

PRESS KIT

March 2024

This year Bodø, Northern Norway, will be European Capital of Culture, the first city north of the Arctic Circle to hold the prestigious title. With 1,000 events in Bodø and Nordland, there will truly be something for everyone. Here are some of the highlights.

BODØ2024'S SEASON OPENINGS

Opening Ceremony (3 Feb 2024)

Phase7 Berlin in partnership with Nordland Theatre. Expect a spectacular event centred around Bodø harbour, with this purpose-built floating stage as the main focus. NRK (Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation) will cover the event. Up to 20,000 visitors are expected to attend.

The New North (23 March 2024)

A big concert in Svømmehallen Scene, Bodø, featuring a stellar team of Northern Norwegian musicians - all inspired by the people, the nature, the stories and the unique atmosphere of the north. With artists Moddi, Ida Maria, Jon-Are Masternes (Klish), Ingvild Austgulen (Opphav), Lars Bremnes, Emil Kárlsen, Risten Anine Gaup and Frode Larsen (Kantona).

Midsummer Mystery (22 Jun 2024)

A large outdoor event in Bodø to celebrate Midsummer Night's Eve. Audience participation will be a key element of the event. By Walk the Plank (UK).

Nordland by Light (Nov-Dec 2024)

Nordland's first ever light festival. Light installations, light shows, light walks, and more. Bodø, Værøy, Alstahaug, etc.

The Trail Way / War Travels

A large-scale investment aiming to offer a better experience for those travelling along the Nordland Railway. “War Travels”, a collaboration between Nordland Teater and Bodø2024, where the public can experience an artistic and geographical deep-dive into Northern Norwegian war-related stories (WW2) associated with places along the Nordlandsbanen. For example, geopoetic wanderings with Davide Sapienza and the theatre performance Kappe Land.

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Petter Dass Sculpture

A new 10m-high sculpture dedicated to Nordland’s most famous priest and poet Petter Dass (1647-1707), on an islet off the coast of Helgeland in Sandnessjøen. The sculpture is based on a smaller sculpture by Norwegian artist Gustav Vigeland. Artist: Frode Mikal Lillesund. A new landmark in Nordland. Best seen from sea, a new attraction for all sailing or cruising past. (Unveiling August 2024)

Contact: **Alf Knutsen**, Project Manager, alf.knutsen@gmail.com

Messy Corners/ The Controversial Hamsun

A brand new exhibition opening at the Hamsun Centre on Hamarøy 15-16 Mar 2024. Norway’s most famous novelist, referred by some as ‘the father of modern literature’, Knut Hamsun irrevocably tarnished his legacy by being an ardent supporter of nazi Germany. A known antisemite, Hamsun praised the efforts of Germany during WW2 and courted many high-ranking nazi officers, including Hitler and Goebbels, famously giving the latter his Nobel Prize medal. Hamsun lived in Paris, France and Germany, and visited several other countries in Europe. This exhibition explores the ways in which Knut Hamsun was and continues to be a controversial

figure, bringing us right up to the contemporary perspectives of today. An exclusive selection of professionals and researchers are given space to share their new perceptions of Hamsun. A vital goal is to facilitate reflection and provide visitors with a new understanding of Hamsun – regardless of who they are. Hamsunsdagene (The Hamsun’s Days) will take place 4-10 Aug 2024.

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The Cave

A world’s first. A concert in a submerged cave, where all musicians, technicians and audience (limited to around 50) will have to be accredited cave divers. Part of our ‘Leave Nothing but Footprints’ concept, exploring art and performances in vulnerable places. The concert will be streamed through a multi-camera production, so it can reach a global audience. Local saxophonist Håkon Skog Erlandsen has played in several extreme locations, including on top of Mt Everest. (**NEW DATE** 29 Mar 2024 at 3PM, Plura Cave, Mo I Rana).

Contacts: **Ina Therese Trælnes**, Plura Valley and Plura Cave, ina@pluravalley.com, (+47) 907 58 523 and **Håkon Skog Erlandsen**, saxophonist, haakonskogerlandsen@gmail.com, (+47) 991 67 665

Via Querinissima

A new Council of Europe Culture Route (status pending). Pietro Querini was a 15th century merchant from the Republic of Venice. Bound for Bruges in Flanders in 1431 his merchant ship encountered a terrible storm off the coast of France and shipwrecked. Just after the new year, in January

NØUA

Top contemporary photography throughout 2024. NØUA is one of the artist-driven initiatives that have come through the eye of the needle and received direct support from Creative Europe, the EU's programme for the cultural and creative sectors. Extensive programme in 2024 including exhibitions, film screenings, talks and more. www.noua.no

Exhibition programme:

20 Jan–31 Mar: Batia Suter (CH/NL), curated by Francesca Marcaccio (IT/HK)

13 Apr–26 May: Morgen Torgersrud (NO), curated by Kjersti Solbakken/LIAF (NO)

15 June-11 Aug: Steffi Klenz (DE/UK), curated by Michal Raymond (UK)

24 Aug-20 Oct: Group exhibition- curated by Kjersti Solbakken/LIAF (NO)

9 Nov-15 Dec: SMITH (FR), curated by Taous Dahmani (FR)

Contact: **Dan Mariner**, Owner and Manager, danmariner@gmail.com, (+47) 411 84 433

Håkon Bleken at 95

Art exhibition featuring the work of 95-years-old Bleken, one of Norway's greatest living contemporary artists. "Exhibiting at Bodøgaard in connection with Bodø 2024 is something I'm really looking forward to. Older and new graphics, paintings, collages and drawings have already been selected for the exhibition. But I hope to be able to create a few more works for the exhibition," says the painter. (Bodøgaard Gallery, Bodø, 3 Feb-24 Mar 2024)

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European Cabins of Culture

A project involving the famous Norwegian tourist cabins. Norway has 550 of them, number 500 being the stunning Rabot Cabin in Hemnes, Nordland. These cabins are an important part of our proud tradition of hiking. All of them are open to the public, built and run by the Norwegian Trekking Association (DNT). In 2024 they will not only be the goal of a day trip, or a weekend in the mountains; they will feature a coherent European theme with exhibitions, concerts, talks and more. (Summer 2024)

Contact: **Bodø2024** (Programme under production, more info Spring 2024)

Nordlandsruta (The Nordland Trekking Trail)

The Nordlandsruta is a 650km long marked hiking trail that runs along the border between Norway and Sweden. Along the route are Northern Norway's three largest mountains, Norway's second largest lake, around fifty fishing lakes, several glaciers and unique natural and cultural landscapes. The route goes through six reindeer herding districts, five Sami language areas, three national parks and a number of protected areas. A joint tour will be organised along the route in summer 2024, with various artistic events at selected locations. (27 July-17 Aug 2024)

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Stories from Cold War Hotspots

This project invites ordinary people from both sides of the former Iron Curtain to share their reflections on the Cold War. The collected interviews will be used for both research purposes and an exciting exhibition in the urban spaces of Bodø, Tartu and Berlin in 2024. "Stories from Cold

War Hotspots” is a collaborative project between the Norwegian Aviation Museum and Bodø2024, in partnership with institutions from Estonia, Scotland, Germany and Denmark. The project aims to explore how the Cold War is remembered and reflected upon from a comprehensive European perspective.

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MORE BODØ2024 PROJECTS AND EVENTS

Arts of Democracy

Freedom festival setting the focus on peace and freedom of expression. 14 former European Capitals of Culture are involved in this project by ICORN (International Cities of Refuge Network) (9-14 Sep 2024, Bodø).

Contact: **Henrik S Dagfinrud**, Programme Director, Bodø2024
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Prosjekt 67

A travelling container art project aiming to foster collaboration in the Arctic regions and in the countries along the 67 parallel north. Street art, installations and more. (14-21 Sep, Bodø) www.prosjekt67.org

Contact: **Gøran Møya, Manager**, info@prosjekt67.org, (+47) 990 34 245

Coastal Convention (Kyststevnet)

The largest fair and festival for traditional and historic boats, boat building and coastal culture, gathering some 250 boats from all over the region.

YOUNG2024, BODØ2024 YOUTH PROJECT

A clear and good youth project was a large part of the reason why Bodø's application was successful as European Capital of Culture in 2024, and youth are the project's most important target group. Young people leaving Nordland is a big challenge. Much of Bodø's motivation for becoming European Capital of Culture is that the project can contribute to make the region more attractive for young people, can contribute to fewer young people moving out (and more returning to settle here after studying for example). Culture creates attractive communities, belonging and pride in one's own home. YoUNG2024 is a project for young people, by young people, and has its own board and its own budget (10million NOK).

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MORE INFORMATION

Info about the opening day here: www.bodo2024.no/apningsdagen
Info about Sámi week here: www.bodo2024.no/prosjekter/same-kulturvahkko

PRESS IMAGES

You will find a selection of press images you can use free of charge here: www.bodo2024.no/apningsdagen/presse



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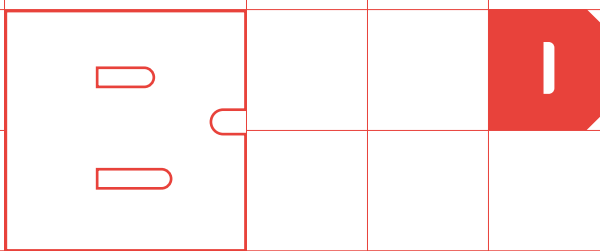
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The world's longest party

Bodø2024 hope more than 500,000 will visit Bodø and Nordland during the European Capital of Culture year. This will be the world's longest party, both in terms of time and area covered: the county of Nordland stretches over 800km from north to south. And the festivities will last for a whole year.

Facts about Bodø2024

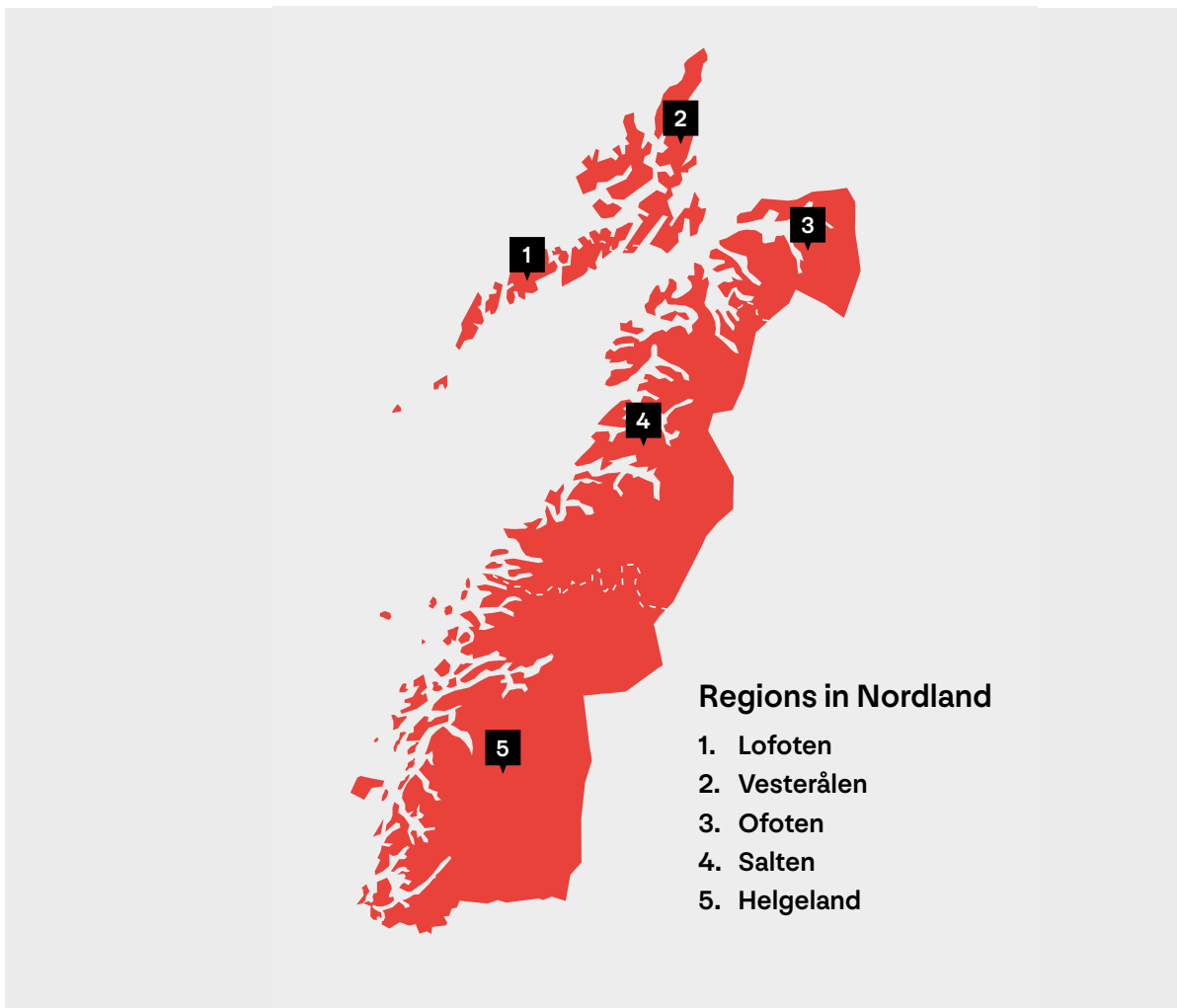
- Bodø is the first European Capital of Culture north of the Arctic Circle.
- Bodø2024 is the largest cultural project ever in Northern Norway.
- Only two other Norwegian cities, Bergen (2000) and Stavanger (2008), have previously held the status of European Capital of Culture.
- European Capital of Culture is the EU's largest culture programme. Over 70 cities have held the prestigious status since 1985.
- The Bodø2024 programme (called ARCTICulation) aims to tell new stories from the Arctic. Its structure reflects the five seasons and the pulse of the Arctic
- Some 1,000 events are planned for the title year.
- The three themes chosen for the Bodø2024 programme reflect Bodø and Nordland's identity: Art of Nature, Fish and Ships, and Transition.



The European Capital of Culture concept

A European Capital of Culture (ECOC) is not just a year-long ‘festival’, but also a community development programme built around arts and culture. Many of Bodø 2024’s strategic objectives reflect this, with focus on competence building, audience development, more cross-productions, internationalisation, etc More about European Capital of Culture here:

<https://culture.ec.europa.eu/policies/culture-in-cities-and-regions/european-capitals-of-culture>



BODØ2024'S OPENING DAY, 3 FEBRUARY 2024

Our opening day offers a packed programme in addition to the official ceremony, which will take place at 16.00 in Stormen Library (by invitation only – journalist attending will have received extra information about this), and the grand opening show by the harbour at 18.30. Her Majesty Queen Sonja of Norway and the Prime Minister of Norway Jonas Gahr Støre will both attend the opening, as well as a host of distinguished Norwegian and international guests. The programme for the opening day will have a strong focus on Sámi culture. The date of the opening was chosen to coincide with Sámi Week, a celebration of Sámi culture which takes place every year around 6 February, the Sámi National Day. There will be a Sámi market, Sámi films (360 films specially commissioned from young Sámi directors, in one of the world's largest lavvos), Sámi music, Sámi theater (a whole trilogy, specially commissioned for Bodø2024), Sámi food, and more.

Several art exhibitions are opening/are open that day (including one with Håkon Bleken, 95, one of Norway's most respected contemporary artists). There will also be several concerts, including a concert featuring the work of young Northern Norwegian composers (in Stormen, tickets required) and our YoUNG2024 opening, Arctic food tasting, the launch of our own aquavit, and a lot more!

You will find information about the full programme for the day here:
www.bodo2024.no/apningsdagen