



SUVI MANSIKKASALO / THE END OF THE NIGHTLESS NIGHT

### The Land of High Fells

The highest fells in Finland are located in Käsivarsi: the Finnish side of Halti (Háldi), Háldičohkka (1,324 m) and Ritničohkka (1,317 m).

In the Käsivarsi area, ancient primary bedrock sits side by side with the young Scandinavian bedrock. Malla (Gihcibákti) and Saana (Sáná) are formed from the plates that were pushed on top of the bedrock. The edges of the overriding plates form the steep fell cliffs.

### Cold and Short Summer

The growing season is short, only about 100 days, and the average temperature for the year is under zero. The Lake Kilpisjärvi is covered with an ice sheet for more than 200 days a year. In summer, the sun shines two months night and day, and during the polar night, the sun does not rise for two months.

### The Arctic Ocean Warms

Thanks to the Gulf Stream, the climate in the Käsivarsi area is considerably warmer than in similar latitudes in the rest of the world. Although climate on the fells is harsh for plants, the lime rich soil makes the vegetation flourish.

### Mountain Birch Forests

The main tree species of the Käsivarsi area is Mountain birch (*Betula pubescens* ssp. *czerepanovii*). Coniferous trees don't do too well this high up. Birch

forests are dotted by lush herb-rich forests, where the Wood cranesbill (*Geranium sylvaticum*), Globe flower (*Trollius europaeus*) and Alpine sow thistle (*Cicerbita alpina*).

### Treeless Summits

Treeless tundra is a rough homeland for a few tough shrubs and grasses, such as small willows, *Diapensias* (*Diapensia lapponica*), Alpine azaleas (*Kalmia procumbens*) and Arctic bell-heathers (*Cassiope tetragona*). The emblem of the Malla Strict Nature Reserve, the Glacier buttercup (*Ranunculus glacialis*), is a plant of mountain ranges, and grows in Finland only in the highest fells of Enontekiö. Limestone rocks provide nutrients to the Mountain avens (*Dryas octopetala*) heaths. These heaths are also excellent habitats for other fell plants, such as the Moss campion (*Silene acaulis*) and Lapland rosebay (*Rhododendron lapponicum*).

TUIJA KANGASNIEMI / HIKING IN THE KÄSIVARSI WILDERNESS AREA



### Pilots of the Nightless Night

Fell meadows are great homes for butterflies whose larvae eat only certain fell plants. In the summer, butterflies take flight day and night when the weather is warm. The protected **area of Ánnjaloanji** has been established to protect endangered butterflies, and moving around in the area is prohibited in summer.

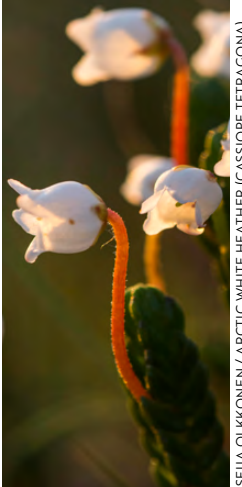
### Birds of the Käsivarsi Wilderness Area

The emblem of the Käsivarsi Wilderness Area features a Rock ptarmigan (*Lagopus muta*), a bird that lives on the treeless tundra throughout the year. In winter, it digs into a snow nest which helps it save energy and protects against predators. Migrating fell birds include the Snow bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*), Eurasian dotterel (*Eudromias morinellus*) and Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*).

### Extremely Endangered Arctic Fox

Nordic researchers are working together to save the rare Arctic fox (*Vulpes lagopus*). The Arctic fox population is supported e.g. by supplemental feeding and reducing Red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*).

SEPPÖ KERÄNEN / ARCTIC FOX (VULPES LAGOPUS) IN WINTER



SEIJA OLKKONEN / ARCTIC WHITE HEATHER (CASSIOPE TETRAGONA)

### Clear Fell Waters

Käsivarsi is a watershed area. Rivulets from the fells come together to form streams that zigzag hundreds of kilometres and end in the Bay of Bothnia. The rivers are spawning waters for endangered migratory fish, like Salmon (*Salmo salar*) and Brown trout (*Salmo trutta*).

### Cultural Landscape of Sámi

The Sámi people are an indigenous people whose homeland extends to northern Finland, Sweden, Norway and Russia. In Finland, the Sámi Homeland comprises Enontekiö, Inari and Utsjoki as well as the northern part of the municipality of Sodankylä. The Sámi have the constitutional right to maintain and develop their language, culture and traditional livelihoods. The Käsivarsi area has a long Sámi cultural history and numerous cultural heritage sites.

Fells are an everyday work environment for Sámi reindeer herders. When hiking here, avoid disturbing the reindeer. If you open a gate in the fence, be sure to close it. The gate may also be intentionally open, in which case it should be left open.

SEIJA OLKKONEN / REINDEER AND THE ČÁIVÁRRI FELL



The Käsivarsi Wilderness Area is one of Finland's 12 wilderness areas. Their aim is to preserve the wilderness of the area and to support the preservation of the Sámi culture, natural livelihoods and sustainable use of nature. The Malla Strict Nature Reserve was established in 1938, the Saana Fell is protected by two younger nature reserves.

#KasivarrenErämaa #MallanLuonnonpuisto

ISMO PEKKARINEN / LAKE TSAHKALJÄRVI AND SAANA FELL



**Käsivarsi**  
Wilderness Area

**Malla & Saana**  
Strict Nature Reserve & Protected Areas

English



## Cross-border cooperation

The Käsivarsi Wilderness Area is part of the Håldi Transboundary Area with Reisa National Park and Ráisduttarháldi Protected Landscape Area. The EUROPARC Federation, network of European protected areas, has admitted the Håldi Transboundary Area an EUROPARC Transboundary Park certificate.

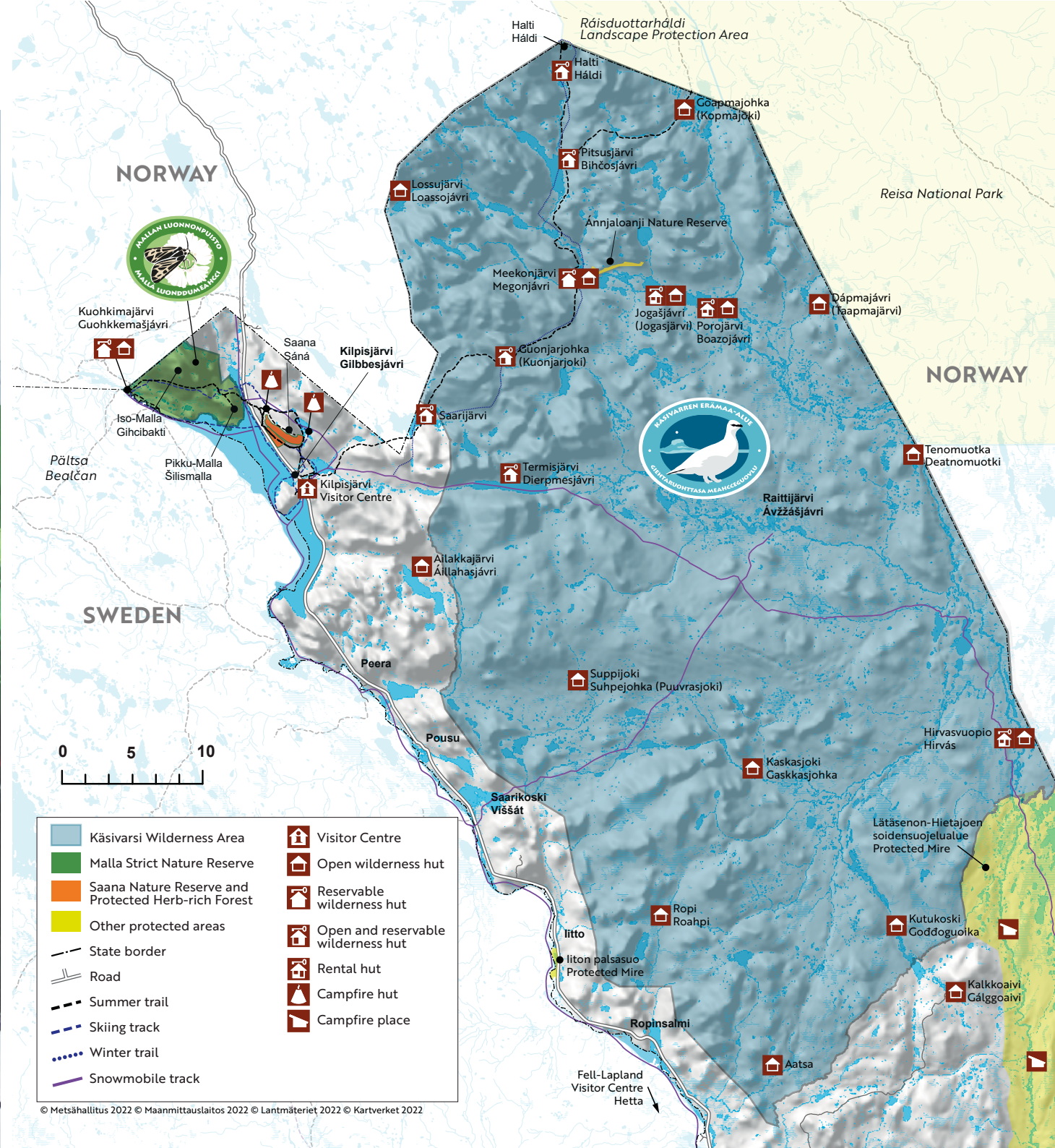
## KILPISJÄRVI VISITOR CENTRE

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99490 Kilpisjärvi  
tel. +358 (0)206 39 7990  
kilpisjarvi@metso.fi  
Nationalparks.fi/kilpisjarvisitorcentre

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tel. +358 (0)206 39 7950  
tunturi-lappi@metso.fi  
Nationalparks.fi/felllaplandvisitorcentre

The use of Metsähallitus' trails and structures in business operations is always subject to a charge.  
More information: Metsä.fi  
Julkaisut.metsä.fi/en & Eraluvat.fi/en.



## Malla Strict Nature Reserve

Founded in 1938, the Malla Strict Nature Reserve protects rare species and contributes to research. The use of the reserve is guided with park regulations.



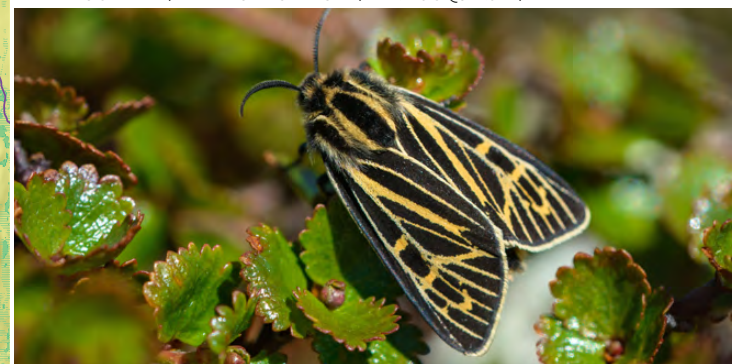
### Allowed

- Moving in the area is only permitted on foot and only on marked routes.
- During the snowy season, it is possible to explore independently also off-trail.
- Camping is permitted in the yard of the Kuohkimajärvi wilderness hut.
- Making a fire is only permitted at the official campfire site of the Kuohkimajärvi wilderness hut.
- Pets are allowed as long as they are in a lead.

### Prohibited

- Mountain biking
- Leaving the marked trail in the summer
- Hunting and fishing
- Picking berries and mushrooms
- Using motor vehicles
- Driving a dog sled
- Taking, moving and stacking rocks
- Collecting war scrap
- Harming and disturbing animals by e.g taking photos
- Taking or damaging any plants
- Littering

TEPPO SÄLMÄ / LABRADOR TIGER MOTH (APANTESIS QUENSELI)



## Saana Nature Reserve and Protected Herb-rich Forest

The majestic Saana rises 1 029 m above sea level and 566 m above Lake Kilpisjärvi. There is a small nature conservation area on the rocky cliffs of Saana where visitors are not allowed to go in the summer. Saana's Mountain birch forest includes protected herb-rich nature; you can walk through it along the marked trail.

SEIJA OLKKONEN / BLUETHROAT (LUSCINIA SVECICA)



### Permitted in the protected herb-rich area in Saana

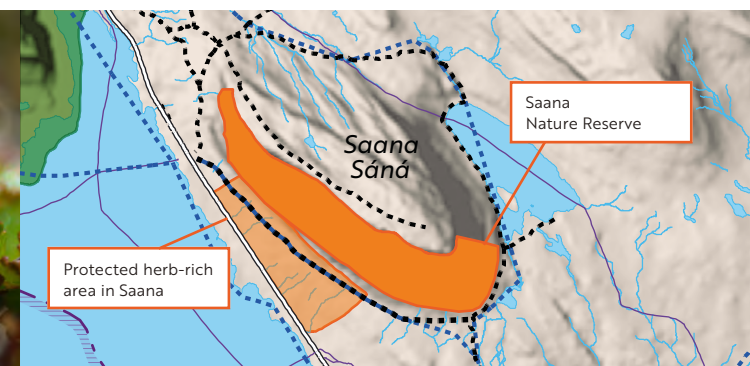
- Hiking independently
- Picking berries and mushrooms

### Prohibited in the protected herb-rich area in Saana

- Camping
- Making an open fire
- Taking or damaging plants
- Harming and disturbing animals by e.g taking photos

### Prohibited in the Saana Nature Reserve

- Moving around between 15 May and 1 September
- Camping
- Picking berries and mushrooms
- Making an open fire
- Harming and disturbing animals by e.g taking photos
- Taking or damaging any plants
- Taking, moving and stacking rocks



## Käsivarsi Wilderness Area

The objective of the Wilderness Act is to preserve wilderness and to safeguard the Sámi culture and natural livelihoods. Käsivarsi is a core area of reindeer husbandry where the nature-based lifestyle has been alive for centuries.



### Allowed

- Hiking independently
- Temporary camping
- Picking berries and mushrooms
- Angling and ice fishing according to fishing regulations
- Making an open fire using branches and twigs

### Subject to a permit

- Fishing
- Hunting
- Using motor vehicles
- Business activities

### Prohibited

- Littering
- Harming and disturbing plants and animals
- Destruction of cultural heritage sites and objects protected by the Antiquities Act, e.g. moving or stacking rocks
- Long-term camping
- Lighting campfires with brushwood and hut firewood
- Entering the area of the Ánnjaloanji Nature Reserve is forbidden 15.5.–1.9. for the protection of endangered species.

SEIJA OLKKONEN / IN THE KÄSIVARSI WILDERNESS AREA

