NORWAY'S
NATIONAL PARKS



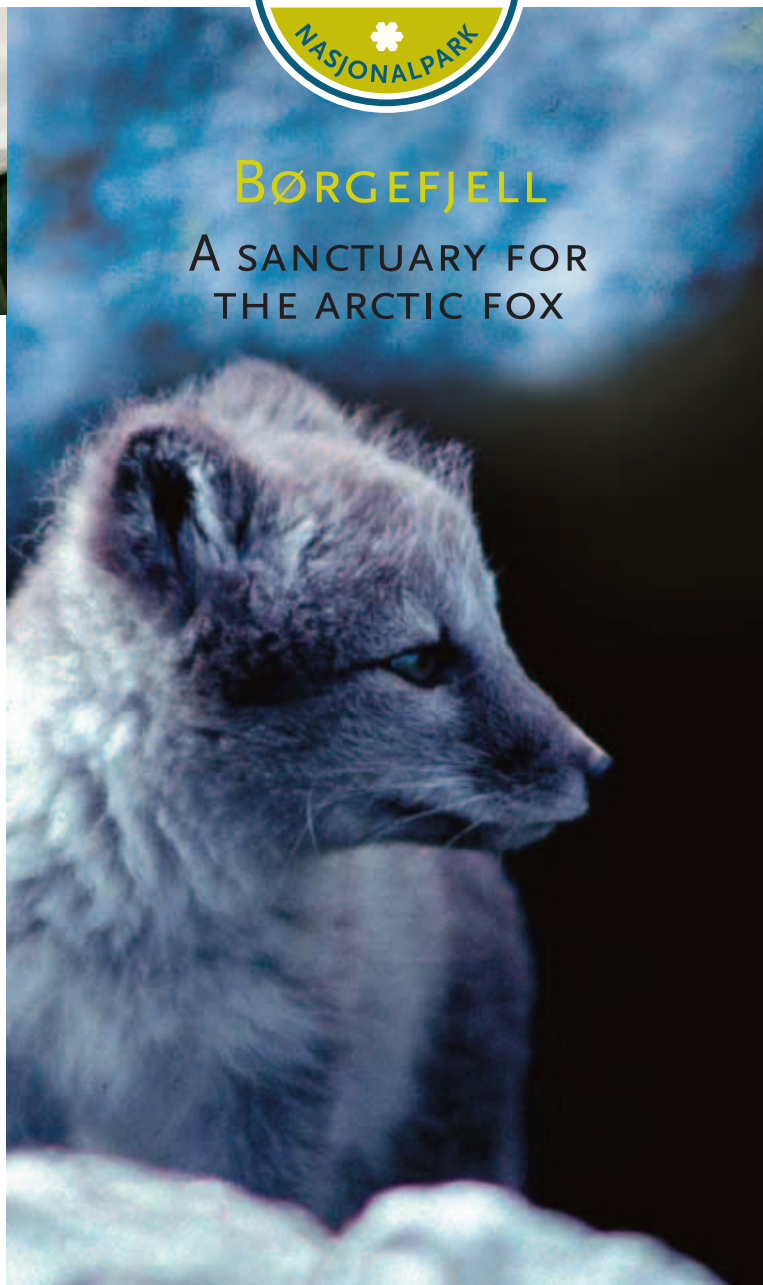
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BØRGEFJELL
NASJONALPARK

BØRGEFJELL

A SANCTUARY FOR THE ARCTIC FOX



BENNETT: Photos: Arild Juul, Torbjørn Moen/Norsk Bildebyrå, Olav Strand/NINA, Lars Løfaldli and Arild Lindgaard. Front page: Arctic Fox

Norwegian national parks – nature as it was meant to be

Norway's national parks are regulated by the laws of nature. Nature decides both how and when to do things. National parks are established in order to protect large natural areas – from the coast to the mountains. This is done for the benefit of nature itself, for our sake and for generations to come.

The national parks offer a wide range of opportunities and experiences. The natural surroundings are beautiful and varied. There is hunting, fishing, plants, birds, animals and cultural monuments.

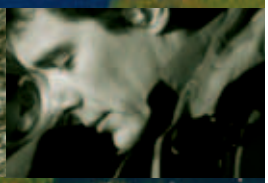
Accept our invitation – become acquainted with nature and our national parks.

Directorate for
Nature Management

www.dirnat.no









Lille Kjukkelvatnet lake

Desolate and beautiful

Most of Børgefjell national park is a wilderness, affecting our senses with a wide range of powerful impressions. In the west there are high summits and deep valleys with cirque glaciers and mountain lakes. In the south there are wild river rapids and beautiful waterfalls, while the eastern parts are characterised by more rounded hill tops and open heath land.

For those interested in hunting and trout fishing, Børgefjell has much to offer.

Børgefjell is also one of the few places you can encounter the Arctic fox, the most endangered mammal in Norway.



Autumn evening in Børgefjell





EXPERIENCE NATURE

Børgefjell is not a place to be in a hurry

If you want to become properly acquainted with Børgefjell national park, you should allow several days in order to do justice to the mountain. In addition to the time you intend to spend inside the national park, you should calculate an extra day to get in and a day to get out again.

Unpredictable weather
The weather can change quickly, so make sure that you have enough clothes and proper equipment with you. There is a high level of precipitation in the west and south, while the north east is more protected by the mountains. Winters can be hard, with cold temperatures and large amounts of snow. The snow often arrives in October, and in the high-lying areas it can remain until well into the summer months.

Not designed for tourism, but good walking terrain
In Børgefjell you will generally be alone with nature and your own experiences. There are very few cabins, bridges or marked paths.

Its numerous rivers and lakes make Børgefjell an eldorado for trout fishing. Hunting is permitted in the national park, although elk hunting is prohibited in the core area.

You may move around freely in the national park, apart from one area east of the Namsvatn Lake. This area is closed from 20 June until 25 July while the geese are changing their feathers.



THE LANDSCAPE

From marshland to mountain peaks

Børgefjell national park covers a height range above sea level from 270 to 1699 metres. There are lakes, rivers, marshland, scree, heath land, mountains and mountain peaks.

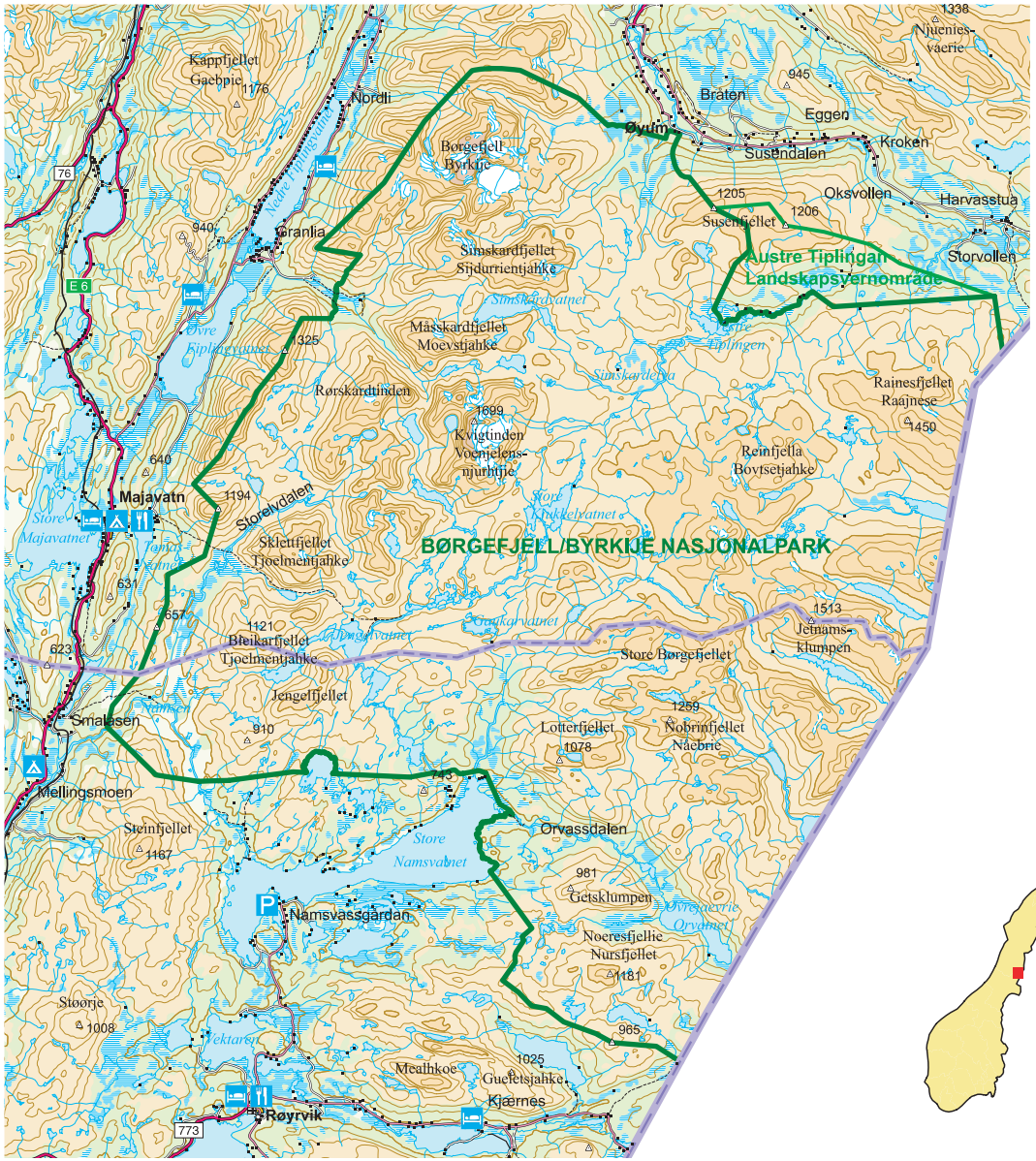
Mountain peaks in the west
The highest mountain peaks are in the west. The bedrock here is primarily dark granite, Børgefjell granite, which gives the landscape its desolate appearance. This is where you will find the highest mountain in the park, Kvigtinden, towering 1699 metres above sea level. Other places, such as in the Rainesfjellet area, you will find rough stone screes without vegetation. Sub-glacial moraines cover much of the landscape.

Not just a stone desert
Gentle lines, lower heights and broad valleys with fertile mountain sides are typical of the hospitable and smooth terrain in other parts of the national park. The bedrock here provides a basis for luxuriant vegetation and a rich plant and animal life. Marshland is the most important characteristic in this part of the landscape.

A multitude of lakes
The many lakes of varying sizes give Børgefjell its special character. The largest lakes are Simskardvatnet and Orvatnet. The most important watercourses in the south are Orvassdraget and Jengelvassdraget. The rivers north of Orvassdraget run east towards Sweden. In the northernmost parts of the national park the rivers run towards Tiplingan and Susendalen, while in the west they run towards Fiplingdalen and Namsen. The watercourses are varied – from the large but peaceful Orvassdraget and the majestic Storfossen waterfall in the Jengelvassdraget to the small mountain streams found all over the national park. The famous rivers, Namsen and Vefsna, both have their sources in Børgefjell.



Storfossen waterfall


Kappfjellet
Gaebpie
1176
Nordli
Granlia
940
76
E 6
Øvre Tiplingvatnet
325
Rørskardtinden
640
Majavatn
1194
Storelvdalen
Store Majavatnet
Sklettfjellet
Tjoelmentjahke
631
657
623
1121
Bleikartfjellet
Tjoelmentjahke
Smalåsen
910
Mellingsmoen
Steinfjellet
1167
Namsvassgården
Støorje
1008
Vektarvatnet
Mealhkoe
1025
Gueletsjahke
Kjærnes
Røyrvik
773
Nedre Tiplingvatnet
Borgefjell
Byrkije
Simskardfjellet
Sijdurrientjahke
Simskardvatnet
Mässkardfjellet
Moevstjahke
1699
Kvigtinden
Voejelens-
njunnjtje
Øyuln
945
Bråten
Eggen
Kroken
Susendalen
1205
Oksvollen
1206
Susenfjellet
Harvasstua
Storvollen
Austre Tiplingan
Landskapsvernområde
Tiplingen
Rainesfjellet
Raajnese
1450
Reinfjella
Bovtsetjahke
BØRGEFJELL/BYRKIJE NASJONALPARK
Store Krokkelvatnet
Orrakvatnet
Jengelvatnet
Jengelfjellet
Store Børgefjellet
1513
Jemams-
klumpen
1259
Nobmijfjellet
Nåebrie
Lotterfjellet
1078
Orvassdalen
Store Namsvatnet
981
Getsklumpen
Øvregjevrie
Oryvatnet
Noerestjellie
Nursfjellet
1181
965
1338
Njuonies-
vaerie
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N
KEY TO SYMBOLS
National border
County border
National park
Parking
Overnight accommodation
Restaurant/Cafeteria
Camping
0
15 km



BIRD LIFE

Birds' mountain

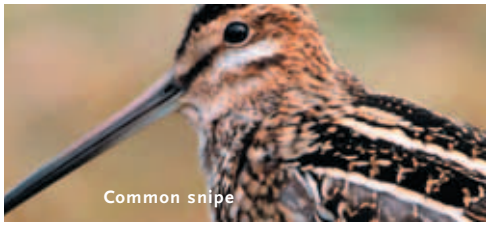
The landscape in Børgefjell is ideal for birds. The numerous watercourses, extensive willow thickets and sedge marshes provide excellent living conditions and an ample source of food. Birds associated with marshy terrain are particularly at home here. There is a very rich bird life around Tiplingan and the lower part of the Simskardelva river.

The most common bird of prey in the national park is the rough-legged buzzard, but you will also find the snow owl, the mighty golden eagle and a range of other birds of prey brooding here. The combination of good nesting opportunities and easy access to food means that they are particularly content in Børgefjell.

SOME OF THE BIRDS IN BØRGEFJELL:

gerfalcon
rough-legged buzzard
golden eagle
long-tailed duck
scaup duck
common scoter
red-necked phalarope
Temminck's stint
redshank
wood sandpiper
common snipe
common sandpiper
purple sandpiper
ringed plover
bluethroat
meadow pipit
Lapland bunting
wheatear
snow bunting
long-tailed skua
ptarmigan
thrush
teal
mallard
sea mew
brambling
willow warbler
plover
willow grouse
cuckoo
mealy redpoll


Golden eagle


Common snipe





ANIMAL LIFE

Few but vigorous

The "speciality" of Børgefjell is the Arctic fox, although in terms of numbers the wolverine is the most common of the large predators. Both lynxes and bears make appearances as dispersal-resident animals. The most common small predators are the red fox, the snow weasel, the marten and the stoat. It is also possible to catch the occasional glimpse of an otter.

In the woodland areas, and sometimes even in the mountains, you can spot an elk. The elk is protected from hunting in parts of the national park. The hare is common, and squirrels can be found in the coniferous forest areas, while there are beavers in the Orvassdraget watercourse. There are also several different species of nibblers, including lemmings and mice.

The entire Børgefjell is used for domesticated reindeer. The western, eastern and southern parts of the national park are mainly used as grazing areas in the summer, while the northern areas are used for grazing all year round. Furthest east there are reindeer coming in from Sweden.

The Arctic fox clings to life
If you go for a walk in Børgefjell you might actually encounter an Arctic fox - if you are lucky. You should enjoy the moment, and then move on slowly. The fox needs all the peace it can get.

The numbers of Arctic fox have not increased since they were protected in 1930. Today there are only a few animals left, and Børgefjell is the only place with a viable population of Arctic fox. The few groups of Arctic fox still in existence in Norway are small and widespread.

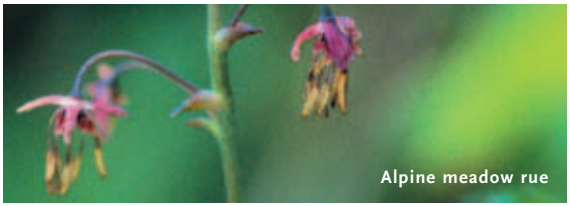
Almost extinct as a result of hunting
Hunting almost caused the extinction of the Arctic fox. Around the year 1900 hunters caught approximately 2000 Arctic foxes annually. The price of a fur was extremely high and it was not unusual to receive the equivalent of a year's salary for one fur.



VEGETATION

Unproductive conditions for plants

Approximately 300 plant species are registered in Børgefjell. The tree line is between 500 and 600 metres above sea level. Most of the woodland is birch. The only significant areas of spruce forest are found by the Namsvatnet Lake, in Namskroken and Simskardet. Pine trees can be found scattered across dry mounds of rock and in the marshlands in the lower areas, while heath vegetation dominates above the tree line. Here you can walk for hours in sedge and blueberry heath land. There is a thriving life in the many willow thickets. Børgefjell has plenty of marshland with bog asphodel, purple moorgrass and trichophorum cestitosum, which make the marshland solid enough to walk on.


Alpine meadow rue

Some of the plant species in Børgefjell:

spruce
pine
mountain sow thistle
monkshood
wood cranesbill
ostrich fern
purple moorgrass
grass of Parnassus
bog asphodel
alpine meadow rue
trichophorum cestitosum
yellow sedge
yellow saxifrage
chestnut rush
heather
sweet vernal grass
blueberries
crowberries
dwarf birch
pincushion plant
mountain azalea



HISTORY

Human traces

The Sami people controlled the land in Børgefjell right up until the beginning of the twentieth century. They have kept reindeer in the area for at least 500 years. Sami cultural monuments in the form of settlements and hunting stations can be found both inside the national park and in the border areas around it. The first farms in the area appeared at the end of the 1700s and beginning of the 1800s, and Norwegian settlement increased from then onwards. The first farms were established when there was a shortage of land elsewhere.

In 1932 the Norwegian Mountain Touring Association (DNT) suggested that Børgefjell should be preserved as a wilderness, without cabins or marked paths. This is one of the reasons why Børgefjell has not become a particular tourist attraction.



You are a guest of nature in a national park

- You may go wherever you like, on foot or ski, but the basic rule is that anything with an engine is prohibited.
- You can stop wherever you like and pitch a tent. Always tidy up after yourself and don't leave litter.
- You can light a fire, but remember the general ban on lighting fires in forests from 15 April to 15 September. Be considerate when collecting firewood.
- You can pick berries, mushrooms and common plants for your own use. Be considerate of cultural relics, vegetation and fauna. Be extra careful during the breeding and nesting season.
- Make use of the hunting and fishing opportunities. Remember a hunting/fishing licence. Never use live fish as bait, or transfer live fish from one watercourse to another.
- You can take your dog with you, but remember to keep it on a lead from 1 March to 20 August.



Yellow saxifrage

Information about Børgefjell National Park

Location:
In the municipalities of Røyrvik and Namsskogan in the county of North Trøndelag, and in the municipalities of Grane and Hattfjelldal in the county of Nordland.

Foremost characteristic:
The only viable population of Arctic fox. Desolate, wild and beautiful.

Outdoor life:
No marked paths or tourist cabins. A few open huts and cabins to rent. Most suitable for people used to mountains, but there are some easier walking areas in the valleys. Suitable for small game hunting and grouse shooting. Good trout fishing.

How to reach Børgefjell:
If you come by train, you should get off at Namsskogan or Majavatn. From Namsskogan you can order a ride to Namsvatnet and back. From Majavatn you have to walk from the station or take a taxi to Tomasvatn or Simskardet. By car you drive on the E6 and take one of the exits to Røyrvik, Fiplingdalen (mountain road) or Hattfjelldal.
From the south: Drive to Namsvassgårdene in Røyrvik and park by the water. From here there is a scheduled boat service, or you can pay to be taken across the water privately.
From the west: Take the exit at Smalåsen and drive to the car park, or take the exit from Majavatn and drive towards Solhaug, Tomasvatn or Simskardet.
From the north: Drive to Susendalen/Harvassdalen. You can then stop at Øyum, Oksvollen or Storvollen.
From Sweden: Take the Stekenjokkvegen road.

Information about accommodation and other services:
Destination Helgeland AS, tel.: +47-75111240
post@visithelgeland.com, www.visithelgeland.com

Namsskogan Booking, tel.: +47-74333700
familiepark@namskog.no, www.namskog.no

Røyrvik Municipality, tel.: +47-74336300
postmottak@royrvik.kommune.no, www.royrvik.kommune.no

Tips:
Allow several days for the trip and be prepared for changes in the weather.

Map:
"Norge 1:50 000": 1924 I, 1925 I, II, III and IV, 2025 III and IV

Established:
1963. Extended 1971 and 2003.

Size:
1447 km^2

Adjacent protected areas:
Austre Tiplingan protected landscape, 44 km^2, north of the national park.

Further information:
Statskog, Nordland mountain service, tel.: +47-75 15 79 57
County Governor of Nordland, tel.: +47-75 53 15 00
County Governor of North Trøndelag, tel.: +47-74 16 80 00
Namsskogan Fjellstyre (mountain authorities), tel.: +47-74 33 34 01
Røyrvik Fjellstyre (mountain authorities), tel.: +47-74 33 57 40
www.norgesnasjonalparker.no