

Lockdown in Nepal / Summer in Denmark

We are back in Nepal and doing well - both Birna and I!



*The world's tallest sculpture of Shiva just outside
Kathmandu*

And where on earth have we been since the last update on May 5th?

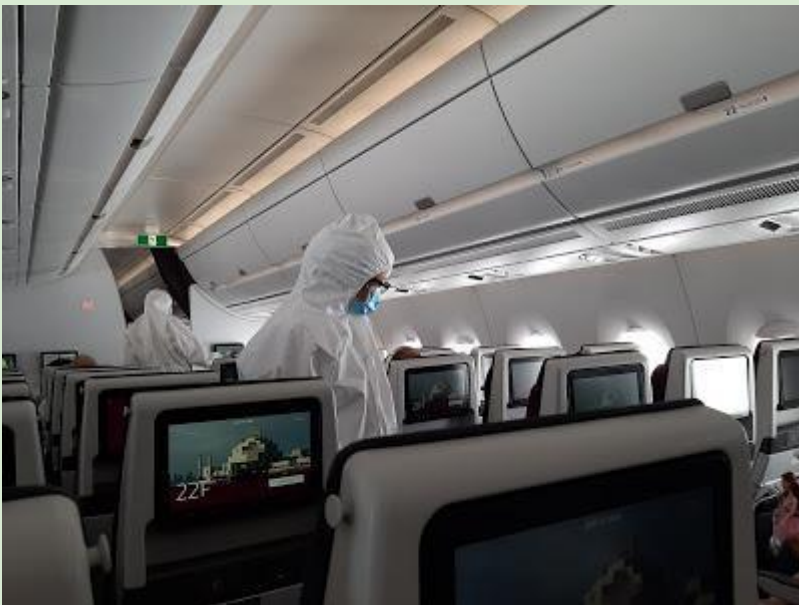
We have been to Denmark! Most of the time.

In late May, the number of those infected with Covid-19 in Nepal began to rise. There was still a lockdown, we were sitting in our empty house without furniture, our container was still stranded in Calcutta, so we decided we wanted to go home and enjoy the summer vacation in Denmark. Shortly after, we heard about a charter flight to Europe and hurried to buy tickets (only one way - return could not be purchased)

So on June 6, we boarded a Qatar flight to Doha and from there on to Copenhagen.



Ready to depart from Kathmandu with a sanitary napkin.



Qatar Stewardesses in new uniform



*In Doha I had promised that Birna could choose a gold piece
of jewelry -*

But the shop was closed and the airport was empty of people!

Well arrived in Copenhagen, we took the Metro home to Malmøgade and prepared for 14 days in quarantine. We did not know there would be a huge demonstration at the US Embassy for BLM, so for the first time in 4 months we were seriously worried about being exposed to infection from a lot of protesters who were travelling with the Metro and not wearing a mask!

But luckily we got home without an infection - and we had a wonderful holiday in Denmark enjoying the children and grandchildren.

Anna and Lasse were in Bergen in Norway, where Anna took a semester at Bergen University, so Birna and I boarded the train to Hirtshals and sailed on a night ferry to Bergen. An incredibly beautiful sailing trip that can be warmly recommended



*Departure from Hirtshals on an almost empty
ferry*



*The ferry sails within the islands along the Norwegian coast - a
beautiful sailing trip.*

The rest of the summer we stayed in Denmark where we enjoyed being with children and grandchildren.



Birna with Feo (4) and Hubert (1 1/2)



Two mermaids - one is Ebba (5)



August (2) with a puzzles

Because of the Corona we chose not to see other people than the close family.

As time went on it became clear to us that the corona-pandemic would not be over in a short time and Birna was struggling to control the project remotely, so in September we decided that we would return to Nepal.

International flights to Nepal have resumed, but tourists still cannot get visas - unless it is actual trekking / mountaineering trips. Birna had to have some special permits to return and I only got my visa two days before departure. Then we had a corona test done so we could show that we were negative on arrival in Kathmandu and then we sat again on the plane back to Nepal on October 3rd.



*In the subway duly masked - it's Birna on the left in the
picture*

(Linda had sewn the mask I was wearing)



Sunrise over the Himalayas

The flight to Kathmandu was very undramatic. Again, the staff was in full PPE. All passengers tested for corona in advance, all kept a nice distance, no pushing and shoving at the airport when boarding. BUT when we had to collect our luggage in Kathmandu it went completely awry.



Everyone pushed and squeezed their way to the belt. If we were to get infected, it was probably here. But we did not - as far as we know.

It was great to come "home" to our own house. Still sparsely furnished.



Birna's home office until we went home in June

But NOW our container had arrived. In mid-July, the container was released from the port of Calcutta and shipped to Kathmandu. As we were not here, Birna's staff had to monitor the emptying of the container. And now all 225 boxes were waiting to be unpacked.





*All the moving boxes were placed in the same room -
which made it a bit difficult to unpack.*



The moving truck arrived in the rain!

Despite the fact that the container had spent 2 months aboard a ship and then three months on a quay in Calcutta with 40+ degrees and rain, all things had survived the tough transport. Birna complains that the licorice is glued together and the rye flour was not too good - so 15 kg of flour was thrown out- not the licorice !

Luckily there is an Austrian baker who makes a really good rye bread so we do not suffer from the loss of the rye flour



Now after a busy month everything is unpacked and we have a furnished home.



The garden tables are unpacked on our terrace where we can enjoy the sunset!



There is space for a television in the bedroom



Spisestuen with a painting of a Danish beech forest with deer.



Birna's office corner - which she still uses now that the office is closed.





Note the beautiful doors



*And finally - the room with all the boxes has now become an
office*

(still with boxes - but now better organized)

Birna is happy to be back in Nepal. Now she can meet with her staff. Two of them were hired while there was still a lock down - so Birna had not met them face to face -and they are great people. The project's office is now finished and all the furniture is in place - BUT then there was an employee who got corona (and another has got typhus), so now everyone works from home again. Both are now healthy again.

Birna can also meet with the people from the various ministries and the National Board of Health - not often - but it has a greater effect to meet physically than to meet via Skype.



*The director of the National Board of Health - a very busy man who Birna met today -
Sunday!*

(In Nepal, many work Sunday through Friday and has Saturday off)

Before the office closed down, we had invited the staff with families to a dinner on our terrace. We sat nicely at a distance and gathered each family separately.





It gets "early" dark - approx. at 18:30

The Corona situation in Nepal is bad. The number of newly infected fluctuates between 3-5,000 per day. The number of inpatients is close to 100% of the capacity of the hospitals and the government has almost given up testing and tracing the infected. So even though there is no lock down, we only move out when it is necessary to shop etc. However,

We have paid our pizza place a visit - and the pizza (and the beer) are just as good as before we went home.



The pizza only came a little later

And yesterday we went on a small excursion to a hill / mountain where you take a cable car up to the top at 2,500 meters altitude



From the top of Chandragiri there is a nice view to the highest mountains in the Himalayas - also Mt. Everest which is 170 km away



View to the west towards Annapurna - altitude about 8,100 meters

As you can see the weather is nice - clear skies, +27 degrees during the day - a little cold at night (and the temperature at night drops to 2-3 degrees in December). We really enjoy autumn here.

So - yes we are doing well - and taking really good care of ourselves here in Nepal. Take good care of yourself and many corona hugs from both of us.

Love from

Birna & Steen



PS we bought plane tickets home to Denmark in December so we can celebrate Christmas with the family - probably a very different Christmas than we are all used to!

PPS AND speaking of Christmas - Krishnan would very much like to sell some felt items to pack under the Christmas tree this year - Birna and I have room for 60 kg of felt slippers in the suitcase so please send many orders - which will make it a good Christmas in Nepal for a group of diligent ladies doing felt things



[Click here to go to Krishnan's website](#)