

Around the Skipsfjell

T-marked route

Length: 5.0 km (3.1 miles)

Total ascent: 150 m (490 feet)

GPS tracking: <https://maphub.net/udiskoven/kvitaavatnfjellstoge>

Duration: approximately 2 hours (suitable for kids).

A great family hike, with a beautiful view at the end of the route looking over Rjukan, Kvitåvatn area and the Gaustatoppen. Looking towards north you will see over Hardangervidda National Park.

The hike takes about 2 hours and is suitable for kids. You will reach 1100 metres (3609 feet) above sea level.

The best hiking direction for this route is anticlockwise. The first part of the walk is upwards following the skiing trails. When leaving the trails you will walk near the forest edge where the tracks become rockier. When you reach the east side of Ørnenipa you will find a small track (green route) bringing you directly to the top. This small track is a bit challenging but can also be great fun for kids, as they will feel like real mountain climbers.

A 1:15,000 map can be purchased in Fjellstuen.

Ørnenipa

T-marked route (same way up as down)

Length: 10.8 km (6.7 miles)

Total ascent: 390 m (1280 feet)

GPS tracking: <https://maphub.net/udiskoven/kvitaavatnfjellstoge>

A beautiful hike up in the highlands, walking through a variety of grounds whilst slowly increasing in ascent towards the top. This route is a good first step towards mountain climbing.

The hike takes about 4 hours and you will reach 1333 metres (4373 feet) above sea level. From the top you will get a beautiful view towards Gaustatoppen, Tuddal, Vestfjordsdalen and Tinnsjøen.

Alternative route down from Ørnenipa:

If you are a more experienced hiker you can take this alternative route down from Ørnenipa, following the green marks on the map.

NB The route does not have T-marks to follow – therefore you will need experience with reading a map and using a compass.

This route is 1.8 km (1.12 miles) longer and brings you through stunning highlands with lakes and small streams. For the last part of the route from the high-voltage power line you will follow a small track, ending out in a bigger dirt road.

A 1:15,000 map can be purchased in Fjellstuen.

Toreskykja

T-marked route (same way up as down)

Length: 8.8 km (5.5 miles)

Total ascent: 430 m (1411 feet) – alternative route down: 510 m (1673 ft)

GPS tracking: <https://maphub.net/udiskoven/kvitaavatnfjellstoge>

A beautiful and challenging hike with a fabulous view from the top at 1364 metres (4475 feet) above sea level.

The hike takes about 5 hours and is fairly challenging with rocky ground and steep climbs. After you have passed the Kvitåvatn you walk through challenging forest. Sometimes you will find this part of the route to be muddy. In the forest and the following part of the hike are the steepest climbs of the route. When you reach above the forest edge the route becomes flatter and the view back towards the Kvitåvatn is fabulous. The final part of the hike will again become challenging with rocky ground and narrow tracks.

Alternative route down from Toreskyrkja:

Follow the green marks on the map.

NB This route does not have T-marks to follow – therefore you will need experience with reading a map and using a compass.

You have two options:

The first route to follow brings you back towards Fjellstuen east and north around the Kvitåvatn. This route is approximately 3.5 km (2.2 miles) longer than the direct route down.

The other route brings you past Langefonn towards the road Tuddalvejen. From Tuddalvajejen you can drive back if you have parked your car here in advance. This route is approximately 0.2 km (0.12 miles) longer than the direct route down.

Both routes bring you through stunning highlands with lakes and small streams.

Gaustatoppen

T-marked route (same way up as down)

Length: 8.6 km (5.43 miles)

Total ascent: 660 m (2165 feet)

Duration: approximately 4 hours

Gaustatoppen is the highest mountain in Telemark and the southern part of Norway. The hike towards the top has several beautiful viewpoints and on a clear day you will be able to see one-sixth (1/6) of Norway from the top. This track from Stavsro is wide and easy to follow. However, the ground is rocky with small as well as bigger stones. The last part of the route towards the top is a steep and rocky climb, until you reach the small tourist hut near the tower at the top of Gaustatoppen.

The route to Gaustatoppen from Stavro is a family friendly hike, suitable for fit adults and children who are used to being active. If you decide to start the hike from Svineroi the hike will be shorter but also steeper.

In addition, Gaustabanen provides an opportunity for smaller kids or people with disabilities to reach the top and enjoy the beautiful view. This is a train line going from Svineroi (at the route Tuddalvejen) through the highlands and brings you to the top of Gaustatoppen. It is open for tourists during the Summer season. Check the opening hours here: <http://www.gaustabanen.no/en/>

Do you choose to park your car at the parking area near Stavsro (payment required) and take the Gaustabanen down, you can get a free bus back to the parking area. This way you only have to walk up and can avoid the challenging walk down from the top, in case your energy has run out.

The tourist hut at the top of Gaustatoppen is built of rocks and stones collected from the top of the mountain, and has been used to serve visitors since 1893. Until the start of September, as well as during selected weekends in autumn, they will be serving Norwegian waffles, coffee and other drinks from the hut. Check the opening hours here: <https://www.ut.no/hytte/3.2352/>

From the tower at the top of Gaustatoppen you will be able to climb further up to the final top of the mountain in 1883 metres (6178 feet) above sea level. This climb is not suitable for children or people with a fear of heights.

In the high season you can take the Fjellbus from Kvitåvatn Fjellstue (Gaustablikk) to Stavsro. You are able to pay by card both on the bus, Gaustabanen and in the tourist hut.

The recommended route from Fjellstuen to Svineroi and Stavsro are 4.5 km (2.8 miles) and 7.5 km (4.66 miles), respectively.