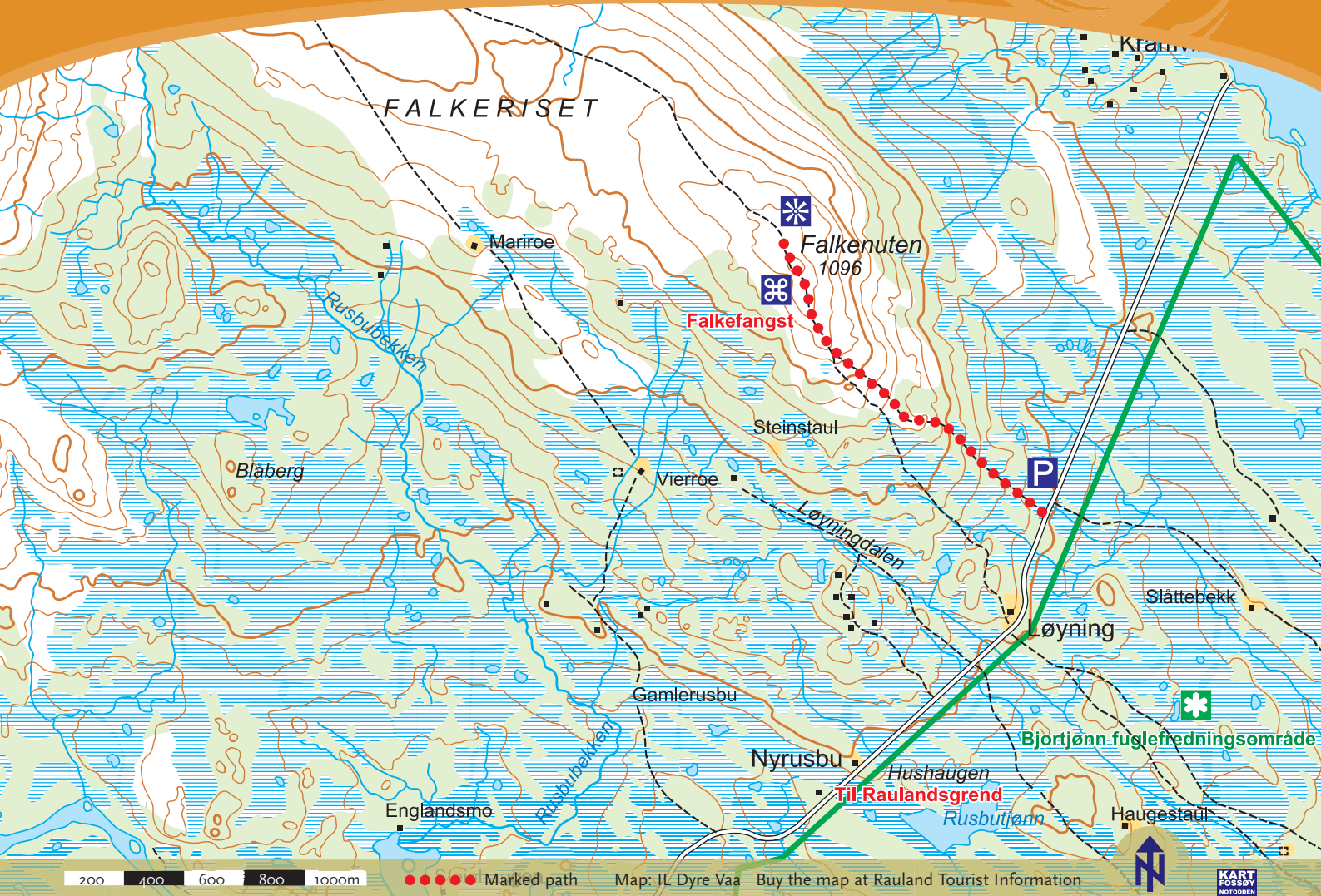


Rauland

PANORAMIC VIEWS OF HARDANGERVIDDA Falkenuten



Walk 1 h 3 km



WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR



WILD REINDEER
Find out more about wild reindeer at www.villrein.no



BEARBERRIES
Turn the mountainsides red in the fall



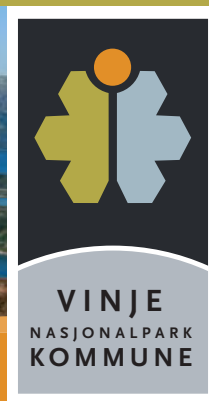
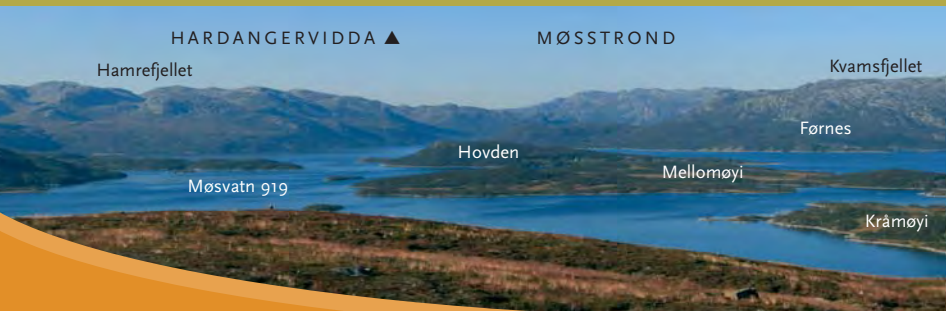
DWARF CORNEL
Birds like to eat the red fruit of this plant



PURPLE GENTIAN
Now rare, as a result of picking and medicinal use



CLOUDBERRIES
Cloudberry crème is a gourmet dessert





Family hike, 1 h round trip
Moderate
Elevation 950–1,096 m



Hiking map: Rauland
General map:
Møsstrand 1514 IV



Accessible
July 1–October 15



Book: Fjellbygdi ved Møsvatn by Øystein Kostveit

Nature and cultural history

A family-friendly hike through beautiful mountain scenery with panoramic views of Hardangervidda, Gaustatoppen and Møsstrand. Parts of the hike are across boggy moorland, so watertight footwear is essential.

The trail starts at the information board on the left-hand side of the road. The trail climbs gently from the car park to Falkenuten. Several parallel paths lead to the summit, where you can enjoy a picnic and the splendid view in all directions. From Falkenuten, you can head further into the mountains on an unmarked trail or return by the same route and admire the view of Gaustatoppen.



“INCREDIBLE THAT PEOPLE ACTUALLY LIVE HERE”

Ever since people followed the wild reindeer north at the end of the last ice age, there has been human habitation around Hardangervidda. At Møsstrand, traces have been found of the inhabitants of the Stone Age community at Mogen, at the north end of Møsvatn. Today, Norway's highest village has about 150 residents. Some of them keep livestock on farms with no road access, such as Førnes. The road ends at Varland, where the “waterway” across Møsvatn begins. The lack of roads enables many Møsstrand residents to make a living from providing transport by boat and snowmobile, in addition to farming, hunting, fishing and tourism. From Falkenuten you can see “downtown” Møsstrand: the island of Hovden with the church and the former boarding school.

If you would like to see more of this mountain community with no roads, which is the closest gateway to Hardangervidda, take a cruise on board the Fjellvåken II.



Gyrfalcon

A ROYAL COMMODITY

Falkenuten takes its name from falcon hunting, an important business in these parts until the 18th century. Dutch falconers used to live in stone huts below Falkenuten and hunt the world's biggest falcon, the gyrfalcon. If they managed to catch a couple of falcons each summer, they could make a good living. They sold the falcons to kings and princes in Europe, where the birds were trained to catch pheasant and other game. You can still see the remains of the stone huts below Falkenuten, and northwest of the summit was the catching ground. Gyrfalcon, merlin and common kestrel still nest in the mountains around Falkenuten.



WILD REINDEER NEED HARDANGERVIDDA

You are close to wild reindeer country. Norway is, to all extents and purposes, the only country in Europe with remaining vestigial populations of the original wild mountain reindeer. The 8,000–8,500 specimens that inhabit Hardangervidda make up more than a quarter of all the wild reindeer in Norway. The large, continuous unspoiled area makes the plateau particularly attractive to wild reindeer. Because the herds migrate between seasonal pastures and calving areas over the course of the year, they need a wide area. Wild reindeer are at their most vulnerable on the winter pasture and in the calving season. The area around Falkenuten is an important calving area, so please help us protect the wild reindeer by not visiting the area between May 15 and July 1. If you see the wild reindeer, consider yourself very lucky. Don't try to follow the animals, but stand quietly and enjoy this rare sight.

Learn more about wild reindeer at www.villrein.no.

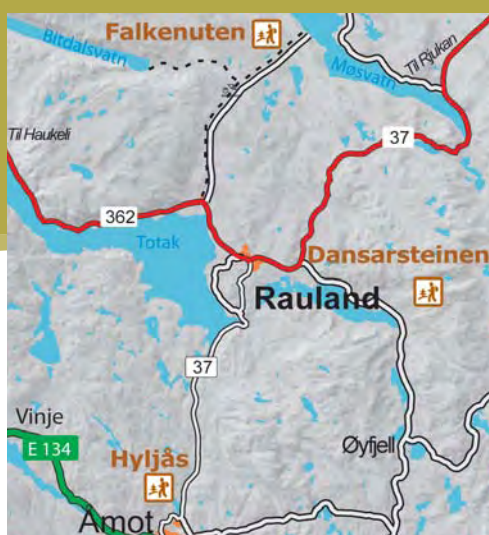
Driving directions

Start in Rauland village.

Take Hwy 362 in the direction of Haukeli.

After 4 km turn off to the right towards Kromviki.

Follow Kromvikvegen (gravel road) for 10.5 km until you reach a car park on the right. GPS: 32V 448613, 6629521



Distance to Falkenuten from:

Rauland/Krossen	... 25 min	15 km
Åmot	... 45 min	33 km
Øyfell	... 45 min	35.5 km
Skinnarbu	... 50 min	41 km
Haukeli/Edland	... 1 h	45 km
Rjukan	... 1 h 10 min	60 km

Please take all garbage home with you. Dogs must be kept on a leash. Take care around grazing livestock and close all gates behind you. You are responsible for your own safety. Enjoy the walk!

