

NORWAY



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General

Norway - officially the Kingdom of Norway - is a Nordic country in Northwestern Europe whose core territory comprises the western and northernmost portion of the Scandinavian Peninsula. Norway is bordered by Finland and Russia in the North-east, Sweden in the East, and the Skagerrak strait in the South, with Denmark on the other side. The country has an area of 38.5 Mha (million hectares) with in 2020 a population of 5.4 million, or 0.14 persons per ha (Wikipedia and United Nations, 2019).

Climate and geography

Parts of southeastern Norway including parts of Mjøsa have warm-summer humid continental climates, while the more southern and western coasts have mostly an oceanic climate. Further inland in southeastern and northern Norway, the subarctic climate dominates; this is especially true for areas in the rain shadow of the Scandinavian Mountains. The mainland experiences four distinct seasons, with colder winters and less precipitation inland. Because of the Gulf Stream and prevailing western winds, Norway experiences higher temperatures and more precipitation than would be expected at such northern latitudes, especially along the coast. The lowlands around Oslo have the warmest and sunniest summers, but also cold weather and snow in wintertime. Temperature anomalies found in coastal locations are exceptional. The southern and western parts of Norway, fully exposed to Atlantic storm fronts, experience more precipitation and have milder winters than the eastern and far northern parts. There is very high rainfall in areas exposed to the Atlantic, such as Bergen. Areas to the east of the coastal mountains are in a rain shadow, and have lower rain and snow totals than the West. Skjåk in Oppland county is in the rain shadow and is one of the driest places with 278 mm precipitation annually. Finnmarksvidda and the interior valleys of Troms and Nordland also receive less than 300 mm annually. Longyearbyen is the driest place in Norway with 190 mm (source: Wikipedia).

Norway has an extensive coastline, facing the North Atlantic Ocean and the Barents Sea. The rugged coastline is broken by huge fjords and thousands of islands. The land is mostly made of hard granite and gneiss rock, but slate, sandstone, and limestone are also common, and the lowest elevations contain marine deposits (source: Wikipedia).

Existing polders

The Group Polder Development (1982) identified the Stokke Lake Polder (400 ha) near Stavanger. It is a drained lake that was reclaimed in 1906 by making a tunnel through a ridge towards the Hafrsfjord. In this way excess water could be drained by gravity.

General characteristics of the polder in Norway are shown in Table I.

Proposed polders

No proposed polders have been identified.

References

- Group Polder Development, Department of Civil Engineering, Delft University of Technology, 1982. *Polders of the World. Compendium of polder projects*. Delft, the Netherlands
- United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. 2019. *World Population Prospects, medium prognosis. The 2019 revision*. New York, USA.

*Bart Schultz
Lelystad, August 2022*

Table I. General characteristics of existing polders in Norway

Name	Reclamation	Area in ha	Type *)	Latitudes	Longitudes	Elevation in m+MSL	Land use
Stokke Lake Polder	1906	400	RLL	58° 55' N	5° 41' E	10	Agriculture
Total		400					

*) RLL = reclaimed low-lying land; LGS = land gained on the sea; DL = drained lake