



# Arctic Circle Hiking Area



## South Lapland's diverse nature at your fingertips

The Arctic Circle Hiking Area offers excellent opportunities for nature lovers to pursue a wide range of outdoor activities. The area is suitable for family hiking trips and it has also accessible trails. The waters in the area offer great opportunities for fishing, rowing, kayaking and rafting.

The hiking area includes both natural areas and commercial forests of various ages. The finest rapids of the Raudanjoki River crossing the area are Vikaköngäs and Vaattunkiköngäs, and they are

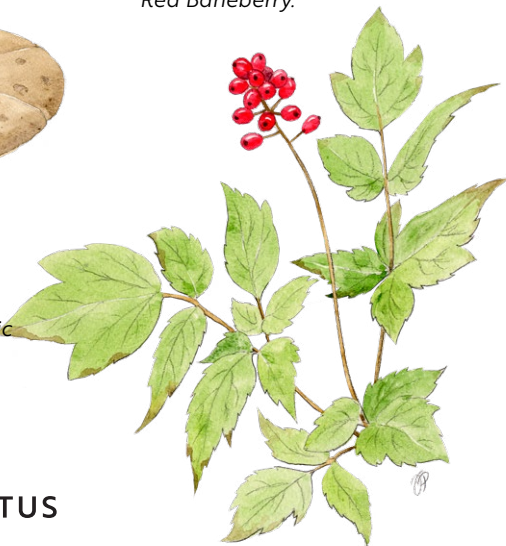
easily reached via suspension bridges. There are lush groves in Könkään- and Kielosaari islands and the rocky hills of Vaattunki-, Könkään- and Sortovaara have hundreds of years old hilltop pine forests. Vianaapa and Kivalonaapa's almost treeless mires stretch untouched. Vianaapa and Korva-aapa are protected areas. At Kivalonaapa mire you can learn about old meadow culture.

The hiking area is located 25 km northeast from Rovaniemi along the Highway 4 (E75). Popular starting points are at Vikaköngäs and Vaattunkiköngäs.



Historical favourite picnic lunch, rye hole-bread.

Red Baneberry.



Lily of the Valley.

## Arctic Circle Hiking Area



- Founded: 2001, Official National Hiking Area: 2024
- Surface area: 36 km<sup>2</sup>
- Location: Rovaniemi

### Metsähallitus, taking care of area

- Science Centre Pilke, [www.tiedekeskus-pilke.fi/en](http://www.tiedekeskus-pilke.fi/en)

VALOKUVAT: Jaakko Posti, Vesa-Matti Hillberg/Metsähallitus. KUVITUKSET: Juha Paso/Metsähallitus.

### Hiking and protecting nature

- Respect nature and take other hikers into consideration.
- Make a fire only on designated fireplaces. Open fire is prohibited if the forest fire warning is in effect.
- Hike litter free. There are recycling points at Vikaköngäs and Vaattunkiköngäs, the trails' starting points, but no bins on the trails, carry your rubbish back with you.
- You can pick berries and mushrooms, but not stones or plants. Do not disturb animals.
- Fishing is permitted in Vikaköngäs Recreational Fishing Area if you purchase a Metsähallitus' recreational fishing licence (permit area 2565, [www.eraluvat.fi](http://www.eraluvat.fi)).
- Keep the pets on a leash.
- Bring your own toilet paper.
- Driving motor vehicles outside official roads is prohibited.
- **The emergency number is 112**





# Napapiirin retkeilyalue



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|-------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| National Hiking Area          | Camping hut       | Landing place         | Recycling        | 0,6 ○ Distance                    |
| Nature Reserve                | Day-use hut       | Fishing jetty         | Snowmobile route | <b>Classification of trails</b>   |
| Trail starting point          | Observation tower | Boat ramp             | Canoeing trail   | Easy trail                        |
| Parking and information board | Scenic viewpoint  | Dry toilet            | Nature trail     | Moderate trail                    |
| Campfire site                 | Picnic site       | Accessible dry toilet | Hiking trail     | Accessible nature trail           |
| Lean-to shelter               | Spring            | Accessible services   | Road             | Demanding accessible nature trail |