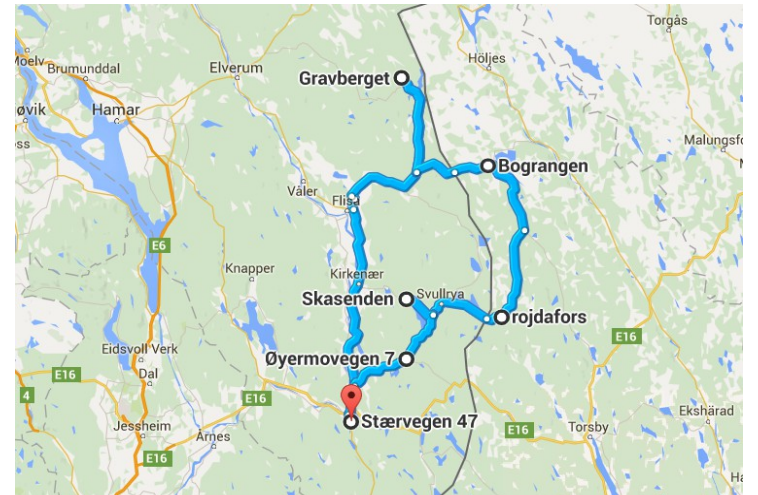


FINN FOREST – THE 17TH OF AUGUST 2015

The weather was fine that day, so we decided to go for a drive at [Finnskogen](#). Finnskogen is an area on both the Norwegian and Swedish side of the border. The area stretches from [Trysil](#) in the north to [Eidskog](#) in the south. In the west bounded by [Glomma](#) and in the east of [Klarälven](#). Hereto wandered [Finns](#) from Finland in the 1500s and 1600s. Most came from the area [Savonia](#) in Finland. They settled in forest areas where they cleared the woods and ran small farms. They had mostly some livestock. What was typical was that they practiced [slash and burn](#) cultivation. This was an unknown technique for those who lived in the area before.

First some pictures taken from our balcony in Kongsvinger a few days before.



This is the driving route we took.



Here we are at [Gravberget](#) with the grat church, [Gravberget church](#). More links: [Link 1](#) [Link 2](#)



At the entrance is this information board. There was no information when we were there.



The church was a gift to the village from [Borregaard skoger](#) and was inaugurated in 1955. Its shape is inspired by fir tree form. It has been described as a modern [stave church](#).



Walls, towers and ceiling are covered with ca. 50,000 profiled shavings.



In the entrance there is a stone with the inscription from a hymn of Brorson.



The church was closed when we were there, but here are three photos of the interior taken from the Internet.



A gate in the stone wall surrounding the church.

On the altar stands a freestanding sculpture; Maria with child, made and cast in gilded bronze by Arnold Haukeland. No other Lutheran church has such a symbol.



Having been on Gravberget, we traveled back to Flisbrua øst and from there to Sweden and [Bogragen](#), on through Bjurberget. From there we took a narrow forest roads in the direction of Røjdåfors and Svullrya.

Here we come to [Mattila](#). In this house there is a restaurant.

The view from the restaurant. Every Sunday there is a buffet here. We were there on a Monday, so there was no serving. Mattila is a Finn farm dating from 1640. In addition to the old houses are built a number of cottages in the old style for rent. There are now as many as 118 beds for rent in the cabins.



Here are some pictures from the area.





This is [Juhola](#), a Finn farm, which is located past Mattila.
Link to [Värmlands Museum](#).

Juhola was created as a cultural reserve in 2001, and there is done much to restore the cultural landscape that existed before.



The mowing is finished and the hay is drying in small piles.



Some pictures from the area.

[Link](#) to a nice blog about Juhola. There is a lot of history and nice pictures here.

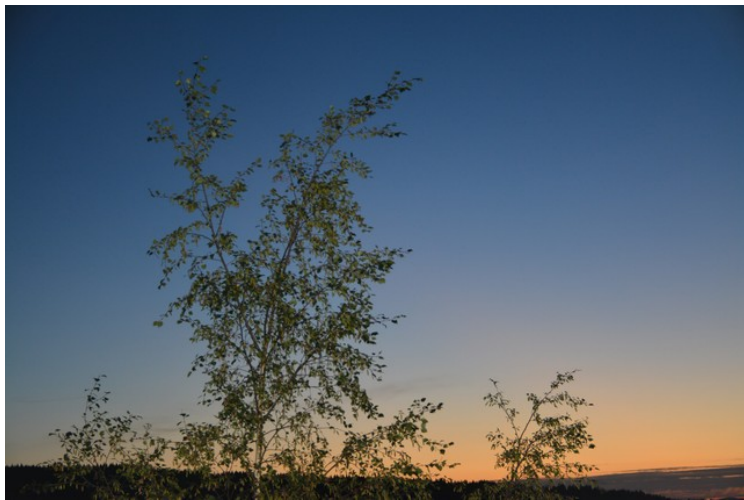
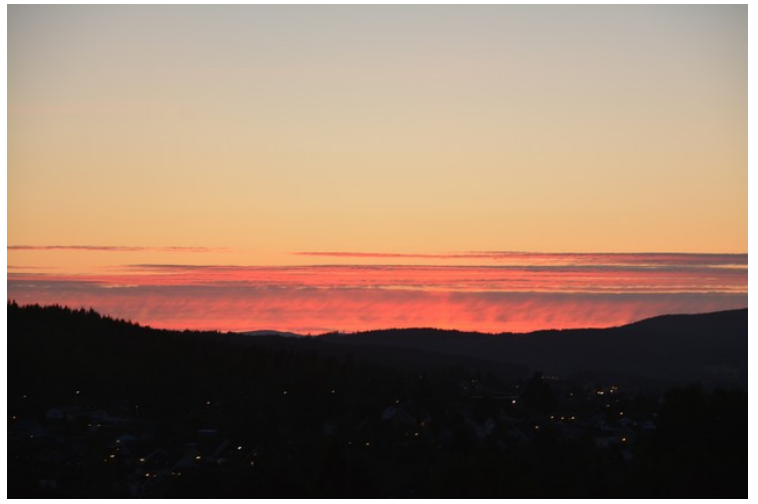


Meadow with ditches for drainage.



To get on, we must return past Mattila.

When we got back to Norway we made a detour to [Finnskogen Turist & Villmarksenter](#) in Skasenden for dinner.
We had bear roast. It was very good.



When we got home we had a wine on the balcony while we watched the sunset.