

# LOFOTEN

## PHOTOGRAPHIES

CHRISTIAN HÜHN



SPECIAL EDITION

3 H Books





# 68° North

Foreword by Christian, January 2021

68° North. The average latitude of the Lofoten archipelago.

Very often friends ask me: „That's pretty far in the north, must be rather cold up there.“

True. And not true.

Nearly halfway up from Germany to the North Pole the average temperatures are pleasantly warm.

Although the Lofoten Islands are located on the same latitude as Greenland or Alaska, they have a comparatively mild climate, thanks to the Gulf Stream and the global warming. In summer it can just be as hot as down in central Europe (in August 2011 there were some days with over 30 °C), and in winter the island's location guarantee comfortable temperature values around the freezing point.

But the really special thing about Lofoten is their light. Clean air and the geographical position above the arctic circle create unique colours that you will only find in the far north. The countryside is a dreamland and a playground for photographers. In summer you often get perfect lighting conditions for taking pictures all night long. In winter season the low sun provides an indescribably surreal lighting of this unique landscape. And I did not even mention the northern lights yet!

An impressive, unforgettable experience that I became hooked on. If you are favoured by fortune, you'll experience a spectacular show in the nightly sky, that has no equal in the world.

The Lofoten archipelago is one of the oldest places on our planet, more than two billion years old. The islands with their many pointed mountaintops are the remains of an undersea mountain range, of which nowadays only the peaks stick out of the water.

The whole region is a paradise for hiking. If you don't mind the elevation gain on almost every tour, caused by the unique Lofoten topography, you will find marked trails, as well as complete wilderness and solitude. In any case spectacular views over breathtaking sceneries.

You are lucky to have found one of the best places to stay on the islands. I discovered Anne Gerd's B&B almost 13 years ago, and returned to her house ever since. Mostly more than once a year.

If you stay here for a little longer, you surely find out, why. And hopefully come back one day...

I have written notes wherever possible along with the pictures – but at least the GPS coordinates, so other guests can find the photo spots easily. Anne Gerd can give you some hints if necessary

Have fun exploring!



For me Reine is one of the most beautiful places on Lofoten.

I still remember how overwhelmed I was by the sight, when I came here for the first time. Today the parking lot at the E 10, where the photo was taken, can be pretty crowded by tourists, especially during summer season. You should rather come here in the evening when the sun from the west shines through the mountains onto Reine.

The restaurant "Gammelbua" provides very good food – but not exactly cheap.





*Reine*  
N 67.928285  
E 13.084760







Thanks to a very "busy" flock of seagulls outside my Fisherman's cabin on Hamnøy, I woke up just in time to catch the early morning light, on one day in June 2006. Around 4 o'clock I noticed this wonderful sunrise, took my camera and walked towards Reine. The houses on Sakrisøy were just illuminated by the sun, so I set up my tripod on the other side of the water (Oleniløy) and took this panoramic image.





*Sakrisøy Rorbuer*

N 67.940006  
E 13.116474







If you don't mind screeching of seagulls, rorbuer (like here on Hamnøy) are a great self-catering accommodation. The picturesque little harbour is one of the most popular photo spots on Lofoten. With a bit of luck and by rising early you may get a picture in beautiful light. Just like here in the morning at 4:30 clock one day in June 2006.  
The same day as on the preceding page.



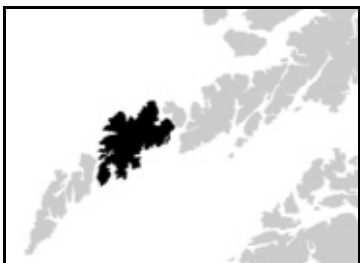


*Eliassen Rorbuer, Hamnøy*

N 67.94837  
E 13.136086





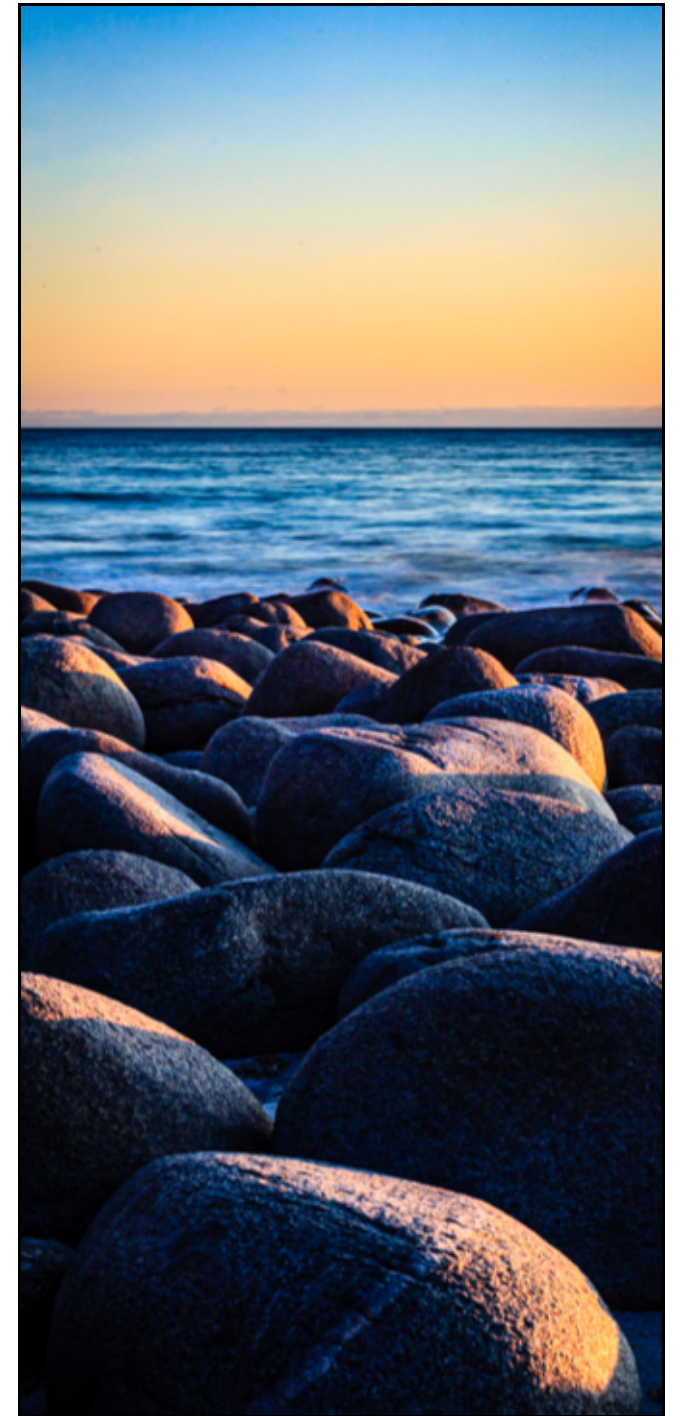


*Uttakleiv*

*N 68.21350  
E 13.507283*

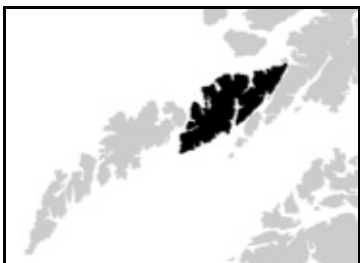
One of my favourite beaches on Lofoten is located on Vestvågøya. Uttakleiv has become one of the most photographed spots on the whole archipelago, similar to Hamnøy bridge on Moskenes. On a day with good lighting conditions you can easily meet 10–15 other 'serious' photographers, not to mention the myriads of selfie-lovers and influencer-wannabies posing here to impress their followers.





Another set of three photos to show the different types of rocks: rounded, edgy, covered with seaweed, with little water inlets. Bright, dark, everything a photographer could ever want. No wonder that a couple of remarkable images from Lofoten were made here. Looking for an iconic photo subject? Search for "Uttakleiv dragon eye stone". This beach is also a paradise for children. My kids loved to run around, climb and jump on rocks or make a picnic. And not to forget: a perfect place to watch midnight sun.





*Pavilion near Grunnfjor*

N 68.424018  
E 14.566498

Another of my personal highlights on Lofoten is this wooden pavilion on Austvagpya. Worth a visit every time of the year: for midnight sun in summer or northern lights in winter. Or as on this photo in august when the fireweed embellishes many places on the islands. This structure is now accompanied by a beach bar made entirely of flotsam and jetsam.

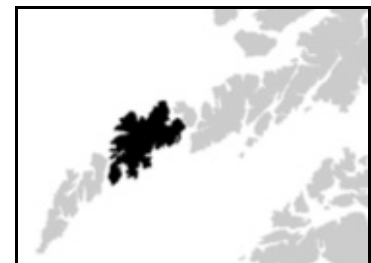




A spot that I discovered just in the last years is Eggum, a typical Lofoten village on the ocean shore. This photo shows boathouses during the midnight sun. They are located a bit west of the village, on the gravel road to the old german radar site and the camping area. On the rocky beach you can often find nice pieces of flotsam which make perfect photo subjects.

*Boat houses in Eggum*

N 68.309345  
E 13.665576







Hamnøy harbour. One of the most popular photo subjects on the whole archipelago. This picture has been taken at 5 o'clock in a morning in mid June 2006. For a lot of the photo spots you have to either get up very early or go to bed very late. In summer you better don't go to bed at all. You could miss the fantastic light during the night. I lacked a lot of sleep during my summer trips to Lofoten...





*Hamnøy harbour*

N 67.947049

E 13.137610











This is Nusfjord, in mid may. Still no mass tourism – the silence before the storm. To get this postcard view you have to climb a bit on the surrounding rocks, which can be slippery after rain. But the village offers many interesting photo subjects, so you can spend a lot of time here. I'll show you a few on the next page.

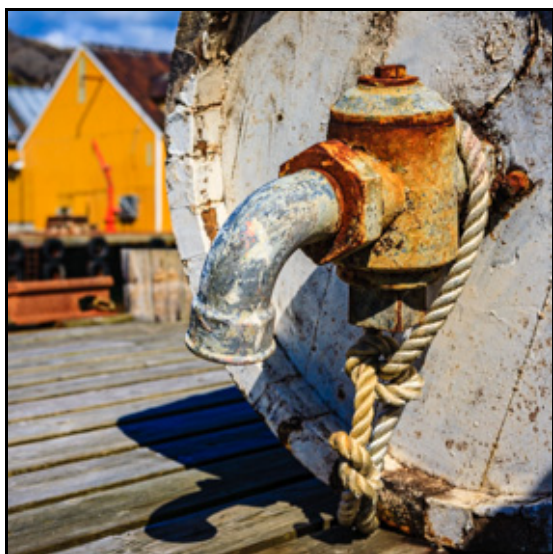
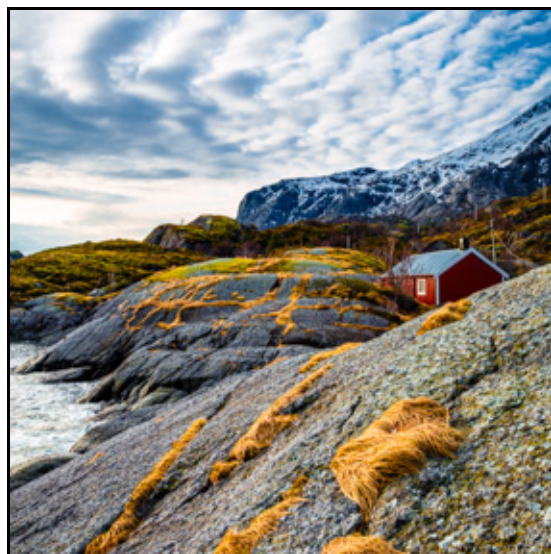
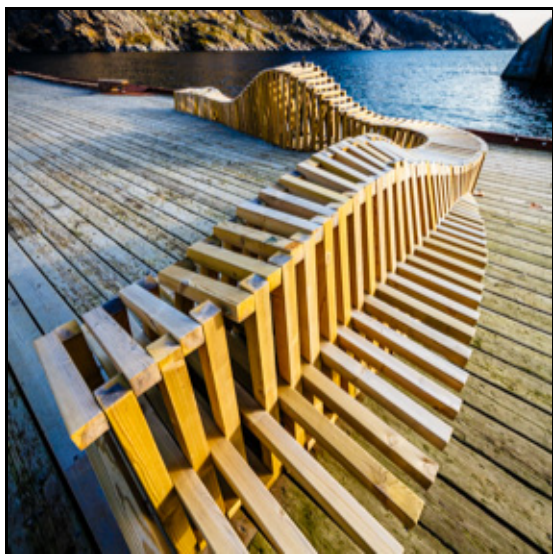
*Nusfjord*

N 68.034085

E 13.349912















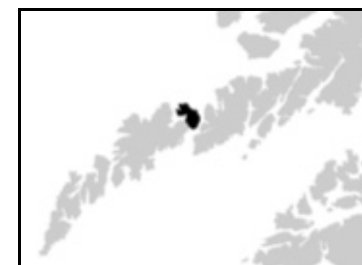




Gimsøya, the smallest of the Lofoten islands, is often neglected by the tourists, since it can't come up with famous sights. But I love this place. The church and cemetery make wonderful photo subjects in summer and winter, as they lie exposed on the outer coast. This is why the church has to be stabilized with steel cables – to prevent it from being blown away...

*Gimsøya church*

N 68.321071  
E 14.240019









This is one of my favourite winter photos of Lofoten.

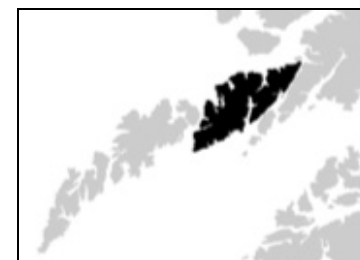
Taken in mid February, it shows the skyline of the biggest town Svolvær at the blue hour around 5 pm.

The spot where I stood is called Svinþya and holds a lot of interesting places to take photos of: racks with dried fish, a fish factory, countless tiny rorbuer of all colours, boats, run-down houses, a junk yard and much more. This is also a good location for pictures of northern lights.

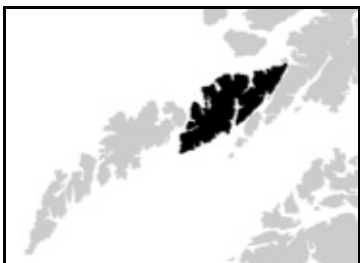
*Blue hour in Svolvær*

N 68.230951

E 14.574802







*Northern lights over Svolvær*

N 68.225292  
E 14.567302

These photos have been taken at Svinþya peninsula in Svolvær. The area near the harbour is full of stockfish racks, and on it's southern side you can find remains of a german anti-aircraft gun battery from World War II. It's the most solid base in the neighbourhood to place your tripod on. Built to last... The left photo is one of my very first pictures of northern lights.









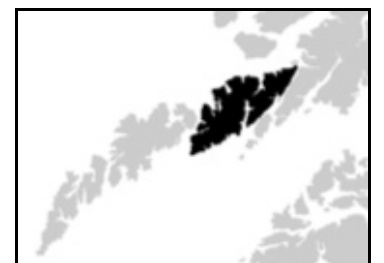




Similar to Nusfjord, the small fishing village Henningsvæer is best to be visited outside the main season. Otherwise you have to share the location with bus loads of tourists ruining the photo subjects. My favourite spot is the area close to the former lighthouse, which looks also nice under an aurora borealis...

*Northern lights over Henningsvæer*

N 68.148086  
E 14.198273







*Ramberg*

*N 68.098475  
E 13.243504*

A picture of this location is often used in publications advertising Northern Norway in general or particularly the Lofoten islands. Ramberg on Flakstadøya is one of the largest and most beautiful beaches above the arctic circle. No wonder it's always crowded with photographers waiting for the perfect light. This photo was taken on a late June evening.





Just a few hundred metres away from the spot on the other side you can find this scenery. It's the view towards North and over to the small rocky islands in front of the coast of Flakstadpysa.

The photo was taken in June 2006, as one of my many failed attempts to make a decent picture of the midnight sun. Just couldn't get one, as clouds appeared on the sky every evening, covering the sun completely.

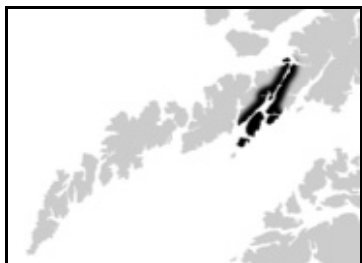
*Ramberg*

N 68.101275

E 13.248628







*View from Digermulenkollen*

N 68.315235  
E 15.019756

One of my favourite tours in the Raftsund region is the historical hike called "Kaiservarden". It starts in Digermulen and is named after the last german emperor who came here regularly and enjoyed the unique view. If you start your walk just before 3 pm, you will be able to see the southbound Hurtigruten ship passing beneath your feet twice – on its way to the famous Trollfjorden and a little later towards Svolvær.





And this is the view from the endpoint of the "Kaiservarden" hike towards Arsteinen peninsula and the mainland in the background.

It will take about 90 minutes from Digermulen to get here. While you wait for the coastal steamer you can try to spot some of the sea eagles or stone eagles (small photo). They have their aeries in the surrounding mountains and may orbit waiting for their daily food supply by Hurtigruten's "Excursion 9C".





*MS "Lofoten" in Raftsund*

N 68.457095  
E 15.193105

This photo was taken at a quarter past midnight from the Raftsund bridge. On one side it's still night with mainly blue colour tones. But as soon as the MS "Lofoten" passes underneath the bridge, on the other you would see the colourful sunrise while the ship heads towards Stokmarknes on the Vesteralen archipelago.

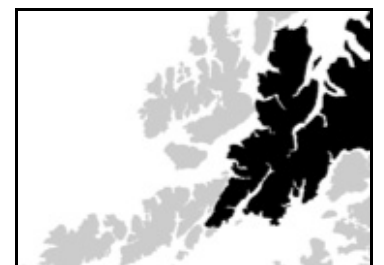




Trollskarholmen is a hidden gem. It takes about 20 minutes by car from Digermulen to get there. Located at the southwestern tip of the Årsteinen peninsula, only a few tourists "go the extra mile" to visit this secluded beach. With its man-made fireplace and the sitting benches it's a perfect spot for a picnic. What looks like bright sand on this photo, are actually very small fragments of clam shells.

*Trollskarholmen beach*

N 68.270214  
E 15.026143

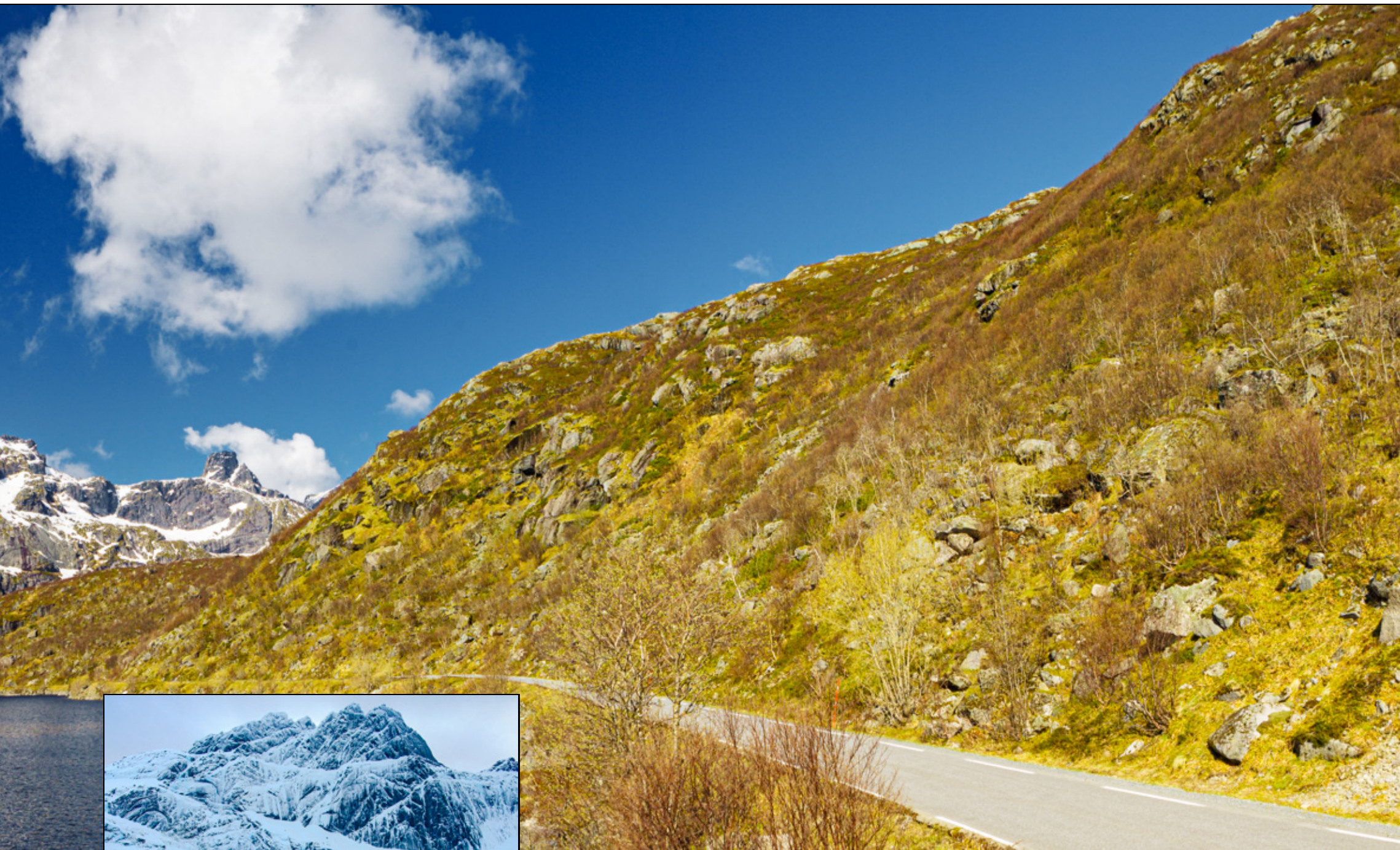






This is one of those places that don't look as spectacular on photos as in reality. The almost vertical crag on the western shore of this lake is about 900 meters high. Impressive when you stand in front of it, especially in winter, when it reminds one of the great Wall of Westeros. Unfortunately the mountain Stjerntinden is very often covered by clouds, so you have to have a little luck or a lot of patience to get a decent picture. Early in the morning you have the best chance of a clear view towards the summit.

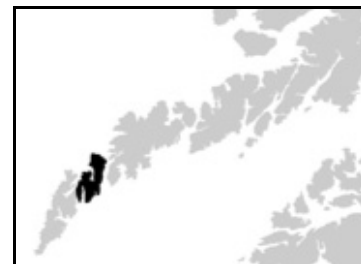




*Storvatnet*

*N 68.054804*

*E 13.347874*







*Beach near Rørvik*

N 68.203559  
E 14.234719





Magnificent beaches with almost caribbean appearance – that's what the Lofoten come up with, especially on their outer coast.

The picture above shows the bay Skagsanden on Flakstadøya, perfect for photos of the midnight sun or northern lights.

Tenting is possible right next to it.

Left side: the beautiful bay Rørвика, just behind the junction of the E10 towards Henningsvær. Sometimes you'll see people bathing or kiting here.

*Skagsanden*

N 68.103781

E 13.286419







*Flakstad church*

N 68.105141  
E 13.304476

Flakstad. Little pearl. One of my favourite islands, whereas the majority of tourists just passes through on their way northbound from the ferry in Moskenes. Due to the jagged topography of this isle clouds are blown away by the wind rather than getting stuck here. That's why the weather is always a bit better than in most other places on Lofoten.





This is the former presbytery of the church on the preceeding page.  
Not easy to photograph, if you don't want to get electricity cables on the picture.  
The little red church, built according to russian templates, is illuminated in the evening every now and then, which can create evocative images. Organ concerts are also held here, especially in the winter season.





*Selfjord*

*N 68.057963*

*E 13.185825*





This is one of the spots on Lofoten that remind me on Middle Earth, the fantasy world from „Lord of the Rings“. Mostly because of the pointed mountains and the very small settlements that crouch on their feet. Behind the village on the right side you find the starting point of the very nice hike to Kvalvika bay. Don't miss that tour...





Although it seems to be a typical photo subject, this is the only occasion I've ever spotted one of the Hurtigruten ships in Reine harbour. The newer ones are too big anyway, but also the old "Lofoten" is tied up here only very rarely. Nevertheless Reine is worth a visit, the port is usually used by fishing vessels, which give you nice photos, too.





*MS "Lofoten" in Reine*

N 67.934961  
E 13.096862







*private island in Svolvær*

N 68.240279  
E 14.589831

The three most important priorities when buying a house:  
location, location, location!

Taking that into account, the owner of this island in Åustølpet has built his cabin in a perfect spot. No arguing neighbours, no insurance agents or encyclopedia salesmen, no beggars (unless they are good swimmers). Maybe just a little too solitary sometimes...





Another home with a magnificent view can be found in Mærvoll, on the shores of Tangstadfjorden. The big white house used to be a fish factory, but there were plans to convert it into some kind of hotel in the future. Because of the Himmelstinden mountain with its distinctive double summit and Saupstadstinden on the other side of the fjord it's a quite shady place. Nice on a picture, but not for living here...

*Mærvoll*

N 68.246519  
E 13.604443





## Nord

Look more often towards the North.  
Go against the wind. You get redder cheeks.

Find the rugged trail. Hold it.

It is shorter.

North is the best.

Winter's flaming sky, summer-  
night sun miracle.

Go into the wind. Climb the rock.

Look to the North.

More often.

This country is vast.

Most of it is North.

Rolf Jacobsen

## Nord

Se oftere mot nord.

Gå mot vinden. Du får rødere kinn.

Finn den uendte stien. Hold den.

Den er kortere.

Nord er best.

Vinterens flammehimmel, sommer-  
nattens solmirakel.

Gå mot vinden. Klyv berg.

Se mot nord.

Oftere.

Det er langt dette landet.

Det meste er nord.

Rolf Jacobsen

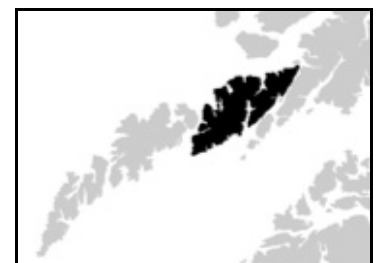




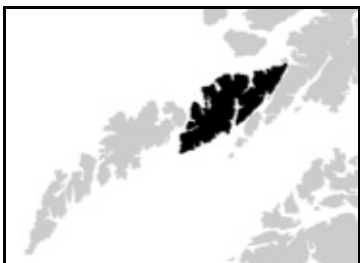
Here are two photos from Svolvær. The sculpture on this side is called „Fisherman's wife" and is dedicated to all the widows of fishermen which lost their lives on the sea and never came back home. The poem on the left you'll find on a door in Vestfjordgata, close to the bridge to Svinþya. There is nothing to add to these famous words...

*“Fiskerkona” in Svolvær*

N 68.230951  
E 14.574802





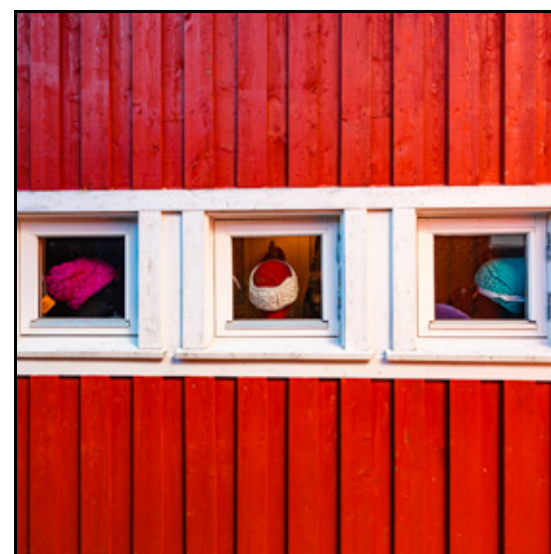
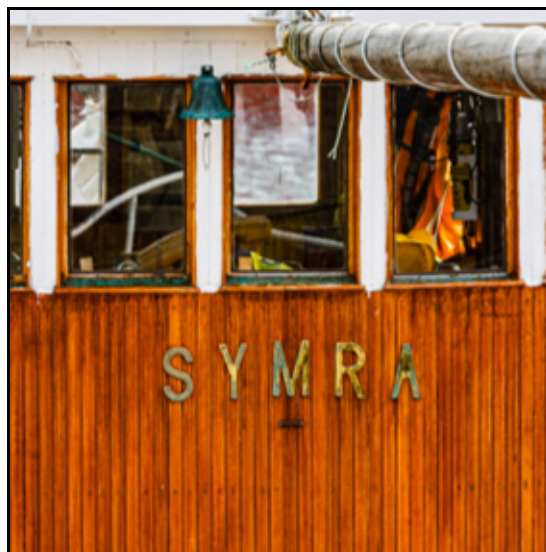


*Houses in Henningsvær*

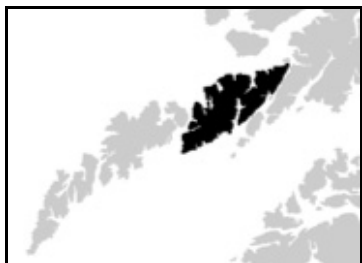
N 68.155501  
E 14.205741

There are people who call Henningsvær „Lofoten's Venice". They should contact their local eye specialist, because the two places have almost nothing in common. Except for the fact that both have had better times in the past. You can find beautiful corners in Henningsvær, though. I prefer the area around the old lighthouse, but also rest of the village is full of nice photo subjects.









*vintage petrol pump and rotten houses  
Henningsvær*

*N 68.148086  
E 14.198273*

I love to take photos of decaying stuff. The petrol pump was part of an ensemble of run-down houses at the entrance of Henningsvær, on the left side after the bridge where the big parking lot is located. Most of the houses and their annexes were torn down in 2008. What a pity. Today there's only the Simonbua left – renovated and available for rent during the touristic seasons.





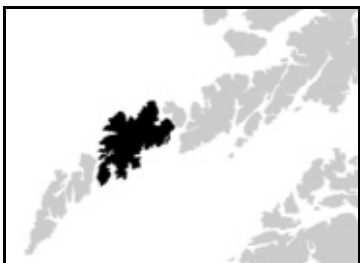
This former fishing vessel in the harbour of Sørågen was not a wreck, when it was cut into half a few years ago. The owner just "deactivated" it – to pay less tax when he purchased a new one. You can find some of these fifty-fifty-ships all over Lofoten, mainly in or near the fishermen's villages.

*Ship wreck in Sørågen*

N 67.89882  
E 13.030558







*Sculpture "Hode" near Eggum*

N 68.297858  
E 13.626995

A new part of the landscape are sculptures of the "Skulpturlandskap" series, spread over whole Northern Norway. One of them can be found on Vestvågøya. When you walk around the "Head" you may notice that the posture of it seems to change from upright to upside-down. This is also a nice area for a walk during the midnight sun season.





This is what I come for when I visit Lofoten islands.  
Very often the weather was bad on the arrival days, but in may 2016 at least in the morning when we arrived with the ferry from the mainland at 4:45 a.m. we were surprised with a magnificent sunrise, just after we disembarked. The beautiful light lasted for almost two hours, before the clouds came back and it started to rain for the next days...

*Lamholmen near Reine*

N 67.928285  
E 13.084760





The whole outer coastline of Gimsøya consists of bright sandy beaches with shallow slope and clear turquoise water which makes them ideal places to go swimming.

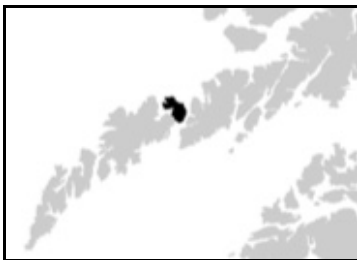
Even on a warm and sunny day you will hardly meet any people – not because there aren't any visitors here, but they spread out so well that you won't notice the majority of them.

My family and I come to Vinje for kiting, playing in the sand, clam shell collecting and of course some picnics.

*Vinje beach*

N 68.32940

E 14.111509















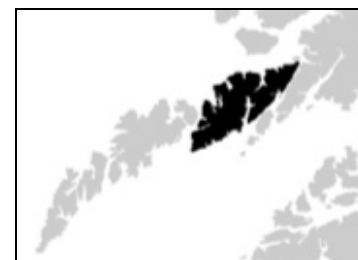
If I could afford a summer house on the Lofoten islands, I'd prefer to get one of these. The village Vålle is one of my favourite places up here in the North. A tiny settlement, right at the coast, but still protected from wind and weather by the cliffs and Vågakallen.

Small houses facing a big mountain: nice photo subject! In the surroundings you can walk easily, it's a paradise for children, too.

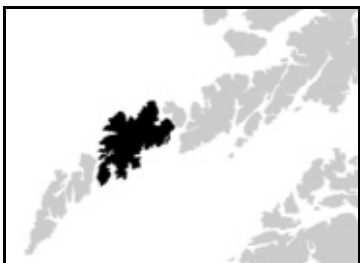
*Kallebukta and Vågakallen*

N 68.188344

E 14.344304







*Hagskaret*

*N 68.166743*

*E 13.712193*

One of the few autumn photos that I have.

It was taken on a hike from Hagskaret to Justatind and shows the view towards Leknes, Ofteøyhammen in the background on the left side and Holandsmelen on the right.

I loved the colours of the landscape in september, the stormy weather that we had at times and the absence of tourists after peak season's end.





A recommendable thing to do, if the weather is bad, is visiting the handful of museums that are spread all over Lofoten. The biggest and best known is the Viking Museum "Lofotr" in Borg. It has been enlarged during the last years and gives you a comprehensive insight into the life of the ancient vikings. On the first weekend in august the annual viking festival takes place around the museum.

*Viking museum in Borg*

N 68.247334  
E 13.781767

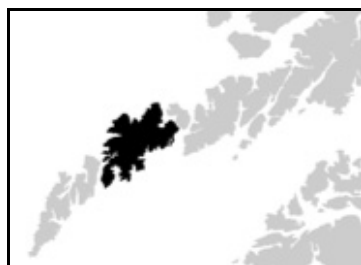




*Haverringen on Vestvågøya*

*N 68.300505*

*E 14.007607*

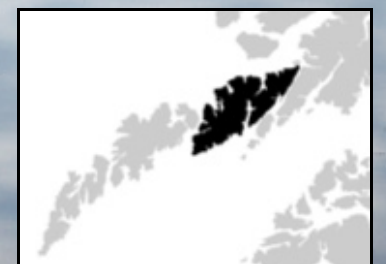






*Austnesfjord*

N 68.322331  
E 14.719555







*View from Henningsvær to Stamsund*

*N 68.155501*

*E 14.205741*

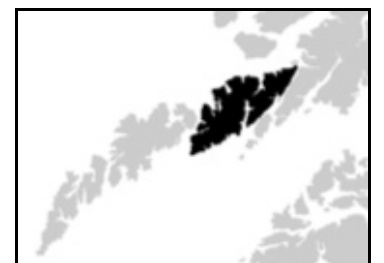




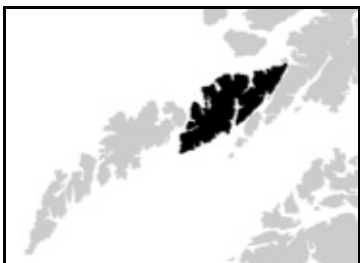
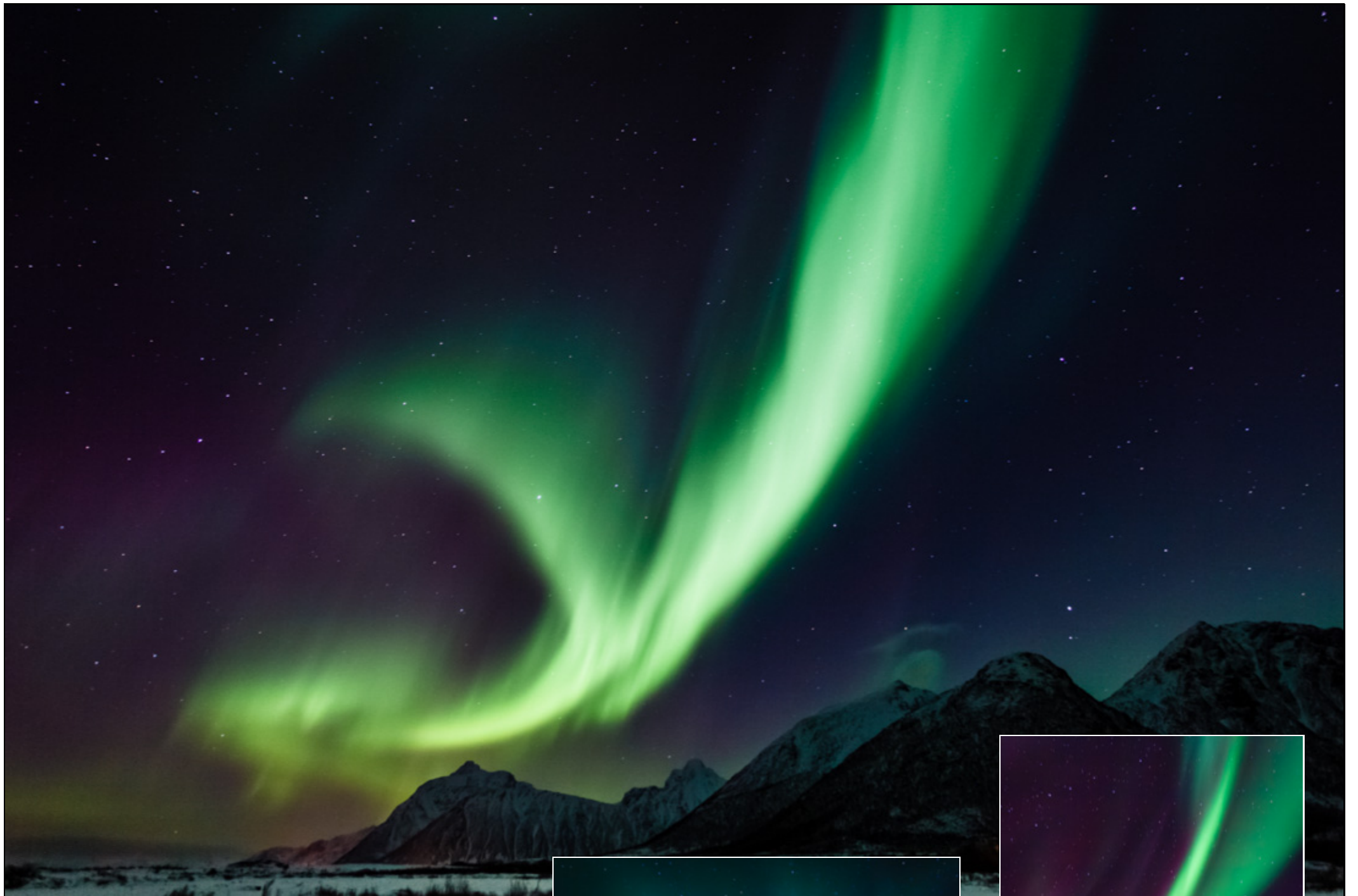
Man-made landscape beautification doesn't stop in front of the Lofoten. Several objects have been placed here and there to create an extra value for potential visitors. Wooden structures in Nusfjord, Skulpturlandskap art on almost every island and not to forget: enhanced recreation sites along the main road. This is the nice view that you get from the shore of the Austnesfjorden, below the newly built viewing platform in Sildpolnes.

*Sildpolnes, Austnesfjord*

N 68.322331  
E 14.719555

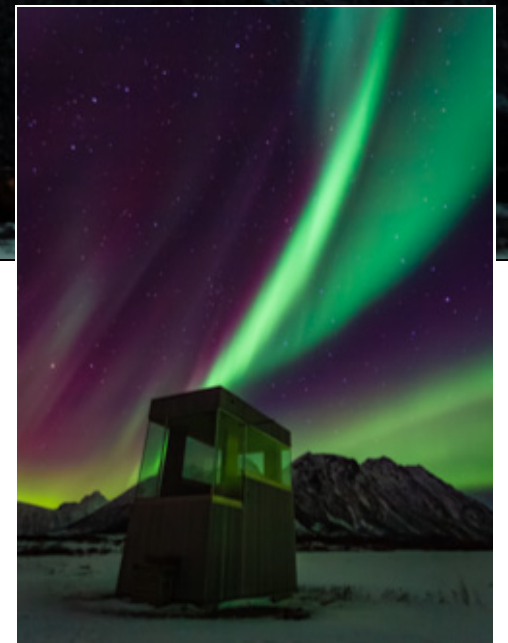






*Aurora over Grunnfjor*

N 68.424018  
E 14.566498



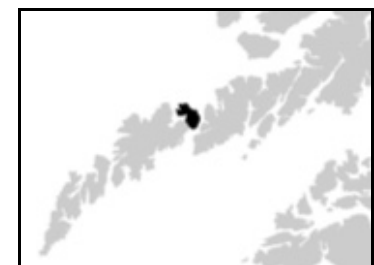




Here are the last two pages in this book showing northern lights.  
 The photos on the left side were taken at the wooden pavilion in Grunnfjær.  
 If you go there, bring a flashlight for some creative lightpainting fun.  
 On this page is one of my top spots for taking aurora pictures – between  
 Sundklakk and Vinje on Gimsøya. All these images have been recorded  
 at a Kp-index of 8 (9 is the Maximum) in February 2010.

*Aurora over Gimsøya*

N 68.312913  
 E 14.175539











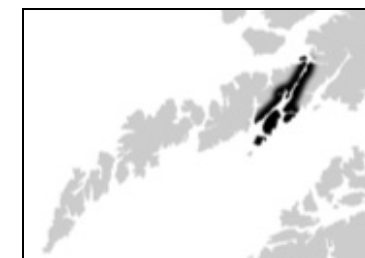
Although it does not belong to Lofoten anymore, the Raftsund region gives you breathtaking views all year. And that's why I always go there on each trip. It's particularly nice in winter, when the steep mountains are covered with snow. By the way: this would be my No.2 choice when looking for holiday houses in the north.

It's a remote place, perfect for hiking in summer and skiing in the winter season.

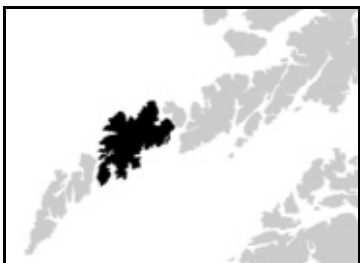
*Summer house near Digermulen*

N 68.31415

E 15.013418







*Unstad beach*

N 68.266399  
E 13.572235

Another special place to photograph is the beach near Unstad. The village is known as one of the best kitesurfing spots in Norway, so expect to see people fighting with the waves – which may be another rewarding photo subject. The most remarkable feature of this beach is the western part with a small circle of round stones, covered by seaweed. These are only exposed during low tide. Perfect around midnight sun.

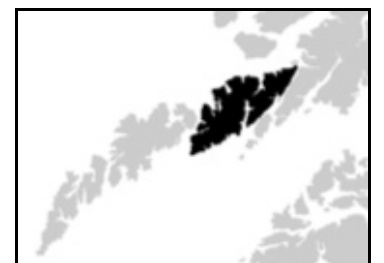




In summer nights and under good lighting conditions I usually don't get to bed before 3 o'clock in the morning – when I get really tired. But even then I sometimes find subjects accidentally on the way back home. Like these boat houses in Lyngvær, while driving from a midnight sun hike on Hoven back to Svolvær around half past two. Simply couldn't resist...

*Lyngvær in midnight sun*

N 68.241826  
E 14.281518





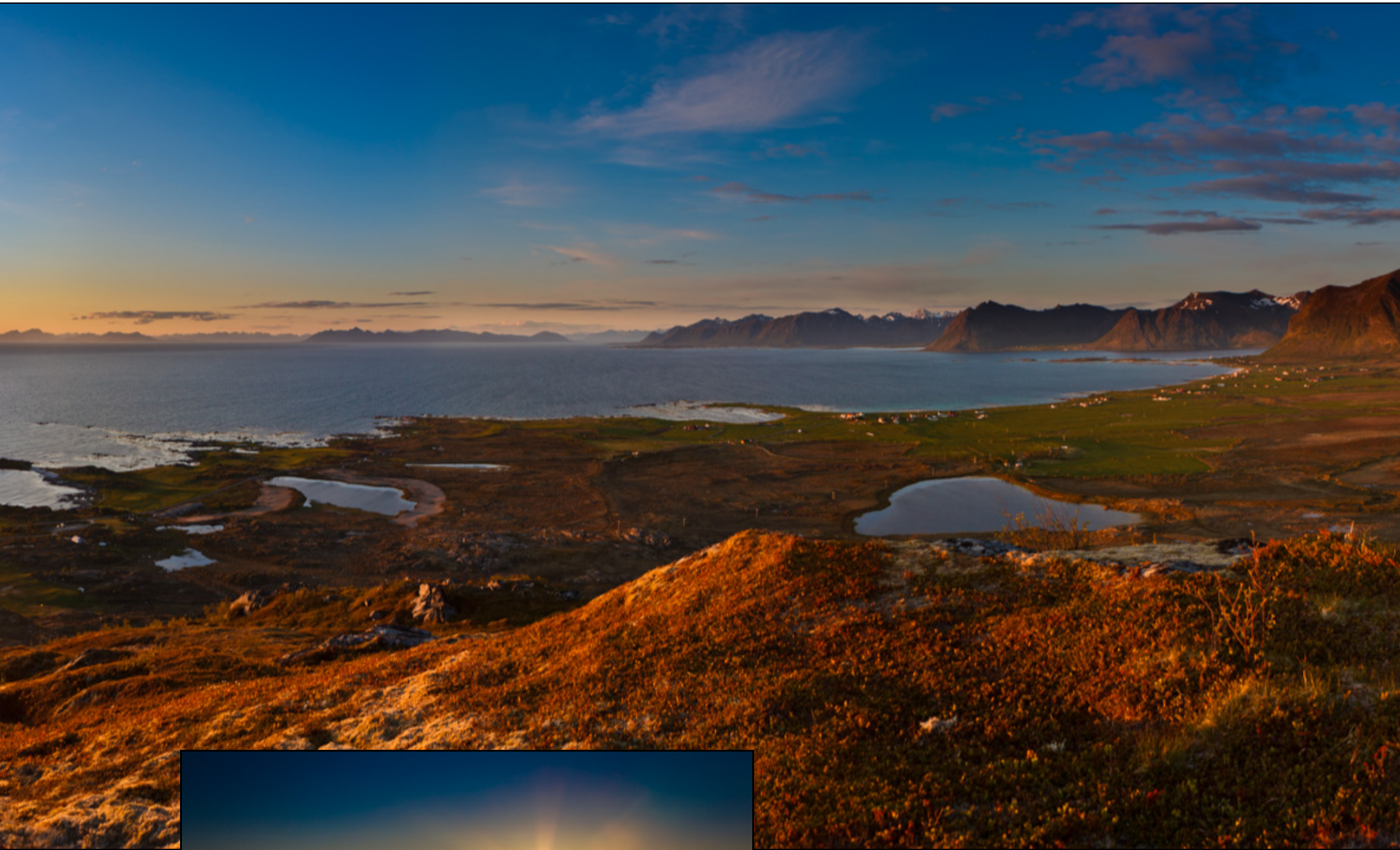


Midnight sun for everyone!

The effort to get this view is rather small, as the hike onto the Hoven top on Gimstøya takes only a bit more than one hour and can be done any time of the year and even with small children.

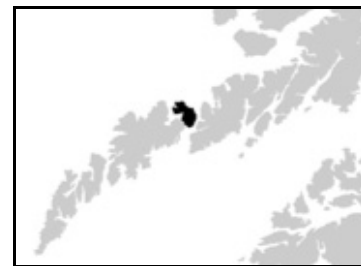
Park your car on the parking lot of the golf course and simply follow the marked path. The top is wide and flat and a wonderful place for a picnic.





*Midnight sun, seen from the Hoven*

N 68.32940  
E 14.111509







*Myrland beach*

N 68.16332  
E 13.367271

Two photos, taken at the same location shortly after midnight. On the 2009 summer tour we were lucky with the weather. No rain at all for a week, a few clouds only and surreal lighting during the night. Here is one of the most picturesque beaches on Lofoten: Myrland. Only few people come to this "hidden pearl" on Flakstadøya.





On this beach was taken one of my personal top five Lofoten photos. I've printed it on glass for one of our bathroom walls, and even Anne Gerd has got a canvas print of it. The picture of this solitary beach on Flakstadøya convinced my wife to join me on a Lofoten trip for the first time in 2010. And she didn't regret it...

*Stones of Myrland*

N 68.164038  
E 13.370876







*Storfjordvatnet*

N 68.157288  
E 13.763351

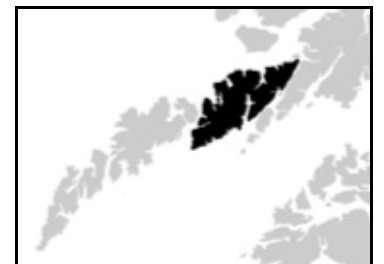




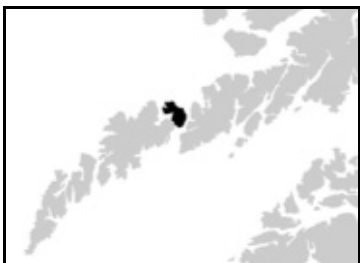
Calm and stormy waters – the two faces of autumn.  
You can experience solitude and complete calmness like on the lake  
Storfjordvatnet to the left, or go out to the seashores and wait for the  
next storm which will come sooner or later. The waves can be really huge.  
The rock where this one breaks, is about 4 metres high.

*Breakers near Lyngvær*

N 68.322331  
E 14.719555







*Hoven*

*N 68.309184  
E 14.141278*

One mountain, two perspectives.

On this side the Hoven was photographed in march, just by driving by on the local road that crosses Gimsoya straight in the middle.

I love the serenity on this island, especially during the winter season. You will hardly meet anyone except a few locals and some sheep.

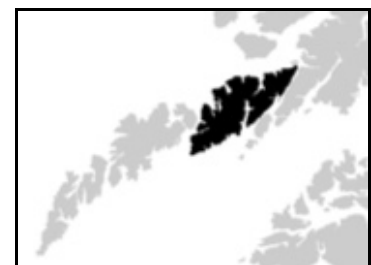




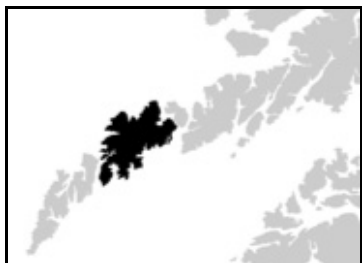
This is another lucky shot. On a day in may 2016 with mediocre weather my friends and I followed the "blue hole" for a couple of hours, to get a least some pictures in decent light. In late afternoon we arrived at Laukvik. While we strolled around the harbour, we spotted the Hoven on Gimsfya. Clouds gathered around us very quickly and finally covered the whole scene about ten minutes after this image was taken.

*Hoven, seen from Laukvik*

N68.389496  
E 14.404413







*Haukland beach*

N 68.198056  
E 13.527705

The largest and maybe the smallest beach on Lofoten, together on a double page. On the left: Haukland, turquoise water and white sand. Was voted the most beautiful beach in Norway several times. If you own the CD „Norwegian Mood“ by Kari Bremnes – the beach on the booklet photos is Haukland. If you still look for a Lofoten soundtrack, get this one.





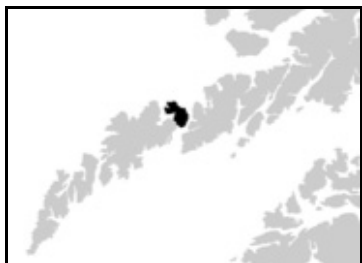
I'm not completely sure if this is really the smallest beach on Lofoten, but it offers some unique features: it's only accessible during low tide, outside these times even the solid rocky dam is covered by water. You can find lots of seashells here, and finally it contains a hidden treasure: GC1V2X9. My children had much fun revealing it, while this photo was taken.

*Gravdal lighthouse*

N 68.117751  
E 13.583270







*Hovsund lighthouse*

N 68.32081  
E 14.240491

Hovsund harbour has got a huge, partially natural breakwater, at the end of which you find this tiny lighthouse with beautiful island "skyline" in the background. Great for panoramic shots.

The photo of a sunrise near Tind from may 2016 was pure luck. After our overnight ferry arrived the clouds suddenly disappeared and allowed us to take some beautiful early morning pictures.





*Sunrise near Tind*

*N 67.884036*

*E 13.012189*

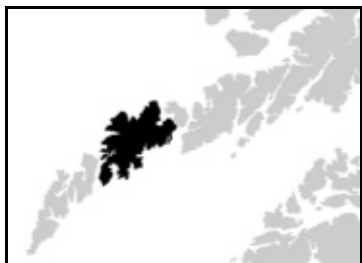




*Sennesvik*

*N 68.111992*

*E 13.701360*







Two beautiful photo subjects here, one is taken on camera very often, the other one is not. Guess, which?

The blue houses of Sennesvik can be found in a rather secluded corner of Vestvågbya, but the little detour via Einangen road is worth it.

The boats in Å can't be missed, as the E 10 ends only 200 metres behind this spot. You'll always meet at least one photographer there...

Ågvatnet

N 67.881841

E 12.977831





You can't miss Skagsanden on Flakstadøya, as this picturesque beach lies right beside the E10. Groups of photographers can be observed here every day, no matter what time of the year. While this picture was made, there was a group of about 10 to 15 asian photographers right behind my back, recording bubbling sandpits. I had to hurry taking my photo before they would notify this composition and come over to ruin the scene.

*Skagsanden*

N 68.103781  
E 13.286419















After having edited this photo for the book I was about to believe in Trolls and Elves. Where else, if not on these mountains, would live all the famous mythical creatures?

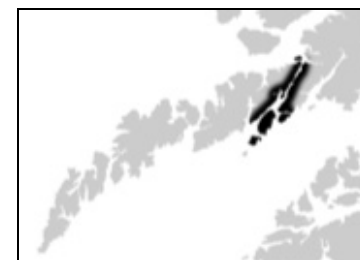
The picture was taken on a Hurtigruten steamer while we headed towards the well-known Trollfjord.

The weather was so-so, but suddenly sun broke through the clouds and painted the landscape with mystic light.

*Ulvøya, Raftsund*

N 68.366769

E 15.070152







*Vikten*

*N 68.135448  
E 13.306589*

On the outer coast you can find a couple of villages that kind of snuggle up to the surrounding landscape. And this one located at a very remote corner on Flakstadøya. It may be a good idea for a bad weather day to visit Vikten and its glassworks. The owner is a very communicative man who can show you his art and even let you try on your own.

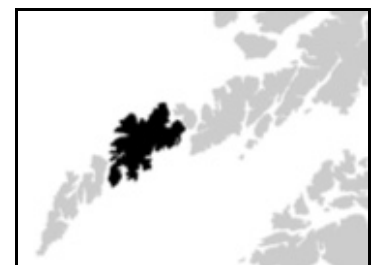




Unstad on Vestvågøya is not only known for its constantly good surfing conditions, but also for this view. The lookout is a ridge on the old mountain pass road which has been replaced by a tunnel for safety reasons. Down on the beach you may discover a bunch of big green stones which make wonderful photo subjects during low tide.

*Unstad*

N 68.255718  
E 13.610816











The photo on the left was taken in winter 2014 when there was almost no snow on the Lofoten islands. Which made hikes possible that you normally couldn't do in this season.

This is another one of my top 5 places on the archipelago: Kvalvika. Remote, solitary and simply beautiful. The rocky cliff that guards the beach is called Ryten, an very popular hiking and photo spot.

*Kvalvika*

N 68.076574

E 13.093901





This is an over-exposed spot. Honestly, you can find about one million variants of this photo almost everywhere on the Internet.

Nevertheless I wanted one of my own, so here is number 1.000.001

The elements of this scene: mountains, red rorbuer, the sea and some fish racks combine everything Lofoten is known for in a single image. The spot is easy to find, on the bridge between Hamnøy and Reine – and there is a small parking lot nearby. Best time to arrive: sunset.

*Hamnøy Rorbuer*

N 67.945372

E 13.131364







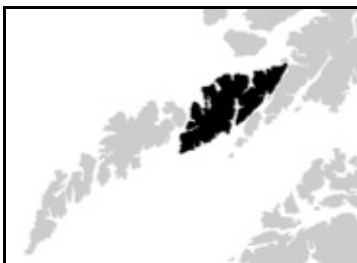
*Liv-Bua, Reine Rorbuer*

N 67.928285

E 13.084760







*Laupstad*

N 68.352652  
E 14.711000

When I look back to my journey to Lofoten in May 2008, I almost can't believe how lucky we were with the weather. Sunshine for the whole trip, which made the landscape awake from hibernation and putting on its spring colour dress within a week. While driving towards the Raftsund for some night photography of Hurtigruten ships we passed Laupstad, decided to stop and caught a perfect reflection of Higravtinden in the Austnesfjorden.





This is a photo subject that I first saw on the Internet, before I could make a picture of it myself.

It simply didn't exist yet when I visited Sakrisøy the last time. But as business seems to go well at the "Sjømat" restaurant in Reine, the whole place is constantly extended, renovated and new buildings are added wherever there is room for.

This yellow rorbu is one of the houses built just recently. I like it most because of its background: the distinctive shape of Olstinden.

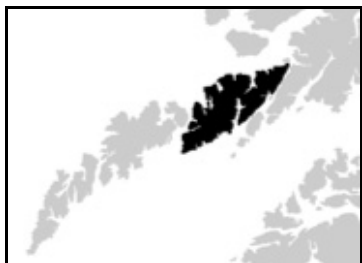
*house on Sakrisøy*

N 67.941593

E 13.113926







*Moholmen lighthouse*

N 68.180389

E 14.337323

My son and I discovered this spot when we walked on the rocky cliffs near Kallebukta to look out for a spot where we could watch the meeting of the north- and southbound Hurtigruten ships around 9 pm, just a bit southwest of Kabelvag. As I carried my 200 mm telephoto lens in the backpack, I took this photo and got a nicely compressed composition with the mainland in the background.





This spot looks to me like a miniature version of the Atlantic Ocean Road, a famous part of the R64 near Kristiansund in western Norway. It's smaller sibling on Lofoten connects the islands Flakstadøya with the northeastern part of Moskenesøya. This image was taken on an afternoon in march, but the best time for photographing these bridges might be after 1 am during the midnight sun season.

*Fredvang bridges*

N 68.074650  
E 13.208212



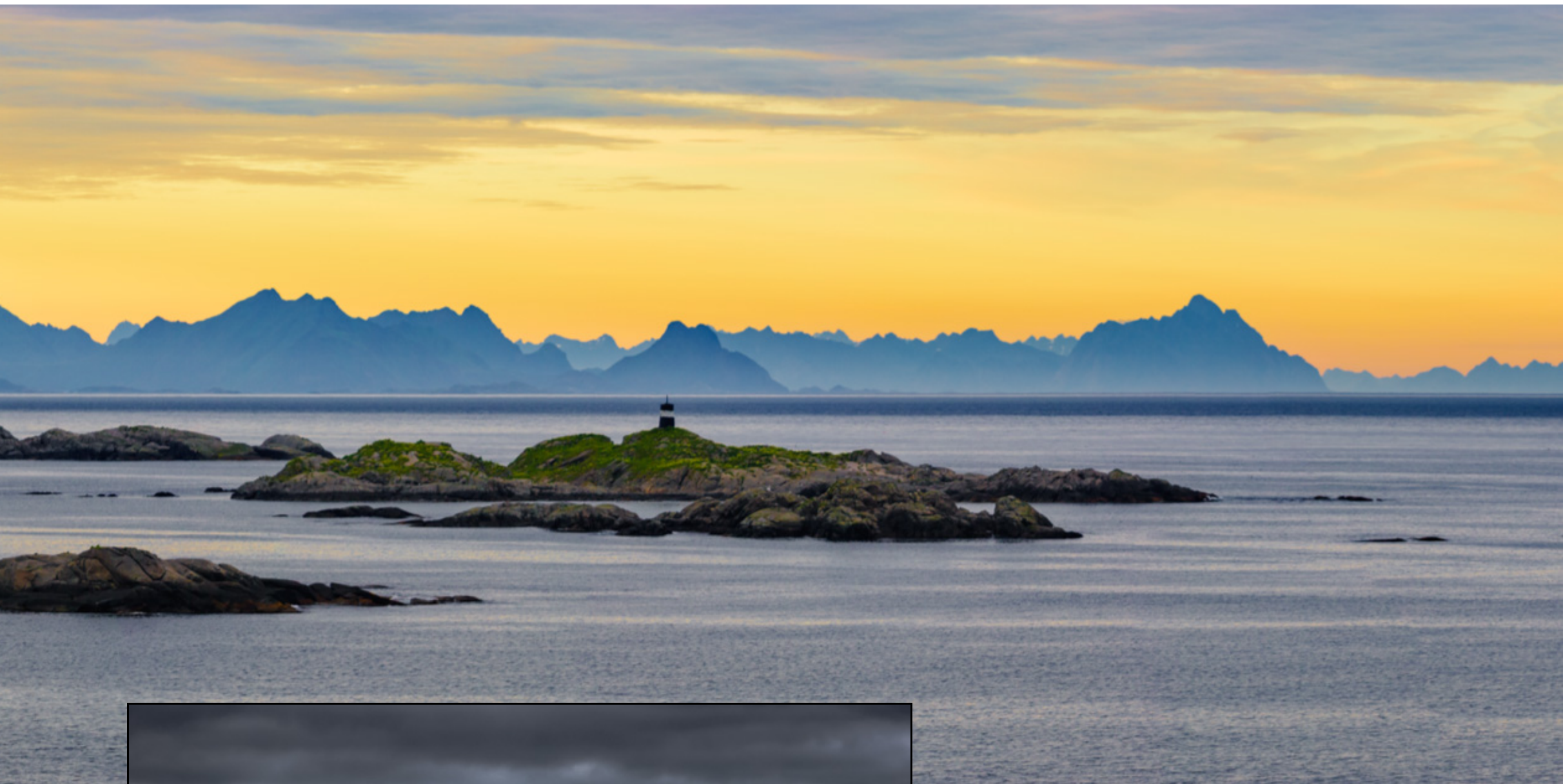




This book started with a Reine panorama and will end with one.

Nice coincidence that one of the last photos in this book (the smaller one on the right) was the first picture I took of Lofoten. On the arrival day in June 2006 the weather was bad, but in the evening it cleared up. So I took the camera and roamed around in Reine. After some time I found a place where I could sit on the cliffs, enjoy the colourful sunset – and I finally pressed the shutter release button.





*Lamholmen near Reine*

N 67.928285  
E 13.084760







*MS "Finnmarken" in Stokmarknes*

N 68.570713  
E 14.912381

This is my last and the most popular photo. It was taken on the 20th of May 2008 at 2 am in Stokmarknes harbour after a long wait for the ship to arrive. The light was perfect, and the handheld shot turned out well. In 2011 it became the title photo of the Hurtigruten official timetable, and you can still buy it as a postcard in the board shop of the MS "Finnmarken".