

Alice, Peter, Astrid, Erik and Ingrid



Autumn vacation in the wilderness

Alice, Copenhagen

We, a family consisting of me, my husband and our three children - at that time 12, 15 and 17 years old, had the privilege to spend our one week autumn vacation at Lykke and Orest's home in Jämtland Sweden. It was an experience unlike anything else we have encountered before! And something I will recommend to everybody who has both a lust for nordic wilderness, and at the same time would enjoy the privilege of having the best hosts to show you how an off grid life looks like.

When we arrived to Östersund train station, we were picked up by Orest. The ride to Storsjö made it clear that we were going off grid. We drove for hours in complete darkness, and the last couple of hours Orest told us that he had to look after reindeer herds on the road. Most of the way there were no other cars. When we finally arrived, the first that struck us, was the totally new feeling of being isolated. Arriving from a big city, the silence and slightly uncanny feeling of being surrounded by nothing than nature was overwhelming. Luckily Lykke welcomed us to a cosy warm house lit up by oil lamps and candle lights. And our bedrooms had its own little fireplace - very romantic!

The following days we began to understand what off grid life meant. The fire had to be kept alive, cooking needed to be planned hours in advance for the stove to heat up, and food itself was also something you had to think through carefully weeks in advance, since shopping is not around the corner. The many everyday tasks made us live with a different pace and with a different awareness. If you forget the fire, you will be cold, and you'll have to wait with your cooking. If you get lost in the forest, it may be difficult to find your way back, and it can be dangerous.

However, what I (and the rest of the family too) remember the most, is the breathtaking views that met your eye, wherever you looked. We had the luck to be there at a time of the year, where we would both meet the autumn colours, one frosty morning and even some snow. The changes in the landscape due to the different weather was stunning. One day everything was covered in a mystic and wildly quiet mist. Another morning we woke up to a frosty fairytale scenery, a world of sparkling jewels and the mountains that were invisible the day before, appeared on the horizon as if they were enchanted.

In fact, it took a little while to get used to the fact that we were really in the middle of this spectacular landscape. I just really realized it, when Orest said, that we could just take the canoes and go for a little boat trip, just like that before dinner. What normally would be a big deal, and something you had to drive a long way to do, was just outside the windows, And it was not just any boat trip! The beauty, the crystal clear water, the overwhelming silence and the knowledge that this scenery is huge and stretches for many many kilometers was unforgettable.

Orest and Lykke took us on several trips, all of which were astonishing and very different. There is so much to see and I had the feeling of being far far away in Alaska than just in Sweden, that I thought I knew. The nature in Jämtlant is very varied, and because we had the best hosts, we were able so see and experience places we would never had come across on our own.

I know Lykke and Orest from Copenhagen, where their immaculate style and their love to beauty and quality in all aspects of life was an essential part of their signature. Their new life by the Big Lake is an amazing transformation. And yet it is a special adventure, not to be found anywhere else! A Lykke and Orest adventure, they generously invited us to participate in. Their hospitality is second to none, and their beautiful dogs are a constant reminder of what unique people live here.

A visit to Lykke and Orest is just so much more than I've ever expected. Any visitor will undoubtedly get an insight of a very special place and lifestyle that bring perspective and inspiration to one's own life - even long after you have left.