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## Norway's First Biosphere Reserve

In June, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recognized Nordhordland as Norway's first biosphere reserve. The area is now one of 701 UNESCO biosphere reserves in 124 countries around the world. Located in western Norway, the Nordhordland Biosphere Reserve encompasses more than 1.6 million acres of fjords and mountains stretching from Bergen to Sognefjorden. The reserve is intended to promote tourism and local products to reinforce the conservation of its ecosystems.

## kalender

Oct. 29–Nov. 3  
Oslo, Norway

**Oslo World**  
Norway's premiere multi-genre music festival returns for its 26th year. Artists will perform at venues across Oslo. [osloworld.no](http://osloworld.no)

Oct. 31–Nov. 2  
Fagernes, Norway

**Norsk Rakfiskfestival**  
Indulge in sampling local delicacies at one of Norway's largest food festivals. There will be lots of *rakfisk*, or fermented trout, as well as other tasty food options, alongside local handicrafts and live music. [rakfisk.no](http://rakfisk.no)



ARNE BRAMSEN / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

Nov. 14  
Seattle, Wash.

**Scand3o: Impact of Climate Change on the Trolls of Norway**

Learn about an overlooked victim of the changing climate, the Norwegian troll, in this talk hosted by David Battisti, University of Washington's atmospheric sciences professor. [nordicmuseum.org](http://nordicmuseum.org)

Nov. 23  
Minneapolis, Minn.

**Frith and Grith: Offering the Welcome Cup**

Artist Kari Tauring explores the spiritual tradition of Old Norse runes and philosophy, and the ways that ancient Norwegian culture can improve life in the modern era. [norwayhouse.org](http://norwayhouse.org)



## AN ECO-FRIENDSHIP

Norway and Washington state are collaborating on next-generation maritime technologies and clean energy innovations to reduce the impact of the fishing and seafood industries in their respective territories. Representatives from the regions signed a memorandum of understanding at the second annual Nordic Innovation Summit, held at the National Nordic Museum in Seattle's Ballard neighborhood. Some of the immediate objectives set forth in the memorandum include:

- ▶ Moving from carbon-based fuel to hybrid and electric power for seafaring vessels
- ▶ Pursuing technological innovations such as offshore marine renewable energy
- ▶ Digitizing the maritime industry with a focus on sustainable ports and shipping

Officials also hope this agreement will foster larger goals of economic cooperation and trade relations.

Norway's film industry is on the rise. Box office revenues have grown nearly 40% since 2010, grossing nearly 1.4 billion NOK in 2018.

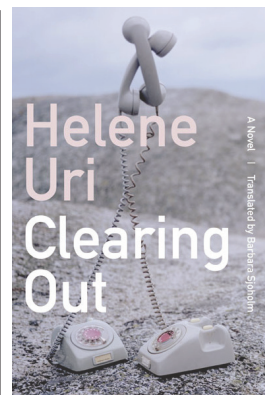
DID YOU KNOW?

## Best Places for Business

For the past 13 years, Forbes has rated the business friendliness of the world's largest economies annually, analyzing factors from taxes to political risk. In the magazine's 2019 "Best Countries for Business" report, Norway is one of three Scandinavian countries to make the top 20, placing 15th overall out of 161 nations with a GDP of \$399 billion. Norway ranks first in personal freedom and in quality-of-life ratings. Here's a look at the top 20 economies:



- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. United Kingdom | 11. Ireland       |
| 2. Sweden         | 12. Taiwan        |
| 3. Hong Kong      | 13. Finland       |
| 4. Netherlands    | 14. Germany       |
| 5. New Zealand    | 15. Norway        |
| 6. Canada         | 16. South Korea   |
| 7. Denmark        | 17. United States |
| 8. Singapore      | 18. Spain         |
| 9. Australia      | 19. Japan         |
| 10. Switzerland   | 20. Belgium       |



## Discovering Sámi Roots

In her semi-autobiographical novel "Clearing Out," Helene Uri is on a journey to discover her family's ancestry. As she's struggling to write about her new protagonist, language researcher Ellinor Smidt, Uri receives a call from a distant relative who says her grandfather was the son of a coastal Sámi fisherman. Uri weaves together the discovery of her own lineage with the story of her book's protagonist. Winner of the Nadia Christensen Prize for translation from the American-Scandinavian Foundation, Uri pulls us into an intricately-written personal story about identity, family, culture and history. [upress.umn.edu](http://upress.umn.edu)

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## Facial Recognition for Salmon

Oslo-based fish farming company Cermaq hopes its new iFarm face-recognition technology will revolutionize the salmon industry. Among other things, the company plans to use the technology to target sea lice, a parasite that costs the global salmon market nearly \$1 billion a year. Here's how it works: With the help of sensors that are triggered when a fish approaches the water's surface, approximately 200,000 salmon will be photographed each time they refill their swim bladders with air. An individual profile will be created for each fish based its facial markings, helping farms to monitor their health over time. Cermaq hopes to implement its system across the Norwegian coastline over the next six years.

