

A Little in English Telemark County

Telemark is a county where you can experience a lot in a short time. It is an outstanding county for family trips. The climate is mild. In fact, Jomfruland in Telemark is the sunniest place in Norway. Here you will find excellent beaches and it is a wonderful place for vacations.

The cities of Kragerø, Skien, and Porsgrunn are located in Telemark. Porsgrunn is especially known for Porsgrund porcelain. Gaustatoppen is the highest mountain in Telemark. Rjukan is known from WWII in connection with the production of heavy water.

Folk art has a stronghold in Telemark. Here you will find much old handicraft and regional art. Telemark rosemaling is one example. Morgedal in Telemark is known as the cradle of skiing as a sport. The county has even given its name to a special dance, the Telemark springar.

TELEMARK COUNTY



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Litt på norsk

Telemark fylke

Telemark er et fylke hvor du kan oppleve mye på kort tid. Det er flott fylke for familieturer. Klimaet er mildt. Jomfruland i Telemark er faktisk Norges solrikeste sted. Her finnes utmerkete badestrender og det er et deilig sted for ferier.

Byene Skien, Kragerø og Porsgrunn ligger i Telemark. Porsgrunn er spesielt kjent for Porsgrund porselen. Gaustatoppen er det høyeste fjellet i Telemark. Rjukan er kjent fra andre verdenskrig i forbindelse med produksjonen av tungtvannet.

Folkekunsten står sterkt i Telemark. Her finner du mye gammelt håndverk og bygdekunst. Telemark rosemaling er ett eksempel. Morgedal i Telemark er også kjent som skisportens vugge. Fylket har til og med gitt navnet til en spesiell dans, Telemark springar.

Norwegian Children's Names Old Naming Customs

It was before the infant was baptised and, therefore, still a heathen, that it was most exposed to illness and supernatural harm. The best one could do, therefore, was to bring the infant as quickly as possible to the church and get it baptized and incorporated into the protected Christian community of parents, godparents, and congregation. But first and foremost, the child had to be given a name to have at the baptismal font that the relatives were satisfied with. It was a question as to whether to follow custom and consider the traditional naming rules. "They had their naming customs that they were unwilling to break," it was said in Stord. The name should follow the family.

These rules dictated that the first male child should be named after the paternal grandfather, the first female child after the maternal grandmother, the second male child after the maternal grandfather, and the second female child after the paternal grandmother. If more children came, they were to be named after other close family members.

—From *Norsk Folketro* by Sverre Østen

Newsbrief

Before You Name Your Kids, Check with the Government

Kristi Larsen, a 46-year-old parent in Oslo, Norway, recently spent time in jail because she chose the name Geshar for her 14th child.

Geshar is an Old Testament (Hebrew) word which means "bridge." Unfortunately for Larsen, however, the name does not appear on a list of officially sanctioned names for children which is maintained by the Norwegian government.

In an interview with the daily newspaper *Verdens Gang*, Larsen said she is a strong Christian. She explained that in the days before giving birth in 1995, she had a dream in which she was told to name her child as she did.

When told by authorities that the choice of an unauthorized name would cost her the equivalent of \$200 in fines, she refused to pay. Consequently, she was hauled off to jail, where she was briefly confined.

Norwegian authorities have banned the use of names not on their official list because "unusual names may lead to teasing."



Illustration from *Hva dagene vet* by Sverre Østen



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GOD SUMMER!
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