

# Welcome to Tvedestrand – Time is on your side

*- We would like to welcome you to Tvedestrand, our beautiful community by the sea.*

Tvedestrand is an idyllic village by the sea, with white wooden houses, hills and slopes, narrow streets and a popular harbour for both sailing boats and motor boats.

In summer our harbour area is crowded, yet with a relaxed atmosphere. Open-air restaurants on the seafront offer fresh seafood, and along the narrow streets you will find restaurants, cafes, pubs and a variety of shops. The old town hall is located by the harbour.

The town is originally built around Næs Ironworks, which is now the largest museum in the area. Visit Næs Jernverksmuseum and you will experience the exciting story of the iron works.

In summer we can offer a number of events:

- coastal heritage festival: [www.kystkulturuka.no](http://www.kystkulturuka.no))
- gospel festival: [www.sginfo.no](http://www.sginfo.no)
- regatta
- late night shopping

Tvedestrand is also one of two book towns in Norway, with book shops offering a broad selection of fiction and non-fiction books. In many of the picturesque wooden houses you will find second hand books for collectors and enthusiasts in general. All year around there are events connected to books and literature.

Places to see:

The Independent described our coastline as “the coolest Riviera” in Europe. It offers beautiful scenery and is an Eldorado for swimming, fishing, diving and sailing. Places like Lyngør, Borøya and Sandøya are well worth visiting. Lyngør is one of the places in Norway with the most sunny days per year.

Lyngør has been awarded “Best preserved village in Europe”. It has architecture from the illustrious days of the tall ships. The arrival of the steam boats put a stop to Lyngør’s glory days, the jobs disappeared, and most of inhabitants followed. The houses are now used as summer cottages. Lyngør consists of several island. In winter the population is ca. 100, but during summer it’s probably around 1000. There are no cars in Lyngør, only narrow paths. To get to Lyngør, you can go by boat from Gjeving.

Gjeving is characterized by a number of summer cottages and international tourism. In the centre of Gjeving you will find Gjeving marina and Lyngørfjoren marina where life pulsates from early spring until late autumn. The new cottage hamlets and the holiday centre are designed with the intention of combining contemporary facilities with the coastal architecture and atmosphere of times gone by. Here you can enjoy the scenery from the quayside area, or rent a boat and make a trip to the skerries.

The Sandøya islands belong to the municipality of Tvedestrand. This is an active local community with a grocery shop and a primary school, boatbuilders and active craftsmen. The island has a regular boat service, and it is only a short boat trip to the mainland.

If you come by boat to Tvedestrand, we recommend a visit to the idyllic island called Furøya. Here you can experience the atmosphere of the former holiday residence of a wealthy family, and stroll along the idyllic footpaths through an old, restored cultural landscape. The island has a diverse vegetation with a number of ballast plants, and is perfect for hiking.

Nes Ironworks museum is a unique technical/industrial cultural monument. Here you will find an 17<sup>th</sup> century ironworks which is basically intact, with several interesting buildings. The ironworks at Nes originated from the Barbu ironworks, which was established in Arendal in 1573. In 1665 the technical equipment was moved to Nes. Visit Nes Jernverksmuseum.

The Storelva river which flows past Nes Ironworks, is one of the best salmon and sea trout rivers on the south coast.

There is an 18 hole golf course at Nes Verk, close to the Ironworks museum.

Tvedestrand in brief:

Location:	Southern Norway, part of the Aust-Agder county Arendal, the county capital is 20 minutes away by car/bus
Size:	216,6 square kilometres, 16 islands (16 square km) and a 214 km coastline
Community centre:	Tvedestrand
Accessibility:	Ferry/boat from Denmark to Larvik or Kristiansand, 1 ½ by car/bus to Tvedestrand. From Oslo you can go by bus or train, or by plane to Kjevik airport in Kristiansand or Torp airport by Sandefjord.
Population:	5.920
Demography:	About 70 % of the population live outside the community centre.
Holiday cottages:	There are about 2000 holiday cottages in the community.
Main industries:	Wooden products (kitchens, window frames, stairs, furniture), Engineering industry
Employment:	About 46 % of the total work force are employed outside the community
Languages:	Norwegian (English is widely spoken)
Local administration:	Tvedestrand municipality

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Town council: The town council consists of 25 elected representatives. It is chaired by the mayor, and members are elected for a four-year period. The town council makes decisions on major issues concerning the community budget, development of the community and the services provided to the citizens.

Distances: Larvik 120 km (harbour, direct sea route from Fredrikshavn in Denmark)  
Sandefjord 150 km (harbour, direct sea route from Strømstad in Sweden)