

# SCANDINAVIAN TOUR 2010



4 crazy Erasmus students in a trip across the beautiful countries of the North with an old Toyota Carina. We are not afraid of Adventure, with capital "A", anymore !

*Text and pictures by Matti*

**DAY 1**  
**Seinäjoki – Rovaniemi – Nordkapp**  
**[ 1300km / 15.10.2010 ]**

Everything started with a last lunch before leaving for our big adventure. We do not know when we will eat warm food again, so we feed ourselves as much as we can. At 12am it is finally time to leave **SEINÄJOKI (FINLAND)**.



The weather is not that good, some snow falling from a cloudy sky. Our fingers are crossed for a better weather ! 300km later, first stop at the gas station, and our first contact with the famous Finnish reindeer !



After this “magic” moment, time to go again. The sun is setting down, and at 6pm we arrive in **Rovaniemi (FINLAND)**. The Arctic circle arch welcomes us in Lapland, as well as the Christmas house !



But no time to relax, the road is still long and the outside temperature of 0°C is not friendly enough to stay any longer here. By now the sky is clear, and this allows us to see mother earth’s biggest present : her unbeatable force in the shape of a magnificent polar light. We of course stop the car to appreciate the show and take pictures of such beauty.



This gives us energy to cross the Norwegian border to tackle the last part of that first day : the road to **Nordkapp (NORWAY)**, as known as the road to hell. Dark, alone on the road, snow storm, the weather is trying to break our motivation. Our first contact with local pub is not so good either : 10 euros for a small beer,

welcome to Norway ! “We go to Finland to buy cheap alcohol” is what we heard there. Unbelievable. At 4 o'clock in the morning, we reach the big tunnel, the only road to the top.



Few hours later we finally arrive on the parking at the end of our journey, very tired and exhausted, as our Toyota. No other choice but to sleep in the car.

**DAY 2**  
**Nordkapp – Alta – Tromsø**  
**[ 700 km / 16.10.2010 ]**

After a very short night for us, it is time to have a look at the most northern point of Europe, and how awesome this is !



The wind is really strong, temperature is cold, so we quickly continue our trip which means going through the tunnel again. Alone again.



During the long way back we have the chance to see some really amazing landscapes.



Savage world in its pure expression. As we will discover later, that small bit of sun will be our last one for the next 3 days which means we will not be able to see any other polar light. And it is now that we appreciate the chance we had to see one early in our trip !



After more and more Norwegian roads, we finally reach our destination : **Tromsø (NORWAY)**, the first real city of our trip and the first time we see some civilization. The car is drinking a lot of water now, so we are not so relax when we finally park it for the night. Will we be able to continue tomorrow ?

**DAY 3**  
**Tromsø – Svolvær**  
**[ 600 km / 17.10.2010 ]**

After a refreshing night in a hotel and a big buffet breakfast, time to go up the mountain which faces the city ! Fortunately the cable-car is open and despite the weather, the view is breathtaking. No doubt about it : Norway is a really amazing country !



We also take the chance to visit a very modern church down there before leaving the city.



Again, the landscapes are amazing, but a clear blue sky would have been even better. The snow alternates quite fast with green grass during the drive across the country. Beautiful.



After another long day on the road, we arrive in a small cottage booked by some other Erasmus students in **Svolvær (NORWAY)**.



Finally time to close our eyes after a quite long journey ! The aim tomorrow is to go to a place that everybody agree to call : “the end of the world”. With good reasons...

**DAY 4**  
**Svolvær – Å – Fauske – Trondheim**  
**[ 1200 km / 18.10.2010 ]**

Early and difficult get up, but a big day ahead us. We go west to **Å (NORWAY)**, the village at the end of the road. Yes this is not a joke !



It is a typical fisherman’s village, and the crappy weather does not help us to reach it, as someone also discovered before us !



As always since our arrival in Norway, the landscapes are beautiful, even if the sun is not shining. It is difficult to choose pictures, because it is so easy to make good ones.



We decide to shorten our trip and take the boat to reach our destination quicker and due to the bad weather, we also decide to cancel our visit to a Swedish natural reserve.



The storm is over us when we reach **Fauske (NORWAY)**. Our destination of the day still well ahead and it is only late in the night that we reach **Trondheim (NORWAY)**, completely exhausted. The airport and the car are our beds for tonight.

**DAY 5**  
**Trondheim**  
[ unknown km / 19.10.2010 ]

After 5 days of driving, we need some rest, and we decide to stay one day here in the city, which has a lot of things to offer !



After being nearly caught by the police because of the car, we finally go to sleep in proper beds, what a relief !

**DAY 6**  
**Trondheim – Lillehammer – Oslo**  
[ 600 km / 20.10.2010 ]

Snow came in large amount during the night and with it, the hope to finally see the sun.



Again, no time to spare, we are back on the road but chaos strikes on the roads as it was probably the first snow of the year. After a quick stop at the local ski-jump, we continue.



It seems that we never get used to it but the surrounding nature is mind-blowing. One time there is snow everywhere, the next hour it seems that summer is about to come.





It is just unreal how the conditions are. The more we drive, the better we feel. And when we reach **Lillehammer (NORWAY)**, to say we are happy is an understatement. The home of the 1994 winter Olympic games !



And what better than the sun setting down while we are staying on the top of the ski-jumping structure, looking down at the city.

But off we go, **Oslo (NORWAY)** is calling !

**DAY 7**  
**Oslo – Göteborg**  
**[ 300 km / 21.10.2010 ]**

Time for sight-seeing in the Norwegian capital.



The weather is giving us a break, and for this we are really delighted. Late in the afternoon we decide to continue our trip and go to **Göteborg (SWEDEN)**. But then bad luck strikes again as the weather and road conditions get awful. Snow storm is paralyzing the highway. We reach the goal in the evening.

**DAY 8**  
**Göteborg**  
**[ unknown km / 22.10.2010 ]**

As we wake up in the car for 2 of us, or the airport for the 2 others, the sun is back ! So time to head to the city centre, and its wonderful monuments and attractions.



far. The motivation is still there, more than ever, no matter the weather !



Today is going to be a resting day, so we grab the chance to eat local food in a fish market. The fish is of course delicious and it gives us a huge boost for the long party night ahead us in the Swedish clubs !



**DAY 9**  
**Göteborg – Malmö – Copenhagen – Örebro**  
**[ 900 km / 23.10.2010 ]**

Today we decide to head towards another country. So we go south to **Copenhagen (DENMARK)**. We have to take the boat from **Malmö (SWEDEN)** first, and it gives us the chance to think about what we have done so

In some places, the city looks very similar to the Netherlands with a lot of bikes and rivers.

As the day flies by, we decide to go back to Sweden and find a place to sleep on the road to the east. When we reach **Örebro (SWEDEN)**, we feel it is time to stop. The night following will give us a taste at how Swedish people drink and party !

**DAY 10**  
**Örebro – Stockholm – Turku**  
**[ 500 km / 24.10.2010 ]**

After a short sleep, head towards the home of the Finns ! But I have to leave the team for the day, to reach **Turku (FINLAND)** first, after a small visit at **Stockholm (SWEDEN)**.



The boat cruise over the night is going to be very long alone. I just wish I was with the others at that moment, but love cannot wait !

**DAY 11**  
**Turku – Seinäjoki**  
**[ 300 km / 25.10.2010 ]**

I rejoin the dream team as they leave the ferry, only to see how short the night has been for them. Everybody is excited to be back “at home”, very proud of what we have done, but also sad that the end is near.

At around 1pm we finally make it to **Seinäjoki (FINLAND)** after about 6400km across Scandinavia. The same distance between **Helsinki (FINLAND)** and **Pekin (CHINA)** by air !

We all made it, including the car, and with the head full of memories that we will never ever forget and that nobody can take away.



An unforgettable trip, that is for sure !

The 4 men in black at Nordkapp, on top of the world !



To my good friends Timo, Christian and Sebastian I wish to say THANK YOU for everything !

Without you it would have been impossible ! :-)