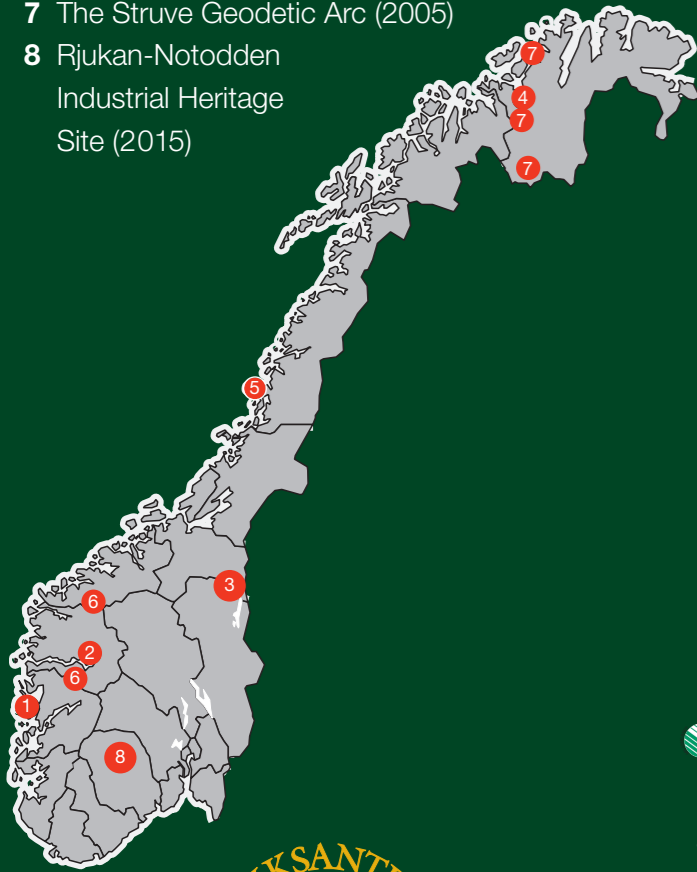


NORWEGIAN WORLD HERITAGE SITES

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Photo: Directorate of Cultural Heritage/Tor Sponga

The urban constructions at Bryggen consisted of one, or most often two, narrow rows of houses, forming double buildings. These were divided into several rooms with a common entrance. They were combined living quarters, offices and warehouses in two or three floors. The core area was usually horizontal timber construction and not panelled, while the balcony and upper floors usually were of vertical timber constructions. It was not until the 1730's that the lofts, as the buildings were called, were panelled. Towards the dock there were non-insulated store rooms with lifts for goods. They were without heating and lighting. The living areas were in the upper floors, usually in the back of the buildings.

Farthest away from the dock fronts were the "steinkjellers", smiths and meeting halls ("schøtstuer"). The costs for the management of these buildings were divided among the



Photo: Directorate of Cultural Heritage



Photo: Directorate of Cultural Heritage/Arve Kjørshelm

buildings' merchants, as being a part of the common property. Because of the danger of fire, it was only allowed to have open fire in these buildings. In association with the smiths and "schøtstuer", which were often used as kitchens, there were often small gardens.

The "steinkjellers" are large multi-storied houses. They were built to be safe from fire and functioned as storage areas for valuable goods and objects. Six of the "steinkjellers" are preserved. They are the oldest constructions at Bryggen. Some of them are dated back to the 15th century.

TRANSPORT

The continuous row of buildings for 300-400 meters is interrupted by five common areas, which provided broad fire alleys between the rows of houses. Only "Dreggsallmenningen", earlier called "Mariaallmenningen," and "Nikolaikirkeallmenningen" remain today. They are not in exactly the same location that they were in the Medieval Ages, but are clear remnants of the medieval tradition. "Bryggestredet" is a cobblestone street running through the earlier wooden building area. The street was built as recently

as 1963 as a fire street, and was a requirement for the preservation of the remaining areas of Bryggen. The earlier settlement pattern is visible in the street structure.

The large stone walled well is quite old; however the construction around it is new.



Photo: Directorate of Cultural Heritage/Arve Kjørshelm

Between the buildings there were plank coated passages covered by large balconies. These were often narrowest in the front, nearest the docks, and wider towards the back. This was because space was at a premium at the front of the dock as the series of houses continued to grow in the curved area of Vågen. As we see today, fire is still the greatest danger to these buildings.

Towards the street of "Øvrestretet", now known as "Øvre-gate", which provided the boundary of Bryggen toward the north, different groups of craftsmen were located, grouped according to profession.

In 1962 the Friends of Bryggen Association was founded. It owns 35 of Bryggen's buildings. The goal of the association is to preserve Bryggen in cooperation with cultural heritage authorities.

Bryggen in BERGEN



Photo: Directorate of Cultural Heritage/Arve Kjørshelm



United Nations
 Educational, Scientific and
 Cultural Organisation



World Heritage
 in Norway
 Bryggen in Bergen

UNESCO

UNESCO is the abbreviation for the "United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization". UNESCO's goal is to contribute to peace and safety through international cooperation within these areas. The organization was established in 1945, and Norway became a member in 1946.

❖ The UNESCO convention for the protection of the world's cultural and natural heritage

The convention for the protection of the world's cultural and natural heritage was approved in 1972, after cultural heritage and natural areas were increasingly exposed to threats from war, natural disasters, pollution, tourism or, more simply, neglect.

The convention encourages all countries to promote the protection of cultural and natural heritage of both local and national significance. The most important goal of the convention is to identify cultural and natural heritage of universal value. The need for a coordinated effort, both human and economic, was demonstrated by the international rescue of cultural heritage monuments in Egypt and Nubia, when the Aswan dam was built in the 1960's. Sixty countries, including Norway, participated.

Cultural and natural heritage can include monuments, single buildings or groups of buildings, cultural landscapes or natural areas. These can be created by nature, or by people in cooperation with nature. They can be buildings representing important historic developments, or natural phenomena of exceptional esthetic or scientific value.

Norway ratified the convention on May 12, 1977. The World Heritage Committee has so far approved eight Norwegian nominations to the World Heritage List. Being nominated as a World Heritage Site does not include any new form of legal protection, rather it offers additional recognition and status.

Norway on the World Heritage Committee

The World Heritage Committee consists at any time of the representatives of 21 nations. The Committee's primary mandate is to implement the World Heritage Convention.

Norway has been a member of the World Heritage Committee on two previous occasions, from 1983 to 1989 and from 2003 to 2007. Norway has also now been elected to the Committee for the period 2017–2021.

As a member of the Committee, Norway will prioritise improving the protection of existing World Heritage sites and also contributing to a more representative World Heritage List. After more than 40 years, the developing countries in particular continue to be under-represented on the List.

It is also important to raise awareness through the involvement of local communities and to highlight best practices in the management of sites on the List through the World Heritage Leadership programme. Norway will also stress the importance of List nominations being made on the basis of professional assessments rather than political interests. A further goal will be a more holistic approach to and management of the global natural and cultural heritage.

The Directorate for Cultural Heritage and the Norwegian Environment Agency represent Norway on the World Heritage Committee.



Bryggen in Bergen

Photo: Ane Kjerstheim, Directorate for Cultural Heritage



Urnes Stave Church

Photo: Ane Kjerstheim, Directorate for Cultural Heritage



Roros Mining Town

Photo: Asger Spangne Brekke, Directorate for Cultural Heritage



The Rock Art at Alta

Photo: Eva Waldenhaug, Directorate for Cultural Heritage



The Vega Archipelago

Photo: Cyril Russo



The West Norwegian Fjords

Photo: Anne Aashheim



The Struve Geodetic Arc

Photo: Bjørn Geir Hærsson, The Norwegian Mapping Authority



Rjukan-Notodden Industrial Heritage Site

Photo: Trond Traugbøl, Directorate for Cultural Heritage

BRYGGEN IN BERGEN



Photo: Anders Amlo, Directorate for Cultural Heritage

Bryggen in Bergen was inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List in 1979.

Alrekstad, the royal farm of King Harald Hårfagre, and the farm of Bjørgvin, had their boat houses at Vågen before Olav Kyrre gave Bergen city status about 1070. The tradition of long narrow buildings facing the sea and separated by passages comes from the city's earliest history. For the first centuries the buildings at Bryggen were in "Norwegian hands", in the sense that the ground the buildings are situated on has always been owned by Norwegians. During the first 300 years of Bryggen's history the bay areas were filled in. This was done to increase land areas and followed the original boundaries of the long, narrow properties. From the original shoreline and reaching outwards 140 meters, new land was built. By 1500 the construction had reached the extent we know today.

The first German traders came to Bryggen in the 1230's. After many years of severe restrictions, the Germans were granted special privileges in 1278 giving them permission to spend the winter in Bergen, salvage rights, and permission to buy property. Foreign ships were forbidden to sail north of Bergen, strengthening the position of Bergen as an export centre. When the German trading cities joined together to form the Hansa Association following the plague in 1350, the position of the merchants was further strengthened. The German merchants had a monopoly on the trade of Baltic rye, and had a network of trading stations and trading partners providing credit and access to capital. In addition they had a strong organization and administration. The export of dried fish and import of grains were the most important trade goods. Bryggen was one of the Hansa Association's foreign stations, in addition to Novgorod, Brügge and London.

For more than 500 years the Hansa trading system was followed in Bryggen. It was first challenged by the growth of new cities, the introduction of the steam ship and a growing fishing industry. The remnants of the Hansa period's city structure inspired both by European and Norwegian building traditions are inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List.

FIRES AT BRYGGEN

Bryggen has been subject to a series of fires over the years. The buildings were rebuilt after a fire in 1702, when the entire city was burned to the ground. Following demolition and fires in the 1900's, only one-fourth of the buildings remained. These 61 buildings are now legally protected.



Photo: Directorate of Cultural Heritage



Photo: Directorate of Cultural Heritage/Ane Kjerstheim

The remains of several hundred buildings were excavated during archaeological investigations following the major fire in 1955.

In 1944 an ammunition ship exploded in Vågen. All of the roofs took fire, and only the solid timber cores of the houses remained. Because Bryggen was the remains of a German period in the history of the city, the occupation forces were active in the reconstruction of Bryggen.

CONSTRUCTION HISTORY

Bryggen documents a traditional wooden construction pattern that demonstrates the history of the earliest large trading ports in Northern Europe. The structure of the farms with parallel series of houses at right angles to the docks has existed since the medieval period, despite the city fires. The earliest documented buildings at Bryggen were post built houses, built in parallel rows up from the beach.