

Statement of Intent

Røros was inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List in 1980. An application has now been submitted for an extension of the world heritage area to include cultural heritage sites and cultural landscapes that show why the mining town was established and how it could function and be a driving force for development in the entire mountain region.

The outstanding universal value in Røros Mining Town and the Circumference is closely linked to the requirements of the natural environment: mountain plains, a harsh climate, ore, a network of lakes and rivers, and a long distance to the closest harbour and town of any size. With this as the starting point, a unique mining town with the associated urban agriculture developed. The enormous need for timber and transport characterized the mining operations and the cultural landscape of the Circumference. The copper works utilized the resources of the area while at the same time providing an opportunity for miners, farmers and the Sámi to earn money and create a living for themselves and their families. The outstanding universal value is linked to cultural heritage sites and cultural landscapes that show traces of prospecting, mining operations and smelters, charcoal pits, power stations, cableways, and floatway structures. Other traces include old roads, transport routes, farms providing stables and accommodation for travellers, urban agriculture with summer grazing farms and the summer residences of the town citizens. Together, all the individual elements that have been preserved provide an overall picture of how the mining town functioned. This totality is the justification for the proposal that «Røros Mining Town» be extended, entailing a change of the name of the Property to «Røros Mining Town and the Circumference».

If the extended world heritage area is inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List, Norway undertakes to ensure that the values in the area are preserved.

The Statement of Intent covers both the municipalities that possess the world heritage areas and those that are included in the buffer zone. In connection with the application for the extension of the world heritage area, the following bodies are in agreement on the key points given below: the municipalities of Røros, Holtålen, Engerdal, Os, and Tolga, the county authorities of Sør-Trøndelag and Hedmark, the Sámi Parliament, the County Governors of Sør-Trøndelag and Hedmark, the Directorate for Nature Management, the Directorate for Cultural Heritage and the Ministry of the Environment.

- The objective of the nomination of Røros Mining Town and the Circumference as a World Heritage Site is to preserve the cultural heritage and cultural landscape in order to show why the mining town was established here and how the community functioned and developed.
- The historic characteristics, qualities and traditions shall be the foundation and driving force for the development of both business activities and the community as well as of cultural initiatives and good living conditions.
- The mining town shall be preserved as a living urban community without diminishing its special qualities.
- The cultural landscapes - industrial, agrarian and Sámi - shall be preserved and shall be the foundation of living communities.

- Røros and the Circumference shall be managed in accordance with national legislation. Norway's goal for its World Heritage Sites is that they shall stand out as examples of «best practice» in the field of cultural heritage and nature management, and in the promotion of the World Heritage Convention.

Cooperation

It is our common responsibility to ensure that cultural heritage sites, cultural landscapes and the natural environment are preserved and safeguarded. It is also our common responsibility to ensure that business activities can be carried out and developed without encroaching on the outstanding universal value of the World Heritage Site. The municipalities and the relevant authorities at county and state level will assume this responsibility as representatives of the Norwegian state.

A mutual understanding of the various parties' spheres of interest is of key importance for this cooperation.

A cooperation council shall be established in which all levels of management are represented. The council shall ensure uniform treatment of the Property and the buffer zone, and shall initiate the development and exploitation of world heritage status for the benefit of the entire Circumference.



Nils Marstein

Nils Marstein
Director General
Directorate for Cultural Heritage



Janne Solli

Janne Solli
Director General
Directorate for Nature Management



Egil Olli

Egil Olli
President
Sámi Parliament



Sigbjørn Johnsen

Sigbjørn Johnsen
County Governor
Hedmark



Siv Tørudbakken

Siv Tørudbakken
County Chief Commissioner
Hedmark



Kåre Gjønnes

Kåre Gjønnes
County Governor
Sør-Trøndelag



Hans Vintervold

Hans Vintervold
Mayor of Røros Municipality



Ivar Volden

Ivar Volden
Mayor of Håltålen Municipality



Erling Aas-Eng

Erling Aas-Eng
Mayor of Tolga Municipality



Arne Grue

Arne Grue
Mayor of Os Municipality



Reidar Åsgård

Reidar Åsgård
Mayor of Engerdal Municipality



Tore O. Sandvik

Tore O. Sandvik
County Mayor
Sør-Trøndelag