



KRIMINALOMSORGEN



# Serving a sentence in Norgershaven Prison in the Netherlands

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**Norway has signed an agreement with the Netherlands to rent Norgervhaven Prison from 1 September 2015. The prison is a unit of Ullersmo Prison and is managed by a Norwegian prison governor and assistant governor with Norwegian staff. The Norwegian staff consist of legal advisers, reintegration coordinator and administrative employees. The prison officers are Dutch.**

**Will Norwegian or Dutch law apply in the prison?**

Sentences served in the Netherlands will be served in line with Norwegian law. Inmates in the Netherlands have the same rights and obligations as inmates in Norway. If an inmate commits a new criminal offence in the Netherlands, he will be prosecuted in the Netherlands.

**Where is the prison located?**

Norgervhaven Prison is located in the village of Veenhuizen in the northern part of the Netherlands.

**What sort of prison is Norgervhaven?**

It is a high security prison with space for 242 inmates, all in single cells.

**Which inmates can serve their sentences in the Netherlands?**

Male convicted persons who are serving their sentences in a closed prison.

**What languages are spoken in the prison?**

The working language is English. Inmates and prison officers will generally speak English with one another. The inmates will be able to write applications, etc. in Norwegian, just like in Norway. The Norwegian staff speak Norwegian.



**What will a typical day be like in the prison?**

The programme on weekdays is from 8am - 8pm, with the exception of lockdown for 2 x 30 minutes, and from 10am - 7pm on weekends, with the exception of lockdown for 1 x 30 minutes. Inmates will work for four hours per day and be able to take courses and engage in activities outside of work hours. Inmates themselves are responsible for being present at appointments and activities. This independence builds trust between inmates and staff. During their free time,



inmates can exercise or play sports, visit the library or socialise with other inmates.

### **How much yard time is there?**

Inmates have yard time twice a day and are then permitted to move freely in the prison yard.

### **How are the exercise options?**

They are good and better than in most Norwegian prisons. The prison has a gym with various equipment. All training occurs with an instructor present. Inmates can do their own exercise in the prison yard and use the fixed exercise equipment. It is also possible to jog and play basketball and beach volleyball. Tennis, volleyball and football can also be played outside.

### **What sort of work does the prison offer?**

Most inmates will be kept active through work. The prison offers several different types of work, including assembly work and work in the laundry, library or kitchen. It is also possible to be involved with unit services (Hall boy) and to work with maintenance of buildings, green areas etc..

### **Will it be possible to go to school or take courses in the prison?**

The prison has a teaching department that offers basic courses in mathematics, computers and English at both beginner and advance levels. In addition, there are arts and crafts activities such as drawing and painting, and music. There are also opportunities for self study and Internet

access in accordance with the Norwegian Correctional Service's DFS solution (school solution).

### **What do the cells look like?**

The cells have a bed, wardrobe, desk, fridge and TV with Norwegian language channels. The windows have a view of the prison yard or the area outside the prison. All cells have a toilet.

### **Can inmates cook their own food in the prison?**

Yes. The wings have a common room with a kitchen where inmates will be able to cook their own food. Each week, shopping lists are sent out for inmates to be able to order dried and fresh food which they can prepare themselves. The prison also serves halal food.

### **Are inmates able to have visitors in the Netherlands?**

Inmates are able to receive visits from their family in specially designed family rooms. Families will have to pay their own travel costs from home to the prison in the same way as when sentences are served in Norway. Inmates will be able to receive visits for several days in a row if the visitor(s) has/have travelled from Norway or another country outside the Netherlands.

Information about visiting routines, travel routes and accommodation options can be found at:

<http://www.kriminalomsorgen.no/norgerhaven-fengsel-nederland.5777803-237612.html>





### **Are inmates able to call home from the prison or use Skype?**

Yes. It is the same telephone system that is found in most prisons in Norway and calls cost the same as they would from Norway. This means that inmates will not be charged overseas rates when calling from Norgerhaven to Norway or to other countries, and the rates will be same as if the call was being made from Norway. Call time is up to 60 minutes per week. Inmates can choose whether to use this time for Skype or telephone calls. Total call time or Skype time is 60 minutes per week. If an inmate orders one or two Skype calls per week, this will then go towards 20 or 40 minutes of call time. In other words, one Skype call leaves 40 minutes for telephone calls for the week. Two Skype calls leave 20 minutes of telephone calls for the week.

### **What will happen if an inmate completes 1/3rd of his sentence and becomes eligible for leave while he is in the Netherlands?**

When an inmate becomes eligible for leave and satisfies the requirements for taking leave, the inmate will return to Norway.

### **Are inmates granted leave or day-release while they are serving their sentences in the Netherlands?**

No, there is no form of leave or day-release from Norgerhaven Prison. Inmates can apply for leave while they are serving at Norgerhaven, but are returned to Norway when they become eligible for leave and leave is granted. If incidents occur in connection with close relations of an inmate that warrant the inmate being granted compassionate leave, the inmate will return to Norway for the period in question.

### **How are the health services at Norgerhaven?**

The prison has a well-staffed health service with nurses, doctors, psychologists and physiotherapists. Dental services are provided from a



dental bus that visits the prison each week.

**What will happen if an inmate falls ill in the Netherlands?**

Inmates with very poor health or who are being treated by the specialist health service will not be transferred to the Netherlands. If an inmate suddenly falls ill in the Netherlands, he will receive immediate help from the Dutch health service. If he needs to be admitted to hospital for more than three days he will be returned to Norway as long as this is responsible from a medical point of view. It is preferable that planned surgical procedures are carried out in Norway. Inmates who are undergoing medicine-assisted rehabilitation can only be transferred to Norgerhaven if they themselves request this.

**Will inmates be released in the Netherlands?**

Inmates will be returned to Norway two months prior to release. Inmates who

wish to return to Norway at a later date will be processed individually and in accordance with a separate application.

**Religious services and spiritual guidance**

Services are arranged by a protestant priest and Friday prayers are led by an imam. Representatives of other faiths will be able to assist with spiritual guidance as needed. Staff members from the Norwegian Seamen's Church in Rotterdam visit the prison each week.

**Are you interested in going to the Netherlands?**

The prison officers on the wing can answer any further questions you may have. They can also help you fill in an application form. There is also an information video about Norgerhaven Prison. Contact the prison officers if this is not available on TV in the prison.



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