

## **Hankø Race Week 2017**

### **June 28 – July 2**

[Hankø Race Week](#) is a great and popular event here in Norway. It is typically a one design regatta with classes such as Melges 24, IOD, H-boat, Dragon, Albin Express, 11MOD, J70, and lastly ORC International. It is located on a beautiful little island outside Fredrikstad. Usually we are around 20 Melges 24s. However, the past two years have been a bit different, as it has crashed with Midsommar, which is a popular Swedish holiday, as well as Kieler Woche, and two years ago it sort of crashed with worlds, so we've lost both the Swedish and Danish boats. 2017 is more normal, with no known collisions with regards to big events, so we are hoping for plenty of participation from the Scandinavian countries.

There is a good highway with at least 4 lanes all the way from Marstrand to Hankø (with exception of 10-15 minutes to get from the highway to the yacht club. Also, driving from Hankø to Helsinki seems to be good. There are 4 lanes in the populated areas, and two lanes in the unpopulated areas with good quality roads, and assumably little traffic. Estimated time is around 18 hours (with ferry from Stockholm to Helsinki). The IM24CA is working on a ferry deal from Stockholm to Helsinki to make shipping the boat less expensive.

Accommodation at Hankø: There is a big hotel called Hankø Fjordhotell, which also has cabins that are pretty cheap to rent. Hankø Yacht Club has some accommodation at the yacht club. Additionally, Fredrikstad Seilforening (which is located very close to Hankø Yacht Club) has often opened their doors to people coming from far away, for free. However, they are not in charge of Hankø Race Week, so it will be clarified if they'll do it now. A lot of the sailors in the Norwegian Melges 24 fleet have cabins on the island, and they have been known to open their doors for foreign sailors. Lastly, there's always AirBnB, and lots of people rent out their cabins in the area. There is also a grocery store within walking/sailing distance depending on you live on the main land or on the island.

Flying to Hankø is easy. You can take the bus directly to Fredrikstad, or a train via Oslo main station from Gardermoen Airport. The bus is about 1-1.5 hrs, and the train is around 2 hours because you have to switch. Also there is a long term parking at the airport if people want to leave their cars there. Norwegian local sailors will figure out a deal to leave the boats (and possibly cars) at Fredrikstad Seilforening between Marstrand and/or Worlds.

Another great part about Hankø Race Week is the social setting. The yacht club is as mentioned, located on a pretty little island, and it's very idyllic with nature, deer, and beautiful sunsets. Usually, there is a cocktail party on Thursday for the Melges 24 class which is arranged by Peder and Kristian Nergaard. There is an open bar with simple food and good music. On Friday there is usually a Sailors' Party at the hotel, and on Saturday there is a big dinner party at yacht club. Precise program for this year will be published soon, but it will be pretty similar. Every day after sailing there is After Sail at the yacht club, with good food and beer.