

A ROAD TRIP TO NORTHERN SWEDEN AND NORTHERN NORWAY FROM 4. JULY TO 13. JULY



We started from home in rainy weather.



We stopped in [Torsby](#) and bought some wine at [Systembolaget](#).
In Torsby there is a 1297 meter long [ski tunnel](#).
Torsby is located in [Värmland County](#).



We drove across Trysilelva or [Klarälven](#) as it is called here.



At [Malung](#) we drove across [Västerdalälven](#) river.
Malung is known for the leather industry. In the summer, a dance band festival is held here.



We had booked accommodation in Sälen. We thought we would stay here, but the apartment was downstairs.
The landlord calls the place [Sälens by](#).
Sälen is located in [Dalarna County](#).



We had to go down a flight of stairs to get to the entrance of the apartment we had rented.



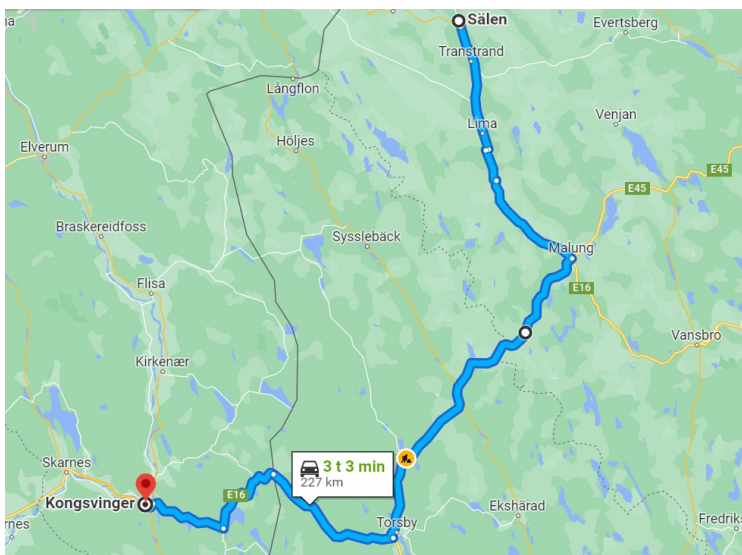
A few photos from the apartment.
The hosts were very nice. They helped carry suitcases down and up the stairs.



Here we see some of the ski trails from the apartment.

The center of Sälen.

[Sälen](#) is a winter sports resort with as many as 7 winter sports facilities. Just south of Sälen is the starting point for the [Vasaloppet](#).



The first day we drove this route:
Kongsvinger – Torsby – Malung – Sälen



The next day we drove further north along the Västerdalälven on [Länsväg 311](#). It is the highest road in Sweden, 850 m.o.h. Here we come past [Högvålen](#) which is the place with permanent settlement that is highest in Sweden. The height here is 830 m.



North of Högvålen we saw several domestic reindeer along the road.



Here we drive past the bell tower of [Vemdalen church](#).



This day we had booked a cabin at [STF Hotel & Hostel Persåsen](#).



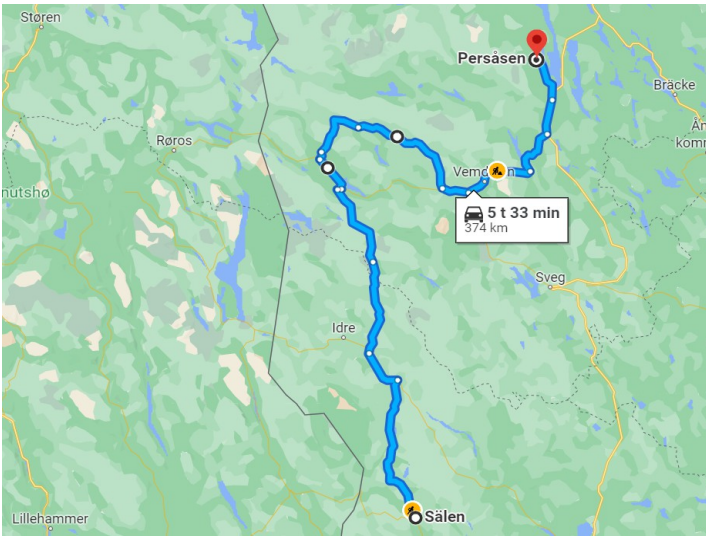
Inside the cabin.



At the entrance to the hotel we saw this special building. We took this picture as we traveled on.



Here was a statue representing [John Ericsson](#). He was born here in Värmland and lived for a while in Persåsen. John Ericsson was a Swedish inventor and he is best known for the invention of the propeller.



This was the driving route for day 2, when I followed the instructions to the GPS in the car. As a result, the driving route that day took 1.5 hours more than the shortest route.



We drove on day 3, Wednesday the 6th of July. This is the [Sann Sund bridge](#) that crosses the [Sann Sundet](#) in the southern part of [Storsjön](#). Storsjön is the 5th largest lake in Sweden.



By Storsjön is [Östersund](#), which is the only town in [Jämtland County](#). This is the town hall.



We drive further north on the E45. Here the road crosses the [Indalsälven](#). It is one of Sweden's most water - rich rivers.



E45 is called [Inlandsvägen](#) and runs from Gothenburg to Karesuando.



The next major bridge was the [Strömsund Bridge](#). It was opened in 1956 and was then the world's longest cable-stayed bridge. When we drove over, maintenance work was in progress. The cables had to be replaced.



The next place we came to was [Dorotea](#). This is Dorotea Church. The name Dorotea comes from Queen Frederika Dorothea Wilhelmina, [Gustav IV Adolf's](#) wife. Here we have come to [Västerbotten County](#).



The next town is [Vilhelmina](#). Here the name is written in flowers. This place is also named after Gustav Adolf's wife. The place is located by [Volgsjön](#) in [Ångermanälven](#).



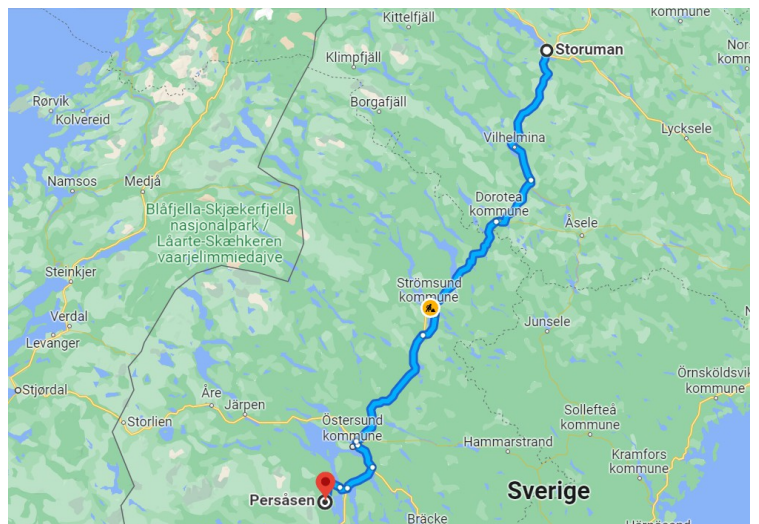
The last stop this day was in [Storuman](#) where we had booked at [Hotel Toppen](#). Here we have entered Swedish Lapland. The figure standing by the hotel is [Lapland's](#) landscape coat of arms.



We had booked a Superior Double Room. The room looked something like this. We had booked a room for two, but they had prepared 4 beds. We had to tear off the bedding on the couch to have a seat.



We wanted to have dinner in the restaurant and we booked a table at the reception when we arrived. When the restaurant opened at 5pm we went up to the restaurant and said we had booked a table. It was okay and the waitress said the table was set. 'Elegant' on-cover, but the food was good.



This was the leg of day 3.



The town of Storuman is located by a lake also called [Storuman](#).

The [Umeälven](#), which comes from the border with Norway, flows through the lake.



Before we left the next day, Thursday the 7th of July, we shopped a little more groceries at ICA Supermarket.



On the way further we saw several reindeer.



This was a typical road section, and the speed limit was usually 100 km / h.



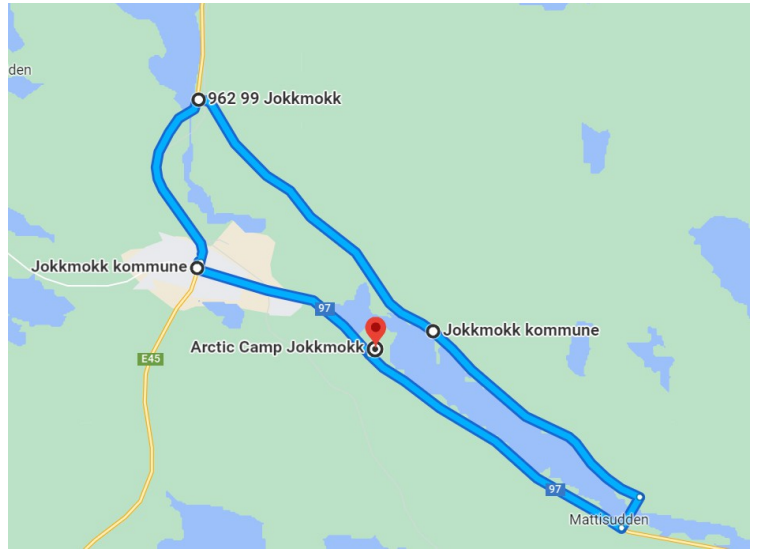
There was mostly forest on this stretch. Here we have entered [Norrbotten County](#). Norrbotten County is the largest of the Swedish counties.



The largest place along this stretch is [Arvidsjaur](#), but we did not drive in there. This is the church.



This is in [Jokkmokk](#). At the roundabout there is a gorilla. It is moved around from time to time with different messages. This time it is support for Ukraine.



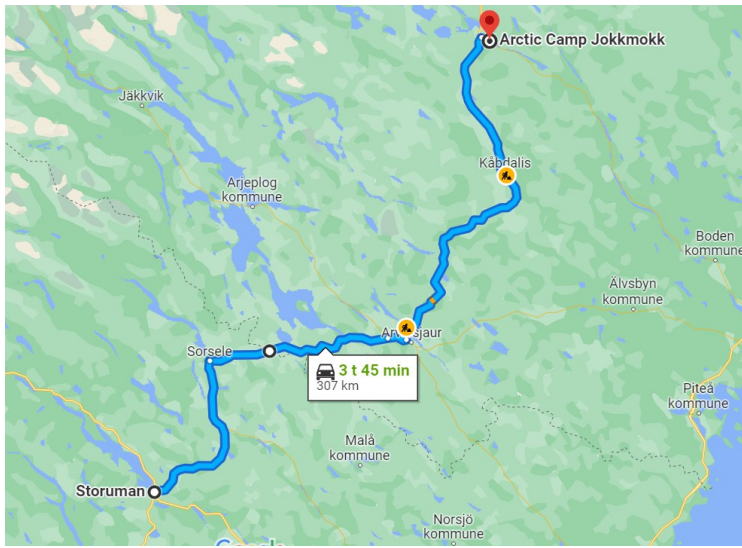
From this roundabout it is a short way to Arctic Camp, but the GPS in the car tricked us a bit again and gave us a trip to the other side of the sea. I had to come up with Google Maps on my mobile. Then I got full control.



Then we were in place in the cabin at [Arctic Camp Jokkmokk](#). The cabin is called [Hjortronet](#).



The interior of the cottage.



This was the route on day 4, Thursday the 7th of July.



On one of the pine trees by the cabin there was a [burl](#). It is an outgrowth that can come from a plant disease or a virus attack.



There are many nice pine trees around the campsite.



We continued the trip day 5, Friday the 8th of July. This monument stood at the entrance of [Porjus](#). It is an 8 m high and 400 ton heavy monument called «[Power](#)». It is in memory of the hydropower development here.



Road work was underway in many places along the E45, and then we had to drive on gravel roads like this.



The next stop was in [Gällivare](#). This is the [house of knowledge](#). It is a learning center that was inaugurated in 2020. The mining industry is dominant here.



Gällivare Church.



Gällivare museum.



Opposite the Knowledge House and the Museum there was a small park.



We drive on and approach Kiruna.

The town was founded in 1900 by the manager of the mining company LKAB.



Here we drove to the left towards the centre.

Large parts of the current buildings in the center of Kiruna must be moved or demolished to give LKAB the opportunity to expand mining operations. The ore deposit on which it is mined extends under parts of the city, and the choice has been between stopping mining or moving parts of the city.



Here we look up towards the hotel [Scandic Kiruna](#).

This is the [old town hall](#). It was completed in 1962 and in 1964 it received an award as Sweden's most beautiful public building. We wanted to see it, but we didn't find it. It was not surprising, because it was demolished in 2019.



Slag heaps outside the city.



Here we look up towards the city.



These houses seem to belong to Kiruna FF, [Kiruna Fotbollförening](#).



This is a copy of a 16.5 meter high Swedish rocket, [Maxus](#), which is used for experiments in weightlessness in space.



This is [Kiruna Church](#). The look is inspired by the Sami's tent-like buildings. In 2001, it was voted 'All time's best building, built before 1950'. Kiruna church will in all probability have to be moved, as the mining activity has undermined large areas of Kiruna city.



Just below the church is the old fire station.



Special house.



This is [Kvarteret Ortdrivaren](#). The two high-rise buildings on the left are called the 'Snuff-Box' and the 'Spittoon'. The one in the middle is called the 'Foundation Wall' and the one on the right the 'Berlin Wall'.



Here we see the «Berlin Wall» from the other side.



Here it looks like that [Företagarna](#) has the offices.
It is a business owners' organization.



Then we see several slag heaps that are left over from
iron ore production.



Here we pass [Gruvstadsparken](#).



More mining.



Several apartment blocks on the outskirts of Kiruna.



On the north side of Kiruna is this small alpine hill. It's called [Luossavaarabacken](#).



Then we drove on towards Norway.



The road ran along [the Iron Ore Line](#). Here we saw a train with many ore wagons.



Then follow some photos of the road further north-west.



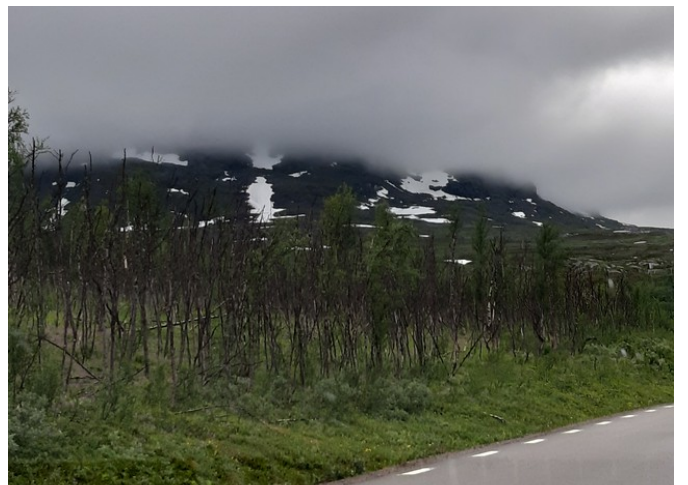
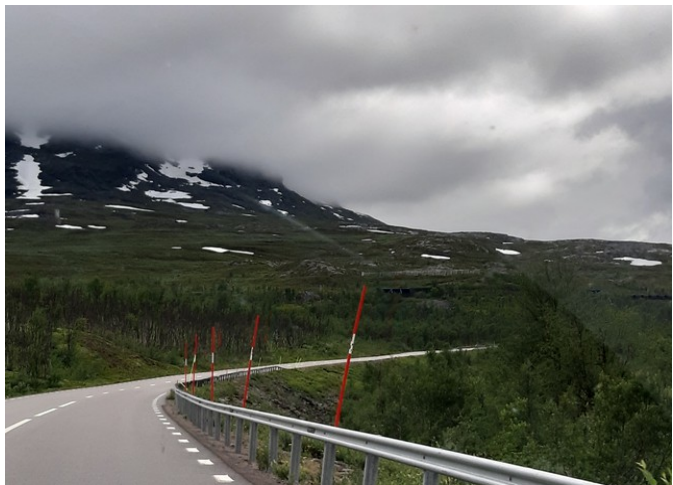


[Torneträsk](#) is Scandinavia's largest mountain lake.





Here we pass [Abisko](#). The big house is East Abisko railway station.





Torneträsk is 70 km long.





This is [Riksgränsen](#).

It is a winter sports resort 1 km from the border with Norway. It was founded in 1902 when the railway was laid through here. It is Sweden's northernmost winter sports resort with 6 lifts and 17 marked downhill runs.

[Riksgränsen.se](#) [Friflyt](#)



Bjørnfjell toll station on the border between Sweden and Norway. The road between Norway and Sweden was opened here in 1984.



Norway in the rain.



The [Hålogaland Bridge](#). It was opened in 2018 and is the second longest suspension bridge in Norway. It crosses the fjord called [Rombaken](#).



This is [Narvik](#). It was established as a market town in 1901, and it began to grow when the [Ofoten line](#) was completed.



Here we are in [Håkvik](#). Very wide sandy beach here.



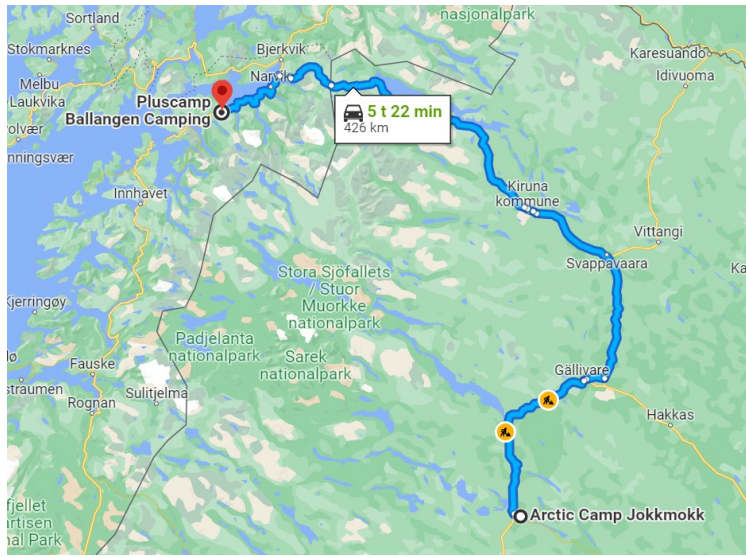
We had booked a cabin at [Ballangen Camping](#).



This is the [cabin](#).



The interior.



This day, day 5 on the 8th of July, the driving route was like this.