



Lapland

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Why Go?

Lapland casts a powerful spell and has an irresistible romance to it that haunts the imagination and memory. While you won't see polar bears or rocky fjords, there is something intangible here that makes it magic.

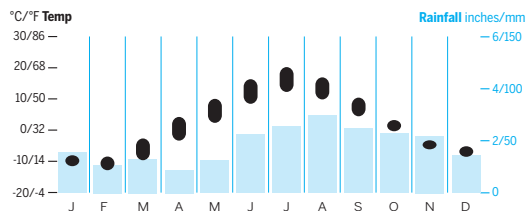
The midnight sun, the Sámi peoples, the aurora borealis (Northern Lights) and the wandering reindeer are all components of this, as is good old ho-ho-ho himself, who 'officially' resides here. Another part of the spell is in the awesome latitudes – at Nuorgam, the northernmost point, you have passed Iceland and nearly all of Canada and Alaska.

Lapland, which occupies 30% of Finland's land area but houses just 3% of its population, has vast and awesome wildernesses, ripe for exploring on foot, skis or sledge. The sense of space, pure air and big skies is what is memorable here, more than the towns.

Lapland's far north is known as Sápmi, home of the Sámi people. Their main communities are around Inari, Utsjoki and Hetta. Rovaniemi is the most popular gateway to the north.

When to Go

LAPLAND



Best Places to Stay

- » Porotila Toini Sanila (p309)
- » Kultahovi (p304)
- » Villa Lanca (p304)
- » Erähotelli Nellim (p301)
- » City Hotel (p273)

Best Places to Eat

- » Gaissa (p275)
- » Pirkon Pirtti (p296)

Apr The best month for sled treks and skiing, with plenty of light and not-so-scary temperatures.

Aug Plenty of light and sunshine, the trails are less crowded, and fewer biting insects.

Dec Reindeer, snow and Santa Claus himself are guaranteed to inject Christmas spirit.



Lapland Highlights

- 1 Trekking the lonely wildernesses around **Saariselkä** (p298)
- 2 Dashing through the snow pulled by a team of **huskies** or **reindeer** (p287)
- 3 Lapping up wonderful winter experiences in **Kemi** (p277), where you can sail on an ice-breaker, swim in the frozen-over sea, then spend the night in the ethereally beautiful snow castle.
- 4 Panning for gold in beautiful **Lemmenjoki** and walking in the national park (p305)
- 5 Picnicking with views on top Saana Fell in **Kilpisjärvi** (p289)
- 6 Learning about its environments at Rovaniemi's **Arktikum museum** (p271)
- 7 Taking your first steps at exploring Sámi culture at **Siida** (p302) in Inari.
- 8 Skiing at Lapland's best-equipped resort at **Levi** (p282)
- 9 Gazing in awe at the **aurora borealis** (p295)