

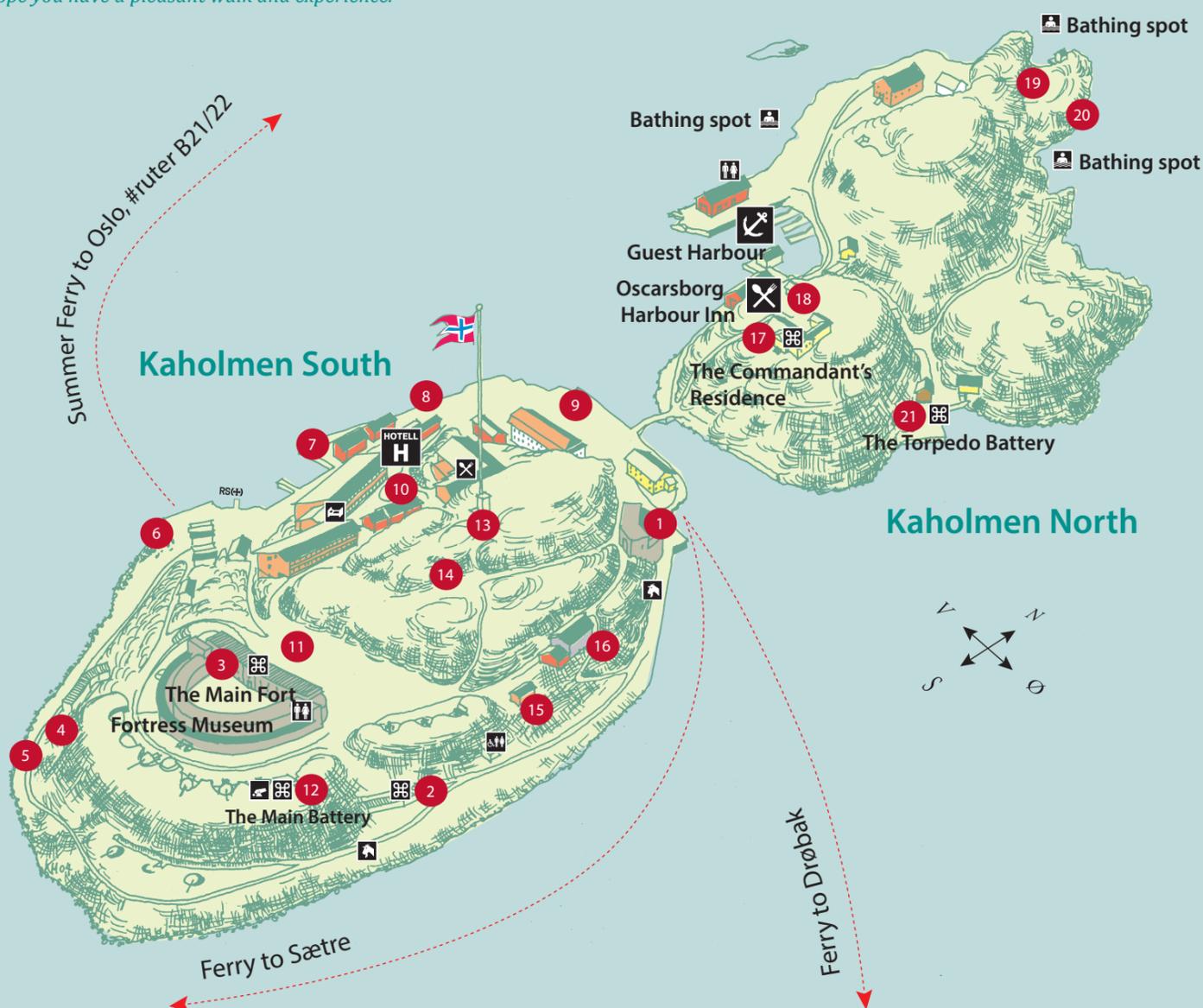
# Welcome to the fortress trail at Oscarsborg Fortress

The Fortress trail lasts around 1.5 hours at a normal walking pace. We hope you have a pleasant walk and experience.

Welcome to the cultural heritage site and natural wonder of Oscarsborg. On this map, we have highlighted places of interest. Some of the points are marked with QR codes. Follow the map and discover the enthralling history of Oscarsborg Fortress!



Follow us on social media  
#oscarsborg



four years to construct (1874-1879). The material was freighted in on barges from Røyken. Today, 50 metres of the Jetty has been removed to facilitate leisure boats.

## 6 WESTERN BEACH QUAY / CRANE QUAY

The wharf was built in 1862 in order to enable ammunition to be brought ashore. This ammunition was then transported through a tunnel to the Main Battery's underground arsenal. The Fortress's electric ferry which went between the Kaholmen islands, Håøya and Bergholmen was also located here. Today, the quay is Oscarsborg Fortress' only deep-water quay and is used for larger boats. This is where the liner B21/B22 from Oslo/Aker Brygge Pier is situated during the summer season. Visit [www.oscarsborg.no](http://www.oscarsborg.no) for all timetables. The rescue service also operates from here.

## 7 WORKSHOP ENVIRONMENT AND PROTECTION PLAN

Oscarsborg Fortress was a vibrant society with carpenters, blacksmiths, masons and painters. These professionals had knowledge that was important for maintaining and rebuilding the Fortress.

PROTECTION PLAN: The Norwegian Defence Estates Agency has prepared a protection plan for Oscarsborg, which was approved by the Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage in 2004. The building and its facilities document a deep understanding and history, which is about to disappear. All buildings have their own identification number. The figure consists of 10 numbers and tells where the object is found and what function it has. Search online at [www.verneplaner.no](http://www.verneplaner.no). On 9 April, 2014, Oscarsborg was formally listed by the Directorate for Cultural Heritage in a grandiose ceremony.

## 8 THE LATRINES

The latrines were originally on behind the barracks. There were 11 outhouses and urinals here. The building was moved to its current location in 1904.

## 9 THE SCHOOL BARRACKS

The School Barracks was erected in 1892/93 and originally served as a barracks for livestock. After a new defence agreement in 1887, the Artillery's academy school in Akershus was split into a school for non-commissioned officers for the Field Artillery, and a school for non-commissioned officers for the fortress and mobile artillery. The latter was moved to Oscarsborg. The need for accommodation increased and a new barracks was built. It was sheltered by the mountain wall so as to be protected against fire. Now, Oscarsborg Hotel and Resort offers conference facilities in this building. For information, contact via telephone on: + 47 64 90 40 00 or via email at: [booking@oscarsborghotel.no](mailto:booking@oscarsborghotel.no). Perfect Escape offers a new and exciting activity. The audience will be «sent back» to the night of 9 April, 1940, and the drama that occurred here. Visit [www.oscarsborghotel.no](http://www.oscarsborghotel.no). The helicopter landing pad is a meeting place for guided tours, contact [post@oscarsborgmuseum.no](mailto:post@oscarsborgmuseum.no).

## 1 THE HARBOUR FORT

The Harbour Fort was the first permanent defence to be completed. From 1847, all visitors had to pass through the Harbour Fort so that a personal check-point for the fortress was created. Today, the Harbour Fort is a conference hall which seats up to 150 people. If you have any questions, please contact [booking@oscarsborghotel.no](mailto:booking@oscarsborghotel.no).

## 2 EASTERN COASTAL BATTERY

The Eastern Coastal Battery was built in 1848 to control the eastern sea lane. Behind the cannons is the defence gallery. This was the last bastion of defence for the main fort. There were limited ways to defend yourself in the gallery and the alcoves up towards the fortress. The corridor is curved to make it more difficult for the enemy. However, the alcoves provide minimal protection. The soldiers who were stationed here were most likely aware of their situation.

## 3 THE MAIN FORT

During the German attack on Norway in the early hours of 9 April 1940, Colonel Eriksen became part of Norwegian history. By engaging the German armada in battle, the fortress created a vital delay, which made it possible for the royal family, Parliament and the government to escape. In the aftermath, Oscarsborg was bombed by German planes for several hours. Traces of the bombing are still visible on the walls. Contact: [post@oscarsborghotel.no](mailto:post@oscarsborghotel.no)

THE MUSEUM is located in the main fort's inner building to the east. The exhibition shows, among other things, the development of Oscarsborg Fortress from when construction started in 1846, until the whole building was completed in 1856. The museum also shows the modernisation process from the end of the 1860s up until 1905, when the fortress was at its greatest, both in size and significance. The museum is open every weekday from 10:00-17:00 (01.04-30.09) and admission is free.

Guided tours in Norwegian and English can be booked with special group rates. In July, you can attend an open guided tour every day, these do not require pre-booking. The Torpedo Battery, the Coastal Artillery Museum and the Fire Discipline Museum can only be accessed with a guide. The office operates every day from 08:30 to 14:30, contact Tel. 488 67 500 or e-mail: [post@oscarsborgmuseum.no](mailto:post@oscarsborgmuseum.no). During the winter season (01.10 – 30.03), the office is open Tuesday and Thursday from 09:00 -14:30.

The OFFICER'S MESS RESTAURANT is located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Main Fort and it is the Oscarsborg Hotel & Resort which offers guests, wedding parties and larger groups fine culinary experiences. The walls are covered in history and provide a frame and create an atmosphere with various markings in a league of their own. The party venue is located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and can hold up to 130 dining guests.

## 4 WESTERN COASTAL BATTERY

The Western Coastal Battery was built in 1848 and had ten cannons to control the western sea lane. At the completion of the Jetty in 1878, the western straits were closed off, and the coastal battery was largely dismissed as a defensive building.

CANNON PARK. The Coastal Artillery Museum also owns a collection of cannons at the Western Coastal battery on Southern Kaholmen. The cannons in this collection were used by the Coastal Artillery along the coast of Norway from 1945 to 1995. Each cannon depicts detailed information, the space is open and access is free for everyone, with or without a guide.

## 5 THE JETTY

Work on the 1500-metre underwater wall started in 1874. The wall runs from Hurum via Småskjær to Southern Kaholmen, and blocks the western sea lane. It was filled with stone blocks, each weighing up to 2 tonnes, covers approximately 315,000 m<sup>3</sup> and took

## 10 OSCARSBORG HOTEL OG RESORT

"The Keep", which is the old mess hall, is used today as a restaurant. In the premises where soldiers ate their meals up until 2002, Oscarsborg's guests can now combine good food and drink with a splendid view of the fjord. The hotel offers both à la carte and self-catering facilities in the newly refurbished premises. The hotel reception is located in this building. For direct information, call the hotel by phone + 47 64 90 40 00 or e-mail [booking@oscarsborghotel.no](mailto:booking@oscarsborghotel.no).

## 11 FORT COURTYARD

The Fort Courtyard has been used for drills/military parades and other assemblies. The site is currently also used for larger gatherings and concerts. Today, there is a memorial for the coastal artillerymen who gave their lives for Norway's freedom during the war 1940 – 1945 and a statue to commemorate Colonel Birger Eriksen, who commanded Oscarsborg from 1933 – 1940. More information on this can be found at the museum.

## 12 ATTACKS ON NORWAY – 9<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 1940

At 04:21, the Main Battery opened fire on the battle cruiser Blücher. Immediately after, the batteries on the Drøbak side opened fire too. The fire was well-aimed and extremely effective. Another vessel, the cruiser Lützow, was also bombarded with several shots from land. The names of the canons and their history can be discovered at the museum or on the guided tours. If you go up the stairs, you get a great view of the fjord!

## 13 THE KING

The Watchtower «The King» was Oscarsborg Fortress' lookout and flag post. The first lookout post was a primitive platform on wooden poles. Here, soldiers monitored ship traffic in the Oslo Fjord and made sure that the Norwegian flag was displayed at the highest point of the island. The current watchtower was built in 1932. The Norwegian flag was also waved here on 9 April, 1940. Although the flag tower was a prestigious goal, it held firm and continued to proudly exhibit the Norwegian flag. The current flagpole is packed with electronic equipment, therefore it is somewhat short and wide.

## 14 THE ROYAL GROVE

Oscarsborg Fortress was essentially completed IN 1855. Oscarsborg Fortress got its name following King Oscar I's visit on the 23rd of August of the same year. In the Royal Grove, we see the signatures of other kings who have visited the fortress, including King Oscar II, Haakon VII, Olav V and Harald V.

## 15 THE SMITHY

The Smithy from 1861 was originally built as a laboratory but was adopted as a forge/workshop in 1901. This is one of the few buildings that escaped relatively unscathed from the German aerial attacks on 9 April, despite its exposed location. The building was completely renovated in 2011 by The Norwegian Defence Estates Agency.

## 16 THE GYMNASIUM

The building was built as a gymnasium. The basement was used as a magazine

for the armoury and later as a magazine workshop for the school for non-commissioned officers. The building is used for marching displays. In 2019, it will be used for something new, but we're keeping that a secret until further notice. Soon Sea School is an alternative maritime secondary school that is to be established in the basement hall this year.

## 17 THE COMMANDANT'S RESIDENCE

Here, you can experience a modern representation of all branches of the defence and information about the Norwegian Armed Forces. It is also possible to book a lecture on the role of the armed forces today and in the future. The lecture is held for closed groups. It is free and booked via email: [post@oscarsborgmuseum.no](mailto:post@oscarsborgmuseum.no)

## 18 HARBOUR INN AND GUEST HARBOUR

The most charming guest harbour in the Oslofjord is most likely the Oscarsborg guest harbour! With a truly unique location within a stunning cultural heritage site, it is the jewel of maritime pleasures and exciting experiences for big and small. Telephone the harbour host: 974 34 779 or [post@oscarsborggjestehavn.no](mailto:post@oscarsborggjestehavn.no).

OSCARSBORG HARBOUR INN has opened and serves lunch, simple dinner dishes, refreshments, ice cream and kiosk items. Please feel free to contact us for information on the menu and our offers. Telephone 40 20 11 12 or e-mail [post@cruise-cafe.no](mailto:post@cruise-cafe.no).

## 19 THE COMMANDANT'S PUBLIC BATH

The commandant's public bath was built in 1948. The precursor to today's building, which was located in the same location, had the denotation «Public Bath for Women» and was erected in 1907. The public bath had a suitably discreet location at a time when the naked skin of a woman was inappropriate for young soldiers. If you want, you can try out the public bath, but beware of periods of strong current. Keep a careful eye on the children!

## 20 "THE WATERY GRAVE"

The Askholmen islets (The low archipelago east of Håøya) became Blücher's watery grave. Many swam ashore to the Askholmen islets and to dry land n that morning in April, 1940, but between 500 and 1000 German officers and soldiers lost their lives due to the freezing water and a layer of burning oil. The Germans raised a memorial to their fallen on the Askholmen islets, but this was torn down by an American major in the spring of 1945.

## 21 THE TORPEDO BATTERY

"The Most Holy" is the name given to the Torpedo Battery at Oscarsborg. It was from here that Andreas Andersen and his men, under the direction of Colonel Birger Eriksen, fired the two crucial torpedoes that sunk the German cruiser Blücher on 9 April, 1940. The Torpedo Battery was long closed to the public and strictly confidential. A visit here gives you an unforgettable experience of one of the most important events in modern, Norwegian history. It is only accessible via guide, as part of a tour. Please contact [post@oscarsborgmuseum.no](mailto:post@oscarsborgmuseum.no) for more information and bookings.

## A listed fortress

Oscarsborg is part of our shared cultural heritage, and from having been a venue for dramatic acts of war, it is now a venue for culture, culinary delights and great experiences. Each year, the fortress welcomes approximately 100,000 visitors from Norway and abroad. Since Oscarsborg is a national heritage site that we want to preserve for later generations, it is important that those who stay here show respect for the buildings and outdoor areas. We ask that you are cautious as you walk around, and adhere to the rules of conduct below. This also ensures that all guests have a great time when visiting Oscarsborg.

## Oscarsborg Fortress today

Oscarsborg was opened as a military cultural heritage site in 2004. There is lots to enjoy for those interested in nature, culture and history. You could visit the museum where tour guides are also available. Oscarsborg is an attractive venue for courses and conferences. The fortress is provided with great service where the public can enjoy a simple cup of coffee or a delicious meal.

## The establishment of Oscarsborg

- **1643:** In Christian IV's time, a Blockhouse was built on the Kaholmen islands.
- **In the 1830s** suggestions were discussed for what would later become Oscarsborg fortress.
- **1848:** The first phase of construction began on the 20th of November
- **1852:** The rest of the cannons were placed in the Main Fort.
- **1853:** The fortress was completed as we know it today.

*The rest of the story can be found at the museum, come on in!*

## Rules of conduct

The Fortress is located in an area of outstanding natural beauty, with an extensive biological diversity, including some rare species. The enjoyment of visiting such a unique place can easily be spoilt through littering and unintentional vandalism. We therefore enforce a year-round ban on barbeques and open fires. This includes disposable BBQs.

The currents in the sea can be pretty strong in certain periods, so young children must be kept under adult supervision when playing in or near the sea. As a preventative measure to counteract visitors to the island from being hurt by potentially hazardous objects underground, we do not permit digging or searching for objects with metal detectors. In the guest harbour, please be considerate of your neighbours, and do not forget; the safety and wellbeing of the children is the responsibility of the adults. Dogs must be kept on a leash all year at Oscarsborg.

We wish you a pleasant stay at Oscarsborg and look forward to seeing you again soon!



## We create new life on historical ground

The Norwegian Defence Estates Agency manages 15 national fortifications all over Norway. The fortifications are living cultural venues frequented by millions of people each year.

The scenic and historical surroundings provide a unique framework for experiences, parties, meetings and training courses. Here, you can enjoy large and small concerts, an outdoor opera, art exhibitions and sporting events, or delve deep into the history of the place and visit our museums. We have rental facilities for most occasions. Fortresses are located throughout the country, from Møvik Fort in the South to Vardøhus Fortress in the North.

FORSVARSBYGG  
NORWEGIAN DEFENCE ESTATES AGENCY

[www.forsvarsbygg.no](http://www.forsvarsbygg.no)

Oscarsborg Fortress  
a national fortification



Welcome to the  
fortress trail

[www.oscarsborg.no](http://www.oscarsborg.no)