



Skjervøy municipality

– an attractive coastal municipality

Welcome to a coastal municipality at **70 degrees north latitude!**



Obliging - Reliable - Developing



Welcome to Skjervøy municipality!

Skjervøy municipality is situated right in the middle of the fairway at 70 degrees north and is an island municipality close to exotic sea areas like the LoppHAVET and the Fugløybanken. The islands have a population of a little under 3000, of whom approximately 2400 live in the administrative centre of Skjervøy – or "the Coastal Town at 70 degrees north", which is how we like to market ourselves. The municipality is built on industrial, trade and service activities. These were also the foundations of the municipality's origin back in the late 1600s as a church and trade centre. Skjervøy municipality is a natural beauty spot boasting a superb leisure and hiking terrain, both in summer and winter. Thanks to good means of public transport to and from the trade centre of Tromsø, it is easy for all who want it to visit our coastal pearl.

As mayor I would like to heartily welcome you and your friends to Skjervøy municipality.

Roy Waage
Mayor



The Skjervøy archipelago – in the middle of the fairway

From the main fairway, the island of Skjervøy looks rough and naked, but the village of Skjervøyvågen is lush and fertile – and this is where 2400 people have settled in the green hills surrounding the harbour basin. Two long piers create an artificial harbour offering protection to the modern motor vessels from the waves and the mighty sea. The island of Skjervøy is accessed via the sea by coastal steamer and express boat or by road through toll free mainland connection. The nearest airport is in Sørkjosen, only 35 minutes away. Express boats and ferries call at the other inhabited islands of Arnøy, Laukøy and Uløy. The archipelago's first settlement is about 8000 years old. From the 1500s, the island of Skjervøy was the only place with a church in Northern Troms. Skjervøy church was erected in 1728 and is the oldest wooden church in the diocese of Nord-Hålogaland. In the 1660s ruled the "Skjervøy King", the flamboyant trader called Christian Michelsen Heggelund, who through his stockfish trade with the city of Bergen controlled the local community. After World War 2, the building of a shipyard, a quay for the Hurtigruten coastal steamers and the establishment of several fish processing plants led to a sharp increase in the Skjervøy population due to the many who moved here from North-Troms and West-Finnmark. Skjervøy developed as a place for entrepreneurs of the productions of shrimps and fish fillet. Today, Skjervøy is a fish port and centre of maritime and civil service activities.



Foto: Tom Andersen

Cultural and leisure activities

For a long time, Skjervøy municipality has given priority to the development of cultural and leisure activities for its inhabitants. Today, the municipality can offer a unique range of leisure activities, among them a culture centre housing a cinema, a theatre and a modern library. In addition, there is a new youth club, a culture school teaching music, a sports hall with a swimming pool, an artificial grass pitch and several football pitches.



What characterises the municipality's inhabitants is their willingness to do voluntary work and their communal spirit, and this is important both for the municipal solidarity and the range of activities.

In winter, there is a cross country and biathlon facility, plus a separate ice rink, run on voluntary basis. The municipality has a very vital cultural life, which includes a choir, music and theatre companies. In addition, a number of sports clubs are very active and have achieved good results in the fields of football, handball, ski and ice skating.



A number of organisations and associations offer a wide variety of activities covering aspects such as church work, sport and culture. Moreover, the breathtaking scenery is an ideal arena for an active outdoor life. There is a unique range of ski and hiking trails both in winter and summer.





Trade and industry

Skjervøy municipality has status as a maritime centre in the county of Troms, and most of its commercial life is concentrated on this branch of industry.

There are modern plants related to the fishing industry, a salmon slaughtering factory and processing facility in addition to most of the supporting functions required by these and the ocean going fishing fleet. The ship building industry is being developed and modernised, and several fish farming installations underline its maritime status.

From the old days, the municipality was a trading place, and of late this tradition has been reinforced by establishing a pedestrian street in the centre of the hamlet.

The tourist industry is also thriving and can now offer accommodation in the islands of Skjervøy and Arnøy. In addition, there are several private companies offering fishing camp tourism, nature and culture based geotourism.

Skjervøy municipality has several minor businesses in the small industry, trade and service sectors.

The municipality wants to develop a wide variety of industry and thus makes it easy for the entry of new firms.



Welfare services

With its around 3000 inhabitants, Skjervøy municipality has concentrated on developing services in the fields of health, school, nursery school, culture and leisure. There is full nursery school coverage at very low prices. The schools are modern, and competent teachers provide an effective learning environment.



The health care sector has a new and top modern health centre covering most functions, including a well functioning home based care service. The municipality also has a very good psychiatric service.

We want everyone to have a good life in our municipality, and that is the general aim in the health care sector, too. Security, respect and quality are basic values clearly deciding how the services should be organised and developed.



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