

Questions & Answers

Where does Pilegrimsleden start in Oslo?

Pilegrimsleden (the Pilgrims path) starts in the Memorial Park by the ruins of St. Hallvard cathedral (not the Maria church, as it says in some guidebooks). At the Memorial Park you will find the first milestone "643 km to Nidaros". The Memorial Park is located in Old Oslo (Gamlebyen) in the cross section of Oslo gate and Bispe gate. Here you will also find the "Bispegården", the Bishop's office (the big yellow house with the entrance from Egedes gate), where you will get the first pilgrim stamp. *Note that during 2023 The Pilgrim Center Oslo will have a temporary office at the Bishop's office (June 6 – August 31).*

Where do I buy a Pilgrim pass and a guidebook?

You can buy them at all Pilgrim Centers and at some churches and hostels. We also provide shipping service. In Oslo you can also buy a pilgrims pass at the "Domkirke" and at the Bishop's Office, where the Pilgrim Center Oslo has its summer office.

When is the pilgrim season?

The Pilgrim season is from June 1 til August 15. The season varies from year to year depending on how the winter has been. For example: in 2023 we have had A LOT of snow and therefore it is good to wait with your pilgrimage til June.

DOVRE MOUNTAIN: We recommend that you do not pass Dovre until June 10. This because of two reasons A) We cannot put out the wooden bridges over the rivers until the snow has melted. B) The wild reindeers are in the calving period in May and the beginning of June.

In what languages do I find guide books for Gudbrandsdalsleden?

Norwegian: *Oslo-Trondheim* by Voll, Bjørn Ivar A. and Gilbert, Ellen Rykkja, 2020 OBS! New edition is coming in June 2023)

German: There are several great guidebooks in German, please go to amazon.de and search for Olavsweg, and pick the guidebook to your liking. A great coffee table book to read in advance or after your pilgrimage is "Nach Nidaros...", Olaf Deppe (2018).

Dutch: *Het Olavspad* by Warmerdam, Ria (2021). This book will come in English translation in 2024.

Dutch biking guide, *Het Olavspad* by Gea Van Veen (2021). This book will come in English translation in 2024.

English: There are not many English guidebooks and the "newest" one is from 2015 by Alison Raju. In 2024 there will come a new guide book in English, a translation of Ria Wanderdams book *Het Olavspad*.

What should I pack?

Go to pilegrimsleden.no → "Preparations and packing lists":

<https://pilegrimsleden.no/en/pakkeliste-og-forberedelser>

Can I get an updated list of the accommodations?

You will find an updated list of accommodation

What is a good distance to walk each day?

About 20 km.

How long does it take to walk the entire Gudbrandsdalsleden?

Walking from Oslo to Trondheim can take up to 32 days.

Can I pay with a credit card along the route?

At some hostels you can use a credit card, but it is always good to bring some cash (about NOK 2000). However, at stores and restaurants credit cards should be fine. It is possible to use money machines along the route.

Where do I get the stamps for my Pilgrim pass?

You will get stamps at most churches, accommodations, museums and at all the Pilgrim Centers.

Where can I tent?

In Norway we have a law called: "Allemannsretten" (Norwegian right to roam the countryside) that permits you to camp in the nature. It is important that you follow the rules, which you will find here:

<https://www.miljodirektoratet.no/globalassets/publikasjoner/m1730/m1730.pdf>

Am I allowed to put up a campfire?

The general rule in Norway is that you are not allowed to put up a campfire from April 15 – September 15. However, you are allowed to use a primus kitchen/trangia kitchen, but be very careful!

Do I need to book the accommodations/hostels in advance?

We recommend that you book 2-3 days in advance. It will give the hosts a heads up that you are coming, and it will give you peace in knowing that there is a bed for you.

Where do I find water?

You will find water by most churches. By the churches there are often a graveyard and the water that is used for flowers and gardening is also drinking water. It is also possible to drink from certain creeks, as long as they are not near to animals or farmland.

Are the churches open?

The churches try to be open as much as possible. Check the opening hours on the map. The red dots on the map are called "Points of Interest", or POI. Click on the church POIs and you will find more detailed info.

Do I find stores along the path?

You will find stores at cities and villages. However, there are parts of the trail where you will walk for a few days without any stores.

Eidsvoll: Buy food for two days. Next store is in Tangen.

Brandbu: Buy food for two days. Next store is in Kolbu.

Dovre: Buy food for five days. Next store is in Oppdal (however, restaurants are to be found over the mountains).

Where do I buy gas for my primus/Trangia kitchen?

You will find gas at sport stores, e.g., XXL, Intersport etc. Check location for the stores along the route on google maps.

Can I bring my dog?

The pilgrim routes go through fields with animals, and you need to keep your dog on a leash. There will be ladders over the fences and your dog need to be able to either cross by itself, or you must be able to lift the dog over those ladders.

Regarding accommodation: Most hostels have rooms for dogs. Contact the hostel/accommodation well in advance. You may be charged extra for the dog.

What should I pack for Norwegian weather conditions?

You will find good lists for packing on our website:

<https://pilegrimsleden.no/en/pakkeliste-og-forberedelser>

Are there any transportation services for luggage?

You will find information on this on our website:

<https://pilegrimsleden.no/en/articles/luggage-transfer>

Where do I find washrooms/toilets?

You will find toilets at some churches (inside or outside by the graveyard), museums, gas stations and other public facilities. You will also find “Pilegrimsbuer”, which are buildings with toilets, small windshilds, fireplace and access to load your phone. There are Pilegrimsbuer at Tangen on the East path and Øyer on Gudbrandsdalen.

Security along the route

The Pilgrims path is safe to walk and well marked. However, if you are walking alone you might want to down load the Norwegian app: “Hjelp 113”.

If you e.g., break a leg or get hurt in a way that you cannot walk: open the app, klik “113” and you will get in the contact with the ambulance service. Your location will automatically be sent to 113.



How do I use the map on pilegrimsleden.no?

Go to **menu** → **map** → click on one of the nine **paths** that you would like to walk. If you use a cell phone you also need to click **kart/map** on the planner that comes up.

Now you can see the full path.



In the upper right corner, you find the **zoom symbols + and -** for zooming in or out in the map. When you zoom in you will see all the red POIs.

Under the zoom symbols you will find a **measure tool** and a **location tool**.

The measure tool: Click it with your finger/mouse. Then put your finger/mouse on the map where you would like to start. Lift your finger/mouse and put it back on the map where you would like to end. If you like to measure the turns you put your finger/mouse on each turn and you will get a fairly accurate measurement.

The location tool: Click it. You will get a sign that asks if you accept geolocation – click “agree”. Now you will get a blue dot showing where you are on the map.

If you can't get the geolocation to work you need to give access to it in your web-reader. Go to *Settings* → *Privacy* ("Personvern") → *Locations services* ("Stedstjenester") and make sure it is "on" → scroll down to your web reader (Safari, Chrome etc) and give access.

Why can I not download the maps from pilegrimsleden.no?

We are aware of the problem and are working to get this to function better. We are also developing a system for GPX-files in order for pilgrims to download the map on the phone.

Is there a GPX-file that I can download?

Here you will find the GPX-file for:

Gudbrandsdalsleden: <https://pilegrimsleden.no/pilegrimsledene/gudbrandsdalsleden>

Borgleden: <https://pilegrimsleden.no/en/trails/borgleden>

Kystpilegrimsleia: <https://pilegrimsleden.no/en/trails/kystpilegrimsleia>

Romboleden: <https://pilegrimsleden.no/en/trails/romboleden>

Tunsbergleden (Larvik – Drammen): <https://pilegrimsleden.no/en/trails/tunsbergleden>

You could also go to the webpage: *Meny* → *The Pilgrim Paths* → *Gudbrandsdalsleden* (or the pilgrim path you are looking for). Scroll down and you will find a "down load GPX-track under the map.

NOTE: The start in Oslo is St.Hallvard's Cathedral.

Are there bears and wolfs along the path?

These animals are rarely seen. Sometimes pilgrims can see moose, reindeers and muskox (at Dovre). With all wild life animal, you should be careful and keep a distance.

Where do I get the certificate, The Olav's letter, when I arrive to Trondheim?

Go to the back side of the Nidaros dome/cathedral. Go down the small hill. On the other side of the fence to the right, you will find "Pilegrimsgården" where Pilegrim Center Trondheim is located. Show your Pilgrim pass as a proof that you have been walking the last 100 km into Trondheim. You will get the certificate/The Olav's letter, but you will also get a golden stamp, that will give you discount at museums and restaurants in Trondheim.