

Hut-to-hut ski tour in Sylarn, Sweden and Norway, Feb-Mar 2024

Late February 2024 four of us (Susan, Isabel, Lynn and Keith) flew to Arlanda in Sweden for a ski-touring adventure. We caught a sleeper train to Duved where a bus met us and took us to our first Swedish mountain station, STF Storulvån. We stayed there 3 nights, reminding our legs about skiing, and checking equipment. It was a good job we did this as we had a broken cable to replace! That left us with no spare cable, only a repaired one which only might have held; a source of anxiety given both cables were same age but a spare 3-pin binding in Lynn's repair kit allowed us to carry on with the tour with confidence.

By the third night the vegetarians amongst us were tiring of Oumph, a soya-based meat substitute seemingly popular in STF mountain stations, so we self-catered using the on-site shop and kitchen.

It was at Storulvån where an arresting image on the wall alerted us to some of the very interesting history in the area, the [Carolean death march](#). Somewhat foreboding?



Then into the mountains proper, skiing 16 km up to Sylarna mountain station at 1035 m. A good day with great views and a welcome lunch hut on the way.



After a sauna, the enthusiastic chef at Sylarna made us a lovely spicy lentil dish.



Then a windy day's skiing down to DNT Storerikvollen at 766 m in Norway, crossing an international border in the middle of nowhere. A slightly anxious day for some, as skiing at altitude, downhill in strong wind, was not easy. We made it intact, however, and were very thankful for the lunch hut this day as it saved us getting the wind shelter out.



The rest of the tour was in Norway, skiing in the hills and through woods, staying at delightful DNT huts Ramsjøhytta, Schulzhytta, Prestøhytta and finally Kvitfjellhytta. We came out on prepared tracks at Selbuskogen to meet a local bus which took us to Trondheim airport. There were no further incidents and the slight sense of foreboding felt earlier in the holiday turned out to be unfounded.

The whole route apart from one day (Schulzhytta to Prestøhytta) was on marked trails. Apart from last couple of days all trails were unprepared. Ski days were generally under 20 km and we allowed ourselves a number of 2-night stays in the huts to rest or to explore the local areas without full packs. We carried 2 sets of maps and GPS systems, 2 shovels, mats, survival bags, skins and a wind shelter. The maps were at 1:50000 scale but we found the 1:100000 map a useful addition. Planning the trip took a lot of time and effort.

We had planned to stay at another STF mountain station, Blåhammeren, but its opening this year was delayed by storms which had brought down the power supply. STF mountain stations are manned, with showers and catering usually available. Really rather luxurious and welcome! The DNT huts we stayed in were all self-service huts with provision cupboards, wood and bedding. The solar panels, for lighting and phone charging, were working at all of them apart from one, and there was just about enough food in the cupboards, barring porridge (this despite being early in the season). One hut even had an indoor toilet. The DNT huts definitely have their own unique characters and are very special places to stay in.