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Nice Day for White Sledding

Photograph and text by **LOLA AKINMADE-ÅKERSTRÖM**

Lake Stor-Skabram, Sweden

LAST FEBRUARY, I visited the market and festival of the indigenous Sami reindeer herders, held since 1605 in Jokkmokk, a part of Swedish Lapland. Historically, visitors traveled to the market on skis and *akkja* (sleds) pulled by reindeer. Inspired by the Sami, I felt drawn to connect with the landscape. So early one morning, I tagged along with a local dogsledding outfitter and some three dozen Siberian huskies on an invigorating journey traversing frozen Lake Stor-Skabram and its surroundings. We rode past a small igloo village and through scanty woods; we stopped to roast sausages (*korv*) over an open flame. We discovered nature at its best—listening to the sleds crushing through snow, the rhythmic panting of the huskies, and the slow whistle of cold air. Completely trusting the environment made this remote place feel special, from the crisp subarctic air to reindeer scrambling across the panorama. In this photo, I love how the red-orange backpack contrasts sharply with the white that enveloped us.

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