

Motorcycle Adventure Story – by Thomas M. Wiklinski, TSgt, USAF

I would like to share a motorcycle adventure story about some friends and I during the summer of 2024. We were all stationed together at the time, and we will all remember it for a lifetime. Thank you for your time and consideration.

While being stationed in Europe, we are granted amazing opportunities to explore and roam through countries on motorcycles. This was just the case in the summer of 2024. A few friends that I was fortunate enough to meet at my home station, discussed a motorcyclist's dream for months, carving through canyons, camping with everything we needed strapped to our bikes, and staring at the awe of rural Scandinavian Mountain landscape while climbing from one valley to the next, twisting the throttle. Norway was the goal. The trip would last 7 days and would cover 3,000kms.

Our plan included a date in which we needed to be on the car transfer ferry from Denmark to Norway, crossing The Skagerrak Strait. We knew the distance from the Netherlands would be immense, so we began riding on our free time together. Making trips here and there to condition ourselves and find any faults with our bikes. Utilizing risk management further, considering the time of the year was late July, we still needed to be prepared for the possibility of snow. We also needed to take into account the drone of hours in the saddle. We would implement a 100km stop, whether just to stretch, eat, or gas up. This turned out to be invaluable due to the hours sitting on the bikes through traffic, cold, rain, heat, and mind-bending scenery. Somedays we covered 800kms. So, taking our time and being aware of our own physical limitations was vitally important. Each day was new, and we always woke up ready to tackle another section of road into a new town, past grazing sheep, and around tall, smooth, monoliths. Truly a trip to remember. We are not currently stationed together anymore, but we were able to maximize our limited time, working through our Air Force life together.