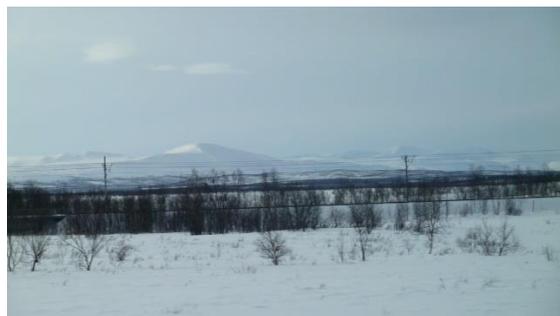
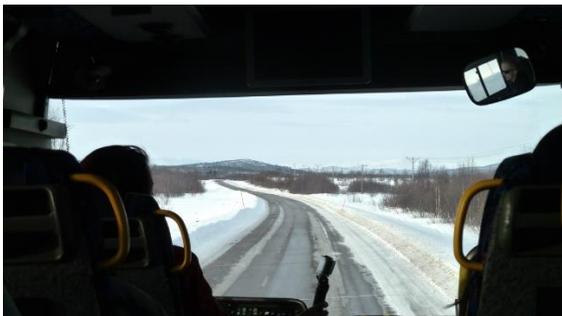


Heliskiing – Riksgränsen, North Sweden

Riksgränsen; a skiresort and a beautiful place for heliskiing. Riksgränsen is situated around 250 km above the arctic circle, just by the border to Norway. The hotel and the organized skiing in Riksgränsen started in 1928. Riksgränsen is not a town, not a village, just a couple of houses and a lot of skiing.



Some years ago I was in Haines, Alaska. We flew to Vancouver and then further on to Whitehorse, where we picked up our car. Then we drove the alaskan highway to Haines. A trip that took about 2 days. To Riksgränsen it takes only 4-5 hours from central Europe, but the feeling is almost the same. One road to get there, wilderness and a lot of mountains.



Before you arrive to Riksgränsen you are passing 2 other skiareas, Abisko and Björkliden. Abisko is well known for their „Aurora Borelius“ (northern lights) station and „Lapporten“ where the famous „Kungsleden“ (a long hike, 440 km, between Abisko and Hemavan) begins.



Riksgränsen is very special, I can not say why and what, but it is like the hole place „smells“ like skiing.



Up here in the mountains around Riksgränsen is also the heart of heliskiing in Sweden. The heliski area is 5000 square km, with more than a hundred peaks. The mountains in the area close to Riksgränsen provides 700-1000 m vertical and, if you fly in to the more remote areas of Mårma and Kebnekaise, you get up to 1500 m vertical. Kebnekaise is also the highest mountain in Sweden, 2106 m.

This time I had the privilege to work a few weeks for the company „Mountain Guide Travel“ who runs the heliskiing for the hotel in Riksgränsen.

First day, together with Magnus Strand, (a swedish montainguide living close to Narvik) I started to fly, to discover the area as quick as possible. The first runs are located about 5 minutes away from the hotel, and after the first day, and some runs, I could get a picture what this area is about. In the afternoon I study the map to see where we have been skiing and also to see how many possibilities there are here.

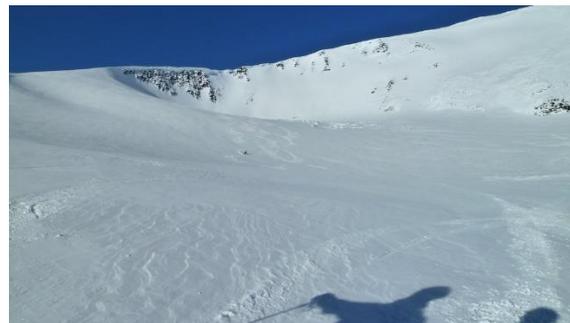


The second day we couldn't fly with the helicopter because of the weather situation. The next day Magnus and I had some guests from Finland. Nice weather, some wind but all in all a really nice day. I had the opportunity to see some more mountains and runs, and after this day Magnus was leaving Riksgränsen. Now I was alone with the pilot Ante.



Ante has been flying up here for about 10 years, and he knows the area very well.

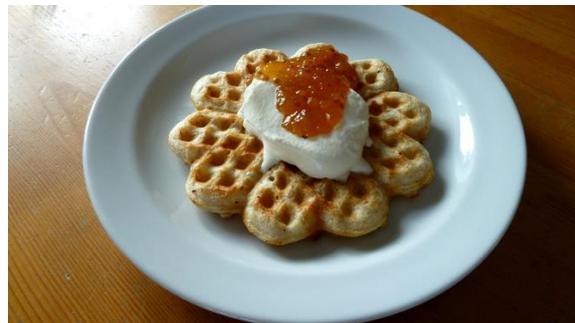
The next day the wind and weather was not that good, so I had to cancel a small group from Holland in the afternoon. The day after the weather was very good and I was flying with the guests from Finland again - we had a very nice day. Sunshine, pretty good snow – we took a lot of pictures.



If there is no flying, so called „down days“ there is still a lot you can do; skiing in the skiarea, rent a snowmobile, ice-fishing etc.



If you rent a snowmobile you should go up to Låktatjåtko mountain lodge, Sweden's highest mountain lodge, located 1228 m above sea level. Up here you will find the best „våffla“ (waffle) with cream and jam you can find in Sweden!





The time was running fast in Riksgränsen, and after some time working in the office and flying with guests, my adventure in Riksgränsen ended. It was time to say goodbye to Riksgränsen.





The season in Riksgränsen begins in March and ends in June, and there is one special thing that you can do up here; heliskiing in the midnight sun, end of May.

dr. snow

Information:

You can fly to Stockholm and then to Kiruna in Swedish Lapland. From Kiruna there is a bustransfer to Riksgränsen.

Best time: April and May

Prices Heliskiing: from 2950,-- swedish kronas

For more info: <http://riksgransen.se/skidakning/heliskiing/>

