



# New Year letter 2010



Dear friends!

How you doing? We sure hope everything is fine by you, that you had a great 2010, and will get an even get a better 2011.

Last New Year I was together with a friend of mine from the dancing group at Edinburgh. It was a really snow chaos there at the time, but also really nice with white snow covering the great city. Between New Year and Eastern, there weren't the big things going on, but I got to catch a couple of weekend trips at some cabins in the mountains, and a small cruise to Denmark. For one of the mountain trips, we got to see a crowd of 1200 reindeers at the mountain plateau. There weren't more than 50-100 meters away on the closest.

Eastern started with a nice cruise from Oslo to Kiel in Germany, and back again. At Maundy Thursday there was the traditional tour to Sweden for a street party there, and got to be broadcasted on the two biggest TV-channels in Norway. Later that day (night) I got to meet Birgitte for the first time, and have spent a lot of nice time with her later this year. By end of December we are also going to move together at my apartment. Birgitte is a nice girl, grown up just half an hour drive from my hometown, and are just finished her bachelor degree within international development studies about the third world. She plans to finish a master degree in Australia for 1.5 years, starting this summer. I'm going to join her down under and might get back to school again with a master degree of MBA or maybe a master in Business Development.



During May I was two times too one of the most amazing fjords in Norway, Lysefjorden. First time was together with a Swiss friend. We started on a nice boat trip through the 42 km long fjord, for spending the night before we hiked and climbed out to the big rock at Kjærag (see picture). The next day we entered the Pulpit Rock. The last day of the week, we celebrated the National Day of Norway (May 17<sup>th</sup>) at Stavanger. The next weekend there was a new trip to Stavanger and The Pulpit Rock-dancing-festival, where Birgitte had the pleasure to learn herself some dancing skills. And we have both been practicing dancing regularly the rest of the year at dancing night in Kristiansand and other dancing festivals. I still practice some Salsa too, but I realize there are a lot of different dancing moves to remember, and unfortunately there are many moves left behind. Another way to keep my shape, is by running in the forests, and I finished my first forest-half-marathon at 1:49:21, which I'm very happy about.

Birgitte and I were also two weekend trips to Denmark, the first with my brother and his family and some friends. We visited to the biggest indoor fun-water-park of the Northern Europe, Legoland and a big Zoo. The destination for the second trip was a romantic weekend to Copenhagen.

The big trip this year lasted for one month, and started with a friend at Bangkok on an organized tour for 14 days; first a week to the north at Chaing Mai area. There we got to hike through the rainforest for sleeping at small villages outside the civilization for a couple of nights. Petting the tigers, elephant riding and bamboo rafting on the river through the jungle was also on the program. The second week was in the south at Khao Sok national park and snorkeling at Ko Tau. The next 2.5 weeks I traveled alone. I started through Cambodia and got to see the sunrise over Angkor Wat and the other old temples of Angkor City by Siem Reap. One of the overgrown temples was also used in one the Indiana Jones movies. Due to some bad food the day before, I didn't feel too good that day, so it was really an express sight sing through the abandoned old city. The local buss brought me further to Phnom Penh, and visits to Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum and the Killing Fields gave me a huge insight from the time of Khmer Rouge (1975-78). My trip through Vietnam started at Saigon with the Vietnam War museum, which gave a quite different view of the war, than what you find in the American movies. I visited a coconut-caramel-factory at Mekong Delta and went for crawling through the Cu Chi Tunnels from the Vietnam War. At the mountains of Da Lat there was a hiking trip, and after a flight to Hanoi for visiting the Snake Village, the tour in Vietnam ended on a bout trip at Halong Bay with canoeing and swimming in amazing water. Before the long flight back home, I took a detour to Hong Kong and Macau for a couple of days.

As earlier years, there have been some trips with the little boat to some nice islands. I don't think there is a real summer without. There has also been a wedding and a bachelor party for a friend, which always are nice occasions.

I still work at PwC Consulting, and have been working on an exciting investment project during the spring semester; else there isn't much news in that area.

I will as earlier celebrate Christmas with my family in Sandefjord, and New Year Eve is for a change going to be celebrated in Norway, but we haven't made any exact plans yet. We wish you a really nice Christmas and an amazing New Year.



Christmas love from Birgitte and Mange :-)





