

After the Madrid HL7 WGM, Ewout and I went Kayaking in Norway

I thoroughly enjoyed the weekend - an awesome experience - and thanks to my wife for letting me go on Mother's Day weekend (it was in Australia).

Yes, it was cold. The water temperature was 8C, and the air temperature varied from 6 to 14C. There was snow all around us, in patches down to sea level, but mostly up above 600-700 meters. But we were dressed for the cold (wetsuits etc) and I didn't even use all my warm clothing. I did go for a swim - a very quick one!

In our group, there was 11 guests. Ewout Kramer, 9 from England/Scotland, and me. 8 women, 3 guys, age spread 19 -> late 50s.

We kayaked for 2 days. Map below, from right to left. The first day, we paddled 16km, and the second about 9. It was calm when we put in, but by the time we had lunch, the wind had picked up to a stiff breeze. For the next hour or so, the wind was quite brisk, with short sharp gales - actually starting to be a bit difficult to hold on to the paddle. Then it suddenly stilled, and was lovely for the rest of the day.

We camped on the side of the fjord, and had a lovely dinner cooked on the camp fire, sat around the camp fire, and eventually it got dark enough to sleep. The next day, we finished kayaking down the Naeroyfjord to Gudvangen, and then drove down to Oslo for meetings.

Day 1: Friday:

We flew Madrid -> Amsterdam -> Bergen.

Waiting in Amsterdam:



The flight to Bergen was cancelled, so we popped into Amsterdam to have dinner with Ewout's partner:



Luckily, we made it onto the next flight to Bergen. Here's the night sky at 12:30am:



We stayed in a little AirBnB in Bergen.

Day 2: Saturday

Here's the view out the back the next morning:



A lake on the way to Gudvangen:



The fjord at Gudvangen:



Quite a lot of people going kayaking:



Finally, out on the fjord:



This is the course we kayaked over 2 days:



Stopped for lunch:



Turning the corner into Naeroyfjord:



Plenty of big waterfalls:



Still plenty of snow:



Where we camped overnight:



Yes, some of us – including both Ewout and I – went for a swim. But at a water temperature of 8C – it was a quick swim:



Of course, both Ewout and I looked after the camp fire:



Day 3 Sunday:

Breakfast in the rain:



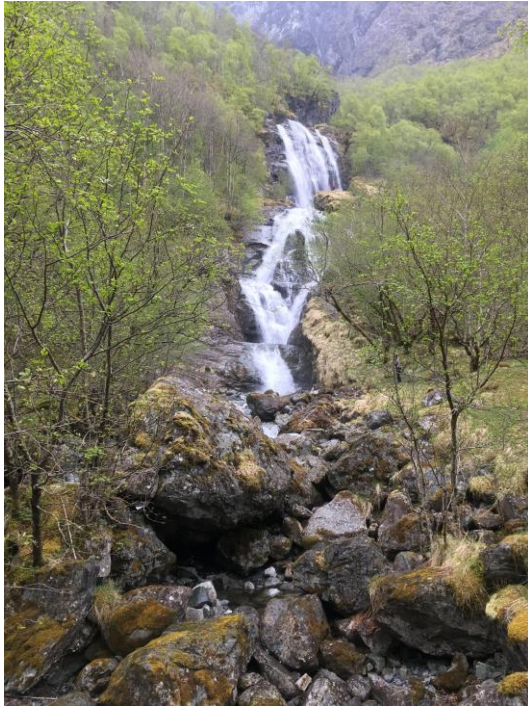
Path (Royal Post Road) along the side of the fjord:



A farmer going by (water tractor):



Waterfall we walked to:



Dramatic clouds:



Old farm and Norse Burial Heap:



This farming settlement has it's own 1km tunnel for road access:



Trees knocked down by an avalanche:



Gudvangen comes into sight:



Patches of snow down to sea level:



All finished:



Plateau, on the drive to Oslo:



Fjord near to Oslo:

