



Vitensenteret Sørlandet aims to spark an interest in science through activities and interactive installations.

Attraction of the Month, Norway

The wonderful world of science

“Our mission is to spread excitement for science among people of all ages,” says Kine Wangerud, manager at Vitensenteret Sørlandet in Arendal, one of nine science centres scattered across the country.

By Andrea Bærland | Photos: Haakon Sundbø



“We have many school classes and pre-schools taking part in our educational outreach programme, and we also hit the road and visit schools on request. But Vitensenteret Sørlandet is also a place where the entire family can have fun together!” Wangerud says, speaking of the exhibition area space brimming with fun, interactive installations and experiments in Arendal’s city centre.

Vitensenteret has four permanent exhibitions covering topics such as energy, maritime technology, mathematics, and body and health. “Our body and health

exhibit has an installation where you can follow the food travelling around the body, with all accompanying bodily sounds. It’s a big hit among our youngest visitors,” Wangerud smiles.

Another big hit with the younger crowd is donning lab coats and making their own slime in the chemistry lab. And for those eager to replicate the child-friendly experiment, Vitensenteret even sells professional lab kits to take home. “Because we use lab equipment on a daily basis, it is important for us that it is of high quality, and it is the same equipment that we sell in our gift shop,” says Wangerud.

For the team at Vitensenteret, it is of the utmost importance that everyone, regardless of age, enjoys the hours spent in their realm. “We like to call it grandpa’s paradise, as we strive to be a place you can take your entire family to, and the toddler and the teenager will have just as much fun,” Wangerud explains.

But she adds that children are not a prerequisite, and that they have observed a trend among young adults stopping by for a fun day out.

In addition to the permanent exhibitions, the temporary exhibit changes twice each year. This spring/summer season, the temporary exhibition space has been dedicated to retro TV and video games. “It will include all the classics and will be a real trip down memory lane for the dad generation,” insists Wangerud.

During the summer months, Vitensenteret is open seven days a week and arranges a number of special activities, including their very popular space film in 3D. Featuring images from NASA, it has been described as the closest experience to going on a space mission, and for many the film alone is worth the admission fee. “But we do hope you stay a little while longer and take the time to explore all the wonders the world of science has to offer,” Wangerud concludes.

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