

= Atlantic Ocean Road =

The Atlantic Ocean Road or the Atlantic Road (Norwegian : Atlanterhavsveien) is an 8 @. @ 3 @-@ kilometer (5 @. @ 2 mi) long section of County Road 64 that runs through an archipelago in Eide and Averøy in Møre og Romsdal , Norway . It passes by Hustadvika , an unsheltered part of the Norwegian Sea , connecting the island of Averøy with the mainland and Romsdalshalvøya peninsula . It runs between the villages of Kårvåg on Averøy and Vevang in Eida . It is built on several small islands and skerries , which are connected by several causeways , viaducts and eight bridges ? the most prominent being Storseisundet Bridge .

The route was originally proposed as a railway line in the early 20th century , but this was abandoned . Serious planning of the road started in the 1970s , and construction started on 1 August 1983 . During construction the area was hit by 12 European windstorms . The road was opened on 7 July 1989 , having cost 122 million Norwegian krone (NOK) , of which 25 percent was financed with tolls and the rest from public grants . Collection of tolls was scheduled to run for 15 years , but by June 1999 the road was paid off and the toll removed . The road is preserved as a cultural heritage site and is classified as a National Tourist Route . It is a popular site to film automotive commercials , has been declared the world 's best road trip , and been awarded the title as " Norwegian Construction of the Century " . In 2009 , the Atlantic Ocean Tunnel opened from Averøy to Kristiansund ; together they form a second fixed link between Kristiansund and Molde .

= = Route description = =

The road is a 8 @. @ 274 @-@ kilometer (5 @. @ 141 mi) long section of County Road 64 that connects the island and municipality of Averøy with the mainland at Eide . The road runs across an archipelago of partially inhabited islands and skerries . To the north lies Hustadvika , an unsheltered section of the Norwegian Sea , to the south Lauvøyfjorden . The road has a width of 6 @. @ 5 meters (21 ft) and a maximum gradient of eight percent . It consists of eight bridges and four resting places and viewpoints . Several tourist sites , including dining , fishing and scuba diving resorts , have been established on the islands . Along with the section from Vevang to Bud , the road has been designated one of 18 National Tourist Routes .

The road begins at Utheim on Averøy , close to the village of Kårvåg . It runs onto the island of Kuholmen and then across the 115 @-@ meter (377 ft) long Little Lauvøysund Bridge onto the island of Lille Lauvøy . It continues across the 52 @-@ meter (171 ft) long Store Lauvholmen Bridge onto Store Lauvøy . Next it crosses the equally long Geitøysund Bridge to Geitøya , which features a viewpoint and parking . It then runs across Eldhusøya and Lyngholmen , before reaching Ildhusøya , where there are a resting place , parking and a viewpoint . Next is Storseisundet Bridge , a cantilever bridge 260 meters (850 ft) long . The municipal boundary between Eide and Averøy runs under the bridge . It then runs across Flatskjæret , where there is a viewpoint , before crossing onto Hulvågen via the three Hulvågen Bridges , which combined are 293 @-@ meter (961 ft) long . From there the road runs through Skarvøy and Strømsholmen , both with a resting place . The route reaches the mainland over the 119 @-@ meter (390 ft) long Vevangstraumen Bridge .

= = History = =

The first proposals to use the route were made in the early 20th century . Planning of the Rauma Line to connect the national railway network to Møre og Romsdal was under way , and several proposals were made to extend it to the coastal towns . In 1921 , Møre og Romsdal County Council chose the outer route , which would have followed a path close to that of the road . The Rauma Line was not built beyond Åndalsnes , and in 1935 the Parliament of Norway decided to connect the coastal towns in Møre og Romsdal to Åndalsnes by road instead of rail .

Although the plans were officially shelved , locals continued to work with the idea of a road connecting Averøy with the mainland . The toll company Atlanterhavsveien AS was established in 1970 . Arne Rettedal , who was Minister of Local Government and Regional Development in the

early 1980s , proposed that job creation funds could be allocated to road projects . The proposal was approved in 1983 , after it had been supported by the municipalities of Averøy , Eide and Fræna . Construction started as a municipal road project on 1 August 1983 , but progressed slowly . From 1 July 1986 , the Norwegian Public Roads Administration took over the project , speeding up construction and allowing it to open on 7 July 1989 . During construction , the area was hit by 12 hurricanes . The opening of the road allowed the Tøvik ? Ørjavik Ferry to be terminated .

Construction cost NOK 122 million and was financed 25 percent by debt to be recollected through tolls , 25 percent by job creation funds and 50 percent by ordinary state road grants . There was significant local opposition against toll financing , as few people believed it would be possible to pay off the road in the stipulated 15 years . However , by June 1999 the road was paid off and tolls removed . The accelerated amortization was caused both by greater than predicted local traffic and by large amounts of tourist traffic .

In 2009 , the road was Norway 's ninth @-@ most @-@ visited natural tourist attraction , with 258 @,@ 654 visitors from May through August . The route won the title " Norwegian Construction of the Century " , awarded by the Norwegian construction industry in 2005 . In 2006 , The Guardian declared it the world 's best road trip . The road has become a popular place for the automotive industry to film advertisements ; more than ten manufacturers have made television commercials along the route , often depicting the harsh weather . The Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage preserved the road as a cultural heritage in December 2009 . The Atlantic Ocean Tunnel between Averøy and Kristiansund opened on 19 December 2009 . In combination with the road it provides a fixed link between Kristiansund and Molde . This is the second fixed link between the two towns , after the 1992 opening of the Kristiansund and Frei Fixed Link .

= = Junctions = =

The following is a list of bridges and major road junctions along the road . For bridges , it lists the name , overall length and clearance below ; for junctions , the distance from the starting point and the name of the road it intersects with .