

Blaafarveverket fra da til nå, en reise i tid

Blaafarveverket

Following Road 35 west of Oslo, you will approach the municipal of Modum. Maybe the name doesn't ring any bells to the busy tourist, but more than 200 years ago this location was famous far outside of the borders of Norway for its vein of cobalt, of which they manufactured the world's most beautiful blue colour for painting porcelain and glass.

It was found in 1772, when a fired worker from the Silver mines of Kongsberg was walking back home. At the Hill of Skuterud, he came across stones that reminded him of silver. He returned to Kongsberg with the sample, and when it was proven to be not silver but cobalt, the Danish King ordered mining at Skuterud. The mines were regularly in work until 1894, when artificial blue colour was being produced.

In the early 1970'ies the married couple Tone and Kjell Steinsvik came to Modum. Having heard about the old mines, they made the mines and the surrounding mining village into a local museum called the Blaafarveverket, which today offers guided tours through the mines.