

# Stave churches in Sogn

There are 19 stave churches in Norway.

Five of them are located within a few kilometers from Balestrand.

There is also one in Balestrand from 1897, inspired by the stave churches.

*Inspired by the stave churches - from 1897*

## Balestrand: St Olaf's Anglican Church

In the 19th century Balestrand was a popular destination for English tourists. Margaret Green Kvikne, Knut Kvikne's wife came from England. And just before she died from tuberculosis in 1894 she told her husband about her dream to build an English church in Balestrand. Her dream came true three years later.

Sunday services are held during the summer months, being conducted by rotating vicars from England.



*Unchanged since the 17th century*

## Vik: Hopperstad stave church

Location:

- Vik i Sogn, just across the fjord from Balestrand.
- 31 km (19 miles) one way + ferry 20 minutes.

From around 1130

Hopperstad stave church is assumed to be one of the oldest stave churches in Norway, and hasn't been changed since the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

The church was restored in the period 1885 – 1891.



## Kaupanger: Kaupanger stave church

Location:

- Kaupanger
- 56 km (35 miles) one way from Balestrand + ferry 8 minutes.

From the last half of the 12th century. The pulpit, the altarpiece and the baptismal font are from the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

The church was rebuilt and made larger in the period 1200 – 1350 after Kong Sverre set fire on the village Kaupangen in 1184, and changes were made in 1862, and restored in the period 1959 – 1965.

Kaupanger stave church is the longest stave church in Norway, and the largest in Sogn.

The church is in daily use.

*The largest and in daily use*



## Luster: Urnes stave church

Location:

- The farm Ornes in Luster
- 66 km (41 miles) one way + 1 ferry 8 minutes + 1 ferje 20 minutes.

From around 1130. The dating is unsure, and the church is assumed to be the oldest existing stave church in Norway. Two C14-datings of logs in 1974 gave the age to the year 965, give and take 75 years, and the year 850, give and take 75 years. The oldest log in the church started growing in the year 765. The pulpit is from 1693-1695, the baptismal font from 1640 and the altarpiece from 1699.

The church has been a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1979.

*The oldest*



## Lærdal: Borgund stave church

Location:

- Borgund in Lærdal
- 100 km (62 miles) one way + 1 ferry 8 minutes + 1 ferry 15 minutes

From around 1180. The church is a longchurch with a raised central nave demarcated on four sides by an arcade. It is the best preserved stave church from the middle age. The pulpit is from 1550-1570, and the altarpiece is from around 1650.

*The best preserved*

