



## ELWOODS RALLY

# Through Norway in the race car

2015-10-13

By coincidence I read that the reoccurring international Saab meet **IntSaab** would be held in Norway this year, and that the meeting would be a rolling one, in western Norway's fjord landscape. It sounded interesting so I signed up and the obvious car choice was the 99 (the "race car"). Unfortunately I got sick so I missed the event.

A few days later, however, I set off on my own tour. The car was packed with a sleeping bag, a tent, a storm cooker and canned food. The road to the Norwegian border went from Bjuråker via Ånge, Östersund and Åre.



*The Rista falls.*

The E14 road in Sweden is pretty boring until you get closer to the border, then the landscape becomes nicer. Just before Åre I found a cool waterfall, the Rista falls, and stopped for a look and some photos. I ate lunch near Flornes, Norway, where I also discovered that the rear bumper works great as a makeshift kitchen counter.



*Kitchen counter bumper.*

All the way to Trondheim, the E14 was a nice flowing road with nice scenery, except for the last bit that goes along with the E6, which is an intense traffic motorway. There was a smaller road closer to the fjord, which might have been nicer, but I didn't explore that one. From Trondheim I continued along the E39 road, which was at least as boring through to Orkanger. After Orkanger, the E39 went into a mountain landscape. Very nice road and nice scenery, but I was surprised at how many trucks was travelling that road.

### **Of to the coast**

After some 10s of kilometres, I wanted to get even closer to the coast and took off to the north-west on road 680. The condition on that road was very Swedish, but

the landscape was still Norwegian. At first the road went through a lot of forest, but all of a sudden I came to a crest and got to see a beautiful sight, the Årvåg fjord. Here I had my dinner and started looking for a place to put up the tent and camp for the night.



*The Årvåg fjord.*

The common thing during this trip was that it took a while to find a suitable place to set up the tent, since there were often mountains on one side of the road and steep valleys on the other side. I finally found a place to stay, but the ground was too hard to sufficiently pin the tent down, so I slept in the car. It was surprising to find that sleeping in the car was at least as comfortable as sleeping in the tent.

I woke up to rain on the wind-shield and stayed in the sleeping bag for a while, before getting out to cook the breakfast porridge. Probably it had not placed high in the porridge competition I heard about on the radio the day before, but it was good and nourishing nonetheless.

The rain increased as I drove from Nothaug (where I slept) to Tømmersvåg to take the ferry to Seivika, 10 kilometres east of Kristiansund.

After driving a long tunnel under water I ended up on a rather dull and straight stretch of road E39. However, the view over the Batnfjord was nice, but difficult to enjoy as the traffic was quite intense. I quickly got tired of that and went of onto the "devil's road" (road 666) which had a mild Swedish-like road surface, which in the race car means a bumpy ride or a very slow one. Both me and the car got energy top-ups along this road. My lunch was eaten with the sun on my back and leaden clouds over the fjord.

### **Bolsøy Bridge**

The next stop was at Bolsøy Bridge, a beautiful bridge with a high arch in the middle. On the way up you only saw the crest and none of the rest of the bridge. After another ferry and forty kilometres or so, I stopped late in the evening in Åndalsnes and set up my accommodation at a campsite.



*Pause after passing Bolsøy Bridge.*

The nature around Åndalsnes was probably the most spectacular and beautiful I saw during the whole trip, with high and steep mountain sides and blue-green shimmering water. I did not drive the road "Trollstigen", so I have to return and experience it at another time. I ate my porridge breakfast and then stuffed the wet tent in the car and set off on the longest day of the trip. From Åndalsnes I took road E136 along the river Rauma up to Dombås.



*View from the campsite along the river Rauma towards south east.*

All the way up there were high mountain sides on both sides and the road was followed by both the river and a railway. At most, I was at almost 700 meters above sea level.



*The 99 is eager to get up the valley.*

## **Back to Sweden**

In Dombås, the E6 and the descent to Sweden started. From Åndalsnes to Arvika, I followed the same route as IntSaab 2015 post-tour had done a few days earlier. In Arvika I found a quiet parking lot late, late at night at Ingestrand where I slept in the car. On the last day, I continued homewards and took a small tour of Sörmland before landing in Södertälje.

The trip was nice and I drove on average 400 kilometres and for nine and a half hours every day. It became a compressed holiday trip, and frankly it is also sometimes difficult not to keep a high pace in the (race) car. However, it feels like it was the right car choice. In a more modern car it had not been the same at all. For the next holiday trip I will be looking for a slower-pace old car and plan some extra days.



*Cooking lunch.*

See more pictures from the trip in [this album](#).

© Henning B  
[erally@hsoftware.com](mailto:erally@hsoftware.com)