

“SAFER SKI TOURING IN NORWAY” - A GUIDE BOOK TO 111 MOUNTAINS WHERE YOU CAN AVOID AVALANCHE TERRAIN

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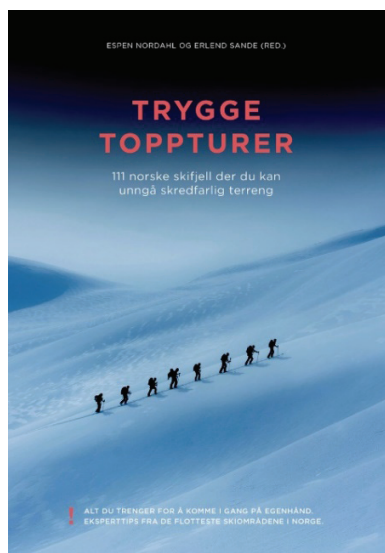
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ABSTRACT: You may have heard that Norwegians are born with skis on their feet. Well, in 2018 we are no longer sure that this old saying holds true. One thing is certain though; more and more Norwegians go to the mountains during wintertime. Most of these people want to have a happy experience framed by safety. So we often got the question; “Where can I go today and be sure it is safe?”. The idea of this book was born!

KEYWORDS: Safe ski touring, Recognize avalanche terrain, ATES, Education, Good day out

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

During the Nordic avalanche conference in Sogndal in 2013, the publishing house and ski magazine Fri Flyt took up a challenge: To make a ski touring guide book presenting mountains where it is possible to avoid avalanche terrain completely. A three-year process culminated in 2016 with the release of the Norwegian edition of the book “Trygge Toppturer”.



In 2018 the English version “Safer Ski Touring” will be published. While there are many attempts to change skiers attitudes towards risks and raising awareness of the human factor in the avalanche context, this book takes an opposite approach. We believe that most recreational skiers realize that snowpack analysis and identification of avalanche problems can be very challenging, and the consequences of a poor assessment obviously serious. The simple solution is to minimize exposure to avalanche terrain. The problem is that many ski tourers aren’t aware of the many options of where they can go skiing safely in the vast mountain of Norway.

2. WHY THIS BOOK

During the last 5-10 years the interest in ski touring in Norway has exploded. More and more people; young and not so young find the great pleasure of enjoying the wonderful snowy landscape of the Norwegian mountain world. The vast majority of them want a day which is both fun and safe. Most people new to ski touring are not focused on skiing the steepest and most challenging lines.

We also see a fast growing popularity among foreign guests who come and visit the Norwegian summits in wintertime

So the main aim with this book is to give ski tourers an overview of mountains in Norway where they can go skiing without entering avalanche terrain. Secondly; we want to give skiers a tool to recognize safe terrain from avalanche terrain, providing them with the knowledge base which allows them to identify avalanche terrain on their own, so that they can

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plan tours in safe terrain in areas not covered in this book.

3. THE BOOK PHILOSOPHY

We wanted to have detailed route descriptions, aerial photos depicting the route, and detailed maps also showing the routes. We also wanted to use ATEs (Avalanche Terrain Exposure Scale) to classify each route to focus on a learning perspective, in the belief that this will increase the focus on safer travel in the mountains.

4. A BOOK FOR EVERYONE

The book has been received very well among skiers in Norway. Those in the beginning of their ski touring career have applauded it a lot. But also more experienced skiers say they have learned from reading it.

Last winter in Norway was challenging for long periods with a very complex snowpack of many persistent weak layers all over the country. For the first time we saw a day with an avalanche danger level 5!

The avalanche bulletins (www.varsom.no) recommended you to stay away from avalanche terrain much of the time. In this context our book has been a valuable resource for many to go out and enjoy the fun of ski touring in safer terrain.

At the ISSW, we would like to present the book and inform more about the process behind it and answer any questions about the Norwegian ski touring playgrounds!

Fri Flyt has more than ten years' experience in making ski touring guide books.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to acknowledge all skiers in Norway who during many years have been active in developing a more and more safety focused culture in our skiing community.

REFERENCES

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