

**Information about the project
«From the fjord to the glacier – through the
mountain»**

**A tunnel to the Tverr Mountain and the Jostedal
Glacier in Jølster**



Background

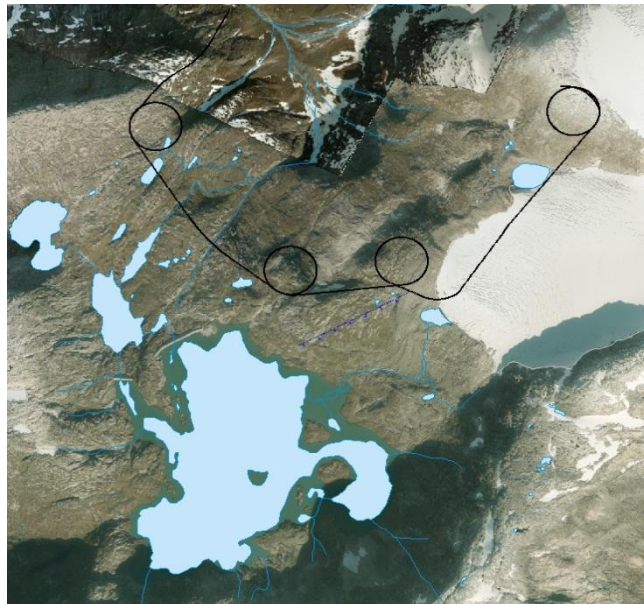
For 150 years the glacier and fjord landscape in Western Norway has been one of the major and most unique tourist destinations in Norway. The glacier arms are decreasing and attractions like the Briksdal Glacier and the Bøya Glacier are losing some of the magic that make them attractive. It is therefore becoming more and more clear that innovative forces should join up to facilitate the creation of new destinations and new flagship attractions built on the same old glacier tradition that made Western Norway world famous already in the late 1800s.

Jølster municipality is located in the center of Sogn og Fjordane county. Skei, the community center, is the meeting point of the main regional roads in Western Norway, rv5 (east-west) and E39 (north-south). Glaciers cover 22 % of the area in Jølster. A part of Jostedal Glacier National Park, which is the 4th largest national park in Norway, is located in the municipality. The Jostedal Glacier (487 km²) is the largest mainland glacier in Europe. This has provided Jølster with a 140 years long tradition of guided glacier walks.

The business community in Jølster has launched the idea of constructing a road which will be accessible all year round to the top of the Tverr Mountain. Making this project reality, can provide positive effects both locally, regionally and nationally in the further marketing of Norway as a tourist destination. It will also be an important supplement for the knowledge communities doing research on glaciers and their secrets, on climate change and landscaping.

What does the project include?

The beginning of the tunnel is planned by the Fjærland tunnel on the rv5 and it will then continue to the left towards Lundaskaret and into a spiral. It will then go under the lake Langevatnet into two new spirals and continue up to a hall inside the Tverr Mountain (1480 m). The total length of the tunnel will be about 9 kilometers and the average rise will be 11,5% (picture to the right). The tunnel exit will be by the lake Trollavatnet, and the road will continue outside for a short distance before entering into the mountain again where it will end up in a mountain hall. Parking for 5 buses is planned in the hall inside the mountain, and visitors will exit here to experience the glacier and its surroundings.



Alternative solutions as a road going outside or the use of a cable car have also been considered. However, these options have been discarded because they would cause

a bigger impact on nature and it would also be more visible in the landscape. It would also become a bigger challenge concerning the maintenance, both from a financial perspective and considering the changing weather conditions.

The Tverr Mountain

The Tverr Mountain is located at the very end of the Kjøsnestjørd, 1480 meters above sea level. The mountain is a well known landmark that can be seen both from the road (E39) alongside the lake Jølstravatnet, and from the road (rv5) between Jølster and Fjærland.



At the edge of the Jostedal Glacier National Park is a beautiful view north towards the glacier and the Jotunheimen-mountains, as well as towards the south west and the coastline where you can see the ocean in the horizon. Further down in the valley you will see Jølster with its green valley's extending towards the glacier.

It will be possible to accomplish the tunnel project without leaving visible traces in the landscape, or installations in the Jostedal Glacier National Park.

The largest class room for climate studies in Norway

The cooperation with R&D communities like the Norwegian Glacier Museum in Fjærland, the Sogn og Fjordane University College and the research institute Vestlandsforskning in Sogndal will be important for the project. This will become the location of the largest class room for climate studies in Norway, which will be providing new people with knowledge about the secrets of the glacier and of landscaping and climate change. This will be presented inside the mountain, before entering outside on the glacier. There will be as little impact and installations as possible in the nature and the outside will only be a place where you can stand and admire the view of the glacier.



What kind of input do we need from similar projects?

Our vision is that a tunnel to the top of the Tverrr Mountain shall become a new flagship project for tourism in Norway. At the same time it shall also be a project where knowledge dissemination takes place. Thus, we are interested in getting in contact with others that have:

- Built mountain tunnels with attraction value for tourism. We are looking for knowledge about technical solutions, challenges experienced concerning investment and concerning the operational side.
- Knowledge communities working on or representing best practice in raising awareness on the climate challenges of today.

