



Activities and places of interest at Saariselkä area and in the Northernmost Lapland

Activities at walking distance from the center of Saariselkä

Nature Trails in Saariselkä

Short trail, 2,5 km, winds along the lower slopes of the fells through wooded brook hollows. Long trail, 6 km, rises to the top of Iisakkipää Fell. Along this trail, traces of the Ice Age are forever present. Starting point for these trails is the information point of the trails at Saariselkä. Walking of 6 km trail takes at least two hours. Sturdy walking shoes or hiking shoes recommended, as well as some water to drink. Visitors see there forest and tree lines, mountain views, traces on Ice Age and snow even in summer time.

Top of Kaunisää is starting point for walking route, which leads to river Lutto and to the observation area of forest management alternatives close to the forest line.

Siula – information and shopping centre in Saariselkä

The information and shopping centre Siula is situated in Saariselkä, Northern Lapland. There are two information points, souvenir shops, local delicacies shop, clothing store and cafeteria/restaurant, just to mention few. The building itself is an important part of the co-operational work with Finland's neighbouring countries, Northern Norway and Russia.

One part of the building consists of "Destination Northernmost Europe" -exhibition. The exhibition is made by using the newest technology and it aims to wake up the interest of the travellers to Northernmost Europe -region from Luosto to the Arctic Ocean and from Murmansk to Alta, Northern Norway. Main themes of the exhibition are history, culture and nature which are presented in an interesting and interactive way.

Customer service point of Metsähallitus (Finnish Forest and Park Service) is also situated in Siula. There is information about UK National Park.

Open: daily 9–21. Entrance fee to the exhibition 4 €, groups over 8 persons 3 €. Contact: +358(0)16 668 401, info@saariselka.fi

Holiday Club Saariselkä, Spa

Europe's northernmost spa, Holiday Club Saariselkä is a popular all-year-round holiday centre. While other places are still waiting for snow you can already go skiing at Saariselkä.

The pool department has plenty of interest for all ages: relaxing jacuzzi is at 32 °C, powerful water massages, a children's pool, surging waves, an exciting waterslide, a contraflow.. and of course both a steam sauna and Finish saunas. The Pool Bar is close by to quench your thirst. Other services: sport shop, nordic walking stiks for hire.

Open: daily 12–21, Entrance fee to the spa 12 €. Contact: +358(0)20 1234 9078, myynti.saariselka@holidayclubhotels.fi

Rainbow's End, Lappish Gold mine

Rainbow's End offers gold panning, jewellery and guided nature trips for tourists:

- Evening walking tour in the valley of great natural beauty of the river Lutto.
- Half-day or day trips to Laanioja, where you can see the history and present-day of gold digging and gold panning.
- Meals served during the trips, coffee for short time visitors.
- Rent a claim and equipment of your own for a week or even for the whole summer

Reservation one day before visit is recommended. Charging for gold panning and other services.

Open always, 24 h.

Contact: +358 (0)400 142 308, ylkk@netti.fi, www.saariselka.com/englanti.htm

Top of Kaunispää

The Huippu restaurant of Kaunispää is located on the top of Kaunispää fell, 437 meters above the sea level. A magnificent scenery reaches from the top over the round shaped archipelago of Saariselkä fell area as far as the eye can see, in the East even far to the Russian side.

The Huippu on the mountain top has served visitors since 1954. The old Lappish history is still reminded by an old fell cottage on the top, which provided the first visitors of Saariselkä area with accommodation and food. Later on the cottage served as a cafe and a souvenir shop. Today's Huippu consists of cozy restaurants; the panorama restaurant with 90 seats and the top quality Necktie teepee restaurant with kitchen on open fire for 50 persons and a bar as well as a giftshop specialized on top quality souvenirs, knitwear and Lapland gold and silver jewellery.

The ski center of Saariselkä, two kilometers away, can easily be reached walking or by car. From the E4 road the winding tarmac road climbs from the flank of the fell all the way to the treeless mountain top.

Open: daily 10–17

Contact: +358 (0)16 668 803 +358(0)16 668 322, huippu@saariselka.fi, www.saariselka.fi/huippu/

Prospectors Goldmine

An old goldmine is situated about one kilometer northeast from Laanila. There is a little hut above the old shaft and visitors can have a look down to the diggings and listen to the voices of goldmining. Surroundings of the hut look like old mining area, too. However, they never found gold in this Prospectors goldmine.

Gold has been important to the development of whole Northern Lapland. First road from Sodankylä village to Saariselkä area was built for goldmining. Later the road was built forward to the Arctic Ocean and Petsamo area. First building at Saariselkä was Prospector-companys' office. When the company had retired building was used for lodging travellers. This building destroyed in the end of Second World War.

Piispankivi, war memorial

Russian partisans attacked a civil post van 4th July 1943 in the middle of night, at 2.45, at Laanioja bridge. The leader of the partisans was A.S. Smirnov. Bishop of Oulu, Yrjö Wallinmaa, died in this attack. Fifty years later, 1993, a memorial stone was set up in the same place. The stream beside is nowadays named Bishops River. The place is just beside the main road and Hotel Laanihovi.

Activities and places of interest

at about one hour car drive from the center of Saariselkä

To visit these, ask for a map or driving advice from conference organizers. Those who take part in the post-conference excursions will visit the Koilliskaira visitor Centre and Tankavaara Gold Museum on Sunday.

Koilliskaira Visitor Centre

Koilliskaira Visitor Centre provides information on the history of Urho Kekkonen National Park and Koilliskaira. Visitors also learn about the area's versatile nature, and the history of nature utilisation and hiking in Lapland. There is also an exhibition on birds of prey.

There is no entrance fee. Groups should make reservations in advance. Charging for group tours, and they should be reserved in advance as well.

Open: daily 9–18

Contact: +358 (0)205 64 7251, ukpuisto@metsa.fi, Koilliskaira Visitor Centre, FI-99695 Tankavaara

Gold Prospector Museum & Golden World

Tankavaara Gold Prospector Museum is situated in the genuine gold district of So-dankylä, in Northern Lapland. It is the only international museum in the world displaying the past and the present of gold panning and prospecting. The basic exhibition presents the history of gold prospecting in Finnish Lapland, and the giant goldpan-shaped roof covers the Golden World, the international section of museum with more than 20 countries all over the world. There is also an extensive collection of gems and minerals in Härkäselkä building. On the outdoor museum area called "Auraria" you can see a collection of scale model replicas from gold rush centres around the world. The indoor pool in the museum also provides a chance to try one's panning skills in the winter.

Open: daily 9–18, Entrance fee: Adults 7 €, children 3,5 €, gold panning 3,5 €

Contact: +358 (0)16 626 171, info@kultamuseo.fi



Atelier Kaija Paltto

Boat trips at Lemmenjoki, gold panning, feltmaking and handicrafts, accommodation.

Power of sun, Magic of the fell

"Among the most important things in life are energy and light. The sun gives them, and from them we get the power in our lives. Being in the middle of nature, and especially in the highlands, gives you well-being and peace of mind as well as a lot of energy and strong sensations. Everything seems a lot easier and clearer on the top of a mountain – and maybe there is also a hint of magic there.

There are many great colours in the nature through the seasons. Sometimes black and white feels really soothing, and at other times the glowing colours of autumn stimulate your mind. I have tried to recreate these colours, and the energy and light that I find in nature, in the felted textile. I hope that You, too, can sense them through my works."

- Kaija Paltto -



Open: daily 10-19

Contact: +358 (016)673 413, +358 (0)400 287544 Lemmenjoen kylätie 100, FI-99885 Lemmenjoki.

Design House Idoli Oy

Hanneli ja Pekka Sillfors have built an exhibition of classic finnish design: glass, ceramics, textile, steel. Atelier at Ukonjärvi, northern Inari, stands at the top of hill. Building has big glass wall, which opens great views to surroundings and helps to understand the connection between exhibition, designers and nature. Theme in 2007 is water: "Pure Water – Pure Design".

Reservation in advance. 4–12 person groups, entrance fee 295 € per group, includes sparklind wine and home-made appetizers. Possibility for shopping.

Contact: +358 (0)400 197 181, +358 (0)40 569 201 |, idoli@idoli.fi, www.idoli.fi, Ukonjärvi, FI-99800 Ivalo

Karhunpesäkiivi – Bear's Den Stone

Halfway from Ivalo to Inari is Karhunpesäkiivi, Bear-stone in English. After climbing a few hundred metres wooden stairs is a huge rock. A big cavity has been made inside the rock where prehistoric men used to make sacrifices to the gods. There are large souvenir-shops at the place, too.

Churches in the north of Lapland

There are several different kind of churches in the area. Most of them are Lutheran, but some of them orthodox Christians, which is the main religion of east sami people. Most churches are open to visitors in summers.

- Pielpajarvi Wilderness Church, the oldest church in Inari, 5 km walk
- Inari Lutheran Sami Church
- Ivalo Church
- Saariselkä Chapell
- Tieva Chapell, Kiilopää
- Ivalo Orthodox Church
- Nellim Orthodox Church