



North Sea trail

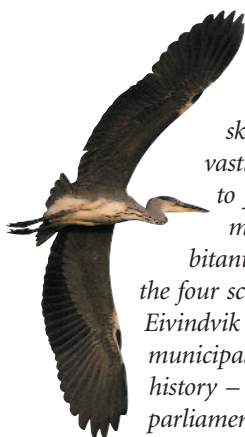
Eivindvik

Gulen



Coast mountains

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. Eivindvik is the municipal centre in Gulen, and is rich in history – it is thought that the Gulating parliament first assembled here.



Prestegardsstien trail in Eivindvik

Follow the Prestegardsstien, a 30-40 minute walk, to discover traces of a fascinating cultural history dating back to the Viking era. Eivindvik has a proud history which stretches back over 1000 years.

Niels Griis Alstrup Dahl

Dahl arrived in Eivindvik in 1804 as a curate then was named rector in 1807. He then moved to Ytre Sogn, was appointed as mayor of Gulen and member of parliament. Dahl studied in Copenhagen and was inspired by the concepts of liberty and education which were promoted throughout Europe after the French Revolution.



In 1832, national poet Henrik Wergeland (1808-45) visited Eivindvik and wrote the poem "Eivindvig" as a tribute to the forward-looking builder of communities and priest, Nils Griis Alstrup Dahl.

When he arrived in Eivindvik, conditions were poor. Eivindvik parish was large, poor, in disrepair and difficult to run. Over the next 50 years, Dahl organised replacement of the soil throughout the parish, many years before farmers did away with the destructive division of agricultural land. The farmers learned how to rotate crops, fertilise and care for the soil. It is rumoured that Dahl purchased several public houses in the parish, only to close them down, in order to rid the area of drunkenness. In 2002, to mark the 150th anniversary of Dahl's death in 1852, a stone monument was erected, sculpted by Elisabeth Steen. This can be found in the park below the council building in Eivindvik.



Haul in the sail! In from the sea! In there, where the seeds are sown, lies Eivindvig quietly dreaming!
(Henrik Wergeland "Eivindvig", 1832)

Herresalen old rectory in Eivindvik.

Herresalen, Prestekaia quay

Dahl moved into the "Herresalen" house in 1819. This Neo-Classic Empire style building remained the rectory until 1902. The council meeting room on the first floor was in use as recently as the mid 1980s. The Prestekaia quay and stone steps up to the church were also established by Dahl. In olden days, transport was mainly by boat, and on Sundays the boats jostled for place at the Prestekaia quay in Eivindvik. The building now houses a library.



Stone walls and the path to the waterworks

Dahl ordered the construction of the vast stone wall to circle all the parish's fields. The wall is around 1.5 km long and was meant to divide fields from outlying pasture. It was built from stone to spare the trees and to avoid annual maintenance. The wall was completed around 1825. Farmers from the area built the wall, for 1 kroner per day according to legend. There are several barns built along the wall for the animals in spring and autumn. They were built into the stone wall to save on materials. Good the manure flowing out of these barns provided good fertilisation for the nearby fields. The remains of these barns can still be spotted along the wall.

The view from the top of Krossteigen

The white house in Fonnevik, by the coast on the other side of Prestesundet sound, was built in 1814 by Dahl as an example of good architecture. It was then used as a school and housing for curates. During the 19th century, Fonnevik was home to a margarine factory, dye house, bakers, shipping office, rural post office and courthouse.

Eivindvik

Facilities and attractions:

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

A: Herresalen
B: Borgstova
C: Stone cross
D: Gulen church
E: Stone cross
F: Council building





Guest harbour with Gulen church in the background.



Children playing on the beach.



The Anglican cross in Krossteigen.
Photo: Øyvind Nordstrøm

The cross and Olavskjelda

The cross in Krossteigen is Anglican, with a small Latin cross carved into the area between the arms. Its location is very precise as the sun shines on the entire cross on the winter solstice (21 December). The cross is more than 1000 years old, and thought to have been erected by one of the Norwegian missionary kings. Olavskjelda well is just below the cross (named after Olav the Holy), and is rumoured to have curative waters.

Prestveita ditch

In order to drain the parish fields, Dahl had three underground ditches built from the stone wall down to the sea. The Prestveita ditch – the longest – runs out down by the quay. The ditches have

chyard gate. Borgstova is the oldest house in the parish. It is a reconstructed rectory and is thought to date back to the 16-17th centuries.

Walking/cycling from Eivindvik

From Eivindvik, you can walk or cycle to Flolid and the Gulatung millennium site, where you can learn more about this site. You can also choose the trail west to the bay at Sollibotn. From there, you can follow the road along the sound or set off over rock and heather along the waymarked path from Eivindvik to Sollibotn. The trail starts at the council building. Follow the path through the new housing before joining the trail, passing by the elaborately designed foundations for telephone poles dating back to 1910.

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 Snøggbaat express boats also take you south to Bergen, east to Indre Sogn and north to Ålesund.



The parish stone wall in Eivindvik.

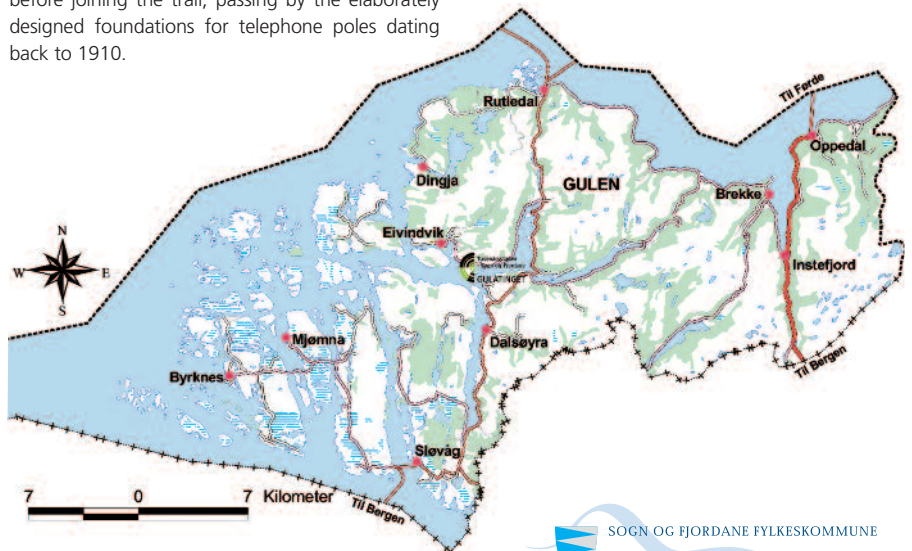
stone walls and roofs made from stone slabs. The soil over these was used as agricultural land. It was also common for the farms in Gulen to have underground cellars built of stone to store and chill produce. The parish cellar was used to store vegetables and potatoes. And during the Second World War, the cellars became shelters for the villagers.

The cross at the churchyard gate

This cross is Norwegian-Celtic in style, with the characteristic straight cross arms and semi-circular "arm holes". It dates back to early Christianity and is also thought to originate from one of the missionary kings around the year 1000, but most probably not the same king to erect the Anglican cross.

Gulen church and Borgstova

The oldest records found of the church in Eivindvik are from 1327, but the church is thought to be much older. The current building, consecrated in 1863, seats around 700. The altarpiece is from 1872 (C. Brun) and portrays Jesus in Gethsemane. The chandeliers were gifted by King Håkon VII and Queen Maud in 1912. One of the church bells was made in Bergen in 1711 and recast in Stockholm in 1821. The second probably dates back to the 13-14th centuries and is Gothic. The stone baptismal font is over 1000 years old and was brought to the church in 1905. It previously stood by the cross at the churchyard gate.



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.
Supported by Interreg IIB North Sea Programme