



Alta

2017

I visited

NORTHERN NORWAY

to find out about the

AURORA BOREALIS

also known as

'The Northern Lights'

with support from the Henry Morris Memorial Trust

NORGE (NORWAY)



- My Dad and I flew from Gatwick Airport, U.K, to firstly Oslo and then Alta
- We walked through the night to our accommodation—a cabin on a campsite. It took 2 hours
- I wanted to find out what the stories behind the Northern Lights were—what did people think they were before they knew the science behind them?

**Wednesday 6th
September**





On Wednesday we arrived in Alta airport at about 22:40 and after a few minutes we got ready for the 12 km walk ahead of us. We set off on the route to the campsite. When we arrived we went straight to sleep in preparation for our first full day in Norway.

Our accommodation
from
06/09/17-11/09/17

A small cabin at Alta
River Campsite



Thursday  7th September

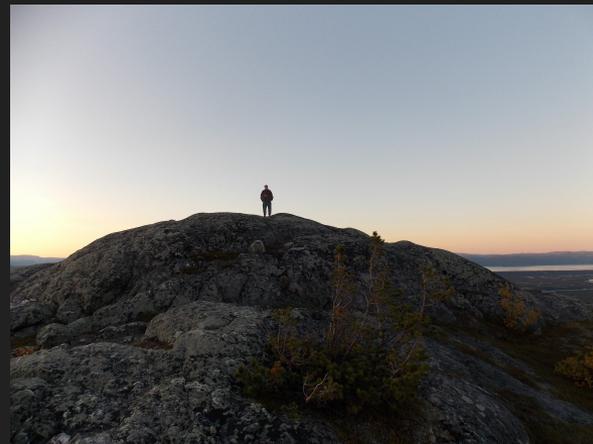


On Thursday we decided to go to the Alta Rock Carvings museum, which was right next to the fjord. The carvings ranged from about 2,000 to 7,000 years old and were mainly of reindeer and dragon boats. Some of the carvings were coloured in. This was so people could see them more easily.



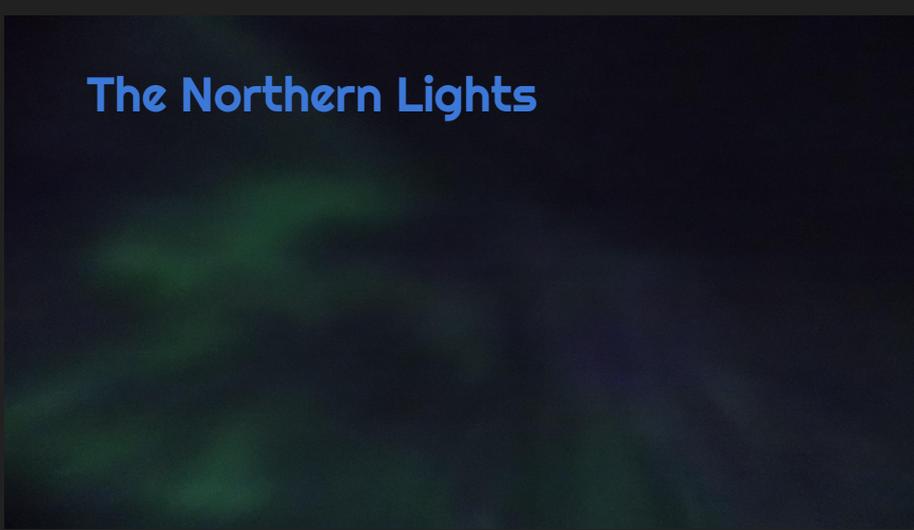
Later, on day 2, we took the arduous journey up the Skoddevarre mountain range. We went there to go to a natural pool about half way up, but we got lost and so followed the marked trail up to the top. Once there, after a quick breather, we decided to stay up for the evening, to see the Northern Lights. The view was so much better higher up than at sea level and would give us a better chance of seeing them due to no light pollution. This was the first mountain I had ever climbed and I was worn out by the top!

As night drew in we started to see a green line in the sky. We knew at this point it was worth the climb! The more we waited the bigger and stronger the wisps grew, dancing across the sky and dropping jaws as it went. We had brought a few snacks and a space blanket to keep us warm but cold and hunger disappear when you are met with such awe and beauty.



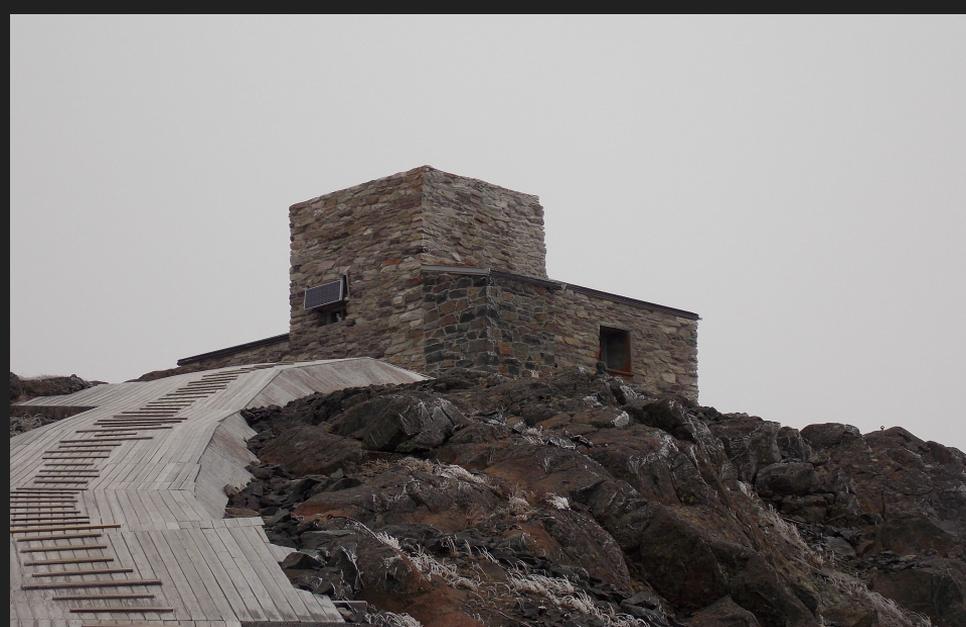
Skoddevarre 07/09/17

The Northern Lights



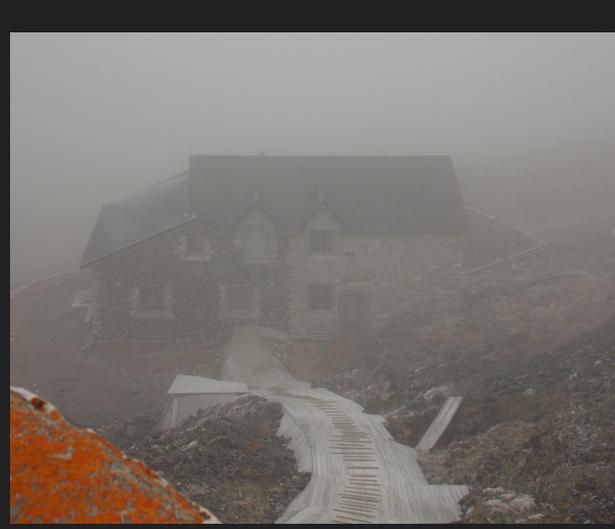


Friday
8th September



On Friday around midday, we decided to climb the Haldde Toppen mountain trail which was about 10 km long and peaked at 900m above sea level. At the top was an old observatory and we hoped we would see the Northern Lights really clearly there. Our hopes became slimmer with every step as “grey clouds rolled over the hills bringing darkness from above”.

Although this meant that we had walked ‘til exhaustion to no avail, the thought of turning back seemed even worse as when we got to the base of the mountain we would still have an uphill 20k cycle to go. Luckily there was also a big house at the top of the hill, so we knew we had shelter for the night. In the house there were some German students who were studying in Alta for a few days before going back to Tromso. We did not see the Northern Lights as it was too cloudy but instead rested and rejuvenated for our long journey back.



Haldde Observatory 8/9/17

Saturday 9th September



On Saturday morning we made our slow descent, back down the mountain and across the land, returning to our campsite around 17:30.



A video of
local
husky
dogs
training
for the
winter.





Sunday
10th
September

On Sunday it was time to go souvenir shopping. On the way we decided to go and try to find the pool half way up Skoddevarre again. Taking a shortcut we did some rock climbing instead of sticking to the path. Soon enough we found it and had a quick dip but it was freezing cold so we left shortly after.



I spent some time putting together all the myths that I had found out about the Northern Lights.

Norse Mythology

What we know as The Northern Lights was once believed to be the flickering, flashing radiance shed from the armour and weaponry of female sky-riding warriors, the **Valkyries**. Their task was to soar over battles, on horseback, choosing those who would lose their life. They worked for the mythological Norse God of war and death, **Odin**, and took half of the forsaken to **Valhalla**, Odin's great hall of the fallen.

Bivrost, the bridge between heaven and earth, was made of three colours representing the Aurora Borealis. **Heimdall**, the watchman of the gods, guarded the bridge to prevent evil creatures from crossing.

If they did, **Ragnarok**, the ultimate destruction of gods and men, would break loose.

I found this out by visiting the Northern Lights Cathedral in Alta Sentrum.

Sami Lore

The Sami people believed that Aurora Borealis was in fact the spirits of the dead and had some superstitions about the Northern Lights, one of which was that waving to the northern was considered disrespectful. I believe this is because the if aurora borealis was the spirits of the dead then waving to them may disturb them from their rest. It was believed that the Northern Lights could swoop down and take children away if they were disrespectful or rude.

They also used to use the Northern Lights to settle arguments. Each person would pick a wisp from the sky and whoever's wisp grew stronger would win the argument. It is almost like they were calling on their ancestors in the Northern Lights to help them.

The Sami sometimes heard crackling in the Northern lights and many people still say they can hear this when Aurora Borealis is stretching its luminescent legs.

Further information about the myths behind the 'Lights'

Nordic folklore associated the northern lights with the souls of dead women. In western Norway, it was said that the Northern Lights were caused by dead virgins as they waved their mittens in the hopes of attracting a suitor. There was also a saying about elderly spinsters "She's so old that she'll soon be off to the northern lights".

In Nordic tradition, the Northern Lights were supposed to be quite dangerous for women. They were encouraged to stay indoors and if they left the house, they should cover their heads in case the Lights came down from the heavens and ruined their hair!

The Inuits of Greenland and Canada believed the Lights to be the haunt of the dead. When the northern lights were especially strong they believed that the dead wished to contact their living relatives. Whistling to the northern lights could apparently cause their movements to become more lively.

**Monday 11th
September**



Returning Home



Avgang Departures

Time	Flight	Gate	Destination	Time	Flight	Gate	Destination
14:36	SK271	A10	Bergen	16:20	SK258	A12	Tromsø
Gate closed	DF7031		Fort Lauderdale	16:20	SK416	B5	Honolulu
Gate closed	DF9318	C8	Bergen	16:25	SK624	A4	Geneva
Gate closed	DF798	C2	Tromsø	16:25	SK326	E7	Stockholm
Gate closing	SK426		Tromsø	16:25	DF130	C8	Stockholm
Gate closed	SK4116	A8	Boe	16:30	DF1616	E8	Stockholm
Gate closing	WF151	A27	Fosne	16:35	SK339		Paris CDG
Gate closed	DF2094	F21	London/Gatwick	16:35	DF276		Milano
Boarding	SK4524	A24	Molde	16:40	AF1975		Paris CDG
Gate closing	SK326	E14	Kjeftenham	16:45	SK316		Haugesund
Go to gate	SK4094	A6	Harstad/Narvik	16:50	WF226		Bergen
New time 16:00	DF435	C4	Bergen	16:55	DF782		Tromsø
Go to gate	SK4035	C5	Stavanger	17:00	SK221		Bergen
Boarding	DF614	A15	Bergen	17:00	SK277		Tromsø
New time 15:20	SK382	E9	Stockholm	17:00	SK364		Düsseldorf
Go to gate	WF140	A25	Oslo-Volda	17:00	SK818		Tromsø
Go to gate	LH863	E11	Frankfurt	17:05	SK488		Stockholm
Go to gate	SK459	D1	København	17:10	AV60		Helsinki
Go to gate	WF153	A26	Sogndal	17:10	DF1406		Mexico
Go to gate	SK4029	C3	Stavanger	17:10	SK943		Kuala Lumpur
Go to gate	VF839	E2	Stavanger	17:10	SK1326		Nassau
Go to gate	DF538	A21	Stavanger	17:10	SK811		London/Heathrow
Go to gate	DF620	A20	Bergen	17:10			
Go to gate	DF760	A19	Tromsø				



HIGHLIGHTS



**How has this
trip changed
me?**

**And Why
Henry Morris
fund is worth
it.**

Firstly this trip has given me an experience to hold with me forever.

And it has taught me a lot about how society changes over time.

But perhaps the most valuable thing that this marvellous trip has taught me is that with a bit of hard work and some help from others I can do things I thought I would never do.

This is why the Henry Morris Memorial Trust is such an important thing to offer to teenagers as we steam towards adulthood. It teaches us that we can turn our ideas into a reality.



Thank you