



North Sea trail

Sollibotn - Flolid

Gulen



Coast to mountain

The coastal municipality of Gulen is located south-west in Sogn og Fjordane, bordering Hordaland region. It covers 596 km² including 1500 islands and skerries. The landscape changes vastly from naked islands in the west to fertile farming villages between mountains in the east. 2500 inhabitants are evenly distributed between the four school districts: Brekke, Dalsøyra, Eivindvik and Byrknes.



Gulatingløypa trail

The North Sea trail in Gulen is a roundtrip from Sollibotn to Flolid and back, around 14 km. Great for both walking and cycling. The trail follows the road, tracing age old Viking footsteps. From Sollibotn, there are two ways to reach the historical centre of Eivindvik: either follow the road along Prestesundet sound or follow the waymarked path from Sollibotn. This will take you through a new housing development in Eivindvik to the centre. You can also follow the Prestegardsstien trail, and learn more about the cultural monuments and history of old Eivindvik – before continuing by foot or cycle to Flolid and the Gulatinget millennium site.

The "Graffers" from Gulen

If you leave the main road and take the trail to Eivindvik, you will pass by elaborate monuments from the construction of telephone poles from 1910. These were erected by the "graffers" or people who built the telegraph and telephone lines around the country. Around a hundred "graffers" came from Gulen – no other village in Norway had as many. In 1905, a number of "graffers" left Gulen for Iceland, to build the first telephone line from Seydisfjord to Reykjavik.



Telephone pole on elaborately designed foundations. Photo: Anne-Karin Mjse

The crosses in Eivindvik

In Eivindvik, you can visit the site where the Gulating parliament is thought to first have gathered. Two old



The millennium site for Sogn og Fjordane region is at Flolid, the Gulating site. The photo is from the opening ceremony in August 2005. Photo: Ytre Sogn Avis

stone crosses face each other at each end of the site. Both date back to early Christianity, probably from one of the missionary kings around the year 1000 AD. One of the stone crosses, in Norwegian-Celtic style, is at the church entrance and has straight cross arms with semicircular "arm holes". The other cross is Anglican in style, with large, round cross arms and a Latin cross carved into the front. It is located behind the council building. The Anglican cross is positioned to always have daylight, even on the darkest day of the year, the winter solstice.

Olavskjelda well

Directly below the Anglican cross is Olavskjelda well, said to be named such after Olav the Holy drank from it. The well is never dry and legend has it that its waters are curative.

Gulatinget

The Gulating was an annual parliamentary assembly of farmers from the entire west coast who came to Gulen to discuss matters such as taxes, building of roads and churches, military duty. Disputes and crimes were also judged and sentenced. It is uncertain when the assembly first took place, but the parliament was established in the 10th century.

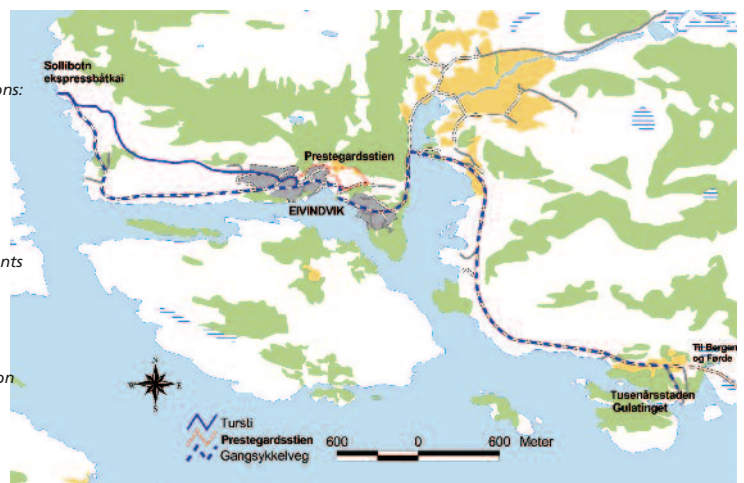


The over 1000-year-old Celtic cross at the churchyard wall in Eivindvik.

Eivindvik

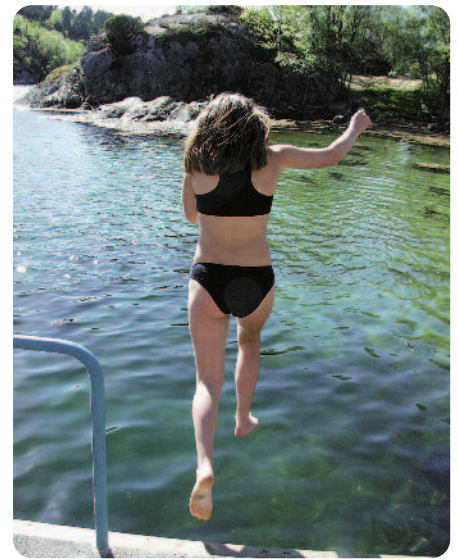
Facilities and attractions:

- Cabins for rent
- Grocery store
- Guest moorings
- Cultural monuments
- Hotel
- Cycle hire
- Tourist Information





The start of the trail in Sollibotn.
Photo: Anne-Karin Misje



Swimming at the millennium site.

It is probable that the parliament was founded during Harald Hårfagre's reign. The old medieval stone crosses in Eivindvik are thought to mark the site of the assembly. Ancient records show that King Håkon Håkonsson built a church on Guløy island and held assembly there. Today, Guløy is the name of the peninsula pointing south from Flolid. The Gulating site has monuments which date back to the Stone Age, but no remains of the church have been found. However, it is probable that the parliamentary assembly was held here throughout most of the 13th century, before it was moved to Bergen around 1300 AD.



Monumental art

The Gulating millennium site features the monumental constructions, Tingveggen, Tinghella and Eldsirkelen, created by artist Bård Breivik. You can follow a number of trails around the park or relax on the grassy slopes while enjoying the spectacle of the powerful Tingveggen sculpture. Eldsirkelen is a circle where you can build a fire or barbecue, and the surrounding lawns are perfect for games and activities. Why not take a refreshing dip in the bay? The trail continues back to Eivindvik and Sollibotn. A round-trip of 2 hours by foot, but plenty of adventure for a whole day.

Transport

There is good transport both north and south. You can catch the ferry from Sløvåg in the south to Mongstad (approx. 25 min.). From Mongstad it is a 1-hour drive to Bergen. To travel north, take the Rutledal-Rysjedalsvika or Oppedal-Lavik ferry. It is around a 1-hour drive from Lavik to Førde. The Snøggbåt express boats also take you south to Bergen, east to Indre Sogn and north to Ålesund.

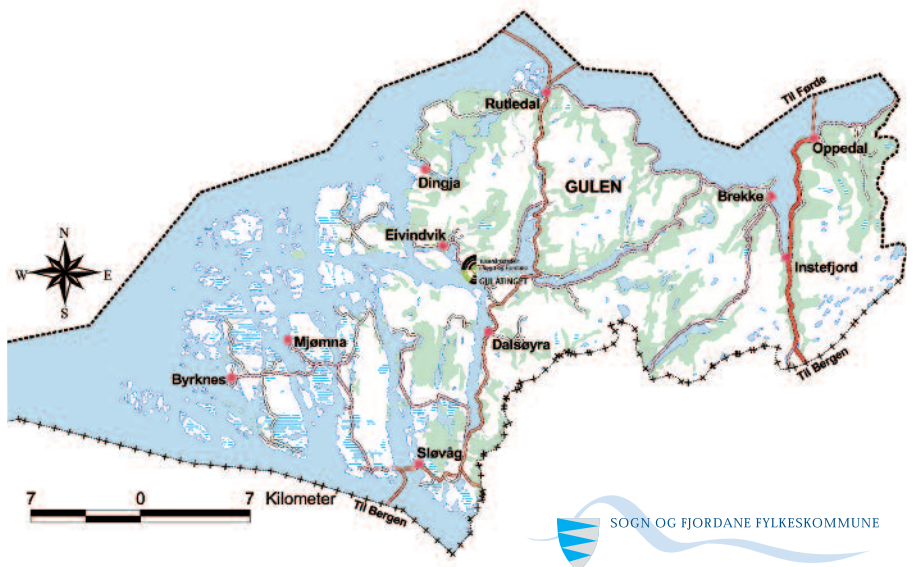
Gulating millennium site

You can rent a bike and cycle from Eivindvik quay to Flolid and the Gulating millennium site, or you can walk through Eivindvik along the road, around 4.5



The millennium site as a cultural meeting place.
Photo: Anne-Karin Misje

Historical theatre at the millennium site.



PUBLIC ACCESS TO LAND APPLIES TO OUTLYING FIELDS

Public access:

- Walking and skiing
- Picnicking and overnight stays
- Horse riding or cycling on paths and roads
- Boating, mooring and going ashore in outlying fields along the coast
- Picking berries, mushrooms and flowers
- Bathing in the sea, lakes and watercourses
- Fishing with angling tackle for salt-water fish

Obligations:

- Not to damage the natural environment or disturb animals and birds
- Not to walk over cultivated ground and fields
- Not to build fires in forests and fields between 15 April and 15 September
- To keep dogs on a leash at all times on public roads or in the countryside. For outlying fields, dogs must be kept on a leash between 1 April and 15 October and when animals are out to graze.

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North Sea Trail

North Sea Trail is a cooperation project for the protection of the North Sea region and its shared cultural heritage as a meeting point for communication and transport.

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km. Each region has its own millennium site, a meeting place for interaction, cultural activities and displays, inspiration from other cultures, a place to represent future values. The millennium site opened in 2005.