# Norway – Alpine Flowers of the Gol Plateau

Naturetrek Tour Report

2 - 9 July 2016



Round-leaved Wintergreen in bud

Report and images by Jessica Turner

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Twinflower

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# **Tour Summary**

The Gol Plateau of west-central Norway has a restricted but delightful flora and fauna. We explored a variety of habitats: flower-filled meadows, open woodland, moor, arctic heath and bog, plus the rocky slopes of Skogshorn. The predominant colours of the landscape were soft greens, greys and blues, with abundant lichens adding extra interest. Venturing further afield, we sampled 'Norway in a Nutshell', the fascinating Flåm railway and Borgund stave-church, near where we saw fine specimens of Pyramidal Saxifrage clinging to rock faces, with sprays of white flowers. Cranes were regularly feeding in the field by the hotel, and there were many signs of Elk in the area. Siberian Jays and a magnificent Scarce Copper butterfly were other highlights. Excellent hospitality, delicious food, good weather and great company all added up to an extremely enjoyable week.

## Day 1

## Saturday 2nd July

## Fly Heathrow to Oslo – Transfer to Kamben

Three group members met Jessica at Heathrow Terminal 5 for the British Airways flight BA762 to Oslo Gardermoen. On our arrival in Norway, we soon completed immigration formalities and collected our luggage before meeting Martin, the co-proprietor of our hotel, who was also our driver. We quickly loaded our luggage into the vehicle and made our way out of the airport and onto the E16, the main Bergen road. Along the way we enjoyed the colourful patches of Large-leaved Lupin (*Lupinus polyphyllus*). We also noted Hooded Crow, Magpie, Swallow and Herring Gulls. Our route took us north-west from the capital and through some heavy showers, passing through Jevnaker, the outskirts of Hønefoss and along the east side of the beautiful Sperillen fjord.

After a little more than an hour, we made a stop for a snack just outside Nes i Ådal. A short wander outside showed us Hoary Cinquefoil (*Potentilla argentea*), Cowberry (*Vaccinium vitis-idaea*) and the creative use of old horse-shoes! We continued our journey on to Aurdal, where we turned south-west through Mønin and up towards the Gol Plateau, and on up to Golsfjellet and the Kamben Høyfjellshotell, our base for the week. Many of the verges were bright with Wood Crane's-bill (*Geranium sylvaticum*) and Northern Wolf's-bane (*Aconitum septentrionale*). Upon our arrival at our hotel, we were met and made welcome by Elin the co-proprietor, and met up with the two couples who had travelled independently.

After we had settled into our rooms, we met in the lounge, where we enjoyed the glorious views and a group of 13 Cranes feeding in the field below, and Jessica outlined plans for the week. We then had a delicious dinner, and some took a brief stroll before retiring for some welcome rest.

## Day 2

Sunday 3rd July

## Hallingen - Skutuset - Brautemo

Our first full day of the tour was spent exploring the boreal forests of the Gol Plateau. Leaving the hotel at 9am, we were driven by Martin the short distance down the track towards Hallingen, where he dropped us at the beginning of the path leading to the settlement of Skutuset. We started by looking at the delicate Chickweed Wintergreen (*Trientalis europaea*), Small Cow-wheat (*Melampyrum sylvaticum*), and two of the Willows common in the area, Downy and Mountain (*Salix lapponica* and *S. arbuscula*). A little further on we added One-flowered

Wintergreen (Moneses uniflora), Nodding Wintergreen (Orthillia secunda), Oak Fern (Gymnocarpium dryopteris) and two good stands of Lesser Twayblade (Neottia cordata). In an open bog we recorded Cranberry (Vaccinium oxycoccos) (thought at the time to be the very similar Small Cranberry), the remains of Bog Rosemary (Andromeda polifolia), Marsh Lousewort (Pedicularis palustris), and Cloudberry (Rubus chamaemorus). Small White, Idas Blue and Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary butterflies were noted.

We continued along the path, looking for blue markers, through the understorey of Bilberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*), Bog Bilberry (*V. uliginosum*), Bearberry (*V. uva-ursi*), Cowberry (*V. vitis-idaea*) and occasional Crowberry (*Empetrum nigrum*), noting the differences and similarities between them. In a more open area, we found a beautiful bank of Heartsease (*Viola tricolor* agg.) with mainly purple flowers, many more Small Pearl-bordered Fritillaries, and the moorland-dwelling Heath Fragrant Orchid (*Gymnadenia borealis*). In another wet area, we found Hairy Stonecrop (*Sedum villosum*), Large Bitter-cress (*Cardamine amara*) and Starry Saxifrage (*Saxifraga stellata*). We had our picnic on a rise, overlooking the mountains but also the gathering clouds, which gave a few showers.

The path came out onto a minor road at the small hamlet of Skutuset. The roadside wood yielded the whiteflowered buttercup *Ranunculus platanifolius*, which we admired at a distance. From Skutuset we turned south, finding a sudden burst of bird activity, with Fieldfare, Siskin and Greenfinch around us. The path led towards the village of Brautemo, passing through more boreal forest littered with lichen-covered rocky outcrops interspersed with more wet flushes, mires and streams. Here, we found a nice patch of Twinflower (*Linnaea borealis*), and had good views of a family of Siberian Jays. Amongst the amazing range of lichens, Star Reindeer Lichen (*Cladonia stellaris*) looked like masses of pale grey cauliflower heads; Red Elf-cup (*Cladonia coccifera*) bore scarlet fruiting bodies; and *Bryoria fuscescens* looked like tufts of Elk hair caught on twigs. Near the road, we added Northern Bedstraw (*Galium boreale*), and heard Willow Warbler. Martin soon arrived to collect us, and return us to the hotel, where we had some time to relax before another excellent dinner and completing our lists for a fascinating first full day.

## Day 3

## Monday 4th July

## Solseter to Gol

Today dawned fine. After another delicious breakfast, and with picnics made, Martin dropped us off at the little settlement of Solseter, half way between our hotel and Gol. Here we took the path, which crosses the road in several places, down to the town of Gol. The early part of the route was through more semi-open, wet forest. Here we found plenty of Twinflower (*Linnaea borealis*), some looking particularly fine on a lichen-covered boulder. We also found Aspen (*Populus tremula*), Common Cow-wheat (*Melampyrum pratense*), the leaves of Marsh Cinquefoil (*Comarum palustris*) and some good stands of Common Spotted Orchids (*Dactylorhiza fuchsii*). We emerged into an open area where tree-felling had taken place, leaving a few standing Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*), and enjoyed the sun-warmed fruits of Wild Strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*)! As we moved lower, the habitat changed to a series of meadows and track verges with species such as Caraway (*Carum carrvi*), Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*) and more fine stands of Northern Wolf's-bane (*Aconitum septentrionale*). Butterflies were active in the sun, including Common and Mazarine Blues, Northern Wall Brown, Small Copper, Pearl-bordered and Dark Green Fritillaries, and a very dark-veined form of Green-veined White,

plus Latticed Heath moth. Lunch was taken by a track, among a number of stumps and boulders. Birds included Fieldfare, Willow Warbler and Blackcap.

The path continued on a forestry track, below Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) and Norway Spruce (*Picea abies*). Amongst the now-familiar Bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*) and Cowberry (*Vaccinium vitis-idaea*), we found Fir Clubmoss (*Huperzia selago*), Beech Fern (*Phegopteris connectilis*), Lady Fern (*Anthyllis filix-femina*), a few spikes of Green Wintergreen (*Pyrola chlorantha*), and going-over spikes of Lesser Butterfly Orchid (*Platanthera bifolia*). Here, Wood White butterflies were on the wing, together with Small Heath. The path emerged from the woodland next to an electricity substation, and on a pile of adjacent rocks we found Orpine (*Sedum telephium* subsp. *maximum*), before re-entering the woodland. On the mossy boulders were emerging spikes of Creeping Lady's-tresses (*Goodyera repens*), and other boulders held Common Polypody (*Polypodium vulgare*). The path emerged on the outskirts of Gol, where a Scarce Copper butterfly showed its bright orange coloration. We walked into the town, where we found a pleasant cafe for refreshments and did a little shopping, before being met by Martin and the bus.

Back at the hotel, we had a break before another excellent meal. The group of Cranes was in the field again, and we watched them disappear in a long line into the next meadow, no doubt for fresh pickings.

## Day 4

## **Tuesday 5th July**

## Skogshorn

We awoke to a rather cloudy sky and, after breakfast, we joined the minibus for the journey to Skogshorn which, at 1,728 metres, is the fifth highest mountain in the municipality of Helmedal. Our route took us north to Oset, over the dam, and along the northern shore of Tisleifjorden lake, to the car park at the base of the mountain which was the starting point for our walk. The path climbs steadily northwards from the road before turning west, where it begins to get steeper. It then bears south-west and up the steepest section to the summit.

As we set out we found Harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*), with particularly large flowers, beside the path. Harebells in Norway show a complex pattern of polyploidy (multiple copies of genetic material) resulting in some very robust plants. We also noted Woolly Willow (*Salix lanata*), with its round leaves, alongside Downy Willow (*Salix lapponum*) with narrower leaves, and a possible hybrid between the two. The route, as it rose, took us through Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*) woodland and into a shrub layer of Dwarf Birch (*Betula nana*). Along the path, we found Blue Mountain Heath (*Phyllodoce caerulea*) in fine flower, Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*), Marsh Violet (*Viola palustris*) and Alpine Clubmoss (*Diphasiastrum alpinum*). A wet area held Hare's-tail Cotton-grass (*Eriophorum vaginatum*), Bog Rosemary (*Andromeda polifolia*), Lapland Lousewort (*Pedicularis lapponica*) and a good number of Heath Spotted Orchids (*Dactylorhiza maculata*). We had good views of a female Bluethroat and a Willow Warbler carrying food.

This habitat gave way to an upper area of rough gravel paths and boulder-strewn hillsides, which still had a quantity of snow lying. Here, we saw another Bluethroat, on the path. Unfortunately it began to rain, but the shower passed and we continued on our way. We had our picnic in the sun on some sheltered boulders, admiring the glorious scenery. The path began to rise more steeply, as we began to find a number of the smaller and prostrate shrub species. There were large patches of Training Azalea (*Kalmia procumbens*), mainly still in bud

although we did manage to find a few of the pretty, star-like, pink flowers. We also found Alpine Bearberry (*Arctous alpina*) already in fruit, Crowberry (*Empetrum nigrum*), Dwarf Willow (*Salix herbacea*), and a small patch of the diminutive Cassiope (*Harrimanella hypnoides*), again sadly, only in bud.

We then started our descent, meeting up with Robin and Anne at the bottom; Anne reporting an excellent sighting of a male Willow Ptarmigan. We met up with Martin with the bus before the next shower, and returned to Kamben along the southern shore of Storevaten and Tisleifjorden, feeling rather weary after our exertions. A pair of Bullfinch flew in front of the bus as we went. During another excellent meal, sunshine and showers produced a beautiful rainbow, and the Cranes were close and very active, giving good views. A small group of Siskins flew into the conifer outside the dining room, glowing in the evening sun.

## Day 5

## Wednesday 6th July

## 'Norway in a Nutshell': Gol – Myrdal – Flåm – Gudvangen

Today we went on the 'Norway in a nutshell' excursion. After breakfast at 7.30am, Martin drove us to Gol railway station, for the 9.25am train to Myrdal. There was a 15 minute stop at Haugastøl station and we left the train briefly, to explore and enjoy the glorious views. Here we found several spikes of Iceland Poppy (Papaver nudicaule), naturalised on the gravel banks. As we approached Finse, the highest station on the Oslo to Bergen route at 1,222 metres and with no public road access, there were some distant views of the Hardanger Glacier, and patches of remaining snow. Here we had another stop while many cyclists disembarked, and we admired the deep pink, low-growing Red Campion (Silene dioica) which carpeted the slopes by the platform. At Myrdal we transferred to the spectacular Flåm Railway. Completed in 1940, this unique railway took twenty years to build, and drops 864 metres in 20 kilometres to Flåm on the side of the Aurlandsfjorden (Aurlands Fjord), a branch of Sognfjord. The journey down the Flåm valley took us through some magnificent scenery, not least of which was the scheduled stop to view the thundering power of the mighty Kjossfossen: the Kjoss Waterfall. Near the waterfall was Roseroot (Sedum roseum), Mountain Sorrel (Oxyria digyna) and Redcurrant (Ribes rubrum) while, from the train, we also saw Pyramidal Saxifrage (Saxifraga cotyledon) and Foxglove (Digitalis purpured). Upon our arrival in Flåm we transferred to the steamer, 'Skagastol Fjord' for the two hour journey to Gudvangen. As we sailed down this stunning fjord, we had an attendant flock of Mew (Common) Gulls, waiting to join us for lunch! Tiny picturesque villages and fabulous scenery made this trip truly memorable. In addition, many of the waterfalls along the ford were at their roaring best, due to recent rain and snow-melt.

When we arrived in Gudvagen we met with Martin for the return journey to Kamben. The new road link involves a series of tunnels, including one of 25 kilometres, the longest road tunnel in the world. Leaving the main road, we took the 'historic route' along the Laerdal valley, stopping to enjoy and photograph Pyramidal Saxifrage (*Saxifraga cotyledon*). We then stopped at Borgund to visit its magnificent stave-church, dedicated to St. Andrew. Built in about 1180, it is one of the most complete remaining examples of these medieval buildings, and we were able to appreciate the features and construction of the church. The walls surrounding the church had some fine clumps of Biting Stonecrop (*Sedum acre*). Leaving Borgund, we joined the E16 Bergen to Oslo highway for our homeward journey, turning off in a south-easterly direction towards Hemsedal and Gol and arriving back at the hotel at 7pm, in time for a short break before another delicious dinner. We all agreed that it had been a most enjoyable day.

## Day 6

# Thursday 7th July

## Grønlie – Krististølen – Gomobu - Vasetstølen

Today we travelled out to Grønlie, the furthest of any of our local, daily excursions. Leaving the hotel, we travelled north to the village of Oset before crossing the dam at the eastern end of the Tisleifjorden. From here we turned north-west and followed the northern shore of the fjord through Langestølen, Nøser and then northeast to Rensenn. Another kilometre or so further on we stopped at the small, remote car park at Grønlie, with magnificent views of the snowy mountains in the distance. From here we set off along a track towards the hamlet of Krististølen. On the way we had close views of Meadow Pipits and a Northern Wheatear, all carrying food and nesting nearby. We took a path which led over a rocky outcrop and down onto sub-arctic heath, noting Alpine and Flat-stemmed Clubmoss (Diphasiastrum alpinum and D. complanatum), Blue Heath (Phyllodoce caerulea), Northern Buckler Fern (Dryopteris expansa) and Cloudberry (Rubus chamaemorus). As well as more Meadow Pipits, we also recorded Twite, and a 'nest' of Small-tree Eggar caterpillars, whose main food plants are Vaccinium and Salix species. The heath was dominated by Dwarf Birch (Betula nana) and Prostrate Juniper (Juniperus communis var. saxatilis), with areas of Downy, Woolly and Mountain Willows (Salix lapponum, S. lanata and S. arbuscula) and some taller specimens of Downy Birch (Betula pubescens) and Norway Spruce (Picea abies). Wetter areas were dominated by Common and Hare's-tail Cotton-grasses (Eriophorum angustifolium and E. vaginatum) and Sphagnum mosses. We noted both Marsh and Lapland Lousewort (Pedicularis palustris and P. lapponicum), the latter preferring slightly drier habitats. The path passed a large lake and, further on, we had close views of a female Bluethroat, also carrying food.

By a stream, we found the tiny, blue Alpine Speedwell (Veronica alpina) and Sibbaldia (Sibbaldia procumbens), the latter with a few yellow flowers. We had our lunch here, enjoying the warm sunshine and clear water. Our path across the heath area ended at Gomobu, where we found Heath Fragrant Orchid (Gymndenia borealis) and Common Wintergreen (Pyrola minor) on a bank. We walked through the settlement, looking at the construction of the houses with their living roofs and traditional garden fences, before joining another path down to the lake at Vasetstølen. A tit party was in the trees, and we had good views of a Willow Tit. On a streamside rock we found a patch of Drooping Saxifrage (Saxifraga cernua) nicely in flower, and a plant of Ternate-leaved Cinquefoil (Potentilla norvegica). We relaxed with refreshments at the lakeside cafe before exploring the lake shore, where we found emerging spikes of the large Lousewort, Moor King (Pedicularis sceptrum-carolinum), the first ones just showing their red-tipped, yellow flowers. From here, Martin collected us in the bus and drove us back by another moorland route with magnificent views. We had another excellent dinner, accompanied by the flock of Cranes in the meadow. Later, after the group had retired for the night, Jessica had a very distant view of a grazing Elk, from the hotel windows.

## Day 7

## Friday 8th July

## Skutuset – Syningen – Storefjell - Kamben

We woke to another fine morning and, after breakfast, were taken to the small hamlet of Skutuset, passing a pair of Cranes in a field by the road. We set off in a northerly direction, along the track leading to Syningen, a small hill which is a local viewpoint at 1,031 metres above sea level. As we walked, we enjoyed the now-familiar species which made up the heath and bog through which we were passing. Our path rose towards the hill, and we paused to look at some rocks where we found Oblong Woodsia (*Woodsia ilvensis*), Alpine Lady-fern (*Athyrium alpestre*) and Rock Catchfly (*Silene rupestris*). We then made our way to the summit, where we enjoyed the extensive views and listened to a Cuckoo in the valley below. Some of the group then scrambled down the west side, to an area of shale scree, where we found several patches of the white-flowered Tufted Saxifrage (*Saxifraga caespitosa*) and Annual Stonecrop (*Sedum annuum*) with its red leaves and yellow flowers. We also found several spikes of Round-leaved Wintergreen (*Pyrola rotundifolia*). Re-tracing our steps to the top, we noted extensive patches of Alpine Bearberry (*Arctuous alpina*) and Black Mountain Sedge (*Carex atrata*). We met with the rest of the group, Anne reporting a Ring Ouzel, and made our way down the east side.

The path ran through partially felled, open scrub and woodland, emerging onto a gravelled road edged by ditches where we found more Alpine Speedwell (*Veronica alpina*), surprisingly with pink flowers, along with abundant Starry Saxifrage (*Saxifraga stellaris*). We had our picnic on a log pile near a stream, the edges of which were a carpet of pink Hairy Stonecrop (*Sedum villosum*). Further on, we added Northern Fleabane (*Erigeron borealis*), Alpine Milk-vetch (*Astragalus alpinus*) and Rock Speedwell (*Veronica fruticans*) by another stream, plus Yellow Mountain Saxifrage (*Saxifraga aizoides*) and One-flowered Fleabane (*Erigeron uniflorus*). We then took a track leading up to the hotel, agreeing yet again, that the soft colour-palate of greys and blues of the willows, lichens, Wood Crane's-bill and Northern Wolf's-bane, with splashes of yellow and pink from buttercups and Red Campion, would thrill many a garden designer.

After a break at the hotel we headed out again, this time up the track towards Storefjell. Continuing to enjoy the beautiful afternoon, we noted the hay-making activity in the meadows below us and the Cranes feeding in the newly-mown fields. We then took a path round a small pond, near which we found a single spike of Frog Orchid (*Dactylorhiza viridis*) and Stiff Sedge (*Carex bigelowii*). We returned to the hotel for our final, again excellent, dinner and evening together.

## Day 8

## Saturday 9th July

## Kamben to Oslo - Fly London Heathrow

Our last morning was greyer than of late. As we were breakfasting, the flock of Cranes staged a 'fly-past', seeking pastures new. We had a leisurely start, leaving Kamben at 10am and saying goodbye to Elin and the staff at the hotel. Martin was our driver for the journey back to Oslo airport. Our route took us south-eastwards, along the shores of Lake Krøderen, where we made a stop for lunch at a lake-side restaurant. Having driven through some showers, as we approached the airport the skies darkened and we were greeted by a sudden, very heavy downpour. We waited for the worst to pass, thanking Martin for his hospitality and driving, before making a dash for the terminal building. Here, we said goodbye those who were staying on in Oslo for a couple of days, while the rest of us checked in for our British Airways flight, BA 767, to London Heathrow.

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# **Species Lists**

## **Plants**

Nomenclature contained within this list follows the taxonomic amendments, based on DNA analysis, made by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and the Missouri Botanic Garden, and follows The Plant List, an internationally accepted list of vascular plant families, published and maintained by these two Institutions.

#### **Scientific Name**

## PTERIDOPHYTES Lycophytes

Lycopodiaceae Diphasiastrum alpinum Diphasiastrum complanatum Huperzia selago Lycopodium annotinum Lycopodium clavatum

Selaginellaceae Selaginella selaginoides

#### Calamophytes Equisetaceae

Equisetum hyemale Equisetum palustre Equisetum pratense Equisetum sylvaticum Equisetum variegatum

## Leptosporangiate Ferns Athyriaceae Athyrium alpestre (distentifolium)

Athyrium filix-femina

**Cystopteridaceae** Gymnocarpium dryopteris

Dennstaedtiaceae Pteridium aquilinum

Dryopteridaceae Dryopteris expansa

*Polypodiaceae Polypodium vulgare* agg.

Thelypteridaceae Phegopteris connectilis

Woodsiaceae Woodsia ilvensis GYMNOSPERMS Cupressaceae FERNS & ALLIES Clubmosses & Quillworts Clubmoss Family Alpine Clubmoss Flat-stemmed Clubmoss Fir Clubmoss Interrupted Clubmoss Stag's-horn Clubmoss

**Common Name** 

Lesser Clubmoss Family Lesser Clubmoss

Horsetails Horsetail Family Dutch Rush Marsh Horsetail Shady Horsetail Wood Horsetail Variegated Horsetail

True Ferns Lady-fern Family Alpine Lady-fern Lady-fern

Bladder-fern Family Oak Fern

Bracken Family Bracken

Buckler-fern Family Northern Buckler-fern

Polypody Family Common Polypody

Marsh Fern Family Beech Fern

Woodsia Family Oblong Woodsia CONIFERS Juniper Family Skogshorn Grønlie to Vaset Solseter to Gol Hallingen to Brautemo Solseter to Gol

Location seen

Hallingen to Brautemo

Skutuset to Kamben Brautemo Skogshorn Hallingen to Brautemo Skutuset to Kamben

Skutuset to Kamben Solseter to Gol

Hallingen to Brautemo

Solseter to Gol

Grønlie to Vaset

Solseter to Gol

Solseter to Gol

Skutuset to Kamben

Juniperus communis Juniperus communis var. saxatilis

#### Pinaceae

Picea abies subsp. abies Pinus sylvestris Pseudotsuga menziesii

## ANGIOSPERMS

Eu-Dicots Adoxaceae

Sambucus racemosus

#### Apiaceae

Angelica archangelica Anthriscus sylvestris Carum carvi

#### Betulaceae

Alnus glutinosa Betula nana Betula pendula Betula pubescens Betula pubescens x B. nana Corylus avellana

#### Boraginaceae

Myosotis arvensis Myostis scorpioides Myosotis sylvatica

#### Brassicaceae

Arabidopsis arenosa Barbarea vulgaris Capsella bursa-pastoris Cardamine amara Cardamine pratensis

*Campanulaceae Campanula rotundifolia* 

**Caprifoliaceae** Knautia arvensis Linnaea borealis Valeriana sambucifolia

## Caryophyllaceae

Cerastium arvense Sagina nodosa Sagina procumbens Silene dioica Silene rupestris

#### **Common Name**

Juniper Dwarf Juniper

**Pine Family** Norway Spruce Scots Pine Douglas Fir

FLOWERING PLANTS True Dicotyledons Moschatel Family Red-berried Elder

**Carrot Family** Garden Angelica Cow Parsley Caraway

Birch Family Alder Dwarf Birch Silver Birch Downy Birch Hybrid Birch Hazel

#### Forget-me-not Family

Field Forget-me-not Water Forget-me-not Wood Forget-me-not

#### **Cabbage Family**

Tall Rock-cress Common Winter-cress Shepherd's-purse Large Bitter-cress Lady's Smock

Bellflower Family Harebell

Honeysuckle Family Field Scabious Twin-flower Elder-leaved Valerian

## Pink Family Field Mouse-ear Knotted Pearlwort Procumbent Pearlwort Red Campion Rock Catchfly

Location seen

Hallingen to Brautemo Grønlie to Vaset

Planted Solseter to Gol Planted

Solseter to Gol

Roadsides Solseter to Gol Solseter to Gol

Solseter to Gol Hallingen to Brautemo Hallingen to Brautemo Solseter to Gol Skogshorn Solseter to Gol

Hallingen to Brautemo Skutuset to Kamben Solseter to Gol

Skutuset to Kamben Grønlie to Vaset Solseter to Gol Hallingen to Brautemo Hallingen to Brautemo

Solseter to Gol

Solseter to Gol Hallingen to Brautemo Solseter to Gol

Solseter to Gol Vasetstølen Skutuset to Kamben Hallingen to Brautemo Solseter to Gol

Silene vulgaris Stellaria graminea Stellaria media Stellaria nemorum

#### Celastraceae

Parnassia palustris

#### Compositae (Asteraceae)

Achillea millefolium Achillea ptarmica Antennaria dioica Cirsium arvense Cirsium helenioides Cirsium palustre Erigeron borealis Erigeron uniflorus Gnaphalium norvegicum Gnaphalium supinum Gnaphalium sylvaticum Hieracium alpinum agg. Hieracium vulgatum Leucanthemum vulgare Matricaria discoidea Pilosella officinarum Saussurea alpina Scorzoneroides autumnalis Solidago virgaurea Tanacetum vulgare Tussilago farfara

#### Crassulaceae

Sedum acre Sedum annuum Sedum roseum Sedum telephium subsp. maximum Sedum villosum

#### Ericaceae

Andromeda polifolia Arctostaphyllos uva--ursi Arctous alpina Calluna vulgaris Empetrum nigrum Harrimanella (Cassiope) hypnoides Kalmia procumbens Moneses uniflora Orthilia secunda Phyllodoce caerulea Pyrola chlorantha Pyrola minor Pyrola rotundifolia agg.

#### **Common Name**

Bladder Campion Lesser Stitchwort Chickweed Wood Stitchwort

#### Spindle Family

Grass-of-Parnassus

**Daisy Family** Yarrow Sneezewort Mountain Everlasting **Creeping Thistle** a Melancholy Thistle Marsh Thistle Alpine Fleabane **One-flowered Fleabane** Highland Cudweed Dwarf Cudweed Heath Cudweed Alpine Hawkweed (spotted leaves) **Ox-eye** Daisy **Pineapple Weed** Mouse-eared Hawkweed Alpine Saw-wort Autumn Hawkbit Goldenrod Tansy Colt's-foot

#### **Stonecrop Family**

Biting Stonecrop Annual Stonecrop Roseroot Orpine Hairy Stonecrop

#### **Heath family**

Bog Rosemary Bearberry Alpine Bearberry Heather Crowberry Matted Cassiope Trailing Azalea One-flowered Wintergreen Nodding Wintergreen Blue or Mountain Heath Pale-green Wintergreen Common Wintergreen Round-leaved Wintergreen

#### Location seen

Solseter to Gol Hallingen to Brautemo Solseter to Gol Skutuset to Kamben

Grønlie to Vaset

Grønlie to Vaset Skutuset to Kamben Hallingen to Brautemo Skutuset to Kamben Skutuset to Kamben Solseter to Gol Skutuset to Kamben Skutuset to Kamben Hallingen to Brautemo Skutuset to Kamben Grønlie to Vaset Grønlie to Vaset Solseter to Gol Solseter to Gol Solseter to Gol Skutuset to Kamben Skutuset to Kamben (in bud) Grønlie to Vaset Hallingen to Brautemo Solseter to Gol Grønlie to Vaset

Borgund Skutuset to Kamben Grønlie to Vaset Solseter to Gol Hallingen to Brautemo

Skogshorn Hallingen to Brautemo Skogshorn Hallingen to Brautemo Skogshorn (in bud) Skogshorn Hallingen to Brautemo Hallingen to Brautemo Skogshorn Solseter to Gol Grønlie to Vaset Hallingen to Brautemo

Vaccinium myrtillus Vaccinium oxycoccos Vaccinium uliginosum Vaccinium vitis-idaea

Gentianaceae Gentiana purpurea

Geraniaceae Geranium sylvaticum

**Grossulariaceae** Ribes rubrum

**Lamiaceae** Ajuga pyramidalis Prunella vulgaris

Leguminosae (Fabaceae) Astragalus alpinus Lathyrus pratensis Lotus corniculatus Lupinus polyphyllus Trifolium medium Trifolium pratense Trifolium repens Vicia cassubica Vicia cracca

Lentibulariaceae Pinguicula vulgaris

Menyanthaceae Menyanthes trifoliata

**Onagraceae** Epilobium anagallidifolium Epilobium (Chamerion) angustifolium Epilobium tetragonum

Orobanchaceae Bartsia alpina Euphrasia frigida Euphrasia stricta Melampyrum pratense Melampyrum sylvaticum Pedicularis lapponica Pedicularis palustris Pedicularis sceptum-carolinum

Papaveraceae Papaver nudicaule

#### **Common Name**

Bilberry Cranberry Bog Whortleberry Cowberry

Gentian Family Purple Gentian

Geranium Family Wood Crane's-bill

Gooseberry Family Red Currant

**Dead-nettle Family** Pyramidal Bugle Selfheal

Pea Family

Alpine Milk-vetch Meadow Vetchling Bird's-foot Trefoil Large-leaved Lupin Zigzag Clover Red Clover White Clover Kashubian Vetch Tufted Vetch

Bladderwort Family Common Butterwort

Bogbean Family Bogbean

Willowherb Family Alpine Willowherb Rosebay Willowherb Square-stemmed Willowherb

Broomrape Family Alpine Bartsia an Eyebright Eyebright Common Cow-wheat Small Cow-wheat Lapland Lousewort Marsh Lousewort Moor King

Poppy Family Iceland Poppy

#### Location seen

Hallingen to Brautemo Hallingen to Brautemo Hallingen to Brautemo Hallingen to Brautemo

Skogshorn (leaves)

Common

Kjossfossen (Flåm railway)

Skogshorn Skutuset to Kamben

Skutuset to Kamben Solseter to Gol Solseter to Gol Roadsides Solseter to Gol Hallingen to Brautemo Hallingen to Brautemo Nes Hallingen to Brautemo

Hallingen to Brautemo

Hallingen to Brautemo (lvs)

Skutuset to Kamben Hallingen to Brautemo (Ivs) Solseter to Gol

Hallingen to Brautemo Storefjell Hallingen to Brautemo Solseter to Gol Hallingen to Brautemo Skogshorn Hallingen to Brautemo Vasetstølen

Haugastøl Station (naturalised)

#### Plantaginaceae

Digitalis purpurea Linaria vulgaris Plantago major Veronica alpina Veronica chamaedrys Veronica fruticans Veronica officinalis Veronica serpyllifolia

#### Polygonaceae

Oxyria digyna Persicaria alpina Persicaria vivipara Rumex acetosa Rumex crispus

#### Primulaceae

Trientalis europaea

#### Ranunculaceae

Aconitum septentrionale Actaea spicata Caltha palustris Ranunculus acris Ranunculus platanifolius Ranunculus repens Thalictrum alpinum

#### Rosaceae

Alchemilla alpina Alchemilla glabra Alchemilla monticola Amelanchier ovalis Comarum palustre Filipendula ulmaria Fragaria vesca Geum rivale Potentilla argentea Potentilla crantzii Potentilla erecta Potentilla norvegica Potentilla tabernaemontani Rosa majalis Rubus chamaemorus Rubus idaeus Rubus saxatilis Sibbaldia procumbens Sorbus aucuparia

#### Rubiaceae

Galium alba

#### **Common Name**

#### **Plantain Family**

Foxglove Common Toadflax Greater Plantain Alpine Speedwell Germander Speedwell Rock Speedwell Heath Speedwell Thyme-leaved Speedwell

#### **Knotweed Family**

Mountain Sorrel Alaskan Wild Rhubarb Alpine Bistort Sorrel Curled Dock

#### Primrose Family Chickweed Wintergreen

#### **Buttercup Family**

Northern Wolf's-bane Baneberry Marsh Marigold Meadow Buttercup a white-flowered Buttercup Creeping Buttercup Alpine Meadow Rue

#### **Rose Family**

Alpine Lady's-mantle Smooth Lady's-mantle a Lady's-mantle Juneberry Marsh Cinquefoil Meadowsweet Wild Strawberry Water Avens Hoary Cinquefoil Alpine Cinquefoil Tormentil **Ternate-leaved Cinquefoil** Spring Cinquefoil Cinnamon Rose Cloudberry Raspberry Stone Bramble Sibbaldia Rowan

#### **Bedstraw Family**

Hedge Bedstraw

#### Location seen

Flåm railway Solseter to Gol Solseter to Gol Grønlie to Vaset Hallingen to Brautemo Skutuset to Kamben Solseter to Gol Hallingen to Brautemo

Kjossfossen (Flåm railway) From railway to Myrdal Hallingen to Brautemo Hallingen to Brautemo Solseter to Gol

Hallingen to Brautemo

Widespread Solseter to Gol (in berry) Solseter to Gol Common Hallingen to Brautemo Skogshorn Hallingen to Brautemo

Hallingen to Brautemo Solseter to Gol Hallingen to Brautemo Edge of Gol Solseter to Gol (lvs) Solseter to Gol Hallingen to Brautemo Hallingen to Brautemo Nes Hallingen to Brautemo Hallingen to Brautemo Grønlie to Vaset Grønlie to Vaset Solseter to Gol Hallingen to Brautemo Hallingen to Brautemo Hallingen to Brautemo Grønlie to Vaset Hallingen to Brautemo

Solseter to Gol

Galium boreale Galium saxatile Galium verum

#### Salicaceae

Populus tremula Salix arbuscula Salix herbacea Salix lanata Salix lanata x S. lapponum Salix lapponum

#### Saxifragaceae

Saxifraga aizoides Saxifraga cernua Saxifraga cespitosa Saxifraga cotyledon Saxifraga stellaris

Scrophulariaceae Verbascum nigrum

**Urticacae** Urtica dioica

**Violaceae** Viola epipsila Viola palustris Viola tricolor agg.

#### Monocots

Asparagaceae Maianthemum bifolium

Cyperaceae Carex atrata Carex bigelowii Carex brunnescens Carex canescens Carex demissa Cerex elata Carex nigra Carex panicea Carex vaginata Eriophorum angustifolium Eriophorum scheuchzeri Eriophorum vaginatum Trichophorum alpinum

#### **Common Name**

Northern Bedstraw Heath Bedstraw Lady's Bedstraw

## Willow & Poplar Family Aspen Mountain Willow

Dwarf Willow Woolly Willow a Hybrid Willow Downy Willow

#### **Saxifrage Family**

Yellow Mountain Saxifrage Drooping Saxiifrage Tufted Saxifrage Pyramidal Saxifrage Starry Saxifrage

Figwort Family Dark Mullein

Nettle Family Common Nettle

#### Violet Family Dwarf Marsh Violet Marsh Violet Heartsease

#### Monocotyledons

Asparagus Family May Lily

Sedge Family Black Alpine Sedge Stiff Sedge

White Sedge Common Yellow-sedge Tufted Sedge Common Sedge Carnation Sedge Sheathed Sedge Common Cotton-grass Scheuchzer's Cotton-grass Hare's-tail Cotton-grass Alpine Deergrass Deergrass

#### Location seen

Hallingen to Brautemo Solseter to Gol Solseter to Gol

Solseter to Gol Hallingen to Brautemo Skogshorn Skogshorn Hallingen to Brautemo

Skutuset to Kamben Grønlie to Vaset Skutuset to Kamben Near Borgund Hallingen to Brautemo

Roadsides

Hallingen to Brautemo

Hallingen to Brautemo Skogshorn Hallingen to Brautemo

Hallingen to Brautemo

Skutuset to Kamben Skogshorn Hallingen to Brautemo Skogshorn Hallingen to Brautemo Hallingen to Brautemo Hallingen to Brautemo Grønlie to Vaset Hallingen to Brautemo Grønlie to Vaset Hallingen to Brautemo Skutuset to Kamben Hallingen to Brautemo

#### Juncaceae

Juncus biglumis Luzula multiflora agg. Luzula pilosa Luzula sylvatica

## Juncaginaceae

Triglochin palustris

#### Orchidaceae

Dactvlorhiza fuchsii Dactylorhiza incarnata subsp. pulchella Dactylorhiza maculata Dactylorhiza (Coeloglossum) viridis Goodyeara repens Gymnadenia borealis Neottia cordata Platanthera bifolia

#### Poaceae

Anthoxanthum odoratum Bromopsis inermis Calamagrostis epigeios Dactylis glomerata Deschampsia flexuosa Festuca rubra agg Melica nutans Nardus stricta Phleum alpinum Phleum pratense

#### Tofieldiaceae

Tofieldia pusilla

#### LICHENS:

Alectoria c.f. sarmentosa Bryoria fuscescens Cetraria icelandica Cladonia coccifera Cladonia rangiferina Cladonia stellaris Parmelia omphalodes Peltigera polydactyla Pseudevernia furfuracea Rhizocarpon geographicum

#### **Common Name**

#### **Rush Family**

Two-flowered Rush Heath Woodrush Hairy Woodrush Great Woodrush

Arrowgrass Family Marsh Arrowgrass

#### **Orchid Family**

**Common Spotted Orchid** Early Marsh Orchid Heath Spotted Orchid Frog Orchid **Creeping Ladies Tresses** Heath Fragrant Orchid Lesser Twayblade Lesser Butterfly Orchid

#### **Grass Family**

Sweet Vernal Grass Hungarian Brome Wood Small-reed Cock's-foot Wavy Hair-grass **Red Fescue** Mountain Melick Mat-grass Alpine Cat's-tail Timothy

#### **Scottish Asphodel Family**

Scottish Asphodel

(greenish, hanging on trees) (Dark threads like Elk hair) Iceland Moss Red Elf-cup Reindeer Lichen Star Reindeer Lichen (Brown, wavy, foliose) (Brown, foliose)

## The Map Lichen (crustose)

Common Hanging from trees Common Common Common Common - like 'cauliflowers' Common on rocks Common amongst moss Common On rocks

**Birds** ( $\checkmark$ =recorded but not counted; H=heard; S= sign; C= caterpillar)

				July						
	Common Name	Scientific Name	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos					✓	✓		
2	Red-breasted Merganser	Mergus serrator					✓			
3	Willow Ptarmigan	Lagopus lagopus				1		S		

#### Location seen

Skogshorn Hallingen to Brautemo Grønlie to Vaset Hallingen to Brautemo

Hallingen to Brautemo

Solseter to Gol Hallingen to Brautemo Skogshorn Storefjell Solseter to Gol Hallingen to Brautemo Hallingen to Brautemo Solseter to Gol

Hallingen to Brautemo Solseter to Gol Grønlie to Vaset Hallingen to Brautemo Skutuset to Kamben

Hallingen to Brautemo

			July									
	Common Name	Scientific Name	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
4	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	Accipiter nisus				✓						
5	Common Crane	Grus grus	13	✓	13	12	14	12	✓	✓		
6	Mew (Common) Gull	Larus canus					✓					
7	European Herring Gull	Larus argentatus	✓			✓						
8	Common Wood Pigeon	Columba palumbus							✓			
9	Common Cuckoo	Cuculus canorus	Н			Н			Н			
10	European Green Woodpecker	Picus viridis	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			
11	Siberian Jay	Perisoreus infaustus		3								
12	Eurasian Magpie	Pica pica	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
13	Hooded Crow	Corvus cornix	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
14	Coal Tit	Periparus ater		✓	✓							
15	Willow Tit	Pocile montanus						✓				
16	Eurasian Blue Tit	Cyanistes caeruleus		✓								
17	Great Tit	Parus major						✓				
18	Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			
19	Common House Martin	Delichon urbicum	<ul> <li>✓</li> </ul>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
20	Willow Warbler	Phylloscopus trochilus		н	✓	✓		✓				
21	Common Chiffchaff	Phylloscopus collybita		Н								
22	Eurasian Blackcap	Sylvia atricapilla			✓							
23	Eurasian Wren	Troglodytes troglodytes						✓				
24	Ring Ouzel	Turdus torquatus							✓			
25	Common Blackbird	Turdus merula			✓		✓					
26	Fieldfare	Turdus pilaris	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
27	Mistle Thrush	Turdus viscivorus				✓						
28	European Robin	Erithacus rubecula		Н	Н			✓	Н			
29	Bluethroat	Luscinia svecica				2		2				
30	Whinchat	Saxicola rubetra			2							
31	Northern Wheatear	Oenanthe oenanthe				✓		✓	✓			
32	White-throated Dipper	Cinclus cinclus					✓					
33	House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	✓		✓		✓	✓				
34	White Wagtail	Motacilla alba alba	<ul> <li>✓</li> </ul>	~	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
35	Meadow Pipit	Anthus pratensis				~		✓				
36	Water Pipit	Anthus spinoletta				~						
37	Common Chaffinch	Fringilla coelebs	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
38	Eurasian Bullfinch	Pyrrhula pyrrhula				✓			✓			
39	European Greenfinch	Chloris chloris		✓					✓			
40	Twite	Linaria flavirostris						✓				
41	Common Redpoll	Acanthis flammea		Н								
42	European Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis		H								
43	Eurasian Siskin	Spinus spinus		 ✓		✓						
44	Yellowhammer	Emberiza citrinella	_	· ·				Н				

## Mammals

1	European Roe Deer	Capreolus capreolus	1				
2	Elk	Alces alces		S		S+1	
3	European Hare	Lepus europaeus	1				

# Amphibians

1         Common Frog         Rana temporaria				1				
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					Ju	ıly			
Common Name	Scientific Name	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

**Butterflies** 

1	Large White	Pieris brassicae					✓		
2	Small White	Pieris rapae	<b>√</b>						
2	Green-veined White	Pieris napi		<ul> <li>✓</li> </ul>				<ul> <li>✓</li> </ul>	
4		Anthocharis cardamines		· ✓		<ul> <li>✓</li> </ul>		•	
	Orange Tip Wood White			✓ ✓		•			
5		Leptidea sinapis		▼ ✓					
6	Small Copper	Lycaena phlaeas		▼ ✓					
7	Scarce Copper	Lycaena virgaureae		v					
8	Little Blue	Cupido minimus					✓		
9	Idas Blue	Plebejus idas	✓		✓				
10	Geranium Argus	Eumedonia eumedon					✓		
11	Mazarine Blue	Cyaniris semiargus		✓			✓		
12	Common Blue	Polyommatus icarus		✓			✓	✓	
13	Red Admiral	Vanessa atalanta							
14	Small Tortoiseshell	Aglais urticae		✓			✓		
15	Dark Green Fritillary	Argynnis aglaja		✓					
16	Queen of Spain Fritillary	Issoria lathonia		✓					
17	Pearl-bordered Fritillary	Boloria euphrosyne		✓					
18	Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary	Boloria selene	✓	✓			✓	✓	
19	Arran Brown	Erebia ligea					✓		
20	Small Heath	Coenonympha pamphilus	✓	✓			✓	✓	
21	Northern Wall Brown	Lasiommata petropolitana		✓					
22	Large Skipper	Hesperia comma		✓				✓	
Mot	hs								
1	a Plume Moth	Hellinsia osreodactylus		✓				✓	
2	Six-spot Burnet	Zygaena filipendulae					✓		
3	Small-tree Eggar	Eriogaster arbusculae					С		
4	Garden Carpet	Xanthorhoe fluctuata		✓					
5	Latticed Heath	Chiasmia clathrata		✓					
6	Common Heath	Ematurga atomaria		✓					
7	Common White Wave	Cabera pusaria						✓	

## Other invertebrates

Mosquito sp., *Culicidae* sp. Wood Ant, *Formica rufa* Buff-tailed Bumblebee, *Bombus terestris* Seven-spot Ladybird, *Coccinella 7-punctata* Wolf Spider, *Pardosa* sp. Cleg-fly, Haematopota pluvialis White-tailed Bumblebee, Bombus lucorum Bilberry Bumblebee, Bombus monticola A red Leaf Beetle (black head), Chrysomela populi

# **Naturetrek Facebook**

We are delighted to launch the Naturetrek Facebook page so that participants of Naturetrek tours can remain in touch after the holiday and share photos, comments and future travel plans.

Setting up a personal profile at <u>www.facebook.com</u> is quick, free and easy. The <u>Naturetrek Facebook page</u> is now live; do please pay us a visit!