

"I WAS ON HOLIDAY most of July, with some interludes reading theoretical literature. Most people in my workplace at Luleå University of Technology started their holidays already at *Midsommer* – a public holiday at the end of June – and stayed away all of July also. One thing I did was to visit Visby during Almedalen Week, the annual week of politics. It is an event filled with seminars, speeches and political activities for politicians but also journalists, activists and researchers.

The worst thing about holidays is the brutal confrontation between our common images and expectations and the suffocating lack of fulfilment. The best thing was that I was able to distract myself from this experience. This photo is from a barbeque, which is a very typical summer activity. It is also a very stupid and repulsive thing, intimately associated with masculine identity and the subjugation of animal bodies."

Tore Andersson Hjulman

Luleå, Sweden



The Barents on

HOLIDAY

During the summer some people work and some take weeks off.

What was your summer like?

"THIS YEAR I HAD my holiday in bits and pieces over the summer months with some work in the middle. The annual holiday period in Finland is between May and September. The University of Lapland, where I work, is mostly closed in July, so that is when most of the staff have their summer holidays.

I visited northern Norway with my relatives, attended a conference in Japan, built a deck for my apartment and got a puppy dog! I was happy to experience different things from travelling abroad to house-training the puppy. This photo is from my trip at Midsummer – a family tradition of sorts – to Komagfjord in Norway. We were freezing, but the scenery was breathtaking."

Sandra Wallenius-Korkalo

Rovaniemi, Finland



“AS I AM TRYING to finish up my thesis, I did not have much time for vacationing this summer. I ended up going to my hometown Storslett – between Tromsø and Alta – to meet family and relax for a few days. Although many people leave Storslett during the holidays, many also come to visit the area. As I have done my fieldwork among locals and tourists on the banks of the Reisa River, the river has a professional and personal interest for me. I always find myself drawn to it whenever I go back home.

This photo was taken in July on the old bridge, just 100 metres from where I grew up. It is a place that brings back many childhood memories. There is some truth to the statement that one cannot step into the same river twice. However, despite all the changes that all places and people go through, there is a strong feeling of continuity that this picture represents for me.”

Gaute Svensson

Tromsø, Norway



“IN JUNE I WENT to Iceland and got my diploma in Polar Law at the University of Akureyri. This photo of me and a fellow graduate was taken by my friend Ari Hólm Ketilsson on graduation day. Several girls wore traditional Icelandic costumes. I really value how Icelanders value and preserve their culture and traditions, even the young people.

Originally, I’m Russian, raised in Murmansk. In our region people are always trying to go south in the summertime, at least for a couple of weeks. All the Icelandic people look very surprised when I say that for me going to Iceland actually means going south. When I was a teenager, summer camps on the Black Sea were very popular. I went there three years in a row. Today, I think, people in Murmansk are more interested in going to the Mediterranean countries.”

Irina Zhilina

Rovaniemi, Finland