

So, after a sleepless night we landed in Trelleborg most famous for giving its name to the, er Trelleborgen, a Viking defensive 'fort' like affair. It was still silly o'clock on a Sunday morning so after a brief look at the reconstruction in the town we set off for the day's destination, Malmo. From a grey and damp start it gradually cleared as we travelled north treating us to views of a nice windmill or two and an extensive complex of burial mounds.

We had a bit of a look around Malmo before going on to the campsite almost in the shadow of the Olundsund bridge – yep the one made famous by both 'Wallander' and 'The Bridge'. You can actually just see Copenhagen across the water and thoughts of my first world title brought a tear to my cheek. By now it was quite warm so we spent the evening, eating, walking and eating icecream!

The next day we started our traverse of upper Skane county and our crossing of Småland, the lake strewn rocky forest region that straddles the southern half of Sweden. At first it was just more farmland with a bit of archaeology and the 'odd' windmill but as we moved further north and east the trees closed in. We stopped at a roadhouse for a hotdog and coffee before tackling some dirt roads on the way to our next campsite. Unfortunately this is where the trip started to hit difficulties with a couple of punctures in fairly short order. We put that behind us though and enjoyed an evening overlooking one of the regions beautiful lakes before turning in for the night.

The following day was – well Maddy wants to forget it! We got caught in a couple of heavy squalls, had a more serious puncture event and only got our lunch mid afternoon! The tyre issue would now dog us for the rest of the trip but another idyllic campsite location and a dry evening helped raise the spirits.

Our last day in Småland started off sunny and by the time we reached the coast, quite hot! We made it to Kalmar where first stop was a bike shop for supplies then it was through to the campsite to do more repairs and enjoy the fine evening. Lunch had been an uninspiring burger – surely the Swede's can do better? Well not tonight, the restaurant was closed so Mad rustled up the last of the supplies we bought in Germany promising we'd have a good feed tomorrow!

And so another bright morning greeted us as we returned to explore Kalmar a little before catching the ferry to Oland. In the end we had a look at the shops, the castle, spent time in the museum and had a baked tater lunch before catching the ferry to cross to Oland, 5km across the Baltic.

Next time – We start to explore Sweden's second largest island.

(if you'd like to know more about any of the photos or places mentioned please just ask.)

