



Joint Viking 2023 – fact sheet

- What:** Norwegian military winter exercise held every two years. Led by the Norwegian Armed Forces with invited forces from NATO and partner nations. Joint Viking is closely connected to the British Naval exercise Joint Warrior and the Norwegian Home Guard exercise Jøssing in southwestern Norway.
- When:** The field exercise lasts from 6 to 16 March 2023 but there will be military activity in the weeks before and after this. Some of the allied forces arrived in Norway in January and February to prepare for the exercise.
- Where:** North Norway, mainly in the Inner Troms Region. The activity will be concentrated along the European highway 6 Bjerkevik–Setermoen–Bardufoss–Nordkjosbotn. There will also be some activity at sea and in the air.
- Who:** More than 20,000 soldiers from nine countries, as of February 2023. Most of the participants come from Norway, the rest come from Canada, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the USA. Around 50 aircraft and 40 vessels will be involved in the exercise. Some Norwegian civilian organisations will also take part, as these have a fundamental role should there be a crisis in Norway.
- Why:** During Joint Viking we train on defending and protecting Norway and our territory. We need to be able to fight back and stop anyone who tries to challenge our borders, values and democracy. With today's security situation in Europe this exercise is more relevant and important than ever before.
- Why here:** NATO is the backbone in the defence of Norway. This makes it vital for us to train together with allied forces in Norway. The exercise increases our preparedness and our capability to conduct large-scale joint operations in challenging weather and climate. We, and our allies, need to know our own terrain and conditions. This is fresh knowledge that needs to be trained on regularly. Northern Norway also offers great exercise areas, which makes this region well-suited for a major exercise like Joint Viking.

Safety and environment

The Norwegian Armed Forces have extensive experience with large-scale military exercises in Norway. This includes environmental protection and damage prevention. All participants are thoroughly briefed on where they are allowed to operate, drive and train. We have also established restricted areas where military activity is prohibited. Should damage still occur, the Armed Forces have efficient compensation schemes. We also have a contact centre that will answer any relevant questions, and receive and handle reports of damages.

The Norwegian Armed Forces have a close collaboration with the civilian transport sector and the Norwegian Public Roads Administration. We will run public traffic safety campaigns in connection with the exercise. We will also inform locals where military traffic may appear.

In addition, we have established separate no-fly zones with restrictions on the use of aircraft and drones. This is done to prevent dangerous situations and accidents in the air.



Transparency

Joint Viking is a defensive exercise and the goal is to train on defending our country. The Norwegian Armed Forces strive for transparency around our military exercises. This is important for preventing misunderstandings, tensions and escalation of conflicts. Norway complies with international agreements, and through official channels we have informed all relevant countries – including Russia – about the exercise.

Media

Norwegian and foreign press are welcome to cover the exercise. The Norwegian Armed Forces will create events for the media to cover, and we will make arrangements for reporters to meet and interview participants and soldiers. For press enquiries, please call the Norwegian Joint Headquarters on +47 40 43 80 83 or e-mail: info@mil.no.

- More information about exercise Joint Viking is available at www.mil.no/jv
- Our Norwegian site about Joint Viking can be found at www.forsvaret.no/jv