Trip to Lofoten

**When:** 29th June --- 5th July  
**Who:** Xiaomeng, Jinghai and my colleague Darius couple.

Starting from Trondheim, we drove our Toyota on a one-week trip along the northern part of Norway, to Lofoten and return. Lofoten is said to be one of Norway’s most scenic holiday destinations, where you can see towering mountains with pointed peaks standing right in the middle of the sea. It is an archipelago in the ocean, north of the Article Circle. I will describe my journey in a considerably detailed way, so that others can follow some of the trip if they want to.

In the summer, when the midnight sun is there, it’s almost daylight all through the night, so we decided to drive all the way from Trondheim to Lofoten within one day. We started early morning in Trondheim, headed north on E6 towards Bodø. E6 is relatively easy to ride but still there are lots of turns in the mountain roads. The terrain is quite hilly and most of the time, we were either up or down the mountain. The landscape along the road was quite pleasant, green woods, wild flowers and
snow mountain peaks. When we were approaching the Arctic Circle, the landscape changed into an untamed wideness. It was such a unique place, so we decided to have a stop over on our way back from Lofoten.

We arrived in Bodø just at the right time for the afternoon ferry from Bodø to Moskenes, which is situated in the southern part of the lofoten islands. Unfortunately, there were so many cars waiting for that ferry so that it is impossible for us to catch that one. Then we had to wait for the next one, which would leave at 12:00 in the mid-night. We soon decided to pay a short visit to the city Bodø. It seems to me Bodø is a pretty dull city so after a brief dinner we went back to the harbor, where we came across a fantastic mid-might sun. 4:00 in the morning, we finally arrived at Sorvågen, a small fishing village 2 km away south to Moskenens ferry harbor, where we had booked our cabin. After a long tiring journey like that, a sound sleep is at the top of the agenda...In the afternoon, we walked to the very south of the island, a tiny village called Å. It offers a good viewpoint to see the sparkling tiny islands in the north sea.

The next day, we were on board of a fisherman's boat. The fishermen took us to where the fish are and we tried our luck at several different spots. We brought our own fishing rod, but it soon proves to be too weak for sea fishing. Therefore, we fish with hand lines, which is provided by the fishermen. I soon got a catch, it is a cod! It is the biggest I’ve ever caught, although it turned out to be ranked as a relatively small one among all the fish that had been caught by the team in our boat that day. Jinghai got a big
coalfish after a while, and my colleague Dar-
arius seized his one also. The sea was quite
tranquil that day so I didn’t feel seasick at all
(I use to). But if you come across a rough
weather, you might need to prepare some sea-
sickness tablets. One our way back to the har-
bor, the fishman began to cut and clean the
fish. Blocks of seagulls were gliding behind
our boat, waiting patiently for the fishman to
throw the guts to the sea. Whenever a piece
of gut was cast out, a bunch of seagulls
would fight to grab the meat. Fun!

We got words from the fishman that we were allowed to take as many fish as we like. We took
the two cods we got and made a great dinner that night.
Next morning, we drove to the north part of the island. The roads in Lofoten follow the rough landscape and even more sharp turns appeared. We got lots of narrow roads going through small villages and past white beaches. After a break in the white beach, which is really nice for the eye and foot, we continued to drive north.

Across the under water tunnel in Napp, we were on another big island, where situated Vestvågøy and Vågen communes. There we stopped in a town called Henningsvær, which also bears the name "The Venice of Lofoten". It is a small fishing village, with old fishing houses and nice atmosphere. Road into Henningsvær passed several amazing places, white beaches with clear green water and awesome mountain peaks perfect for climbing.
Our last day in Lofoten were set aside for mountain rambling. Lofoten has very interesting geological features. The rigid edges and peaks are said to be formed in the last Ice Age, about 10,000 years ago. We started from the mountain entrance near Sørvågen. Went up to a small lake and continued up to another lake. We had planned to follow a moderate hiking route, which is marked. But soon we lost the track and came to unmarked path. The terrain was getting steep and we had to be really careful. But luckily, the path was not that slippery. On the way up, we found many beautiful wild flowers and it just added to the good feeling of being in an unspoiled wild place. Eventually, we reached a high point and from there we had a panoramic view of the Sørvågen area. Lakes in the near vicinity seem to be fused well with the open sea in the far sight. Oah.. the scenery really paid off the hard climbing efforts. Getting down from the mountain turned out to be no easier than up. Some areas were quite steep and we had to use ropes to get down. The whole adventure took 7 hours.
On the way back, we took the early morning ferry from Moskenes to Bodø. This time, we reserved a place by phone a day earlier to avoid missing the ferry (reserved car has priority to get into the ferry). On our way back to Trondheim, as planned, we stopped at the Arctic circle, where there is a small station. There we had our dinner, took several pictures and sent out some post cards. From there, it was just a nice drive all the way to Trondheim. We arrived home at 10.00 at night.

Although, it has been quite a journey, we still left several gorgeous places unseen, like the birds cliff in Røst island, which hosts the characteristic puffin. But Lofoten is such a nice place and a second visit is definitely worthy. So we will pick up these places next time!