

NORTHERN NORWAY 9. - 15. JULY

We wanted to take a trip to Lofoten again this summer. It is 9 years ago, in 2012, that we were in Lofoten last time, and then with the motorhome. We first planned to use our own car on the whole trip, but we have driven the E6 north earlier with the motorhome, and with the length of the day stages we can endure now, we had to have several nights along the way before we came to Lofoten. There had been as many overnight stays on the way home. We ended up taking a plane to Tromsø, rented a car there, delivered it in Evenes and took a plane back from there.

We drove to [Dalen Parkering](#) and left our car there. Dalen Parkering drove us to the airport. We were afraid that it would take a long time to check in luggage and get through the security check, but it turned out that it did not take longer than normal.

We used [Norwegian](#) which left [Oslo Airport Gardermoen](#) at 17:30 and arrived at [Tromsø Airport](#) at 19:25. Tromsø Airport is located on [Tromsøya](#) just west of the city.

While Anne Berit was waiting for the luggage, I went to get the car keys from [AVIS](#). We had booked the car through [Rentalcars](#) and paid the rent in advance. The delivery at AVIS was very simple. They only asked for name and driver's license and they reserved a deposit of 900 kroner on the bank card. We also got a bigger car than the one we had ordered for the same price. We had ordered a VW Golf or equivalent. We got a Mitsubishi Outlander.

There are many tunnels in Tromsø, and I managed to drive wrong in one of the roundabouts there, so that when we got out of the tunnels we ended up south of the city. We had to drive through the whole city before we got to the [Tromsø Bridge](#) and over to the mainland. The bridge was opened in 1960 by [Einar Gerhardsen](#). The Tromsø Bridge was among the most exposed to suicide and suicide attempts in the whole country before a 'suicide fence' was installed in 2005 to prevent this.



We had booked such a cabin at [Tromsø Lodge & Camping](#). It is located in [Tromsdalen](#) next to [Tromsdalselva](#).



We had wine and a reindeer snack on the terrace when we arrived.



View up the river.



View down the river.



We took a picture of the cabin and the car before we left the next day.



We drove a little round in the center of town. Here we are on Tromsøbrua on our way to the city center.



This is [Scandic Ishavshotell](#). To the left we see [Pust Badstue](#).



Here is a [rescue wessel](#).



This is [Storgata 112](#). It has a long history and is now used for apartments.

Right next to this house there is a [Coop Prix](#) shop. There we were inside and bought some provisions for the trip.



There were different things we wanted to see in Tromsø, but there was so much road work going on and poor accessibility that we got tired and just drove on. Here we are on the Tromsø Bridge on our way back to the mainland. The [Arctic Cathedral](#) straight ahead.

From what we did not see, we have taken pictures from the web.



Tromsø Cathedral.



Tromsø Library.



Magic Ice Bar.



MS Polstjerna.



Perspektivet Museum.



Polarmuseet.



Tromsø Forsvarsmuseum.



Ølhallen



Here we are driving along [Ramfjorden](#). Henrikstinden straight ahead.



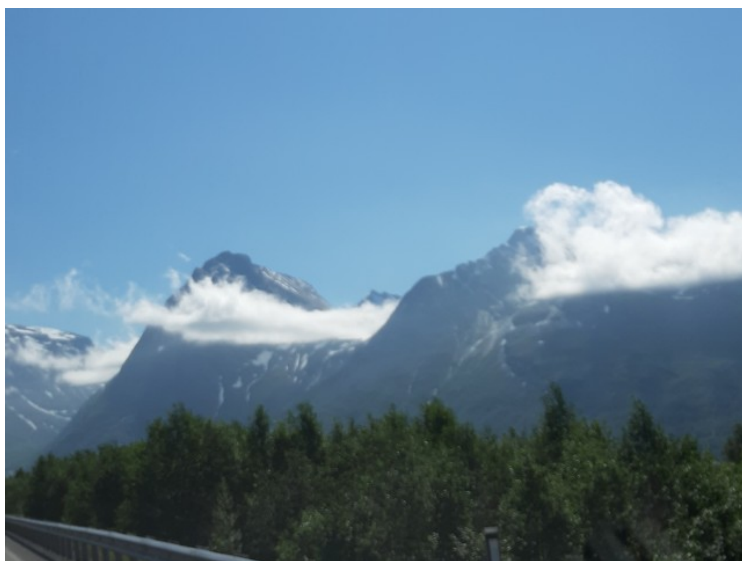
Tverrbotnfjellet.



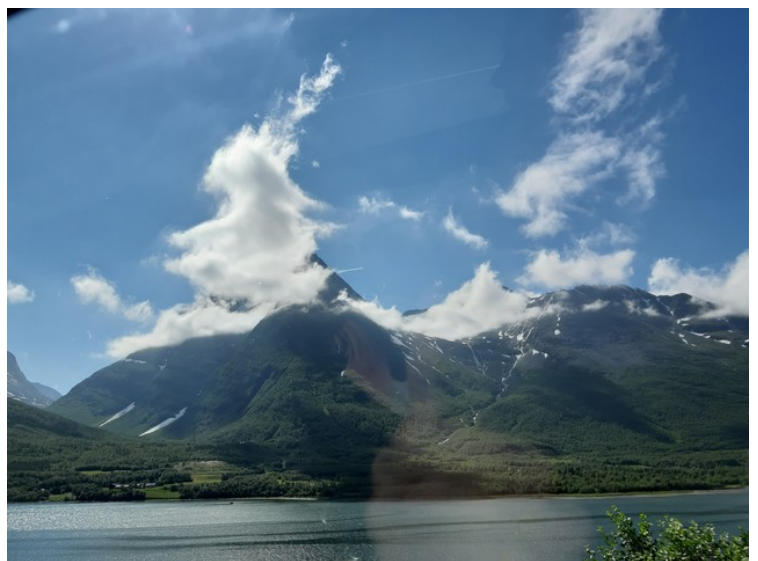
Sultindan oand Andersdalstinden.



This is [Balsfjorden](#) at Kantornes. Halvorsfjellet, Store Russetinden and Guvggosvacki-gaisi in the background.



Russetinden and Guvggosvacki-gaisi.



Russetinden and Guvggosvacki-gaisi.

On the way further we drove to [Nordkjosbotn](#) at the end of Balsfjorden and on to the west side of the fjord to Balsfjord.



Here we look back from where we came, in the direction of Nordkjosbotn.



Here it is called Fredriksberg.



We stopped at this church, [Balsfjord Church](#) at Tennes.



There are four fields of rock carvings near the church, [Tennes helleristningsfelt](#). The oldest rock carvings are 6-7000 years old.



Map of the three fields where a cultural trail has been made. The petroglyphs are the oldest traces of people in Balsfjord. They were carved roche moutonnée surfaces that lay on the shore by the sea, which then went 17-18 meters higher up than it does today.



Road signs have been made.



An example of the carvings.



At the parking lot, this war memorial stood over those from Balsfjord who fell in the war in 1940.



There were also two old iron crosses here.



From Tennes we drove further past [Fimmsnes](#), over [Gisund Bridge](#) and over to [Senja](#). Here we are at Bjørkhaug on Senja and look north towards [Gisundet](#) which separates Senja from the mainland.



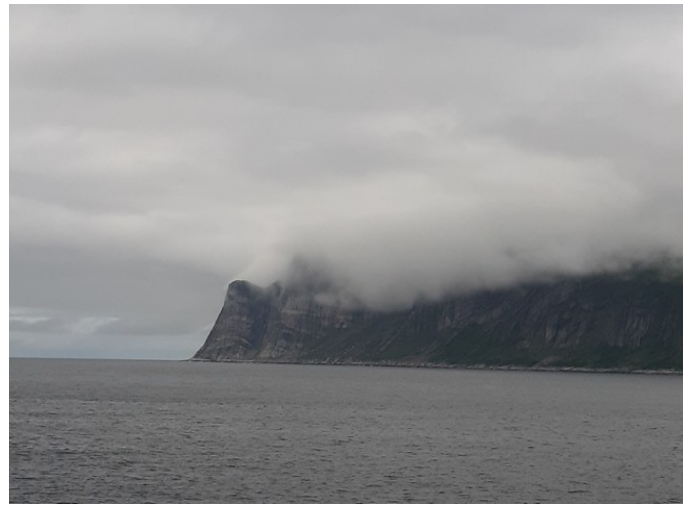
Still at Gisundet.



Here we have passed Mefjordbotn and look out over [Mefjorden](#). It is the largest and longest fjord on Senja. There were lower clouds here towards the sea.



Here we look back the way we came, towards Mefjordbotn.



This is on the northeast side of the fjord. There are mostly only steep mountain sides on this side of the fjord.



Here we see [Mefjordvær](#), where we will have an overnight stay.



We had booked at [Mefjord Brygge](#).



This is the reception and restaurant.



We got an apartment in the penultimate house on the second floor.

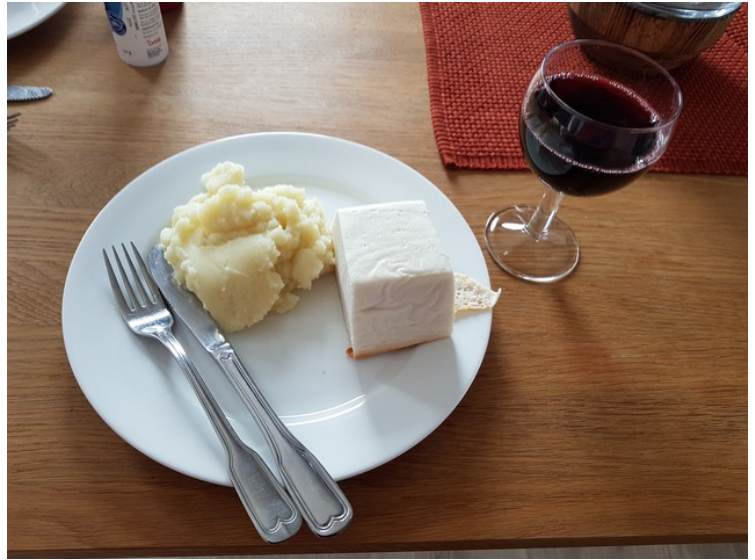


Inside the apartment.





When we bought food at Coop Prix, we thought of having the simplest possible food along the way, so this became my dinner every day: sausage and mashed potatoes from a bag.



Similar for Anne Berit: fish pudding and mashed potatoes.



We took this picture from the apartment the next day, Sunday 11 July, before we drove on.



We first drove to [Senjahopen](#).



From Senjahopen we drove through [Geitskartunnelen](#) to [Ersfjorden](#). Here we look south.



Ersfjorden looking north.

Until a few years ago, the village was one of the most remote on Senja, but after Geitskarunnelen opened in 2004, the village is located in the middle of the road between the two population centers in the municipality, and it is only 3 km to drive to Senjahopen (previously it was 11 , 5 mil). Today, [county road 862](#) runs through Ersfjord.



The beach is adapted for use for picnic areas and campfire sites.



There is white fine-grained sand on the beach.



The place became known for having one of the country's most expensive utility toilets with showers, the so-called 'Gulldassen' which cost 3.75 million to build (square meter price of NOK 300,000). The paper Nordlys characterized the building as "a futuristic obelisk clad in golden shells built up of the sand and extending to the heavens in covenant with the mighty mountains".



On the north side of the fjord is a mountain range called [Okshorman](#). It is also called the Devil's Dentistry, but the name is not well liked by the locals.



Here we have come to Tungeneset which is located between Ersfjorden and [Steinfjorden](#). We see Steinford with Strandbytinden and Trælen at the far end.



This in the Steinford. We look out over the fjord. The village of [Steinfjord](#) has had a large population decline in recent years.



Up the hill and looking out the Steinfjord before we drive into the Ersfjord tunnel.



At the end of Bergsfjorden, Bergsbotn, a viewing platform has been created.



It looks pretty airy.



View from the platform in the direction of Bergsbotn and the Ersfjord tunnel.



From Bergsbotn we drove to [Gryllefjord](#). Gryllefjord has had a sharp population decline in recent years, from 1300 people in 1970 to 378 in 2009. Gryllefjord Fryseri & Kjøleanlegg is the place's cornerstone company.



Some pictures from Gryllefjord. Gryllefjord has a ferry connection to [Andenes](#) in [Vesterålen](#). The ferry has only run during the summer months, but in 2021 it was decided that there will be a year-round connection.



After this we drove to [Torsken](#) over the mountain in a gorge called Torskeskaret.



There was a fountain out on the fjord when we were there. Torsken Grocery Shop to the left.



A picture from the harbor.
This is the location of Torsken Havprodukter.

Directly above the fishing village is a rock formation that previously looked a bit like a cod with a head and reel. According to tradition, this mountain is the origin of the name of the village and the church site, later also the municipality. This formation has now collapsed.

The fish-rich fjord of the same name has always provided a good basis for life for the people here and has attracted many fishermen to the place. On site we now find food fish farming (salmon and trout), salmon slaughterhouse, fish processing factory that accepts herring and whitefish and a Styrofoam box factory that delivers to Mid-Troms.



One of the roads that run along the sea. All the light poles along this road were decorated with flags.



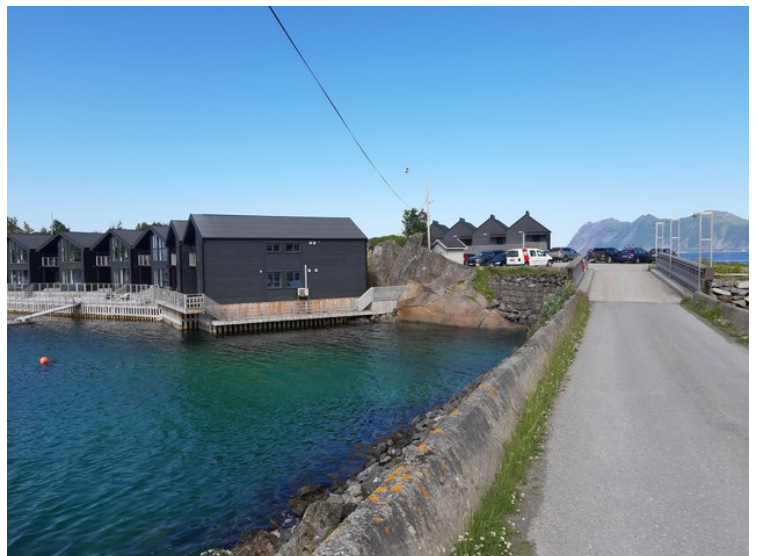
On the way back, this sign reads:
Thanks for the visit
Welcome back



On the way back we see from Torskeskaret [Gryllefjord Bridge](#) which crosses over [Gryllefjorden](#) and the tunnel through Småtindan.



The next stop was in [Hamn](#). Hamn is an old trading place and fishing village and a popular tourist destination. Several of the houses were damaged by fire both in 2005 and in 2007.



After the fires, there has been a heavy building activity, and many of the new houses are rental apartments for the hotel.

[Webpage](#).



The hotel in Hamn.



The archipelago outside Hamn.



The islet to the left is called Skjåholmen.



This is at [Hulder- og Troll Park](#) at Finnsæter.



More trolls.

The Hulderheim was opened in 1989, inspired by an old legend about Hulderberget on Finnsæter. The exterior design is built as a tribute to a Portuguese sailing ship that sank on Senja in the late 1800s. [The Senja Troll](#) opened in 1993. The troll rose 17.96 meters above the ground, and weighed 125 tons. In 1997 [Guinness World Records](#) listed it as the world's largest troll. The Senja troll got his troll wife in 2007. They were married in front of an audience of 1800. There is a gallery, café, souvenir shop, lounges, [Sesam-train](#), lean-to, barbecue area, playground and much more on site.

On March 28, 2019, the Senja Troll caught fire and burned down within few minutes.



[Skøelv Chapel.](#)



This day we had booked a cabin at [Garsnes Brygge](#) which is situated just outside [Sjøvegan](#) in [Salangen municipality.](#)

Garsnes Brygge started the restaurant and a campsite in 2006. In 2016, 2 new cabins were taken into use. After this, there has been a continuous development, also with a marina.



This is what the cabin looks like inside. It was probably the best place we stayed on this trip.



It was such good weather and good temperature, so we sat out on the terrace for a while.



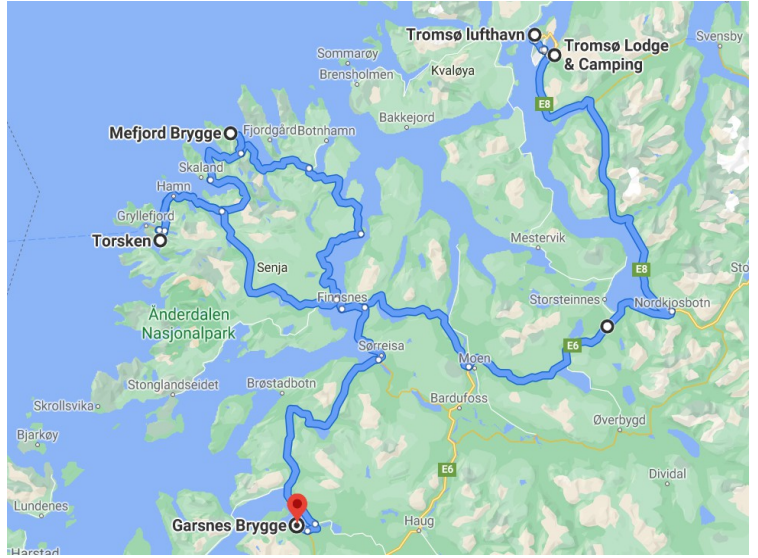
Views of the marina and restaurant.



The marina and the breakwater.



Several cabins and at the far end is the campsite.
The fjord outside is called Sagfjorden.



This is our route so far.