

Sun to the people!



photo Terje Rakke

IN 1907 NORSK HYDRO began to develop the industrial town of Rjukan. Its topography allowed for the production of large quantities of electric power; an important product for the fledgling fertiliser company. Did you know that this small town situated in the deep Vestfjordalen valley lies in the shadow of Mount Gaustatoppen the whole winter? Since 1925 the people of Rjukan have celebrated the return of the sun with a sun festival in the month of March. In 1928 Norsk Hydro granted the people their wish of seeing the sun even in winter when they opened the Krossobanen cable car – a 5-minute airy ride to the Hardangervidda plateau and the sun. Since then more than 5 million people have travelled on northern Europe's first passenger cable car service. Today you can take the cable car to reach the sun and the plateau every day, all year round.

(Helge Dahl 1998: Rjukan Volume I, Tom Nilsen/Helge Songe 2001: Krossobanen).

WHAT YOU MIGHT SEE ON YOUR WALK

CROWBERRY:

Common plant with edible but bitter berries.

Photo: Guro Lien



From the seabed to mountain plateau



photo Guro Lien

YOU ARE NOW on the edge of the Hardangervidda plateau, Norway's largest national park and northern Europe's largest mountain plateau. The entire plateau covers some 8,000 km², equivalent to 1/5 of the Netherlands! About 550 million years ago the plateau was submerged by the sea. Gradually a sheet of rock began to drift over the seabed, was compressed, folded and rose from the sea. What is now western Norway rose the most, and erosion created deeper valleys and steeper mountains than in the east. Glacier and melting ice after the last ice age chiselled out the landscape we see today.

(Lauritzen, P. R., & Solem R. 2007: Hardangervidda nasjonalpark).

Layout: Nina Akerstveit / Trykke Erik Tanche Nilssen as



Vandrerregionen

www.vandretelemark.no

www.visitrjukan.com

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MEDIUM WALK →



Rjukan – Telemark

WALK Solstien

THEME Family trip to the Hardangervidda plateau



photo Guro Lien

SPIKED RAMPION: Very rare plant that grows along the Solstien route, blooming around 20 July. Photo: Bjørn Rørslett/NN/Samfoto



MOUNTAIN BIRCH: One of the first plants to arrive on the mountain after the ice age.

Photo: Guro Lien



14 cm



WILD REINDEER TRACKS: You are on the edge of the plateau, which is home to 10,000 wild reindeer. Find out more at www.villrein.no Photo: Guro Lien



Description of the walk

EASY, FAMILY-FRIENDLY ROUND TRIP with views over Rjukan, Mount Gaustatoppen and the Hardangervidda plateau. You will be walking on dirt roads and stone steps to the vantage point at the cannon position from WWII. Sherpas from Nepal built the beautiful stone steps in the summer of 2010. The Solstien route is the shortest route from Rjukan to the Hardangervidda plateau.

START THE TRIP at the higher of the two Krossobanen stops and follow the dirt road 800 m up the long hills to Verdens ende. Then cross the car park to the bottom of the stone steps, which will take you to the top. There are benches along the way if you need a rest. Enjoy the view from the cannon position before taking the same route back (3.8 km), or turning right at the cannon position for a short round trip (4.3 km) on a dirt road. Turn left at the cannon position for a longer round trip (4.9 km). There are some wet marshes, so remember to bring tall, waterproof boots.

Driving directions



Start in the centre of Rjukan. Follow RV37 towards Rauland.

After about 2 km (from the tourist information office) turn right towards Krossobanen.



Follow the road for about 500 m to the car park (free). (GPS: N59°5277' E008° 33.279')



Take Krossobanen to Gvepseborg and the starting point of the trip.



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:
Rjukan Vest-Møsvatn 1: 30 000
Hardangervidda Sør-Øst 1: 60 000

NB: Remember to bring something to drink, a windproof top and a baby carrier for small children on the steep hills.



Accessibility:
June – October
886 – 1,100 m above sea level



Scale 1 : 50,000

Equidistance 20m

