



TROMSØ LAPLAND

Per Stian Sara (above left) is from a very, very long line of Sami people. Being Sami, Per has grown up with a way of life that, although it has evolved (the Sami now herd their reindeer by snowmobile and liaise by mobile phone), the current way of life is still very much sculpted by the heritage, culture, skill and know-how of earlier times.

Oh, and did we mention the storytelling?! We don't mean fairytales but genuine stories about people, places, events, family. Per, or one of his cousins (top right), will tell you all about their way of life, growing up as a Sami child, learning how to live and work with nature and also about their reindeer.....lots and lots about their reindeer. Alongside their family, their reindeer are the most important thing they have as they represent everything; food, clothing, a way of life and, yes, companionship. The Sami share their life with the reindeer because one does not thrive without the other; the Sami people follow the seasons not according to the movement of the sun but according to the movement of the reindeer.

I asked Per to tell me a little bit about himself for this profile - below is what he wrote. Count how many times he mentions reindeer in relation to himself. That is how important they are!!

'My name is Per Stian Sara and I'm going to be 32 years old this August (2014). I have grown up in a Sami reindeer herder family up in northern Norway. I have grown up with reindeers and they are what is closest to my heart. I am always thinking about my reindeers, wherever I am. As you know reindeer herders are nomad people, they move with the reindeers all the time. And that I have grown up with. I like very much to talk about myself and the Sami lifestyle. We like to teach people more about Sami culture.'