

Balestrand an Art village

The landscape of Balestrand, combined with the nordic light, inspired the artists who as early as 1819 discovered Balestrand, and together with the translation of the islandic saga of Fritjof the Warrior in 1825, all contributed to attracting the visitors. The introduction of regular boat services to and from Bergen opened Balestrand for the tourists. Artists settled in Balestrand and built villas in the architectural style of the day, many of which can be viewed from the Heritage Trail.



When the glaciers receded from the landmasses towards the coast they carved great valleys through the mountain ranges. The ice deposited vast thresholds of rocks at the coast which formed barriers against the salt and cold waters of the deep sea outside, but allowed the warmer surface water to flow into the fjords.

Balestrand is almost at the midpoint of the Sognefjord, which is 180 kilometers long (112 miles). The depth varies from 100/200 meters at the mouth to 1303 meters at the deepest point. Between Balestrand and Vangsnes it is 1100 meters deep. Sea water fish common to the northern hemisphere are found in the fjord. Often seen are schools of porpoise, easily recognized by their rolling movement and breathing when they reach the surface. These are protected by law. The fjord is tidal.



View from Orrabanken



14 Aquarium

Sognefjord Aquarium presents life in the Sognefjord from the deepest depths to the shoreline. During spring and autumn schools spend a week at the Aquarium collecting samples, studying the fjord and registering information. The gallery Munken has a unique collection of hand carved illustrations of the daily life by the fjord down through the ages. Rowing boats, canoes available. Fishing. Bakery and Cafe.



Sognefjord Aquarium

The Esefjord

The Esefjord stretching from the quayside into Esebotn is a small, shallow arm of the Sognefjord only 4 kilometers long and 14 meters deep. With a background of magnificent mountain peaks it has become a favoured place for photographers and painters and is locally renowned for fishing.

Bale Jazz

The Bale Jazz festival has become an annual event with international artists.



Bale Jazz (Karl Seglem)



Gallery Munken

19 Kviknes hotel

A distinctive hotel beside the Sognefjord, run and owned by the Kvikne family since 1877. An original wooden building in the "Swiss" style of architecture, completed in 1913 and with added newer extensions. The hotel has an extensive collection of artworks, paintings and antiques including the Høyvik room which contains a unique collection of hand carved furniture. Cuisine is international, as are the chefs. Bar meals available.



Kviknes Hotel

Take a closer look at BALESTRAND

Welcome to Balestrand.
A traditional tourist resort noted for its magnificent mountain scenery and fjord setting, pure clean air and peaceful surroundings. In this brochure we help you explore Balestrand on your own.



Balestrand
inspires you

www.sognefjord.no



The Heritage Trail
 Commencing from the Kviknes hotel 19
 Visiting the English Church 20
 Inspecting the Viking grave mounds 23
 Viewing the Villas 26

29 Ciderhuset
 The Ciderhuset is situated in an orchard containing many varieties of fruit trees such as apples, plums, pears and even cider apples from Normandy. Produces juice, cider, wines and brandy which are served in the restaurant with a menu combining local products, as far as possible, with an added Mediterranean flavour. Local products for sale. Run and owned by the Eitungjerde/Høyvik family of Balestrand.

26 The Villas
 We have a unique selection of villas, originally built by the resident artists during the years from 1890 – 1900s. Many of the villas were delivered from the Trondheim firm of Thams and Digre as prefabricated structures. Tall buildings with jutting roofs, verandahs and decorated gables often with dragonhead ornamentations. These were a symbol taken from the Nordic Sagas and the prechristian world of mythology. Balestrand has at least 6 different examples of dragonheads which can be seen from the Heritage Trail road. All villas are now privately owned.

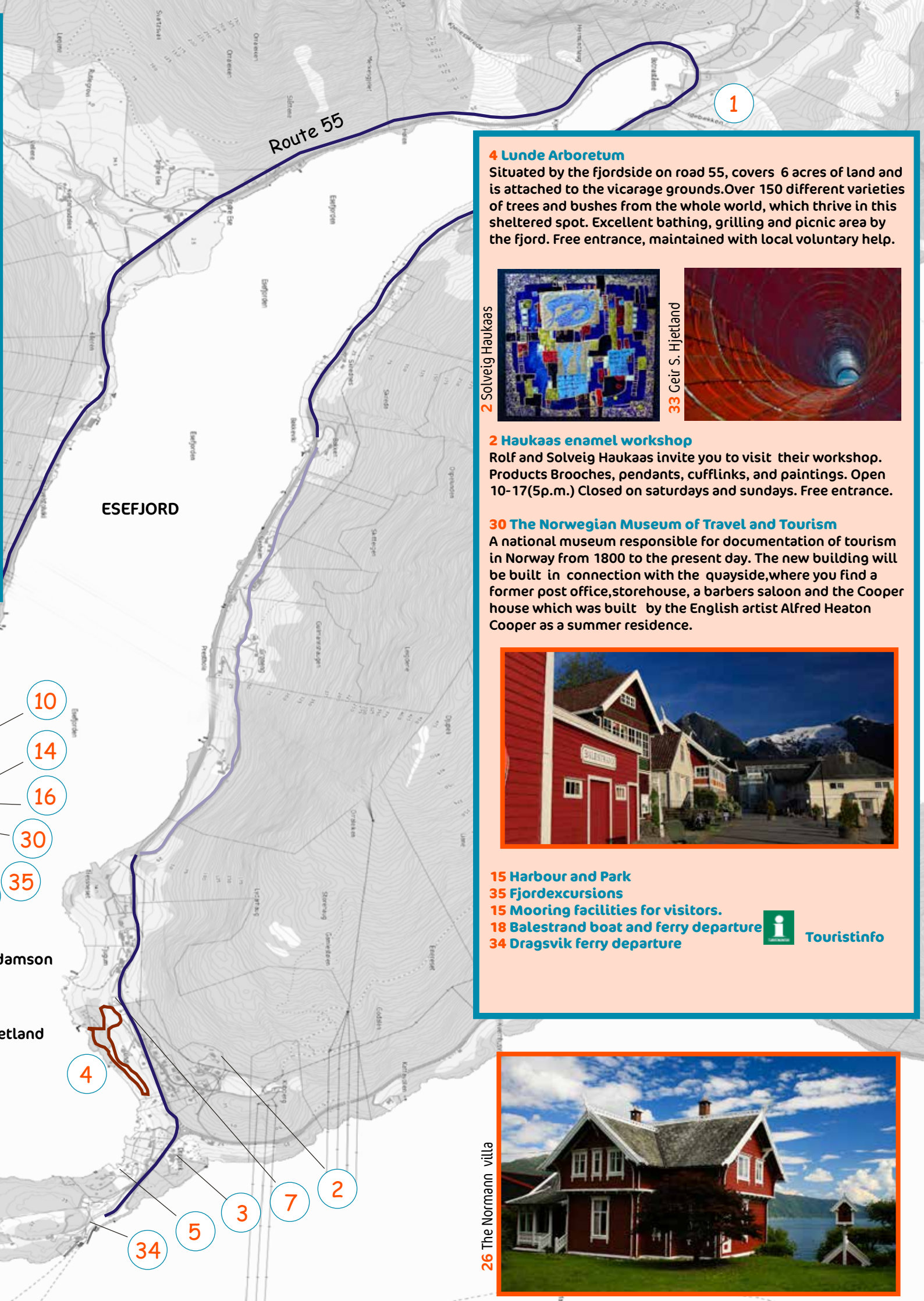


23 King Bele

27 Askelund-Futegard
 The seat of the District Bailiff from 1790-1899. Now fully restored and in private ownership. Open for private arrangements.

23 Two Viking grave mounds with King Bele
 The statue of King Bele was given by the German emperor Wilhelm II as a token of gratitude for his many visits to Balestrand. The statue represents a figure from the saga of Fritjof the warrior.

20 The Church of St. Olaf or the English Church.
 It is the Church of England that is responsible for the Church and maintains services throughout the summer months. The Church was completed in 1897 in memory of Margaret Sophia Green Kvikne, the english wife of Knut Kvikne who was a pioneer in mountain climbing. The architect Jens Zetlitz Kielland designed the Church with features taken from the old Stave Churches. It is dedicated to St.Olaf.



4 Lunde Arboretum
 Situated by the fjordside on road 55, covers 6 acres of land and is attached to the vicarage grounds. Over 150 different varieties of trees and bushes from the whole world, which thrive in this sheltered spot. Excellent bathing, grilling and picnic area by the fjord. Free entrance, maintained with local voluntary help.



2 Haukaas enamel workshop
 Rolf and Solveig Haukaas invite you to visit their workshop. Products Brooches, pendants, cufflinks, and paintings. Open 10-17(5p.m.) Closed on Saturdays and Sundays. Free entrance.

30 The Norwegian Museum of Travel and Tourism
 A national museum responsible for documentation of tourism in Norway from 1800 to the present day. The new building will be built in connection with the quayside, where you find a former post office, storehouse, a barbers saloon and the Cooper house which was built by the English artist Alfred Heaton Cooper as a summer residence.



15 Harbour and Park
35 Fjordexcursions
15 Mooring facilities for visitors.
18 Balestrand boat and ferry departure
34 Dragsvik ferry departure



The Heritage trail 2 kms walk

- Churches**
 07 Tjugum church (1863)
 31 Sæle church (1903)
 32 Kvamsøy church (1290)
 20 St. Olaf church, English Church (1897)
- Hotels**
 03 Dragsvik fjordhotel
 10 Kringsjø hotel / Balestrand vandrarheim
 19 Kviknes hotel
 21 Midtnes hotel
 22 Balestrand hotel
- Camping sites**
 24 Sjøtun camping
 05 Veganeset camping
 01 Esefjorden camping

- Galleries and exhibitions / Balestrand Art Village**
 11 Cooper house, Bom-Bom & Quay house galleries
 30 Golden House gallery, Bjørg Bjøberg and Arthur Adamson
 14 Munken gallery
 16 Bøyum gallery
 02 Haukaas Enamel Workshop
 33 Ceramics and Sculpture, Magni Jensen and Geir Hjetland



20 The church of St. Olaf



29 Ciderhuset



26 The Normann villa

Sognefjord

ESEFJORD

Route 55

1

10

14

16

30

35

26

27

29

24

23

22

21

20

19

18

11

15

4

34

5

3

7

2