

KP MINING

NORWAY GOLD INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

Mining - Prospecting - Regulations - Equipment - Gold History

Focus: Finnmark • Karasjok • Finnmarksvidda • Eidsvoll • Bømlo • Telemark • Trøndelag

Current to 29 August 2026

Executive Summary

KP Mining Gold Intelligence Bulletin — This edition examines Norway's placer-gold areas, the new 2026 Minerals Act, current rules for recreational gold panning, important historic and modern gold districts, equipment currently available in Norway, and practical opportunities for readers who want to experience Norwegian gold prospecting.

- Norway has both alluvial placer gold and hard-rock gold. The best-known placer region is Finnmark, particularly the river systems around Karasjok and the Finnmarksvidda.
- Norway's new Minerals Act came into force on 1 July 2026. The Directorate of Mining has updated its guidance on prospecting, investigation and extraction.
- Alluvial gold is a landowner mineral. Gold panning for the purpose of taking the gold away requires landowner permission. On the Finnmark Estate this is handled through FeFo's 'gold card' system.
- FeFo launched a new self-service gold-card system in May 2026. Visitors from outside Finnmark can buy day permits for one municipality; residents can buy annual permits.
- On FeFo land, hobby panning is deliberately low-impact: simple pans and hand tools are allowed, while machinery, pumps, hoses and dredging are not permitted.
- Norway currently has no operating primary gold mine according to the Geological Survey of Norway, although historic districts such as Eidsvoll, Bømlø, Bleka and Biddjovagge remain geologically important.
- Private exploration interest has not disappeared. Mineral Holding AS says it holds licences for three of Norway's four historically operated gold mines and plans field work and possible test-mine applications during 2026.
- Norway has a good retail market for small prospecting equipment. Current Norwegian shops stock pans, classifiers, sluices and specialist gold detectors with direct online purchasing.

1. Where Gold Is Found in Norway

Karasjok and Finnmarksvidda

Norway's classic placer-gold district. NGU records the first alluvial gold find in Finnmark in 1866 near Karasjok. Gold was subsequently identified through the Tana system and in the Alta and Reisa rivers. Historic workings include areas south of Karasjok, including Stirkojokka/Sadgejohka-related ground.

Finnmark river systems

NGU describes alluvial gold in river gravels, terraces, moraines and fluvioglacial deposits. Historic production/prospecting concentrated in upper river systems, with gold commonly concentrated above less-permeable layers or bedrock.

Eidsvoll / Gullverket

Norway's earliest important hard-rock gold district. Mining began in the eighteenth century and occurred in several periods through the early twentieth century. Modern exploration rights were again awarded in parts of the district in 2023–24.

Bømlø / Lykling

A famous western Norwegian hard-rock gold district associated with gold-bearing quartz veins. Historic workings and mineral specimens remain important, but collecting rights and protected/local restrictions must be respected.

Bleka, Telemark

Historic quartz-vein gold district with several periods of mining.

Biddjovagge, Finnmark

Former copper-gold mine that operated from 1985–1991. NGU states that more than six tonnes of gold were recovered, principally as part of copper mining.

Trøndelag / Gisna

Modern nugget finds have kept Norwegian placer prospecting in the public eye. Detektor.no cites a roughly 35 g nugget found in Gisna in 2017.

2. Major 2026 Regulatory Development — New Minerals Act

Norway's new Minerals Act took effect on 1 July 2026. For recreational and small-scale gold prospectors, the most important point is the distinction between looking for minerals and actually taking alluvial gold.

Issue	What readers need to know
Alluvial gold ownership	Alluvial gold in loose sediments is treated as the landowner's mineral.
Taking gold home	Gold panning undertaken to find and remove alluvial gold for collection or sale requires permission from the landowner.
Small-scale panning	The Directorate of Mining says gold panning involving no more than 500 m ³ over time is not subject to the Minerals Act's notification or operating-concession requirement, but landowner permission is still required.
Larger/mechanical activity	Gold washing above 500 m ³ , including activity using pumps or other machinery, is a notifiable extraction under the Minerals Act. Other municipal and watercourse permissions may also be required.
Prospecting right	Simple prospecting can be allowed under the Minerals Act, but the prospecting right does not itself give a right to remove the landowner's alluvial gold.
Land access	From 1 July 2026, prospecting in areas where the public has no right of access under the Outdoor Recreation Act requires consent from the landowner and relevant rights holders.

3. Gold Panning on the Finnmark Estate

Finnmarkseiendommen (FeFo) controls a very large proportion of land in Finnmark and has a dedicated gold-panning permit system.

- Before panning for gold on FeFo land, prospectors must obtain a 'gullkort' (gold card).
- Residents of Finnmark can buy annual permits; visitors from outside Finnmark can buy a day permit valid in one municipality.
- FeFo's new self-service permit system was launched in May 2026 and is designed to issue the permission immediately after login and payment.
- Only simple gold pans and hand tools are permitted under the recreational rules. Machinery, pumps, hoses and dredging are specifically prohibited.
- Prospectors must minimize environmental disturbance and disinfect equipment used in streams and rivers.
- FeFo's published contact for gold panning is Johan Borgenvik; main office telephone +47 78 95 50 00 and mobile +47 95 79 09 55.

[Open FeFo gold-panning information and permit page](#)

4. Current Gold Exploration and Mining Outlook

No operating primary gold mine

NGU states that there is currently no gold mining operation in Norway. Historic gold mining occurred at Eidsvoll, Bømlo and Bleka, while Biddjovagge produced gold with copper.

Renewed interest in historic mines

Mineral Holding AS states that it holds licences for three of the four gold mines historically operated in Norway, in the Bleka, Eidsvoll and Bømlo districts. The company says its 2026 programme is focused on field mapping and exploration methods, with possible applications for test-mining if economically interesting targets are identified.

[Read Mineral Holding's gold-project overview](#)

5. Gold-Panning Experiences and Visitor Opportunities

Opportunity	Current position	Why it matters
Karasjok / Arctic gold-panning experiences	Northern tourism operators advertise guided gold-panning experiences in the Karasjok area, linking the activity to the region's nineteenth-century gold history.	A practical introduction for visitors who want guided access and equipment.
Lierne Geology Park	The geology park invites visitors to try gold panning and provides pans at the site.	A simple family/educational introduction to panning.
Finnmark self-guided panning	With a valid FeFo gold card and compliance with local rules, visitors can pan using simple hand tools on permitted FeFo ground.	Best option for experienced recreational panners who want independent field time.

6. Prospecting Equipment Currently for Sale in Norway

The blue equipment names below are direct links to the individual product advertisement/page. Prices shown were current when this bulletin was prepared.

Equipment — click for exact advert	Seller / location	Price	Details
XP Gold Pan Starter Kit	Detektor.no / Vinterbro	NOK 590	37 cm XP Z4 pan, 10 mm classifier, snuffer bottle, pipette, vial, tubes and magnifier.
XP Gold Batea Kit	Detektor.no / Vinterbro	NOK 860	50 cm Batea, 10 mm classifier, snuffer bottle, pipette, vials and magnifier.
XP Gold Premium Panning Kit	Detektor.no / Vinterbro	NOK 890	Two Z4 pans, 5 mm and 10 mm classifiers plus fine-gold collection accessories.
XP Sluicibox VS1	Metallsøker AS / Våle	NOK 795	560 g compact vortex sluice with 40 self-cleaning vortex cells.
Sona flexible mini sluice	Metallsøker AS / Våle	NOK 339	Compact 30 cm soft TPR-rubber sluice.
Sona aluminium mini sluice	Metallsøker AS / Våle	NOK 349	30 x 9 cm aluminium sluice with expanded metal and rubber mat.

Sona 87 cm aluminium sluice	Metallsøker AS / Våle	NOK 1,451	87 x 35 cm aluminium sluice with ribbed rubber mat.
Sona folding aluminium sluice	Metallsøker AS / Våle	NOK 1,790	Folding aluminium sluice for portable prospecting.
Sona 69 cm aluminium sluice	Metallsøker AS / Våle	NOK 1,690	Expanded metal, miners moss, carpet and rubber riffles.
Fisher Gold Bug PRO	Detektor.no / Vinterbro	NOK 4,980	Specialist gold detector with ground-balancing capability and target ID.
Fisher Gold Bug-2	Detektor.no / Vinterbro	NOK 8,980	70 kHz specialist natural-gold detector; retailer describes sensitivity to very small gold.

7. Equipment Restrictions Matter in Finnmark

A key point for readers accustomed to Alaska-style dredging is that much of the attractive recreational placer ground on the Finnmark Estate is not open to pumps, suction dredges or powered highbankers under the ordinary gold-card rules.

- A pan, classifier and hand tools fit the FeFo recreational system.
- A passive sluice may still require checking against the exact wording of the landowner permission and local watercourse rules; do not assume that every sluice installation is automatically allowed.
- Pumps, hoses, dredges and machinery are expressly prohibited under FeFo's hobby-panning rules.
- Anyone considering mechanical processing elsewhere in Norway must deal with the landowner and assess the Minerals Act, municipality, watercourse and environmental requirements for the specific site.

8. Second-Hand Market and Facebook/Marketplace Search

A broad current search was made across publicly indexed FINN results, Facebook/Marketplace results and Norwegian-language searches for gullrenne, gullvasking, gullpanne, pumper and prospecting equipment.

No sufficiently specific live second-hand Norwegian gold-prospecting advert was independently verified well enough to publish here with a direct advert link. FINN's indexed search results were too broad, while Facebook Marketplace and many group listings are login-gated or not exposed to public indexing. This bulletin therefore does not present generic search pages as if they were individual adverts.

When a verifiable used sluice, pump, detector, panning kit or other prospecting item appears, it should be listed with the exact advert, price, location and public seller contact details.

9. Norwegian Gold History — Key Facts

Period	Event
1866	NGU records the first alluvial-gold discovery in Finnmark near Karasjok.
1870s–20th century	Gold washing and prospecting continued in several Karasjok-area fields and other Finnmark river systems.
1758 onward	Historic hard-rock gold mining developed at Eidsvoll/Gullverket.
1880s onward	Bømlø/Lykling became one of Norway's best-known quartz-vein gold districts.
1985–1991	Biddjovagge copper-gold mine operated in Finnmark and recovered more than six tonnes of gold.
2017	A roughly 35 g natural gold nugget was reported from Gisna

	in Trøndelag, helping renew public interest in Norwegian placer gold.
1 July 2026	Norway's new Minerals Act entered into force.

10. Useful Contacts

Organisation	Role	Contact	Website
Finnmarkseiendommen (FeFo)	Gold cards and landowner permission	+47 78 95 50 00 Johan Borgenvik mobile +47 95 79 09 55 post@fefo.no	Open website
Directorate of Mining with the Commissioner of Mines at Svalbard (DMF)	Minerals Act and extraction/prospecting guidance	Official guidance website	Open website
Geological Survey of Norway (NGU)	Gold geology and mineral-resource databases	Official geological information	Open website
Detektor.no / Eskeland Electronics AS	Gold pans and specialist detectors	+47 64 97 30 70 post@detektor.no	Open website
Metallsøker AS	Sluices and prospecting equipment	+47 45 44 73 71 info@metallsoker.no	Open website

11. Bulletin Assessment

Norway is a genuine European gold-prospecting country, but its recreational scene is built around low-impact panning rather than Alaska-style suction dredging. Finnmark is the standout placer region, with Karasjok providing the strongest historic association and FeFo offering a clear permit route for recreational visitors.

The new Minerals Act makes the distinction particularly important: the right to prospect does not automatically give a right to take alluvial gold. Landowner permission remains central, and powered or higher-volume operations move into a much more demanding regulatory category.

For most visitors, the practical Norwegian kit is therefore a good pan, classifier, hand tools and—where specifically permitted—a suitable sluice. Norway also has excellent specialist gold detectors for prospectors interested in larger natural gold away from active stream processing.

12. Sources & Verification

- Directorate of Mining — FAQ / gold panning: <https://www.dirmin.no/faq>
- Directorate of Mining — new Minerals Act, 8 June 2026: <https://www.dirmin.no/index.php/aktuelt/informasjon-om-ny-minerallov>
- FeFo — gold panning: <https://www.fefo.no/naring/gull/>
- FeFo — new gold-card system, May 2026: <https://www.fefo.no/aktuelt-nyheter/enklere-vei-til-gullfeberen-ny-losning-for-gullkort.11675.aspx>
- NGU — Gold in Norway: <https://www.ngu.no/geologiske-ressurser/gull>
- NGU mineral-resource database — Karasjok placer occurrence: https://aps.ngu.no/pls/oradb/minres_deposit_fakta.Main?p_objid=753&p_spraak=E
- Mineral Holding AS — Gold projects: <https://www.mineralholding.no/english/projects/gold>
- Detektor.no — Norwegian gold-panning equipment: <https://www.detektor.no/metalldetektor-for-hobby/gullvasking/302/7/c>
- Metallsøker AS — sluices: <https://metallsoker.no/collections/vaskerenner>

Important: Gold ownership, access rights and permitted equipment depend on the landowner, site and scale of activity. Product prices and stock can change. Readers should verify the current rules and obtain the required permission before disturbing ground or removing gold.

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