



RONDANE

NORWAY'S FIRST NATIONAL PARK





A family on their way down from Storrenden (E8)

NORWAY'S FIRST NATIONAL PARK

The Rondane massif towers majestically over vast, lichen-clad upland plateaus. The landscape in the south has friendly, rounded peaks, but there are also deep corries and steep cliffs, especially towards the north and east. Rondane is a barren, rocky, mountainous terrain dominated by lichens and heathers. Wild reindeer have lived here for thousands of years. Remains of hunting sites, settlements and other cultural heritage relics linked with hunting and trapping of wild reindeer can be found all over Rondane. The park is now one of Europe's last outposts for the original Euro-Asiatic tundra reindeer.

Rondane became the first Norwegian national park in 1962 and was extended in 2003. The landscape, cultural heritage, animals and plants are to remain undisturbed here, and ramblers will find peace and enjoy thrilling natural history and scenery. Today, Rondane is one of the most visited national parks in Norway.



Rondane from Tjønnbakken (FB)



Skiing to Veslesmeden (FB)



THRILLING NATURAL HISTORY AND SCENERY

Walks to suit everyone

Rondane offers any number of choices for ramblers, from easy walks for some hours to long mountaineering treks lasting several days. The terrain ranges from upland woodland and undulating plateaus to knife-edge ridges and lofty peaks. If you approach via the Gudbrandsdalen valley, Mysusetet, Høvringen, Grimsdalen and Venabygdsfjellet are good gateways. Atndalen is the main approach from the east. There is an excellent network of mountaineering huts and marked paths. The paths between Bjørnhollia, Rondvassbu and Dørålseter are most used. You have many opportunities to satisfy an urge to conquer peaks. Nine Rondane peaks tower more than 2000 metres above sea level. You need to spend some hours walking over rocks to reach the summits, but the reward is a magnificent view. The network of huts and paths in Rondane continues north to Dovre, east to the mountains west of Alvdal and south to Venabygdsfjellet. If you have plenty of time and enjoy walking long distances, you can take the Rondane path all the way from Hjerkin on the Dovre plateau to Oslo, or follow marked paths north-westwards via Dovrefjell to Åndalsnes and Isfjorden.

Vulnerable animal life

Rondane is a popular goal for skiers in winter and walkers in summer, but it is inhabited by many species which do not like being disturbed. It is therefore important to pay special consideration to the animal and plant life, not least the wild reindeer. The reindeer in this area are very timid. Birds of prey like golden eagles and gyrfalcons are especially vulnerable at their nesting sites from March to June. If you take marked paths, there is less risk of disturbing the animal and plant life. Several marked paths and ski tracks have recently been diverted or their marking removed to protect the animal life. As a visitor to the Rondane National Park, you have a chance to enjoy rare encounters.



Migrating reindeer (PJ)



On the way to Storonden (FB)



LANDSCAPE AND GEOLOGY

Peaks and corries

The Rondane massif is packed with peaks. One side of a peak is typically a gently sloping, rounded landform, but this is suddenly replaced on the other side by precipitous cliffs and cavernous corries. The shady corries have been excavated by ice and snow over thousands of years. The Rondane mountains mostly consist of feldspathic quartzite (sparagmite), which forms characteristic, blocky screes and block fields.

Traces from the Ice Age

The deglaciation after the last Ice Age has left clear traces in the terrain. Valleys and corries were excavated by the ice, while glacial meltwater rivers carved narrow gorges. Large quantities of gravel and stones were deposited. The gravelly mounds, ridges and deep hollows at Skrangelhaugane, south of Dørålseter, form a strange landscape. The hollows are kettle holes formed where blocks of ice buried in gravelly debris melted, leaving crater-like hollows.



Skrangelhaugane (TM)



Glacier buttercups (LS)



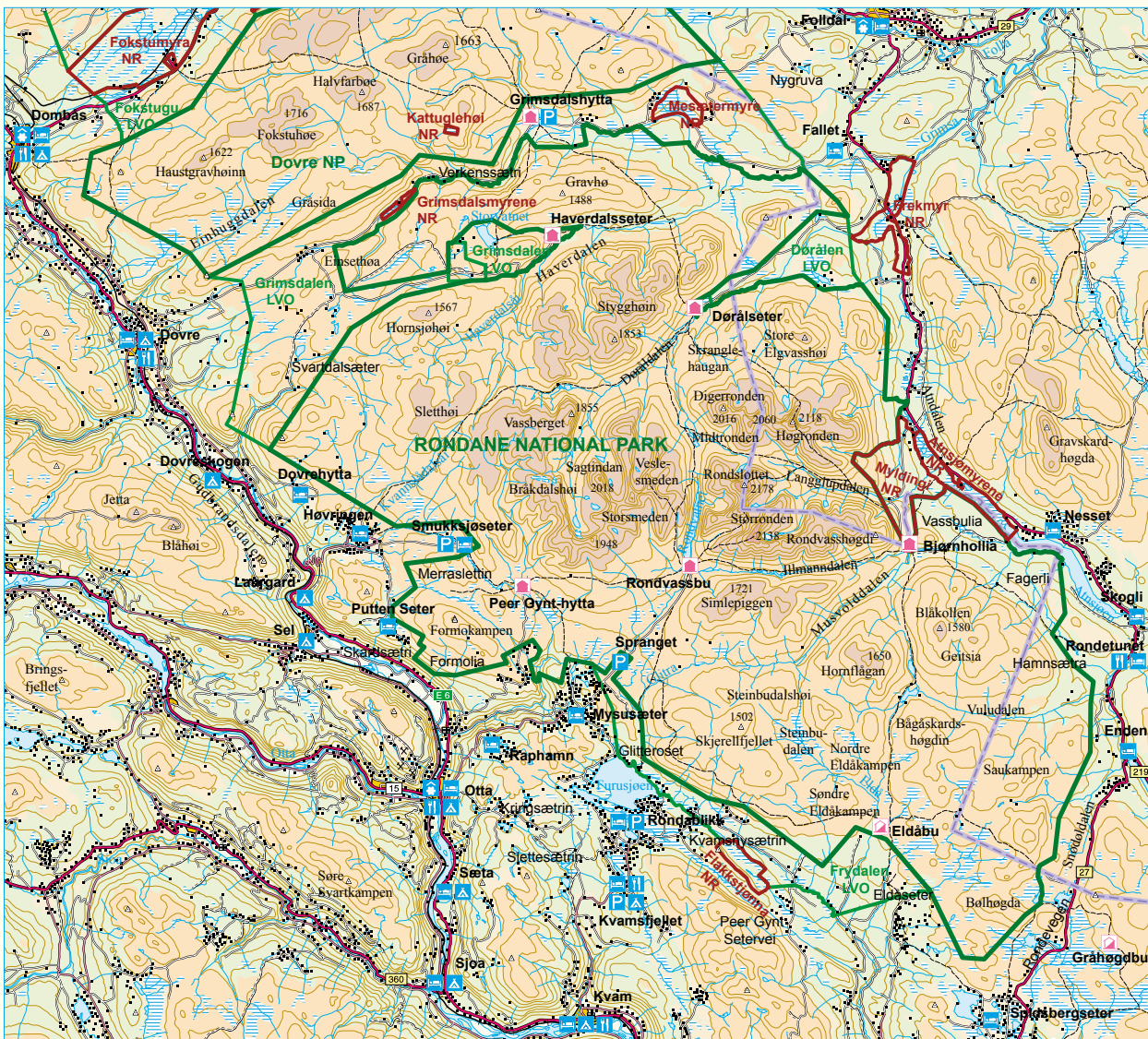
PLANT LIFE














Cladonia rangiferina and dwarf birch (KSK)

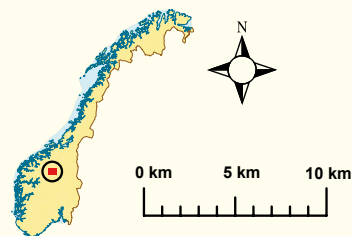
Poor conditions for plants

The dry climate and nutrient-poor soil result in sparse vegetation in Rondane. Most of the national park is above the tree line and only the hardiest plants thrive there. Map lichen colours the high ground yellowish-green. The extensive plateaus are yellowish-white thanks to two lichens, *Cladonia stellaris* and *C. rangiferina*. In autumn, heather and dwarf birch paint the ground with their flaming colours. One of the few flowering plants surviving on the high ground is the glacier buttercup, which is found right up to 1700 metres. The valleys have more varied vegetation with birch-covered slopes and some pine woodland. Vassbulia, near Atnsjøen, is clad in pristine-like, lichen–Scots pine woodland. Other places have tall-herb woodland with wood crane's bill, garden angelica and wolf's-bane. Southern parts of the park have lush vegetation with more demanding species and vegetation types, including mountain aven heaths and rich fens.



Legend

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
|  County boundary |  Car park |  Manned hut |
|  National Park |  Overnight accommodation |  Self-service hut |
|  Protected Landscape |  Café | |
|  Nature Reserve |  National Park Centre | |
| |  Camp site | |





Wild reindeer (PI)



Ptarmigan (PI)



ANIMAL LIFE

Alpine ecosystem

Rondane has a virtually intact alpine ecosystem which includes wild reindeer, wolverines, golden eagles and gyrfalcons. Many birds are adapted to dry conditions and sparse plant life.

The wild reindeer in this area belong to what was once a large strain which migrated from Rondane, over Dovre to the Sunndal mountains. Roads, the railway line, hydroelectric schemes, agglomerations of weekend cabins and general human disturbance have broken these migration routes and reduced the habitat. The reindeer now form sub-strains in various fragments of their former habitat.

Some 1500-2000 wild reindeer roam the Dovre and Rondane national parks and make up the sole remaining strain of the original Euro-Asiatic tundra reindeer in Scandinavia. Remains of former trapping and hunting contraptions show where their migration routes used to go and how they used the area. Few alpine areas have such extensive plateaus over 1200 metres above sea level as Rondane. The birds which are characteristic for

this area are therefore adapted to living above the tree line. Some, like ptarmigan, gyrfalcons, golden eagles and ravens, stay in Rondane all the year round, using large areas to find enough food. Dotterels, golden plovers, wheatears, shore larks, snow buntings, rough-legged buzzards, hen harriers and many other species, however, migrate southwards in winter. Dotterels, for instance, fly all the way to winter quarters in North Africa. Many people look upon the golden plover, the treasured companion of hikers, as the most beautiful bird in the mountains.

Hunting and fishing

The wild reindeer in Rondane are hunted every autumn. You may also hunt small game like hares, ptarmigan, willow grouse and other grouse in the national park. Many tarns contain trout and char. If you have a valid fishing permit, you can try to get a bite. For many years, Rondvatn was thought to lack fish, but now char have been found in this lake, too. Less acidic precipitation has improved the conditions for fish.

HISTORY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE RELICS

Traces of hunting and trapping

You can find numerous traces of ancient hunting and trapping practices in Rondane. Wild reindeer have probably been hunted here for 5000-6000 years. The remains include pitfalls, guiding fences, stone huts, shelters at the foot of overhanging cliffs and vast numbers of hides – semi-circular stone walls where bowmen lay in hiding to shoot their quarry. The hunting sites vary in size and are situated where the wild reindeer had their migration routes. Remains of large, mass trapping sites have been found in Verkildalen, a valley in the centre of Rondane, at Storgrava in Haverdalen and Einsethø in Grimsdalen. The numerous relics from hunting and trapping bear witness to early settlement in the area, and several Stone Age habitation sites have been found.

A mountain wonderland

Over the ages, many stone huts have been built in Rondane. Some were used by hunters and fishermen from the valleys, others by falcon trappers from Germany or British mountaineers. You can see a group of old and recent stone huts near the Peer Gynt cabin. Uløyhytta is the oldest of these, and has stood there for at least 200 years. The famous folktale collector, Peter Christian Asbjørnsen, stayed there in 1842. His tales of riding on the back of a billy goat and reindeer hunting in Rondane subsequently inspired Henrik Ibsen when he wrote Peer Gynt.



Rondvassbu (FB)



A stone hut in the mountains (FB)



The Rondane massif (FB)



In a national park, you are one of Nature's guests

- Go wherever you like on foot or on skis, but anything with a motor is basically forbidden
- Stop wherever you wish, and camp anywhere, but tidy up and take your rubbish home
- You may light a fire, but remember the general ban on fires in woodland between 15 April and 15 September; take care when collecting firewood and do not damage or destroy dead pine trees
- You may pick berries, edible fungi and common plants for your own use
- Take care not to damage cultural heritage remains, vegetation and animal life; please take special care when birds are nesting and animals are having their young
- Take advantage of the opportunity to hunt and fish, but remember to buy your permits. Do not use live fish as bait or transfer fish from one river or lake to another
- You may have a dog with you, but it must be kept on a leash from 1 March to 20 August

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Rondane National Park in brief

Where: The boroughs of Dovre, Nord-Fron, Sør-Fron, Sel and Ringebru in the county of Oppland, and Folldal and Stor-Elvdal in the county of Hedmark

How to reach the Rondane National Park:

E6 Otta-Dovre. Rv. 27 Ringebru-Folldal. Various rough roads to transhumance dairy farms and along Grimsdalen (only open in summer).

Information on overnight accommodation and other services

Dombås Tourist Information Office, phone +47 61 24 14 44, www.dovrenett.no

Folldal Tourist Information Office, phone +47 62 49 02 68, www.folldalsportalen.no

Otta Tourist Information Office, phone +47 61 23 03 23, www.hovringen.no

Huts: There are several manned and self-service lodges and huts in the area, including some run by the Norwegian Trekking Association, www.turistforeningen.no

Maps: Rondane Sør, Rondane Nord and Høvringen-Kvamsfjellet (1:50 000), and Rondane (1:100 000)

Designated: 1962, extended in 2003

Size: 963 km²

Adjacent protected areas:

Dovre National Park
Dørålen Protected Landscape
Frydalen Protected Landscape
Grimsdalen Protected Landscape
Atnsjømyrene Nature Reserve
Flakkstjønna Nature Reserve
Frekmyr Nature Reserve
Mesætermyre Nature Reserve
Myldingi Nature Reserve
Grimsdalsmyrene Nature Reserve

National Park Centres:

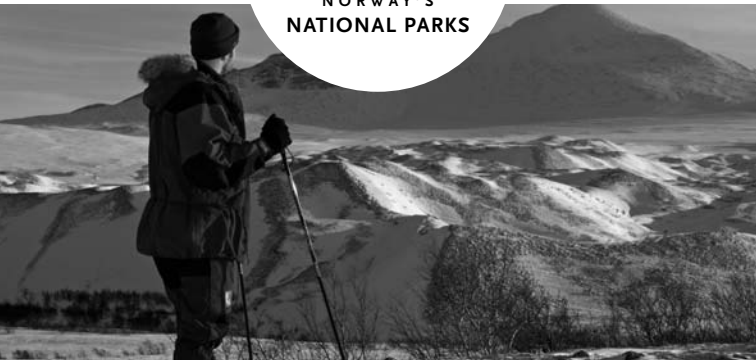
iNasjonalparker, phone +47 99 25 49 64, www.nasjonalparker.org
Dombås, phone +47 61 24 14 44
Folldal, phone +47 62 49 05 05
Otta, phone +47 61 70 08 70

Management and surveillance:

National Park Board for Rondane-Dovre. www.fylkesmannen.no
County Governor of Oppland, phone +47 61 26 60 00
County Governor of Hedmark, phone +47 62 55 10 00
Norwegian Nature Inspectorate for Rondane, phone +47 48 11 36 74
Mountain Surveillance Authority for Dovre, phone +47 61 24 14 92
Mountain Surveillance Authority for Folldal, phone +47 62 49 00 06
Mountain Surveillance Authority for Ringebru, phone +47 61 28 31 12
Mountain Surveillance Authority for Sel and Vulufjell, phone +47 61 70 08 16
Mountain Surveillance Authority for Solli, phone +47 62 46 45 74

Additional information:

www.norgesnasjonalparker.no



NORWAY'S
NATIONAL PARKS

Norwegian national parks are our common natural heritage

We set up national parks to safeguard large areas of countryside – from the seashore to the mountaintops. For Nature's own sake, ourselves and future generations. National parks boast magnificent scenery with varied animal and plant life, waterfalls, glaciers, lofty mountains, endless plateaus, deep forests and lush woodlands, and beautiful fjords and coasts.

You will also find cultural heritage remains showing how the areas were used in the past. The national parks offer a multitude of opportunities for thrilling encounters with natural history.

Make use of our magnificent nature – on its own terms. Welcome to Norwegian national parks!



THE NORWEGIAN DIRECTORATE
FOR NATURE MANAGEMENT

www.dirnat.no