

The best of(f-road) Norway



This adventure will show you a side of Norway that not many tourists will see. In the evening we'll enjoy a good meal and enjoy stories after a day of gravel riding. And remember, that during summer it hardly gets dark in this part of the world because the sun will tip only briefly under horizon. We will ride from fast gravel roads, stony tracks, do some water-crossings, cross old bridges and avoid asphalt as much as possible. If that still sounds like fun, you should read on. Otherwise you might miss an adventure of a life-time!

The routes / level of riding

Am I good enough to join this tour? First of all you don't need to be a Rally Queen/King. The level of this tour is Easy/Medium - level 2 (out of 5) and absolutely not an enduro tour. The route is so that it can be done by lighter bikes (600 cc) up to the big adventure bikes like a BMW 1250 GS Adventure. You need to have an ADV-bike with knobby tires and some experience with gravel / off-road riding, or have had a (one/two days) allroad-course (Off Road Skills in Wales, BMW Hechlingen, Touratech Sweden, or similar). When it gets a bit tougher, we help each other so that so everybody will make it. This is of course half the fun!

Guides:

English, Swedish, and/or Dutch speaking (local) guides.

Accommodation:

During the journey we have sleep in in hotels, cabins, mountain-lodges and guest houses.

At Finnskogen where we begin, Savalen and near Tretten we will stay two nights and have a day-tour without luggage the day after. There are always showers, toilets etc. and we won't camp.

Sometimes facilities are to be shared (when staying in cabins). The cabins are equipped with duvets and pillows, however you must bring with you a duvet cover (travel sheets) or a thin/light sleeping bag.

Type of bike?

Any adventure-bike/dual sport bike can join this tour. From lighter bikes like a KTM 690 to more heavy bikes like a Honda Africa Twin, Yamaha Ténéré700, KTM 790 or a BMW 1250 GS Adventure. It needs to be well maintained and have off-road tires like TKC 80 or similar.

For safety reason, you are *must* to have real knobby off-road tires like TKC80, Anakee Wild or similar. Especially when it rains, it can get very slippery in the forest. Additionally, you should bring a repair kit/tools and a spare inner-tube so you can fix a puncture.

We can split up the group because we'll have two guides, where we adjust the speed and level of difficulty according to the level of riding of the participants. Therefore, the day-trips can vary a lot depending on the participants competences, wishes and riding skills.

Rental motorcycle.

It is possible to rent a BMW GS (1250 GS, 850 GS) if you don't have an adventure motorbike yourself. Please contact us for possibilities and prices.



Luggage.

Travel light is the device! You can bring your (soft)panniers, or whatever luggage system you use to *Finnskogstua* when coming up to Norway. You can leave those behind and ride with only a soft-bag on the back (bring ROK-straps!)

What you need to bring is a travel sheets/light sleeping bag, a tool/puncture repair kit, a small thermos for hot coffee/tea, clothes for in the evening and warm underwear- and raingear in case it rains (when not riding in a Gore-Tex motorcycle suit).

During the day-trips (3 x) we'll ride without any luggage (only some tools/spare-parts and snacks/water). See below for a more detailed list.

Getting at the starting location:

You are responsible yourself to get to the start location in Norway: *Finnskogstua* near Kirkenær, on your own bike or a rental, or with the bikes on a trailer/in a van, etc. Cars/trailers can be left there safely during the tour. You should be there latest 17:00 on the starting day. We will have diner and a briefing together in the evening.

Contact info:

Finnskogstua
Røgdenveien 2293
Kongsvinger

GPS coordinate N60° 22.262' E12° 21.109'

+47 913 03 661

Itinerary.



Day 1

Arrival at *Finnskogstua* near *Kirkenær* by own transport (see contact info above).

It's a daytrip of ca. 400 km from Gothenburg, Sweden (ferry Kiel-Gothenburg) over curvy roads through Sweden's beautiful country-side. When you take the ferry to Oslo it's like 140 km.

We expect you to arrive in the afternoon (not later than 17:00 hrs) and will have dinner at 19:00 o'clock together. We can familiarize ourselves with each other and we'll have a short briefing so you know what you can expect the coming week.

Day 2

After some fast forest roads in the morning we will leave *Finnskogen* behind and head North.

towards *Elverum*. We might even cross an old military training field, besides taking some classic old rally routes heading north to the town Koppang. We will stay in basic cabins on a camping where Gry will cook us a lovely meal!

Day 3

From Koppang we take the 800 years old *Kings Road* on our way north. We even get the chance to see moose, sheep and cows and traces of both bears and wolves along the old mountain roads!

Ending up at *Savalen*, which has excellent food- and spa-facilities and even a pool. So don't forget to bring your bathing clothes! We will stay here for two nights.

Day 4

Today a daytrip from *Savalen* where we will go all the way up to *Trontoppen* at 1666 meters and have a great view in all four directions. After that we'll spend the rest of the day in the area of *Grimsbu*, make a fire and grill some sausages when the weather allows, and ride some really great tracks. On the way back we can ride *Rødalen* (Red Valley) and get our feet wet ;). Without luggage, so even more fun!

Day 5

We start with a ride through the breath-taking and then head South West for the stunning mountain road *Grimdalsvegen* through *Rondane* National Park towards *Vågåmo*.

From here we will ride South East again and end up in *Peer Gynt's Realm*. But first we'll explore the best gravel roads in the area and might even ride up *Blåhø*, another mountain top at 1617 meters.

We will stay in an *fjellstue* again with some of the most beautiful panoramic views. The Dutch owners are more than happy to tell about the history.

Day 6

Today we ride a day-loop without luggage again and we divide ourselves into groups if needed. We will ride a great variety of small mountain roads in the area. We can take different roads depending on skills and bike sizes. We will have lunch out at a lake-side and grill some sausages or eat the pick-nick we brought along.

Day 7

It's time to head back to where the whole adventure started, but not before we ride some more gravel! We cross *Gudbrandsdalen* and ride over *Østafjäll* near *Lillehammer* then towards *Finnskogen* again. Some more challenging (even sandy) tracks are on the planning before we make it back to our cabin *Finnskogstua* at a lake-side where we will spend the last evening together and look back on a fantastic week riding Norway.

Day 8

After breakfast it's time to go because you'll have to drive back home or catch a ferry. But great memories of last week will stay for a very long time.

**Tour package.**

Price (own motorcycle-based on twin room):

€ 1995 / SEK 19 950

Single room supplement:

€ 200 / SEK 2 000

Passenger/pillion is not possible on this tour. We ride with luggage.

Rental motorcycle on request.

Included:

- ✓ All accommodation in hotel, guesthouses and cabins.
- ✓ Breakfast and dinner during the tour.
- ✓ Toll for Norwegian (gravel) roads.
- ✓ The best gravel riding that Norway has to offer.
- ✓ Professional English, Dutch, Swedish speaking guides.

Excluded:

- Fuel
- Lunch
- (Alcoholic) Drinks
- Travel-, medical- Cancellation-insurance.

Travel guarantee:

Explore360° has lodged travel guarantee with the Swedish Legal, Financial and Administrative Services Agency ("Kammarkollegiet"). So you are protected under the Swedish law in case of insolvency.

Practical information

- ✓ Norwegian Kroner (NOK). You will have the possibility to change money at home or take money from an ATM in Norway (bring your credit card). We will have several possibilities during our tour.

- ✓ ATM. There are ATM's in the bigger towns like Koppang, Geiranger, etc.
- ✓ Credit Card. Most of them are accepted, but preferable is VISA or Master. You can not always pay with a Maestro card (not even at gas stations).
- ✓ Phone. Almost everywhere you'll have (4G) reception. Maybe less when in the mountains.
- ✓ Electricity is EURO 220 V.
- ✓ Internet. We won't have always access to WiFi/internet, but most accommodation do have it nowadays.
- ✓ Food & drinking. The food is good but simple in Norway. Especially the restaurants at gas stations don't have the most creative menu. Be aware that eating and drinking (especially alcohol) in Norway is not cheap!
- ✓ Water. Water is extremely clean in Norway and you can even drink from some rivers/streams! We *strongly* recommend to bring a hydration backpack (like a Kriega Hydro 3L) so you'll have access to water all day instead of drinking lots of water in one time during a break.
- ✓ Allergies/medications. Let us know on before hand if you have any allergies, special wishes for dietary, or need for special medication.

What to bring?

For riding

- Boots. These are very important, especially for off-road tours. Boots with a good hard sole (for standing up) and ankle protection are a must have. Soft leather touring boots are a big NO-GO!
- Sealskinz-sock (knee-height). When riding with enduro boots, which are not waterproof you can wear Sealskinz socks. Guaranteed they'll keep your feet warm & dry!
- Helmet. Road, system, full face or cross helmet are all fine. Just make sure you'll have a clear visor and sunglasses/dark goggles. Bring your helmet with you in the plane as hand luggage when you're flying in.
- Base-layer/warm clothing. Long under-wear, fleece or a wind-stopper, Merino wool base layer (doesn't smell). Norway can be wet and cold, so be prepared!
- Rain gear. When not riding in Gore-Tex jacket/pants. Accessible at all time because it can rain a lot in Norway.
- Riding gear. Jacket and pants with protection on back, shoulder, elbows and knees. Make sure that you bring at least one layer that is waterproof! A cross-vest with jersey and outer jacket is of course also possible.
- Gloves. Bring a pair of thin gloves and a pair all weather (Gore-Tex) gloves.
- Small backpack. This can be in combination with the hydration backpack (which we strongly recommend) for bringing you camera and other small stuff.
- Toiletry and small quick drying travel towel.
- Clothes for in the evening and some light shoes/sandals.
- Travel sheets or a thin sleeping bag (for some stay-over in cabins).
- Small thermos bottle/flask. This one you can fill up in the morning with hot water or coffee for when we eat our *nistepakke* (pick-nick sandwich) out in nature.
- Anti mosquito repellent (those little bastards can be nasty).
- Extra set of ear plugs. Besides when riding as well when you want a good night sleep ;).

For the bike:

- Repair kit for a puncture. When riding tubeless you can bring plugs and an inner tube (biggest wheel size). When riding with inner tubes bring at least a repair kit and a spare tube(s) (thin one(s). Don't forget the (specific) tools to get your wheels off the bike!
- Leatherman multi tool, duc-tape and tie-wraps.
- Maintenance/lubricant for your chain (when applicable).
- Soft-bag like Ortlieb, etc. for bringing your personal items/clothes with you for the evenings.
- ROK-straps. These are the best you can buy for strapping luggage on your bag. They'll hold your soft-bag secure on your bike, even when crashing.
- Tail-bag and/or tank-bag. To bring tools, waterproof gear etc.

Travel light is the device!

You really don't need to a lot during this kind of traveling.

In the set up below I'll have all I need with me for a week (or longer), including tools, inner-tubes, compressor, first aid kit, clothing, etc. when traveling without camping equipment.

On the bike are 2 x Kriega OS-6 in the front on the crash-bars (2 x inner tubes, spare parts, 1st aid kit). A Kriega OS-18 as tail-bag (tools, lubricants etc.) and an Ortlieb 30 litre (this can also be a 40 or 50 litre bag) for clothing, laptop etc. On me I have a Kriega R20 backpack with 3-litre Kriega waterbag, extra gloves, rain gear and some snacks.

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