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.

Day 1
Bothnian Bay, seaside towns and the River Tornio

The next stop is Lapland’s oldest tourist attraction, scenic Aavasaksa Hill, 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 name of the park’s highest fell, Taivaskero, means the fell on the edge of the sky. Pallas-Yllästunturi Visitor Centre 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
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 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. Offering great opportunities for outdoor activities. Enjoy local hospitality and, fresh, healthy local food. The Yllästunturi Visitor Centre Kellolakas 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.

Accommodation: www.yllas.fi
Fell Lapland Visitor Centre
www.tunturi-lappi@metsa.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 Ounasjunturi.

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 salmon-fishing and the beautiful surrounding fells and famous Lake Jeris and Pallas. The view from Särkintunturi is one of the heritage landscapes in Finland. Local firms including Harriniva Safaris offer many activities here, from hiking, 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.

Accommodation: Hotels, cottages, camping and hostels in Muonio
www.tunturi-lappi.fi
Services and activities: Fishing trips, guided hiking and other activities: www.tutnuri-lappi.fi
www.keimionkoukkaus.nettisivu.org
www.laplandsaaris.com

DAY 6
Along the Golden Riverside

Drive along the River Muonio from Kolarri 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 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, handcrafts 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 Kellolakas, Äkäslompolo, +358 206 39 10 39, kellolakas@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