



# The Harbour Chapel in Sandefjord

## National Memorial Site for Norwegian Whalers Who Worked in the Southern Ocean

The chapel is mainly open during the summer (June 24 to August 3)

### Opening hours Daytime 12:00–15 :00

Mandays/ Wednesdays/Fridays (26.06–30.07)

### Opening Hours Evening 18:00–21:00

Tuesday to Sunday (June 24–August 3)

### Evening Program at 19:30

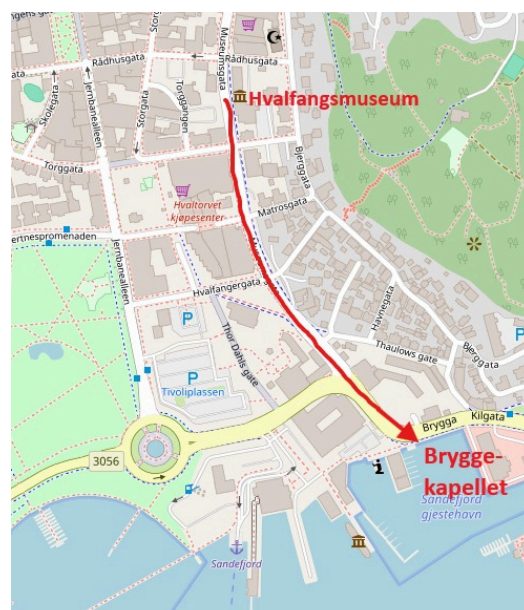
Tuesdays: Singing and music sessions

Wednesdays: Themed evenings with lectures

Thursdays: Communion service



Scan the QR code for full program



Follow us on Facebook: 'Bryggekapellet i Sandefjord' and in Sandefjords Blad: "Hva skjer?" (Thursdays).



## **The Harbour Chapel - Idea, Architecture, and Interior**

The idea of establishing a harbour chapel as a quiet space for reflection was launched in 1997. The association that runs the chapel was founded in 2000, and in 2004, after many volunteer hours, the chapel was completed.

Today, it also includes a memorial plaque for Norwegian whalers who died in South Georgia and during whaling. The chapel is built on a floating platform and is the only floating chapel in Europe

The chapel resembles two boathouses that stood here in the 1950s. The gangway and windows were made by students from Sandefjord High School.

## **Memorial Plaques, Quiet Room, and Weddings**

In the "South Georgia Room" hangs the memorial plaque and photos from whaling life. The chapel itself features a blue altar, a candle-lighting table, and chairs inspired by the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris.

The Harbour Chapel is open to everyone during the summer. Relatives of those named on the memorial plaque have access year-round by appointment. The chapel is popular for weddings and other celebrations such as anniversaries and birthdays.



## Memorial Plaques for Whalers Buried in South Georgia

### Memorial Plaque Unveiling - July 29, 2004

On July 29, 2004, Bishop Laila Riksaasen Dahl unveiled the memorial plaque for Norwegian whalers buried in South Georgia. The event included traditional seafaring rituals with ship's bell and whistle. The plaque, made from steel from Grytviken, provides a place of remembrance in Sandefjord for the bereaved.

### Whaling in Antarctica

Whaling in Antarctica began on November 16, 1904, led by Carl Anton Larsen. Several stations were established in South Georgia, including Grytviken, Prince Olav Harbour, Strømnes, Husvik, Godthul, Leith Harbour, and New Fortuna Bay. Around 35,000 Norwegians worked there from 1904 to 1964.

Carl Anton Larsen, originally from Larvik, built a church in Grytviken in 1913. The church was prefabricated in Norway and shipped to South Georgia. Larsen and his wife Andrine, from Sandefjord, are buried in Sandefjord Cemetery, in the city's only honorary grave.





# Memorial Plaques for Whalers Buried in South Georgia

Many whalers died in the field, either from illness or accidents. In South Georgia, 137 Norwegian whalers were buried in five locations: Grytviken, Husvik, Strømnes, Leith Harbour, and Prince Olav Harbour. The associations “Friends of the Island” and “The Wharf Chapel in Sandefjord” created a memorial plaque for them.

Later, four additional plaques were made, covering the entire area of operation. The Wharf Chapel is now a national memorial site for Norwegian whalers who worked in the Southern Ocean.

South Georgia Plaque: Contains 137 names from all over Norway, mostly from Vestfold.

Other Plaques: Cover 231 whalers who were lost at sea or buried elsewhere than South Georgia. A register explains the causes of death.

The Harbour Chapel serves as a fifth “cemetery” in Sandefjord, where relatives can remember their loved ones.



In this atmospheric chapel, everyone is welcome for a quiet moment and candle lighting.

It is also possible to get married at the Wharf Chapel—scan the QR code on the front page for more information