

FINNISH LAPLAND

*A SHORT GUIDE FOR
TOURISTS*

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Finnish Lapland is an extensive, sparsely-inhabited region where chains of fells, desolate plateaus, enormous forests, wide swamps and rapidly-flowing rivers alternate. There are less lakes here than in other parts of Finland, the most important being *Inarinjärvi*, which is at the same time one of the largest in Finland. The scenery of Lapland has its especial charm for tourists, and since the present roads were constructed, regular daily motor-bus connections arranged and the inns by the wayside brought up to modern requirements, the Lapland tourist route has become one of the most interesting the country can offer. Excursions can be made along numerous less-used roads branching off from the main Rovaniemi-Petsamo route, each interesting in its own way; for such excursions, however, travellers should be specially equipped.

Mosquitoes are the bane of Lapland in the low-lying, damp areas, appearing most profusely in July. Tourists' equipment must include pitch or lemon oil, which is rubbed on the unprotected parts of the body. A mosquito net of especially close texture and a mosquito cap are also used. Travelling dress must protect the wrists and legs. It should be remembered that the Lapland mosquito is not, like certain tropical varieties, a microbe-bearer, but is harmless. On motor-trips the tourist is quite secure from them, and all bedrooms are suitably protected.

Rovaniemi Urban District (hotels: Hansa, 13 r., 25-35 mks; Lipponen, 10 r., 30-40 mks; Schroderus, 10 r., 25 mks, etc.), situated at the junction of the *Kemijoki* and its tributary the *Ounasjoki* flowing down from the north, 4 kms south of the Arctic Circle. The population of the district is about 5,400; the district is developing rapidly and forms the traffic centre of the whole of Lapland, «The Capital of Lapland», from which roads radiate in different directions. A railroad is also in course of construction east

to *Kemijärvi*. Two great markets are held there annually, one February 18th to 20th and the other at Midsummer; people arrive from great distances; for the winter market buyers of furs even arrive from abroad. — Opposite Rovaniemi on the other bank of the Kemijoki rises the *Ounasvaara* hill (216 m.), from where the midnight sun can be seen at midsummer and where skiing and bobsleigh competitions are held in the winter.

There is a regular motor-bus traffic from Rovaniemi north along the Ounasjoki to *Kittilä* (157 kms), from where the road continues to *Muonio*, east to *Kemijärvi* (87 kms) and *Kuolajärvi* (188 kms), southeast to *Kuusamo* (190 kms) and west to *Ylitornio* (136 kms).

The total length by road of the journey Rovaniemi-Petsamo (Trifona) is 525 kms. On the first day the stage Rovaniemi-Ivalo (295 kms; about 11½ hours) is made; the night is spent at Ivalo, and on the following day the final stage, Ivalo-Petsamo (230 kms; about 10 hours), is completed.

Leaving Rovaniemi we first proceed over the combined road and railway bridge over the *Ounaskoski* rapids to the left bank of the Kemijoki and across the *Suutarinkorva* bridge to the right side again. From here the road leads northeast past *Olkkaavaara* (232 kms) and *Olkkejärvi* (right) to the village of *Vikajärvi*, from where the Kemijärvi road continues northeast, the Petsamo road turning north and passing through wild and sparsely-inhabited areas along the course of the *Raudanjoki*. — 93 kms *Vuojärvi*, near which point (92 kms) the first real mountain of Lapland, *Pyhänturi* (539 m.) can be seen dimly in the east. — The road leads on to the shore of *Kitinen*, the western tributary of the Kemijoki, and continues to the village of *Sodankylä* (130 kms) at the junction of the Kitinen and *Jesiöjoki*. One of the sights of the village is an old church of the 18th century near the new church built later. 5 kms south of the village is *Tähtelä*, the Finnish Scientific Society's magnetic and meteorological observation station. — From Sodankylä the road passes north through stretches of wilderness, following the course of the Kitinen. The *Sattasjoki* is

crossed by a ferry, and at *Peuraniemi* the *Suvanto* ferry takes us to the left bank of the Kitinen. The magnificent *Nattastunturi* fells (547 m.) loom into sight in the northeast. — 220 kms the Lapp village of *Vuotso*. — The scenery becomes more rugged; the road approaches the ridges of the *Maanselkä* watershed; *Raututunturi* (550 m.) can be seen to the northeast. — 260 kms *Laanila*, where an attempt was made at the beginning of this century to commence gold-washing on a large scale, with but poor results. — From *Laanila* the road leads up a steep slope and over the open *Kaunispää* fell; from here there is an extensive view of typical fell scenery. From *Kaunispää* we descend to the region north of *Maanselkä*, where the waters flow towards the Arctic Ocean. — Near the village of *Törmänen* we arrive at the valley of the *Ivalojoiki*, flowing into *Inarinjärvi*.

295 kms village of *Ivalo*, situated on the bank of the *Ivalojoiki* at the junction of the *Petsamo* and *Inari* highways. The Finnish Tourist Association's guesthouse, modernly equipped, is situated here, and at this guesthouse and at the *Ivalo* inn, nearby, tourists on the way to *Petsamo* can stop for the night. Motor-boat excursions can be taken from *Ivalo* on the beautiful *Inarinjärvi*.

From *Ivalo* a road leads northwest through lovely scenery to the village of *Inari* (40 kms) situated at the eastern end of *Inarinjärvi*; here one can see on Sundays the Lapps who have arrived for the church service.

From *Ivalo* the *Petsamo* road continues northeast near the shores of *Inarinjärvi*, glimpses of the bays in the lake being caught now and again from the road. — 348 kms *Virtaniemi* (Finnish Tourist Association's inn) on the bank of the *Patsjoki* near the point where the river flows out of *Inarinjärvi*; angling, for which permission can be obtained at the inn. — The road continues through uninhabited regions, crosses the former Finnish-Russian border near *Nautsi* inn (378 kms) into the *Petsamo* area and runs along the *Patsjoki* near the Norwegian border past *Hevosjoki* to *Höyhenjärvi* (398 kms). From here the road passes between

Kaskamajärvi (left) and *Kaskamatunturi* (348 m.; right) to *Pitkäjärvi* (425 kms) and continues via *Porojärvi* to *Salmijärvi* (455 kms), which is a village of considerable size on the shore of the sound uniting *Salmijärvi Lake* in the Patsjoki River and *Kuotsjärvi* lying farther east. There is a motor-boat connection north from Salmijärvi to *Koltta-köngäs* (see p. 7). From Salmijärvi the Petsamo road skirts *Kuotsjärvi* and continues east. After *Kuvernöörinkoski* (471 kms) the region becomes more mountainous until we arrive at the valley of the *Petsamonjoki*, where vegetation again becomes more luxuriant. — 505 kms *Yläluostari* monastery in the valley of the *Petsamonjoki* (Finnish Tourist Association's inn); angling. On the right a road leads to the Greek Orthodox monastery, the fine church with its sacred relics being worth a visit. From *Yläluostari* the road follows the *Petsamonjoki* to *Alaluostari* (518 kms), which is the administrative centre of the Petsamo area; the post and telegraph offices and the military barracks, etc., are situated here; there is also a Lutheran church. North of *Alaluostari* is the peasant village of *Näsykkä*, and farther the village of *Parkkina*, which is situated at the upper end of the 15 km. long *Petsamo fjord* and is the most densely-inhabited centre in the Petsamo area. At *Parkkina* there are a Greek Orthodox church, an elementary school, a hospital, a bank (branch office of the *Kansallis-Osake-Pankki*), etc. The road follows the shore of the fjord north to the harbour of *Trifona* (525 kms; Finnish Tourist Association's inn), from where there is a steamer service to *Kirkenes* (see p. 8) in Norway and to *Vaitolahti* (see p. 8), and where the motor-bus service now terminates, and continues 8 kms farther north to *Liinahamari* on the shore of the fjord, where the real deep-water harbour of Petsamo and an hotel are under construction. *Liinahamari* will then become the traffic centre of Petsamo.

The *Petsamo* area came under Russian influence at the end of the 15th century. In the 1550's the monk *Trifon* founded a Greek-Orthodox monastery there, which became the centre of Russian

rule in the district. During desultory warfare between the Finns and the Russians, a leader of the Finnish farmers, Pekka (Juho) Vesainen, led an expedition from the shores of the Gulf of Bothnia to the Arctic coast and destroyed the monastery in 1589. It was only re-erected last century.

The ownership of the Petsamo area has been the cause of lengthy strife. Negotiations finally led to Petsamo being united to Finland by the Dorpat Peace Treaty of 1920 between Finland and Russia, Finland thus gaining a path to the Arctic Ocean. Petsamo was first formed into a temporary province, but is now united to Finland as a county.

The area of Petsamo is 10,470 sq. kms and the population about 2,300; a considerable number of the inhabitants are «Skoltje» Lapps, whose means of livelihood are reindeer breeding and fishing. The majority of the inhabitants are Greek-Orthodox.

Salmijärvi—Kolttaköngäs.

From Salmijärvi (see p. 6) there is a mail motor-boat service northward along Patsjoki to the village of Kolttaköngäs (about 3 1/2 hours), situated on the Finnish-Norwegian border. From Salmijärvi we first arrive at *Kontiojärvi*, from where the two-forked *Saarikoski* rapids lead to the 9 km. long *Töllevijärvi*; a roller track has been constructed on the eastern side of the rapids, along which the motor-boat is transported past the rapids. *Töllevijärvi* is a beautiful lake surrounded by fells; the fine rapids of *Jäniskoski* commence at its northern end, and a roller track has been constructed beside these rapids also, on the Finnish side. Below *Jänisjärvi* the journey is continued down the swift current to the last mighty rapids in Patsjoki, *Kolttaköngäs* waterfall, just above which we land. From here there is a 1 km. walk down the western bank to the Lapp village *Kolttaköngäs* (Finnish Tourist Association's inn); Greek Orthodox church; angling. Here both banks of the river are Finnish territory.

The village near *Kolttaköngäs* is also called Boris-Gleb after the old church built there in the 16th century by St. Trifona in memory of the Christian princes Boris and Gleb who were murdered about 800. Near this church stands the new church, built in the 19th century.

From Kolttaköngäs the journey can be continued to the Norwegian town of *Kirkenes*, situated at the mouth of the Patsjoki on the shore of *Bøk fjord*. The journey can be made either by motor-boat from Kolttaköngäs to the village of *Elvenes* on the Norwegian side and onward by a Finnish motor-ship leaving for Kirkenes twice a week, by motor-bus leaving for Kirkenes twice daily, or by motor-boat direct to Kirkenes. Kirkenes is the terminus of the Norwegian coast mail steamer service, and it is therefore possible to continue thence southward down the Norwegian coast.

A motor-ship service is maintained twice weekly (about 7 hours) between Kirkenes and Petsamo (Trifona). From Bøk fjord the ship proceeds north to the Arctic Ocean and continues east along the coast, stopping at the village of *Vuoremi* situated at the mouth of the *Vuoremijoki* forming the Finnish-Norwegian border and turning into the Petsamo fjord; the journey ends at the harbour of *Trifona* (see p. 6) on the shore of the fjord.

Petsamo—Vaitolahti.

Once a week a motor-vessel plies between Petsamo (Trifona) and the village of *Vaitolahti* (about 10 hours' journey), situated at the northern end of the cape of *Kalastajasaarento*. The Finnish-Russian border passes across Kalastajasaarento; the western shore belongs to Finland, the eastern part of the cape to Russia. The ship first stops at the *Maattivuono* fjord, piercing the foot of the cape, and then at the low *Heinäsaari* islands, interesting owing to the profusion of bird life to be found there. The journey is continued to the village of *Pummanki*, situated on the southwest shore of the *Pummanki fjord*, which penetrates into the middle of Kalastajasaarento, to the village of *Kervanto* on the northern side of the fjord, and skirting the end of the cape, to *Vaitolahti*, (Finnish Tourist Association's inn), situated behind the cape on the very border of Finland.