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 Luttojoki 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 lisakkipää Fell.

The longer, 7-kilometre trail leads to lisakkipää. The highest point of the trail is the top of lisakkipää 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.