

A stroll through Skjolden: The Wittgenstein route Part 1

- 1 Fjordstova
- 2 Skjolden Hotel
- 3 Klingenberghuset
- 4 Storehuset
Gamlebrua
(The old Bridge)
- 5 Odden

Wittgenstein in Skjolden

Ludvig Wittgenstein (1889-1951) is considered one of the most important philosophers of the twentieth century.

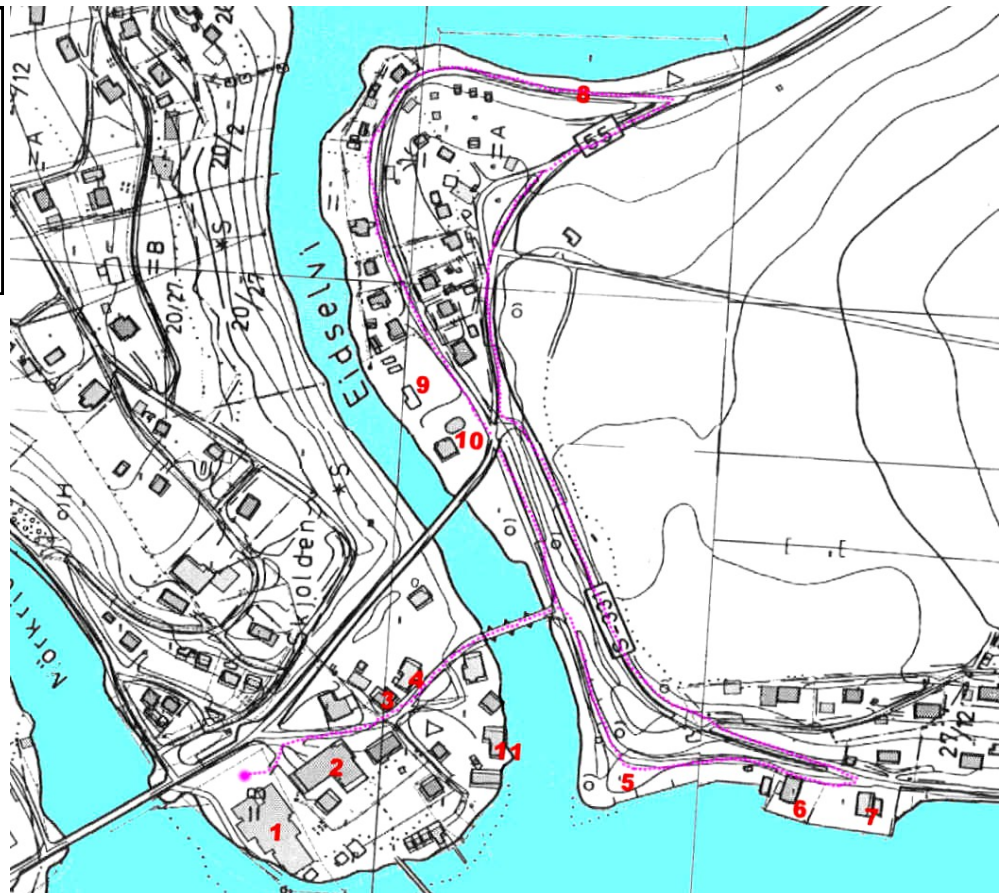
Wittgenstein came to Skjolden in the late autumn of 1913.

Factory owner Hallvard Drægnid had provided lodging for him at his sister's house. She was married to postmaster Klingenberg, and they lived next door to Hallvard.

During the winter while Wittgenstein was staying with the Klingenbergs, he was working on a philosophical thesis that was published in 1921 under the title *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*.

He stayed in the village till June 1914. Before he left, he had started to build a house here in the mountainside at the far end of lake Eidsvatnet. (The house was completed after he left.)

He came back here several times, and he said he could work nowhere else like he could in Skjolden.



(1) Fjordstova: contains a swimming pool, a cafeteria, a climbing wall, an assembly hall, a shooting gallery, a library, a souvenir shop and a trim room with solarium. You will find pictures from the period of Wittgenstein in the library. There is also a small collection of books concerning Wittgenstein.

(2) Skjolden Hotel is next door to Fjordstova. The Hotel has 55 rooms with 100 beds in all. There is a well kept garden on the fjord side. The guests have free access to the swimming pool in Fjordstova, and also to the rowing boats at the pier. The great grandfather to the present owner was a close friend to Wittgenstein. They often went for long walks discussing religion and other subjects.

(3) Klingenberghuset: This house was built in 1907 by postmaster Klingenberg. Ludwig Wittgenstein lived here during the winter of 1913/1914. He had his study on the ground floor facing the hotel and the fjord, and his bedroom was on the first floor above the study, with access to the balcony.

(4) Storehuset: Hallvard Drægni and his family lived here. Behind the house was Drægni's jam- and juice factory. Wittgenstein worked here for a short period during the summer of 1921 when he had given away all his money, and had to borrow money from Drægni to travel to Skjolden. (We cross the old bridge, and turn right.)

(5) Odden: From Odden, where the Eide river (part of the Fortun watercourse) meets the Luster fjord, we have a good view of Skjolden. The two buildings closest to the river were general stores. We see doors facing the river where they brought in goods from the boats. There are also a few remains of a wooden pier. In 1913 the general store with the long, slanting roof belonged to Hallvard Drægni. This is where Wittgenstein would buy all he needed for his stays in Skjolden.

In 1913 large quantities of ice blocks were shipped from Odden to different parts of the country and to Europe, mostly to England. The ice blocks were cut at Eidsvatnet and stored in a huge storehouse between the lake and the fjord.



We wish you a pleasant and interesting stroll through Skjolden!

Skjolden Aktiv and
IL Fanaråk