



Ciderhuset | © CIDERHUSET

## Balestrand Art Village

This village by the Sognefjord offers majestic nature, a unique architecture, varied Art Collections, intimate atmosphere and long traditions of art and tourism. Galleries and exhibitions such as Holmen Gallery are open during the summer. The Lighthouse for travellers is a big sculpture in Balestrand Centrum: "Even an adventure has everyday life in it. Even the travellers need a place to sleep, and the seafarer appreciates a light that shows road to safe harbours. She stands for all this solid, the hexagonal rust-red column". [www.kunstbygda.no](http://www.kunstbygda.no)

## Attractions in Balestrand

### Ciderhuset

The Cider House is a family run cidery in a rustic building situated 1,5 km from the village center of Balestrand. Organic orchard first established in 1922, with more than 100 different apple varieties. Cellar with sparkling ciders made in the traditional Champagne way - and a copper pot distillery. Meet with one of the family members and learn about growing fruit, fermenting cider and distilling fruit brandies - learn & taste. Traditional Norwegian wooden hall and glass house restaurant where you may enjoy the view and the ciders (also non-alcoholic options). Farm shop with ciders and juices. [www.ciderhuset.no](http://www.ciderhuset.no)

### The Villas

There is 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 Thames 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. Have a guided tour in the Villa Heimdalstrand during the summer. All villas are now privately owned.

### Two Viking burial 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.

### 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.

Keipen | © FALKERLIX AS



Kviknes Hotel | © KVIKNES HOTEL

### Lunde Arboretum

Situated by the fjord side 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 swimming, grilling and picnic area by the fjord. Free entrance, maintained with local voluntary help.

### Haukaas enamel workshop

Solveig and Rolf Haukaas invite you to visit their workshop. Products Brooches, pendants, cufflinks, and paintings. Bird Watching. [www.enamel.no](http://www.enamel.no)

### The Norwegian Museum of Travel and Tourism

Located in the center of the village of Balestrand. They present the history of Norwegian tourism from the 19th century until today. It follows the tracks of the first travellers - the explorers, the salmon anglers and the artists, who in their wake inspired the development of attractive tourist destinations countrywide. [www.reiselivsmuseum.no](http://www.reiselivsmuseum.no)

### Aquarium

Sognefjord Aquarium presents life in the Sognefjord from the deepest depths to the shoreline. 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 Café. [www.kringsja.no/akvarium.html](http://www.kringsja.no/akvarium.html)

### 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 favored 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.

### 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 antique including the Høyvik room which contains a unique collection of hand carved furniture. [www.kviknes.no](http://www.kviknes.no)

### The Golden House

An art gallery in the centre of Balestrand with a gift shop with art cards/products based on Norwegian life and nature. The Golden House has also an exhibition of antiques/old items from the area, and the restaurant Pilgrim is open every day during summer season. [www.detgylnehus.no](http://www.detgylnehus.no)

Norsk Reiselivsmuseum | © DAVID ZACK



Utsikten ved Gaularfjellet | © TRINE KANTER ZERWEKH, STATENS VEGVESEN

## Activites in Balestrand

### Gone Paddling

Offers Guided kayak tour in Balestrand, guided bicycle tour and rent a bike  
Web: [www.gonepaddling.no](http://www.gonepaddling.no)  
Phone: +47 98220810  
Email: [post@gonepaddling.no](mailto:post@gonepaddling.no)

### Balestrand Fjord Adventure

Guided RIB-boat tours on the Sognefjord. The tour starts in Balestrand.  
Web: [www.balestrandadventure.no](http://www.balestrandadventure.no)  
Phone: +47 47855323  
Email: [info@balestrandadventure.no](mailto:info@balestrandadventure.no)

### Balestrand Fjord Angling

Guided soft adventures and trolling trips with personality from Balestrand.  
Web: [www.balestrandfjordangling.com](http://www.balestrandfjordangling.com)  
Phone: +47 90081939  
Email: [contact@balestrandfjordangling.com](mailto:contact@balestrandfjordangling.com)

### Glaciertour Fjærland

Experience fjord landscapes and Bøyabreen glacier on the same day. The tour starts in Balestrand  
Web: <https://www.glaciertour.no/>  
Phone: +47 57653836  
Email: [post@glaciertour.no](mailto:post@glaciertour.no)

### Balestrand Tour

Guided bus tour to Utsikten Gaularfjell  
<http://www.balestrandtour.no/en/tour>  
Phone: +47 95906409  
Email: [geirwilly@live.no](mailto:geirwilly@live.no)

### Balestrand Adventure AS

Offers organized activities on the fjord, land and mountains in the Balestrand area.  
<http://www.balestrandadventure.no>  
Phone: +47 95906409  
Email: [post@balestrandadventure.no](mailto:post@balestrandadventure.no)

BALESTRAND FJORD ADVENTURE | © VIDAR / CAPTURE



© BILSEN, SOWME STUVE

# Welcome to BALESTRAND

A traditional tourist resort noted for its magnificent mountain scenery and fjord setting, pure clean air and peaceful surroundings.



The mountains around Balestrand are majestic and beautiful, but the weather in the area can change quickly. Always be properly equipped. Use caution along the steep mountainsides, and never walk close to the mountain edge. Never walk without using ropes for safety on the glaciers. Always bring extra clothing and leave a message about where you plan to go. Be aware that in early summer large parts of the mountains may be covered in snow, so that paths and markings are not visible.

Have a nice trip.

## The Heritage Trail

Start: In the village center of Balestrand. The Heritage trail is approx. 2 km long. This trail is along the fjord side of the village of Balestrand. You can go on your own or have a guided tour. Some of the attractions along this trail is St. Olaf's church, the Viking Burial mounds with the King Bele statue, the Villas and Kviknes Hotel.

## Keipen

A favorite hiking destination among Balestrand residents and visitors is Keipen, a sheer cliff which juts out 1427 meters above sea level. It gets its name from its similarity with a "keip," a type of oarlock used on wooden rowboats. The hike takes ten to twelve hours, starting either in Esebotn or Dalsdalen. The trail is well-maintained, and much of it is on stone steps, some laid by Sherpas from Nepal, some by Norwegian farmers in the 1880s. There is a hut on the top of Gulleplenipa, another distinctive mountain formation on the way to Keipen.

Note: The river at Dalen is covered by snow from avalanches every year, and it is dangerous to cross before it has melted in May or June.

## Accommodation in Balestrand

### Hotels

Balestrand Hotel  
www.balestrand.com / Phone: +47 57691138

Kringsjå Hotell  
www.kringsja.no/hotell.html / Phone: +47 57691303

Kviknes Hotel  
www.kviknes.no / Phone: +47 57694200

Midtnes Hotel  
www.midtnes.no / Phone: +47 57694240

Dragsvik Fjordhotell  
www.dragsvik.no / Phone: +47 57694400

### Camping, cabins and apartments

Balestrand Feriehytter  
www.sognefjord.no / Phone: +47 90868943

Grønlund Cabins  
www.gronlundferienhaus.com / Phone: +47 99262761

Kallestad Cabins  
www.sognefjord.no / Phone: +47 90639582

Menes Fjordhytter  
www.menes.no / Phone: +47 57692225

Thuegården  
www.thuegaarden.com / Phone: +47 57691595

Tjugum Cabins  
www.sognefjord.no / Phone: +47 95041651

Veganaset Camping  
www.veganasetcamping.no / Phone: +47 57691612



- The Heritage Trail
- Easy
- Moderate
- Challenging
- Expert

- Enamel Workshop
- Tjugum Church
- Sognefjord Aquarium
- Lighthouse for travelers
- Tourist Office
- The Golden House
- The Travel Museum
- Kviknes Hotel
- Church of St Olaf or the English Church
- Midtnes Hotel
- Balestrand Hotel
- Starting point nature trails**
- The Viking burial mounds, the King Bele statue
- Balholm Juice- and Cidery
- The Cider House
- Askelund, the seat of the district bailiff from 1790 to 1899
- Brattland
- Skåsheim
- Hagen
- Veganaset Camping
- Fjord swimming
- Lunde Arboretum
- Lunde-stølen
- Mastene
- Tjugum
- Dragsvik Fjordhotell
- Ferry to Hella/Vangsnes
- Hella
- Klibberg Nature Trail