WELCOME TO LEKA

SIGHTS AND USEFUL INFORMATION

LEKA - vill og vakker
SUVREY SIGHTS

1. Herlaugshaugen (Viking grave mound)
2. Leka Bygdemuseum (Leka Local Museum)
3. Leka Church
4. Lekamøya (The Leka Maiden)
5. Solseihula (A cave with wall paintings)
6. Steinstind/Mannatind (Country Castles)
7. Ørnerovet (The Eagle Robbery)
8. Beach
9. Shooting range - Leka
10. Skeisnesset kultursti (Skeisnesset Culturalt Path)
11. Privateer Shipwreck
12. Liss - Bindalskjerka (Little Bindal Church)
13. Svartomnen
14. Southern Gutvik lake
15. Breakwater at Northern Gutvik
16. Shooting range - Gutvik

SURVEY PUBLIC SERVICE

A Post office / shop
B Shop
C Police
D Public health service

i Information

TAXI

LEKA: Roald S. Lysfjord 743 99 353 mob. 947 87 267
HERLAUGSHAUGEN

Herlaugshaugen is the largest ship grave mound from Viking age in Norway. Originally the grave mound was 12 m. high, with a diameter of 70 – 80 m. Because of several excavations (1755 – 1780) the grave mound is now only 8 – 9 m. high.

The story of King Herlaug is described by Snorre Sturlasson. When Harald Hårfagre came to Namdalen, he demanded that King Herlaug should surrender his kingdom and submit to Harald. King Herlaug, who was both proud and wise, found himself in a huge dilemma. His brother Hrollaug, wanted to submit without fighting. Herlaug, though, was unable to do that. Instead, he chose to die as a free man. He went into a grave mound, with those who wanted to follow him. 11 of his men joined him. Hrollaug was then in charge, and he immediately surrendered to Harald and his men. Hrollaug became Earl of the Namdal region.

In excavations done between 1755 and 1780, there were found two human skeletons, remains of domestic animals, a sword and some objects made of gold. At the first excavation, there were found a hesp of big stones and beams with iron fitting. Some remnants of a ship (rivets), proves that this is a ship grave. Herlaugshaugen, and the story of King Herlaug, witness that Namdalen has been an important area in the history of Norway. With basis in “The Saga of Snorre”, local and professional strength have made a play regarding the history of King Herlaug. The play has been an important event in the annual arrangement of the Herlaug days, since 1981. The scene of the outdoor play is situated at Frøvik.
LEKA CHURCH

Leka Church was built in 1867. It is the 4th church on the island, the previous ones being destroyed by fires.

The Church’s most valuable object is an altarpiece, made by a Dutch wood-carver about the years 1520-1530.

An old story tells us that the crew on a Dutch ship gave the altarpiece to Leka Church after they were wrecked nearby the island, and saved by the local inhabitants.

Another version says that the altarpiece was given from Queen Elisabeth of Denmark. This is probably the most accurate version. There are five altarpieces on Norway’s north-west coast. They are from the same period, and have many similarities. The story says that when princess Isabella of Spain was married to the Danish-Norwegian Crown Prince Christian, she sailed with a ship to Copenhagen. The ship came into a terrible storm. The thirteen year old Queen Elisabeth, as she was named, was sure that she was going to die. She went down on her knees and prayed to God. She gave a promise that if she got to live, she would give five altarpieces to churches by the ocean. The young queen survived, and kept her promise. In 1520 five altarpieces were given to the Arch Bishop in Trondheim, who had to choose which churches to give them to. The four other churches are: Grip, Hadsel, Ørsta and Røst.

The altarpiece was lent to the World Exhibition in Amsterdam in 1958. The Church has also five big Italian Tempera-paintings from the 17th century.
The whole project started in 1958. There was a tidying up in the forge on the Furre farm. Some old objects were found, and Johannes Furre gathered them in his attic. In 1960 more than 50 objects were stored.

In 1961 a house was bought with the purpose of using it as a museum. Since then, more buildings have been purchased, for instance a mill house, a boat-house, a store-house and an outside lavatory (The bishop’s seat).

On the yard you can see two of the sixteen canons from the French privateer “L’enfant de la Patrie” (Child of the Native Country), which wrecked nearby Northern-Gutvik in 1798. The museum contains more than 2400 items, most of them from Leka. The museum has a large boat collection with 11 boats. Leka local museum is open in July and by appointment.
THE LEGEND ABOUT LEKAMØYA

In the northern part of Hålogaland two mighty kings were ruling; Vågakallen and the Sulitjelma King, their kingdoms being separated by the West Fjord (Vestfjorden). Both of them had their worries.

The former because of his disobedient son, called Hestmannen, the latter because of his seven daughters whom he had sent to Landego, where Lekamøya was staying too.

One evening Hestmannen (the Horse Man) gets sight of the seven sisters and Lekamøya (møy: girl/maiden) taking a bath in the sea at Landego. The first glimpse of the latter fills him with a yearning love and he decides to kidnap her at midnight. Mounted, in complete armour, his crest waving and his cloak fluttering above his strong shoulders, he sets out on his midnight ride. The girls discover him and take to their heels. Being quite exhausted the seven sisters abandon further flight, just dropping down at Alstadhaug.

Lekamøya, however, continues fleeing southwards while the Sømna King at Brønnøysund is watching the wild chase. Soon, the new day will approach on golden clouds. The Sømna King becomes aware of the disappointed suitor putting an arrow on his bow-string, aiming at the beautiful virgin. The king flings his hat between the two, thus saving the life of the maiden, who now has reached the island Leka. The arrow, whizzing from the string in the very same moment, pierces the hat that falls down at Torgar (Torghatten). Just at the same moment the sun rises, changing everyone into stone.

Today, you can still see Lekamøya as a natural stone monument looking proudly westwards toward the ocean. The monument is a popular excursion spot, and has been a famous landmark for seafarers on the coast of Norway.
SOLSEMHLÖA (A CAVE)

A place of offering from the stone age (Neolithic Age) with well preserved wall paintings. It was discovered by local people in 1912, and examined by archaeologists the following year.

The cave was made by the sea washing out talc from the mountain. The cave is 78 m. above the surface, and about 1300 m. from the seashore. It stretches 40 m. into the mountain, and is 7-8 m. high. 3-4000 years ago there were 500 meters to the beach below the cave, a level of 30 metres. Inside the cave there is a 80 cm. high terrace, a kind of an altar, on the mountain wall, there are paintings of a suncross (offering cross) and twelve human figures, both men and women, on each side of the cross. On the right side of the cross the figures are arranged in two rows. They hold each others hands. On the left side the figures are placed more casually. The drawings are painted with a red colour which probably is made of crushed stone (sand).

At the bottom of the cave there was a thick layer of soil containing bones of animals and humans, both adults and children, burned bones of goat, horse, otter, seal and oxes, and bones of birds and fishes were found as well. Examinations of the bones prove that they are 3000 - 4000 years old., This is the oldest discovery of horse (Siberian) in Northern Europe. They also found tools made of bone and stone, and a beautiful sculpture (jewellery) of the now extinct geirbird, made of bone.

The cave is locked with a gate and can only be visited with a guide. From May to September there are guided tours on Saturdays at 2 pm. In July more opening hours, look for information. Guiding except Saturdays upon request.
On the west side of Leka you find the mountains Steinstind and Mannatind. On the top of the two landmarks there are remnants of country castles from the Migration Age, 400 – 600 A.C.

The top of Mannatind has a big plateau. There is a stone fence, 30 meter long and 70 cm. high. Mannatind is lying south-west of Steinstind and is easy to ascend.

You can only climb Steinstind from the north-east side. Half way to the top, there are remnants of two low stone fences, each 2 - 3 m. They are formed in half circles, probably being used as a defending line. The locals fled to these mountains in times of strife. Only a few remnants of country castles are left in Namdalen.
PRIVATEER SHIPWRECK NEARBY NORTHERN-GUTVIK

There are many shipwrecks in the water around Leka. Most famous is the French privateer “L’enfant de la Patrie”, which wrecked nearby Northern-Gutvik the 16. of February in 1798, 3 km. north of Northern-Gutvik.

The crew on the privateer was rescued, and the 230 men started a long and risky march to Trondheim (320 km). They marched for 15 days in the cold February weather.

An outdoor play was written in 1994. It tells us about the equipment that were taken from the ship by the locals, the following trial, and the play is performed during the Herlaug days.

In 1988 a march was organized in memory of the Privateer shipwreck. The march is arranged annually in July.
On the 5th of June in 1932, a 3 year old girl, Svanhild, from Hortavær, was visiting Leka with her family. The family came to christen their youngest child. While playing outside the house, on the moors, she disappeared. Nobody could find her.

They searched for hours, in the end there were more than hundred people taking part in the search. Some people saw the eagle acting strangely up in the mountain, so they decided to try there. At the scree they found her shoe. Three youths started climbing the mountain, just when they were about to give up, they found her on a shelf, 250 m. up in the mountain, and about 2 km. from the house. She was alive, but scared. Her dress was torn up with claw marks.

This incident has been discussed back and forth, but no one can disprove the facts. The shelf where she was found is marked with a red mark (a white mark just below). The story has become both book and film. Svanhild is still alive, living at Rørvik.
"The Evenhaug smallholding was originally from Gjota in Nord Horsfjord, which is situated in Bindal, Leka's neighbouring county. It was moved to Gutvik at the end of the 19th century. It is not known when it was built. The 1 1/2 storey building is a typical smallholding, and because the interior has not changed much since 1890, it demonstrates well how the smallholder families lived over a hundred years ago. The cottage's austere kitchen is well-preserved and gives evidence in all its simplicity of the family's financial circumstances. In winter the kitchen was so cold that the food had to be prepared and eaten in the dining room. It is said that the family which lived here was so poor that the children were sent to the neighbouring farms to ask for a bit of milk or flour so they could make porridge. It is also said that their son, Halvor, was sent to school with only a lump of sugar for school lunch."

Call for guiding: Paul Gutvik tlf: 74 39 91 27 eller 74 39 9620.
LISS BINDALSKJERKA OG SVARTOMNEN (CAVES)

Both in Gutvik and Leka there are several caves which presumably have been used by people. The best known of the caves is “Liss-Bindalskjerka” at Gutvik. You can also go to Svartomnen in Gutvik, but this one is not safe and quite difficult to reach.

SKEISNESSET CULTURE PATH

Marked walking tracks and a geology track. The pathway leads through an area of historical and cultural significance. It has a view to a protected wetland territory for birds. This is also a geological interesting area.

You get information (only in Norwegian) both at the starting point, and during your walk on the pathway. There is an open stone hut in the area, with a great view over the ship fairway.
GEOLOGY

The first that strikes you when visiting Leka is the red colour on the west side mountains. The red rock-types make together with the ones on Madsøya and the GABBRO, what we call an OPHIOLITE COMPLEX. That means a cross-section of the rock-types in the Atlantic Ocean ridge. Leka is one of the 4 places in the world which have all the rock-types “up in daylight”. The others are Oman, Cyprus and California. Leka is totally different from the rest of Norway. Leka was formed 400 – 500 mill. years ago.

LEKA HAS:

- The only complete OPHIOLITE COMPLEX in Europe.
- The biggest deposit of SERPENTINE in Norway.
- The youngest rock-type, about 10.000 years old, in Norway.

Leka Stonesenter

opened in 2005 at Leka Motell and Camping. Here you can get a lot of information about the geology of Leka. There is also a geology path and you can buy a map and a folder of information at Leka Motell and Camping.

TURISTINFORMATION

At "Husby Handel" you will find tourist-information. "Husby Handel" is just a 15-20 minute walk from the Skei harbour. Tlf: 743 99 770

Opening hours: Monday-Friday : 09.00 - 20.00
   Saturday: 10.00 - 18.00
   Sunday: 15.00 - 18.00 (may - sept)
**THE FESTIVAL OF HERLAUG**

The festival of Herlaug is in week 28 -29 in July every year. The arrangement lasts for about a week. There are activities for all age groups. The arrangements are organised by the local people.

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**EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS**

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**DOCTOR:**

- Monday-Friday 0800 - 1530 Tlf. 743 87 000
- Weekend, evening, night: Tlf. 743 99 750

**ROOM FOR RENT / CAMPING**

- Leka Motell og Camping tlf: 743 99 823
- Kåre Harald Lysfjord tlf: 743 99 836
- Gutvik Camping tlf: 743 99 620/743 99 147
- Vertshuset Herlaug tlf: 743 99 809/92235132
- Karl O. Hakkebo tlf: 743 99 853/97513146
- Nausthaugen hytter tlf: 74399896 kowalk@online.no

**GUEST PORT AT SKEI**

At the guest port you have facilities as showers, toilets and washing machine. From Leka Boat union you can also rent bicycles.

**SERVICEOFFER**

Skei harbour is Leka’s main port for small boats, visiting boats, ferry and the express boat.

Shopping, post office and health services are at Husby and Leknes, 2 km from the harbour.

Guided tours can be arranged by
Leka Opplevelser Ba, tel: 917 75 104

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HIKING ROUTES
There are many hiking routes in Leka. All the routes are marked on a map that you can buy at the stores.

MAP OF LEKA
You can buy a map of Leka at the stores.

Kapermarsjen is arranged in Gutvik Leka every year during the festival of Herlaug.

Herlaugsmarsjen is arranged on every year during the festival Herlaug.

Ferry: LEKAFERJA AS
Fremmøte 5 min. før avgang, 5 km - 20 min

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