong in Rjukan, something the red library bears witness to.



photo Hamish Moore

Layout: Nina Akerstvein / Trykk: Erik Tøncche Nilssen as



[www.vandretelemark.no](http://www.vandretelemark.no) [www.visitrjukan.com](http://www.visitrjukan.com)

Published by VTNU AS and Tinn municipality with support from Telemark County Council



CIRCUIT 2,7 KM / 1 HOUR

EASY WALK →



## Rjukan – Telemark

WALK Rjukan

THEME Town centre walk



Photo Espen Halvorsen

**KJÆRLIGHETSSTIEN:** Kjærlighetsstien takes you into the Vestfjorddalen nature reserve, where the entire forest is listed.

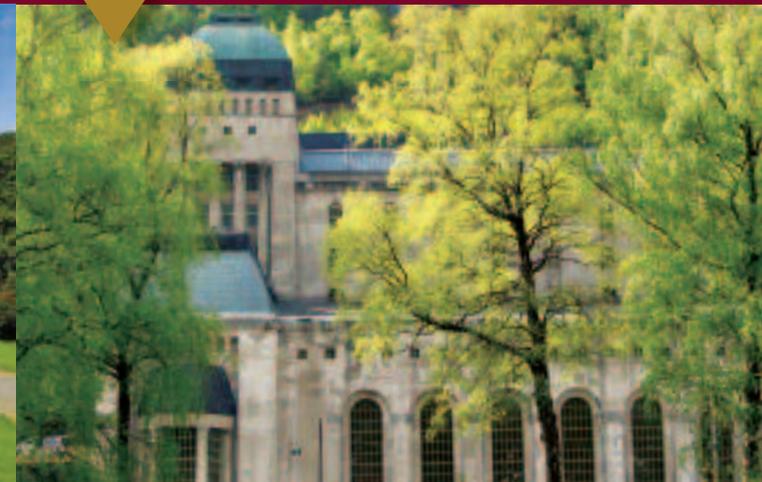
Photo: Lill Susan Rognli Vale



**ADMINI** – this spectacular residence helped attract investment. Photo: Espen Halvorsen

**SÅHEIM POWER STATION** – "The Opera", now a listed building.

Photo: Lill Susan Rognli Vale



# Description of the walk

**YOU CAN START THE TRIP** at Torget, the market, next to the tourist information office. We recommend following the signs and map provided and allow these to lead you on a fascinating and informative journey through this history rich town. Let the stairs lead you into Kjærlighetsstien and the nature reserve. Alternatively for those free spirited souls – use the map and create your own route... Enjoy!

# Driving directions



Start at the tourist information office in the centre of Rjukan. There is ample parking in the area. (GPS: N59°52.712' E008° 35.424')



### Get the story of Rjukan on your mobile.

Ten guide points have been installed in Rjukan and Tinn, where you can call from your own mobile to hear stories about the town's role in the war, its industrial history and other interesting facts about Rjukan and Tinn. Seven of the 10 guide points are located in the centre of Rjukan. Brochures with maps and more information are available from the Rjukan tourist information office and from the Visitor Point stands. You can also borrow a digibook from the Rjukan tourist information office on payment of a deposit.



You are responsible for your own safety during the walk. Treat the countryside and grazing animals with respect. Take only photos, leave only footprints. Please take your rubbish home with you. Enjoy the trip!



**Map:**  
Hardangervidda Sør-Øst 1: 60 000



The route is easily accessible all year round.  
Approx. 300 m above sea level



Statens kartverk, Geovekst og kommuner

Kart: AT plan

Scale 1 : 10,000 Equidistance 20m

Guide point w/history 1) Call +47 53 00 12 00 2) Enter code from map.



Foto: Guro Lien