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Reine

Going to Greenland – ended up saturating people at Leknes



The trip was canceled. The food still got a new destination. Photo: Sandra Blaser

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The expedition boat Lea had barely started the big journey "Project 68° north" when the bad luck hit.

The plan was to sail from Lofoten to Jan Mayen, East Greenland, Iceland and the Faroe Islands. But they didn't get any further than Reine until one of the crew got an ill-fated. At the same time, they discovered a mistake on the mast, and the assessment was that the boat could not be sailed on – both because they lacked crew and because safety could not be safeguarded.

The crew consists of nine friends from Switzerland, France, Israel, Croatia, Estonia and Lithuania. On the project's website, the expedition is described as follows:

"The experiment is simple: Nine people, 60 square meters divided living space, five weeks of day-to-day guards – and no possibility of a quick retreat. On our route there are no ports, just anchorages. There will be no after-sufficiency, only what we can take with us, repair and ration. Access to the outside world is reduced to a minimum. In this closed system, each action affects each attitude and every silence the whole."



The nine friends were going on a long and demanding expedition. Photo: Sandra Blaser

The expedition had to be cancelled, and is likely to be postponed until next year – or maybe even longer. When skipper Andy Fitze realized that the trip they had spent eight months planning didn't turn out, the crew started thinking about what to do with all the food they had brought with them.



When the expedition was cancelled, the crew decided to pass the food on to people who need it. Photo: Sandra Blaser

For Fitze, it was natural to give something back to Norway.

In 2024 he and five others participated on an expedition in an open Viking boat from the Faroe Islands to Trondheim. Outside Stadt, the boat cantered, and one person died. After the tragic accident, the rest of the crew received extensive assistance from local volunteers and Norwegian authorities during the demanding rescue.

“After this, I wanted to give something back to Norwegian society. They welcomed us with a tremendous warmth and helped us incredibly much, says Fitze.

The crew therefore decided to donate the food to those who need it most, and contacted the tourist information in Moskenes.

When the tourist information was called Tuesday, they gladly accepted the offer.



Here, supplies are carried out to be donated. Photo: Sandra Blaser

– It was proposed to give the food to the Ro café at Leknes, which is a free café where food is handed out to people who need it, says June Remman, general manager at the tourist information in Moskenes.

Then it went fast. Two stuffy cars were loaded with food and driven to Leknes, and already the next day the foods were handed out.

"The donation comes very well with for the Ro cafe. They don't have as many people who sponsor them," Remman said.

For Fitze and the rest of the crew, this is exactly what they were hoping for.



Here, supplies are carried out to be donated. Photo: Sandra Blaser

"I know that there are families and others who need help also in a rich country like Norway. That's why it's nice to be able to contribute," Fitze said.

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