One day trip to Fosen

When: 4th June 2001
Where: Fosen

I had a one day excursion to Fosen yesterday. Fosen is a county just North to Trondheim city. Fosen is called "Norway in a miniature", because it has mountains, fjords, farmlands etc... We are around 60 person in total, among which are Ghanaians, Norwegians and of course Chinese. A bus is used as transportation.

Fosen is a peninsular, which means, to reach there we can either drive along the coast for a rather long distance or take a ferry across the water. The organizers decided to catch up the ferry. We had to get up early to catch the ferry. The ferry was rather big so that our bus can drive directly into the bottom layer of the ferry. We stayed on deck for half an hour and arrived Ravvik then. Ravvik is a small community of Fosen. It is mainly an agriculture base. We saw cows scattered at the grassland and I can even smell the fragrance of grass mixed with fresh soil. It was such a sunny day yesterday, so perfect for out door activities. We had some food and drinks there and also visited some relics of the old age of Norway -- fragmental wall, old bricks and rotten woods. You know, everything you have seen in Yuan Ming Yuan and Roman forum :-)

We meandered along the coast and reached our main destination Austraatt in the afternoon. It is another important community in Fosen area. It is rather flat and used to be a trading center in Norway history. One of the most worth seeing place in Austraatt is the castle. After a plentiful dinner we had a guided tour to the Austraatt Castle. The Castle was built in 17 century. It stands there, prominently, reflected by the flat terrain. The Castle was built by the Prime Minister at that time -- Ove Biekle. At that time, Norway is still united with Denmark. You can see this through the metaphorical pictures carved in the furniture. The castle is built mainly as a residence so it has living rooms, party rooms and a small church. It mirrors the life of the rich at that time. There is a pyramid outside the castle to memorize the construction of the Castle. His coffin together with his wife’s was also in the castle. It even has a small prisoner cell at the second story. There, a Ghanaian lady asked a sensitive question on where the slaves came from. The guide was very smart and answered there was no slave trading in Norway and the prisoners were those who made offense to the society :-) The Castle is now a property of the state. The guided tour cost 35 Kr. per person.

We started our return tour at 5 in the afternoon, first a ferry at Brakstad and then endless coastal motorway. It was rather dull and tiring so the organizer tried to cheer us up by talking jokes. One of them is rather interesting, given by a Norwegian. "You know the United Nations always delegates one year to a special thing. So we have year of women, year of children, and year of peace etc… And one year is the year of elephant. At that year of elephant, all the countries are required to write something about elephant. The US writes How to make elephant bigger and better. The German writes ‘Introduction to elephant’ and it has 12 books. The French writes ‘The love life of elephant’. Ghanaian writes ‘How to hunt elephant’ Chinese writes ‘100 ways of cooking elephant’ and the Norwegian writes ‘Norway and we Norwegians’" :-)

We finally went back home at 8 in the afternoon and the sun is still shining...