

Vik

Vik is a municipality in Sogn og Fjordane county, Norway. It is located on the southern shore of the Sognefjorden in the traditional district of Sogn. The administrative center of Vik is the village of Vikøyri. Other villages in the municipality include Feios, Fresvik, Nese, and Vangsnes.

The 833-square-kilometre (322 sq mi) municipality is the 133rd largest by area out of the 422 municipalities in Norway. Vik is the 280th most populous municipality in Norway with a population of 2,722. The municipality's population density is 3.4 inhabitants per square kilometre (8.8/sq mi) and its population has decreased by 4% over the last decade^[2]

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General information



Map of Vik

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Municipality



Coat of arms



Sogn og Fjordane within Norway



Vik within Sogn og Fjordane

Coordinates: 61°03′25″N 06°34′41″E﻿ / ﻿

Country	Norway
County	Sogn og Fjordane
District	Sogn
Administrative centre	Vikøyri
Government 	
 • Mayor (2015)	Olav Turvoll (Sp)
Area 	
 • Total	833.33 km ² (321.75 sq mi)
 • Land	795.99 km ² (307.33 sq mi)
 • Water	37.34 km ² (14.42 sq mi)
Area rank	#133 in Norway
Population (2017)	



View of Vikøyni



Stone church in Hove

Vik was established as a municipality on 1 January 1838 (see formannskapsdistrikt). The original municipality was identical to the Vik parish (*prestegjeld*) with the sub-parishes (*sokn*) of Hopperstad, Hove, and Arnafjord (on the south side of the fjord) and Kvamsøy (on the north side of the fjord).

• Total	2,722
• Rank	#280 in Norway
• Density	3.4/km ² (9/sq mi)
• Change (10 years)	-4.0%
Demonym(s)	Vikje (male) Vikja (female) ^[1]
Time zone	CET (UTC+01:00)
• Summer (DST)	CEST (UTC+02:00)
ISO 3166 code	NO-1417
Official language form	Nynorsk
Website	www.vik.kommune.no
Data from Statistics Norway	

During the 1960s, there were many municipal mergers across Norway due to the work of the Schei Committee. On 1 January 1964 the sub-parish of Kvamsøy (population: 363) was transferred from Vik to Balestrand Municipality and the sub-parish of Vangsnes (population: 189) was transferred from Balestrand to Vik. Also

on this date, the Nybø and Nygjerdet farms were transferred from Vik to Høyanger Municipality. All these changes gave Vik a total population of 2,623.

On 1 January 1992, the sub-parishes of Feios and Fresvik were transferred from Leikanger Municipality to Vik Municipality. This added 572 residents to the population of Vik.^{[3][4]}

Name

The name (Old Norse: *Vík*) is identical with the word *vík* which means inlet or cove, possibly referring to the small bay off the main Sognefjorden at the village of Vikøyni.^{[5][6]}

Coat-of-arms

The coat-of-arms is from modern times (granted on 15 March 1991). It shows three gold knives for the cutting of leaves on a green background. These types of knives were commonly used in the area to cufodder for animals.^[7]

Churches

The Church of Norway has five parishes (*sokn*) within the municipality of Vik. It is part of the Indre Sogn deanery in the Diocese of Bjørgvin.

Churches in Vik

Parish (sokn)	Name	Location	Year built
Arnafjord	<u>Arnafjord Church</u>	<u>Nese</u>	1880
Feios	<u>Feios Church</u>	<u>Feios</u>	1866
Fresvik	<u>Fresvik Church</u>	<u>Fresvik</u>	1881
Vangsnes	<u>Vangsnes Church</u>	<u>Vangsnes</u>	1877
Vik	<u>Vik Church</u>	<u>Vikøyri</u>	1877
	<u>Hove Church</u>	<u>Vikøyri</u>	<u>c. 1170</u>
	<u>Hopperstad Stave Church</u>	<u>Vikøyri</u>	<u>c. 1140</u>

Government

All municipalities in Norway, including Vik, are responsible for primary education (through 10th grade), outpatient health services, senior citizen services, unemployment and other social services, zoning, economic development, and municipal roads. The municipality is governed by amunicipal council of elected representatives, which in turn elect anayor.

Municipal council

The municipal council (*Kommunestyre*) of Vik is made up of 17 representatives that are elected to four year terms. Currently, the party breakdown is as follows!^[8]

Vik Kommunestyre 2015–2019

Party Name		<i>Name in Norwegian</i>	Number of representatives
	<u>Labour Party</u>	<i>Arbeiderpartiet</i>	6
	<u>Conservative Party</u>	<i>Høyre</i>	2
	<u>Christian Democratic Party</u>	<i>Kristelig Folkeparti</i>	1
	<u>Centre Party</u>	<i>Senterpartiet</i>	5
	<u>Liberal Party</u>	<i>Venstre</i>	3
<i>Total number of members:</i>			<i>17</i>

Mayor

The mayor (*ordfører*) of a municipality in Norway is a representative of the majority party of the municipal council who is elected to lead the council. Olav Turvoll of the Centre Party was elected mayor in 2015.

History

The wide and fertile village of Vikøyri was established in ancient times. The area must have stood out early as a good place to settle. Distinct parts of Norway stand out with many large burial mounds. These are areas that have been powerful and rich and must have been political centers in prehistoric times. **Vk** is such an area.

Vik was a center in Sogn through a great deal of the Bronze and Iron Ages (1800 BC-1050 AD). This is due to the importance of agriculture in Vik.^[9]

Viking Age

The farms in Vik lie on old marine terraces, and many of the burial mounds lie on the edges of these. Several of the mounds carried rich finds that show how the people of Vik traded and travelled both domestically and abroad. Especially the burial fields at Stadheim and Hove have given rich finds. The Hove mounds were built about 400-500 AD. At Hopperstad, finds have been made that prove Viking raids from Vik. These finds are bronze bowls and bronze dishes, things that probably found their way to Norway with the Viking raids.^[9]



View of the Vikøyri valley

Old Churches

In the latter half of the 12th century the Hopperstad Stave Church was built at Hopperstad and the stone Hove Church was built at Hove. Both churches are now renovated and restored and they are used by villagers and tourists. The Hove Church was privately owned and indicates that Hove was the home of citizens of great wealth.

In addition to these churches there was also a stave church at Tenål. This church was destroyed in a landslide, probably in the 16th century. This church might also have been built in the 12th century

The Middle Ages

Until the 18th century life passed on for centuries without major changes, in Vik as in other parts of Norway. The Black Death swept over the country and lay farms waste. People lived from what the earth, the mountains, and the fjord gave them. Agriculture kept people alive, forestry has never had a central place in the Vik economy. Few people lived far from the fjord.^[9]

18th century

In 1726, a military parade ground was established in Vik. This represents an important happening in the history of Vik. With the parade ground soldiers and officers found their way to Vik. When Vik became the drill ground for Sogns Bataljon in 1874, Vik's military days of glory began. The officers who came to Vik meant a lot for the development of the town. They were pioneers in agriculture and they were principal characters in politics. Other important happenings in the 18th century was the school building that was built already in 1741. The vicar Anders Daae built this house by his private means. This was one of the first school buildings in rural Norway. The house was torn down in the 1890s.^[9]



View of boathouses in Vik

19th century

On 2 December 1811, disaster struck Vik. The village of Nese, on the shore of the Arnafjorden, was devastated by a landslide and 45 people lost their lives. The farms at Nese were gathered in one house cluster where the landslide came down from the mountain. The situation worsened by the bad crops in 1812. Surviving cost a lot of hard work, and many people were in need of help. But eventually a way out was offered. In 1839, the first people from Vik emigrated to America. Per Ivarson Undi with his wife and children became the first emigrants from Sogn og Fjordane county. Over the years, many would follow. Over 4,000 people left from the area of present-day Vik municipality. In the year 2000 there are less than 3000 inhabitants left in Vik. Tens of thousands of Americans can trace their roots to Vik municipality.

The latter part of the 19th century saw villagers gathering in common organizations and clubs, and official organizations were established. A post office was established in 1844, Vik Sparebank in 1846 and an agricultural organization in 1858. Then followed a rifle club, a temperance society, a morality society, a choral society, a consumer union, a youth society and many others. People created new social meeting places. The extensive shifting of agricultural land resulted in better working and living conditions. In 1865, Vik Prison was built in Vikøyri (the only prison in Sogn og Fjordane county). The dairy plant was established in 1897. The dairy is the only one that produces gammelost (*old cheese*), and every year there is a Gammelost festival in Vik.^[9]

20th century

Power Plant

In 1913, the first power plant in Vik was finished. When the plant was opened it was immoderately labeled "the greatest happening in the development of Vik". The Vik people looked optimistically upon the future of industry and economic growth. In 1920, Vik saw its first industry when Vik Trevarefabrikk (wood articles) and Vik Hermetikkfabrikk (canned products) were established. The Trevarefabrikk employed between 10 and 20 persons, and the Hermetikkfabrikk employed 60 persons from May through September. Both companies have since gone out of business.

Rv13 across Vikjafjellet

In 1957, the Norwegian National Road 13 between the municipalities of Vik and Voss (across the Vikjafjellet mountain) was officially opened. This was the first (and only) road connection to Vik from the rest of Norway, without any ferry or boat across the fjord. There are several regular ferry connections across the fjord.



View of the road over Vikjafjellet

Industry

From the late 1960s until 1990, agriculture in Vik was revolutionized. New land was cultivated and new farm buildings were built. When the last power project was finished, a great effort was made to establish new employment in Vik. The effort resulted in success, and Vik Verk opened in 1968. The company produced crash barriers, signposts, snow shields, and other aluminium products. About 220 persons were employed. Since then, the company has been split into several minor companies, and the total employment is a lot less today^[9]

Geography

Vik forms part of the southern border of Sogn og Fjordane county. Vik is located on the southern shores of the Sognefjorden and west of the Aurlandsfjorden. The municipality is bordered on the west by the municipalities of Høyanger and Modalen (in Hordaland county), to the south by Voss and Vaksdal (both in Hordaland county), and to the east by Aurland. Across the Sognefjorden to the north and east lie the municipalities of Balestrand, Leikanger, Sogndal, and Lærdal.

The lake Holskardvatnet is located in the southwest part of the municipality. The Fresvikbreen glacier is located between the villages of Fresvik and Vikøyri.



Moving cows to mountain pastures

Attractions

UNESCO World Heritage Site

The "West Norwegian Fjords of Geirangerfjord and Nærøyfjord" were added to UNESCO's World Heritage List in 2005. The two fjords are situated 120 kilometres (75 mi) from each other and they are separated by the Jostedalbreen glacier. The World Heritage Site possesses a unique combination of glacial landforms at the same time as each area is characterised by its own outstanding beauty. The Nærøyfjord areas in this site stretch through the municipalities of Aurland, Lærdal, Vik, and Voss.

Vikøyri

The name Vikøyri describes the area between the rivers Vikja and Hopra. The last syllable of the name is the Norwegian word describing the flat area of land at the mouth of a river. The settlement lies on the Øyri, which was created by sediments deposited over thousands of years. Vikøyri was common land, owned by the local community, which might be the reason why the community

grew so rapidly. During the 19th century an increasing number of people took up trade. An idyllic spot with old small houses and boat houses situated in the centre of Vik and well worth a visit.

Hopperstad Stave Church

The Hopperstad Stave Church was built around the year 1130. It is a triple-nave stave church and has a Gothic altar-baldaquin with sculptured heads, as well as decorations and paintings in the ceiling depicting the childhood of Christ. This stave church was saved from demolition on the initiative of the architect Peter Andreas Blix.

The Stave churches are constructions of high quality, richly decorated with carvings. In virtually all of them the door frames are decorated from top to bottom with carvings. This tradition of rich ornamentation appears to go back to the animal carvings of the Viking Age. The dragons are lovingly executed and transformed into long-limbed creatures of fantasy, here and there entwined with tendrils of vine, with winding stems and serrated leaves. The elaborate designs are executed with supreme artistic skill. The stave church doorways are, therefore, among the most distinctive works of art to be found in Norway. However, it is difficult to connect them with the Christian gospel.



Hopperstad Stave Church in Vik in Sogn

Statue of Fridtjof

The Statue of Fridtjof from Frithjof's Saga is a landmark which towers 22.5 metres (74 ft) over the hilltop. The statue was a gift from Kaiser Wilhelm II, to the Norwegian people and was erected in July 1913. It stands in a beautiful park overlooking the Sognefjorden at Vangsnes.

Borgstova

Borgstova is a house built in 1790. It is the only remnant of the Sjøtun Estate, which covered almost the entire village of Vikøyri. At Borgstova, there are copies of relics from the oldest burial sites in Vik.

Kristianhus Boat and Engine Collection

The museum is located by the fjord at the centre of Vikøyri in the same building as the tourist office. Here you can experience what historic boatlife was like for the inhabitants along the Sognefjord.

Vik Ski Festival

The Ski Festival is arranged at Vikafjellet (Vik Mountain) at the end of May. There are competitions in: ski jumping, slalom skiing, cross-country skiing, and Telemark skiing. Public parties and cultural arrangements are organized in connection with the ski festival.

Birdlife

Situated on the Sognefjord the municipality of Vik is known for its mild climate and great scenery. Take a hike on Vikafjellet and you could see such species as Eurasian golden plover or in good rodent years, maybe a rough-legged buzzard. The woodlands hold the usual passerines depending if it is coniferous or deciduous. Along the fjords red-breasted merganser can be seen all year round while the call of the Eurasian oystercatcher can only be heard from spring through early autumn.



Statue of Fridtjof
Max Unger (1913)

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External links

- Municipal fact sheetfrom Statistics Norway(in Norwegian)
 - Official Website of Vik (in Norwegian)
 - Vikjavev.no
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