



Nostalgic details meet modern décor in this charming café.

Everyday luxury in coastal Telemark café

If the picturesque canals and rivers of Telemark have not made you book your tickets yet, Elvebredden kafé in Porsgrunn might be the motivation you need to go on a Nordic adventure to the beautiful coast of south-eastern Norway.

By Karen Langfjæran | Photos: Anna Olette Tangen

The riverside café Elvebredden kafé in Porsgrunn is as idyllic as it is nice and nostalgic – a perfect stop on your stroll through the lovely coastal town in beautiful Telemark. The café is centrally located just steps from the river as well as a nearby park, the city bridge and Porsgrunn's shopping centre, Downtown, making it easy to stop by for a take-away or a life-time – or something in between.

Four friends and an excellent idea

"Elvebredden kafé is the result of four friends wanting to establish something

unique at this beautiful riverside location, which was not in use at the time," says Eunike Kristoffersen, manager of Elvebredden kafé. "We were all very enthusiastic about home-cooked, high-quality food and all things nostalgic, and thought we'd combine the two while at the same time creating a sort of melting pot – or 'storstue' – for the locals, where everyone could feel at home."

As the enthusiastic group of friends laid the groundwork for their quirky café concept, they quickly learned that good ideas

demand hard work. "We are now only a few months away from our three-year anniversary, and it's been hard work – primarily because of the immediate success," says Kristoffersen.

Everyday luxury in design, atmosphere and food menu

As you walk into Elvebredden kafé, there is no avoiding the intricate blend of antique details and stylish new design. "You're surrounded by nostalgic items and regional interior finds, but if you look closely you'll find a few IKEA mugs as well," Kristoffersen laughs. The atmosphere can be enjoyed by up to 140 people indoors, as well as in the outdoor serving space where the combination of fresh air and a park view, alongside a fresh and home-cooked meal and your preferred

drink, adds to the sensation. "Our outdoor area is our next project, as we intend to make it even nicer," says Kristoffersen.

The café manager explains that the concept is based on the idea of everyday luxury, which sets the mood of the design and the atmosphere as well as the menu. "The idea is that you may find yourself drifting into a daydream as you look through the windows to the river or the park and have your first taste of our home-cooked food," says Kristoffersen. Add the lovely location and a cheeky glass of wine – or whatever else tickles your fancy – to the mix, and you have got yourself a pretty decent afternoon.

Glance through the menu and find Scandi classics such as the shrimp-based 'skagensmørbrød' open sandwich and collections of cured meats and cheeses

as well as more international favourites such as a chilli and salads. "Our most popular dish is our classic Norwegian 'karbonadesmørbrød', an open sandwich with home-made cooked ground beef – the Nordic equivalent of a hamburger," says Kristoffersen.

The café owners make sure to find fresh, high-quality ingredients and add some cosiness to the table as they serve your meal on stylish chopping boards or nostalgic or locally made tableware. "It's very important to us that customers get great service when visiting, even when it's chaotic on a Saturday afternoon," Kristoffersen adds.

Plenty of plans for Porsgrunn

Whilst visiting Porsgrunn, make sure to make the most of Elvebredden kafé's prime location and stroll by the river

as well as the nearby park and the city centre. If walking is not your thing, consider the Bratsbergbanen train, which takes you through lovely villages in the Telemark area. However, there is no real need to leave Porsgrunn – a popular location for summertime festivals such as its beer festival and international theatre festival.

The city is currently undergoing significant development projects but is already equipped with everything you would expect from a small city like Porsgrunn, such as a science museum, a cinema, bowling, beautiful nature, nice restaurants and great shopping. "I would recommend going for a walk along the river, a nice waterfront area with beautiful architecture and lovely shops," says Kristoffersen – after you have enjoyed your portion of cake and coffee at Elvebredden kafé, of course.



You are in the good hands of Wenche Boek, Eunike Kristoffersen and Ester Nilsen Huemer as you visit the cosy Elvebredden kafé.

Elvebredden kafé is located in the coastal city of Porsgrunn in the south-eastern county of Telemark, just over 100 kilometres south-west of Oslo, a three-hour train ride or two hours by car. Porsgrunn is famous for its porcelain factory, Porsgrunds Porselænsfabrik, which is conveniently located just across the river from Elvebredden kafé.

Web: www.elvebreddenkafe.no



Expect beautiful Nordic classics, made and served with a side of love at Elvebredden kafé in Porsgrunn.