



# Stage 2: BØ > ANDENES

The Arctic Race of Norway 2026 will be broadcast in 190 countries, offering a unique opportunity to showcase your city and its surroundings to a global audience. Every year, cycling fans from all over the world tune in to enjoy not only the thrilling sporting action, but also the stunning natural beauty of Northern Norway and the possibilities for people living up there.

We kindly ask for your support in preparing the mediabook for ARN 2026. This document outlines key points of interest along the race route and will be shared with our TV production teams to help guide both ground and aerial cameramen.

<p><b>Bleik Beach</b></p> <p>Bleik Beach is one of the longest and most beautiful white-sand beaches in northern Norway, framed by dramatic mountains and the open Atlantic Ocean. The area offers stunning views toward Bleik island, a protected bird island that hosts one of Norway's largest puffin colonies.</p>		
<p><b>Andøya Space Center</b></p> <p>The Andøya Space Center is a unique scientific and educational facility dedicated to space research, atmospheric studies, and rocket launches. Visitors can explore exhibitions about auroras, satellites, and space technology, making it both educational and family-</p>		

friendly. The center plays an important role in international space research and offers insight into how the Arctic location supports cutting-edge science.

### **Risøyrenna**

Carved through the narrow waters of Risøysundet, Risøyrenna is a man-made shipping channel between Andøya and Hinnøya, officially opened in 1922. The channel played a vital role in trade, transport, and business development throughout Vesterålen. By allowing larger vessels to pass, Risøyrenna strengthened connections between coastal communities and the rest of the world. Today, this passage remains both a working waterway and a lasting symbol of how the sea has shaped life, commerce, and movement in Northern Norway.



(Foto: Nordfra)

**Andenes Lighthouse  
(Andenes Fyr)**

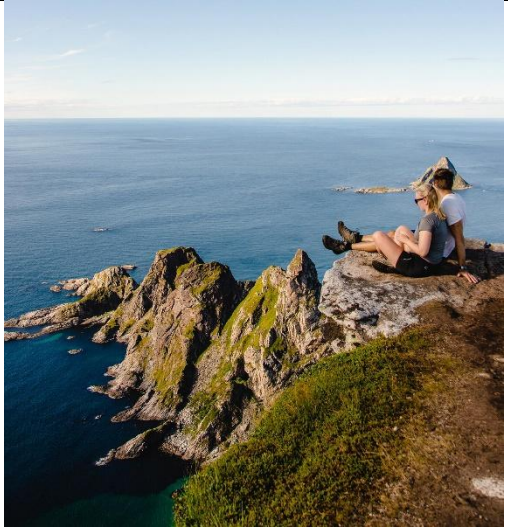

Andenes Lighthouse is a historic coastal landmark that has guided ships safely along the northern coast since the mid-19th century. Located right at the edge of the village, it offers panoramic views over the ocean and surrounding landscapes. The lighthouse area is closely connected to local maritime history and is a great place to learn about life in a traditional fishing community.



**Whale Watching center**

Andenes is one of the best places in Europe for year-round whale watching, thanks to the deep ocean just off the coast. The Whale Watching Center provides exhibitions about marine life, migration patterns, and conservation. Guided boat tours depart directly from the harbor, offering a high chance of seeing sperm whales, orcas, and humpbacks in their natural habitat.



<p><b>Matinden</b></p> <p>Måtinden in Andøy is one of Vesterålen's most frequently visited mountains.</p> <p>An altitude of 408 does not sound like much, but the spectacular view from Måtinden is out of this world. From the summit you will glance down at craggy mountains, white sandy beaches, endless oceans and the idyllic Bleik Island, which is the home of bird species like puffins, razorbills, guillemots, cormorants and eagles.</p>		
<p><b>Puffin Safari</b></p> <p>90 minute trip to the seabird colony on the island of Bleiksøya, one of Norway's most famous bird cliffs. Among others 80,000 pairs of puffins.</p> <p>Other species: cormorants, razorbills and guillemots. White-tailed sea eagles are seen on every trip.</p>		

### **Andenes : 2,530 inhabitants**

Andenes developed as an important fishing community, with the sea forming the basis of its economy and growth.

For centuries, fishing and maritime activity structured everyday life and social organization.

The town expanded significantly in the 19th and 20th centuries as fishing techniques and trade modernized.

Harsh weather and remote conditions required strong organization and

cooperation among residents.

During the 20th century, Andenes gained additional importance through scientific and technical activities. These new roles diversified the local economy beyond traditional fishing.

Today, Andenes functions as a regional center combining fisheries, research, and services.

Modern infrastructure supports both industry and daily life.

The town continues to balance tradition with innovation.

Andenes represents a community shaped by maritime heritage and contemporary development.