



The Mt. Tron Mail

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The day's last sunrays in Tylldalen gild Mt. Tron, on a beautiful August evening in 2004. Photo: BP.

The new land use plan for Alvdal

The work with the "Land Use Plan Report for Alvdal" started in January this year. A discussion document was sent out in June with a 10 September deadline for comments. The Mt. Tron University of Peace Foundation was among those who received the land use plan report by mail for comments. The report will form a basis for the further work to revise the municipal plan, and it is an expressed wish of the local authorities that the hearing will contribute to clarify what major problems, challenges and choices the community of Alvdal is now facing.

The Mt. Tron University of Peace Foundation sent their comments to the municipality within the deadline and, in a three page letter, presented their view about the direction of future development in the community of Alvdal, against the background of the natural resources and the purely human resources. Roughly, the Foundation is of the opinion that Alvdal - in addition to the continuation and further development of the

already existing trades - should concentrate in the future on activities related to tourism where virgin nature, unique fauna, Aukrust, Baral and the University of Peace should be those distinctive qualities which are offered to the visitors.

The Foundation suggests that all of Alvdal Vestfjell (most of the area to the West of the river Glåma) be protected as a nature reserve, especially considering the genuine stock of wild reindeer in the area, which Alvdal together with the neighbouring municipalities has an international responsibility to preserve, and that future development mainly takes place to the East of Glåma. We support the Mt. Tron area becoming an area of commitment for the municipality, as earlier stated, with the University of Peace and the Tron Hangglider Club as the most important actors in the area. In the letter to the municipality we include the following:

(Continuation - see the back page).

A journey to the centre of the World

Mt. Kailash and Manasarowar in Tibet

In June and July this year all of the Board members of the Mt. Tron University of Peace Foundation were in Tibet. The starting point was that Knud Larsen, who during many years has had architectural projects in Lhasa with his students from NTNU in Trondheim, Norway, and who, together with Amund Sinding-Larsen is the author of the great work - The Lhasa Atlas - Traditional Tibetan Architecture and Townscape (Serindia 2001) - was asked to be a travelling guide for a Norwegian film team. They were destined for Mt. Kailash in West Tibet for filming the sources to four of the world's biggest rivers, which originate in this area. But when the team ran into problems with permits from the Chinese authorities, Knud instead invited Tripti and Bjørn to come along into this region where also one of the world's highest lakes, Manasarowar, is to be found. Since this was a rare opportunity to see an area so highly valued by a huge proportion of the population of Asia, one which so many long to experience, and where a minimal number of Norwegians have ever been, it was not in doubt that a journey would commence!

Departing from Lhasa they spent four days journeying by car to Lake Manasarowar where they camped in tents for four nights. One day was used for travelling around the lake and one day for going to the foot of the free-standing and mighty Mt. Kailash, north of the lake. On the return journey they spent five days along a partly different route than the outward route to the area. The Mt. Tron Mail here shows some of the pictures from the journey - all on this page are photographs while the rest are video clips.

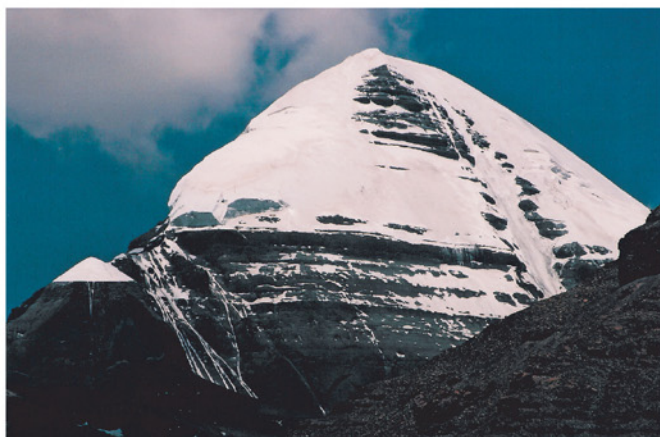


Mt. Kailash is fantastically beautiful. Here the North wall in sunrise, one day in October 18 years earlier. Photo: Knud Larsen.



Above: The Board of the Foundation at Manasarowar. From left: Bjørn Pettersen, Tripti Chatterjee and Knud Larsen. Manasarowar lies at nearly 4600 metres. In the background is seen Tibet's next highest mountain after Mt. Everest, Gurla Mandhata, standing at nearly 7700 metres, which lies in the South-West corner of the lake. Photo: BP.

Below: Mt. Kailash (over 6600 m) is for a large part of Asia's population - Hindus, Buddhists, Jains, etc. - the holiest of the holy on this Earth. In old mythology the mountain was called Mt. Meru, which was regarded not only as the centre of the World, but even as the centre of the whole Universe. The mountain's South-West side to the left. Photos: BP.



Nature and nomads

The nature in Tibet is magnificent, but barren and dry, and one cannot stop wondering how animals and people can manage to survive in this inhospitable environment on the roof of the world where the amount of oxygen is only one third of the amount at sea level. The landscape is often desert-like with only sand and stone for as far as the eye can see, but still one finds small, beautiful flowers almost everywhere! The red flowers farthest to the right were actually big like garden flowers and were apparently coming right up from the sand without green leaves or stem. The bird-life was surprisingly rich and in the higher altitudes there were often several species of snow finches to be seen, like this Rufous-necked Snowfinch, which is only found in Tibet and the Himalayas. Tibet's wild ass, the Kyang, is a very shy and hardy animal, which in many ways resembles more a horse than a donkey, particularly on account on the relatively short ears. In the whole world, wild asses are now found only in small numbers in Tibet, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, India, Iran and Africa. Video clips: BP.



The Yak (above) is the very foundation of Tibet. Without it no people would have been able to live there until recent times. It supplies the nomads with most of what they need: meat, milk, butter, garments, fuel and tent, and it is also used for carrying loads and for riding. The nomads are proud of, and love, their Yak, and frequently adorn it. As a species it is probably closer to the goat than to the cow, just like the Musk Ox. Video clip: BP.

The nomads (below) are impressive people - peaceful and trusting - with a wonderful naturality and spontaneity, which, of course, one will only find among nature's indigenous people. If you give them a smile they immediately smile back - as genuine and true as only people living in the bosom of nature can show! Surely they are impressed by the wide open and magnificent landscape they live in, highly elevated above Himalaya's deep valleys. Video clip: BP.





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Mt. Tron seen from Garvikåsen at Savalen, summer 1995. Photo: BP.

The new land use plan for Alvdal (cont. from the front page)

"Since the founding in 1993 the Foundation has been occupied with focusing on the individual - its intrinsic value and possibilities - and we maintain that this is a focus that we already now see coming more and more among leading personalities in the debates of society and which will only be more and more of current interest in the time to come. We hold that a university of peace on Mt. Tron will bring about a strong symbolic effect out in the world with mountain nature, human dignity and peace - everything that Norway is known for internationally - gathered in one place, namely in the peaceful mountain village

Alvdal. We think, of course, that this will provide for enormous possibilities for the community of Alvdal already in the near future and that it will create spreading consequences not only locally and regionally but also nationally. The Mt. Tron University of Peace approaches an international public and will be able to make Alvdal known all over the world. The place and name 'Alvdal' will become synonymous with 'mountain nature, human dignity and peace' out in the big world, if the Foundation receives a response congenial to their thinking and planning for the last 12 years."