



# SONS of NORWAY



March 2021  
Walworth County, WI

## Norsemen of the Lakes 5-650

Greetings, Norsemen: I am again saluting you from AZ; however, I will be home March 17th to the 21st for some personal business. If there is anything I can do for you while I'm home, please, please don't hesitate to contact me. I'd be happy to see what I can do.

I hope you have been able to receive your vaccination. We received our first one last Sunday. I'll get my second one on the 28th. I had no reactions, other than a tender arm, which is about what I get with the flu vaccine.

As you may remember from the last edition, I told you that Erling Hansen returned to the US. Through clerical error, he is not going to be a member of the Norsemen, but of the Kristiania Lodge in Rochester, MN, which makes much more sense for him, but is a loss for us. We know, however, he will be a great addition to Sons of Norway wherever he lands. *Corlene*



### Gratulerer med dagen

#### March Birthdays

Hadley Frost	6th
Braden Schnabel	27th
Kaitlyn Fuller	31st
Mitchell Fuller	31st

### Don't Forget to watch *Atlantic Crossing*

A true friendship forged in war is portrayed by Kyle MacLachlan as U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt and Swedish star Sofia Helin as Norwegian Crown Princess Martha in *Atlantic Crossing*, **airing in eight episodes on PBS MASTERPIECE beginning Sunday, April 4 at 8 p.m. central.**

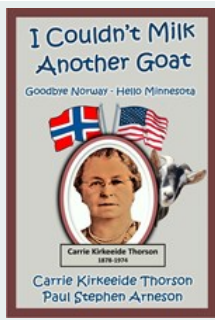
This international co-production opens in 1939 and probes the rarely told story of Norway's struggle against Nazi invasion and occupation. While the King and Prince Olav escape to England and set up a government-in-exile, Martha and children make their hazardous way to America and are taken in at the White House by FDR. This sets the stage for an epic drama that mixes war and diplomacy, desire and jealousy. And for Martha, the whole experience is an education like no other, as she is forced to play the roles of public figure, confidante, statesman, and single mother, while anxiously awaiting the outcome of a war that may transform her nation. Watch the just-released trailer at [pbs.org/masterpiece](https://pbs.org/masterpiece)

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Greetings .....	1
Atlantic Crossing .....	1
Book review .....	2
Glaciers Awake .....	2
Sports Figures .....	3
Covid Elderly Drama .....	3
Finns & Leisure .....	4
Trollsteigen Drive .....	5
Vaccine Passport .....	6

#### KALENDAR

Let's all hope and pray for extermination of the Covid 19 virus by spring so we can resume some semblance of normalcy.



### Embrace Simple Koselig pleasures with a Good Book!

Have you wondered what the immigrant experience was like for those who left Norway to make a new life in North America? Here are three authors who've written books to satisfy your curiosity. You can find them at retailers such as Bookshop.org, Scandinavian specialty stores. Not available in our library system.

***I Couldn't Milk Another Goat: Goodbye Norway – Hello Minnesota*** by Sons of Norway Member Paul Stephen Arneson and Carrie Kirkeeide Thorson. This book shares the stories of Paul Arneson's Norwegian immigrant grandmother. One reader said, "Of particular interest to me were the descriptions and personal stories of Carrie Kirkeeide's early years in her small Norwegian farm home. Putting descriptions of her childhood and adolescent years together with the photos I have of my ancestors' farm, I can better imagine my own family history."

Norwegian immigrant, historian, and Sons of Norway member Odd Lovoll has written several books on the Norwegian immigrant experience.

***Across the Deep Blue Sea: The Saga of Early Norwegian Immigrants*** tells the story of Norwegians who came to North America through Canadian ports from 1850 until the late 1860s. And in Lovoll's 2018 memoir, ***Two Homelands: A Historian Considers His Life and Work***, he writes about his life with compelling insights into the reasons for staying in Norway and for choosing emigration.

If you'd prefer a novel about the immigrant experience, consider a work of historical fiction. Based on the author's family and real Norwegian immigrants who homesteaded in California, ***Norske Fields: A Novel of Southern California's Norwegian Colony*** was published in 2020 by award-winning author Anne Schroeder.

# Almost 40 Glaciers on Svalbard Have Woken Up

Bård Amundsen *JOURNALIST*

Glaciers respond to climate change in a number of different ways. Some become more passive. Others begin to move and can release large amounts of ice. After many years of "sleep," these glaciers are now advancing at full speed. Last winter brought little snow to Svalbard. Then the summer brought record heat.

As expected, this led to the loss of mass from a number of glaciers on Svalbard, and several glaciers retreated. At the same time, a number of glaciers are now experiencing a special phenomenon that glacier researchers call a surge.

These are glaciers that have lost a lot of mass — but where the glacier front is still rapidly moving forward. Many of these glaciers have woken up after 50 to 100 years of "sleep." Four glacier researchers reported the phenomenon in an article in [Svalbardposten](#) (link in Norwegian), which was quoted by the website [geoforskning.no](#).

### Dangerous glaciers

"There are a lot of surging glaciers on Svalbard right now," says Jack Kohler. Kohler, a senior researcher at the Norwegian Polar Institute, warns that these glaciers can be particularly dangerous for people travelling on Svalbard. "The scary thing about surging glaciers is that they can appear to be safe, over many decades. Then they begin to advance," says Kohler. "Then dangerous crevasses can appear in places where snowmobile riders and skiers have not seen them before."

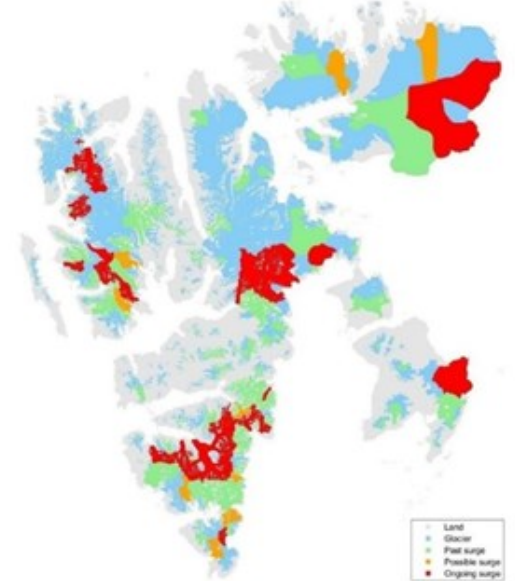
An even greater danger is if the crevasses are buried and invisible under snow bridges. Whether or not the snow bridges are strong enough to support a snowmobile or skier depends on both the amount of snow and how well the snow cover has settled.

### Can move very fast

Satellite images show that almost 40 glaciers on Svalbard are now in a surge phase. Another 11 glaciers show signs of surge activation, including the well-known Kongsvegen near Ny-Ålesund. At its fastest, a surging glacier can move tens of meters forward in one day. The glaciers on Svalbard are known for having been "asleep" for a long time. The usual period is 50 to 100 years, after which they can begin to surge for several years.

### Growing and shrinking

The glaciers on Svalbard grow in the winter and shrink in the summer. The sum of this growth and shrinkage is called the glacial mass balance. Since the mid-1960s, the Norwegian Polar Institute has measured this process, and now has one of the longest such time series in the world. This is how researchers were able to see that the glaciers they have monitored have melted more than usual in recent decades. This is completely in line with what glacier researchers are seeing elsewhere in the world.



The red areas show Svalbard glaciers that are now undergoing a glacier phenomenon called a surge. (Illustration: Jack Kohler)

Climate change is undoubtedly the most important cause.

### Cause unknown

But the cause of increase in dangerous crevasses in Svalbard's glaciers is due to more than increased summer temperatures. "Surging is also a cause," Kohler says. The researchers don't know for certain whether or not the phenomenon of surging is linked to warmer temperatures on Svalbard. They also don't know much about why glaciers may suddenly accelerate in the future, as almost 40 Svalbard glaciers do now. "What we know is that something must happen to the water at the bottom of the glacier," says Kohler. "We are convinced that it has something to do with the water pressure on the underside of the glacier. But we need to do more research to find out. Today we are without any definite explanation."

The increase in the supply of meltwater causes the water pressure to rise below the glacier. Most glaciers experience this meltwater increase in the summer. "We believe a surge occurs when the drainage of water under the glacier, doesn't work properly," Kohler says. "Something happens in the interaction between the ice, the water and the sediments on the underside of the glacier, which can make it move forward much faster than before."

### Initiated research project

Glaciologists from the University of Oslo and the Norwegian Polar Institute, along with several other Norwegian and international research institutions, are now starting a research project called MAMMAMIA. The name is an acronym for Multi-scAle-Multi-Method Analysis of Mechanisms causing Ice Acceleration.

The researchers have received what is called free project support from the FRIPRO program, from the Research Council of Norway. The project support will allow them to sink instruments into the glacier ice to study the surge phenomenon. The researchers hope that MAMMAMIA will help them learn more about the poorly understood ice surges on Svalbard.

At the age of 4, **Silje Norendal** strapped on her first snowboard and never looked back. These days, she is turning heads on the international stage. In 2014, Norendal won a gold medal at the Winter X Games in Aspen before heading to the Olympic Games in Sochi, where she competed in the ladies' slopestyle event. Norendal has won four X Games gold medals and is known for her stylish riding and jumping skills. The talented athlete is one of the Top 20 X Games Snowboarders of All-Time.

**Mats Zuccarello** started ice skating on the ponds near Oslo as a child. At age 18, he made his Norwegian hockey league debut, followed by time playing on the Swedish Elite League. He represented Norway at the Vancouver Olympics and soon caught the attention of National Hockey League (NHL) teams. The New York Rangers signed Zuccarello in 2010. Currently, he is only one of eight Norwegians to play in the NHL. Today, the 33-year-old is a talented passer for the Minnesota Wild.

**Johannes Høsflot Klæbo**, 24, is Norway's new cross-country ski phenomenon. His grandfather gave him his first pair of skis for Christmas at the age of 2. Now, the Trondheim native is a superstar athlete. At age 21, Klæbo won three gold medals at the Olympics in Pyeongchang, Korea in 2018, making him the youngest Olympic champion in his sport. He's the youngest male to win the FIS cross-country World Cup, the Tour de Ski, a World Championship event and an Olympic cross-country ski event.

### Norway's Elderly Covid-19 Vaccine Deaths Aren't What They Seem

By GRACE BROWNE

Tuesday 26 January 2021

Thirty three elderly people in Norway died shortly after receiving their Covid-19 vaccine, but a quick look at the numbers will tell you why this shouldn't be surprising

When reports emerged from Norway about a handful of deaths amongst people who had received the Covid-19 vaccine, vocal vaccine deniers were quick to pounce on the news.

On January 14, the Norwegian Medicines Agency (Noma) reported that 23 people had died after receiving their first dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine. Those who died were described as having severe underlying health conditions and were all aged 75 or over. (The number of deaths has since risen to 33, out of about 55,000 people who have received the first dose of the vaccine in the country.)

The deaths made international headlines, raising alarm that the (typically mild) side effects of the vaccine could cause the elderly who receive it to die. *Fox News* commentator Jan Morgan posted the news story to Facebook with the caption: "23 die within hours of taking COVID vaccine. ... I've never taken a flu shot and I'm certainly NOT letting anyone inject this garbage in to my body." (The deaths actually happened within six days of the vaccine, according to a statement from the Norwegian Institute of Public Health.)

In Noma's statement, Sigurd Horremo, the agency's chief physician, said that "we cannot rule out that common adverse reactions, such as fever and nausea, may contribute to a more serious course and fatal outcome in some frail patients with severe underlying diseases." But on January 19, the Norwegian Institute of Public Health released a statement saying that no link had been established between Pfizer/BioNTech's vaccine and any post-vaccination deaths in the country. The World Health Organization (WHO) echoed the sentiment in a statement on January 22, saying that it saw no evidence that the vaccine had contributed to the deaths. In yet another statement, Pfizer told *The British Medical Journal* that it is working with Noma to investigate the deaths, but that "the number of incidents so far is not alarming, and in line with expectations".



# How are the Finns Adapting to Indoor Leisure?

Helsinki Times 22 FEBRUARY 2021

For Finland, winter is the longest season, lasting for roughly one hundred days in the southwestern region of the country and roughly two hundred days in Lapland. Close to the Arctic Circle, there are also, of course, polar nights which involve days of complete darkness. As a result of these cold and dark nights, Finns have adapted to indoor leisure over the centuries. In neighboring Scandinavian countries, concepts such as *hygge* and *lagom* have become increasingly popular as countries around the world take inspiration in the ways in which Nords, including the Finns, are able to enjoy the indoor environment.

## Indoor saunas

There is nothing quite like entering a sauna on a frigid winter's day – saunas provide warmth, relaxation for aching muscles, comfort, and release, and are the perfect way to end a cold winter's day. Finnish saunas are such a large part of the culture that they are even part of the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List as of 17 December 2020. Traditional saunas in Finland are typically heated by wood which is burned in a custom stove.



Many Finnish people regularly go to the saunas, and a huge proportion of the population even have saunas in their homes or on their properties. If you are looking to relax, sweat out your concerns, and unknot your muscles, going to the sauna is one of the best possible things you can do.

## Kalsarikänni

[Kalsarikänni](#) roughly translates to “drinking at home alone in your underwear.” While Kalsarikänni may seem somewhat limited, it is a truly enjoyable form of indoor leisure. Enjoying the activity of drinking in your underpants does not require that you adopt an entirely new aesthetic, revamp your mindset, or read specialist books on the subject.

Instead, you can simply enjoy an affordable pleasure – drinking alcohol in your underpants without worrying about having to venture out into the snow later on. Even if enjoying a few drinks in your underpants might seem silly, or you're reluctant to partake in the most literal sense, it is really a reaffirmation of the importance of self-care and comfort, and of doing something specifically for yourself.

## Online games and apps

Another way Finnish people have adapted to indoor leisure activities over the cold winter months has been through online gaming platforms, apps, and sites. When the winter months begin, many gamers who previously would have played with friends at home or in game-rooms, have to play online, which together with increased use of the streaming services puts a high demand on internet providers bandwidths. Also many who visited their local casinos, bookmaker's shops, and racecourses stay at home because of concerns about the weather or their own health. During these months, igamers who have never used an online casino or platform will suddenly not have a place to go to play cards or place bets.

Although playing from home may not provide players with exactly the same experience, this is as close to the real experience as you get during the dark winter nights.

## Arts and crafts

The Finns have also adapted to long days and nights spent indoors by taking up a variety of the arts and working on handicrafts. Finnish art and crafts are known around the world for their simple elegance and beauty. The beauty of traditional Finnish aesthetics together with influences of European, Russian, and Asian artistic movements has created a unique artistic atmosphere and culture for the Finns.

Art is so central to Finnish identity that there is now even a village entirely populated by artists and their families: [Fiskars village](#). Europeans from around the EU have started moving to Fiskars village in order to escape the rat race in major cities and instead enjoy the close proximity to the natural world and deep cultural appreciation for the arts that Fiskars village has.

These are just a handful of the many ways in which Finns have adapted over the centuries to spending long days and nights indoors.

## Trollstigen: Driving Norway's Famous Mountain Pass

August 16, 2020 by David Nikel

Introducing Trollstigen, one of Norway's top driving experiences. This mountain pass, full of hairpin bends, is only open in the summer months, making it a perfect addition to a summer road trip around the Norwegian fjords.

I rarely drive in Norway, so when I do, I like to make the most of it! One of my regular road trip destinations from Trondheim is Geiranger. To get there, I use the hairpin bends of Trollstigen.

Thanks to the visitor center and outstanding viewpoints built at the top of the mountain, the road is now an enjoyable destination in itself. You can easily use up several hours just for the drive and time spent on the walkways and lookout points. I recommend driving both up and down, as long as it's not too busy. Some of the walkways are longer than they seem, too!

### One of Norway's most scenic drives

Trollstigen is surrounded by mighty mountains. To the west: Bispen (1450 m), Kongen (1614 m) and Dronninga (1701 m). To the east: Stigbottshornet (1583 m) and Storgrovfjellet (1629 m).

The mountain pass is the starting (or ending!) point of the Geiranger-Trollstigen national scenic route, one of 18 Norwegian roads that has received substantial government investment. I'd argue it's one of the best.

Along with Trollstigen, the route incorporates the hairpin bends of Ørnesvingen and the spectacular lookout over the Geirangerfjord. There's also the attractive Gudbrandsjuvet gorge and varying mountain landscapes around every bend. Plus, there's a short ferry trip across the Norddalsfjord thrown in too.

You must allow plenty of time for the trip on what is also known as Norway's "golden route." Technically it takes as little as two hours, but you are going to want to make several stops. Trust me on that one!

### Introducing Trollstigen

As you drive southeast from Åndalsnes toward the Trollstigen mountain pass, you get closer and closer to a sheer rock face rising high up into the sky. You won't be the first person to think, "surely this is the end of the road?" But then you spot a car crawling up the mountain face. "Wait a moment, there's a road there?" Indeed, there is.

Trollstigen loosely translates into English as "The Troll's Path". The road links Åndalsnes with the Valldal valley and Geiranger, replacing a historic yet very challenging hiking trail. The hiking trail remains popular with keen hikers and has recently been restored, improving conditions on the climb. However, most people are going to be driving, so we'll stick to talking about the road!

Such is the steepness of the mountain that Trollstigen requires eleven hairpin bends at an incline of 10 percent on its climb up to the 700-metre-high plateau.

The road is mostly single track and although there are several passing points, they're often clogged with parked cars. Where are the drivers? Outside taking photographs, of course.

Approximately halfway up, an old stone bridge crosses the Stigfossen waterfall. The water tumbles more than 300 meters down and depending on the snow-melt and other conditions, the flow can be very impressive indeed.

### The viewing platforms

Primarily known as an attraction for drivers, Trollstigen surprises many by its offering at the summit. The wooden paths around the summit connect you with the rugged mountain landscape. Three impressive viewing platforms allow you to peer down onto the road and valley below. Personally, I recommend you take the walk to all three, as the view and experience is slightly different from each of them. The largest platform dangles above a sheer drop of 200 metres, but the glass and steel construction keeps you safe as you take in the spectacular view of the racetrack-like road below. Just be aware that given the landscape, foggy weather is not unusual!

Opened in 2012, the striking visitor center provides useful facilities for the increasing numbers of visitors. Inside



Photo: Jarle Wæhler / Statens vegvesen



you'll find a cafe and gift shop packed with all the troll-related merchandise you never knew you needed.

### When to visit Trollstigen?

The most important factor when planning a trip here is the time of year. That's because Trollstigen is one of Norway's roads that is subject to a winter closure. The stretch of the scenic route between Langevatnet and Geiranger is typically closed from November to May. Trollstigen itself closes up to a month earlier. However, the actual dates vary each year, sometimes considerably. The decisions are made based on snow cover and weather. You can get the latest information from the website of Norway's Public Roads Administration.

Time your drive to arrive early in the morning or late in the evening to avoid tourist buses. They struggle with the hairpin bends. This can turn an otherwise incredible driving experience into a frustrating one!



## DENMARK TO LAUNCH DIGITAL 'VACCINATION PASSPORT' TO OPEN UP TRAVEL

*The Independent* [Helen Coffey@LenniCoffey](mailto:Helen.Coffey@LenniCoffey) Wednesday 03 February 2021

Denmark has announced plans to launch its very own digital "vaccination passport" to show whether travelers have received the corona virus jab. The hope is that it will help open up travel again and ease restrictions.

Current projections are that "in three, four months, a digital corona passport will be ready for use in, for example, business travel," according to Danish finance minister Morten Bodskov, reports Associated Press. By the end of February, Danish citizens should have access to a website that confirms whether or not they have had the vaccine.

### The countries welcoming vaccinated travelers

The wider digital "passport" will be developed from there. "It will be the extra passport that you will be able to have on your mobile phone that documents that you have been vaccinated," Mr. Bodskov said. "We can be among the first in the world to have it and can show it to the rest of the world."

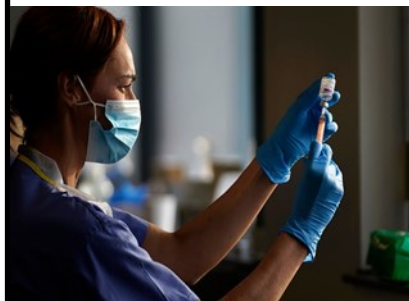
By the end of February, Danish citizens should have access to a website that confirms whether or not they have had the vaccine. He emphasized that opening up travel and Danish society as a whole would be "absolutely crucial" in getting the nation's businesses back on track.

Other global initiatives are currently working to develop a vaccine passport that can be adopted worldwide, with a standardized framework so that border agents in different countries can recognize and trust it. One such project is [CommonPass](#), launched by the World Economic Forum and The Commons Project, a Swiss non-profit foundation. Their original goal was to enable safer, smoother travel, allowing travelers to se-

curely carry their Covid-19 test result in a standardized format that is instantly recognizable to border officials at the country they're entering.

Now that vaccination programs are being rolled out worldwide, this certified, standardized approach could also be applied to proof of immunization. "Without the ability to trust Covid-19 tests – and eventually vaccine records – across international borders, many countries will feel compelled to retain full travel bans and mandatory quarantines for as long as the pandemic persists," said Dr Bradley Perkins, chief medical officer of The Commons Project, at the time of launch. "With trusted individual health data, countries can implement more nuanced health screening requirements for entry."

The project is currently still in its trial stage. The International Air Transport Association (Iata) has also said it is working on a digital platform that will allow passengers to prove their tests and vaccination results "in a verifiable, safe and privacy-protecting manner".



Vaccinated Danes will get digital certification  
(Getty Images)