



ESCAPE INTO THE
WILDERNESS



KIIRUNAPOLKU

On the Kiirunapolku Trail, you may see animals such as a rock ptarmigan.

What is that clucking and rattling sound on the fell? When can you see lemmings? How do you recognise a Kiilopää birch? Do snowy owls live on the Kiilopää Fell? The information boards on the Kiirunapolku Trail, which winds around the Kiilopää Fell, tell hikers about the barren fell nature and its plants, birds and other animals. A sharp-eyed traveller may see a rock ptarmigan, the bird that has given its name to the trail, or hear its rattling call. The Kiilopää area is ideal for spotting this and other Arctic bird species.

ROUTE DESCRIPTION

You can begin the trail from the Kiilopää starting gate. The trail gently ascends along the lower slope of the Kiilopää Fell. Above tree level, the slope becomes slightly steeper and the view opens up. The most rocky sections are equipped with stairs to make the walk easier.

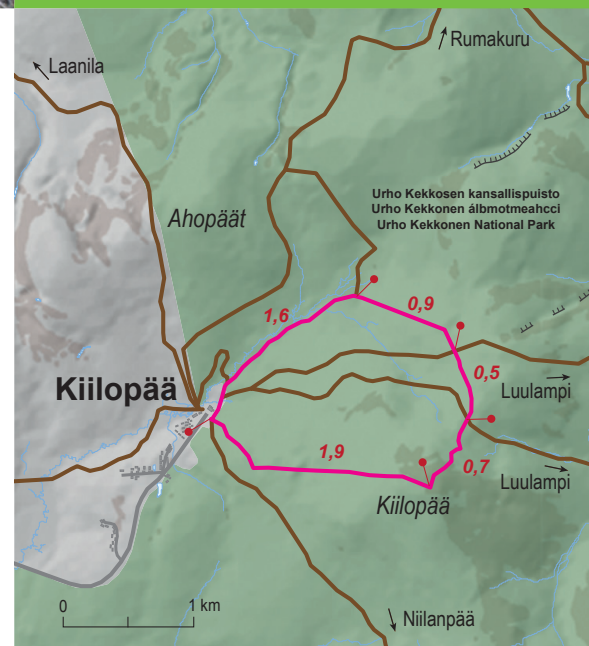
If the weather is clear when you reach the top of the fell, you can also admire the fells forming part of the Urho Kekkonen National Park to the north and east. In the south, you can see the sharp peaks of the Nattastunturit Fells located in the Sompio Strict Nature Reserve. The distance from the Kiilopää starting gate to the top of Kiilopää Fell is 2 km; this is the most demanding section of the Kiirunapolku Trail.

From the top, the trail descends the north-facing slope of the fell. After about 0.5 kilometres, you will cross the border between the municipalities of Sodankylä and Inari. Although you can see the border on a map, it is not

marked in the open fell environment. Around 200 metres from the municipal border, you will cross the Luulampi Trail. You will then continue to the north for approximately 0.5 kilometres and recross the Luulampi Trail. The remaining 2 km of the trail runs towards the Kiilopää Fell. Towards the end of the trail, you will cross a branch of the Kiilo-oja stream.

In winter, the trail serves as a snowshoeing route. The Kiirunapolku Trail is ideal for novice hikers. You can take this circular trail in either direction.

If you wish to extend your excursion, you can combine other trails (in winter, snowshoeing routes) with the Kiirunapolku Trail.



KIIRUNAPOLKU

Grading: Moderate

Length: 6 km

Duration: 2–3 hours

Altitude difference: 214 m

Starting point: Kiilopää starting gate

Activities: Hiking, snowshoeing and nature observation

Services: Stairs to the top of the Kiilopää Fell, duckboards across wetland areas towards the end of the trail, information boards about northern nature

Sights: The top of Kiilopää Fell, open fell views.

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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METSÄHALLITUS

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.