

The Villabø family adventures with Cinderella on board



With an expedition vehicle, currently under construction, the Villabø family plans to embark on a year-long journey through Canada and Alaska in 2021 with the Cinderella incineration toilet on board.

Text: Trude B-J Margel, Private photos Niklas Villabø

The Villabø's consist of Niklas, wife Maren and little Saga (3). They are a closely-knit family determined to live each day to the fullest after Niklas had a serious bout with cancer and Maren's mother recently passed away, victim to the same disease.

"Life is short, it's just a car, do it!"

Based on life experiences, and the desire to show their daughter just how wonderful the world is, Niklas and Maren have started their dream project, building their dream vehicle, with Maren's mother's words driving them onwards.

"We've learned that life can be short, so we've decided to take control and live the way we believe is right, not the way society expects us to," Niklas and Maren explain. "We want our little girl to grow up adventurous, learning through special, real-life encounters with nature and meeting people with other expectations than our own."

Cinderella on board

The family have owned several caravan models before deciding to build their own and one item was at the top of the list: it had to have a Cinderella incineration toilet on board. Why?

"Simply because we can be off-grid for at least a week at a time and no other toilets can offer this," Maren tells us. "The waste is clean ash, leaving a minimal organic footprint. That the toilet is water-free and can incinerate up to 70 times with an 11 kg propane gas container, is something much more alluring than all the other toilet systems available on the market."

"And it's just a dream and a luxury to not have to empty or compost

your own body waste. It saves quantities of water and we don't need to visit emptying stations at short intervals."

They also like Cinderella's Norwegian heritage.

"Cinderella is designed and made in Norway, which means a lot to us – not only because supporting Norwegian design is important, but it's also nice to have service and communication close."

Living life off-grid means all solutions need to be easy and practical

"Many shake their heads when we talk about our dream project, but for us, it represents freedom. The freedom to live a simple life, to be spontaneous and, most importantly, to have time for each other. We've spent hundreds of hours doing research," Niklas explains, "we



Henk van der Heide head of Cinderella Eco Group's European office



"Since our Cinderella Incineration Toilets can be installed practically anywhere and are made to withstand large temperature ranges, we accepted the challenge from this adventurous family with our model designed for caravans and motorhomes" explains Henk van der Heide, head of Cinderella Eco Group's European office. "We have a lot in common, loving the outdoors and the freedom to live an unencumbered life as we do. We look forward to following the Villabø's on their trip through Canada and Alaska next year and to sharing their stories."



want to be able to live, eat, shower and enjoy ourselves off-grid in temperatures of -30 to +30 degrees, and our toilet has to meet our demands."

The family bought a 1991 model MAN 8.150 FAE 4x4 truck that had been used in the Danish armed forces. Since then, work has been done to create their new home as practically as possible. Should they suddenly find themselves stranded in the depths of the Alaskan wilderness, they hope that any necessary repairs can be done by themselves.

The floor plan consists of:

- 3 fixed beds to avoid rearranging the interior for sleeping
- A large battery pack with multiple charging options, such as solar cells, alternator, generator, shore power, etc.
- A custom made, large water tank with an advanced filtration system in order to extract water from all possible fresh water sources
- Good insulation and heating system to be comfortable in harsh winter conditions
- A proper oven: to avoid having to fry all food and being able to bake
- Large refrigeration and freezing facilities
- Enough space to socialize: "so we won't go stir-crazy when the weather is bad and

we need to spend time indoors," Maren says

- Shower and toilet: "a good bathroom and toilet are necessary in order to maintain good hygiene when you are physically active," Niklas adds
- A big diesel tank.

A year's worth of adventures

Maren and Niklas have been granted a year's leave from their jobs with an open travel plan so they can be as free and spontaneous as possible. Their vehicle will be sent to Halifax by boat from Hamburg in April 2021 and the family will fly over on May 1st, spending the first three weeks driving to Vancouver via Yellowstone National Park, the Niagara Falls and anywhere else that takes their fancy. "Our interests are hiking, skiing, snowboarding, surfing, mountain biking, free diving, camping and just being out in nature. We'll probably spend June and July in the Vancouver / British Columbia area of Canada mountain biking and hiking before heading up to Alaska in August and September," Niklas explains. "Our bucket list includes Denali National Park, seeing the bears and other wildlife, going fishing and panning for gold in the Klondike, Yukon."

Another dream is to surf a tidal wave at

Turnagain Arm, Anchorage. With only one wave a day, you must wait until the following day to try again, if you miss it.

"It would be magical to catch that wave with Saga on the front of the SUP!", says Niklas, "and after surfing, another dream would be to celebrate Christmas in Whistler, Canada."

We don't want our adventure to be about driving the truck, but to live out of it!

"One year goes by fast and we hope to experience our dreams stress-free. Being together as a family is what's most important to us, and we want to show and teach Saga things she might not experience back home."

The family knows it will be impossible to see everything during their year-long adventure. They will try to keep the bucket list short to encourage spontaneity and to be able to "just let things happen". Enjoying each destination, meeting new friends and making the most of each experience is what their adventure is all about.



Company Profile

Cinderella Eco Group, producers of the market leading Cinderella Incineration Toilets, launched their first toilets in 1999. "Since then," the company writes on their website, "we have nearly 80.000 installations spread throughout the Nordic region, Europe, Australia and North America. Our toilets consist of models for cottages and leisure homes, caravans and mobile homes, as well as solutions for industry and emergency relief organizations."

Learn more at www.cinderellaeco.com
For further information:
ces.europe@cinderellaeco.com