



Guided tours in Finland & Norway with daily luggage transfer

# Arctic Post Road

Arctic wilderness by bike

- Gravel biking through the remote fell areas and wilderness along the historic post route between Denmark and Norway via Finland
- Enjoy the arctic nature and delicious local specialities
- Spend the nights between sheets while the support vehicle takes care of your luggage during the cycling days
- Guided by local guides; possibility to meet local Sami people, and enjoy a dinner made on open fire
- Arrive to Arctic Ocean via lush sceneries after the remote wilderness areas



A five-day bikepacking-style "hut to hut" gravel bike trip takes you through Lapland, across the pine forests and fell landscapes of Ylläs and Pallas, towards the endless plateaus of Finnmark in Norway, finally descending along a lush river valley to the shores of the Arctic Ocean. The gravel version of the Arctic Post Road follows the original centuries-old postal route between Copenhagen and Alta. The route is stunningly beautiful and, except for a few technical spots, relatively easy. Over half of the journey is on paved, quiet roads, allowing you to admire the Arctic nature from the saddle.

## Itinerary (5 days cycling)

**Day 1: Individual arrival to Äkäslompolo.** Meeting the guides, fitting the bikes and getting to know each other.

**Day 2: Äkäslompolo - Jerisjärvi (50 km, 500+ m elevation)**

Enjoy a breakfast at your hotel. Today is an easier day to get to know the bikes and the terrain. A half day cycling along paved and gravel roads through forests and lakesides towards the Pallas-Ylläs national Park. We arrive to a hotel by a lake Jerisjärvi. Test different saunas and find your favourite in the Arctic Sauna World. Dinner and overnight in hotel.

**Day 3: Jerisjärvi - Hetta (90 km, 500+ m elevation gain)**

The morning starts with a challenging gravel section rising to the edge of Sammaltunturi (famous from the cleanest air in Europe!). The sweating is rewarded with fabulous views of the Pallas fells and a handsome downhill slope to the shore of Lake Pallasjärvi. The rest of the day we drive along the paved road that follows the edge of the national park all the way to Hetta marvelling at the fells and villages along the route. Accommodation in Hetta inn and dinner in the village.

**Day 4: Hetta - Kautokeino (80 km, 400+ m elevation gain)**

When the forest ends, the treeless tundra begins! Shortly after leaving Hetta, we find ourselves on the only road towards Norway. The landscape opens up more and more as the day progresses. The winding road leads us to Kautokeino, the capital of Sámi culture. Although it's the only route between the countries, we won't encounter much traffic. We will be staying with a Sámi family outside Kautokeino and enjoy a traditional meal prepared by the family in a "kota" (Sámi tent).

**Day 5: Kautokeino - Suolovuopmi (80 km, 700+ m elevation)**

After a self-made breakfast there will be an entire day of gravel at its best! North of Kautokeino, we reach the genuine Arctic Post Road,

which we traverse without seeing many other people. The rugged tundra highlands of Finnmark make this day the most adventurous: conditions can range from snowstorms to scorching heat! We'll spend the night in the authentic surroundings of Suolovuopmi Fjellstue (a mountain lodge), in the Alta River valley. A dinner at the lodge.

**Day 6: Suolovuopmi - Alta (55 km, 700+ m elevation gain)**

On the last cycling day, the magnificent gravel roads continue. This stage is the shortest of the journey, but possibly also the most beautiful. The landscapes change, transitioning to a lush river valley, and finally, to the coast of the Arctic Ocean. In the morning, there's no rush, so we set off to savour the final day. As we descend from the mountains, we'll encounter another fjellstue, where we can enjoy afternoon coffee before reaching Alta. In Alta, we stop for photos at the church, before heading to our accommodation and the last dinner together.

**Day 7: Alta - Äkäslompolo (by a transfer)**

Today we can relax and enjoy a transfer from Alta back to Äkäslompolo. We stop for a light lunch along the route and arrive to our starting point in the afternoon. Free evening and dinner on your own.

**Day 8: Individual departure**

## Arctic Post Road:

**Total distance:**

350 km

**Level:**

Demanding - requires a good cycling condition



## Including:

- Daily breakfast
- Light lunch and dinner along the route (apart from Äkäslompolo)
- Arctic Sauna World visit in Jerisjärvi
- Guiding along the route
- Daily luggage transfers (one soft bag/ person) and support vehicle
- Transfer from Alta to Äkäslompolo after the cycling tour

**Rental bikes:** Gravel: Scott Speedster / Trek Checkpoint ALR 5

**Roads:** Most of the tour runs on gravel and trails, also paved roads.

**Terrain:** The terrain consists out of forests, tundra and fells with very little traffic. Except few technical spots along the route, the terrain is relatively easy.

**Weather:** Changes in the weather can be fast from warm to cold.

