

Lapland Arctic Tour 2021



Land of the Spirits



Molkom, -17C.

Our start & meeting point. First morning and sunrise. All together we were 4 person in 3 expedition vehicles.

Maiden winter expedition for me and Subi-1-Kenobi & R2D2.

No hotels. Sleeping in Subie.

We were lucky with the weather. 10 days with radiant sun and temperatures between -7 down to -31 Celsius. (-23,8 degrees Fahrenheit)

No winds to speak of.



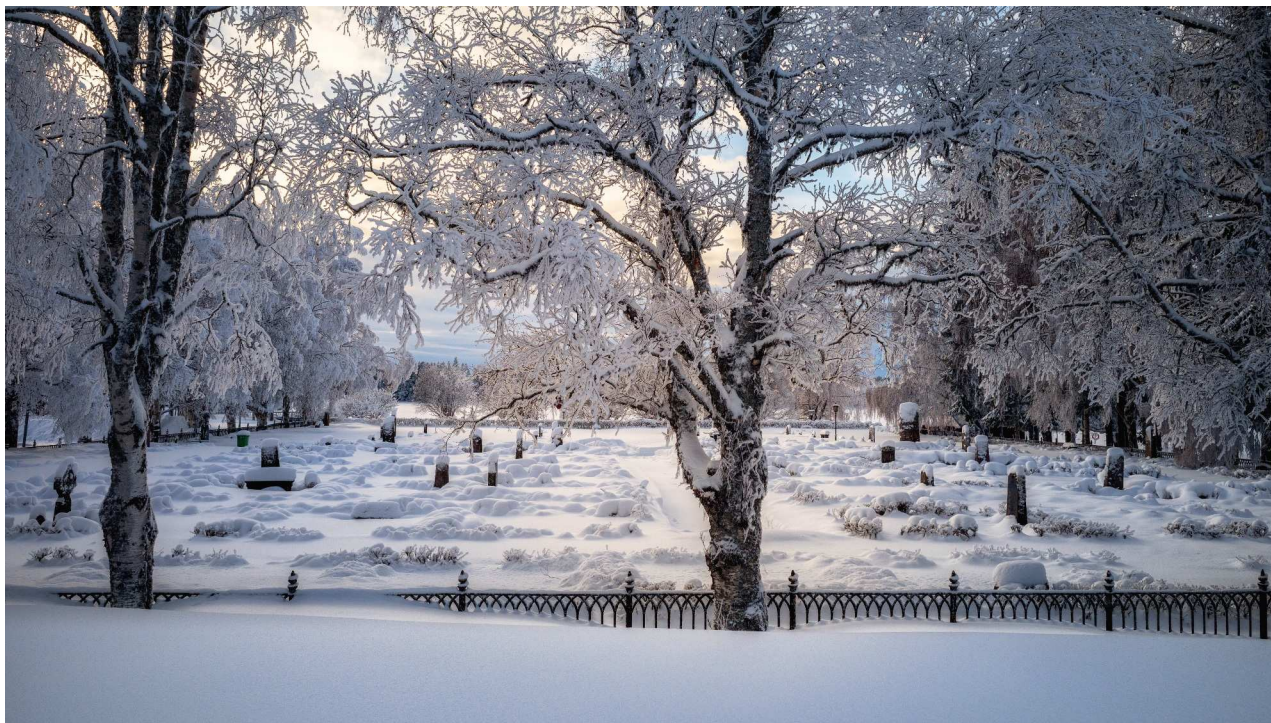
On the road heading north on E45.







As we traveled during the pandemic, we got the feeling that we were alone in the wilderness.



Strömsund





First Lappland
road sign



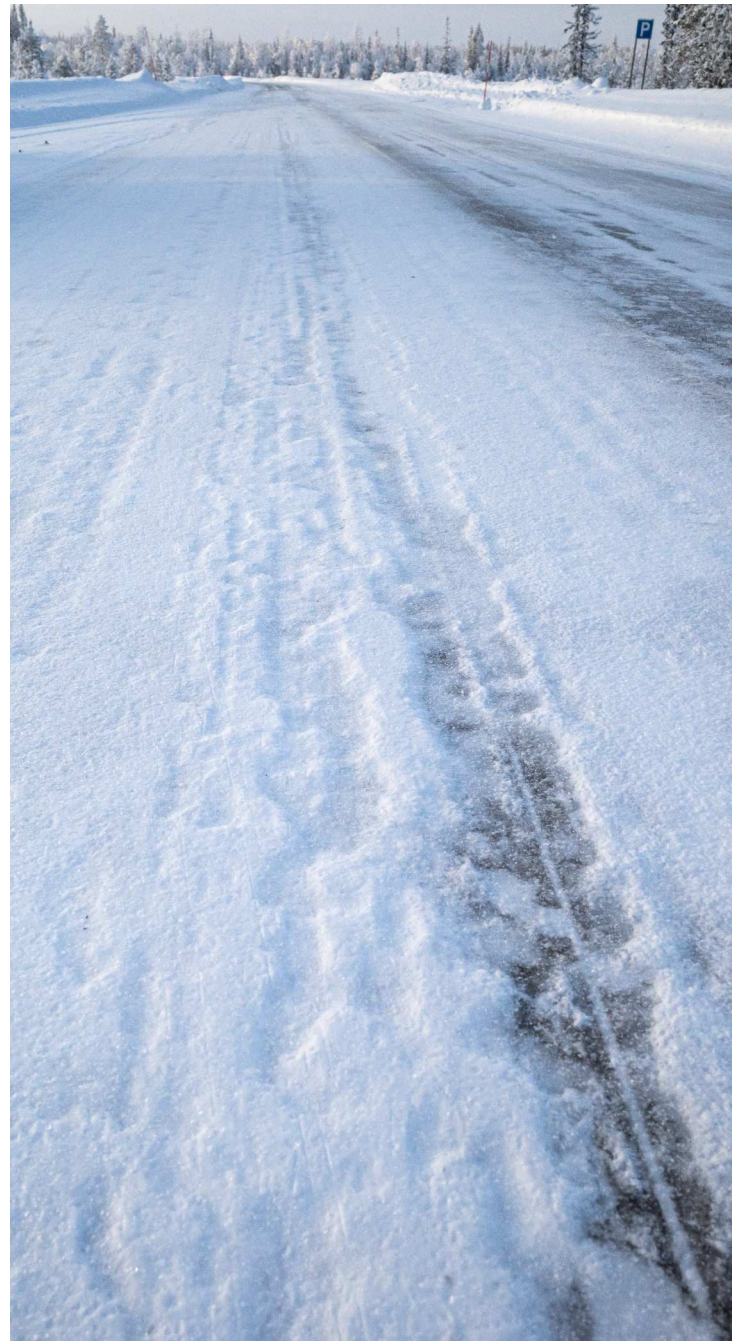


It was about this point in the journey that I felt the presence of the spirits. I am an agnostic and have difficulty with religion when it is organized and engulfed in hierarchies. Mother Nature offers me real insights and the dance of the spirits over the wilderness gives me comfort, strength and hope.



An overnight stay in Vilhelmina gave me one night with -23C to -25C. R2D2's Chinese diesel heater had to admit color for the first time.

Now we had come so far north that the roads were paved with thick rough ice. Subie & R2D2 stood on new studded tires and this offered a fantastic grip on the ice.





Blattniksele





Reindeer and moose began to appear on and around the roadway.





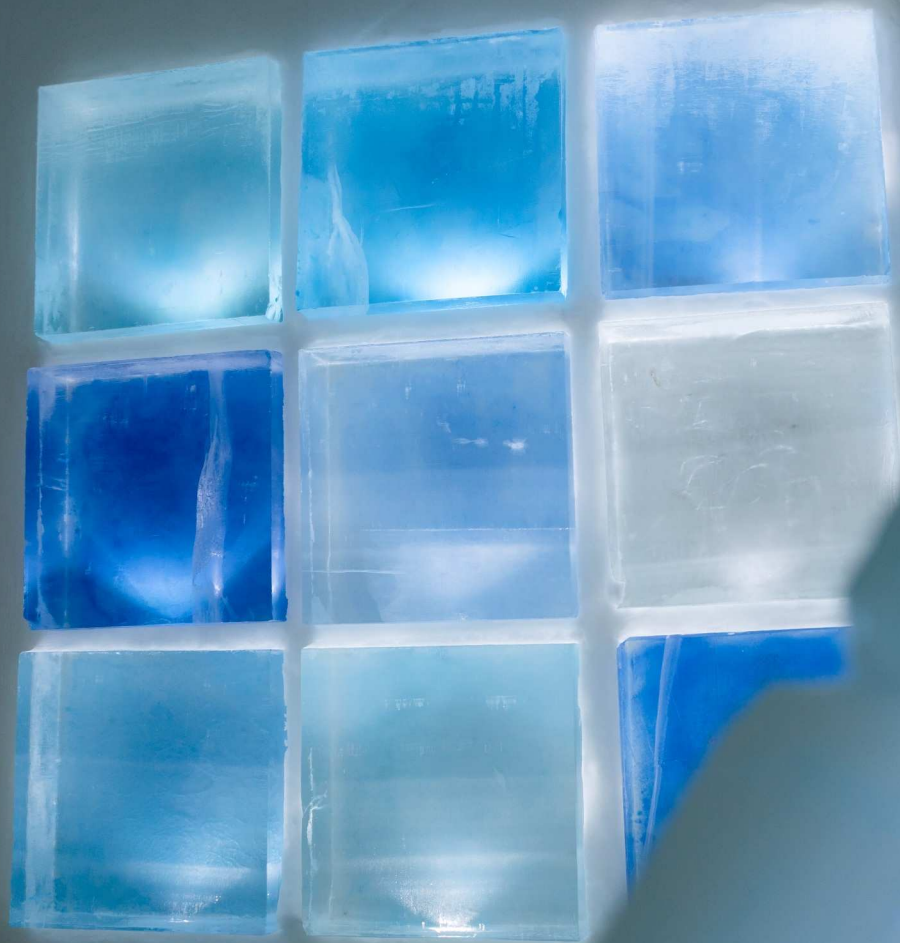
If you happen to pass Jukkasjärvi, be sure to visit the ice hotel.

Truly a work of art in ice and light. Built every winter and every spring everything melts down in the Torne river again.

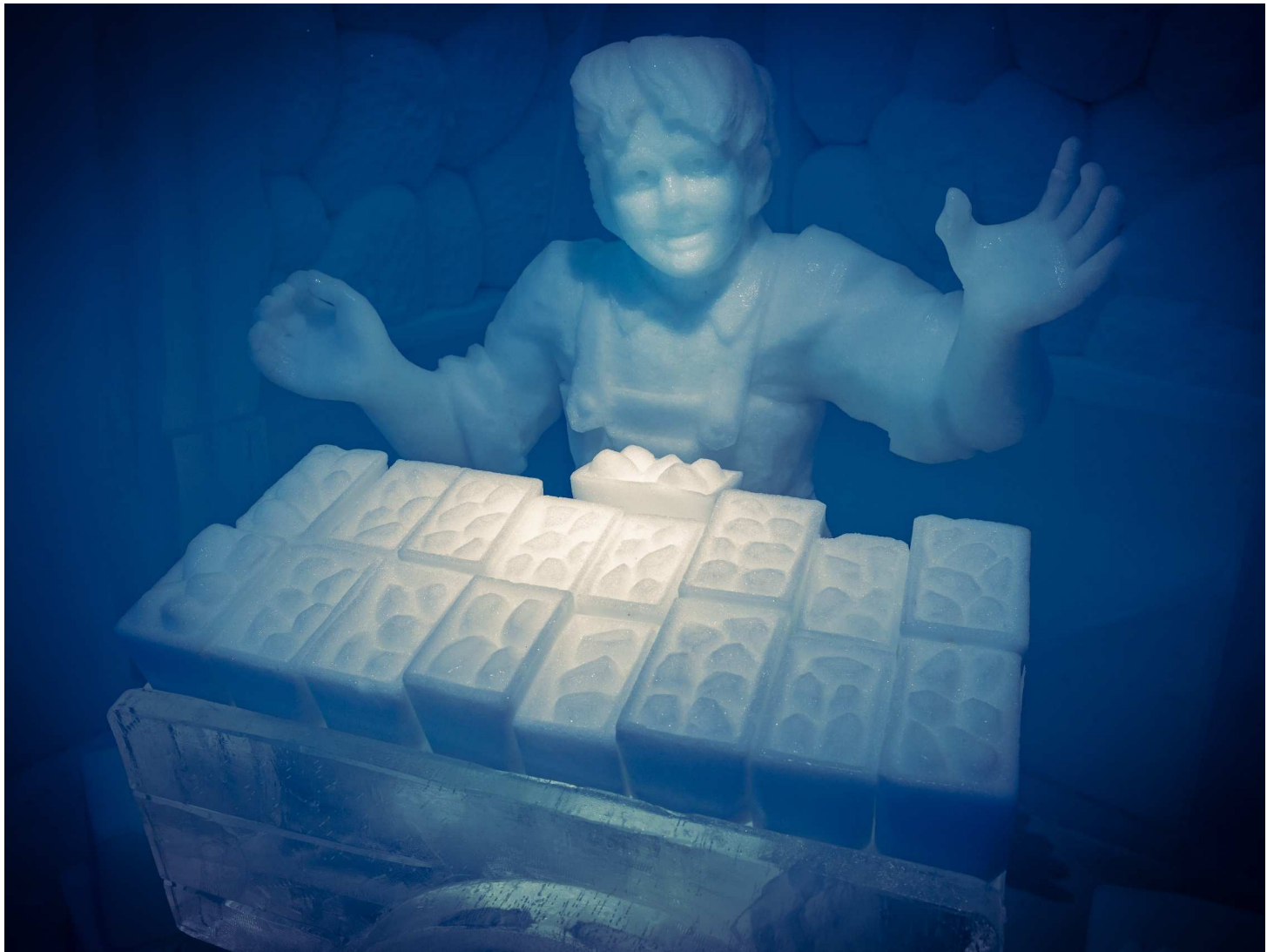














One of our goals with the trip was to experience the northern lights. Once in Björkliden, and our northernmost camp on the trip, the location for the northern lights was clear. My travel companion Claes and I took us down to Torneträsk's beach. Wow! A happy me at the ice.

Aurora Borealis!





Oatmeal. The obvious source of energy in the Arctic.



During World War II, the Swedish soldier Sven Sjöberg was shot to death by a German fighter plane at Vassijaure station. Vassijaure is the last station on the "Malmбанан" on the Swedish side. A memorial stone is now erected at the station to commemorate this event.



Riksgränsen. Boarder Sweden - Norway





Ruin of the old locomotive shed at Riksgränsen.
The view from the old windows is the Norwegian side of the border.



Frozen beach. Torneträsk.





Just south of Björkliden, you will find Silverfallet. We were advised by a local to visit it.

As a giant bonus, we also got to experience a rare phenomenon.

At the same time as Torneträsk froze, a strong storm was raging that whipped up the water on the beaches and near surroundings, which formed these fantastic ice formations.

And as I mentioned earlier, we were completely alone in this place. Due to the pandemic.

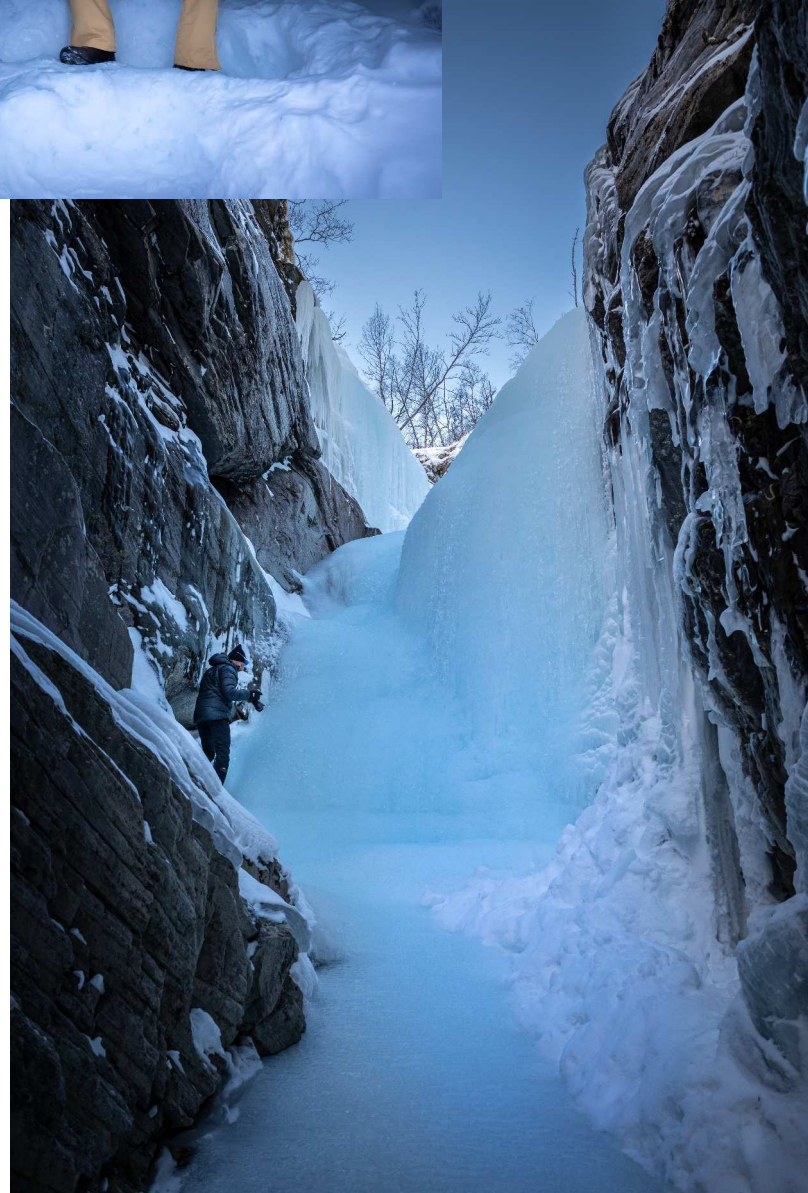
Mother Nature's Spirits grabbed me again. It was clear to me that this was where the Trolls were born.



Magic colors

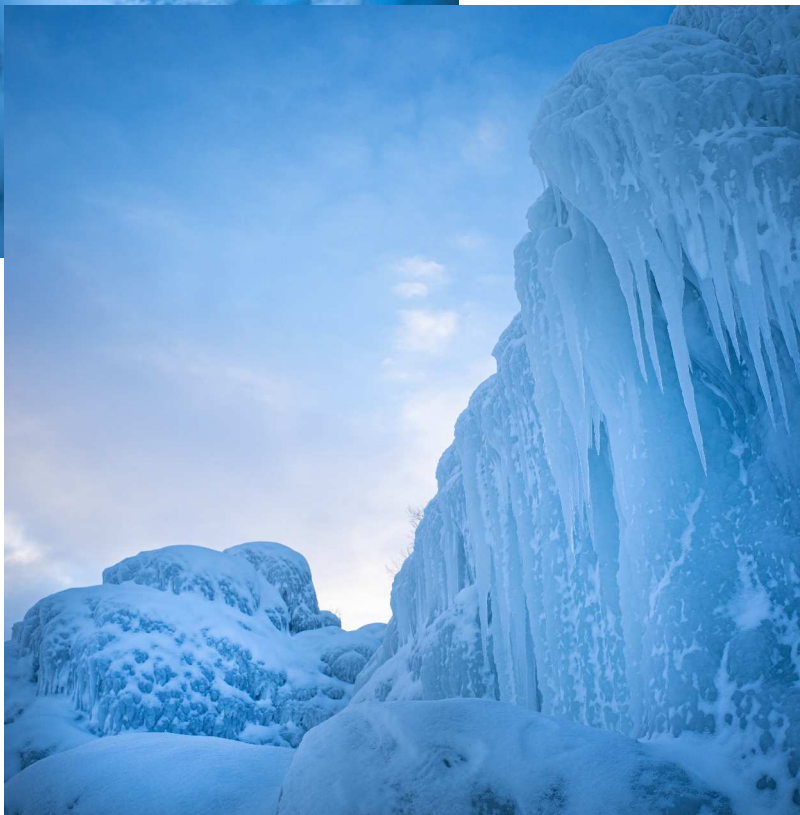
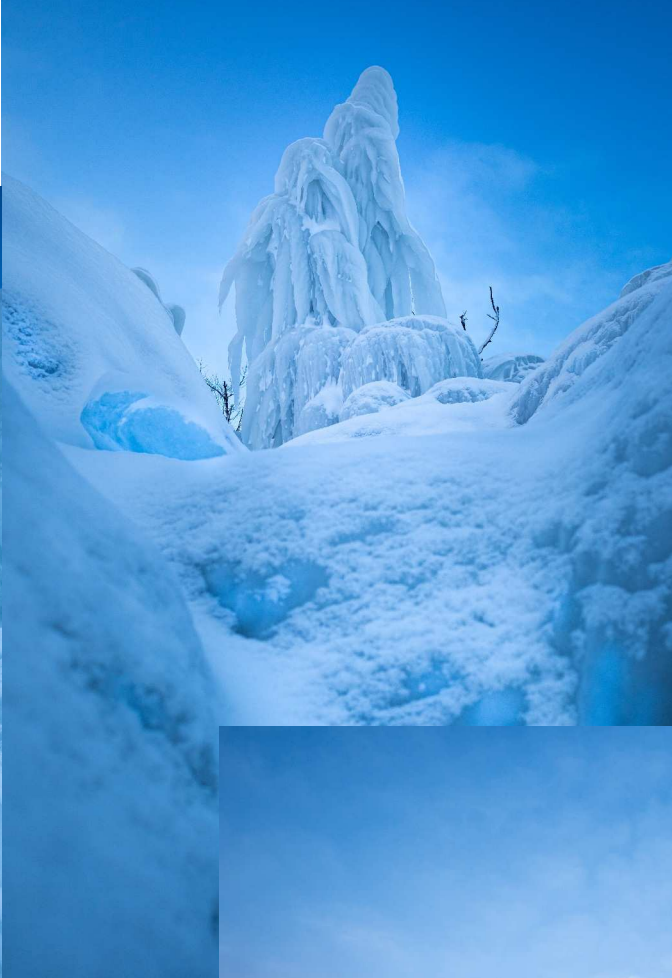


Hard working
photographers!





Ice and sky. Frozen beauty.













Tjåmotis









Umfors

Diesel

GRÄNSLÖST
köpcenter

Bensin

Diesel

95 oktan

Bensin & Diesel









Along road E12, Blå Vägen (Blue Road)

The Blue Road is an international tourist route between Mo i Rana, Norway, to Petrozavodsk in Russia. The road is 1800km and passes Sweden and Finland. A topic for another expedition!



Kvikkjokk's church. Blue hour.
End of the Road.
Starting point for going in to Padjelanta &
Sarek national parks.



The photo stops were many. Travel companion Bengt at work.



Last night with friends before we each went south. Sauna bath and grilled duck breast in -27C. The next morning I woke up in Subie with -31C! The cold record of the trip. Appropriately enough in Ingemar Stenmark and Anja Pärsson's home village Tärnaby.











Different lights - different älvar (rivers is called älvar in Lapland)



All Photographs taken with my fantastic Ricoh GR 3 compact camera.



Thank you so much for being interested in my journey and in the fantastic wilderness we have in northern Sweden. Home to Moder Natures Spirits.

Travel in peace and with health!

Please visit my homepage for more photography and travels:

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"In the winter of 2020/2021, I got the brilliant idea to plan a small expedition to Lapland.

I am a member of the Swedish Expedition Society and attracted a handful of friends from the society to come along.

All the Nordic countries had a full lock down due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Thus no tourists.

So a good time for a small expedition to the northernmost parts of Sweden.

I also wanted to test my set up for extreme cold for upcoming overland expeditions in the future."

Mikael Jakobsson

