

Sarek – the easy way

July 2013



After a winter with lots of planning for a hike through Sarek, the most famous wilderness in Sweden, it ended up as a shorter, but very nice hike just inside the boarder of Sarek. We also took helicopters in and out to get to the heart of the mountains as fast as possible.



Monday the 15th of July we took the night train to Gällivare, north of the Polar Circle - then the bus to Ritsem, at the end of the road. We stayed overnight at the lodge there.



Day 1 – the 17th of July: In the morning we took the helicopter to Staloluokta at 8 AM and arrived there at 08.40 AM. If we had walked, it would have taken us 4-5 days. Staloluokta is one of our favorite sites in the Swedish Mountains. This was actually our first flight with a helicopter.

We started hiking 09.30 AM on the Panjelanta Trail southwards towards Tuottarstugorna. The weather was nice. The days before we arrived it had been snowing over Sarek, so the peaks were now beautiful covered with snow. We met some people from Sweden as well as from Europe. When you meet people up here it usually gives time for a chat and sometimes for a cup together, giving you time for information and discussions about things like where it is best to cross a river and other useful hints. We just came to a good place for the tent before the rain started. That rain continued almost 4 days with some short breaks ☹️. We walked 10 kilometer that day.



Day 2 – the 18th of July: We stayed in the tent in the morning, waiting for a rain break that finally came. We were going to tent 10 days, so the back sacks were sort of heavy as usual (We had 42 kilograms together). We walked 9 kilometer before tenting this day and passed Tuottar-stugorna.



Day 3 – the 19th of July: This day was a rainy one and we just walked to a new place to have a camp for the night. Now we had left the trail and used map and compass to find our way. Now we were at the most “far away place” in Sweden, defined by having the longest distance to a road (40 kilometer). The terrain was smooth and easy to walk.

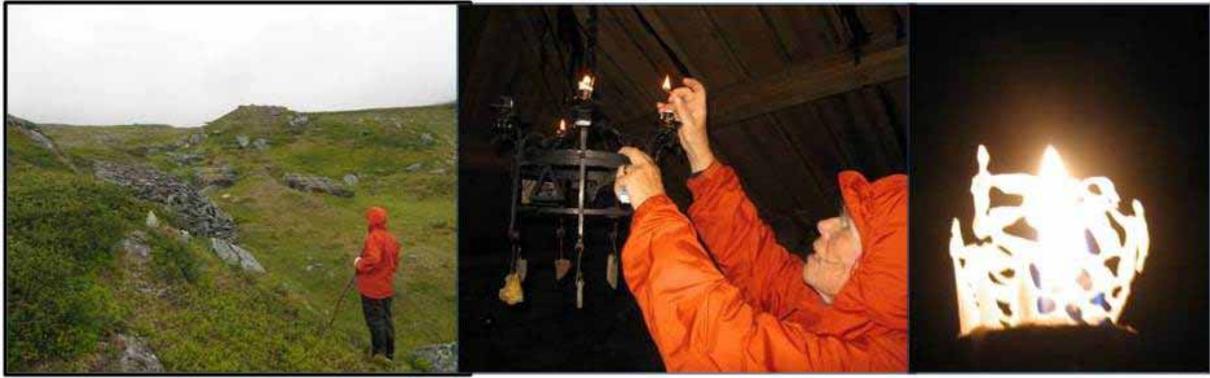


Day 4 – the 20th of July: This day we reached the Alkavare Chapel which is from the 17th Century. On the way we had to cross a river Rissajåkkå which is quite powerful with lots of waterfalls. We found a quite good place to cross it (see the red line!). The water was up to our knees. At Alkavare there are two boats (one on each side) to take you over the river Miellätno.

There is a big flat meadow at the shore of Miellätno with space for a lot of tents. Good for the annual Church Holiday which is the last weekend of July. It is often several weddings during that event and many people.



Alkavare was a silver mine between 1664 and 1702. It was no successful business at all, but terrible hard job for the workers. The Chapel was renovated in the 1960's.



Day 5 – the 21st of July: Another rainy day ☹️ . We spent the day reading and Sudoku-ing and had a coffee break or two. In the afternoon we took a walk around the place and visited the ruins from the mining period. Lappland was supposed to be for Sweden what America was for other nations in Europe, but it became a big disappointment. The Dream of Big Silver Mining never came through. Se http://sv.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lule%C3%A5_silververk

We went into the chapel and lighted up some candles and were sitting there for a while just looking at the flaring lights. –A nice memory.



Day 6 – the 22nd of July: In the morning the weather changed and turned sunny and warm which lasted for the rest of the hike.



Sarek opened up and we could enjoy the peaks and valleys from "the stall". We reached our goal, Njoatsovágge, and we were able to wash up the cloths as well as ourselves in our own pool! Can you have it better in the mountains?



Day 7 – the 23rd of July: Now we were at the base camp for the next two days. The first day we walked into Njoatsovágge, one of the famous valleys in Sarek, narrow and beautiful. It was easy and relaxing hiking with impressive panoramas when we came up on the Skiejákvárásj (1175 m.ö.h). In the evening we had a full menu done on self dried food.



We went to bed after the sun set. Who wants to sleep such a night?





How often do you have such an evening in the mountains? – And no mosquitoes!!

Day 8 – the 24th of July: The same unbelievable weather! We took the way up to Tjågnårisvånäs (1207 m.ö.h.) to see Sarvesvágge as a bird eyes view. It gave us a Rapa Valley (the most famous view in Sarek) feeling!

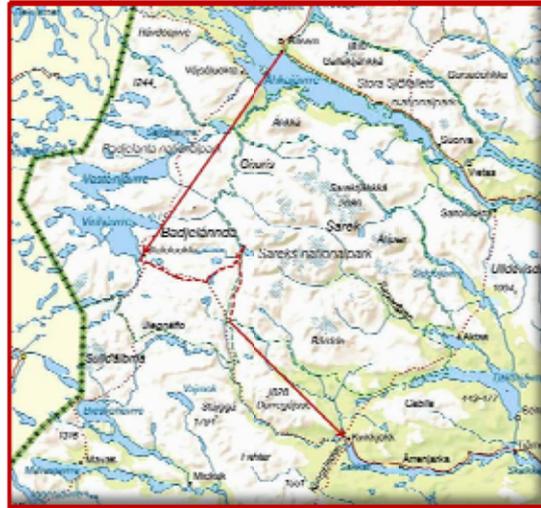


Day 9 – the 25th of July: We didn't want to leave our base camp, but we had to do that for final hiking down south to Tarraluoppalstugorna where it should be possible to get a helicopter to Kvikkjokk. On our last day in the mountains Kina took up a dried salami from her back sack. Nice surprise - a luxury food on the hard bread (knäckebröd)! We could now also use as much butter as we wanted, as we had enough for the last days. We arrived to Tarraluoppal at 8 PM after 8 km walking. We found out that there was no telephone at the place and no way to book a helicopter! "Well, normally, a helicopter comes around noon" the host said.



Day 10 – the 26th of July: We were early at the “Airport” for the helicopter, not to miss the “normally coming helicopter”. The Airport was a flower meadow with blue and yellow flowers. The helicopter finally showed up in the afternoon and we were taken to Kvikkjokk. The pilot flew along Tjuoldávágge and we got a pure sightseeing tour along the Tarrekaise highland with its lakes and peaks. We landed in Kvikkjokk just in time for the bus to Murjek railway station and the night train to Gävle.

What a nice hike! One of our best ones!



Helicopter to Staloluokta –10 days of hiking to Tarralouppal – helicopter to Kvikkjokk