

NORWAY NORWEGEN



The Whitewater Guide Der Wildwasserführer



**JENS KLATT
OLAF OBSOMMER**

SUMELVI: SCENIC RUN

Sunshine WW in awesome scenery

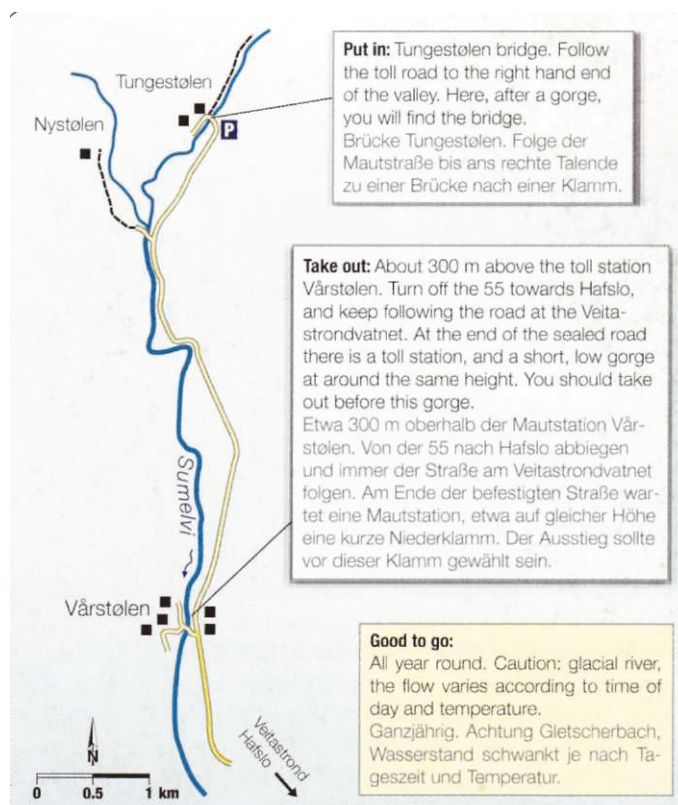
CLASS: I – II (IV/V)**LEVEL: 15 - 25 cumecs****LENGTH: 5 km****TIME: 2 h****SEASON: May – September**

The Sumelvi drains the Austerdalsbreen, a run off of the Jostedalsbreen. It flows through a valley parallel to the Jostedola, completely isolated from the rest of the world. It is not the Whitewater which makes a descent worthwhile, rather the breathtaking backdrop. The aura of the valley permeates your body like x-rays, and fills you with elation: up here the World is still just as it should be. A trip here is something for sunny days, with unlimited visibility to the surrounding mountains and glaciers.

Warning: We didn't paddle the Sumelvi, the cold rain scared us prudes off. Nonetheless we would like to recommend this river. The description is based on reconnaissance made from the road.

From the put in, the Sumelvi sets off with a sprightly gait, to shortly receive additional flow from the Langedalsbreen. After about 1 kilometre you reach a short gorge (WW IV), which you will have surely discovered on the drive up.

After that she hums her way through the landscape once more, allowing time to savour the surrounds. About 1 kilometre before the take out lies a short interruption in wait; you could actually end the trip here as well. In any case, end the trip at the very latest before the next short low gorge at the toll station.

**JØLSTRA**

A classic run with fast WW

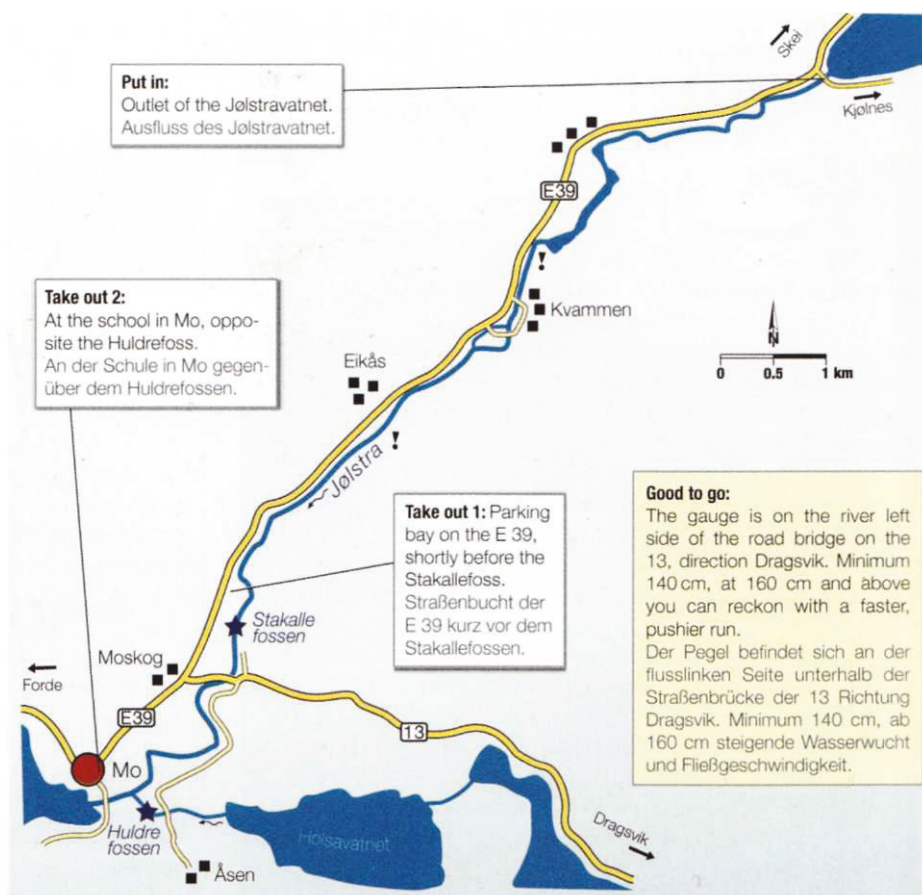
CLASS: III – IV+ (V-)**LEVEL: 30 - 60 cumecs****LENGTH: 8 km / 10 km****TIME: 2 - 4 h****SEASON: May – September**

The Jolstra is a must for fun paddlers who like surfing waves and getting vertical in eddy lines. The rapids are up to 300 metres long, and in between there are quiet sections. The difficult sections are almost always possible to scout from the road which runs along the right of the river.

This racey, pushy, slightly blocked run starts in the Jolstravatnet. After about 2.5 kilometres, at Kvammen, you reach a striking left bend. The Jolstra divides here, and in the left channel there is a life threatening towback. If your line is wide enough in the outside of the bend,

you should be on the safe side. The section can be seen from the road, and should be scouted before the run.

The next 5 kilometres catapult you into a parallel Whitewater dimension, but beware: when the Jolstra then flows away from the road and disappears into the forest, there is a towback which needs to be scouted from the left. The last eddy to scout from is directly in front of the drop. The following 200 metres can be mastered with a big bag of courage and a long neck. If you're not too keen to try your luck, scout beforehand from the right.



The first take out point is at a small parking bay about 150 metres before the Stakallefoss. The Jolstra flows directly beside the road here, the edge of the foss can be seen in the distance. If you've still got extra energy to burn off, you can portage around the Stakallefoss on the left and put into the outlet of the power station. As a reward for your efforts you will be granted three nice, pushy slides which come after the next road bridge (gauge). These can be scouted from the gravel road on river left before you run them. A little later the Huldrefoss crashes into the Jolstra from the left and has proven itself to be a fitting take out point. You can take out on river right at the school opposite the Huldrefoss.

Tip: For those who simply cannot live without a bit of WW V-VI in their day, an attempt at the Stakallefoss can be recommended. For this foss the gauge should be reading at least 180 cm.

STOREELVA: LOWER

A lot of waves with a few grade V- drops in between

CLASS: III – IV- (V)

LEVEL: 25 - 60 cumecs

LENGTH: 7,5 km (5 km)

TIME: 2 - 3 h

SEASON: May – August

For us the lower section of the Storeelva before the Breimsvatnet is of interest. Here she will enchant you with a magical put in at the outflow from a lake, the take out at the inflow into the next lake, and mind blowing waves in between which invite you to a session of endless surfing, spinning and air time. There are also four difficult cataracts and a weir, all of which can easily be portaged.

For the first 2 kilometres the Storeelva flows calmly, until it reaches a difficult cataract

directly before the gauge bridge. It is recommendable to take out on the left and scout, and this is also a possible alternative for putting on. Up until the next WW V section you can now show your style in the waves and holes.

Then there are two WW V-slides, followed by a weir. All three sections can be scouted and portaged on the left. The last V- section is a left bend directly after a bridge. At a gauge reading of 180 cm and above, you can paddle around this in the left channel. Otherwise take out on the left directly after the bridge, and cross to river right to scout.

Warning: after the bridge the current flows strongly into a pile of rocks. After this the Storeelva flows without further major difficulties into the Breimsvatnet. After the convergence paddle right to the harbour.

