

Conference on Climate Change in the Barents Region



Excursion to Hamningberg 03.09.09

People have at all times adapted to extreme climatic conditions in the Arctic. The now abandoned fishing village of Hamningberg is an example of how people lived under harsh conditions by the Barents Sea. The village, situated furthest out on the Varanger peninsula, is unique in many ways. As almost the entire northern part of Norway was burnt down and demolished during the last days of World War II. Hamningberg stands out as one of the very few places to escape this fate. Most of the 65 buildings are worthy of preservations, some of them dating back to the 18th century. Some of the houses are Russian, build and used by Russian traders during the pomor trade period (1720-1900). Two pomor houses are now being restored by Russian craftsmen.

The road to Hamningberg follows the shoreline of Varanger peninsula, and runs close to the border of Varanger Peninsula National Park and Persfjorden – Syltefjorden Landscape Protection Area. The protected areas were established in 2006 to protect the vulnerable arctic flora and fauna, rare geological formations, as well as relics from ancient culture. The national park is home to a small stock of polar foxes (*Alopex lagopus*), one of the rarest mammals in Scandinavia.

Schedule:

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 09:00-11:30 | Transport by bus from Vadsø to Hamningberg. Bring luggage on board. |
| 11:30-12:30 | Lunch with informal lecture on Varanger Peninsula National Park and protection of the polar fox |
| 12:30-14:00 | Guided walk in the village |
| 14:00-17:00 | Transport by bus from Hamningberg to Vadsø. Short stop at special scenery, showing sea level reduction. Sandwiches and snacks will be served on board |

The bus goes directly to *Vadsø Airport* before returning to the centre of Vadsø.

- | | |
|-------------|------------------------------------|
| 18:42-19:40 | Transport by air, Vadsø - Kirkenes |
| 20:50-23:00 | Transport by air, Kirkenes - Oslo |
-