NATURE AND CULTURE

Nordigard Bjørge

Photo: "Trygge og gode dagar"

ANCIENT TRAILS AND SMALLHOLDINGS At the heart of Seljord lies Nordigard Bjørge with views across the serene Lake Seljordsvatnet, best known for its alleged sea monster. The lush landscape has attracted people to the area since the Stone Age. Several archaeological finds have been made on the farm. Local place names have also been uncovered along the old footpaths in Bjørgefjell. In the olden days every little nook and cranny would have a name, a name that said something about what the site was used for, about people or about places in the landscape. Bjørgefjell is full of ancient trails and paths winding their way through the cultural landscape surrounded by remains of old smallholdings and mountain farms with pastures and hayfields. There are numerous idyllic spots along the way where you can stop, rest and enjoy the panoramic views of Lake Seljordsvatnet.

NATURE AND CULTURE

Telemark cattle

Photo: "Trygge og gode dagar"

THE TELEMARK CATTLE were defined as a separate breed in 1865. The cattle had their heyday in the years that followed and was a big attraction at the annual market festival. There are now few animals left, and the breed is at risk of extinction. Nordigard Bjørge is one of very few farms rearing this distinctive alpine cow, which has a very unique temperament. She is sociable, playful and curious! From her milk the hosts on the farm create the most delicious ice-cream with flavours added from local produce. A visit to Nordigard Bjørge will awaken all your senses!

Layout Nina Akersveen / trykk Erik Tanche Nilssen as

Vandreregionen
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TELEMARK FYLKESKOMMUNE

4 – 10 KM ROUND TRIP / 1,5 – 3 HOURS
MEDIUM TO DIFFICULT

Seljord – Telemark

WALK **Bjørgefjell**

THEME **Cultural landscapes and vantage points**

Photo: Hamish Moore

WHAT YOU MIGHT SEE ON YOUR WALK

THERE ARE MANY VANTAGE POINTS along the way from which to admire the views.
Photo: Anne Gundersen

BY AGREEMENT you can put the rabbits on a leash and take them for a walk. Photo: Hanne Årlid

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS at Nordigard Bjørge include ancient jewellery from a royal grave.
(Drawing: Norwegian Antiquity)

SAVOUR THE FLAVOUR of Telemark-is, a genuine farm product from Nordigard Bjørge made from the milk of Telemark cattle.
Photo: Hanne Årlid

Description of the walk

IN BJØRGEFJELL you can choose from a number of different footpaths through the cultural landscape. The lower part of the route is graded easy to medium, while the final ascent to the top of Mount Bjørgefjell is steeper and more challenging. There are great vantage points and benches along the way. On this trip you will encounter remains of old smallholdings and clearance cairns. In the hills you may well bump into grazing Telemark cattle and wild sheep. Be considerate of grazing animals and remember to close the gates behind you. Spending time with the farm animals is always a hit with the children. Perhaps you will be able to help the farmer with the daily chores or take the rabbits for a walk? You can start the trip from either Nordigard Bjørge or Seljord Camping. There is easy access from the main road.

Driving directions

You can start this hike from Nordigard Bjørge Guesthouse (Nordigard Bjørge gjestegard) or Seljord Camping.
(GPS: N59°29.189' E08° 39.258') Seljord Camping
(GPS: N59°29.364' E08° 39.122')
Nordigard Bjørge Guesthouse (Nordigard Bjørge gjestegard).

Photo: Hanne Årlid

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!

Local tour map:
Seljord 1 : 40 000

Map: AT plan

Highest point: 895m
Footwear: Hiking shoes, good walking shoes.

Access:
May-September

Scale 1 : 10 000 Equidistance 5m

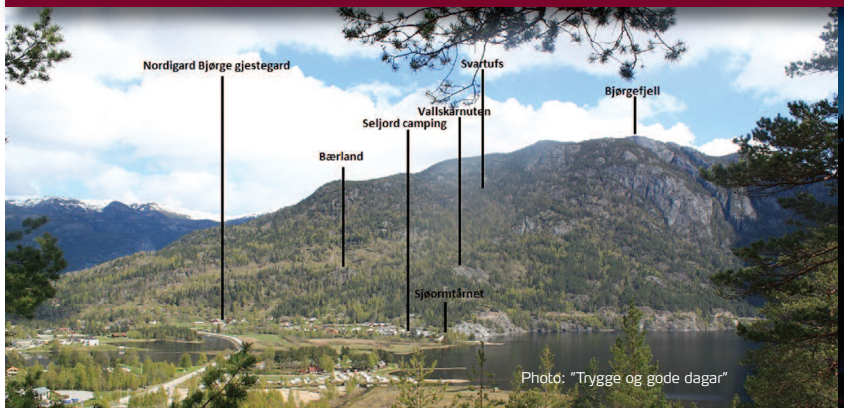

Photo: "Trygge og gode dagar"

Photo: Dag Jenssen/Seljord og sogene