

INTRODUCTIONS TO THE VILLAGES OF ENONTEKIÖ

Enontekiö is known for its high fells and breathtaking auroras, but maybe its most essential source of beauty comes from its villages: small, unique communities and their people. Enontekiö has eight seasons, through which the nature provides not only the most spectacular natural phenomenon, but also the livelihood to its people.

THE SPECIAL HISTORY of the area can be seen throughout the villages. Enontekiö has been a settling spot for Sámi people, who got their livelihood first in hunting deer, later in herding reindeer. The Sámi were known for migrating with the reindeer from pasture to pasture. Reindeer herding is still an important trade in many villages – this can be seen also in the location of the villages, as most of them are in the wilderness, smack in the middle of Lapland's most beautiful sceneries.

The location of the old Lappish villages and medieval churches can still be seen in the villages, and they pass on the story of the area's colorful history with changing nation borders and evolving lifestyle. The mystique of the area has also been tried to unravel by several explorers and authors through the ages. The history and tales of the villages are still inspiring people to get to know the stories of Lapland.

The war in Lapland has left its mark, and the scars can still be seen in the slowly renewing arctic nature. Only a few villages were saved from burning during those times, and rebuilding the villages has pulled the community together in a long-lasting way.

The villages are located on the shores of lakes and rivers ("joki" or "eno" in Finnish), where Enontekiö gets its name. The four wilderness areas in Enontekiö offer the villagers and travelers with the most exquisite sceneries and experiences in Lapland. Countless of hiking paths and old postal routes still offer hikers and mountain bikers with unique sceneries and great opportunities for outdoor activities.

"Väärtiys", or appreciation, means the special relationship formed between the locals, the newcomers and the travelers. This is seen in the spirit of working together, a kind of pulling together that is hard to come by elsewhere. Enontekiö has excellent road connections and good services, which are supported by the closely located neighbouring countries Norway and Sweden. Enontekiö invites people to come and experience the magic of Lapland and to stay and enjoy it longer.



KYRÖ

The village of three fells Kyrö isn't left behind by its big brother Ylikyrö. Kyrö is located in the heart of the great national park. Three fells, three "kero" or "bald-heads" chat together in the evenings. If you are very quiet, you can hear the stories they tell. The village of Kyrö offers housing for more and more guests these days. The meadows by the riverbank invite you to be enchanted by their beauty.

KYRÖ IS A 120-hectare village, separated from Ylikyrö, that is bordered by a national park. The most important activities in the village include berry and mushroom picking, and the fishing opportunities provided by the lake Vuontisjärvi. The fells Saivokero, Vuontiskero and Keräskero make the scenery spectacular and can be seen from anywhere in the village. Kyrö is a popular starting point for hiking paths through the Montellinmäja cabin. Kyrö's beautiful meadows run along the meandering riverside. In addition to natural sources of livelihood, accommodation services are an important part of income the village.

YLIKYRÖ

In Ylikyrö, you get to breathe the cleanest air in the world. The village is fresh and airy – one of the reasons why it is so popular among paragliders. The village is located right at the feet of fells, and the fells have a strong presence in the village. Maybe the fells provide their own healing impact to the aura of the village. The well know healer Juhan Aukust Keinovaara is also from Ylikyrö. More and more people get to enjoy the fresh air and healing qualities of the fells on the hiking paths or by relaxing at a cabin in the woods.

YLIKYRÖ IS A VILLAGE located on the south side of Enontekiö, sharing a border with Raattama village of Kittilä municipality. The area has many vacation homes due to the river Ounasjoki that flows through the town, making it a popular fishing spot. Some historical places in the village include the old cabin of Oskari Kyrö and the old courthouse, which were both spared from the Germans during the war. The Ylikyrö village is right at the heart of the national park: "Far enough is close enough". Here, the fells rise up so high that their silhouettes are not left just in the horizon, but cover a large part of the sky.

Some well-known tales from Ylikyrö include the trading trips of Oskari Kyrö to Norway on by reindeer, the first established farm for natural sources of livelihood, and the stories of healer Juhan Aukust Keinovaara, which are known beyond Lapland.

Travel has transformed the village of Ylikyrö: through travel, the village has grown and its livelihood has changed. The importance of travel and tourism is well known in the village, and its development is considered a high priority. Currently there is a growth in building of vacation homes in the village. The most important places in the village are Hotel Vuontispiirtti, Oskari Kyrö's cabin hill and the area around it.



ENONTEKIÖ – Son rohki soma paikka ellää



LOCATION

Kyrö and Ylikyrö are located on the south side of Enontekiö municipality. Kyrö lies about 60 km from Hetta, Ylikyrö about 58 km from Hetta.

ATTRACTIONS

Around the Oskari Kyrö's cabin there are many old buildings that were spared from the war, such as: The main house, the courtroom, the stables, the court pine tree and the market place.

SERVICES

The area has many accommodation services. The national park is easily accessed from the villages. Both Kyrö and Ylikyrö have their own village associations.



KETOMELLA

Where could you lie as comfortable and cozy like a flower in the meadow. This can be achieved in the village of Ketomella. The village's relaxed atmosphere is likely thanks to its beaches. Sand meets the river, forming a small beach-like pile next to it, called "mel-la". This play between sand and water describes well the beauty and playfulness you can find in Ketomella. The village is also a great pathway to the most beautiful sceneries by the fells.

LOCATION

Ketomella is located on the southside of Enontekiö municipality, about 43 km from Hetta by the road Ounastie.

ATTRACTIONS

Ketomella is a starting point for a path through Hietajärvi towards the fells. From Hietajärvi to Pippokero hill and continuing through Tappuri you can circle back and make a quick round by walking or biking.

There is an old Sámi village in Ketomella, where you can visit a local murder museum.

SERVICES

There are several accommodation services in the area.

The village has an active village association

KETOMELLA IS A small village of a few permanent residents and many vacation residents, located at the shores of the Ounasjoki River on the east side of Ounastunturi fell. The area used to be utilized by Sámi people who travelled with the reindeer while herding them, so there were no permanent houses as they resided a type of tent, "laavu". In 1850, two crown farms were built on that same spot, which formed what is now known as the village of Ketomella. The area's main livelihoods were reindeer husbandry and some cattle farming.

All the buildings in Ketomella were burned down during the war in Lapland, so there are no original structures left. After the war, the village started to rebuild by building two shelters partially underground and one shelter above ground, and from there they continued to build the main buildings. The village used to reside below the hill, but now it was expanded to the top of the hill with two houses, because the crown farmland would have been taken away in the Great Partition, had there been no buildings on the farm.

Ketomella was long known for its cable ferry, which was used to cross the river Ounasjoki between 1970–1992, before the current bridge was built in the summer of 1993.

Ketomella is surrounded by beautiful hilly landscapes, cut by the Ounasjoki River. Hiking to the fells is easy from the village, just a short path through Hietajärvi will take you to the Pyhäkero fell by Hetta. Beyond the hills lies the lake Ketajärvi and its beautiful landscapes. In the village one, can experience all the sides of the nature in Lapland.



PELTOVUOMA

Peltovuoma is the meeting place of the villages on the east side of Enontekiö, which is cut into its own island by the lake Angelinjärvi and the rivers Pasmajoki and Vanhajoki. This village of old families invites you to experience the northern countryside life. Through the landscapes, travelers are greeted by old houses, red and grey barns, green meadows, fields, and fells. Reindeer, cows, sheep, and horses enjoy the Lappish nature and scenery during summertime. The villagers gather up by the old school to enjoy events, hobbies, and festivities. Craftsmanship is well alive in the village; you can even buy a real handmade wooden cup "kuksa" during your trip.

LOCATION

Peltovuoma is located on the east side of the Enontekiö municipality, about 30 km from Hetta.

POPULATION

About 160

ATTRACTIONS

Swimming beach:

Excellent swimming spot by the Pasmajoki river, right by Nunnasentie road. There is a fireplace shelter at the beach.

Talvadus:

Reindeer separating spot, where separation is held between November and January (3km towards the center of the village, by Käkkälöjoki River)

Santsi:

A pond by Nunnasentie road (the villagers called it the "health center" in the olden days, when the water from the pond was used for its healing powers).

SERVICES

Taxi services, activity services, coffee shop, crafts and accommodation services.

Peltovuoma has an active village association.

PELTOVUOMA IS ONE OF Enontekiö's (and higher Lapland's) oldest centers of population. The earliest mentions of the village are from medieval times, when the Lapp village in Peltjärvi took up a large part of Enontekiö. The Peltjärvi Lapp village is still not forgotten in the Peltovuoma village. Due to its long history, Peltovuoma village has rather long traditions as a community. It is still a lively and vibrant village, where different village events gather participants from far away to visit. The Peltovuoma of today has been named as one of Lapland's cultural landscape areas.

Peltovuoma has agriculture, fields, and cattle, which separates the village from other villages in Enontekiö. The center of the village is located on the island surrounded by the lake Angelinjärvi and the rivers Vanhajoki and Pasmajoki. You can see beautiful countryside with meadows and barns while passing through the town. The landscape is distinguished from normal countryside scenery by the line of fells in the horizon.

On the north side of the village lies the northern border of "the pine tree border". The northernmost spruce trees grow on the south side of the village. The livelihood of the villagers still mostly consists of agriculture and reindeer husbandry.

The village is located by the crossroads of three roads, two of which lead you to Kittilä and the third leads to Norway through Hetta and Kautokeino. Municipality center Hetta is only about 30 kilometers away. The location right in the middle of the great fell scenery and a nice distance away from a larger town center is one of the main attractive features of the village.



NUNNANEN

Nunnanen is a village that, unlike its name would suggest, has no nuns residing in it. People have been looking for them from time to time, even by some international guests. Old stories tell a tale of a nun pregnant with child, who was traveling towards north after being banished from her monastery. After a long journey, the nun ended up on the shores of Vieltojärvi Lake and decided to settle there. Perhaps the name of the village comes from this old tale. The village has its own kind of peaceful atmosphere, soft and hazy. Reindeer roam the forests in search of food. When you continue towards Kalmakaltio from the village, you end up at the sand ridges, "hietatievat". This dune area's landscape is unique. Nunnanen is a wonderful place to live a peaceful life. To guests, it is a place to see and experience. Here you can stop and quiet down in nature, almost like in a holy place.

LOCATION

Nunnanen is located north from the intersection from Peltovuoma, on the east side of Enontekiö. The village is about 40 km from Hetta.

POPULATION

About 70

ATTRACTIONS

Sand ridges (hietatievat):

Sand ridge protection area by the road leading to Kalmakaltio, about 8 km from Nunnanen.

Kalmakaltio:

Large, clear-watered, moss-based cold natural spring about 2 km before Kalmakaltion Loma accommodation services, on the east side of the road. There is a hiking and mountain biking route traveling from Enontekiö to Pöyrisjärvi Lake, and from there to Hetta through Näkkälä.

SERVICES

There are several accommodation services in the village, as well as wilderness safaris, repair shops and construction services. Possible activities in the village include hiking, mountain biking, skiing, hunting, fishing and guided day trips.

Nunnanen has an active village association.

NUNNANEN IS LOCATED on the east side of Enontekiö municipality. Its neighbouring village is the Peltovuoma village. On the side of Kittilä municipality, the neighbouring village is Pulju. Old stories suggest that the village gets its name from a nun that travelled to the village in the 15th century. The name "Nunnanen" likely comes from the Sámi language word "njunni", which means "nose, peak". The village lies on the peak of a ridge, which is clearly visible when arriving from the east. The village was destroyed during the war, and it has been rebuilt since 1945.

Essential parts of the village include the lakes Vieltojärvi and Venejärvi. The village can be divided into three areas: Venejärvenpää (Boat Lake's end), Keskikylä (Center village) and the reindeer farm area. In the surrounding areas flow the rivers Ylijoki and Käkkälöjoki, both of which are important old waterways. The most important livelihoods in the village are reindeer husbandry, hunting, fishing, and berry picking.

There are multiple swamp areas close to the village, which are active cloudberry picking areas. Reindeer husbandry traditions remain strong in the village.

Nunnanen is a peaceful village surrounded by nature and provides a gateway to the vast wilderness areas of Pulju and Pöyrisjärvi Lake. Nunnasentie road attaches the village to Kittilä and its airport, so the village's location is interesting in many regards. The village is very communal and offers a cozy place to enjoy Lappish nature for its residents and guests.



VUONTISJÄRVI

Vuontisjärvi village is known for its stories and its creative, gutsy people. The village is full of happenings and even some dramatic turn of events. One story tells the tale of Rovaniemi's infamous lake descent in the 19th century, which resulted in the river shifting its course. This became the current shape of Vuontisjärvi. The people in the village are famous for their singing and playing skills. In addition to musical talents, the people have a way around arranging events and creating an exciting atmosphere. During Christmastime, the village is lit up by beautiful ice lanterns, and Midsummer is celebrated by the beach. You cannot skip Vuontisjärvi village. One must experience its stories and ambience.

LOCATION

Vuontisjärvi is located on the east side of Enontekiö, about 18 km from Hetta.

POPULATION

About 110

ATTRACTIONS

Hietamella:

A sand ridge bare from any vegetation, which dominates the village scenery.

Raaskaltio:

The baptism place of the last witches.

Talvadus:

Reindeer separation spot.

SERVICES

Accommodation services, crafts shop, activity services.

Local association Vuontisjärven Viima and other associations arrange village activities, including UN day's march for peace, Midsummer celebration and other village outings.

VUONTISJÄRVI IS A village of approximately 110 residents, and it is located by a lake with the same name, around 20 km east from Hetta. Rovaniemi put the village on the map in 1861. Niku decided to dig a trench for his meadows by the underside of the lake, because the dry land was not producing as much hay as the meadows by the riverside. The plan failed, because the river broke free after getting a new pathway to flow, and the Vuontisjärvi Lake descended by six meters. The water took with it a lot of sandy ground, meadow barns and old pine trees. This event was the talk of the village for a long time, and it was a big misfortune for fishers and farmers in the area.

Through the ages, Vuontisjärvi village has been a typical area for natural sources of livelihood in Enontekiö. In addition to keeping cattle, the villagers have done fishing during the summers and hunting willow grouse during winters – the wilderness areas on the north side of the village provide great hunting grounds for this. There are some reindeer farms on the outskirts of the village, and they symbolise the importance of reindeer husbandry in Enontekiö.

The village was destroyed during the Lapland war, so there are no old buildings left in the area. The village consists of one-and-a-half-storied houses that were built after the war, and the fields between the houses. Some of the farmhouses today are located where the bottom of the lake used to be. This new, low building style has kept the village looking consistent with the old traditions.

The scenery from the village road to Ounas-Pallas fell is fabulous. Despite its relatively young buildings, Vuontisjärvi has had residents for a long time. The deer holes at Kurkkiorova, by the old river, refer to ancient hunting methods. There have also been some old Sámi habitats found in the village.

Vuontisjärvi is a lively and communal village with beautiful landscapes, located right by the municipality center – the village is just 15 minutes away from Hetta's services.



ENONTEKIÖ – Son rohki soma paikka ellää



LOCATION

Enontekiö's administrative center and church village Hetta is located by the Ounasjärvi Lake about 27 km from intersection of Käsivarrentie, highway 21.

POPULATION

About 630

ATTRACTIONS

Hetta is a great starting or ending point for the hiking and skiing path going through Pallas-Ounastunturi national park and several other winter and summer pathways. Pyhäkero, the first high peak of Ounastunturi fell, dominates the Village landscape. The location on the shores of Ounasjärvi Lake provides Hetta with great opportunities for kayaking, rowing, and other water sports. The main attractions in Hetta include the Fell Lapland Visitor Centre, Hetta church, Local History Museum (open during summer), Jypyrä hill and its nature trails, skiing slopes and frisbee golf tracks.

SERVICES

Hetta is the center of most services in the municipality. There is a primary school and a high school in the village. Hetta provides different education opportunities through courses from the Sámi Education Institute and Northern Lights Adult Education Centre. There are also services from the public sector and an office of Metsähallitus (state-owned forestry company). The service industry is in the center of Hetta's livelihood. There are multiple travel service providers in the village as well. Hotels, traditional bed and breakfasts, holiday villages with well-equipped cabins, high quality individual cottages and camping areas make sure that there is something available for everyone. There is an active village association in Hetta.

HETTA

Hetta has drawn people to it since the olden days. This place has been inhabited ever since the Stone Age. This beautiful little village by the lake Ounasjärvi is nowadays the administrative center of Enontekiö. Like its name suggests, Hetta is full of heat and life even during the coldest winter months. The people in the village are always warm and guests are welcomed with pleasure. The village celebrates "Väärtipäivät - Autumn Festival". Väärti means a friend, a person worth connecting with – something each villager and guest is here. There is always time for a story. The fell Ounastunturi protects Hetta and its people. A small snow bunting sings by the slopes of the fell, telling a tale of Hetta's natural beauty. Hetta enchants travellers with its small village charisma.

THERE HAVE BEEN signs of inhabitants found around Hetta belonging to the Stone Age. The area got its livelihood from hunting and fishing at first. At the end of the 17th, century reindeer husbandry spread also to Enontekiö area. The Sámi people who inhabited the area at the time did not build permanent housing but migrated with the seasons from hunting ground to hunting ground. Reindeer herding Sámi people moved with the reindeer from the forest area of Hetta all the way to the shores of the Arctic Ocean.

According to earlier written documentation, the first farmers settled on the shores of Ounasjärvi Lake between the 17th and the 18th century. The village name is associated with the settler Heikki Heikinpoika (Heikki's son) who came to the area from Hietaniemi in Ylitornio at 1697. The name Hetta was probably short for Hietaniemi. In the 19th century, it was decided that the church should be moved from Palojoensuu to Hetta, making Hetta the church village.

In addition to farming, the settlers in Hetta dabbled in fishing and hunting, and adopted reindeer herding in some capacity from the Sámi people who wintered in the area. There was an important trade route passing from Hetta, through Palojärvi and Kautokeino all the way to Bossekop in Alta. Another important route travelled through Palojoensuu to Tornio and Kilpisjärvi. The travel was made first on boat to Muotkajärvi and from there by dragging the boat to the next waterway. The gravel road from Muonio to Hetta through Palojoensuu was completed 1906-07. Around the same time, the first shop was opened in Hetta.

Famous veterinarian and writer Yrjö Kokko built a house to Hetta in 1952. The house named "Ungelontorppa" is located by Ounasjärvi Lake in a small cape "Ungelonnemi" in which he sought inspiration for his books about Enontekiö.

Nowadays Hetta is a lively municipality center, invigorated by the Hetta-Pallas hiking route, excellent opportunities for outdoor activities around the year and hospitable residents. Well-rounded services and the landscapes of Ounasjärvi lake and Ounastunturi fell invite many to move up north close to the wilderness.



ENONTEKIÖ – Son rohki soma paikka ellää



LEPPÄJÄRVI

The self-directed people of Leppäjärvi have made their village vibrant and lively. The vast fell scenery invites you to visit this village that has always gotten its livelihood from fishing, berry picking and reindeer husbandry. The people of Leppäjärvi are known for their craftsmanship. If you are in search of a new boat or sledge, you will find one here. The village is also known for the local healer J.H.A. Alamattila "Mattilan Äijä". According to the stories, he is the reason the village was saved from destruction during the war in Lapland. This is why today, there are still old buildings and habitats left to admire in Leppäjärvi. Take a walk in the open landscapes of Leppäjärvi and let the village heal you!

LOCATION

Leppäjärvi is located about 19 km from the village of Hetta, north of Ruijantie, which turns towards Norway.

POPULATION

About 125

ATTRACTIONS

Liankivaara hill:

Near the village, great views

The pinetree border:

The guide board put down by President Martti Ahtisaari on the TVL circulation, north of the village.

Leppäjärvi – Kultima-trail

The route is an old postal trail about 25 km long. It is easy to navigate and is partly marked with kilometer markers. The route is mostly dry forest, but in places, there are also wetlands, which do not have wooden pathways to cross over with. About 1 km north of the trail, there is also the beautiful clear-water Pahtajärvi, surrounded by rock walls.

SERVICES

Leppäjärvi village has accommodation services. Leppäjärvi has its own village association.

THE VILLAGE OF LEPPÄJÄRVI is located by Liankivaara around Leppäjärvi along the Hetta-Kautokeino highway, about 19 kilometers north of Hetta. There are extensive dry quicksand fields around Leppäjärvi. The village is next to a pine forest and also the northern border of the forest line. The village of Leppäjärvi survived the ravages of the Lapland War in its entirety. The local people believed that the village witch Alamattila protected the village from the enemy by witchery.

The village's first estate, Leppärova, was founded on 21.9.1762. Olof Olofinpoika Kihlanki, who came from Palojoensuu in Suontavaara, together with his wife Regina Heikintytär, settled in Leppäjärvi and changed their last name to Leppäjärvi as well. Their place of residence is nowadays known as Vanha Törmä.

Like many other villages, Leppäjärvi entered the history books in 1799 after Italian lawyer Giuseppe Acerbi and Swedish soldier and statesman Anders Fredrik Skjöldebrand visited the village on their way to Nordkapp. Both wrote a book about their trip.

Reindeer farming as an industry is a newcomer: it was only in the 1960s and 1970s that reindeer herding started as it is today. In general, reindeer had been used in the as "jutoporo", so called "bull reindeer" for pulling. The village got its livelihood from livestock farming: at its best, there could be 18 cattle in the barn. The Lapland cow was used as livestock, which the EU has recognized as native cattle.

The journey from Leppäjärvi to the municipal center takes less than a quarter of an hour by car. Leppäjärvi is located along the busy route to Norway, which enlivens the village and offers opportunities for livelihoods. Leppäjärvi is a beautiful village and in an excellent location, which makes it a good choice for travellers and migrants.



ENONTEKIÖ – Son rohki soma paikka ellää



PALOJÄRVI

Palojärvi village is open and has a sense of space. In addition to reindeer, the village is known for vendace. At the southern end of the village, you will find the old summer place of the Sámi people, where fireplaces and hut sites can still be seen. These days the center of the village is Galdotieva, where you can get coffee, food, gas, and a roof over your head at night. The people of Palojärvi are friendly. They will be happy to guide you to the most beautiful view: the wonderful village landscape beyond the lake that opens from a high hill.

LOCATION

Palojärvi is located about 26 km from Hetta along the Ruijantie road, which goes all the way to Norway.

ATTRACTIONS

Palojärvi

There are wonderful sandy lands on the shore of Lake Palojärvi.

Palojärvi – Salvasjärvi-route

The route is an approximately 20 km long trail between the villagers and the Salvasjärvi summer huts. It runs partly on the Norwegian side, so regulations applicable to border crossing must be taken into account. The route can also be traveled by mountain bike, although it is demanding due to swamps and the differences in terrain.

SERVICES

Gas station, electric car charging station, restaurant, souvenir shop, grocery shop and accommodation services with a beach sauna.

Palojärvi has a village association.

PALOJÄRVI IS A VILLAGE located 12 km from the Norwegian border, north of the forest border, along the Enontekiö - Kautokeino road, about 26 km north of Hetta. Palojärvi has been a traditional area inhabited by the Sámi people for a long time before a permanent settlement was built in the area. The village has been permanently inhabited since the 19th century. Also at these times, well-known explorers G. Acerbi and A.F. Skjöldebrand visited the village.

The biggest livelihood in the village has been reindeer husbandry, which is still practiced today. The village's means of livelihood have also been, for example, animal husbandry. Each house had a few cows, but they were given up in the late 60s. The village has a long tradition of handicrafts, like knitting Sámi costumes.

There is an old summer place of the Sámi people at the southern end of Palojärvi, where fireplaces and hut sites can still be seen. Salvasjärvi has an old reindeer separation place, a new one has been built next to the road. The war also did not touch the village of Palojärvi, because the Germans retreated through Näkkälä directly to Kautokeino.

The construction of the Kautokeino road from Hetta finished at the early 1960's

The houses of the village are located on the west bank of Lake Palojärvi. The lake often freezes enough to ice skate already at the beginning of winter. The former building of the Border Guard is in Palojärvi next to Galdotieva. Kivilompolo customs station is located 10 kilometers from Palojärvi towards Norway.

Palojärvi has a special landscape. The open terrain has low birch trees, a lake landscape and rolling hills where the eye rests. The village is an excellent place to stop for coffee or to stay for a longer period.



ENONTEKIÖ – Son rohki soma paikka ellää



LOCATION

Nartteli is located about 32 km from Hetta along Näkkäläntie.

ATTRACTIONS

Järvikäisenharju ridge and the wonderful landscapes that open up from it.

NARTTELI

Nartteli is a village surrounded by bodies of water. The Nartteli lakes consist of Little Nartteli near the roads, Narttelijoki River running in between and Big Nartteli a little further away. In the village, you get to experience the north side of the forest border, the vegetation is sparse dry forest ground, the kind where even a reindeer has to search for a bite. Here, the reindeer herder men and women of the past, walking in the summer and skiing or traveling on reindeer in the winter, stopped to have a fire, eat, and rest. The village of Nartteli invites you to follow the reindeer tracks and listen to the sounds of the forest.

THE VILLAGE OF NARTTELI is located about five kilometers from the village of Palojärvi. Nartteli is on the side of the road from Palojärvi to Näkkälä, and there is 10 km from Nartteli to Näkkälä. Incredibly beautiful landscapes open up from Nartteli, where you can see several fells, lakes, etc., almost 10 kilometers away. Nartteli is located on the north side of the pine tree line, and the vegetation is sparse dry forest.

Nartteli is an important Reindeer herding area, where people from the olden days, walking in the summer, skiing in the winter and traveling on reindeer, stopped to fire, eat and rest. The old reindeer herders say that Nartteli is a very familiar place to spend the night: "there have been many nights spent in Nartteli, long before houses were built there!" They lived in a hut and a shed. Places of old fireplaces from those times can still be seen in Nartteli.

The ridges of Nartteli are a region well known to the Sámi of the older generation as "Snártel" – in the Sámi language and means "bluebill". Nartteli is an area rich in birds, both in summer and winter. Due to its high location, Nartteli is usually several degrees warmer in winter than the surrounding villages of Palojärvi, Näkkälä and Leppäjärvi, sometimes even by 5-10 degrees. And that's why it's a favorable area for winter birds like grouse and the Grey-headed chickadee, as well as other birds. In the Finnish language, the place was previously also called Järvikäinenharju. The handsome, tall hill "Harju" of its name is located at the end of the village on the Näkkälä side.

When passing the village of Nartteli, you feel like slowing down – and not only because of the twisting of the road, but also because of the landscape, with its rolling, lake-filled terrain that catches your eye.



ENONTEKIÖ – Son rohki soma paikka ellää



NÄKKÄLÄ

The traditional Sami village Näkkälä awaits you at the end of the road. Its original means of livelihood, reindeer husbandry and fishing, have remained strong until today. Näkkälä is still a place where you can get to know the original natural economy. There is also an old holy place in the village, Näkkälä's own "seita-kivi". From Näkkälä you can also reach the wilderness of Pöyrisjärvi. The open landscape is beautified by the huge Pöyrisjärvi, which serves as a starting point for a trail that goes all the way to Kalmakaltio. From Näkkälä to Hetta there is also an old postal path, along which you can now also cycle and enjoy the northern wind and scenery.

LOCATION

Näkkälä Village can be reached by driving on a paved road about 10 kilometers east of Palojärvi.

ATTRACTIONS

The Näkkälä Seita:

An old place of worship on the shore of Lake Näkkäläjärvi.

Pöyrisjärvi:

Juniper sand dunes and the wonderful sandy beaches of Pöyrisjärvi.

Hetta-Näkkälä postal path:

There is an open wilderness hut along the postal path from Hetta to Näkkälä, it is popular with mountain bikers.

SERVICES

Näkkälä village offers accommodation services, program services/safari services and transportation services.

A village association operates in Näkkälä.

NÄKKÄLÄ IS A VILLAGE

inhabited by Sami families located on the ends of the Näkkäläjoki River, which flows into the Ounasjoki River. The houses in the village are mainly built on a peninsula that goes into the Syväjärvi Lake. Meadows and potato fields surround the village buildings. Old deer traps can still be seen around the village.

An old footpath leads from Näkkälä to the Hetta church and a cross-country track leads to the Pöyrisjärvi summer huts. A trade and winter road used to pass through the village from Enontekiö to Kautokeino and on to Alta's marketplace on the shores of the Arctic Ocean. In front of the village, on the shore of Lake Näkkälä, there is a stone boulder about 3.5 meters high, which according to tradition, was and still is the "seita" or sacrificial stone of the Sámi people.

Näkkälä has some old buildings, e.g. In Aittaniemi, Syynitieva and Niemelä. People in Näkkälä also lived in traditional hut settlements for a relatively long time compared to other villages.

Through Näkkälä there is a route to the wonderful landscapes of Pöyrisjärvi National Park, through which you can hike all the way to Kalmakaltio.

For many, the village is a checkpoint when hiking along the old postal trail from Hetta or as a starting point for a trail to the Pöyrisjärvi wilderness area. For others, a village is a place whose nature provides a livelihood and a place to relax, as well as a community and a home.



ENONTEKIÖ – Son rohki soma paikka ellää



SUONTTAJÄRVI

68.3949°N, 23.2204°E



MUOTKAJÄRVI

68.3180°N, 23.3422°E

LOCATION

Muotkajärvi is located about 15 km from Hetta.

ATTRACTIONS

There is a bird watching tower on the shore of Lake Sotkajärvi, which is an excellent place for watching various Lapland birds. The bird watching tower is easily accessible along a wooden path. There are also benches, tables and a fireplace before the path leading to the bird watching tower, which allows you to remain birdwatching for a longer time. The day hut of Metsähallitus is located in Muotkajärvi.

SERVICES

There is rental accommodation in the Muotkajärvi area. Muotkajärvi has an active village association.

SUONTTAJÄRVI

Lake Suonttajärvi is named after the old Suonttavaara, an important Lapp Village of the past, located along the Palojoki. Now the village is quiet. In its forests and by the lake, you can still feel the past.

SUONTTAJÄRVI IS AN old Lapp Village located along the Palojoki, where the Suonttavaara Lapp Village used to be. Suonttavaara had a significant position as a village center when Enontekiö was divided into the Lapp Villages of Rounala, Suonttavaara and Pieltojärvi. There is no permanent settlement there anymore, and there is no highway leading to the village. Suonttajärvi can be reached by quad bike from Palojoensuu and Muotkajärvi, as well as by foot.

MUOTKAJÄRVI

Muotkajärvi village is, as its name suggests, known for the act of “muotkia”, which means dragging a boat from waterway to another. When there is a point in the rapids that you cannot continue by the water, you must bypass it on the ground. Muotkajärvi is an excellent transit route, but it is also worth a longer visit. This crossroads is a quiet little lakeside village surrounded by vast forests, fells, marshes, lakes and rivers. You can refresh yourself in nature alongside with the forest birds. You can also watch birds from the village’s own Sotkajärvi bird watching tower. Stop and take a moment to breathe with us in the peace of Lake Muotkajärvi, while the birds sing.

THE VILLAGE OF MUOTKAJÄRVI is along the road Hetantie. Its special features are the large Muotkajärvi Lake, in the vicinity of which the population is largely concentrated, and the municipal airport on the other side of the road. The name Muotkajärvi comes from the Sámi word “muotkut”, which means pulling a boat from one body of water to another. The village is an old place for reindeer husbandry, its villagers have “jutanneet” ie. moved with the reindeer to Pöyrisjärvi and back.

From Muotkajärvi there is a postal path to Suonttajärvi, which also connects with the Kultima-Leppäjärvi path. The postal path, numerous lakes and vast forests offer good opportunities for hobbies in the beautiful nature of the area. The central location between the municipal center, the Ruijantie junction and the Käsivarrentie junction also makes Muotkajärvi an attractive place to live.



ENONTEKIÖ – Son rohki soma paikka ellää



LOCATION

Palojoensuu is located along highway 21 after about 17 km from Sonkamuotka and 26 km from Hetta. Vähäniva is about 9 km away from Palojoensuu from highway 21, going straight.

ATTRACTIONS

Memorial:

A memorial for Enontekiö's fourth church.

SERVICES

In the Palojoensuu area, there are accommodation services, safari services, drapery, carpentry, cleaning services and massage services. There is an active village association in Palojoensuu.

PALOJOENSUU

Palojoensuu is, as its name "palo" suggests, full of burning desire. Back in the 19th century, when the Markkina church was demolished, its logs were floated and lowered along the waterway. The journey of the logs continued all the way to the shore of Palojoensuu village. The church was built on the spot and Palojoensuu village served as a church village until 1856. The village is a crossroads of both roads and rivers. The villagers are known for being awake even before the rooster crows. In the evenings, you can walk to the Palojoensuu bridge to admire the river in both directions. Here, new passion, new ideas and the will to do things are kindled in the heart.

PALOJOENSUU IS LOCATED along the banks of Muonionjoki and Palojoki. The village ends at the Swedish border in the west. The village is 26 km from Hetta, the municipal center of Enontekiö. The environment of Palojoensuu village is very varied. There are hills, rivers, swamps, small lakes and fields all around. Like most of the villages in Enontekiö, the village of Palojoensuu was completely destroyed in the war. Palojoensuu was one of the battle sites in the final phase of the Lapland war in 1944-45.

The so-called "Four Winds Road" starts from Palojoensuu. The writer Yrjö Kokko gave the name to the road in 1947. The road partially existed already in 1939. The route itself is an ancient winter road Palojoensuu - Kaaresuvanto - Kilpisjärvi - Arctic Ocean in Norway's Skibotn, or Jyykeän-perä. The road is also known as the Northern Lights road.

Enontekiö's fourth church was located in Palojoensuu from 1827 to 1856, until it was demolished due to the new church built in Hetta. A memorial has been placed on the site of the old church and services are held on the site of the old church in the summer.

Palojoensuu's beautiful village milieu, hilly landscape and rivers entice you to spend the night in the village. The lively village community, the spirit of doing things together, village events and the location between the municipal centers of Enontekiö and Muonio are tempting to choose Palojoensuu as your home.

VÄHÄNIVA

Vähäniva is a village founded by a forest ranger. The trade was passed on to the next generation as well, and the next generation after that continued as a police officer. This chain of generations is present in the village. "Niva" means a fast-flowing part of the river. Vähäniva might be exactly the point where the river slows down. Here in the village of rivers and forests, you too can take it a little slower and enjoy the magic of the northern forests.

VÄHÄNIVA IS LOCATED along the river Muonionjoki in the neck of Tapokoski. There are currently a few houses in the village, some of which are used for vacationing. There are some unused crop fields in the village. The environment is a hilly ridge landscape and extensive swamp areas.



ENONTEKIÖ – Son rohki soma paikka ellää



LOCATION

Sonkamuotka is the first village when arriving at Enontekiö from highway 21. Hetta is about 44 km from Sonkamuotka. Äijäjoki is located about 40 km from Hetta. Saivomuotka is located about 49 km from Hetta.

SERVICES

Accommodation services, coffee shops, grocery shops, equipment rental services and a restaurant can be found in the area.

SONKAMUOTKA

Sonkamuotka is known as the “Gate of Enontekiö” and in old times, it served as the border of Lapland (Lapinraja). It is a southern border village where travelers come to the first services. The villagers have become known for their entrepreneurial spirit. One entrepreneur started by bringing goods for sale to the side of the road with milk carts in the 1960s. Here, travelers can still enjoy the services of local entrepreneurs on both sides of the road. So welcome to Sonkamuotka. Here we meet travelers with a big heart.

FOR A LONG TIME, Sonkamuotka has been a business village that has built its livelihood on passers-by. Nowadays an accommodation company, a cafe and a souvenir shop operate in the area. One of the local companies has already started selling in 1968 by bringing goods for sale to the side of the road with a milk cart.

Sonkamuotka functions as the “Gate of Enontekiö”, a southern border village where travelers come to the first services. There are excellent route connections to the highway and the Victoria trail in addition to the road that passes through the village. The old “border of Lapland” used to be in Sonkamuotka under Swedish rule, and there are buildings preserved from the Lapland war.

Sonkamuotka is still a busy gateway to Enontekiö, where travelers stop for shops, coffee and food. In addition to the services, the location on the border of the municipality along the road Käsivarrentie, on the bank of the border river, i.e. the channel, is also a good place to live.

ÄIJÄJOKI & SAIVOMUOTKA

6 KILOMETERS TO THE NORTH from Sonkamuotka is the village of Äijäjoki. The known landmarks of Äijäjoki are the meandering river of Äijäjoki descending from Äijäjärvet lakes and the eye-catching sandy ridges.

About 6 kilometers long road turns from Sonkamuotka to Saivomuotka. Saivomuotka has a twin village of the same name on the Swedish side of Muonionjoki. Today, the village has many vacation residents thanks to the scenery that opens up along the banks of the Muonionjoki River.



ENONTEKIÖ – Son rohki soma paikka ellää

KULTIMA

In the middle of Kultima village, there is a row of mailboxes at the foot of a lonely pine tree. This is illuminated by one streetlight, which the village calls "Kultima's light spot". Kultima village itself is like a small, surprising spot of light in the heart of the wilderness. Old buildings have been preserved in Kultima. By following the old forest path, you can get to the village of Leppäjärvi, for example. There is something sweet about this little village of Kultima. Even the first resident who came to Kultima said, "This is a real land of gold"

THE SMALL VILLAGE of Kultima, located in the valley of the Tarvanjoki River, adapts well to the landscape of the hilly terrain enlivened by small lakes. Traditional buildings have been preserved in the village. Reindeer husbandry has been practiced in Kultima for a long time, it still keeps the village vibrant, and its importance to the reindeer husbandry of Palojärvi village and Erkuna Siida has been significant. An old, decommissioned path about 18 kilometers long starts from the village of Kultima to the village of Leppäjärvi. The route is mostly easy to navigate, except for a few swamps and the crossing of Palojoki River. It is perfectly suitable for horseback riding or mountain biking.

KUTTANEN

The village of Kuttanen is surrounded by beautiful lakes and rivers. The best way to recognize a villager is that they are fishing. Guests are also offered the opportunity for an unforgettable fishing trip in the scenery of Kuttanen. The Muonionjoki River also flows in the area, which serves as a passageway for both villagers and visitors. This waterway connects all the villages of Enontekiö. The people of Kuttanen, who draw their strength from the river and fish, are an enterprising people. Here they even build roads together. You, too, can easily reach Kuttanen by road or river. During winter, you can also take the ice road from here to the village of Kuttainen on the Swedish side.

KUTTANEN IS AN active and enterprising village, where working together has always been the spirit of the people. On the other side of the river, on the Swedish side, is the village of Kuttainen, with e.g. a shop which also villagers of Kuttanen use, school and sports hall. According to the stories, Pekka Antinpoika Kuttainen, who was from Haapakylä in Ylitornio, arrived at the site of the current Kuttainen village - Tullinkisuvanto - as early as 1650. In winter, an ice road built by the village committees connects the villages to each other.

During the war, when the Germans burned most of Lapland to the ground, not a single house was left standing in the village of Kuttanen. However, after the war, houses and villages began to rebuild. In the village of Kuttanen, half a dozen houses, a shop and buildings for both the forest ranger and customs were built. From Kautokeino, Leppäjärvi, Palojärvi and Hetta, many people went to trade reindeer products for food on the Swedish side. Residents made a living from reindeer husbandry, agriculture, handicrafts, and "jobbing", i.e. trading to Sweden, which was common at that time.

The lively village community and the location on the riverbank, along the highway 21, make the village a good place to live and enjoy yourself.



KULTIMA

68.4594°N, 22.9427°E



KUTTANEN

68.3873°N, 22.8432°E

LOCATION

The village of Kuttanen is located along the Muonionjoki River at the western border of Enontekiö municipality. The village is crossed by highway 21, along which the distance to Kilpisjärvi is 130 km.

Kultima village is located 10 kilometers northeast of Kuttanen village.

SERVICES

In Kuttanen village, you can find program service providers for fishing trips, accommodation services and a cafe/restaurant. There is also a reindeer farm in the village that you can visit. In winter, an ice route runs across the river from the village to Sweden to the Kuttainen side. Traditional handicrafts are practiced in Kultima. There is a village association in Kuttanen.



ENONTEKIÖ – Son rohki soma paikka ellää



JATUNI

In Jatuni, you get to sit on the giant's back. The village also got its name from the local ridge Jatuninselkä. It may be that the giants here have been building from stone and wood throughout the ages. As a reminder of this, the remains of an old collapsed stone bridge were used to build Jatuni Stone Garden. It may be that the construction skills were passed on to the villagers from these giants that inhabited the village. And so the village of Jatuni has become known for its builders, who have built boats, sledges and houses.

LOCATION

Jatuni is located about 58 km from Hetta, about 7 km before the village of Kaaresuvanto along highway 21.

ATTRACTIONS

Jatuni Stone Garden, founded by Sven Pahajoki, is an excellent place to stop and take a break. There is also an information board with Jatuni's story. On the Muonionjoki River, a couple of hundred meters north of the village, there are "bad stones", i.e. the feet of the Jatuni giant. The river almost is blocked at this point. There is also a giant's kettle, "hiidenkirnu" in the area.

SERVICES

Accommodation services are available in the village.

JATUNI, "GIANT", is named after the local ridge Jatuninselkä. After the Norwegian/Finnish border was closed in 1852, a farm began operating in the area and the village was founded. The founders of the village of Jatuni were reindeer herders and experts in construction, from which the villagers have derived much of their income to this day. Over the years, the village has built e.g. sledges and boats, and they have mastered log construction and masonry. Construction professionals live in the village and sledges are still made.

The village has permanent residents, but more leisure residents and cabin vacationers. A lot of salmon comes up from the rapids at Muonionjoki, which makes Jatuni an excellent destination for fishermen. Jatuni is located on Käsivarrentie road, close to Kaaresuvanto's services. The interesting stories intertwined in the village, the gifts of the river and marshes, and the beautiful northern nature offer even the residents a reason to stay.



LOCATION

Kaaresuvanto is located along highway 21 about 65 km from Hetta village and about 109 km from Kilpisjärvi.

POPULATION

About 270

ATTRACTIONS

Kaaresuvanto Chapel

There is a chapel built in 1985 in Kaaresuvanto, where services are held about once a month.

The Border Bridge

The border bridge between Finland and Sweden is an excellent place to admire the border channel of the Muonionjoki River, which can rise even to the bridge during spring floods.

Hiking routes

From the village, you can go up to Lavivaara hill, where you have a beautiful view of the Tarvantovaara wilderness. The route continues to Syväjärvi wilderness hut. The Kaaresuvanto-Syväjärvi route is about 20 km long and easy to navigate. The path can be traveled on foot or by mountain bike. A path to Sakkaravaara also leaves from the village, and the path functions as a cross-country ski trail during winter.

In Karesuando on the Swedish side, you can see a fine wooden church built in 1905 and the Laestadius cabin.

SERVICES

Good services can be found in Kaaresuvanto: the village offers safari services, cabin accommodation, a hotel, a car repair shop, towing service, taxi transport, cleaning service, a gas station cafe and a souvenir shop.

Kaaresuvanto has an active village association called Gaskkas ry.

KAARESUVANTO

The village of Kaaresuvanto lives on the border: the villages on the Finnish and Swedish sides are like twins separated by a river. The wide river and the bridge crossing it are part of the character of Kaaresuvanto. The history of the village is colorful. Back in the day, "jobbers" or traders smuggled, among other things, moonshine, tobacco and coffee from Sweden across the border to the Finnish side. The village still has its own exciting atmosphere. The village has been a center of trade and meetings. Today Kaaresuvanto, as its name suggests, is above all a stream pool where you can enjoy the flowing and international atmosphere of the village.

KAARESUVANTO IS A village on the banks of the Muonionjoki River, partly on the Finnish side and partly on the Swedish side (Karesuando), from where it is 110 km to Kilpisjärvi and 88 km to Muonio along highway 21. The villages are on two sides of the border river and the bridge connection is year-round (since 1980). In addition to Finnish, also Swedish, Sámi and Norwegian are spoken in the villages, so the atmosphere is international.

A pine border runs through Kaaresuvanto, so the area mainly grows birch forest, of which fell birch has a significant share. Kaarevaara hill on the Swedish side gives Kaaresuvanto an impressive background, behind which the sun does not appear until the end of January. From the top of Kaarevaara, you can see the wilderness and fells of Lapland hundreds of kilometers away. The vicinity of Kaaresuvanto includes Kuttanen, Jatuni, Markkina, Vikkuri, Maunu, Luspa, Saarenpää and Kelottijärvi on the Finnish side and Saivomuotka, Paittasjärvi, Sudjavaara, Maunu, Mertajärvi and Idivuoma on the Swedish side.

According to stories, Matti Martinpoika and Niilo Niilonpoika Niva founded the village in 1673. People used to live by combining different livelihoods, such as agriculture, cattle breeding, reindeer husbandry, fishing and hunting. Kaaresuvanto used to be a well-known marketplace and church village. At Christmas and Easter, the people of Kautokeino and the people of Ylipärä gathered to celebrate a church festival, which lasted for two weeks at a time. During the war in Lapland, the Germans burned the Finnish side of Kaaresuvanto to the ground as they retreated towards the Arctic Ocean. The village is built on post-war ruins.

For centuries, people representing different cultures have lived in Kaaresuvanto. Trading was lively in the river valley and some of Lapland's oldest church and marketplaces can be found right here. Muonionjoki River has been a busy passage between the Arctic Ocean and the Gulf of Bothnia, especially during the winter. Even at the beginning of the last century, reindeer tracks moving on the river in winter were the most important form of transport for goods and people. Lapland's trade goods were also internationally valuable and good sledge reindeer were precious. That's why reindeer sleds were not transported alone.

The welcoming, multicultural and, as a twin village, international community still welcomes travelers and new residents. Here, people live on both sides of the border.



ENONTEKIÖ – Son rohki soma paikka ellää



MARKKINA

Markkina used to be, as its name suggests, a significant square and market place where traders from different parts of Northern Finland met each other. There was also a church in the village, the logs of which were floated down the Muonionjoki to Palojoensuu. Nowadays, an outdoor service is organized in the old churchyard forest. The market is surrounded by vast northern marshes.

The Lätäseno River flowing down from the east joins the Könkämäeno River here and continues as the Muonionjoki. These big rivers, as their name suggests, always brings a new flow to the village from their journeys. Along the river, you can ascend into the heart of the wilderness; even up to Halti fell. The villagers of Markkina invite you to join the authentic Lapland way of life, where there is always something new to see.

LOCATION

Markkina is located on the west side of Enontekiö along highway 21, about 74 km from Hetta.

ATTRACTIONS

In the Markkina area, there are wonderful outdoor recreation areas and routes with many attractions along the way: Lake Kuohnajärvi, Seitavuopio sacred area with "seitakivi" sacred stone. Autsanen's path and the road to Nunastunturi, a viewpoint that is excellent for birdwatching.

Lätäseno

Lätäseno is a particularly well known fishing spot, where salmon also rise. Lätäseno is easily accessible either on foot, by boat, by bicycle or even by plane.

The old sacrificial pine tree

Sámi sacrifice and worship place in Markkina.

Churchyard

The site of Enontekiö's former church with a beautiful grove. There are outdoor services organized in the grove from time to time.

Rounala church site:

Enontekiö church was located in Rounala in the years 1500-1796.

SERVICES

There are accommodation and safari services located in the village.

MARKKINA CHURCH SITE was the administrative center of northern Western Lapland from the 17th century to the 1820s.

The church site, cemetery and churchyard are located on top of the hill at the joining of Lätäseno and Könkämäeno. There have been finds of artifacts from prehistoric times in the area, such as pits, huts and shelters, living fields and places of worship referring to the Sámi Iron Age.

The English archaeologist Edward Daniel Clarke has described Finland in his work series "Travels in Various Countries of Europe, Asia and Africa". During his trip to Finland in July 1799, he visited the then church village of Markkina with his expedition to fly a hot air balloon, which aroused great wonder among the locals. Edward Daniel Clarke and Erik Grape, vicar of Enontekiö, organized Lapland's first aviation days.

After the peace of 1809, the Markkina church was dismantled and put on a raft, on which it was floated to Palojoensuu, where the church was set up in 1826.

In the area of Markkina's former church land, there are trenches made during the Second World War as guard stations and observation points. Markkina served as a light field fortress for the Finns against Järämä, which was fortified by the Germans.

The hand-carved wood birds of Lauri Pappila, who lived in Markkina, are permanently housed in the Fell Lapland Visitor Centre in Hetta.

In the village, residents and travelers can get to know the colorful history of the place and the landscapes of the Lätäseno and Enontekiö wilderness. When traveling from the village to the north, the big fells soon begin, rising all the way to Norway.



LOCATION

Maunu about 12 kilometers from Kaaresuvanto
Vikkuri about 13 kilometers from Kaaresuvanto
Luspa about 20 kilometers from Kaaresuvanto
Kelottijärvi about 23 kilometers from Kaaresuvanto

ATTRACTIONS

Järämä fortress station, 16 km from Kaaresuvanto.

SERVICES

There are accommodation services in the villages of Maunu and Vikkuri.

MAUNU, LUSPA & KELOTTIJÄRVI

MAUNU IS A twin village in the municipalities of Enontekiö and Kiiruna, whose Swedish side Maunu is located on the opposite bank of the Muonionjoki River. All those going in the direction of Kilpisjärvi drive past Maunu. However, it is also worth stopping in the area and climbing on top of Mustavaara hill, from where the landscape opens up to the villages of Maunu in Finland and Sweden. The point in Maunu, where the road connects to the fairway, is a central place for the village.

LUSPA IS LOCATED a short distance from the village of Vikkuri. There is an old farm on the shore of Luspajärämä in the village. On the other side of the village is Luspavaara, over which the paths go all the way to the top of Nunasvaara. From the village, a beautiful fell landscape opens up on the other side of the Muonionjoki River.

KELOTTIJÄRVI IS A SMALL VILLAGE on the shore of Kelottijärvi inhabited by vacation residents. The route from Kelottijärvi to Autsasenkursu gorge is easily accessible by foot from which an easy-to-pass path also branches off to the top of Nunasvaara.

VIKKURI

Vikkuri is mysterious and unpredictable. The village reveals its uniqueness only to those who visit there. The Järämä fortress area is located next to Vikkuri. It is a fortress area called Sturmbock-Stellung, built by the Germans in 1943-44, whose mission was to protect the German ports in the Arctic Ocean. The wartime atmosphere and related memories will still reach you in the Järämä museum. When you continue from Vikkuri towards Kilpisjärvi, you will reach the village of Luspa. From Nunasvaara, in addition to the fortress stations, you can admire the wilderness areas of Tarvantovaara.

LOCATED NEXT TO VIKKURI is Järämä, a restored part of the Sturmbock-Stellung fortress area built by the Germans in 1943-44, whose task was to protect the ports of the Arctic Ocean.

Unified fortresses were built across the area from Könkämäeno to the Norwegian side. Tens of kilometers of running and connecting trenches, dugouts, tanks, rocket launcher and machine gun emplacements, and hundreds of firing emplacements. In addition, roads were built.

In 1944, after Finland concluded an armistice with the Soviet Union, the war in Lapland began. The Germans began to withdraw towards Norway. At its peak, there were 12,000 German soldiers stationed in Järämä. The Finns had followed the retreating German troops and arrived in front of the Järämä fortifications in November 1944. The Finnish troops settled in the village of Markkina, about 8 kilometers away from the Germans. Apart from a few scuffles, the troops did not have actual battle contact.



ENONTEKIÖ – Son rohki soma paikka ellää



LOCATION

Ropinsalmi is located about 116 km from Hetta, about 57 km from Kilpisjärvi. Pättikkä is located about 108 km from Hetta and about 65 km from Kilpisjärvi.

ATTRACTIONS

A path starts from Pättikkä, along which you can get close to Aatsa's wilderness hut. The hut is located in Könkämäeno on the southeast shore of the pond in the western branch of Aatsajoki, which flows from Tarjutunturi fell.

SERVICES

Café Ropinpirtti is located in Ropinsalmi.

ROPINSALMI

The attractive coffee oasis of Ropinsalmi, Ropin Pirtti, in the middle of Enontekiö area, has served the residents of Ropijärvi's shore and stopped people here throughout the ages. There has always been a special creativity and relaxation here. The bus is also known to have transported reindeer and cows when necessary. Guests and villagers are still served in Ropinsalmi with the same relaxed attitude, "in Ropi's style" so to speak.

ROPINSALMI IS IN AN excellent location in terms of natural economy, such as fishing, hunting and picking berries, by the beautiful fells and hills, near the channel Könkämäeno. Ropinsalmi is especially well known among tourists and locals for the Ropin Pirtti located there. Ropin Pirtti was built in 1965 and the people of Ropinsalmi still feel that it is the most central spot in the village.

Before Ropin Pirtti, Ropinsalmi also had Kievaritalo house, Siiri's kiosk, so it has always been known as a tourist stop. The Benjamin's house was also a well-known building.

The village is located in the middle of unique nature, which also offers excellent opportunities for outdoor activities like walking with the dog on Ropinpolku path. A hiker can walk in the wilderness even as far as Halti fell.

Next to Lake Ropijärvi lies an old sami village of Ropinjärvenperä. After the wars, it was a village of five houses and about 20-30 residents. Today only a few lives in the area yet it still is an important pasture for the reindeer.

The stories of Ropinsalmi also include a bus driver who has transported people, goods, mail and, if necessary, reindeer and cows in the area. There were no real timetables at the time either, but the children traveling on the bus knew that it would wait until everyone was on board – often with other passengers. Stories and community still keep the village alive.

PÄTTIKKÄ

Pättikkä means a short steep part of the rapids. In the village of Pättikkä lived perhaps the most famous Enontekiö resident, Nils-Aslak Valkeapää, aka the legendary "Ailu", "Áillohaš". This is where Ailu drew content for his poems and songs. While walking in nature, he made friends with birds. Maybe while passing by the village, you too will find your own songbird for your travels!

PÄTTIKKÄ IS BEST KNOWN for Nils-Aslak Valkeapää who lived there, who was a prominent Sámi artist and is known internationally for his art and representation of Sámi culture.

At Pättikkä, the road cuts through a rolling, open wilderness, a scenery which reindeers pasture. A scenery worth stopping to admire. In the landscape you can distinguish wonderful wind deposits created on ridges.



ENONTEKIÖ – Son rohki soma paikka ellää



LOCATION

Iitto is about 127 km from Hetta, about 47 km from Kilpisjärvi

ATTRACTIONS

There is an approximately 400m long duckboard trail in Iitto, equipped with signposts, where you can visit palsa peat mounds and get to know the nature of the area. The trail is walkable in summer, when there are plenty of birds to be seen in the swamp area.

IITTO

Iitto has long been known as “a village of one smoke”, today as a village of three families. The secret of Iitto’s appeal is probably in the peat mounds “palsa”. Palsa peat mounds still function as a habitat for their own species. This sight is becoming increasingly rare, as the palsa peat mounds are disappearing. In the past, palsas were also used to preserve food. Insects thrive in fields, and various birds come to the village after them. The Iitto swamp also gives new strength to the guests of the village. There is something mysterious about these mounds!

IITTO IS LOCATED in an excellent location in terms of natural economy, such as fishing, hunting and picking berries, by the beautiful hilly landscape close to the Könkämäeno River. Iitto is known, among other things, for its endangered palsa peat mounds and its extensive birdlife.

Iitto has been selected as a good place to reside and live, because most of the villagers have roots in the village since childhood and the family has lived there for several generations. The village means the best place in the world to its residents, which tells a lot about its importance. The village is located in the middle of unique nature, which also offers excellent opportunities for outdoor activities, such as walking on the service road leading to the Lammasoivi windmills.

The village of Iitto was founded in 1883, when a bed and breakfast was built in the area. For more than 100 years, until the end of the 19th century, Iitto has been “a village of only one smoke”. Later, Iitto was known as the “village of three brothers”, whose households made up the village.

The war in Lapland evacuated the people in the village and left behind only the ruins of the buildings. Some things were gained from the war as well, because the Kilpisjärvi road was built together with the Germans. The wartime has left many memories in the area. There are a lot of pottery and other wartime fortress excavations around the area. Scrap metal and even the shoe of an alpine jäger has been found in the bottom of a pond. Even earlier, the First World War has shaken the region, when thousands of men and horses have marched through Iitto and Ropinsalmi.

A recent story mentions the habit spreading among today’s younger people of driving through Iitto without breathing. Iitto is not a very big place, so this can be quite an easy task. Iitto is also known for playing volleyball in the village.



ENONTEKIÖ – Son rohki soma paikka ellää

KILPISJÄRVI

When you travel close to the Norwegian border, you will find the most famous of Enontekiö's villages. It is known from many tales, the small but vibrant Kilpisjärvi. The landscape of the village is painted by Saana fell, known internationally for its beauty.

Saana's character is soft despite her sharp and impressive features; time has worn away its edges. The fell is like an ancient polypore with enough wisdom to share with every passerby. As the northern lights shine above Saana in the beautiful starlit sky, you can hear it humming contentedly. As if it knew the secret to life.

The mountain peaks greet the people of Kilpisjärvi from the Norwegian and Swedish sides. In the air you can feel the chill of the glacial sea, which at the same time feels like a cleansing breath. Fill your lungs with air, and let Saana whisper her secrets to you. This village on the border of three nations is always full of stories and friends.

THE VILLAGE OF KILPISJÄRVI is located right on the border between Norway and Sweden. Historically, Kilpisjärvi is a very young village, as the village's Finnish history only begins at the beginning of the 20th century. In the past, the large fells have been the living and enjoyment area of the Sámi people. In 1915, the first residents came to Kilpisjärvi village. However, the war in Lapland destroyed the settlement.

Due to its location, Kilpisjärvi is in a central location when traveling from Finland to the shores of the Arctic Ocean, Skibotn. For centuries, Kilpisjärvi has been an important transit point. The first house in the village was the Siilas-tupa house built in early 1900's. In 1940's a border guard, customs, TVL base and the Kilpisjärvi Tourist Hotel were built. In 1964, the Biological Station of the University of Helsinki was built. All the buildings in the village consists of post-war, scattered brick, log and wooden houses. The first houses were built in 1980's and school was built in 1982, which allowed settling of families with children. Many famous people have lived in the village, e.g. Justus Montell, forest ranger, on whose proposal the Malla nature park was founded and e.g. writers known as Yrjö Kokko, Väinö Oinonen, Yrjö Metsälä and Asko Kaikusalo.

Livelihoods in the village used to be hunting and fishing which are practiced also today. Horses drove cargo to Skibotn, where there was a big market in September and February. Malla rises on the west side of Kilpisjärvi and Saana-tunturi on the east side. All of Finland's 15 peaks rising to more than 1000 meters are located in area of Enontekiö municipality.

Nowadays, due to tourism, Kilpisjärvi is a lively place where many families with children also live. The shopping center in the center of the village serves the residents and travelers of the village all year round. The village has excellent opportunities for hobbies and unique nature that cannot be experienced anywhere else in Finland. The location right next to the Norwegian and Swedish border brings travelers and opportunities to the village.



LOCATION

Kilpisjärvi is located next to the Norwegian border, about 170 km from the village of Hetta.

POPULATION

About 165

ATTRACTIONS

Fells: Saana is the sacred fell of the Sámi people, height 1029m. Halti is the highest fell in Finland, 1328 m high.

Malla national park: Finland's oldest national park, established in 1938, area 30 km².

Muotkataikka: The highest point on Finnish roads, 565 m.

Three Nation's Border Point: Finland, Sweden and Norway meet.

The falls: Pihtus waterfall along the Kalotti trail, about 45 kilometers from Kilpisjärvi. Kitsijoki waterfall in Malla Nature Park. Tsahkaljoki waterfall two kilometers east of the tourist hotel.

Memorials: Kilpisjärvi expedition memorial, the expedition was made in 1916. Lapland War memorial to the last shot at Muotkataikka resting spot.

Kilpisjärvi Visitor Center: Visitor Center, where you can get information about the big fells of Finland, Sweden and Norway.

Raittijärvi: The only remaining Sámi village inhabited all year round.

Exhibition of objects from Old Lapland: On the premises of the Kilpisjärvi tourist hotel, you can see old objects of the Sámi people.

SERVICES

Kilpisjärvi has a wide variety of accommodation companies, tourism service providers, taxi services, restaurants, a shop, gas station, post office, air services and ship transports.

Kilpisjärvi multi-purpose building, which operates e.g. school, gymnasium and there are also e.g. church services, courses organized by the Northern Lights College and health care services.

Kilpisjärvi has several different associations related to village activities and free time.

THE SIIDAS

It has not been said that the Sámis have come here from anywhere. The Sámis have been the local residents of the whole of Lapland, and back when the Sámis inhabited the coast here, there were no other residents by the sea. At that time, life was good for the Sámi.

THE SIIDAS ARE A SOCIAL STRUCTURE OF SÁMI PEOPLE which divides communes by their livelihood and pastures. These areas have been precisely bordered by certain bodies of water and other land areas, which allowed certain livelihoods. People moved from these areas to bigger Lapp villages in winter. In eastern Sámi vocabulary, the meaning of word Siida is “winter commune” or “winter village”. Traders, tax collectors and priests also found their way into these winter villages. Siidas are most commonly divided by families and this has been common feature in every Sámi region.

The official name of the northernmost inhabited areas of the Kingdom of Sweden-Finland was Lapland (Lapmarken). Lapland was inhabited by the Sámis or Lapps, as they used to be called in Finland, and the most important means of livelihood were reindeer herding, fishing, and hunting. The Lappish border separated Lapland from the rest of the country; the Swedes and Finns lived south of it and practiced farming as their main means of livelihood. Lapland was divided in several regions called Lapps, the Lapps were divided in siidas, and the siidas were divided in Lapp tax lands rented and inherited by families.

The central unit of the Sámi society was Lapp village all through Lapland. There were three Lapp villages in the region of the present municipality of Enontekiö: furthest in the north, bordering Norway was Rounala (Ruovdnál), Suonttavaara (Suovdit) was in the middle, and Peltöjärvi (Bealđojávri) furthest in the east. The whole of the old Lapland was a part of the Swedish province of Västerbotten until the year 1809 so that the lands of Rounala and Suonttavaara villages, both divided by the Könkämäeno and Muonionjoki rivers, reached far in the now Swedish side of the border in the west.

The Sámis paid a yearly land tax that was mostly paid in different kind of furs and skins and sometimes also in money and silver.

Early tax lists, however, show clearly that in addition to the main tax, the Sámis were also taxed for another means of livelihood, fishing. It was paid as a regular annual levy in a certain amount of different tax parcels. The tax related to fishing was entered in the lists as a separate list of lakes used for fishing in each siida. The first list dates back to 1599 to the Lapp village of Rounala.

Source: Fell-Lapland Nature Centre Vuovjuš – Kulkijat exhibition

