

WE4OUT

GUIDE 05

The western fjords in 10 days

Bergen to the Atlantic Road over Sognefjellet and Trollstigen and three ferries — with the queues, the closures and the bills accounted for.

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Read this first

Ten days, roughly 840 km, three car ferries, two big mountain passes and one of the most photographed landscapes in Europe. The driving is not hard. What goes wrong on this route is almost always one of four things, and all four are decided before you turn the key.

THE RULE

One — a pass that has not opened. The high roads here are seasonal and the dates move by weeks. Sognefjellet opened on 2 April in 2026; Statens vegvesen gives previous openings between 12 April and 1 May¹. Gamle Strynefjellsvegen has previous openings on 15 May and 29 June². Plan for June to September and check the week you leave — chapter 14 says where.

Two — the wrong ferry setup. A prepayment agreement gives private customers 50 % off fares on ferries in the AutoPASS for ferry scheme; a tag without that agreement gives 10 %, and manual payment on board gives no discount at all³. It cannot be fixed at the quay.

Three — a vehicle that is too long. On Gamle Strynefjellsvegen vehicles that are more than 8 metres long and have an axle load of more than 8 tonnes will be banned from driving from Grotli to the Vestland county boundary² — Statens vegvesen joins the two conditions with “and”; the signs on site decide, so treat any vehicle over 8 m as unwelcome there — and on Trollstigen there are restrictions on the length of buses and the maximum length is 13.3 metres⁴. Chapter 15 has the rest.

Four — assuming nothing will be full. The road ferries cannot be booked and do not need to be. Beds in Geiranger, Flåm and Åndalsnes in July can be, and must be.

What this guide is, and is not

A route you can drive as written, with each day’s real problem named: distance, a driving time that already includes a ferry wait, the crossings the day needs, where to sleep, what is worth stopping for, what is crowded or easy to skip. Then seven chapters on what is the same every day — ferries, passes, long vehicles, seasons and weather, the World Heritage rules, money, and the words and checklists.

It will not quote you a hotel, a campsite, a fuel price or a meal. Those move weekly, we cannot date them honestly, and a guide that prints them is lying to you within a month. Where two official sources disagree, both are printed and we say which way to bet. Where a source says nothing, the guide says so.

WHERE THIS COMES FROM

On distances. Kilometres in the day headings are rounded planning distances and they are ours, not a measurement from an official register: your figure changes with where you sleep and which side roads you take. Where Statens vegvesen publishes a length for a stretch, that number is quoted and sourced. Every other figure in this guide carries a source and the date we read it.

On the verdicts. “Worth it”, “Busiest” and “Easy to skip” are our editorial judgement, built from the sourced facts printed beside them. They are not reports of a visit, and nothing in this guide claims that we timed a stop or stood in a queue for you.