

# INTRODUCTION

The municipality of Eigersund has its name from the oak tree which was common in the area for thousands of years. The harbour was, and still is, important for Eigersund. About 1000 years ago the harbour was commonly used by "Olav the Holy".

The cycle trip is mainly along narrow roads with little traffic. It illustrates industrial history and a dramatic airplane crash, but the highlight of the tour is the beautiful cultural landscape and opportunities to experience nature close up. Eigersund is Geopark site number 25.

**START AND END**  
Your car can be parked on Heggdalsveien off road 44. The cycle trip

starts here. Follow the signs to Koldal (road 56). The trip is about 25 km long through hilly terrain (See figure: elevation curve).

Heggdalsveien passes through Årstad which is considered to be one of the oldest farms in the area. In February 1836 a large silver treasure was found under a stone here. The treasure consisted of 1849 silver coins with a weight of 2.5 kg. This is the largest coin collection from the Viking era in Norway. One theory is that the coins originate from Danish King Canute who used them as a means of buying Norwegian support in the war against Norwegian King Olav around year 1030.

**STOP 1: CYCLE ROUTE**  
You have now come to a junction that forms the starting point for the round trip. The description in the brochure is based on the route Koldal (right) - Nodland, but it is possible to take the trip in reverse order.

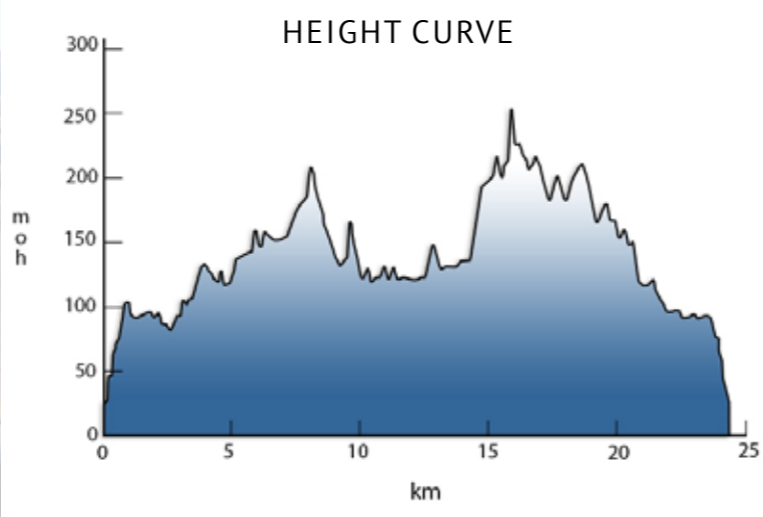
On the hill just behind the junction is the ruin of a farm from the Iron Age. It is not far to one of the most famous archaeological sites in Eigersund: Stoplesteinane! This located on the top of Skårabrekka in the farm Årstad. The feature consists of 16 stones placed in a circle with a diameter of 21 m. There are different theories to explain the location of the stones; graveyard, location of worship, or the centre of a town.

St. Olav's road, as it is called, stretches from Stoplesteinane in the north to Gaudland in Sokndal municipality to the south. An old story says that Olav the Saint tried to avoid enemies when he was in Eigersund, so he left his mark on the landscape. His boat was pushed down into the bedrock and led to the formation of a depression in the terrain. The geological explanation for this is that the depressions appeared as a result of the variable weathering conditions of the rocks. The low parts are where basalt has been weathered away. The other rocks are more resistant to the weathering process.

**STOP 2: HILLFORTS (BYGDEBORGER)**  
In the west there is an Iron Age fort next to the road. The buildings were used for defence. Common to the municipalities is that the forts are located along roads that are historically important. There are more than 50 hillforts in Rogaland.

\* Do you want to visit Stoplesteinane? From the starting point follow Sokndalsveien to Skårabrekka. Your bicycles can be parked here since the locality is reached by foot.

**STOP 3: HÅLANDSMARKA**  
In Hålandsmarka there is a memorial to a Spitfire airplane crash. On August 19, 1953, Captain Harald Meland was on a routine flight when his plane got into trouble and lost height. Captain Meland died in the crash. A memorial in honour of the dead pilot was established in 2015.



**GEOBIKE**

Eigersund - Koldal - Nodland - Eggersund

25 km

Local No. 20

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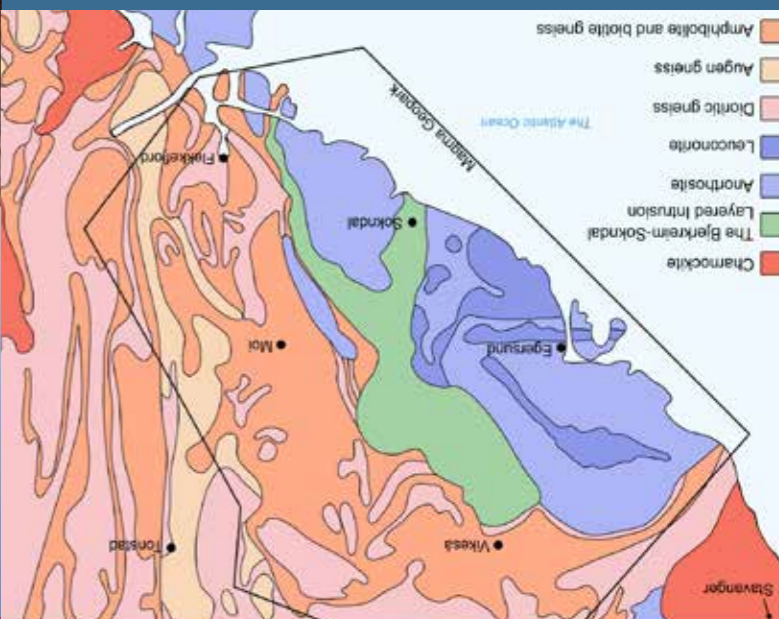
MAGMA GEOPARK NORWAY

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EUROPEAN UNION  
European Regional Development Fund  
2014-2020  
Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme

Geoparks

Bjerkreim KOMMUNE  
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Rogaland FYLKESKOMMUNE  
Vest-Agder FYLKESKOMMUNE



In Magma Geopark the main rock type is the same as the lighter coloured parts of the surface of the moon - anorthosite. Anorthosite in the geopark crystallised in large magma chambers about 950 million years ago. It developed in the root zone of a mountain range similar to the modern Himalayas. When the ice retreated for the last time, the anorthosite became exposed and is waiting for your footprints.

**MAGMA GEOPARK**

Free GPS-based game and smartphone guide. Take your family on a guided tour through Magma Geopark sites and learn more about this unique area!

Join TURFHUNTI Players and different GPS coordinates in the game and answer questions. Suitable for the whole family!

Android

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Magma Geopark is a unique geological area in southwest Norway comprising five municipalities: Bjerkreim, Eigersund, Flekkefjord, Lund and Sokndal. Here you will find over 40 sites that present exciting geological and cultural features ready to be explored by everyone! Magma Geopark is part of UNESCO Global Geoparks, a network of more than 127 geoparks (in 2017) from around the world. A UNESCO Global Geopark is a well defined geographical area where the landscape is of international geological importance and which is run for conservation, education and sustainable development. Such an area helps raise awareness and understanding of the geological heritage and its history, geohazards, natural resources and climate change, as well as gender equality and local knowledge.





Along Heggdalsveien



Liavatnet (stop 8)



Potholes (stop 12)



Erratic boulder (stop 14)

#### STOP 4: IRON AGE FARM

The old farm of Tansland from the late Iron Age is located east of the route. As well as the ruins of buildings you can still see remains of graves and old yards surrounded by rocks.

#### STOP 5: OLD CAMPSITE

An old campsite has been found on the slope to the south. Eleven stones in a circle show where the shelter once stood hundreds of years ago.

#### STOP 6: HEGGDAL

At Heggdal there are several burial mounds from the Iron Age. The burial mounds consist of soil and stones placed over one or more graves. The sizes and shapes of the graves are quite variable.

#### STOP 7: KOLDAL & ANKERHUS

Most of the traces of mining operations that took place in the 1700-1800s have been removed or overgrown, but in some places you can

still observe holes, tunnels and cuts made during the extraction of ilmenite. This mineral (iron titanium oxide) is black. It is mainly used to extract titanium oxide – which is white! It is used as a white colouring agent in e.g. paper, paint, toothpaste, cosmetics etc.

The mining operation in Koldal started in 1779 at Spjodevatnet about 6 km east of Egersund, but the largest mine was at Ankerhus near lake Kydlandsvatnet. This was one of the oldest mines and is 65 meters long. Extraction of ilmenite stopped in the 19th century. This is because the ore was used for the extraction of iron and the high titanium content meant that the melting point was too high. Around 1860 mining was started again by Egersund Mining Company (later sold to Titanium Ore Company). Mining of ilmenite for titanium oxide continued here until 1886.

During the early phase of mining, the ore was transported on sledges over snow and frozen lakes during the winter months. In 1864 a heavy-

duty railway was built which went from Koldal to Skjevollsvik with two carriages coupled together and a driver that controlled the speed. Horses were used to pull the wagons back up to Koldal. This is Geopark site 27.

#### STOP 8: LAKE LIAVATNET

The freshwater lake Liavatnet is located beside part of the route. There are many boulders along the side of this lake. A boulder is defined as a fragment of rock that is larger than 25.6 cm in diameter.

#### STOP 9: VIEWPOINT

Until about 10.000 years ago this area was covered by glaciers during the last ice age. When it is weathered the anorthosite rock does not produce fertile soil – there is too little iron, magnesium and phosphorus for it to be fertile. The low-lying areas and gullies with vegetation are where there is moraine material (till) that was left behind when the ice melted. The till consists of a mixture of clay, silt, sand and gravel that can be quite fertile.

#### STOP 10: LAKE Husetjørna

From this plateau viewpoint at the top of the hill you can look over to lake Husatjørna. This is one of many lakes linked to Revsvatnet which is a source of drinking water for Egersund and is regulated by a dam. Dalane has about 40.000 lakes!

#### STOP 11: HORVE

Horve stands out from the rest of the bare landscape. This green and lush area is a result of forestation that started in the 1920s.

Today the area has several hiking routes; there is an 8-shaped route which is 3 km long; the first loop has a length of 1880 m. If you want to take an extra tour to explore the local nature there is a good opportunity to do this here.

#### STOP 12: POTHLES ( JETTEGRYTER )

There are several potholes in this area. These are smooth, cylindrical

holes in the bedrock with varying widths and depths. They were formed when this area was covered by running water at the end of the last ice age. They are formed by erosion of the rock by stones rotating in a depression by the force of running water. The name “jette” means “troll” and refers to the old idea that the cylindrical holes were originally made by trolls.

#### STOP 13: LAKE HOLMAVATNET

Lake Holmatvatnet is also a source of drinking water for Eigersund. Opposite the lake is Borgafjellet, where there is a castle on the top of a hill.

#### STOP 14: ERRATIC BOULDERS

Glacial erratics are blocks of rock and stones that lie on the bedrock surface. They were picked up by the ice during its movement and left behind when the ice melted. They are therefore “foreign” since they have come from outside the area and consist of different types of rock. Sometimes it is possible to identify the source of an erratic block. This provides information on the direction of flow of the travelling glacier that left it behind. Some blocks are quite angular whereas others are well rounded. In general the angular blacks have not travelled as far as the rounded ones.

#### STOP 15: ANORTHOSITE

The landscape along the cycle route is dominated by anorthosite which is the same rock type that forms the lighter parts of the surface of the moon. Anorthosite consists almost entirely of only one mineral called plagioclase feldspar. The anorthosite locally displays a fine bluish play of colours which becomes very evident on polished surfaces. Anorthosite is quarried elsewhere in Magma Geopark because of this play of colours.

NO.	LOCALITIES	DESCRIPTION
P	Start and end	Park along Heggdalsveien along road 44.
1	Intersection & Stoplesteinan	Follow Heggdalsveien for 1.5 km. At the junction, turn right towards Koldal. There is a steep slope (1:10) for the first km
2	Bygdeborg	Follow Heggdalsveien for 0.8 km. There is a small village on a hilltop on the right .
3	Hålandsmarka	The memorial is 2.5 km from stop 2 on the right but cannot be seen from the road.
4	Iron Age farm	1.5 km from stop 3 on the right is Tansland farm. It cannot be seen from the road and in order to get there you must walk along the marked path.
5	Old camping site	1.4 km further you arrive at a campsite place on the right. It cannot be seen from the road.
6	Heggdal	1.8 km further from stop 5 you arrive at a crossroads. Here you follow the sign to Vind-Birkeland.
7	Ankerhus mines	About 1.4 km from the crossing in Heggdal you reach a dam at Liavatnet. The bicycles can be parked here. Follow the unmarked trail to the south for approx. 500 m. Many traces of mining activity can be seen at lake Kydlandsvatnet and in the surrounding area.
8	Liavatnet	2 km from stop 7 you reach a rest area at Liavatnet.
9	Viewpoint with moraine materials	2.1 km from stop 8 you reach a viewpoint.
10	View of Husetjørna	1 km from stop 9.
11	Horve	2.3 km from stop 1 you reach Horve.
12	Potholes	1 km further on you reach the potholes on the left. These can be seen from the road.
13	Holmatvatnet	1 km from stop 12.
14	Glacial erratics	Visible in the landscape
15	Anorthosite	1.5 km from stop 13 you reach a junction (stop 1). Follow the road down to the car park

GEOLOGY
  CULTURE
  GEOLOGY & CULTURE

