

GS Road Trip Europe, Arctic adventures).

(Gothenburg 14th July)



Like Norway's fjord land, we can also recommend the eastern north coast in Sweden, known as Höga Kusten (The High Coast, very scenic. Neske Krog (Neske Restaurant) right by a lake, is a great place for a stop just south of Umea, far north of Stockholm. We then headed for the arctic circle at Jokkmokk. In summer, you'd be surprised that you're entering the Arctic here already. Another 100 k and you're in Gällivare and the great mining district of Sweden, where the iconic midnight sun MC rally is held last week in June.

Kiruna is another 100 k north, where it's cold any time of the year, but you'll get used to it and it's so scenic. Don't miss checking out the big timber church. Kiruna is a town that will be moved (big moves) before mining the ground under the town.

In Kiruna you really feel you're in the arctic zone, but unlike Alaska, you still have another 720 kilometre before the end of the road (in Europe) north-wise, that's the North Cape.

If you've been to Alaska, which is poorly equipped to handle the arctic zone tourists, with no sealed road surfaces, no roadside toilets, inadequate accommodation and very sparse service stations, you're in for a surprise and treat in Norway. There's perfect sealed roads that are straight or sweeping with extremely scenic views at the end, there's only arctic tundra. There are no gravel or unsealed roads and no road damages. You'll have service stations, take-aways, cafes, regular public modern toilets and plentiful affordable accommodation in cabins or motels. Bring your own linen or sleeping bag for the budget stays. You need to look out for reindeer. Once at North Cape, there's a monument and tourist centre that look like part of the environment. Eighty percent of the 4 floor centre is hidden underneath inside the cliff. At the edge, you have a sheer drop off the cliffs. The centre cinema, museum, a chapel, sound cave, plentiful modern toilets (like a hotel) and a restaurant with many tables right at the edge, where behind triple window glass, the whole arctic ocean lies before you, as you sip your drink.

If you venture up here, be sure to time it with good weather, and where necessary, wait for weather in a cabin further south. Unlike Alaska's Dalton Hwy-Prudhoe Bay, you really have an abundance of attractions here at the top of your trip and with all the fjords and coast line, I would argue more scenic value.


Heading back south west in Norway some 730 kilometre, there's the big Lofoten Peninsula. The thing to do is to head west to its tip to a town called Å. From there, there's a nice 4 hour ferry journey to Bodö, no need to book when on a bike, but check times (4-5 trips/day). The journey takes you south, so no need to ride back and you get some 250 kilometres south whilst relaxing. Before leaving Lofoten, you might want to check out the world's most impressive Viking living museum (my opinion) less than an hour before the town of Å.

From Bodö, I suggest you check out the weird and acclaimed Atlantic Road near Kristiansund (Google it). Other highlights to Google are Geiranger, Trollveggen and Trollstigen. If you can fit it in, lookup Pulpit Rock and Kjeragsbulten in Norway also. Some approximate 200k north of Oslo (along riks vag 3, national road three not E3), you have a stainless steel (like Chrome) Moose statue taller than a 2 story building, very photogenic. Also north of Oslo is the Laerdal Tunnel, 24.5 kilometre, long wide lit up and very impressive and NO toll.

Norway only appear to have one short real Autobahn (towards Gothenburg Sweden). The rest are just highways mostly at max 80 kph, and low speeds through many villages, and they are policed, so budget timewise for these (e.g. check travel time in Google Maps). From Oslo to Gothenburg in Sweden is only 2-3 hours by fast roads. Gothenburg is a large city with very modest traffic congestion at peak hours, and many attractions to research. I got a comprehensive 40,000 kilometre service, some-what overrun, and we got some well-earned resting time.

Like last time, Norway and Sweden were topping the list in value on this trip. Next we'll Head out of Sweden for the last part of our trip. (Below Ann with the world's largest Moose and at top arctic Mt Dundret in Midnight Sun at midnight)



Travel Log Roaming Dingoes Tour 2017 from 14th Apr, as at 13th July		
(first 12.5 weeks)		
Kilometers		
	218.0	136.3 United Kingdom, GBR
	2877.0	1798.1 France, FRA
	3445.0	2153.1 Spain, ESP
	1606.0	1003.8 Portugal, PRT
	786.0	491.3 Morocco, MAR
	7.0	4.4 Gibraltar, GIB
	12.0	7.5 Monaco, MCO
	2122.0	1326.3 Italy, ITA
	563.0	351.9 Albania, ALB
	58.0	36.3 Macedonia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of, MKD
	1425.0	890.6 Greece, GRC
	533.0	333.1 Bulgaria, BGR
	696.0	435.0 Romania, ROU
	425.0	265.6 Serbia, SRB
	988.0	617.5 Croatia, HRV
	486.0	303.8 Bosnia and Herzegovina, BIH
	444.0	277.5 Montenegro, MNE
	185.0	115.6 Slovenia, SVN
	1070.0	668.8 Austria, AUT
	33.0	20.6 Switzerland, CHE
92.0	57.5 Germany, DEU	
312.0	195.0 Hungary, HUN	
219.0	136.9 Slovakia, SVK	
1170.0	731.3 Poland, POL	
608.0	380.0 Czech Republic, CZE	
559.0	349.4 Lithuania, LTU	
271.0	169.4 Latvia, LVA	
209.0	130.6 Estonia, EST	
226.0	141.3 Aland Islands, ALA	
3136.0	1960.0 Sweden, SWE	
100.0	62.5 Finland, FIN	
2986.0	1866.3 Norway, NOR	
27,867	17,417	TOTAL