

OPPLAND
fylkeskommune





Øystein Søybe/Samfoto

In the heart of Norway

- Oppland is the only county without a coastline or border to another country.
- The county covers an area of 25,190 km², divided into 26 municipalities and six regions.
- Over 185,000 people live in Oppland.

The highest and largest

- 80 % of Oppland is more than 600 metres above sea level.
- The mountain areas of Jotunheimen, Rondane and Dovre have 300 peaks over 2,000m.
- Galdhøpiggen is Norway's highest mountain at 2469m.
- Mjøsa is Norway's largest lake with a surface area of 365 km².

Major protected areas

- Oppland has seven national parks.
- Protected areas cover over 25 % of the county.
- 40,000 buildings are more than 100 years old and many of them are listed as protected buildings.
- There are over 7,600 cultural heritage sites and monuments in Oppland.



Mathias Øvsteng



Transport

Distances

Lillehammer – Gardermoen	146 km
Lillehammer – Oslo	168 km
Gjøvik – Gardermoen	103 km
Gjøvik – Oslo	123 km

Lillehammer – Gjøvik	45 km
Lillehammer – Otta	114 km
Gjøvik – Fagernes	98 km
Gjøvik – Jevnaker	80 km

By train

Lillehammer – Gardermoen – Oslo
 Travelling time approx. 2 h 15 min
 (Gardermoen Airport 1 h 40 min)
 Gjøvik – Oslo
 Travelling time approx. 2 hours

By air

Fagernes Airport at Leirin in Valdres was built in 1987 and is situated 820m above sea level. Daily flights between Oslo and Fagernes.

By road

The main route that connects the north and south of Norway is the E6 motorway that runs through the county. The E16 and E136 are main road connections to the east and west.



Bernt M. Tordhol



Siri Høsteng-Haugen



Bernt M. Tordhol



Bernt M. Tordhol



Eskil Solberg / Kvitfjell Alpinanlegg



Jan Askildsen



Inger Elin Nes Hjelle



Jørgen Skaug



Geir Olsen



Bernt M. Tordhol

Governed by politics

Oppland County Council is a political organisation, with representatives that are elected every four years.

The County Council is the middle of the three public administration levels in Norway, between the Central Government and the Local Council. The county is governed by the County Council, the County Executive Board and a number of committees. The Council consists of 37 Councillors and is led by the County Mayor.

The County Executive Board consists of nine elected representatives from the County Council. The County Executive Board mainly deals with matters relating to finance and planning.

Regional development

The County Council is responsible for regional social development and is a provider of a number of public services.

In one way or another most of the population have a connection with the County Council every day. It can be when getting the bus, when driving on county roads, attending school, in working life, visiting the dentist or attending sporting and cultural events.

As the administrative head of the County Council, the Chief County Executive leads, coordinates and supervises all administrative and economic activities. The administration has 14 departments.

Looking outwards

Oppland has an international perspective and participates in several international organisations and networks.

Participation in AER (Assembly of European Regions, BSSC (Baltic Sea States sub-regional Cooperation) and the EuroMontana (Organisation for mountain regions) provides opportunities to exchange experiences and information, as well as influence policymaking in areas that are important to Oppland.

Oppland is present in Brussels through the Oslo Region European Office. The main task of the office is networking, alliance building and to be a door opener in the EU capital.

Diverse industry

The industry in Oppland is diverse and consists of mainly small and medium businesses. Agriculture and forestry are still crucial for both employment and settlement in large parts of the county. Tourism and cultural businesses are growing, and the town Raufoss is home to one of Norway's most advanced technological environments.

The County Council's role is to be a partner and initiator for development; this is enhanced through the ownership of Innovation Norway. Innovation Norway promotes nationwide industrial development profitable to both the business economy and Norway's national economy.

Attractive and competitive

Oppland is a great place to live. The population has been relatively stable for decades but some rural districts in the county are suffering from a declining population. The settlement pattern shows that people are moving in to the regional centres, Lillehammer and Gjøvik, and out of the county.

High quality of life and good living conditions are key objectives for developing the county. We aim to develop a strong, safe and vibrant community for the future that offers what people need to be able to live a good life.

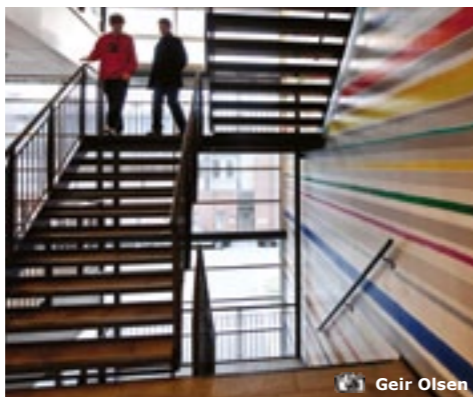
Upper secondary education

The County Council owns and runs 13 upper secondary schools in the county, as well as Gjøvik Technical College and two folk high schools. Folk high schools are one-year boarding schools based on the idea of learning for life. Upper secondary education accounts for over 60 % of the county's total budget.

In Oppland you have the right to choose which school you would like to attend, regardless of where you live in the county. When measuring quality the upper secondary schools in Oppland do well and the county is a pioneer in vocational education.

“Karriere Oppland” is a priority when it comes to adult learning. The County has career centres in all six regions where we offer career counselling and upper secondary education to adults.

There are plans to establish a university in the region. “Project Inland University” is a collaboration between the counties of Oppland and Hedmark and the three university colleges in the area.



345 times around the equator

The county bus service (Opplandstrafikk) carries 8.5 million passengers a year. Each morning 300 buses and 250 taxis transport people to school and work.

Opplandstrafikk covers a total of 13.8 million km each year, which equals 345 trips around the equator.

The County Council is responsible for developing, operating and maintaining 3013 kms of county roads. This represents 54 % of the public road network. The responsibility also includes “Randsfjordferja”, the country's only freshwater ferry operating all year.



Culture and nature

The artistic and cultural scene in the county is diverse and vibrant, including both professionals and amateurs. Festivals and major cultural events are important in many municipalities.

There is considerable focus on film in the county, through the Norwegian Film School, several production studios, and The Amandus Film Festival. The festival is Norway's most important venue for showing children and youth film productions.

All of the three Norwegian Nobel Prize-winners in literature are connected to Oppland. Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson's home (Aulestad), Sigrid Undset's home (Bjerkebæk), and the birthplace of Knut Hamsun, are all open to the public.



Public Health

Oppland is rich in natural beauty, which encourages activities in the forests and mountains all year round. Physical activity promotes health and well-being. The county is a driving force in health promotion through our public health programme.



The region of tourism

Tourism is Opplands most important export industry and one of the country's most important tourist counties. It is full of great experiences and activities, based on tradition and breathtaking scenery. Oppland is the largest "cabin" county, with approximately 45,000 holiday homes.

The county is the regional authority on cultural heritage. The county has several cultural-historical museums, nine preserved stave churches, and the largest number of buildings listed as protected in the country. Our cultural landscape is of national and international value.

The Pilgrim path is an organised trail from Oslo to Trondheim, with a distance of 640 kms. The medieval pilgrimages to Nidaros happend regularly over five hundred years - from 1050 to 1537. A lot of work has been done so that we can follow in the footsteps of the pilgrims. Oppland has 400 kms of signposted trails.



Jørgen Skaug



Kjetil Rolseth

Cities

Oppland has four cities: Lillehammer, Gjøvik, Fagernes and Otta.

A quarter of Oppland's population live in Lillehammer and Gjøvik. Lillehammer became a town in 1842, and Gjøvik some years later. Gjøvik has the largest population, while Lillehammer is the administrative centre. Both towns are educational centres and have a university college.

Lillehammer hosted the Winter Olympics in 1994. The Winter Games gave the two towns a highly developed infrastructure. Roads, early broadband internet and great culture and sports arenas are permanent reminders of the 16-day sporting event.



Thor Østby



Andreas Drevvatne

Regions

Oppland has six regions. A lot of the County Council's development work is done in partnership with the regions.

Hadeland consists of the municipalities Gran, Lunner and Jevnaker, centrally located in relation to Oslo. Agriculture and forestry are important, and the region has a strong focus on bioenergy.

The Gjøvik region consists of the municipalities Gjøvik, Vestre Toten, Østre Toten, Nordre Land and Søndre Land. It is the leading region for industry and technology in the county, and includes the Raufoss area. The region also has an international competitive research centre in information security.

Valdres consists of the municipalities Nord-Aurdal, Sør-Aurdal, Øystre Slidre, Vestre Slidre, Vang and Etnedal. This region has a culture and nature-based economic development and the agricultural industry is important. Valdres also has a large number of holiday homes and is known for its delicacy "rakfisk" - a special fish dish.

The Lillehammer region consists of the municipalities Lillehammer, Gausdal and Øyer. It focuses on tourism, and is aiming to become Europe's most complete winter sports region. The region has a University college, and offers a variety of cultural and sporting events.

Midt-Gudbrandsdal consists of the municipalities Ringebu, Sør-Fron and Nord-Fron. Culture and nature-based economic development is key, and primary industries are important. The region has a large number of holiday homes. "The millennium place" in Oppland – Hundorp Dale-Gudbrands farm – is located in Sør-Fron.

Nord-Gudbrandsdal consists of the municipalities Sel, Vågå, Lom, Skjåk, Dovre and Lesja. The area profiles itself as a national park area. The industry is largely based on agriculture and tourism.

Klimapark2469

Out of the ice came a 3,400 year old shoe. This amazing discovery in Jotunheimen in 2006 was the start of Scandinavia's first climate park.

Klimapark2469 is where past and future meet. At the foot of Galdhøpiggen a unique arena for education and research on climate changes, cultural heritage and mountain areas has been created within the glacier.

Northern Europe's only glacier tunnel is situated here. The tunnel takes visitors deep into the glacier Juvfonna, for a journey through time where melting ice reveals the past.



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Oppland County Council

Kirkegata 76

Box 988

N-2626 Lillehammer

Tel: + 47 61 28 90 00

E-mail: postmottak@oppland.org

www.oppland.no/eng

Other sites:

www.opplandstrafikk.no

www.opplandvgs.no

www.karriereoppland.no

www.klimapark2469.no

