



Highlights: National parks, the Arctic Circle, 24 hours of daylight, outdoor activities

The fells of Lapland — lively villages and breathtaking scenery

DAY 1

Bothnian Bay, seaside towns and the River Tornio



The port towns Kemi and Tornio are both named after the large rivers that enter the sea here. The River Kemi is Finland's longest river. Kemi's inner harbour welcomes sailors from around the world. Here you can visit the traditional sailing boats Katariina and Jähti, and enjoy a taste of the local lifestyle in harbourside restaurants. This is also the starting point for boat trips to the beautiful islands of the Bothnian Bay National Park 1.

Next head north, along the banks of Europe's longest free running river, the River Tornio, which is famed for its whitefish and salmon. Follow Highway E8 to Kukkolankoski rapids 2 where you can go on a whitewater rafting trip, or just watch the fishers on the river bank.

The next stop is Lapland's oldest tourist attraction, scenic Aavasaksa Hill 3, close to the Arctic Circle. This has always been a traditional place to celebrate Midsummer. The French scientist Pierre Maupertuis took measurements from the hilltop in 1736 to determine whether the Earth was perfectly spherical or oblate. The ornate log house on the hilltop was built in 1882 for the visiting Russian Tsar Alexander III.



Accommodation: Hotels, motels, cottages and camping in Aavasaksa or Ylläs

www.aavasaksa.fi www.yllas.fi

Services and activities: www.visitkemi.fi

www.visitmeri-lappi.fi www.nationalparks.fi/bothnianbay www.kukkolankoski.fi www.aavasaksa.fi

Fishing, hiking, mountain biking, skiing, canoeing, swimming — fantastic opportunities for outdoor activities.

DAY 2

Pallas-Yllästunturi National Park and the Village of Seven Fells



The villages Ylläsjärvi and Äkäslompolo are surrounded by seven fells and the amazing scenery of Pallas-Yllästunturi National Park, 4 offering great opportunities for outdoor activities. Enjoy local hospitality and fresh, healthy local food. The Yllästunturi Visitor Centre Kellokas 5 is the best starting point for a hike. Visit the free exhibitions and get tips for your adventure.

Explore the park's wild forests and fells, take a guided birdwatching tour, or rent a mountain bike. You can also stroll, walk or even run along the park's many trails, surrounded by the splendid scenery of this part of Finnish Lapland.

 $\textbf{Accommodation:}\ \underline{www.yllas.fi}$

Services and activities: www.kylmamaatours.fi,

www.yllaksenyopuu.com, www.laplandhotels.com, www.safartica.com, www.polarlightstours.fi, www.sarkijarvenmajat.fi

DAY 3

Explore the heart of the Pallas-Yllästunturi National Park — and breathe the freshest air in Europe!



The Pallas Fells lie in the heart of the Pallas-Yllästunturi National Park. Climb up above the tree line to the windswept fell tops, and enjoy breathtaking views of Lapland's lovely landscapes. The name of the park's highest fell, Taivaskero, means the fell on the edge of the sky.

Pallastunturi Visitor Centre (a) is an excellent starting point for a hike up onto the fells. Here you can breathe the freshest, cleanest air anywhere in Europe. Lapland Hotel Pallas has been popular with hikers since the 1940s.

Accommodation: www.laplandhotels.com
or other local hotels, motels, cottages and campsites

Services: www.tunturi-lappi.fi

www.nationalparks.fi/pallas-yllastunturing

Activities, local food and relaxation: Try genuine local Lappish food at the restaurant of the Särkijärven Majat or relax in a traditional lakeshore sauna.

www.sarkijarvenmajat.fi www.harriniva.fi

www.kemionkoukkaus.nettisivu.org

Tourist information: www.tunturi-lappi.fi

DAY 4

Sámi culture, silver jewelry — Genuine atmosphere in Hetta



Follow the fells and the River Ounasjoki on northwards, passing small, picturesque villages. From Ketomella village you can hike to Lake Hietajärvi through the pristine natural scenery of the Pallas-Yllästunturi National Park. Pine trees dominate the lower forests here, as spruce trees do not grow this far north. Heading higher, above the tree line, you can explore the wide open landscapes of the high Ounastunturi.

The village of Hetta is famous for its silversmiths' workshops. Exhibitions at the Fell Lapland Visitor Centre feature the lifestyle and culture of Lapland's indigenous Sámi people. Here you can also see delightful wooden birds made by a local sculptor. Take a boat trip over Lake Ounasjärvi to find inviting trails leading off into the national park.

Accommodation: Hotels, cabins, huts, camping near Hetta village in Enontekiö www.tosilappi.fi

Services and activities www.tosilappi.fi

Tourist information: Fell Lapland Visitor Centre, tel +358 206 39 7950, tunturi-lappi@metsa.fi www.tosilappi.fi

DAY 5

The untamed River Muonio — realm of wild salmon



The village of Muonio is best known for its salmonfishing and the beautiful surrounding fells and
famous Lake Jeris and Pallas. The view from
Särkitunturi is one of the heritage landscapes in
Finland. Local firms including Harriniva Safaris
3 offer many activities here, from hiking
or mountain biking to fishing, river rafting or
canoeing. You can also meet Harriniva's arctic
huskies. Enjoy unforgettable adventures in
this lovely part of Finnish Lapland and travel
on the footsteps of kings and explorers.
www.harriniva.fi

Accommodation: Hotels, cottages, camping and hostels in Muonio www.tunturi-lappi.fi

Services and activities: Fishing trips, guided hiking and other activities:

www.tunturi-lappi.fi www.keimionkoukkaus.nettisivu.org www.laplandsafaris.com

DAY 6

Along the Golden Riverside



Drive along the River Muonio from Kolari to Pello, where a bridge leads over to Sweden. Don't miss the experience of a whitewater rafting trip with the local firm Lappean Loma, who also offer guided fishing trips on the River Tornio.

Drive on along the Swedish side of the River Tornio, passing through charming villages. People on both sides of the river enjoy the same healthy arctic lifestyle, living close to nature.

Stop off at Luppio Hill ① on your way. A restaurant on the top of this granite hill offers local delicacies from salmon to wild berries, as well as fine views. Your journey ends in the twin border towns of Haparanda (in Sweden) and Tornio (in Finland). Here encounters between differing local and national cultures create a unique centre for art, handicrafts and history.



Accommodation: In the towns of Kemi and Tornio

www.visitkemi.fi

www.haparandatornio.com

Services and activities: www.lappeanloma.fi

www.heartoflapland.com www.travelpello.fi www.haparandatornio.com

For more information: Yllästunturi Visitor Centre Kellokas, Äkäslompolo, +358 206 39 7039, kellokas@metsa.fi

Nationalparks.fi

Up-to-date information about Finnish national parks and their facilities

VisitFinland.com

The official travel guide of Finland

Outdoorsfinland.com

Find the best hiking, cycling and canoeing trails in Finland



