

23 January, 2013

Everyday Adventurer Mark Waring – ‘Into the Hall of the Troll King’ – Backpacking Norway’s Roof

Categorised under:
Everyday Adventurers, Mark Waring

[Tweet](#) [Like](#)



I had plenty of time this trip to ponder Norway’s mountain weather; primarily biting wind and cold rain and a final contemptuous transformation into driving snow. I was backpacking the roof of central Norway, across the wild national parks of Dovrefjell and the Rondane, self sufficient for a nine day walk. Following a route of my own devising, I traversed high and lonely mountains, drained often of colour by heavy wet weather and subject to unseasonal bitter cold.



To any lover of wild places Norway is special. It’s a country dominated by scores of mountain chains, with a variety of character, stretching far above the Arctic circle. Sparsely populated there’s a giddy freedom in a land where wild walking and camping, protected in law, are supported by an extensive network of trails and welcoming huts. Coupled with the most modern of infrastructures and a friendly population with outdoor life coursing through their blood. It’s also a place

Archive

- ▼ 2013
 - ▼ January
 - ▶ Everyday Adventurer Mark Waring - 'Into the Hall of the Troll King' – Backpacking Norway’s Roof
 - ▶ Julia Pickering - From the desert to the mountains
 - ▶ Win an Alaskan Adventure Holiday
 - ▶ Everyday Adventurer Mark Waring - Wilderness Kids
 - ▶ Ramche Down Jacket Scores Trail Best In Test
 - ▶ B B B BLAST OFF!
 - ▶ Michelle Blaydon - Happy New Year!
 - ▶ Big Wall Suffer Fest!
 - ▶ Philippe Gatta wins 2013 Spine Challenger
 - ▶ World’s Scariest VS Ridge
 - ▶ Monika Kambic - Christmas Holidays in Southern Croatia
 - ▶ Everyday Adventurer Mark Waring - Backpacking Grizzly Country
 - ▶ The Col of False Hopes
 - ▶ Everyday Adventurer - Introducing Mark Waring
 - ▶ Karen Darke - Heroes of Telemark?!
 - ▶ Mick Fowler - Climbing in Italy
 - ▶ We have take off!
 - ▶ 5 ways to get outdoors in 2013
 - ▶ Happy New Year from Antarctica
 - ▶ 2012
 - ▶ 2011
 - ▶ 2010
 - ▶ 2009

Categories

- ◉ Accommodation
- ◉ Adventure Challenge
 - ▶ British Geikie Plateau Expedition 2011
 - ▶ Greenland Climb 2011
 - ▶ Justin and Tet

Newsletter

Sign-up and be the first to know all the latest Berghaus news.

Latest News

[Subscribe RSS](#)

Latest Tweets

Connect

- Facebook
[Add us as a friend](#)
- Twitter
[Follow us](#)

Features



Desktop Calendar

We’re currently working on improving our desktop calendar for 2013, as a result there will be no calendar for January. The desktop calendar for February will be available to download [...]

[+ Read More](#)



Online Exclusive – New TV advert

Our sensational new TV advert is now available to view online. The advert features members our

of myth and legend hosting grim tales of giants, gods, trolls and spectres haunting it’s mountain fastness. Norway is a country that draws me back time and time again.



Seeking my own trail I made my way from birch forest and gentle pasture up onto the hard rocky plateau of Dovrefjell, a national park since 1911 and home to rare montane flora and fauna as much high peaks and ridges. It’s character is renowned; raw, resolute and unyielding, it has given birth to the Norwegian expression ‘till Dovre faller’ (‘until Dovre’s mountain fall’), meaning ‘to the end of time’. Dovrefjell has a reputation as well for weather and the infamy of foul conditions.



My first two camps were dry, the only two of the trip, seeing me to within striking distance of Snohetta, Norway’s second highest peak. The walk there had taken me past a number of well maintained huts. An old Norwegian man, contently smoking a pipe, wished me ‘God Tur!’ (‘good mountain trip!’) as I passed by. I’ll never tire of hearing that. The weather, as cheery as the greeting, wasn’t to last though. Setting camp on the eve of my planned ascent of Snohetta I was concerned by the darkening of clouds and the increased moisture in the air.

And that was that, the start of more or less constant precipitation for the remaining week of my trip, the challenge of which lay in the grim conditions. Snohetta was postponed for 24 hours as an intense storm battered my small shelter. I woke up to tent fabric straining against ferocious wind and rain. I shifted position and slept on, waking mid-morning to even more hostile weather. A day spent drinking tea, reading and simply studying the dancing seams of my inner tent punctuated the inevitable calls of nature. Those forays into the violence of the elements were brief and painful. The luxury of the return to my sleeping bag sweet.

- ▶ Pete Rhodes
- ▶ Sophie Beaney
- ▶ The Amputee Adventurers

○ Athlete Blogs

- ▶ Alastair Lee: Blog
- ▶ Anna Gatta: Blog
- ▶ Anniken Binz: Blog
- ▶ Chris Bonington: Blog
- ▶ Helene Whitaker
- ▶ Jason Pickles: Blog
- ▶ Julia Pickering: Blog
- ▶ Karen Darke: Blog
- ▶ Leo Houlding: Blog
- ▶ Michelle Blaydon: Blog
- ▶ Mick Fowler: Blog
- ▶ Monika Kambic: Blog
- ▶ Pat Deavoll: Blog
- ▶ Philippe Gatta: Blog
- ▶ Rob Jarman: Blog
- ▶ Rolfe Oostra
- ▶ Sam Hamer: Blog
- ▶ Steve Birkinshaw
- ▶ Team Berghaus Adventure: Blog
- ▶ Team Orion: Blog

○ Athlete News

- ▶ Alastair Lee: News
- ▶ Anna Gatta: News
- ▶ Chris Bonington: News
- ▶ Isabel Suppé
- ▶ Julia Pickering: News
- ▶ Karen Darke: News
- ▶ Leo Houlding: News
- ▶ Mick Fowler: News
- ▶ Philippe Gatta: News
- ▶ Rob Jarman: News
- ▶ Team Orion: News

○ Athlete Projects

○ Berghaus Staff in the Outdoors

○ Berghaus Stores

○ Berghaus VW Camper Van

○ Competition Winners

○ Downloads

- ▶ Desktop Calendar

○ Everyday Adventurers

- ▶ Beth Pipe
- ▶ Elaine Hibbs
- ▶ Family Adventure Project
- ▶ Family on a bike
- ▶ Gary Hodgson
- ▶ Jimmy McSparron
- ▶ Karen Guttridge
- ▶ Mark Waring

global team of athletes including Rob Jarman, Leo Houlding, Julia Pickering, Sean Leary and Philippe [...]

+ Read More



Blog to the world: Everyday Adventurers needed!

“Life is either a great adventure or nothing.”
Helen Keller
We need your help!
Do you Live for Adventure?
Do you want to be on our website alongside our world class athletes, [...]

+ Read More



My schedule dictated I had to move next morning. Encouraged by a drop in wind speed I packed up and headed out, up and over frozen Snohetta. Equipped only for summer walking, no ice axe dictated caution to the summit. In thick mist, ice and snow, over the sound of crunching neve, I caught snatches of something on the wind. Nothing supernatural but equally incongruous, eighties’ power ballads! A small military installation at the summit guided me through dense cloud, an odd bearing formed by the chorus of the ‘Final Countdown’, wafting from an open window. Scant consolation for the missed views of the dizzy spires of neighbouring Jotunheim, the legendary ‘home of the giants’.



Next a descent and a journey from ‘monsters of rock’ to simply monsters. Two hours later I respectfully rounded a herd of ‘Musk Ox’, huge powerful bovines, kin of the American bison, grazing contently in mountain pasture. The symbol of Dovrefjell these creatures, seemingly abandoned by the ice age, are deadly if roused.



And then two wet days across moorland to the splendour of the Rondane. Under

- Paul Calvert
- Richard Hartley

- ◉ Expert Bloggers
- ◉ Feature
- ◉ Gear News
 - Gear Reviews
- ◉ General News
- ◉ Kit Lists
- ◉ Live for Adventure
- ◉ Media Enquiries
- ◉ Project Support
- ◉ Stores
- ◉ test
- ◉ The Dragons Back Race
- ◉ Ulvetanna
- ◉ Videos
- ◉ Where Are We Going
 - Climbing
 - Travel
 - Walking

Most popular tag cloud

Monika Kambic Asgard
Project Rob Jarman Team
Berghaus Adventure The
Dragons Back Race Anna
Gatta Alastair Lee Leo
Houlding Karen Darke
Climbing Mick Fowler
Chris Bonington
review Everyday
Adventurer Philippe
Gatta

Links

- Alastair Lee Official Site
- Anniken Binz Official Site
- Chris Bonington Official Site
- Climb Mount Asgard
- Julia Pickering Official Site
- Karen Darke Official Site
- Leah Crane Official Site
- Leo Houlding Official Site
- Leo Houlding Youtube page
- Pat Deavoll Official Site
- Philippe Gatta Official site
- Team Orion Official Site

The Asgard Project
The Asgard Project Out Takes

iron clad sky I passed small groups out for ptarmigan, the ‘fjellripa’, hiding in low grassy fells. Norwegians hunt; they’ll pack up for several mountain days and fish or shoot in their high places and its popular in this land where, before the oil came, hard subsistence prevailed.



As I passed into the Rondane the trails meandered through forest and low hills, using the natural openings of tight ravines and gullies into the heart of the mountains. It’s large plateaus are crowned by ten peaks above 2,000 metres, broken by marked valleys through the landscape (the deepest valley is filled by the stunning Rondvatnet) and it’s a tantalising landscape for the mountain walker with an array of summits all within a day’s walk. The Rondane’s deep recesses hide Europe’s last wild reindeer.

And here, in Norway’s oldest national park, I had a tantalising glimpse of what my walk could have been. I awoke on my sixth camp to sunlight chasing away a heavy frost. Thawing frozen trail shoes over the stove I watched as the sun climbed blue sky and presented a landscape of mesmerising beauty. It was easy to see why Norway has a folklore of spirits and elementals. The verdant lower Rondane looked like some faerie kingdom carpeted with green mosses and yellow lichen amidst birch forest. Drawn by bright sunshine, perhaps foolishly, I was tempted into the Rondane’s high places and the stronghold of the ‘Troll King’.



Ibsen’s ‘Peer Gynt’, Norway’s national play, sets the confrontation of Peer with the ‘Troll King’ in his citadel high in the Rondane. With worsening weather, mist and eventual snow shrouded rocks and boulders. As I climbed suggestion given by limited visibility to supernatural shapes hidden in the talus. Norse mythology determines nine realms in the Asgardian universe, the climb to Stormsmeden that afternoon was not one of man. The col, just under the mountain summit, was hostile in worsening weather and I felt a sense of trespass and foreboding, I was not wanted here. Forced to make a high camp I endured a freezing night.

And that was it, even thicker snow in the morning had me abandon my ascent, packing up with painful frozen extremities the sub-zero cold drove me out of the highlands and into valleys. Unlike Peer I had not triumphed and the snow followed me scornfully many hundreds of metres down until I reached the town of Otta. Suitably scolded, I climbed onto the train to Oslo freezing and wet. As I ever I felt a satisfaction in seeing out my planned route, for this trip though, it was hard

though to shake off the sense of pursuit, only by the weather no doubt. In Norway though, shrouded mountains and rich folklore combined can suggest otherwise.



Visit Berghaus Online Store

For [outdoor clothing](#) from Berghaus including [men's waterproof jackets](#), [men's rucksacks](#) and more then please visit our online store.

You can find a wide range of gear for [climbing](#), [hill walking](#), [mountain biking](#) and other activities.

Choose from a range of cutting edge waterproof jackets, fleeces, trousers & more from Berghaus.

Comments

Notify me of followup comments via e-mail