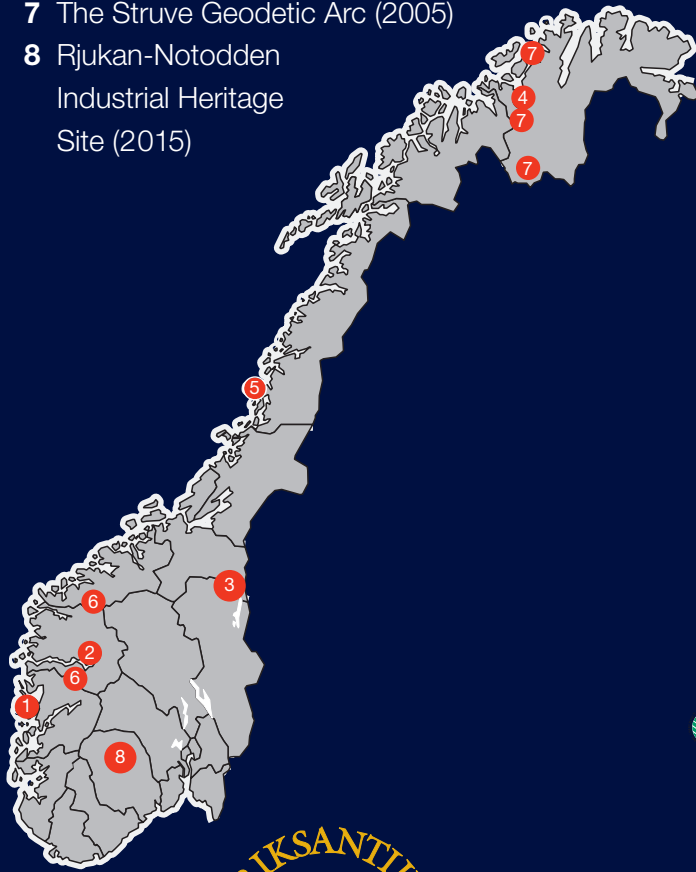


**NORWEGIAN WORLD HERITAGE SITES**

- 1 Bryggen in Bergen (1979)
- 2 Urnes stave church (1979)
- 3 Røros Mining Town (1980) and Circumference (2010)
- 4 The Rock Art at Alta (1985)
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- 6 The West Norwegian Fjords (2005)
- 7 The Struve Geodetic Arc (2005)
- 8 Rjukan-Notodden Industrial Heritage Site (2015)



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Kjerkgata. © Trond Taugbol



Sleggveien. Lisen Roll © Riksantikvaren

sites but also the surrounding landscape in order to place cultural heritage in a broader functional, historic and environmental context. The purpose of the extension is to include cultural landscapes showing why the town was established and how it functioned under the particular geographic and climatic conditions prevailing in the region.



Småseivran. Lisen Roll © Riksantikvaren



Gruvene. © Riksantikvaren

After 30 years on the World Heritage List, the Committee approved in 2010 an extension of the area with a buffer zone and changed its name to **Røros Mining Town and the Circumference**.

The property comprises three areas, The town and Cultural Landscapes, The Femundshytta smelter and the Winter Transport Route. We can not fully understand how the mining town functioned without considering the area of privileges, the Circumference. The buffer zone thereby has a value in addition to protecting the Property visually. It is a key instrument for understanding the Property, and places in a wider historical and functional context.

The monuments within this area include 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 gazing farms and summer residences for the town citizens.

## Røros Mining Town and the Circumference



# RØROS

## *Mining Town and the Circumference*



Asgeir Spangne Brekke © Riksantikvaren



United Nations  
 Educational, Scientific and  
 Cultural Organisation



World Heritage in Norway  
 Røros Mining Town and  
 the Circumference



# 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. Beeing 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: Arve Kjerfveim, Directorate for Cultural Heritage



Urnes Stave Church

Photo: Arve Kjerfveim, Directorate for Cultural Heritage



Røros Mining Town

Photo: Asger Spangne Brekke, Directorate for Cultural Heritage



The Rock Art at Alta

Photo: Eva Waldenhuug, Directorate for Cultural Heritage



The Vega Archipelago

Photo: Cyrill Russo



The West Norwegian Fjords

Photo: Arne Aasheim



The Struve Geodetic Arc

Photo: Bjørn Geir Haasson, The Norwegian Mapping Authority



Rjukan-Notodden Industrial Heritage Site

Photo: Trond Taugbøl, Directorate for Cultural Heritage

# RØROS MINING TOWN AND THE CIRCUMFERENCE



Arve Kjerfveim © Riksantikvaren

In 1644 copper ore was found in the Røros mountains. Less than two years later, Røros Copper Works was established and the Danish-Norwegian King Christian IV gave privileges to the Røros Copper Works to utilize all natural resources within a Circumference (radius) of four old Norwegian miles, today estimated to 45,2 kilometres centered form the first workable mine, "Old Storwartz". The furnace building was built by a waterfall of the river Hitterelva, where the Røros Mining Town was established.

Workers poured into Røros from near and far to work in the copper foundry. The surrounding district was not able to provide the agricultural products the new community needed, so farming became a secondary occupation for all levels of workers. Compact farms with people and live stock surrounding a court yard, are aspects of the town plan well adopted to the harsh mountain terrain and the extreme climatic conditions.

The mining and the farming town in the high mountains has retained much of its original character, with houses and farms from the 18<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The street pattern and the arrangement of the buildings much of the development of Røros can still be observed, one of the unique aspects of Røros as a cultural heritage site. Røros has not burnt since the Swedes set it on fire in 1678 and 1679. Both the community as a whole as well as the details, build upon a blend of continental ideas and Norwegian building traditions.

For more than 250 years Røros Copper Works was among Norway's most important mines. Between 1644 and 1977 over 100.000 tons of copper and 525.000 tons of sulphur pyrite were produced here. The landscape surrounding Røros was completely changed by the mining activities. Not only do the enormous waste heaps provide evidence of the extensive activities under the surface, but also the entire forest over a large area around the town was removed over a period of 25 years to produce fuel for the ovens. In addition, Røros is one of the world's coldest towns, with a temperature record of -50,4 degrees Celsius. Heating in the houses also taxed the local timber resources. In addition to the removal of the forest, numerous dams, timber canals and roads were built near the town. There was also pasturing near the town for fodder for the live stock, which spent the winter in the centre of the town.

Røros Mining Town was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1980. Since then conservation ideology has changed. Today we want to protect not only monuments and historic



Taubane. © Røros museum



Storwartz gruver. © Ole Jørgen Kjellmark