

ON YOUR OWN IN MÅLSELV

Broad and shining, the Målselv Valley opens up- lovely it is, the land of my home!

Arne Lyngås, Kirkesdalen

Nature has always provided inhabitants of the valley throughout history. Findings from as far back as the Stone Age show that Målselv has been an attractive dwelling place for migrant hunters from the southeast. And long before farmers from the southern part of Norway settled at the end of the 18th century this vast inland area was used by Sami people nomads with reindeer, across national borders. By law Samis still use much the area for reindeer herding.

THE DREAM OF OWNING LAND

Norwegian settlers were driven by a dream – the dream of owning land, of running their own farm. Some chose to emigrate to America, some went north. The first “døla” (valley) people from the south of Norway cleared forests and settled in the Målselv Valley in 1788. Having heard tales of the fertile land in central Troms, Jon Hansen Finnbakken and his family arrived from Korgen in southern Nordland. Gradually others joined the little family, and soon smoke rose from several homesteads along the vital rivers. Many settlers from the last part of the 17th century transported their families and belongings to the north by *jekt* (coastal boats with one mast). From the coast they followed the horse road along the Målselv river pursuing a place to call home in the valley.

Bringing their meager possessions in rickety buggies, more settlers arrived to tame the land farther and farther up the valley. One of them was Lasse Olsen, who arrived in Fagerlidal 1789 with his son Ole Lassesen after a long journey from Øyer in Gudbrandsdalen. Later they came from Østerdalen, Trøndelag, Finland and Sweden.

Immigration from villages in eastern and central Norway (Trøndelag) has led to the preservation of a southeastern dialect in Målselv, particularly in the Øverbygd area.

A SOVEREIGN AND MODERN MÅLSELV

Hosting 2616 inhabitants Målselv was established as a sovereign municipality in 1848 after having been a part of Lenvik. Later there were some minor border adjustments. The biggest division was when Øverbygd had their own municipality in 1925, but they joined again in 1964.

More than two hundred and twenty years later, about 6,600 people are registered as inhabitants of the municipality of Målselv. In addition hundreds of commuters work here. It is now a rather modern place, both in rural and central areas, and in terms of living conditions, business and education. In addition to municipal primary school, Målselv host the regional Sami primary school and Haraldvollen camp school. Bardufoss Upper Secondary frequently produces the best results in the county, far above national average.

A regional study centre facilitates decentralised university education for professions within health, education, and sports, and study organisations offer soldiers vocational education for apprenticeships. Daily hundreds of soldiers have their education in military camps here. Military training and exercising are extensive and periodically includes allied forces.

The headquarter of the Norwegian Army, Brigade Nord garrisons and the most important air station for military helicopters in the country are here. Bardufoss hosts the Norwegian Airforce selection for full military pilot education abroad, and Bardufoss is campus of UTSA, the University of Tromsø School of Aviation, offering comprehensive pilot education with academic degrees.

There are numerous businesses in the area of service and trade. Målselv is the largest forestry township in Troms administrative county and is third largest in farming. The main slaughterhouse of the North-Norwegian Sales Cooperative is located here. In addition you find businesses like furniture manufacturing, moulding of concrete, mechanic shops and centres for special skills. Lian's caravan and leisure business is within their segment among the biggest ones in Norway.

Bardufoss town, a regional centre with almost 3.000 inhabitants, extends from the border of Bardu in the south to Andslimoen in the north: Finnsund - Heggelia - Rustahøgda – Andselv - Fossmo - Fagerlidal - Andslimoen, some of these villages are mentioned below. The name of the town and the airport derives from *Bardufossen*, a waterfall of Bardu river, which starts in Bardu, so no need to be bewildered: Bardu and Målselv are neighbour municipalities, whereas Bardufoss is part of Målselv.

Now, this guide for you on your own has its starting point at the municipal border when you go north on the Highway E6. Head up when you approach the road signs **MÅLSELV KOMMUNE** and **BARDUFOSS**. And check out current activities on malselv.kommune.no.

THE REGIONAL MUSEUM

After passing the limits of the municipality of Målselv the main office and carpentry workshops of Midt-Troms Museum are located on your left. *Midt-Troms Museum* (MTM) is a regional museum conserving, displaying and conveying local history at about 22 different museum locations in the municipalities of Balsfjord, Bardu, Sørreisa, Dyrøy, Målselv and Senja. On your own in Målselv you can visit Aursfjordsaga, Fossmotunet and Kongsvoldtunet, whereas other MTM locations are in neighbouring municipalities. See www.mtmu.no for information on opening times, current events and activities at the different museum locations.

HEGGELIA

Continuing north, you pass the former school site of Bardufoss Upper Secondary, founded in 1946 in German war barracks. Soon you arrive at the village of Heggelia and the national headquarters of the Norwegian Army and *Brigade Nord*. The local library, culture- and concert hall *Istindportalen* ("the Gate to Istind mountain") is situated on your right, behind Heggelia chapel, exit in the roundabout.

HEGGELIA CHAPEL

This chapel, built in 1961 and jointly owned by the Armed Forces and the local church council, is located on the E6 in Heggelia. This chapel is used by both Lutheran and Catholic congregations.

RUSTAHØGDA ARENA

When going north, Rustahøgda is on the next E6 hilltop. Above all this arena offers comprehensive indoor and outdoor sport facilities, like the swimming pool and waterpark *Polarbadet*; the big multisport *Bardufoss storhall* for soccer, climbing, athletics etc; illuminated skiing trails for cross-country skiing and roller skiing or -skating, a shooting range for biathlon and running tracks. This area also includes the local lower secondary and the new Bardufoss Upper Secondary School offering general as well as vocational studies. At *Næringsshagen* adults have access to distributed university education and education for vocational apprenticeships. Several private firms are collocated there.

REGISTRY OF HISTORICAL DATA

Næringsshagen hosts a national university registry unit of historical data (RHD). Their main objective is to make national censuses and church records available through the use of modern data technology and the Internet. Worth paying a visit if you are interested in genealogy, or check: rhd.uit.no.

OLE REISTAD – AVIATOR AND ATHLETE

At Rustahøgda you can also see the Ole Reistad Memorial, unveiled in 1958. Col. Ole Reistad was the commander of Bardufoss Military Airport after World War II and contributed considerably to civilian society during his few years in Målselv. Since 1958 the “Ole Reistad Memorial Race,” a cross country skiing competition from Setermoen to Bardufoss is arranged annually in honour of this great aviator and olympic champion. The race has been included in the international *Visma Ski Classics* tournament.

The same exit from the E6 at Rustahøgda and the road *Ole Reistads vei* lead you uphill to ***Bardufosstun hotel***, a course and training centre owned by the Norwegian Confederation of Sports (NIF). Cups and medals earned by Nordic combined champions *Bjarte Engen Vik*, *Sverre Stenersen* and *Emil Kvanlid* from Målselv are displayed here. Observe, current international sprint skier *Erik Valnes* represents the local sports club, BOIF.

The next E6 roundabout takes you to Andselv on the left, or to the drinking water reservoir Andsvatnet and further on to Sørreisa municipality. Bardufoss Central Shooting Range on your right hand side, run by the Armed Forces and Målselv JFF (Hunters and Fishermens Association).

ANDSELV – IN THE MIDDLE OF BARDUFLOSS

Bardufoss sentrum offers shopping and cafés, and the state liquor store, *Vinmonopolet*, is located here by *Rema1000*. Voigts is a specialist store for hunting and fishing. Looking for local handicraft products of good quality, visit *Husfliden*. Centrally located is *Bardufoss Hotel* if you want to stop for a night or more. In the Coop building you also find a drugstore. Bardufoss Airport is now only 5 minutes away. By *SAS* or *Norwegian* you can reach the rest of the world via direct flights to Oslo Gardermoen. See more below about institutions at the airport.

In Andselv you find the spectacular veterans’ monument *Touchpoint*, designed by Alvin Jensvold and unveiled by King Harald V in 2011. The official Veterans’ Day is Liberation Day May 8. Then there is an official arrangement here, and you may participate in the «Veteran March,» a 5, 10 or 20 km walk. After your first tour you receive a medal on which *Touchpoint* is the main motive.

Near by there is another memorial of colonel Ole Reistad, given by volunteer airforce soldiers and raised on National Day 1995. And by the old bridge you see one of the spots marking «War Historic Landscape» Bardufoss – Narvik.

Highway E6 passed through Andselv till the new road outside the village was opened in 1998. As part of the new traffic solution five roundabouts were placed in and around Andselv. The old stone bridge over Andselv river was preserved and later renovated by local volunteers. During the war as many as 6000 military vehicles a day passed this bridge between the airport and the main road. In summer you can view a model of *Fossmotunet* floating on the river by the stone bridge. You will arrive at the real open-air museum Fossmotunet later on your journey through Målselv.

FAGERLIDAL

Right north of Andselv is *Fagerlidal*. Land was cleared here for the very first farm in Målselv when Lasse Olsen and his son Ole Lassesen arrived from Gudbrandsdalen in 1789. They called their farm *Fagerlidal*, “beautiful hillside valley.” The view from the upper hillside overlooking the valley is stunning and crowned by the Istindan peaks, 1489 m above sea level. Recently the Fagerlidal area has become popular housing ground. The local primary school for Bardufoss lies in Fagerlidal. and if you feel like giving somebody flowers, there is a professional greenhouse in the vicinity down hill: Fagerlidal gartneri.

ANDSLIMOEN

Andslimoen is a growing area in Bardufoss. It is a logistic centre and above all the industrial area of the municipality. The Målselv department of *Nortura*, is one of the largest meat manufacturers in the country, established in 1988. Employing 100 -140 it is the largest slaughterhouse in northern Norway. *Lian's Caravan og Fritid* is one of the largest retailers of caravans and outdoor equipment in Norway.

HEALTH AND MEDICAL CENTRE

Turning left in the Andslimoen roundabout you find the municipal health centre and nursing home. In need of medicine before continuing, you also find a drugstore in the shopping centre *Målselvsenteret* on the right hand side of the E6.

SAMI SCHOOL AND HARALDVOLLEN CAMP SCHOOL

In the wood between the health centre and Lians Caravan there is a primary school for Sami children in the region: *Tromsaa sámeskuvla*. Their main goals are to preserve Sami language by giving the pupils a better environment for learning and practicing their mother tongue, and by teaching according to a Sami curriculum. The school started already in 1983 in nearby *Haraldvollen*, but new boarding school facilities of Sami architecture and colours were raised in 1997.

You find Haraldvollen if you follow a back road about 800 m down the valley by the Målselv river. It is a course centre of pleasure and beautiful nature where the Norwegian Red Cross arranges summer school for children from near and far.

BUKTAMOEN-ROSSVOLL-KARLSTAD

Continuing on the E6 you see Målselv River and arrive at Buktamoen crossroads where you decide to go straight ahead or to turn left to main road 855 for Finnsnes town and the vast island of Senja. Choosing the latter option you will pass some more Målselv villages. *Rossvoll* was a site chosen by the earliest settlers in 1788. In Rossvoll you can turn sharp left toward

Møllerhaugen. At the family farm *Myra Gård* you are invited to a close encounter with domestic animals.

Continuing 3-4 km from Rossvoll, you arrive at *Karlstad* and Jowa, a special shop and workshop for bicycles, motor, fishing and leisure items. You can turn right at the crossroads for the village of *Kjerresnes*, near the mouth of the Målselv river. Here was the first burial ground in the valley, in use between 1810 and 1823. In earlier days there was a ferry between Karlstad and Gullhav on the opposite bank of the Målselv river. Nowadays there is an “ice bridge” in winter, which is a cleared safe path for cars. March 31, 1919 was the date of an exciting event on the river. The first plane ever to visit Målselv landed on the icy surface. Once the schoolchildren caught sight of the plane, they hurried on skis to have a closer look at the miraculous machine. Their teacher couldn't stop them but was happy when given a flight ride.

Returning to Buktamoen crossroads, we continue northwards on the E6 across the Målselv bridge, later left to Olsborg. But first:

BETWEEN THE BRIDGES

Crossing the Målselv river on the E6 you see the old bridge on your right, and right in front Målselv's official millennium artwork *Målselv Varde (Cairn)*, designed and raised in 2004 by Italian *Alfio Bonanno*. 250 big stones and 12 blackburned pine trees made a controversial object of art, but it is now an estimated view for both local inhabitants and those who cross the river on this traditional route through the county. It is actually one of 200 global objects presented in the book *Destination Art* (Thames and Hudson). Mind, you can park by the river, near the cairn.

The closest hilltop behind the cairn is *Trollhaugen* with the bronze sculpture *Nybyggerkona (The Settler's Wife)* made by Per Ung and unveiled by King Olav 5th in 1988 on his visit for the bicentennial migration jubilee. It reflects warmth, love, hard toil and want, which characterized the lives of the women pioneers during the challenges of settling in a remote forest under Arctic skies.

On May 1st 1940, while escaping the Nazi invaders, young Crown Prince Olav and his father, King Harald 7th with his aide-de-camp found shelter for a night in the red house on top of Trollhaugen, then home of veterinary Kurt Ragnvald Bakstad Røine, before fleeing further north. German planes dropped several bombs close by, but fortunately only after our King and Crown Prince had left.

The older Målselv bridge was opened in 1939 and represented a novel construction for its time. The bridge had to be built with enough clearing for the one-mast boats that passed below. Highway E6 crossed this narrow bridge until the new bridge was opened in 1974.

The immigrant memorial by the old bridge was erected in memory of the first settlers and bailiff Jens Holmboe, who initiated the colonization of the Målselv valley. Holmboe was born and raised in Lesja, west of Dombås. As bailiff for Senja and Tromsø he travelled through the Målselv valley and found that the land could perfectly support a new parish – and his thoughts soon became reality.

OLSBORG - HØGTUN CULTURE CLUSTER

Exiting left for main road 854, crossing the tiny Takelva river, you arrive at *Olsborg* and may continue to Målsnes or Aursfjord and Malangen. In Olsborg you immediately spot the old inn, *Olsborg gjestestue*. It reminds us of busier times when Olsborg was a main traffic station and had hundreds of teenager students staying around till the two upper secondary schools by Olsborg were closed down in 1982 and 2018. Today Olsborg is a rather small shopping spot for people of the area. For visitors *Gullgruva* is worth a visit if you want to buy local handicraft and souvenirs. In Olsborg is the editorial staff and administration of the local newspapers *Nye Troms*, publishing three paper editions a week and consecutively updating news and events on their website nye-troms.no.

The traditional Høgtun school site and buildings by Olsborg are now reorganised into **Høgtun kulturklynge**, a regional cultural cluster for institutions and private businesses within music, art, design, handicraft, local food, excursions and so forth, - and a gathering place for regional and local inhabitants. Musicians from “Culture in Troms County” work and rehearse here, and here are the administrations of Kalottspel and Folkemusikk Nord.

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR NORDLANDSHEST/LYNGSHEST

The centre is located opposite to Høgtun. It is one of three of the kind in Norway, but it has a national mandate: To breed the two stocks of horses known as Nordlandshest and Lyngshest. It features stables, a large indoor hall and horse racing tracks. They offer courses and training in horsemanship, provide stables for rent and organize various events.

From Olsborg you may now start your journey on the Målsnesveien road, which was the most common migrant settlers’ route from the coast to the inland villages. Special one-mast freight boats were used for agricultural and forestry products and to distribute and pick up goods up the Målselv River.

MÅLSELV CHURCH

Very shortly after Olsborg you pass the village of *Olsborgmoen*, a dwelling area with a kindergarden and a local primary school. For a couple of decades (1959-1982) this was the site of the renowned regional state youth school *Målselv statsrealskole* and Målselv Upper Secondary, both only history by now, but thousands of people from the region and the north own a relationship to these institutions. The old school building was recently razed.

Following main road 854 the next spot about 4 km from Olsborg is Målselv Church, the main church of Målselv. You now see the third church building on this site, consecrated in 1978. The original church of 1829 was an octagonal building which was soon too small for its congregation. It was torn down and auctioned. In 1833 the first hymns resounded from the second church. Tragically it caught fire from lightning in 1972. The present brick church has the shape of a boathouse. The chancel wall has a magnificent glass mosaic with motifs and artistry well worth viewing. It is created by Ulf Dreyer. The church is known for its good organ and fine acoustics. Apart from services and concerts, the church is usually open for visitors between 8 am and 3 pm Mondays to Fridays.

The former parsonage, located on the hill near the church and graveyard, now privately owned, was built in 1856 and is one of the oldest preserved buildings in Målselv. The storage house that belonged to the property is now raised at Målselv Open Air Museum, *Fossmotunet* near Bardufoss Airport.

GULLHAV

This spot was once a ferry landing till the completion of the new road between Karlstad and Buktamoen in 1952. The ferry was an indispensable transportation link to and from Finnsnes. Nowadays cars can use the “ice bridge” to Kjerresnes/Karlstad in winter.

LUNEBORG

From Luneborg you see the mountains *Fagerfjell* and *Vassbrunskaret*. On the Luneborg field, 13 km from Olsborg, you may see the memorial of Ole Absalonsen, the first settler in this area. He was born in Selbu (Trøndelag) in 1788 and settled here in 1821. Ole Absalonsen was the head carpenter in the erection of the first church in Målselv.

MÅLSNES

After Luneborg you pass *Grunnes* and arrive at *Målsnes*, the oldest farm in Målselv. The earliest written record of Målsnes dates from 1643. The Målsnes peninsula is an old summer grazing field for reindeer. Evidence indicates there was Sami lumbering and boat building in the region of the Malangen fjord before settlers from the south arrived. On your way out to Målsnes you find a fishing spot for the handicapped, a floating pier accessible for wheel chair users. At *Koris*, on the outermost point of land, you can enjoy the view of the Malangen fjord and see the midnight sun in summer evening stillness if weather allows. In the old Målsnes schoolhouse you can visit an exhibition of photos and historical objects. Varto is a fine destination for a hike in easy terrain.

AURSFJORD - SØRFJORDEN

On your return from Målsnes, you turn left at the *Minde* junction about 5 km before Olsborg and travel toward Aursfjord. This fine excursion on your way north offers splendid scenery. You can even choose to go to the city of Tromsø via Malangen and the Rya subsea connection to Kvaløya. In late summer you may find an unmanned vegetables sales stand at the crossroads. Just pick what you need and pay cash in wall box or by Vipps.

AURSFJORDSAGA (VERTICAL SAW)

On your way to Aursfjorden you reach a crossing to Storsteinnes. If you do not turn right, but instead go straight ahead about 2 km toward *Aursfjord* farm, you will find the old sawmill *Aursfjordsaga*, that has been restored and made into a fine attraction. It was built here at the salmon river Lakselva in 1796 and has a most interesting history. If in luck you may even see the vertical saw in use. This is also a very good spot for a rest, a walk on the beach, or a swim.

Now, let's return to Høgtun at Olsborg and proceed to Moen, Rundhaug and Øverbygda along main road 854.

OLSBORG - MOEN- RUNDHAUG

Starting left by the crossroads near the cairn *Målselv Varde* you are now heading up the valley. Note: Above you have been given details about the area and sights between the bridges.

The 854-road takes you through one of northern Norway's finest agricultural areas, and you will especially enjoy the view of the valley with the mountains Istindan and Alappen to the south and southwest. Alappen is the higher and soars 1,491 m above sea level, two metres above Istindan.

MOEN

Going up Moen you get an impression of traditional and beautiful wooden buildings and farms. Moen used to be the centre of service in Målselv. Only a few businesses and farms are left. At Moen is the *Montar* workshop and the regional Troms Forestry Administration.

Kommunehuset, the council house of Målselv municipality is located here. The first municipal administration building was built in 1863. Today there are 23 politicians on the local board of Målselv who gather in plenary meetings about seven times a year. Only the elected mayor is full-time engaged.

The council building exhibits a stuffed brown bear which was shot in Kirkesdalen in 1984. Till then the last bear trapped in Målselv was shot in 1896. Outside the administration building there is a monument in memory of Meier Foshaug, who became a national parliament representative in 1903.

Moen mølle (mill) was used between 1916 and 1950, restored and reopened for museal purpose in 1996. It was originally located in Olsborg, but relocated to Moen in 1925. Already by 1922 this mill had an electric motor, the first one in Troms county. The original motor, an American gasoline-powered Orion, has been found and returned to the mill.

The Czech grove is a memorial of the prisoners who were held in a camp here during WWII. On this site, on your right some 200 m beyond Kommunehuset, a stone monument was erected during the National Peace Celebration in 1995.

Fredriksberg north of Moen was an old rural centre and junction of roads. It had a ferry across the Målselv river until the old Målselv bridge was built. Now there is an “ice bridge” here in winter. At Rognmo, 12 km before Rundhaug, you find *Aurora Husky* for dog sledding adventures.

UPHILL RACING

Turning left you enter a broad road and the foot of Myrefjell mountain and may follow the curvy uphill road to the mountain village, *Målselv fjellandsby*. This route has since 2012 been used for a speedy uphill car race, and sometimes this demanding mountain climb is the end of a day’s leg of the international bicycle race *Arctic Race of Norway*, which is arranged annually in Northern Norway in August and televised live to hundreds of nations. Both races attract thousands of spectators.

MÅLSELV FJELLANDSBY - MOUNTAIN VILLAGE

“Fjellandsbyen” in Myrefjell was opened in 2007. It is a leisure and tourist resort for alpine skiing and outdoor activities. People from the wide region normally come by car, but Bardufoss airport is only a 30-minute drive for distant travellers. Målselv fjellandsby offers accommodation in cabins and apartments and even in aurora glass huts under northern lights, -and skiing gear, food and beverage. In the lower part of the slope there is a parking area for caravans and campers. On your way up you see numerous privately owned cabins that are frequently used in weekends and holidays.

BASECAMP NORD

Close to Fjellandsbyen lies *Basecamp Nord*, related to Rundhaug gjestegård. They offer ten indoor sleeping units (tents and caravans), pub, gaming room, and outside you may enjoy

their campfire. They offer facilities for meetings, small conferences and parties. Normally open in weekends, if only for a good hamburger and a perfect view from the mountainside.

Back on the junction on main road 854 you proceed northwards. At Maukdal enjoy a view of the meanderings Målselv river and the lovely plains surrounding it.

RUNDHAUG

Rundhaug is widely known in Norway and abroad for salmon fishing. Through history English lords and European notabilities flyfishing in the salmon river spread the word about the assets of Målselv river and Rundhaug. Sweetwater fish was a very important food resource for both Sami nomads and migrant settlers.

Rundhaug has during the latest decades held various festivals with activities that have attracted people from near and far, like the December winter fair *Rundhaugmartna'n*. *Kalottspel* is an internationally renowned folk music festival arranged in August.

RUNDHAUG BRIDGE

The very first bridge at Rundhaug was a wooden construction opened in 1884. It was unfortunately swept away by ice. A new suspension bridge, 90 m long, was built in 1913, but only its supporting piers are left today. The bridge you see now was built in the mid 1950s. At times construction work had to be stopped during winter because the iron crowbars snapped from the cold when too much pressure or weight. Once temperature dropped to -51° C (!)

RUNDHAUG GUEST HOUSE

The *Rundhaug gjestegård* is an old, well-established hotel with its own style and atmosphere. It is located in the centre of Rundhaug on Highway 87 and features a restaurant and a pub in a special environment. There are good conditions for fishing in the area. In the mountainside 500 m from the guest house there is a cave, a bunker from WWII, and it is used today for concerts.

NORDMO FARM

Proceeding towards Øverbygd and passing the *Bondeheimen*, a rural youth gathering place built in 1917, you will on your left see the homestead of the world-renowned opera singer and professor of music *Aase Nordmo Løvberg (1923-2013)*. The hearth house on the Nordmo farm served as the first dairy of the valley around 1900. Dairying has developed greatly since then, from the Nordmo farm, via the Målselv Dairy Cooperative at Rundhaug (around 1930), to today's TINE Nord-Norge, which is strongly centralized.

The Nordmo Cemetery is located about 2 km from Rundhaug. It is more than 170 years old and part of the Nordmo property.

TRANGEN

Narrow Trangen is one of the best fishing spots for salmon above the Målselv Waterfall. There used to be an old dairy and cheese maker's in Trangen, situated between the road and the river (!), and milk was also transported by lines across the canyon.

ØVERBYGD CHURCH

Øverbygd church, situated about 12 km from Rundhaug, was built in 1867 and is the oldest church in the township. It is shaped as a long nave and built with large logs. The altar painting by Hjalmar Pedersen from Tana dates from 1937. Its biblical motif is "Jesus feeding 5,000 in

the desert.” Leiv B. Lund carved the four wooden bridal chairs and a crucifix. Services are held here once a month. A monument outside the church commemorates soldiers from the village who died in service for their country during WWII.

JUTULSTENGET - THE GIANT’S DAM

According to the folk tale, a giant on the mountain *Vesleruten* was throwing huge rocks into the river in an attempt to dam it up. Before he enabled to finish his task the sun came out, causing him to burst. The boulders were left in the river. The *Jutulstenet* is difficult to pass by boat.

At the bridge *Skjeggenesbrua* on the side of main road 87 you will find the wilderness experts of *Norquest*. This business specializes in wilderness experiences of various kinds, both summer and winter.

ØVERBYGD / SKJOLD

Øverbygd and surrounding area was formerly an independent municipality, but joined with Målselv in 1964. The Øverbygd village offers various shops and services for local inhabitants and tourists. Several families from a wide region frequently visit their cabin resorts in the Øverbygd area.

Øverbygd holds the *Skjold* garrison of the Brigade Nord and a separate camp for allied forces who periodically train in the area. At Haraldshaugen near Bjørkeng primary school there is a monument in memory of fallen Russian soldiers. During WWII there was a large Russian prison camp at Skjold.

Main road 857 leads from Skjold via Takvatn to Heia (E6) - a stretch of about 21 km. Road 87 goes towards the valley of Tamokdalen to the E6 north of Nordkjosbotn in neighbour municipality Balsfjord.

FILM CAMP

At former military camp *Holmen* there is a memorial for the first settlers in Øverbygd, Tomas Tomassen (about 1770). This river island is now the base of *FilmCamp*, a regional resource and infrastructure company for feature film-and TV-productions. FilmCamp has so far contributed to the making of more than 50 films, like *The Kautokeino Rebellion*; *The 12th Man*; *Kings Bay*. Now producing *The Battle of Narvik*.

ØVERBYTUNET

2 km from Øverbygd towards Holt you will find *Øverbystua*, a well-preserved house from the 1870s. It was extended at the end of the 19th century. The farm was a natural cultural meeting place for the local inhabitants: Youth club, meetings, band rehearsals.

Gatherings of various kinds are occasionally held in the house, the old school and the carpenter’s shop. Øverby is also the site of activities of Øverbygd Husflidslag, a domestic arts society. The farm and its exhibition of artefacts can be visited .

RÅVATNET SHOOTING RANGE

Råvatnet shooting range is the location where the annual Norwegian rifle championship *Landskytterstevnet* is arranged every 10 years. It is one of Norway’s largest sporting events. The latest championship here was in 2016. In 1996 the Råvatnet spectators experienced local competitor Tor Erik Fosli from Målselv winning the “Shooting King” title for the first time

out of three. In 2006 Råvatnet experienced that a woman, Mette Finnestad from Søgne, for the first time beat all male participants and was titled “Shooting Queen.” The Upper Målselv Marksmen’s Club has been active since 1878 and hosts several local, regional or national competitions a year.

HOLT

Holt is a hamlet with a grocery store, an auto mechanic’s shop, a municipal health care centre and an old people’s home. Turning right at the first crossing in Holt you are heading towards Dividalen valley. If you instead continue and turn right at the following junction and cross the Tamok Bridge you may choose either side of the lake Rostavatn. Turning left you reach *Kongsvoldtunet* 4 km ahead.

KONGSVOLDTUNET OPEN-AIR MUSEUM

The Kongsvold farm from the 1800s is now an outdoor museum with buildings and implements. The museum was opened on June 23, 1990 and consists of the main house, Kongslistua, Veslestua, storage house, barn, smithy and the privately owned *Kongsvoldstua*. In addition, a farm worker’s house has been moved to the premises.

The museum has an idyllic location near the lake Lille Rostavatn. It is open to visitors in summer, when many activities are organized.

ROSTADALEN CAMPING

If you continue around the Lille (small) Rostavatn lake end and cross the Rostaelva river, you find an all-season camping site where you may park and stay, go fishing and even have a hike in the mountain side in spectacular scenery like the waterfalls *Tverrelvfossen* at an angle to the Rostaelva river. The river Rostaelv river runs from the Store (large) Rostavatn by the Swedish border.

SIGHTS IN THE DIVIDALEN VALLEY

Returning to Holt, we will take you to the valley of Dividalen. From the Holt junction you can go 32 km to *Frihetsli*. A gated road leads you to a parking space and a rest area from which you can walk to Upper Dividal National Park.

Only 3-4 km from Holt, on the old Dividal road, 300 m away from today’s road, you can admire the majestic and very old pine tree called *the Queen of Diviåsen*, a feature of the Målselv scenery which is protected by law.

About 21 km from Holt you can turn left and follow a logging trail all the way up to *Devddesjávri*, a lake at the end of the road (about 8-9 km). On your way up, you can stop and visit three tiered **grottoes at the river Devddesjohka**, running from Devddesjávri to the Divielva river. Bring a flashlight and put on rubber boots and rain clothes when you go exploring.

Already after a 22 km drive from Holt you may stop at *Dividalen Camping*. A few km from the camping site you will find *Høgskardhus*, a fishing spot equipped for handicapped persons. A snowmobile trail for ice fishers is nearby.

About 5 km from Høgskardhus fishing spot, you will find several fantastic potholes in the waterfall. There is a bridge over the river that allows a good view in both directions. At the

end of the Dividalen road you can follow the river downstream toward the bridges *Finnbruene* and see more splendid potholes.

DEVDDESVUOPMI - SAMI CULTURAL SITE

Archaeological excavations at Devdjesjávri have revealed 6-7000-year-old artefacts from the early Stone Age. For a long time reindeer and their Sami shepherds have crossed this valley during their spring wanderings between Swedish and Norwegian grazing areas. The area is rich in cultural objects from a long period of Sami history. 7 km inwards toward the lake *Devddesvuopmi* you find the old spring and summer camping area of the Sami town *Lainiovuoma*. During these seasons, 11 nomadic Swedish Sami families lived here from 1923 till the outbreak of WWII. The municipality of Målselv has reconstructed some of their installations, such as a *gamme* (turf hut), which is a good place to visit or to stay over night. A snowmobile trail for ice-fishers leads from the lake and further into the mountains.

UPPER DIVIDALEN NATIONAL PARK

In 1971 a national park of 750 km² wilderness was declared in upper Dividal. The purpose of the law was to preserve this natural area of the far north with its typical inland features. *Øvre Dividal nasjonalpark* is one of our most valuable national parks since it includes so many different types of terrain and flourishing flora and fauna. Particularly strict regulations have been passed for *Havgavuopmi*, a 100 m² section of the park where all forms of hunting are forbidden.

Upper Dividal has an inland climate of relatively warm summers and cold winters. The first snowfall may occur in September, and snow may still cover the ground into June. Then again, it can get very hot in summer. Upper Dividal is grazing ground for great flocks of tame reindeer. However, predators also hunt in the area, among them bears, lynx, wolverines and wolves.

The main watershed is the *Divielva* river, fed by several rivulets. The mountains in the national park rise 1,000-1,600 m above sea level. There are large marshes near the tree line, about 6-700 m above sea level.

Dividalen is a magnificent area for hiking and recreation. The hikers' club *Troms turforening* and the Norwegian Tourist Association have five open cabins in the Dividalen area. Marked trails connect them so that most hikers can easily find their way any time of the year.

Now return to Holt towards Øverbygd/Skjold. Returning from Øverbygd to Bardufoss turn left after a few km and cross *Skjeggenes* bridge. Follow the road on the other side of the river, and you will be driving across Målselv's prairie, Alapmoen. At the next crossing you turn left toward Kirkesdalen.

Off Track Experience is located at Svendborg at the entrance to Kirkesdalen valley. It is a company that specializes in outdoor activities and offers courses and tours both summer and winter, like hiking, skiing and river paddling. A perfect starting point for real outdoor experience.

KIRKESDALEN

You follow a side road 20 km to *Bjørkåsen* and see the *Kirkestinden* peak, which soars to a height of 1,681 m. The local poet *Arne Lyngås* lived in Kirkesdalen (*Sildrebekken*, published in 1979, and *Kuppulsten* in 1994.)

At the Ryeng bridge you can continue toward *Iselvdalen*, where traditional mountain dairying is still practiced.

In 2020 a so far unconsecrated *chapel in honour of Elvis Presley*, with various Elvis-souvenirs, was raised by Torstein og Monica Fjerdingen Iselvmo at their summer house in Kirkesdalen. If they haven't announced opening hours or an Open Day, you may still have a look.

BRENNEVINSSTENEN - LIQUOR ROCK

This boulder is a huge block of stone in an upright position. As the tale goes, the earliest farmers met here to negotiate the distribution of newly purchased kegs of spirits. After all the men with kegs had made it to the top, the ladder was pulled and not let down until an agreement had been reached.

Now return via main road 87 at Kirkesnesmoen towards Bardufoss.

KIRKESNESMOEN CHAPEL

At a junction you see Kirkesnesmoen chapel, consecrated in 1975. Its bright and warm interior is simply furnished. Services are held once a month. (The morpheme *kirke* seems to fit quite well here for "church," but curiously it derives from Sami *geadgge*, meaning stone, like in *Kirkesdalen* valley, above.)

MÅSELVFOSSEN WATERFALL

Turn right on road 87 and follow a side road for 3 km down to Måselvfossen waterfall. The 110 km long Måselv river is widely famous for its excellent salmon fishing, but it also teems with trout, grayling and char.

In 2003 Norwegian Broadcasting listeners elected it to be "**Norway's National Waterfall.**" Along 600 metres enormous masses of water cascade over three ledges with a total height of 22 metres. The deep pool underneath the falls is internationally renowned. One of Europe's longest salmon ladders was built here in 1910 by blasting out parts of the mountain rock over a length of 450 m. This enables salmon to swim 70 km farther upstream until the Divifoss waterfall blocks for further passage. A "salmon window" has been built into the waterfall, allowing visitors to observe the passage of wild salmon. The level of water in the pool is crucial for fishing. Too much or too little water generally means poor catch. The normal level of water is usually reached about mid-July. Downstream from the waterfall the best period for salmon fishing is from Midsummer Day (June 24) and through July. The best fishing upstream is from around July 20 till the end of the fishing season late August.

MÅSELVFOSSEN TOURIST CENTRE

Located right by the waterfall Måselvfossen Turistsenter allows a beautiful view. If lucky, you can even watch a salmon catch. What about trying this sport yourself? Just remember to purchase a fishing permit, but mind they are sold in limited numbers per day. Måselvfossen Turistsenter offers overnight stays in modern cabins. Alternatively, you can put up your own tent or park your caravan on the premises.

LOWER MÅSELVFOSSEN VACATION CENTRE

500 m further down you find a second place for accommodation near the waterfall. A modern, all-season camping site with well-equipped cabins. The centre has good facilities for courses

and conferences. Fishing permits may be purchased in the service building. There is an annual country festival arranged here.

Return in the direction of Bardufoss. Turn right when reaching main road 87.

FOSSHØGDA FARM

The farm youth association BUL in Tromsø has owned this farm since 1950 and offers overnight accommodations. There are great opportunities for fishing, and the *Fossmotunet* open air museum is within walking distance.

BARDUFOSS WATERFALL AND BARDUFOSS POWER PLANT

Some 500 m from Fosshøgda farm you cross the Bardufoss Bridge, not far from the junction where the Barduelva river runs into the Målselva river. The first hydroelectric power by this waterfall was built already in 1920 and the Barduelva river was dammed up above the falls. The power plant has been working since 1952 and was taken over by Statkraft in 2012.

Mind, you may follow a marked trail down from Fossmotunet to the end of the Bardufoss Waterfall and then up along the falls. The waterfall is impressive also when there is little water, due to the huge potholes.

FOSSMOTUNET OPEN-AIR MUSEUM

When *Fossmotunet* was officially opened in 1963, it merely consisted of the main building *Fossmotua* and a smithy and miscellaneous artefacts. Since then a storage house, a small school, an old general store (the first one in Målselv), and the impressive Sandeggen barn from Kirkesdalen have been added. Recently a statue of opera singer **Aase Nordmo Løvberg** was erected here. Fossmotunet is an arena for various events throughout the year. It is open to visitors in summer. Nearby there is a marked trail for those interested in culture and nature. It leads to a view of the powerful Bardufoss waterfall. Today the open-air museum is run by the regional Midt-Troms Museum and volunteers of Fossmotunet.

BARDUFOSS FOREST NURSERY

Next, on your right, there is a regional pine and spruce nursery for re-forestation purposes. It is owned by Troms Forestry Company, a private organisation founded in 1900.

BARDUFOSS AIRPORT

The clearing of land for this airport began in 1935. Civilian air traffic commenced in 1956, when SAS established the first year-round air connection between southern Norway and Troms county. Until 1963 Bardufoss was the northernmost point of this route. Passengers to Narvik, Tromsø and Harstad had to continue by bus. Those destined for Finnmark were transported by seaplane from the nearby lake *Andsvatnet*. In May 1963 the trunk route was extended from Bardufoss to Kirkenes, and a year later Tromsø Airport was opened. Today planes of various sizes use Bardufoss Airport, which handles both military and civilian air traffic. Campus of UTSA, the University of Tromsø School of Aviation, lies here. It offers comprehensive pilot education with academic degrees. It's the only public pilot school in Norway, but also people from other countries frequently attend. Upper secondary aviation mechanics students attend a national campus here and quite a few of them also have their apprenticeships here, in the Air Force or in private maintenance businesses.

BARDUFLOSS MILITARY AIRPORT

A military air maneuver in the summer of 1938 marked the beginning of Bardufoss Military Airport. At the outbreak of war in 1940, both British and Norwegian air forces operated from here. However, Norwegian and allied forces had to capitulate to the Germans by June after a courageous struggle. The Germans expanded the airport and used it as a base for attacks on allied convoys bound for Murmansk, USSR. On May 17 (National Day) 1945, the legendary Col. Ole Reistad was given command of the airport. There was further expansion when Norway joined NATO. Today the airport plays a strategic role in the country's defence structure. Bardufoss is a major station for military helicopters and hosts the Norwegian Airforce selection for full military pilot education in the USA.

SAMI NAMES FOR PLACES

Several places in Målselv have names of Sami origin, increasingly so when approaching the Swedish border. Among the best known is Kirkesdalen from Sami *geadgge*, meaning "rock". Others are Dividalen, *dievaidd* meaning "hill"; Alappen, *Allapgai'se*, meaning "snow sparrow mountain;" Tamok, *dabmuk*, meaning "trout;" Hattavarre, meaning "hat mountain" and Dødesdalen, *devdis*, meaning "fertile valley." On your way it is worth knowing that *duodji* means Sami handicrafts. The Sami National Day February 6 is celebrated at local and county schools. Målselv hosts a regional primary school to improve and preserve Sami language.

TRADITIONAL DISHES FROM MÅLSELV

MINCED MOOSE MEAT

350 g ground moose meat

about 50 g moose innards

100 g onions

400 g potatoes

salt and herbs as desired

Boil with a small amount of water. Peel and dice onions and potatoes; boil until the potatoes are done.

Add salt and herbs.

Serve with *tyttebær* (mountain cranberries) and *flatbrød* (thin wafer crispbread).

RAKFISK - CURED TROUT OR CHAR

The word rakfisk derives from Old Norse *rakr* = moist/soaked.

Gut fish and clean well! Place fish in layers in a bucket or large can, strewing salt and sugar between the layers. 1 kg fish, 100 g salt, ½ tsp. Sugar to up speed the autolysis process. Important: Pack fish tightly to avoid pockets of air between the layers! Store lidded in a cool, dark place, weight on top. Dry it before you serve it cold as a main meal, together with hot potatoes, red onions and *flatbrød* (thin wafer crispbread) with butter, or with scrambled eggs. Delicious, but observe, an unclean process may cause bacteria and food botulism!

GRAVLAKS -FERMENTED SALMON

Gravlaks is a Nordic dish of salmon that is cured by using salt, sugar, and dill. Gravlaks is usually served as an appetizer, sliced thinly and accompanied by mustard sauce.

Served with bread or boiled potatoes.

LARGE WHITE LEFSE

1 litre buttermilk (soured milk)

1/3 litre sour cream, 20% fat

1 c sugar

1 c white syrup

2 tbsp. baking soda (sodium bicarbonate; salt of hartshorn)

Heat syrup, add sugar and then sour cream. Add baking soda and enough flour to make a light dough, then leave it to stand for a while. Use a rolling pin to make thin round cakes and bake them on an iron griddle, turning once.

Serve with a creamed spread consisting of butter, sugar and brown goat milk cheese. The “lefse” may be conserved in the freeze.

TYNNKAKER -THIN CAKES

500 g lard

1 ½ c sugar

1 ½ tsp. salt

3.5 liters milk

1 kg white flour

200 g barley flour

½ tsp. (or less) crushed anise seed

Mix the first three ingredients and thicken 1 litre of the milk with some of the white flour. Bring the rest of the milk to a boil and add to the thickened mixture; cook thoroughly. Add the remaining flour, stirring constantly until the batter is cooked. Pour the mixture into another pot and let it stand until the next day, stirring occasionally to cool it. Cover it to prevent a crust from forming on top. Bake on a griddle (medium heat) in thin cakes which are cut into 10-cm squares. Bake on both sides to a golden crisp.

WORTH SEEING

AURSFJORDSAGA: Operating old vertical saw. Located in beautiful scenery by Lakselva river in Aursfjordbotn.

BARDUFOSS WATERFALL AND POWER PLANT: Located near Fossmotunet. A marked trail nearby provides information on local culture, the natural surroundings and the history of the hydroelectric power plant, which goes back to 1922.

DEVDDESVUOPMI SAMI CULTURAL SITE: Archaeological excavations revealed artefacts from the early Stone Age. The area is rich in cultural objects from a long period of Sami history. The township of Målselv has reconstructed some of the installations of a Sami spring and summer camping site from the period 1923-1939, including a *gamme* (turf hut).

FILMCAMP: A regional resource and infrastructure company for feature film- and TV-productions. Located on Holmen island, Øverbygd.

FOSSMOTUNET OPEN AIR MUSEUM: Buildings and artefacts from 1820-1900. The Aase Nordmo Løvberg statue. Tours available in summer. Contact Midt-Troms Museum.

HEGGELIA CHAPEL: Built in 1961 and jointly owned by the armed forces and the church council of Målselv.

HØGTUN CULTURE CLUSTER: A new cluster of arts and crafts businesses on the premises of the former Høgtun Secondary School, providing studies of arts and crafts. Located near Olsborg.

IMMIGRANT MEMORIAL: Located at the old Målselv Bridge in Moen and dedicated to the memory of the first settlers in the Målselv valley (1788-1789). Immigration to the valley was encouraged by Bailiff Jens Holmboe.

ISTINDAN (“ICE PEAKS”): Stunning chain of mountains whose highest peak rises 1.489 m above sea level.

KIRKESNESMOEN CHAPEL: Modern church with a bright, inviting interior; consecrated in 1975. Located near Rundhaug.

KONGSVOLDTUNET OPEN AIR MUSEUM: Farm from the 1800s featuring buildings and implements. Beautifully situated near the lake Rostadvatnet. Open for guided tours during the summer.

MOEN MILL: Built in 1916 and moved to Moen in 1925. Restored and reopened in 1966. Houses an electric motor from 1922, the first ever to operate in Troms.

MÅLSELV CAIRN: The Millenium Art Work of Målselv, raised by Alfio Bonanno in 2004 by the Olsborg bridge.

MÅLSELV CHURCH: Third church on this site; consecrated in 1978. Main church of Målselv, located 4 km from Olsborg.

MÅLSELVFOSSEN WATERFALL: The site is a gem of nature and features one of Europe's longest salmon ladders. Height of the waterfall: 22 m.

OLD MÅLSELV BRIDGE: Impressive suspension bridge in Moen, constructed in 1939.

REISTAD MONUMENT: Located at Rustahøgda, Bardufoss. A tribute to Col. Ole Reistad (1898-1949), Commander of Bardufoss Military Airport and a pioneering figure in athletics and outdoor life.

RUSTAHØGDA: A comprehensive sports and education arena at Bardufoss. Polarbadet, an indoor swimming park and café.

SAMI SCHOOL: Regional primary school for Sami children of the region, with Sami architecture and colours. Located in Andslimoen.

SETTLER'S WIFE: Sculpture by Per Ung located on Trollhaugen between the Olsborg bridges.

TOUCHPOINT: Veterans monument at Andselv, Bardufoss.

UPPER DIVIDAL NATIONAL PARK: Preserved area. Scenery of magnificent beauty.

WW II HISTORIC LANDSCAPE: At Andselv, Bardufoss.

ØVERBYGD CHURCH: The township's oldest church, dating from the year 1867. Built of heavy logs in the form of a long nave. Many works of art. Located 12 km from Rundhaug.

ØVERBYTUNET OPEN AIR MUSEUM: Displays a house from the 1870s, an old schoolhouse and various artefacts. Gathering place for local inhabitants. Located in Øverbygd.

CONTENTS

Aase Nordmo Løvberg's birthplace and statue
Alapmoen
Alappen
Andslimoen
Aurora Husky
Aursfjord
Aursfjordsaga (saw mill)
Bardufossen Waterfall
Bardufoss flystasjon (Military Airport)
Bardufoss Power Plant
Bardufoss Airport
Bardufosstun Course and Training Centre
Bardufoss Town
Bardufoss hotel
Bardufoss storhall (sports hall)
Basecamp Nord (resort)
Bjørkåsen
Brennevinsstenen ("liquor rock")
Buktamoen
Cabins and rooms for rent
Czech Grove
Dividalen
Dividalen Camping
Divielva River
Divifoss Waterfall
Diviåsen
Devddesvuopmi
Dronninga på Diviåsen ("Queen of Diviåsen")
Fagerlidal
FilmCamp
Finnbruene (bridges)
Fishing permits
Fosshøgda Gård (farm)
Fossmoen
Fossmotua
Fossmotunet Open air museum
Fredriksberg
Frihetsli
Gullhav
Haraldvollen
Heggelia
Heggelia chapel
Holt
Høgskardshus
Høgtun kulturklynge (cluster of arts and crafts)
Immigrant Memorial
Iselvdalen
Istindan (chain of mountains)

Istindportalen Culture House
Jutulsstønen ("Giant's dam")
Karlstad
Kirkesnesmoen chapel
Kongslustua
Kongsvoldtunet Open Air Museum
Lakselva River
Lille Rostavatn (lake)
Lower Målselvossen Vacation Centre
Luneborg
Minde junction
Moen
Moen Mill
Målselvbrua (bridge)
Målselvossen Waterfall
Målselv Cairn (artwork)
Målselv Church
Målsnes
Nordmo Gård farm
Nordmo Cemetery
Norquest (outdoor business)
National Centre for Nordlandshest and Lyngshest (equestrian centre)
Nybyggerkona ("Settler's Wife")
Næringsshagen (commercial location)
OffTrack Experience (outdoor business)
Old Målselv Bridge
Ole Reistad
Olsborg
Olsborg Gjestgiveri (Inn)
Polarbadet Swimming Pool
Potholes
Registry of Historical Data
Rostadalen Camping
Rundhaug
Rundhaug Bridge
Rundhaug Gjestegård (guest house)
Rustahøgda
Ryengbrua (bridge)
Råvatnet Shooting Range
Salmon ladder in Målselvossen waterfall
Sami School in Troms
Sami names of places
Sights
Skjeggesnesbrua bridge
Skjold
Skjold Garrison
Sørfjorden (South Fjord)
Takvatn
Tamokdalen
Traditional dishes in Målselv

Trangen
Trollhaugen
Troms Skogselskap
Upper Dividal National Park
Upper Målselvfossen Tourist Center
UTSA School of Aviation
Øverbygd Church
Øverbygd
Øverbytunet

