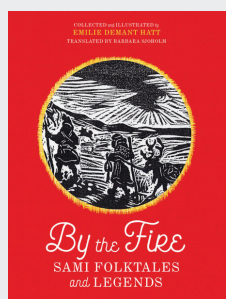


Norway's Best Kept Cider Secret

The small town of Ulvik is home to the nation's only fruit and cider route. Thanks to a balmy climate, protective geography and plenty of summer sunlight, the region's fruit farms have thrived for generations. Along the route are three distinct apple farms, which travelers can reach by foot, bicycle or car any time of the year. The whole route can be traversed in under four hours, and each farm has a guided tour and tastings available to enjoy.

1. **Hardanger Saft and Siderfabrikk** specializes in apple juice, cider and brandy, along with apple cheese and sides. An on-site gourmet restaurant serves dishes featuring local produce, complete with a patio and stunning fjord views. hardangersider.no
2. **Syse Gard** offers homemade jams, canned plums, lamb meat, sausage and fresh fruit at their farm hall for visitors to take home. The products offered are seasonal, beginning with cherries in August, followed by plums, pears and apples. sysegard.no
3. **Ulvik Fruits & Cideri** grows more than 20 types of apples and cherries. A variety of apple juices and ciders are available for sampling, with different flavors and characteristics based on acidity and the guest's preferences. hakastadsider.no



Sámi Folktales, Translated

For the first two decades of the 20th century, Danish artist Emilie Demant Hatt lived among the reindeer-herding Sámi communities in northern Sweden. Around the campfire, she discovered a rich world of folktales filled with wonder, magic animals and spirits. She recorded the stories and published "By the Fire: Sami Folktales in Legends" in 1922. In April 2019, the University of Minnesota Press reissued the book in its first English translation by Barbara Sjöholm. The book features Demant Hatt's original linocut illustrations. upress.umn.edu

kalender

Sept. 1
Budd Lake, N.J.
Scandinavian Fest
Celebrate the Nordic nations in Vasa Park with a day filled with traditional foods, crafts and a variety of performances. scanfest.org

Sept. 19–22
Bryne, Norway
Potato Festival
Celebrate the community of Bryne, its farmers and potatoes at this delectable event. There will be lots of family-friendly activities, stalls to shop from and, of course, potatoes all around. potetfestival.no

Sept. 21
Oslo, Norway
BMW Oslo Marathon
This seaside run along the Oslofjord brings together around 25,000 athletes who participate in a variety of races, from kids' fun runs to a full marathon. oslomaraton.no



Sept. 21–22
Vista, Calif.
Vista Viking Festival
Step back in time at Vista Viking Festival, where you can meet Norse gods, set your eyes upon archery and battle cry competitions, enjoy craft beer and food aplenty, shop in the marketplace and much more. vistavikingfestival.com



Wireless Charging for Electric Taxis

As part of a mission to make its cab system emission-free by 2023, Oslo will become the first city in the world to install wireless charging stations for its electric taxi fleet. Working with companies in Finland and the United States, the city will install charging plates in the road that connect wirelessly to the vehicles via induction, allowing cab drivers to charge their vehicles while waiting for passengers. This initiative comes alongside a mandate that all new cars sold in Norway must be completely electric by 2025; likely an attainable goal for the country with the highest rate of electric vehicle ownership in the world.



VIKING BURIAL SHIP DISCOVERED

Another Viking Age ship was found in Vestfold County, Norway, home to the highest number of known Viking graves in the country. Believed to be a ship burial—a Viking practice of burying high-ranking individuals in ships on land—the vessel was discovered using high-resolution georadar. This non-invasive technology was used to find a rare Viking ship last year. Of the seven ship burials found in Norway, three have been discovered in Vestfold County, including the famous *Oseberg* and *Gokstad* ships that now lie in Oslo's Viking Ship Museum. Local leaders are calling for the region to be put on the UNESCO World Heritage List, adding to Norway's eight existing entries.

PHOTO COURTESY VESTFOLD FYLKESKOMMUNE

Norway has the highest rate of electric vehicle ownership in the world, outpacing Germany as Europe's fastest-growing electric car market. One of every three vehicles sold in Norway in 2018 was electric.

DID YOU KNOW?

NORWAY TO BAN FUR FARMS BY 2025

Once the top producer of fox pelts worldwide, Norway is on its way to becoming the 14th European nation to phase out fur farming, following Britain and the Netherlands among others. In a plan detailed by the Norwegian Parliament in January, Prime Minister Erna Solberg's administration agreed to shut down fox and mink farms, making it illegal to possess animals for the purpose of killing them and selling their fur. On June 13, Norwegian Parliament passed the Fur Farming Prohibition Act, which will go into effect in February 2025. Fur farming in Norway peaked just before World War II, with nearly 20,000 farms in 1939. By 2013, Norway was producing just 3% of the world's fox fur supply and 1% of its mink, with China dominating the majority of the market. With around 170 fur farms now remaining in Norway, the government plans to offer fur farmers financial compensation to aid in dissolving or repurposing their businesses.



Top Ranking for Safe Driving

Norway is the safest country in the world to drive in, according to tire company Just Tyres, which based its ranking on UK government data on international road deaths in 2017. The United States ranked as the most dangerous country to drive in, with 114 road deaths per million inhabitants—compared to Norway's 20 deaths per million. What makes driving so much safer in Norway? It has one of the strictest drunk driving laws in Europe, and obtaining a Norwegian driver's license is a lengthy and expensive process. Plus, roads in Norway are well-maintained; the country has used toll payments to finance its bridges, tunnels and roads for more than 70 years. Here are the top 5 safest countries to drive in:

1. Norway
2. Sweden
3. Switzerland
4. United Kingdom
5. Denmark

