

## ASPIRING TROLLFJELL GEOPARK – GEOLOGY AND LANDSCAPE AT SØR-HELGELAND AND LEKA, CENTRAL NORWAY

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A geopark is an area with an exceptional geological heritage of international significance, where geotourism, sustainable development and education are at the forefront. The aspiring Trollfjell Geopark, central Norway, is established upon the knowledge and impression of a rich and unique geological heritage. In the autumn 2015, the geopark submitted an application to become members in the Global Geoparks Network (GGN).

The geological attractions in the geopark area are unique and diverse. The ophiolite complex at the island Leka is designated as the Geological Monument of Norway, and here you can walk on MOHO, the boundary between the Earth's crust and the mantle. The famous hole through the mountain Torghatten is one of Norway's most visited tourist attractions. In Trollfjell Geopark you can experience the outstanding landscape feature called the strandflat as a wide archipelago with a myriad of more than 13 000 islands, 6500 of which comprise a UNESCO World Heritage Area, the Vega Archipelago. The geology is the foundation for a landscape rich in resources, where the early humans settled around the rising mountains and gathered food in the shallow sea. The apparent link between geology, landscape, biodiversity and cultural history is quite distinctive – the area has been inhabited for more than 11 000 years.

The aim in Trollfjell Geopark is to raise our sights beyond the national sphere and view geological heritage and natural and cultural assets as a single entity in a region that has much in common. Trollfjell Geopark is intended to contribute to make the area more attractive and to create values by facilitating geotourism and world-class activities and experiences based on the exceptional geological history and features.

In this presentation, we aim to present the concept and principles of the aspiring geopark as well as the geological attractions in the area.