



Earthducation: Expedition 2 is headed to northern Norway. This sparsely populated, mountainous region comprises three counties (Nordland, Troms, and Finnmark) and sits almost entirely north of the Arctic Circle. Northern Norway embodies a rugged, water-saturated landscape; a blend of remote villages and small cities; several distinct cultures and languages; and a number of diverse ecosystems. These factors have led to some unique educational and environmental challenges, with creative commitments to sustainability.

During Expedition 2 the team will investigate oil exploration, alternative energy development, sustainable fishing, toxic pollutants, schooling challenges in small remote communities, land and water rights, culture, and language in the indigenous Sami communities. We begin the Expedition in Tromsø, the largest city north of the Arctic Circle and a hub of Arctic climate research. From Tromsø, the team will travel to the majestic Lyngen Alps, south across Senja to Gryllefjord, board a ferry west across the Norwegian Sea to the Vesterålen islands, then drive south into the Lofoten islands.

Along with awe-inspiring mountains of rock that rise straight up from the sea, the Lofotens are home to many small fishing and farming communities and to a cod fishing industry that has been in existence for more than 1,000 years. The team will travel all the way to the southernmost tip of the Lofotens, to the tiny and isolated island of Røst, where stockfish production still provides a primary livelihood for residents today, and where some of the largest seabird colonies in Europe can be found, along with the deepest cold water coral reef in the world.

The team then returns to the mainland, to the city of Bodø, and heads north to Drag in the Tysfjord district, to visit Árran, a Lule Sami cultural and education center. Árran houses a small museum, a Sami radio station, some members of the Sami Parliament, and a Sami kindergarten, along with videoconferencing facilities to provide Lule Sami distance education programs to high school students. The team will also visit the school in Drag, which has a unique curriculum merging Sami and Norwegian language and culture. From Drag, the team heads back to Tromsø, then home to Minnesota.

AUGUST 23, 2011

EXPEDITION 2

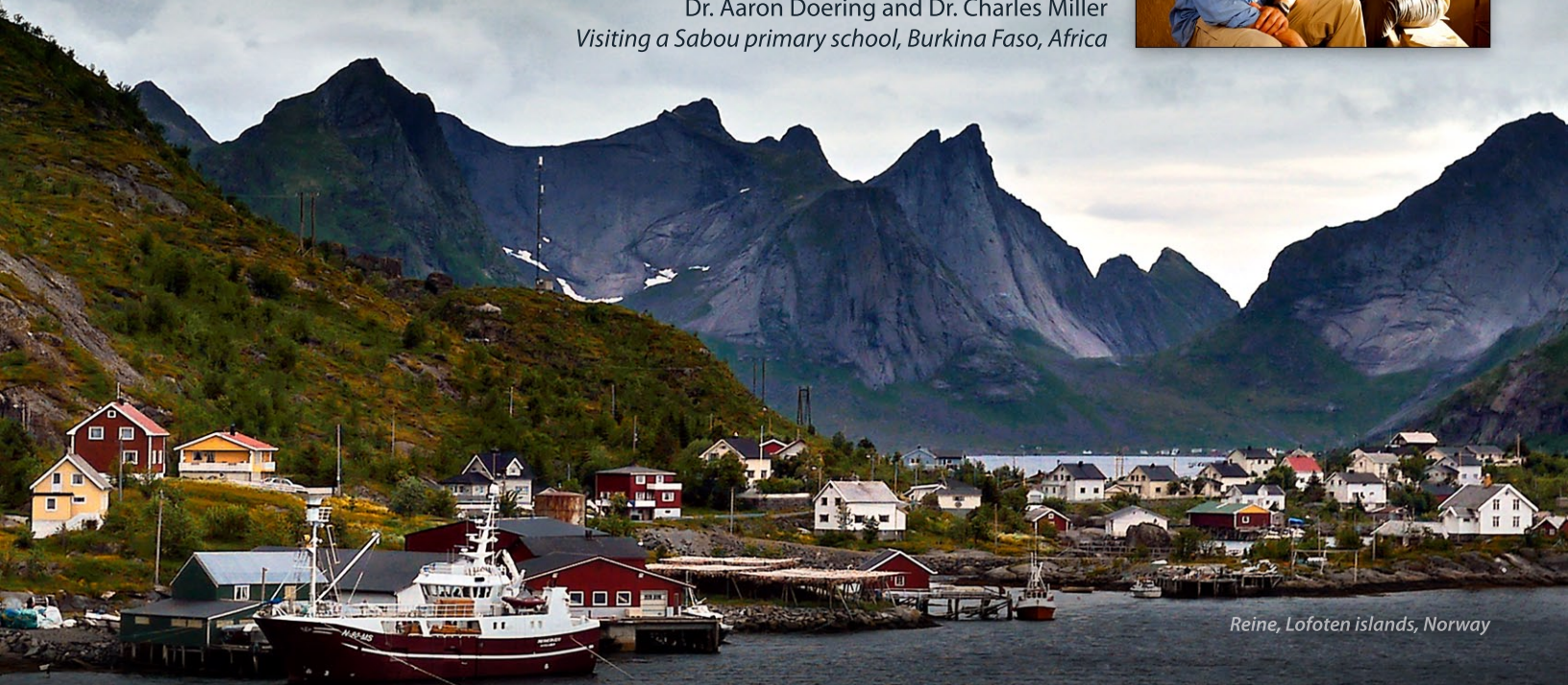


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The mission of Earthducation is to explore the global intersection of education and sustainability. As we travel to climate hotspots on all 7 continents, we will collaborate with cultures from around the world to create an ecological narrative of our collective educational and sustainability beliefs. Teachers, students, and the online community will expand upon and discuss how education influences the future of our planet.

Expedition Team Leaders

Dr. Aaron Doering and Dr. Charles Miller
Visiting a Sabou primary school, Burkina Faso, Africa



Reine, Lofoten islands, Norway



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