



ESCAPE INTO THE WILDERNESS



## IISAKKIPÄÄ

On the Iisakkipää Nature Trail you can explore northern nature.

Summer arrives abruptly, the forest suddenly blooms, but nature soon begins to prepare for the autumn. In winter, nature rests. The Iisakkipää Trail invites travellers to explore Lapland's natural landscape during one of its shortest seasons. Northern nature is beautiful but austere with a limited number of species. The summer growing period is extended by 24-hour sunlight. Admire the views and learn about northern nature in all its details. The Iisakkipää Nature Trail provides information on birds, plants and their habitats in four very different seasons.

### ROUTE DESCRIPTION

The trail has two length options: 3 kilometres and 7 kilometres. The Iisakkipää Trail starts from the gate of the Urho Kekkonen National Park in Saariselkä. At its outset, the circular Iisakkipää Trail follows the Aurorapolku Trail, which is maintained even in winter. Follow the route signs and cross the River Luttajoki via a hanging bridge to enter the forest.

Around 600 metres from the starting gate, the Iisakkipää Trail departs from the Aurorapolku Trail. You cannot put your snowshoes on until you reach the brink of the Ristikuru Gorge. Continue for approximately 400 metres from this crossing to a spot where you can choose either the longer or the shorter trail. In winter, you can walk the trails on snowshoes. The shorter 3 kilometre trail takes the traveller to a forest-covered slope on the edge of the gorge. The trail winds along stream banks and continues slightly

higher up the slope until close to the tree line at the lower slope of Iisakkipää Fell.

The longer, 7-kilometre trail leads to Iisakkipää. The highest point of the trail is the top of Iisakkipää Fell (approximately 454 metres above sea level). From there, the trail gently descends towards the Pääsiäiskuru Gorge. When you reach the brink of the gorge, you are almost halfway along the trail. The trail follows the rim of the Pääsiäiskuru Gorge, first along even terrain and then slightly downwards towards the forest and the village of Saariselkä. You can take the trails in either direction.



The hiking routes in the Urho Kekkonen National Park are divided into **Out onto the Fell** trails, which are easy and theme-based, and **Out into the Wilderness** trails, which are more demanding.



### IISAKKIPÄÄ

**Grading:** Moderate

**Length:** 3 km or 7 km

**Duration:** In summer, 3 km trail: 1–2 hours; 7 km trail: 2–4 hours  
In winter on snowshoes, 3 km trail: 1–3 hours; 7 km trail: 3–5 hours

**Altitude difference:** 160 m

**Starting point:** Saariselkä starting gate

**Activities:** Hiking, snowshoeing and nature observation

**Services:** There are no services along the trail, but from its beginning there is a direct connection to the Aurorapolku Trail, along which there is a wilderness hut. Half of the hut is locked while the other half is an open day-trip hut. In the yard, there is a campfire site, firewood shed and dry toilet for hikers.

**Sights:** Fell nature, nature trail information boards and the rugged Pääsiäiskuru Gorge along the seven-kilometre trail option.

**Equipment:** Remember to wear good hiking shoes and dress appropriately for the weather. It is usually windy in the fell region and the wind can be very strong above tree level. Also bring a sufficient amount of food and drinks in your backpack.

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