

Open Space Research Forum 2026

Nordic Pilgrimage Research

The St. Olav Ways to Trondheim

16 October, 2026 14:50-16:20 JST

Multi-use space, Bldg. West 4, Wakayama University



We welcome Mattias Jansson from National pilgrim center in Norway. Mattias will present the history and development of the nordic pilgrimpaths, the St. Olav Ways, focusing on sustainable development, as well as the research projects he is currently involved - Biodiversa program and the Nordic Ecological Pilgrimage.

The St. Olav Ways to Trondheim

The pilgrim paths in Norway go through beautiful landscapes, cultural heritage sites and historical areas. They all lead in the direction of St. Olav's burial site, Nidaros Cathedral in Trondheim, Norway. St. Olav was a Viking king that later became a saint. Today the Middle Ages pilgrim routes through the Nordic countries have been restored and have the status as an official European Cultural Route, under the Council of Europe. Together with routes as St. James Way, Via Francigena and Kumano Kodo there is a great tourism development and focus on culture heritage.

How can we focus on sustainable development, regional value creation and visitor satisfaction in the same time?

Mattias Jansson will talk more about the work they do in Norway, research on the field and similarities between Kumano Kodo and St. Olav Ways.



M.Sc. Mattias Jansson

Director of tourism and infrastructure, National pilgrim center in Norway.

Member of the EU Biodiversa program and the nordic Ecological Pilgrimage research project.

Board member of Trondelag county tourismcompany. <http://www.pilegrimsleden.no/en/>