



Vidaråsen Landsby

WELCOME TO VIDARÅSEN LANDSBY



We are very glad that you are coming to join us and hope that you will enjoy working and living in Vidaråsen. We will do everything possible to make your time in the village an enjoyable and fulfilling experience.

Here you will find some basic information, which can be useful for you as a new co-worker or volunteer in our community.

If there is anything which you feel is important for you to know, but which is not included in this information, please do not hesitate to ask.

YOUR FIRST DAYS IN THE VILLAGE:

- You will have your own room in one of our family houses, where some other co-workers are living together with villagers. Usually there are 4-5 villagers and 3-4 co-workers (One or two house responsible and three other co-workers).
- You will be living with others in the common space, which means that you will share bathrooms and kitchen with others, but you will have your own room



- You will be working in one of our workshops. You will be informed by your house leader as to which one. The first weeks it might happen that you only work in the house.
- Your house leader will tell you about life in the house, villagers who you will be living with, living and working situation, your tasks, working plan etc. Do not hesitate to ask any questions!

FORMALITIES WHICH YOU HAVE TO ATTEND TO DURING THE FIRST DAYS HERE:



1. Call in at the office to fill out some documents. Talk with Trudi, our secretary.
2. If you have not already made an appointment at the Police office, we must urge you to do that immediately on <https://selfservice.udi.no> and register online. On this website you must make an appointment before you can go to the Police office in Stokke. (Sør-Øst politidistrikt – Stokke, Drammen or Skien)

Morten and Trudi in the office can help with all questions about registrations and administration.

WHAT WE WILL LIKE YOU TO DO BEFORE ARRIVING: RESIDENCE PERMIT

Members of the EEC do not need a residence permit, but you will need to register yourselves. You must start with creating an account here; <https://selfservice.udi.no> and register online. On this website you must make an appointment before you can go to the Police office in Stokke. (Vestfold politidistrikt – Stokke)

We urge you already now to book an appointment. It can take several months before you can find a vacant time.

You will be a part of the Norwegian National Insurance Scheme, and have the right to our health and social benefit program.

Membership of the National Insurance Scheme

Membership of the National Insurance Scheme is the key to your entitlements from NAV. You do not have to be a Norwegian citizen, registered with the National Population Register or pay taxes in Norway. What is crucial is that your residence in Norway is lawful.

National insurance entitlements depend on present or previous membership. Some entitlements may however, be granted to the family of a member of the National Insurance Scheme.

The benefits that you can claim will be determined on what coverage your membership provides. Some national insurance benefits require that you have been a member of the National Insurance Scheme for a certain time. You can read more about this under each separate benefit.

Here is some more information:

<https://helsenorge.no/foreigners-in-norway>

<https://www.nav.no/en/Home/Rules+and+regulations/Membership+of+the+National+Insurance+Scheme>

WHO DOES WHAT? WHO TO ASK?

Your main contact person is of course your house responsible. This person will introduce you into how things work in your house. They are the person who can help you to solve the problems and answer for your questions. If your house responsible cannot help you with certain issues, you can go to one of the person from the various responsibility groups.

Here in Vidaråsen we have some different groups of people who have responsibilities in different areas. You can always ask for help if you have some special problem:

- Leadership group: Ruben, Kristin, Harel and Morten.
- Workshops coordinating group: Harel, Annamaria, Sonja and Walter,
- Co-worker group: Rebecca, Kristin, Ruben, Cornelius, Saskia, Harel and Morten
- Care and quality group: Kristin, Karin, Regula, Mette-Lill
- Administration and finance group: Morten, Finn Aage and Ellen
- If you have problems, which you do not know how to solve, and you do not know whom to ask, you can talk with Rolf Kåre, who is “a trusted person” for co-workers, and was chosen by the co-workers to take this role.
- For external co-workers (not living at Vidaråsen) this “trusted person” is Roar.

WHAT DOES VIDARÅSEN OFFER YOU AS A NEW CO- WORKER?

As a new co-worker, you will be offered:

- “The Vidaråsen introduction course” - a series of 10 seminars (obligatory) which runs for 1,5 hour every Wednesday, from September until April or May. There you will meet different people, who will give you some basic information about the core values, intentions, and history of Camphill movement, the underlying philosophy (Anthroposophy), and various aspects of caring for the villagers and life in the village etc.
- 2-3 seminars together with the other new co-workers from all the Camphill villages in Norway.
- Norwegian course one evening per week for 3 hours, to help you learn the language as soon as possible.

Learning the language is extremely important for you to be able to feel at home in the village and contribute in a meaningful way. You are encouraged to use your native language or English/ German as little as possible in the daily life, as doing

so will be frustrating for the villagers and increase the time it will take you to get used to speaking and understanding Norwegian. Your ability to speak Norwegian may be assessed after 6 months. We have one course for new beginners and one for more advanced learners. **Link for online kurs:**
<http://www.ntnu.edu/now/info/guide>

FREE DAYS AND HOLIDAYS

- Usually you will have 5 “working” days and 2 “free days” in a week. In some of the houses there is 1 day (Monday or Friday) and every second weekend, but in some houses is always 2 days free in a week (Friday and Saturday or Sunday and Monday) It depends on the situation in the house, needs and agreement between the co-workers.
- As a “first year co-worker” you have 4 weeks of holiday (20 days) during this first year + a total of 8 days free every month.
- During the course of the year there are several events and festivals which may coincide with your free day. These events are very important for the life of the community and we expect you to participate even though you have a free day. Taking part in the cultural life of the village is also a valuable experience and should not be considered as “work”.



POCKET MONEY:

We prefer to say that we are sharing a way of life together and everybody is contributing as much as they are able instead of calling it a “job”. Therefore, in the Camphill movement it is usual to receive free food and lodgings and receive pocket money instead of a normal salary. You will receive pocket money every month. During your first year here, you will receive NOK 4.250 net. Pr. Month. You must have a bank account for receiving the money. We can recommend the local bank:

Andebu Sparebank <https://andebu-sparebank.no/privat>

Or the “social and environmental criteria - bank”.

<https://www.cultura.no/english>

CONVERSATIONS:

You will have several conversations during your stay in the village. These conversations are important for us to get to know how you are feeling here, what is important for you, what you may like to change. There is the possibility for feedback from both sides.

Some conversations is with your house leader and some is with a member of our “co-worker group”

CAR SYSTEM

Vidaråsen owns about 10 cars which are used by everybody. We have a “car board” in the center of the village, where one can reserve a car. If you do have a valid driving license for driving in Norway.

- You need to take a test drive around the village with one of the responsible persons (Joao, Runa or Morten), before you can use the cars.
- Before you are allowed to drive with the villagers, you have to be able to communicate with them. Usually it takes about 3 months to learn the language enough. That is also something that your house responsible will make a decision about.
- You need to join the “glattkjøring kurs” (to learn how to drive on icy roads), which is essential to be able to drive in the winter time.
- If you have caused an accident which has damaged a car, you might need to pay a part of the cost.
- The cars can be used for private driving at a charge of 2 NOK/ km. Money for your private driving will be taken from your pocket money from the next month. You can share this cost when you are driving with other co-workers.
- All driving has to be written in the car book, which is found in each car.
- Be aware that not all driver licenses are valid in Norway. Especially if you are from a country outside EU/EEC. You can read more about it here: <https://www.vegvesen.no/en/driving+licences/About+Driving+licences/foreign-driving-licences-in-norway>

It is cheaper and more environment friendly to combine journeys with other people. Please use the car board to see if others are driving and ask them if you can travel with them and use the village transport as much as possible as an alternative to driving yourself.

Tobacco, alcohol and narcotics

All the houses in Vidaråsen are non-smoking!

Abuse of alcohol and violation of this rule may lead to you being asked to leave or dismissed. We must be able to rely upon the fact, that at all times those responsible also are able to step into a crisis, and act competently.

However, a moderate use on your leisure time will be tolerated.

Please be aware that use of addictive drugs and narcotics is prohibited at Vidaråsen and in Norway in general, and that breaking this rule will lead to dismissal.

VILLAGE TRANSPORT

A bus drives children to the school in Tønsberg 2-3 times a day, from Monday to Friday. You can use this possibility to go to the town, but you have to write yourselves in a book at the office, in case all seats are busy when the bus drives from Vidaråsen and so that the driver knows to pick you up in Tønsberg. This bus is not driving during school holidays.

On Sundays, there is transport to collect people from their weekend away. It usually leaves Vidaråsen at 18:30 on Sunday and collects people from Tønsberg train station at approx. 19:00, the time when the train from Oslo arrives. If you wish to use this possibility, you have to write your name in the book in the office. A list showing which house is responsible for the transport the actual week should be in your house, otherwise it is at the office.)

There is also public transport from Tønsberg via Andebu. The bus stops at Bråvol, which is about a 20 minutes' walk from the village.

VILLAGE SHOP

We have a shop in the village which sells food, toiletries, books and gifts. You can shop there both privately and for your house.

Many of the houses also shop in Andebu, the closest village, around 15 minutes by car. There are two supermarkets, bank, pharmacy, library, hairdresser and some shops.

COMPUTERS/ TELEPHONES:

Telephones in the houses can be used privately. You will have to pay at the end of the month for these calls.

There is one communal computer, with internet connection and a printer, for use by co-workers next to the central office. The houses have internet connection. But be aware that the Internet capacity in the city is limited, and at times very slow. This caused by few lines and many users, especially in the afternoons.

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL LIFE IN THE VILLAGE:

Here in Vidaråsen we try to support and improve the social and cultural live. That is important for both Villagers and co-workers. Therefore we offer many different possibilities for common social life. You will be asked to join these events.

- Once a week we have the "Landsbymøte" in the Kristofferhallen, which is a meeting for the whole village, where we talk about important things that happens in the village. There everybody can come with their concerns or wishes.
- We also celebrate various festivals during the year and like to organize plays and other activities. The major festivals are Michaelmas (autumn), Christmas, Lent (Carnival), Easter, Whitsun, and St. John (midsummer). These celebrations give a structure to the year and just as important, a lot of joy to everybody.
- We have at least two events during the year where everybody helps to organize.

“Open day” in the village and our Christmas market

- The village has a daily newsletter “Nytt fra posten” which provides information on what is going on in the village and has a program with all the events during the week. We recommended you to read this every day in order to keep in touch with the life in Vidaråsen.

You can find more information on our web site www.vidaraasen.no

You can also follow us on Facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Vidar%C3%A5sen-Landsby/13439311214?ref=hl>