



## National Park Lemmenjoki

- Area 2 860 km<sup>2</sup>
- Founded in 1956 (extended twice)
- Location: Inari, Kittilä



## Metsähallitus – the Manager of the National Park

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## National Park

# Lemmenjoki

The legendary River Lemmenjoki leads into the homelands of Lapland's indigenous Sámi People. Experience the wilds and try panning for gold on a guided river trip. Get to know the homestead of Kaapin Jouni, "reindeer lord" of his time and learn about Sámi way of life and cultural heritage by joining a trip with a guide. Finland's largest national park has plenty of wild places to explore off the beaten track.

### Legendary Lemmenjoki

Lemmenjoki National Park is situated in Northern Lapland in the municipalities of Inari and Kittilä. Here, northern nature shows its barest and most beautiful sides, and the park with all its natural habitats is the home of several rare and endangered species. The visitor is fascinated by the environment and the wildlife of the area but also by Sámi culture and the tradition of gold prospecting – two traditions that are alive in Lemmenjoki even today.

### Varied Sceneries

Lemmenjoki is the largest wilderness area in Western Europe. Here, one can see almost the whole spectrum of northern nature from old pine forests to wide fell areas, boundless bogs and lush river valleys. The landscape is split by big rivers:

Lemmenjoki, Inarjoki, Vaskojoki, Repojoiki and Ivalojoiki. The grand Ravadas Falls empties its waters into the River Lemmenjoki 15 kilometres upstream from the village of Njurgulahti. From Norway, the national park is separated by the River Kietsimäjoki. On the other side of the river, wilderness continues as Øvre Anárjohka National Park.

Lemmenjoki is an old fishing and hunting area of the Inari Sámi, and, in the park, we can still distinguish trapping pits that were once used for hunting wild reindeer.

### Captivating History

In the late 1940s, there was a gold rush in Lemmenjoki and gold finds attracted hundreds of hopeful gold prospectors to the region. The gold history of the area lives on in legends, and many place names tell about the history of gold prospecting.

During the biggest years of the gold rush, the area was teeming with hundreds of gold prospectors. In the mid-1950s, exhaustion of the richer gold sites and a collapse in the price of gold cleared out many of the prospectors. Around ten lifers remained in the wilderness to seek their gold fortunes.

Gold prospecting saw a resurgence as a viable occupation and lifestyle in the 1970s. The use of machinery in prospecting became commonplace in the 1980s.

The act put an end to mechanised gold mining in Lemmenjoki National Park in summer 2020. Man-and-spade prospectors will keep going.

### Destination for Backpackers and Cultural Enthusiasts

The marked trails of the park are situated in the recreation zone, in the Lemmenjoki river valley. Lemmenjoki Gold Trail runs through the gold area and provides the hiker with safe way to learn about gold prospecting. The trail presents past and present of gold prospecting in Lemmenjoki, geology of gold as well as prospecting methods. On the trails, there are wilderness and rental cabins and campfire sites.

One-day excursion destinations that are easy to reach include the Fell Joenkielinen (534 m) and the Ravadas Falls. In addition to the natural sights, one can visit interesting cultural destinations in Lemmenjoki. These include the old reindeer round-up site of Sallivaara and two Sámi dwelling sites: Kaapin Jouni's homestead and Matti Musta's cabin.

The western and southern parts of the national park are real wilderness where one can enjoy silence and the peace of nature, often without meeting another person for days.

### Directions

The parking areas are situated in the village of Lemmenjoki and, in Repojoiki, by the trail for the Sallivaara round-up site. There are coach connections to Inari, but not all the way to Lemmenjoki. In summer, there is a boat connection from Lemmenjoki to Lake Ravadas and to Kultahamina.

### Enjoy the outdoors while conserving nature

- You may walk, ski, row and canoe in the National Park except the restricted area of Ravadasköngäs Falls where hiking is only allowed on marked trails. Mountain biking is allowed only on an officially marked summer trails.
- In the recreation zone of the National Park, campfire and camping are only allowed at sites marked for this purpose. Lighting campfires is forbidden if the forest fire warning is in effect.
- It is allowed to pick berries and mushrooms.
- Please, keep your pet on lead. If you meet a hunter with a dog, you have encountered a local. Locals are allowed to hunt in their municipality of residence – also in the National Park.
- Respect nature by letting it be: allow the plants and trees to grow, leave the animals in peace.
- Soil and rock are also part of the nature. Even though gold prospecting belongs to the national park, it requires permits. The gold prospectors' claims are considered equal to grounds of dwellings. You are welcome to claims which organise gold prospecting for tourists.
- The remote zone of the National Park has slightly different rules, more information from Nature Centre Siida.
- Emergency number 112. Some parts of the park have no mobile phone reception!

[nationalparks.fi/en/lemmenjokinp/instructionsandrules](http://nationalparks.fi/en/lemmenjokinp/instructionsandrules)

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