



# The villages of Kittilä

A LOT TO LIVE FOR

# Good life in the villages of Kittilä

**THE VILLAGES** of Kittilä offer naturally beautiful surroundings to live in, many different kinds of recreational activities and an outdoors lifestyle. There are lots of ways to spend your free time – outdoor activities, excursions, tours, cultural offerings and sights – and many different kinds of accommodation. The villages give you the peace and quiet of the countryside combined with a close-knit village community, together with several annual events organized with the help of active village residents. The villages offer a peaceful and safe environment to live in, near the developing international centre that is the activity resort of Levi.

*Find out more about Kittilä and its villages  
– come and visit!*

## The Kittilä Villages: A project (2010–2013) by Kideve Kittilä Development

The main goal of the project is to increase the vitality of the villages in the region. The project also focuses on identifying the region's appeal, emphasizing its versatility, strengthening its identity and improving cooperation between villages. Moreover, the project is intended to assist the villages in finding ideas for development and support them in advancing their developmental projects themselves. Kideve Kittilä Development has received funding for the project from the Rural Development Programme for the Finnish Mainland, the Local Action Group of Fell Lapland (KKTM ry) and the Lapland Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment.

**Kideve Kittilä Development** is a municipal enterprise whose function is to improve the competitiveness of the region and develop it. Kideve realizes EU-funded projects in collaboration with local players and offers information about entrepreneurship opportunities and business services for the companies in the Kittilä region.

## Colophon

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• mooses.blogit.fi

• [www.jarviwiki.fi](http://www.jarviwiki.fi)

• <http://www.tunturisusi.com/lappi/>, A Learner's Glossary of Lapland, 1997

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This brochure is actually two brochures rolled into one. On the left-hand page, we show and tell you about village life in the Kittilä region; on the right, we provide a brief introduction to one or more of Kittilä's villages. You will find most of the villages of Kittilä in this brochure, but there are even more, as you can see if you fold out the map at the centre of the brochure.

# Wholesome living in Kittilä ■

*Kittilä is a municipality with more than 6000 inhabitants that stands out in the larger context of Fell Lapland, a rugged northern region of Finland. In addition to the municipal centre, which is also named Kittilä, there are about 30 other villages in the Kittilä area that vary widely in their number of residents: from fewer than ten people to a few hundred.*

## **Captivating nature**

The villages of Kittilä offer a versatile selection of places to visit and live. There are not four, but eight seasons of the year in Kittilä, each with its own mood, colours and scenery: ranging from the dark of the polar night to the glorious midnight sun, and from

the peak of a buzzing, flowery spring to the dazzling hues of autumn. Visitors and local residents alike are captivated by the magnificent highland fells and the grand Ounasjoki river that runs through the region and shapes its scenery. The municipality of Kittilä spans over a huge area: between its northernmost and southernmost villages lie more than 140 kilometres of sweeping vistas and breathtaking scenery.

## **A lively and growing region**

The municipality of Kittilä includes Levi, one of the most popular year-round ski and activity resorts in Finland, and features Europe's biggest gold mine. Many destinations can be reached from its international airport through its flight connections year round. In the tourist season, there are flights arriving daily from Finland and the rest of Europe. Internationality plays a significant role in the economic life of the Kittilä municipality, which lies above the Arctic Circle. There is also a high density of businesses here: roughly 600 enterprises in the municipality give it one of the highest commercial densities in Finland. The development of tourism and mining in Kittilä has created a modern and international atmosphere in the municipality, yet the traditional way of life still exists in many of the region's villages, also remaining present in their culture, art and events. There are many artists' homes and other interesting sights to see in the area.







*Come to Kittilä!  
Stay awhile!*

## ■ KITTILÄ

**Population:** 6,483 (January 2014, source: Population Register Centre)

**Region:** Lapland

**Sub-region:** Fell Lapland

**Established:** 1868

**Total area:** 8,263 sq km

**Lakes:** 718 (source: [www.jarviwiki.fi](http://www.jarviwiki.fi), 2014)

**Fells:** 10

**Reindeer:** about 12,000 (in 2013, source: Reindeer Herders' Association)

**More information:** [www.kittila.fi](http://www.kittila.fi)

### *A long time ago...*

**THE EARLIEST SIGNS** of people living in the area date back to the Stone Age and the transition from the Stone Age to the Bronze Age 3,500–3,000 years ago. The forest Lapps who lived on fishing and hunting in the region had their summer habitats located in different villages in the Kittilä area, e.g. Kōngäs, Kelontekemä, Kinisjärvi, Kuivasalmi, Raattama, Lomajärvi, Rouravaara and Hanhima. There are more than ten old sacrificial sites, the most famous of them called Taatsin seita in Pokka.

According to historical documents, the area's earliest recorded families had migrated to the region from different parts of Finland

by the ninth century. Records also indicate that Norwegians, Swedes and Carelians traded and paid taxes in the area as well. The region's good agricultural land attracted settlers, and many Sami and Finnish families intermarried and merged.

Kittilä was mentioned in tax records as early as 1553 as 'Kijcke'. The municipality of Kittilä was established in 1868, the year that its first municipal meeting was held under the then new system of local government. Kittilä had previously been part of Sodankylä, but emerged as a dependent parish in 1828. It became an independent one in 1854, by imperial edict.

A baby wearing a pink hooded jacket and a pacifier is sitting in a grey stroller. The baby is holding a blue and yellow toy fishing rod with a red pom-pom on the end. The background is a bright, hazy outdoor scene.

# Active village life ■

*In the villages of Kittilä, you can immerse yourself in your leisure pursuits, either with guidance and assistance or all on your own. There are a multitude of sports clubs and other associations that offer a wide variety of activities for people of all ages.*

**REVONTULI-OPISTO** is an open college that offers courses in many of the Kittilä villages as well as outside the municipality in Enontekiö and Sodankylä. Handicrafts, languages, music, dance, crafts, sports, mushroom picking, cooking, acting or IT skills – the villages have it all!

Finland's largest activity resort, Levi, offers something interesting to do all year: cross-country skiing, downhill skiing and snowboarding in winter and, in summer, hiking and biking offer nature experiences to the visitors. Levi additionally offers wellness and health services, indoor and outdoor sports arenas, many different activities and excursions, and restaurants and nightclubs.

Nature is an important part of life for many in the villages of Kittilä. Hiking trails, nature trails and cross-country skiing tracks cover the area in and around many of the villages. People also travel long distances to go fishing in the rivers, streams and lakes of the Kittilä region. The Ounasjoki river and its many tributaries are popular among both canoeists and fishing folk in the summer, and the woodland trails have lean-tos and teepees for shelter and a place to start a fire for hikers.



## *A long time ago...*

**AT THE BEGINNING** of the 20th century, there was a very skilful young counterfeiter called Janne Puurula who lived in Alakylä. He started his 'work' when he was 11 years old, counterfeiting almost all the money that his family needed for two years, a fact his father was rather proud of. Janne's one-mark notes and Swedish hundred-crown notes looked highly authentic: colours, watermarks and all. To achieve the precise hues he needed, Janne used natural dyes in addition to synthetic ones. He was never caught for counterfeiting Finnish money, but a close examination in a Swedish bank revealed some of his fake Swedish notes. In his wood stove at home, Janne destroyed both his counterfeiting equipment and the skilful drawings he had made so they could not be used against him as evidence. Eventually, because he was so young, the boy did not have to serve his four-year sentence, but his father served two years, part of it in Kittilä's wooden jailhouse, which was located where the police station is today.

There was no shame in counterfeiting that was done to help a poor family; rather, the boy's amazing talent was admired. Janne went missing in the Winter War in 1940 and was declared dead, but it is not known for sure what the fate of this legendary man was. Soviet radio did, however, at one point during the Continuation War, speak of a skilful cartographer on the Finnish side of the border...



*Adventures  
abound in Kittilä!*

## **HANHIMAA**

A scenic village with its oldest buildings spectacularly perched on the banks of the Lismajoki river, Hanhimaa has been declared a national scenic landscape area. The main sources of livelihood for the locals are forestry and reindeer herding. The village was probably inhabited by the 18th century, but a stone age club that was found near the village gives evidence of much earlier occupation. The village is said to have received its name, which translates to 'Goose Land', because the site of the village on the Lismajoki was once a feeding ground for thousands of migrating geese.

**Location:** On the road to Inari, roughly 44 km northeast from the village of Kittilä.

**Population:** About 50

**Places of interest:** The Kapsajoki and Lismajoki rivers are excellent fishing grounds. A person hiking up Vuossavaara Hill can see red jasper in the bedrock and the monument for the very first church built in the Kittilä area, at Kirkkokuusikko.

[www.kittila.fi/en/hanhimaa](http://www.kittila.fi/en/hanhimaa)

## **ALAKYLÄ**

Alakylä is a beautiful and vital village in the southern countryside of Kittilä, on the banks of the Ounasjoki river. The village offers excellent opportunities for fishing and an active hunting club. The first northern Lapland cooperative bank was established in Alakylä in 1912. Alakylä also has a school and a day-care centre.

**Location:** On Route 79, 35 km from the village of Kittilä, in the direction of Rovaniemi.

**Population:** About 160

**Places of interest:** Where the Ounasjoki river runs by Alakylä, there are rapids called Pahtakoski and Neitikoski. There are several lean-tos along the river for canoeists, campers and hikers to use. Alakylä also features two wartime memorials and a sports hall.

[www.kittila.fi/en/alakyla](http://www.kittila.fi/en/alakyla) | [alakyla.lappi.fi](http://alakyla.lappi.fi)



## Kampanisu

*Kampanisu is a traditional northern Finnish pastry which can be tasted in Kittilä. Every baker has a slightly different recipe, which makes each baker's pastries unique. Which one is your favourite? Here is the basic recipe to try out, and add your own personal touch if you dare!*

250 g butter  
5 dl sour cream or sour milk  
250 g granulated sugar  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
About 500 g or a suitable amount of wheat flour

*Melt the butter, and then add sugar, sour cream and baking soda. Mix the ingredients together, but not too much. Add as much flour as needed for the dough to still be soft but possible to roll out. Roll the dough into a 2 cm thick sheet and cut into 10 cm x 5 cm sized pieces with a pastry wheel. Make cuts into the edges so that the piece resembles a comb with thick teeth. On a baking sheet, bend the edge pieces so that the "teeth" separate a little. Bake in a 225–250°C oven until beautifully brown.*



# Genuinely local food

*In the short but light Northern summer, nature and its gifts have a rhythm of their own. There is a true cornucopia of scenery out there – fells, forests, bogs, rivers and lakes – and almost invariably something you can bring back with you. And when you're out in the wild, you'll be breathing in the cleanest air in all of Europe.*



**CLOUDBERRY MADNESS** rules in August. These golden delicacies are picked for people's own use, and any leftovers are sure to find their takers. Cloudberries, blueberries, cranberries and lingonberries abound: berry-picking, mushroom picking and hunting are late-summer and autumn hobbies for many in the area. Fishing in its various forms attracts visitors all year round, also ice fishing in the winter. Many take pride in being self-sufficient when it comes to the gifts of nature: local home freezers are full of berries and other pickings, and processing moose and deer meat is everyday life in the autumn hunting season. These gifts of nature are also a source of livelihood for some who deliver to the food processing industry. Reindeer herding is a traditional source of livelihood in the Kittilä region as well. Local reindeer meat can be enjoyed in restaurants, and it is a treat you can take back home with you.



*As the story goes, there once was a traveller from Kittilä who went out to eat at a very fine restaurant in southern Finland. He asked for the chef's recommendation, and the waiter replied, 'We have excellent reindeer and salmon cooked over an open fire.' The traveller wonderingly responded, 'But don't you have any specialties?'*

## ■ HELPPI

Helppi is one of the southernmost villages in the municipality of Kittilä. This village sits astride the beautiful Ounasjoki river, on both banks of the river, and in wintertime the two sides are linked by an ice road across the river. The village has its own ice-hockey rink and a village hall that functions as assembly hall that hosts courses and other cultural and sports activities.

**Location:** The distance from Helppi to the village of Kittilä is 50 km, south along the Helppi road that turns off Route 79.

**Population:** About 130

**Places of interest:** The village's cross-country skiing tracks criss-cross the hilly landscape in winter, and the well-stocked river Ounasjoki attracts fishermen from wide and far, also for ice fishing.

[www.kittila.fi/en/helppi](http://www.kittila.fi/en/helppi) | [helppi.lappi.fi](http://helppi.lappi.fi)

## ■ JEESIÖJÄRVI

An ideal setting for anyone seeking the peace and quiet of the wilderness, the village of Jeesiöjärvi is located near the majestic mountain fell of Kumputunturi (translates to "Mount Fell"). In winter, there is a snowmobile route leading to the top (581 meters above sea level) and a wilderness cabin at the top of the fell that provides shelter for a packed lunch or snack before you head back.

**Location:** Roughly 37 km east of the village of Kittilä.

**Population:** About 45

**Places of interest:** The Kumputunturi Fell, the Hautajärvi wilderness cabin and recreation area, and the Chapel of Saint Elia.

[www.kittila.fi/en/jeesiojarvi](http://www.kittila.fi/en/jeesiojarvi)






*Room to roam!*

# Natural living and cosy communities ■

*There is lots of space to build and live in the villages. Distances may be long in kilometres, but short in terms of time.*

**SOMETIMES THE COMMUTE** is far if you live and/or work in the Kittilä area. But the distances are easy here: no rush hour and little traffic. There are lots of businesses and jobs in the village, although most jobs and services are concentrated in the village of Kittilä and Levi region, two largest communities at the centre of the municipality. Some villages offer day care centres, health services and schools. For the elderly, there are assisted-living services that allow them to remain home in their close-knit community if they wish, along with social and club activities. The municipalities of Kittilä and Kolari fund a mobile library that serves the villages in the municipality.





### *A long time ago...*

**LUTHERAN MINISTERS VISITED THE VILLAGES QUITE RARELY** to perform services such as marriages, christenings and baptisms. Reverend Auno once came to the village of Kallo to hold a service, deliver a sermon and baptize any children who had arrived since his previous visit. This time, there happened to be quite a few children to be baptized, and after having performed the ceremony for this relatively large number, he observed wryly, 'It is true that God ordered us to multiply and fill the earth, but it did not mean that the people in Kallo should take on that task all by themselves.'

*'Kaukonen and the people there are scabby, full of lice. Kallo people are just like them, but cannot take advice!'*

...goes the local rhyme. The villages of Kallo and Kaukonen are closely located, lively villages that have always been competing with one another. This 'poem' is used in both villages, the names of the villages just have been switched!

## ■ KALLO

This scenic village lies between two lakes: lake Kallojärvi and Syväjärvi. In Kallo, they say the village 'lies right between the eyes', a saying that ties in nicely with the local origin story of the village's name, which means "skull" in Finnish. According to the story, the village's name stems from a fishing expedition out on one of the lakes, when one of the nets came up with a human skull in it. There are many hiking trails around the village of Kallo and a wide range of hunting and berry-picking grounds.

**Location:** Roughly 40 km southwest of the village of Kittilä

**Population:** About 160

**Places of interest:** Cross-country skiing tracks, hiking trails, beaches, bird-watching towers, fishing grounds, well-preserved old buildings and an official shooting range.

[www.kittila.fi/en/kallo](http://www.kittila.fi/en/kallo) | [kallo.lappi.fi](http://kallo.lappi.fi)

## ■ KAUKONEN

One of the largest and oldest villages on the Ounasjoki river, Kaukonen is a lively and pleasant village offering many services and recreational facilities including the village hall. Kaukonen has modern infrastructure, yet the village has also been declared a scenic landscape area of national importance.

**Location:** About 18 km south of the village of Kittilä on Route 79.

**Population:** About 350

**Places of interest:** The Särestöniemi Museum, the historic Hakala farm, the Holmanlinna war memorial, an ice-hockey rink, ancient Kulppi pine tree, the Ounas village hall, a running track, a horse trotting track, a sports field, the Gallery Villa Magia, and a shooting range.

[www.kittila.fi/en/kaukonen](http://www.kittila.fi/en/kaukonen) | [kaukonen.lappi.fi](http://kaukonen.lappi.fi)



*'Let's go for it!' is  
the attitude here.*

# Entrepreneurial spirit ■

*Kittilä's biggest industries are  
tourism and mining.*



**FINLAND'S MOST POPULAR ACTIVITY** resort and biggest ski resort, Levi, and Europe's largest gold mine offer jobs for locals and those who move to the municipality. These international industries are highly visible in the everyday life of the people who live here and the companies they work for. The municipality itself is also a big employer.

With just a bit over six thousand inhabitants, the municipality of Kittilä boasts roughly six hundred businesses – one of the highest densities of commercial enterprises per capita in Finland. There is a versatile selection of tourist services and accommodations that supply jobs to those living in Kittilä's villages, as well as services related to the land construction, transportation, facility maintenance, and beauty and wellness industries. In addition, agriculture, forestry and reindeer herding provide work in the villages.





## ■ KELONTEKEMÄ

Kelontekemä is located in a landscape of meadows and high fells, next to the biggest lake in Kittilä, Kelontekemäjärvi, where the fish are plentiful. In summer, the village landscape is aglow with flowery pastures; in winter it is snowy, dark and peaceful. Kelontekemä holds a traditional summer festival every year in the last week of July.

**Location:** Roughly 48 km southeast of the village of Kittilä.

**Population:** About 105

**Places of interest:** The old Kaitamaa cemetery, a community hall, a barn museum, the islands of Manalaissaari and Saijansaari, boating and ice fishing, the Kumputunturi fell, and a multitude of huts and shelters (for example in Kiiskimukka, Uutosenkumpu, Luusua, Tepsankenttä).

[www.kittila.fi/en/kelontekema](http://www.kittila.fi/en/kelontekema) | [www.kelontekema.fi](http://www.kelontekema.fi)

## ■ KIISTALA-LINTULA-ROURAVAARA

Kiistala, Lintula and Rouravaara are three villages that share a close proximity to the Kittilä gold mine. Kiistala is located on lake Sammakojärvi and the Loukinen river, a tributary of the Ounasjoki river. Lintula has a traditional appearance that makes it one of Lapland's most representative in terms of showing life in the far north. Rouravaara is a mining village that also features one of Finland's northernmost dairy cattle farms.

**Location:** The villages are located about 45–50 km northeast of the village of Kittilä.

**Population:** About 80 in total.

**Places of interest:** The Kittilä gold mine, the traditional scenic village of Lintula, hiking trails, and shelters and lean-tos (Lintula, Loukinen, and Autiomukka).

[www.kittila.fi/en/kiistala](http://www.kittila.fi/en/kiistala) | [www.kittila.fi/en/lintula](http://www.kittila.fi/en/lintula)  
| [www.kittila.fi/en/rouravaara](http://www.kittila.fi/en/rouravaara)





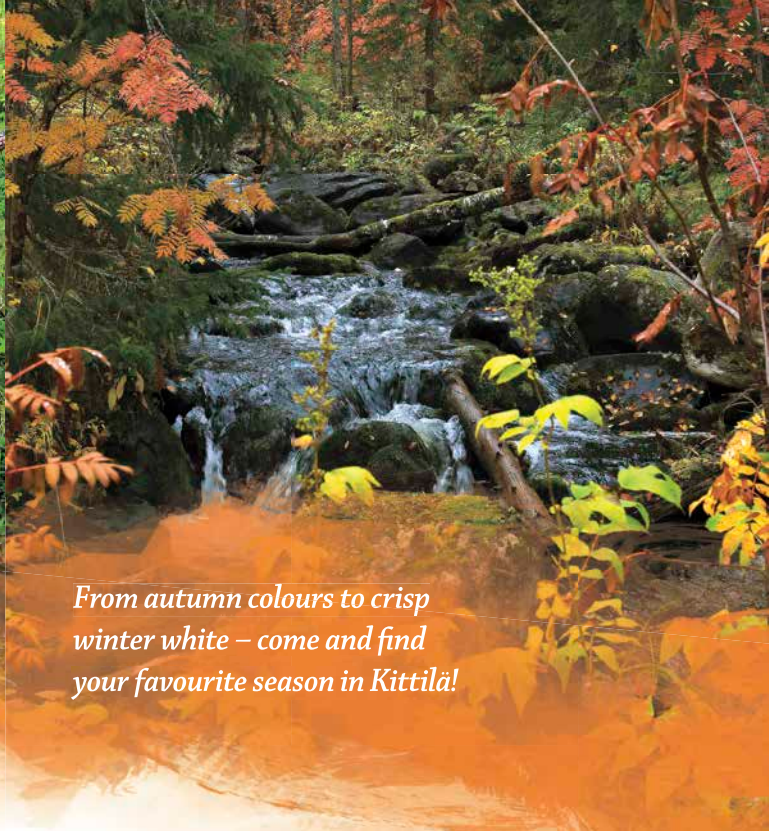
# A Season for everything ■

*The seasons definitely change in Kittilä, and it shows. Each season has a completely different look and feel, and it is claimed that there are eight seasons in Lapland: the four main seasons of winter, spring, summer and autumn – and then the seasons that come in between.*

**THE CHANGES IN NATURE** in Fell Lapland are fast and clear and set the rhythm of a year. During the polar night, when the sun does not rise, the abundant snow and the glimmer of sun result in a blue twilight that calms the mind. In spring, when the sun rises again, and the snow multiplies the light, it is as if nature – and people – suddenly burst into activity from the

sudden increase in daylight. In spring and early summer, nature glows in bright green colours, and the colours grow deeper as midsummer approaches. Autumn is the favourite season of many: the mosquitoes have disappeared, and nature offers wonderful autumn colours for hiker and hunter alike. The late autumn, before winter sets in, is the time of twilight. Candles are lit, and expectations turn towards Christmas, when the snow and festive lights create their own magic.





*From autumn colours to crisp winter white – come and find your favourite season in Kittilä!*

## ■ KINISJÄRVI AND VUOMA

The Kinisjärvi water system offers a setting for many activities, from swimming and fishing to canoeing. Each spring, while the ice still covers Kinisjärvi, the lake is the site of a popular ice fishing competition; in the summer, there is a rowing and trolling competition that draws people from miles around. The former village school is today an active centre for village life.

**Location:** Roughly 70 km south of the village of Kittilä

**Population:** About 120

**Places of interest:** Kinisjärvi lake and the Molkojoki river are popular with fishermen and canoeists.

[www.kittila.fi/en/kinisjarvi](http://www.kittila.fi/en/kinisjarvi) | [www.kittila.fi/en/vuoma](http://www.kittila.fi/en/vuoma)  
| [kinisjarvi-vuoma.lappi.fi](http://kinisjarvi-vuoma.lappi.fi)

## ■ KIRJANSELKÄMAA

Kirjanselkämaa became an independent village in 2011. A hotel and a growing number of holidaymakers liven up this small hamlet. The area's name, which means 'book spine land', derives from the way the fells lie across the land, resembling an open book.

**Location:** Roughly 36 km north of the village of Kittilä

**Population:** About 10–20

**Places of interest:** There is a hotel in the village and, in winter, there is a cross-country skiing track that starts at the hotel. In the summer, the track is a nature trail.

[www.kittila.fi/en/kirjanselkamaa](http://www.kittila.fi/en/kirjanselkamaa)



# Snow, snow, wonderful snow ■

*High piles of snow can be a thrilling experience for many children, and as for adults – well, let's just say that the beauty of snowy winter scenery rarely leaves them cold.*

**SNOW AND COLD** temperatures are a vital part of the Kittilä experience. Snow beautifies and lightens a winter scene while also affording a wider variety of activities. Freezing temperatures are also useful in many connections: for example, ice roads and snow trails actually shorten distances in wintertime.

The versatile slopes of the Levi ski resort attract many downhill skiers and snowboarders. An active person can also find many kilometres of cross-country skiing tracks in villages all over Kittilä, not just at the Levi resort. In addition, there are plenty of guides to take the willing on skiing and snowshoeing excursions of varying degrees of difficulty in the Kittilä area.

There is ice skating in an indoor skating rink, in the ice rinks of the region and sometimes also on natural ice, if Mother Nature allows. Speeding across the snow on a snowmobile is also an option, with about 900 km of official snowmobile routes in the municipality. Snowy sceneries can also be admired on husky- and reindeer-drawn sleigh rides, and there are skilfully made snow and ice castles that you can have a drink or even spend a night in.

Also in the Kittilä area is the Levi Alpine Racing School, where students learn to become a ski instructor or train as future top athletes on alpine skis. The Levi resort also hosts a world cup competition in alpine skiing in November, the Levi World Cup, along with other competitions. In the traditional Särestöniemi skiing event, the cross-country track takes competing skiers from the village of Kittilä to the Särestöniemi museum and back. There are also ice-fishing competitions on the early spring ice in many of the villages of Kittilä.



*Snow covers the ground for at least six months a year, often even longer.*

## ■ THE VILLAGE OF KITILÄ

Many of the public and commercial services and several shops and special stores in the Kittilä municipality are to be found in the Kittilä village centre. Municipal and government offices are located here, along with the library and the Kittilä health clinic. Education is provided by the local comprehensive and secondary schools, the Levi Alpine Racing school, the Lapland Vocational Training Institute and Levi Institute unit of the Lapland Tourism College. The village also features various indoor recreational facilities, as well as the Agnico Eagle ice-hockey rink and football field, and, in the winter, there are cross-country skiing tracks in and outside the village. There is also an international airport just a few kilometres north of the village.

**Location:** The village of Kittilä is located in the geographic middle of the municipality. From here, it is about 150 km to Rovaniemi and 960 km to Helsinki. The Swedish border at Kolari is about 76 km away and the Norwegian border at Enontekiö roughly 190 km away. It is about 86 km to the village of Sodankylä.

**Population:** About 2,800

**Places of interest:** There is a church which survived World War II and the fire that burned down nearly all of the rest of the village in 1944. Other local history can be viewed at the museum of local history and culture in the Pakatti district, which is open in summertime. In the village centre, there is the Einari Junttila Art Museum and the home of Kalervo Palsa, a local artist. For birdwatchers and trekkers, there is the Karinnokka birdwatching tower and, next to it on the bank of the Ounasjoki river, the Karinnokka shelter, where people can picnic or rest. The cross-country skiing track doubles as a running and hiking trail during the snow-free months.

[www.kittila.fi/en/kittila](http://www.kittila.fi/en/kittila)



## ■ KUIVASALMI AND NILIVAARA

These two villages have always been closely linked, also by many kinship relations. According to tradition, Korteniemi, on the east bank of lake Rastinjärvi, is the homestead of the seventeenth century Kittilä sorcerer, Päiviö. Kuivasalmi is also known as Rasti.

**Location:** The two villages are located roughly 30 km northeast of the village of Kittilä.

**Population:** About 45

**Places of interest:** A traditional Lapp cemetery, Nilivaara hill and its gorgeous view over lake Sotkajärvi, the Kumpunturi Fell, the village activity centre, the ancient homestead of the legendary sorcerer Päiviö, the Autiomukka ancient homestead, historic homestead, and a shelter maintained by the Finnish National Board of Forestry.

[www.kittila.fi/en/kuivasalmi](http://www.kittila.fi/en/kuivasalmi) | [www.kittila.fi/en/nilivaara](http://www.kittila.fi/en/nilivaara)



# Fun and games ■

*There's always something to do in Kittilä, all year round, for locals and visitors alike, thanks to the active village associations and lively local life.*



**JUST SOME OF THE DIFFERENT** and varied events that are organized in the region are dances, ice-fishing competitions, whitefish markets, reindeer days, horse-trotting races on the ice, reindeer races, and canoeing and trolling competitions. Every summer, there is a traditional market in the town of Kittilä, with an opening event held in a different village every year. The Hiljaisuus ('Silence') festival of performing arts is held every year in Kaukonen, and the Staal Theatre Festival enlivens the beginning of the polar night. Many kinds of music events bring concerts with singing, playing and performing artists to different parts of the Kittilä region.

Annual sports events and other activities are organized at the Levi resort, and at the Levi Christmas Market you can find many traditional Finnish and Lapp handicrafts and ideas for Christmas. The river Ounasjoki also offers a scenic setting for many events.





*Find more info on what to do in Kittilä at [www.kittila.fi](http://www.kittila.fi), [www.levi.fi](http://www.levi.fi)*

## ■ KUUSAJOKI AND SIITONEN

The Kuusajoki area hosts many businesses, and there is a sports centre and a cross-country skiing centre in Siitonen. The village association also includes the village of Hormakumpu.

**Location:** The villages are located roughly 12 km (Kuusajoki), 15 km (Hormakumpu) and 20 km (Siitonen) east of the village of Kittilä.

**Population:** About 80

**Sights and activities:** The Lopsunoja gold-panning site, the Sinermä chrome marble quarry, the Siitonen cross-country skiing centre, the Nulituinen village of traditional kammi dwellings, the Kivilanto shelter next to cross-country skiing and hiking trails, and the Reino Sipola Attic Gallery in Hormakumpu.

[www.kittila.fi/en/siitonen](http://www.kittila.fi/en/siitonen) | [kuusajoki.lappi.fi](http://kuusajoki.lappi.fi)

## ■ KÖNGÄS

Köngäs is an active, vibrant and growing village that is home to many business enterprises while also offering a wide variety of activities for visitors all year round. The Ounasjoki river flowing through the centre of the village adds personality to the village scenery and affords excellent fishing and recreational facilities. The name Köngäs means rapids.

**Location:** About 28 km north of the church of Kittilä, close to Levi.

**Population:** Roughly 190

**Places of interest:** The Ounasjoki river, Munajärvi lake, and a lit-up cross-country skiing track, lean-tos and a slipway.

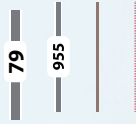
[www.kittila.fi/en/kongas](http://www.kittila.fi/en/kongas) | [kongas.lappi.fi](http://kongas.lappi.fi)



# A map of Kittilä



Village (in the brochure)  
Village



79  
955

Main road  
Paved road  
Gravel road  
Snowmobile route

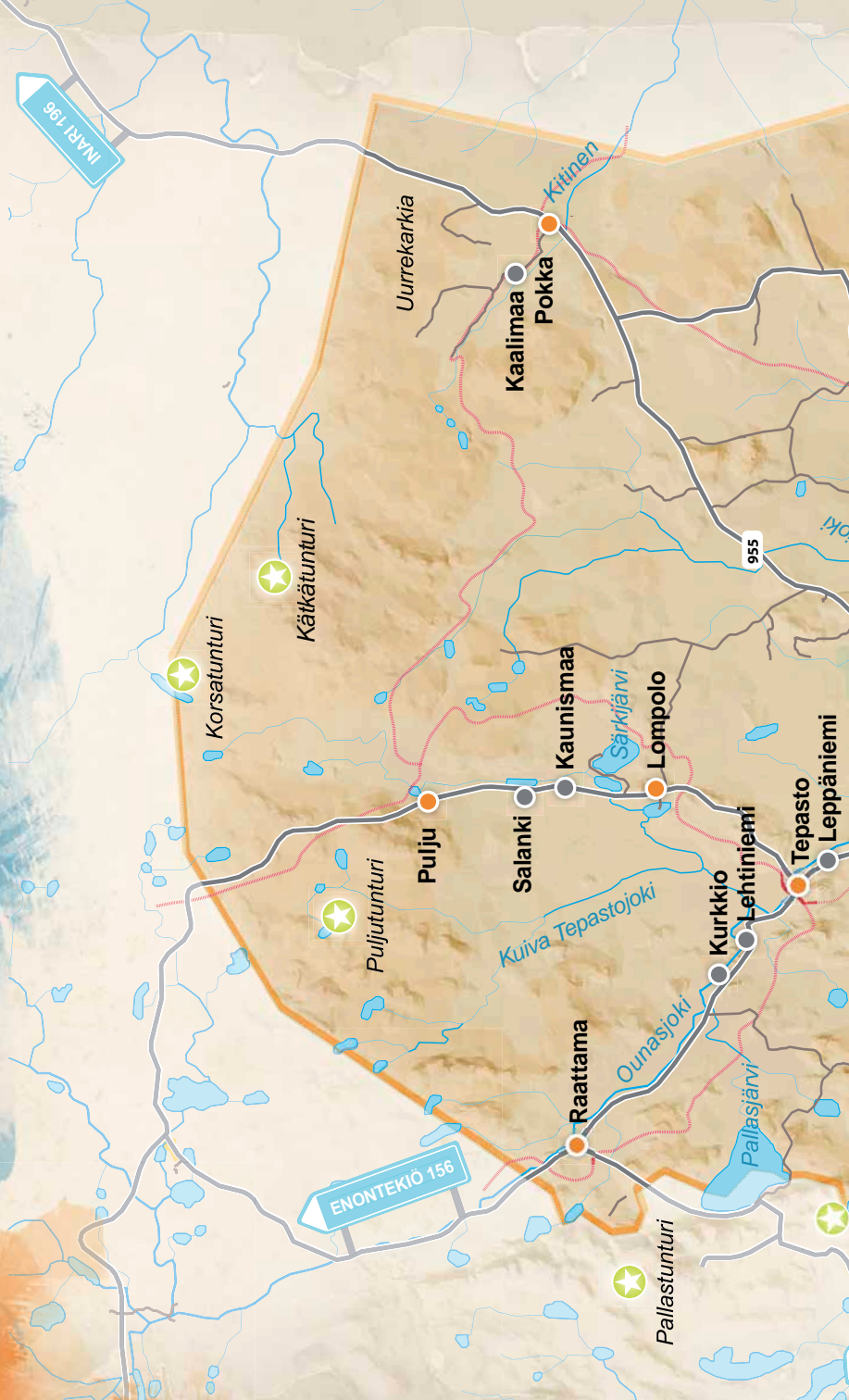
Distance from  
Kittilä village centre



Fell



Airport







## The Staalo

According to legend, the Staalo are ancient goblin creatures: much like humans, big and strong, but a little stupid and hostile to people. They lived in forests with their families and would sometimes kidnap a human girl for a wife. The locals believed that you could kill a Staalo with a silver arrow or by being cunning.



# Experience the wilderness



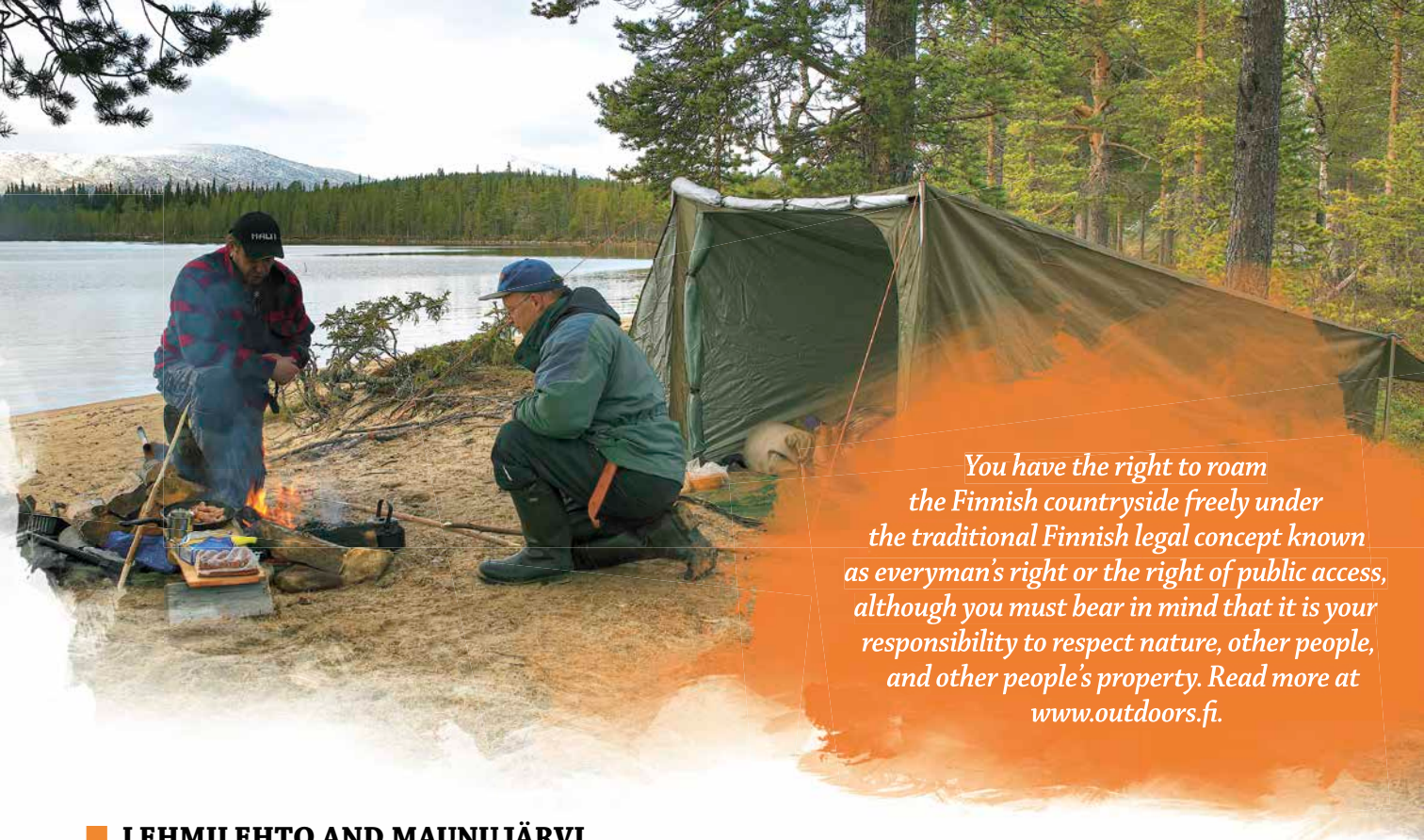
*In several of the villages of Kittilä, you can find nature trails and shelters for hikers. Hikes up on the many fells provide the perfect opportunity to become familiar with the flora and fauna of the countryside – as well as experience the magnificent scenic vistas that open up before you when you reach the heights.*

**KITTILÄ IS A REGION** in which Forest Lapland becomes Fell Lapland. Bogs, peatlands and other wetlands are typical of the landscape of the region, as well as the many hills, fells, lakes and the grand river Ounasjoki and its tributaries. Bogs are the scene of 'cloudberry fever' for berry pickers every autumn and offer room to move in winter.

Nature affords spectacular sights in the Kittilä region, like the Ruoppaköngäs gorge, the ancient Sami sacrificial site called Taatsin Seitä, the Linkuvuori volcano park with a manifest of ancient volcanos in Lapland, and the stately Kumpuntunturi Fell near the village of Jeesiöjärvi.

At the Levi resort, you can find nature trails that are marked with detailed, informative and interesting guideboards. The Kätkätunturi Fell near Levi is an easy day trip destination for hikers. There are several trails in the Aakenustunturi area that have many different levels of difficulty. The Pulju wilderness area features wide bogs and several hills and fells that are well suited to experienced trekkers and hikers. The Pallas-Yllästunturi National Park and its many hiking trails are also close by.





*You have the right to roam the Finnish countryside freely under the traditional Finnish legal concept known as everyman's right or the right of public access, although you must bear in mind that it is your responsibility to respect nature, other people, and other people's property. Read more at [www.outdoors.fi](http://www.outdoors.fi).*

## ■ LEHMILEHTO AND MAUNUJÄRVI

Lehmilehto and Maunujärvi are villages known for their clean air and natural peace and quiet. From the lean-to shelters on the shore of the Maunujärvi lake, you can enjoy swimming from the beach or watching the local birdlife – the village surroundings afford the opportunity to spot many different local and migratory bird species. There is also a museum in the village that has an exhibition of old household and farming equipment.

**Location:** The villages are located roughly 90 km southeast of the village of Kittilä.

**Population:** About 45

**Places of interest:** Shelters, lake swimming, and a museum of old household and farming equipment and a traditional shingle cutter.

[www.kittila.fi/en/lehmilehto](http://www.kittila.fi/en/lehmilehto) | [www.kittila.fi/en/maunujarvi](http://www.kittila.fi/en/maunujarvi)

## ■ LOMPOLO

The Finnish word 'lompolo' means a small lake with a river running through it, and the village of Lompolo offers a magnificent view over the lake towards the Pallastunturi and Ounastunturi fells. According to legend, the area was previously inhabited by the Staalos, nasty goblin-like creatures that were a nuisance to the villagers.

**Location:** Roughly 60 km north of the village of Kittilä.

**Population:** About 50

**Places of interest:** The Syväjärvi and Särkijärvi lakes both offer beaches and lakeshore shelters, and Suksijärvi lake has a traditional Lapp teepee shelter on the eastern shore.

[www.kittila.fi/en/lompolo](http://www.kittila.fi/en/lompolo) | [pulju-lompolo.lappi.fi](http://pulju-lompolo.lappi.fi)



# Opposites attract

*Kittilä and its villages can be characterized as places of positive contrasts. A summer is a real summer here, just as a winter is truly a winter. The quiet wilderness counterbalances the modern services, conveniences and infrastructure available, including fast Internet connections.*

**DURING THE TRAVEL** season, the compact centre of Levi is as busy as a small town. However, peace and quiet are just a few kilometres away. Top Finnish and international performers, actors and musicians visit the area to perform at various local events. In the villages, one can find traditional arts and crafts and music traditions. There are old traditional buildings and traditional village sceneries in the villages, seemingly juxtaposed alongside the latest in building design brought to the area by a fast-developing tourism industry.





*Kittilä leaves  
nobody cold!*

## ■ MOLKOJÄRVI

This village lies in peaceful surroundings on the banks of the beautiful lake Molkojärvi, one of the largest lakes in the Kittilä region. Artefacts found on the shores of the lake tell the tale of settlement in the village since the Stone Age. The former Molkojärvi school has been converted into a leisure centre for the villagers.

**Location:** Roughly 80 km from the parish village of Kittilä, in a south-southeastern direction.

**Population:** About 60

**Places of interest:** The Molkojärvi wilderness centre and home museum, the Naskama birdwatching tower and camping shelter, and nature trail that starts at the village centre.

[www.kittila.fi/en/molkojarvi](http://www.kittila.fi/en/molkojarvi) | [molkojarvi.lappi.fi](http://molkojarvi.lappi.fi)

## ■ PAKATTI


Pakatti is an area close to the village of Kittilä. There is plenty of new settlement and excellent properties for detached homes or holiday cabins, which can be purchased from the municipality. The Kittilä museum of local history and culture is located in Pakatti: open in the summer, the museum contains exhibits of buildings and artefacts dating back to the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries.

**Location:** Roughly 5 km from the village of Kittilä.

**Population:** About 180

**Places of interest:** The Kittilä museum of local history and culture and a beautiful beach close to Pakatti.

[www.kittila.fi/en/pakatti](http://www.kittila.fi/en/pakatti)



*With little light pollution,  
you can enjoy the nature's  
light show to the fullest!*

# Living lights ■

*In summertime, there is plenty of natural light around the clock. On clear winter nights, the number of visible stars is stunning, and the moon illuminates the scenery.*

**IN KITTILÄ**, the much of the dark wintertime is brightened by beautiful and festive Christmas lights, indoors and out. Fireplaces and candles also bring living light into homes and public spaces. The new settlement in Levi features energy-efficient LED outdoor lighting.

An artistic mind takes pleasure in the special diagonal light that comes from the sky in the northern region, awakening special tints and hues in the scenery.

The Northern Lights in winter, the Aurora Borealis, are a fascinating phenomenon. Especially in the wilderness villages, where there is little to no light pollution or light coming from houses, the Northern Lights appear particularly bright in the sky. The Northern Lights cause the light in the sky to change constantly: what starts as a small dim arch can grow into Nature's light show filling the heavens. They light up the night with a bright belt of light or with a storm of light that fills the sky completely.





## Taatsin Seita

*The word Taatsi in the name of the sacrificial stone Taatsin Seita is said to mean 'Denmark', but 'Norwegian', 'stranger', 'a non-Lapp' are other meanings that have also been suggested. In addition to the gods that received sacrifice, the people of the old days believed in the existence of a large group of different spirits and goblins. They claimed to know of spirits of the earth, lake, river and bog, and gnomes lived in hiding in nature, also in the deep of the 'saivos', the double-bottom lakes of Sami legend. The Sami believed that their dead went to a place that existed beneath a saivo lake, where there was another lake that was upside down, as if in a mirror. The spirits then lived on as saivo people, residing upside down on the shores of these upside-down lakes beneath lakes.*

## POKKA

Pokka is one of the most northernmost villages of Kittilä, close to the Inari municipality border. Known for the amount of snow it receives, Pokka also holds the Finnish record for low temperatures: in 1999, a numbing -51.5°C was recorded. The village has its own airfield. The Taatsin Seita stone in Pokka is a rocky steeple that stands on steep, rocky cliffs to the north of craggy lake Taatsijärvi. In ancient times, it was one of Lapland's greatest sites of worship and sacrifice.

**Location:** Roughly 87 km northeast of the parish village of Kittilä.

**Population:** Around 10

**Places of interest:** The Kirsti Pokka museum, the old sacrificial stone of Taatsin Seita, and the Uurrekarkia viewpoint (a former fire watch lookout tower).

[www.kittila.fi/en/pokka](http://www.kittila.fi/en/pokka)

## PULJU

The northern village of Pulju is a true wilderness village. The advantages of Pulju lie in its peacefulness and natural beauty. Close to the village starts the Pulju wilderness area, where the Puljutunturi Fell rises to a height of almost 500 metres. In the local dialect, pulju means 'ridge'.

**Location:** Roughly 74 km north of the parish village of Kittilä

**Population:** About 30

**Places of interest:** The Puljutunturi backpacking route and shelter, the Narkioja signposted cross-country skiing tracks, the Narkioja teepee shelter, the Puljutunturi wilderness area and the Nivanmaa teepee shelter.

[www.kittila.fi/en/pulju](http://www.kittila.fi/en/pulju) | [pulju-lompolo.lappi.fi](http://pulju-lompolo.lappi.fi)

### *Kittilä mittens*

*Kittilä mittens are made by several skilled craftsmen in the Kittilä region. The colours of these artisanal mittens come from the colours of the wolverine in the Kittilä coat of arms, and the footprints of a wolverine are visible in the ornamental pattern.*



## Art and culture ■

*The wide spectrum of culture in the Kittilä region can be enjoyed all year round. In the villages of Kittilä, one can find traditional craftsmanship, art, and folk music, as well as theatre and several choirs.*

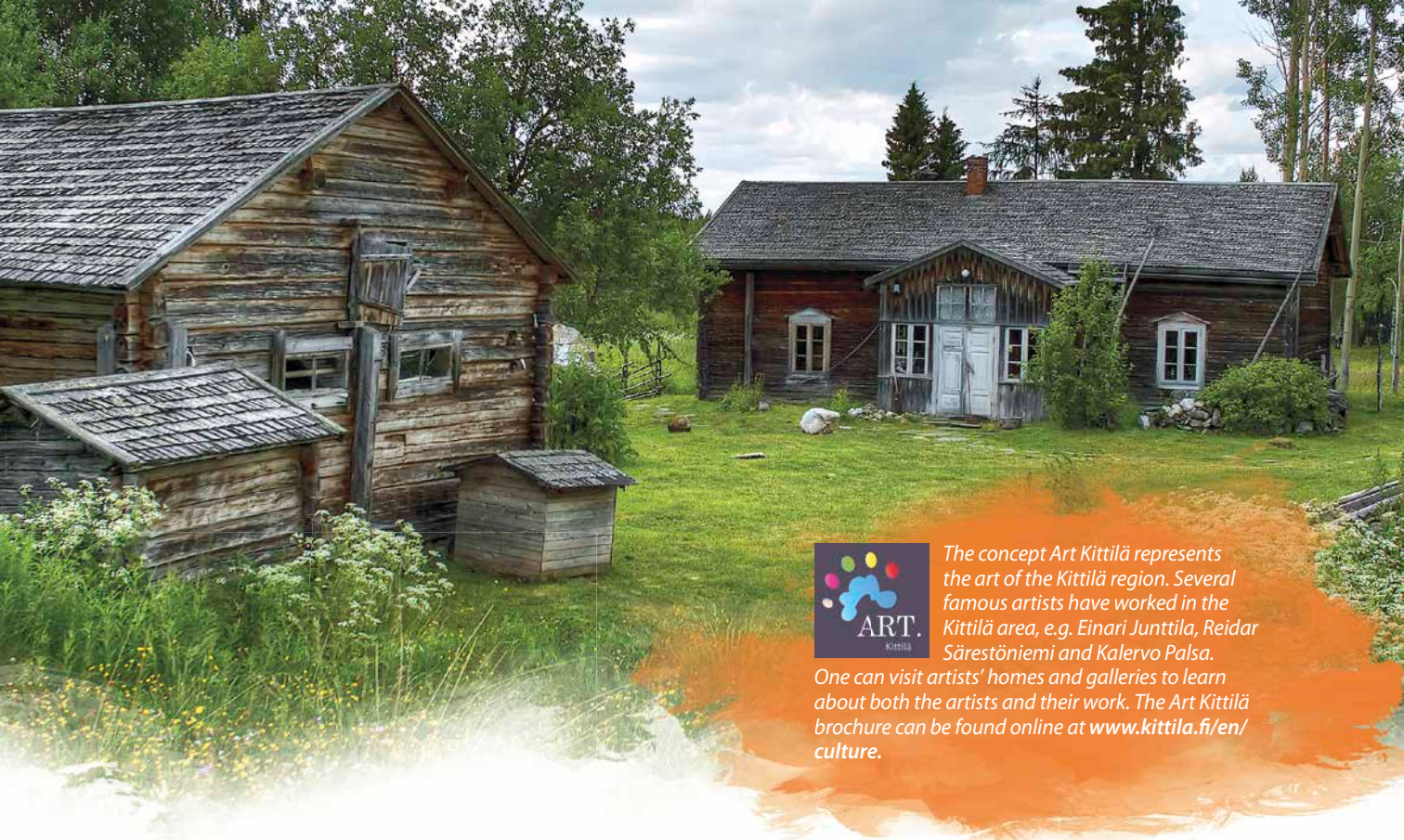
**THERE IS A STRONG TRADITION** of visual arts in Kittilä: the artists of the region play a significant role in the art history of Lapland and Finland. Not only have these artists depicted Kittilä as it exists today, but they have built its multidimensional spiritual atmosphere and thus delivered the different experiences and stories of Kittilä to a wider audience. Nowadays, the Staalo

Art Society keeps up the strong roots of artistic life in the region, and the many cultural events bring colour to village lives.

The Kittilä museum of local history and culture in Pakatti features exhibits showing rustic artefacts from the early 20th century in Kittilä. Located on the banks of the river Ounasjoki, in a setting of natural beauty, the museum is set up in old buildings that reflect the style of Southern Lapland. Also, the villages of Kittilä host smaller museums with exhibits showing traditional activities in the villages, such as using old tools and working in traditional farmyards.

The library in Kittilä has a broad and versatile collection, along with its hosting a special exhibition that changes every month and various kinds of cultural events. Movies and theatre shows can be seen in the Kittilä region at regular intervals as well.





*The concept Art Kittilä represents the art of the Kittilä region. Several famous artists have worked in the Kittilä area, e.g. Einari Junttila, Reidar Särestöniemi and Kalervo Palsa.*

*One can visit artists' homes and galleries to learn about both the artists and their work. The Art Kittilä brochure can be found online at [www.kittila.fi/en/culture](http://www.kittila.fi/en/culture).*

## ■ PÖNTSÖ

The village of Pöntsö offers natural peace and art experiences close to the Levi resort, for example the architecturally diverse Gallery Raekallio, which is located in what was formerly the Pöntsö Inn, a place that was quite famous in the past. Pöntsö is located on the shore of the scenic lake of Pöntsöjärvi.

**Location:** Roughly 36 km northwest of the village of Kittilä.

**Population:** Fewer than 5

**Places of interest:** The Raekallio art gallery, the Kulkujoki river, the scenic Ruoppaköngäs recreational area, the ruins of an old mill, and Pöntsöjärvi lake.

[www.kittila.fi/en/pontso](http://www.kittila.fi/en/pontso)

## ■ RAUDUSKYLÄ

Rauduskylä is a small lakeside village with an old building stock that includes attractive rustic housing and traditional farmyards. Rauduskylä has been designated a scenic landscape area of national importance.

**Location:** Roughly 33 km north of the village of Kittilä.

**Population:** Around 45

**Places of interest:** The Laukkujärvi, Mantojärvi and Rautusjärvi lakes and the Lismajoki river provide plenty of opportunities for canoeing, boating and fishing, and in the winter there is a cross-country skiing track in the village.

[www.kittila.fi/en/rauduskyla](http://www.kittila.fi/en/rauduskyla)



# About the reindeer.



## Mind the reindeer!

- If you see reindeer on the road, give the reindeer a chance to move out of your way.
- Drive at a speed in which you can still control your car should you suddenly see a reindeer on the road.
- Watch the sides of the road – the signposted warnings are there for a reason.
- Where there is one reindeer, there is usually a bigger herd nearby. Turn your headlights/headlamps on at dusk, as the reflected glow of a reindeer's eyes in the headlights can be seen from far away and give you time to react.
- Warn other drivers of any reindeer you spot by flashing your headlights/headlamps at them.

## If an accident happens...

- Warn others by place a warning triangle on the road.
- Prevent additional accidents by moving a dead reindeer off the road.
- Take care of the injured and call 112, the emergency exchange number.
- Mark the spot clearly for the reindeer estimator of the herding cooperative.
- Call 112 even if you only hit a reindeer a glancing blow.
- Taking a dead reindeer with you is not permitted.
- Notify your car rental and insurance company.

*The reindeer is a familiar animal in the villages of Kittilä. The reindeer wander freely about most of the year: they please the eye, but they also serve to remind us about traffic safety.*

**AT THE END OF SUMMER**, the small calves follow their mothers. Even though a reindeer is usually gentle, it is not a domesticated animal. It is thus best to keep your distance when observing them. In autumn, the reindeer bulls are in rut and can be aggressive: they should be avoided for your own safety.

The reindeer are present in the lives of the villages in many ways. They provide a livelihood for reindeer farms and for those who offer reindeer rides, for example. Reindeer round-ups give regularity to life, and the time of a round-up follows nature's own rhythm. Reindeer races are venues for speed competitions in which the reinsmen, as they are called, follow their reindeer on skis rather than sleighs. The reindeer provide raw material for traditional and modern dishes served on local tables and in restaurants and for the region's craftsmen in many different ways.





### Marked ears

*Reindeer always belong to someone. An earmark is a mark telling who owns the animal. Earmarks have also inspired goldsmiths, as you can see here to the left.*

*Reindeer are not game, and hunting them is not permitted.*

## ■ RAUHALA

Rauhala is a lively village with excellent transport connections, on the road between Kittilä and Muonio. Rauhala has a vibrant business sector and a diverse community structure. The village lies in a beautiful setting on the banks of Jerisjärvi lake, close to the Pallas-Yllästunturi National Park. There are many hiking trails in the nearby terrain, and the tourist resorts of Levi, Pallas and Olos are within easy reach of the village.

**Location:** Roughly 50 km northwest of the village of Kittilä.

**Population:** About 85

**Places of interest:** A sports field, an ice skating rink, hiking trails, the Jerisjärvi lake, a walking route and a cross-country skiing track by the Keimiöjärvi lake, a nature trail, an open wilderness hut, the Ylläs-Hetta hiking trail, and the Pallas-Yllästunturi National Park.

[www.kittila.fi/en/rauhala](http://www.kittila.fi/en/rauhala)

## ■ RAATTAMA

Raattama is a beautiful, peaceful village in the shade of the Pallastunturi fell, on the west bank of the river Ounasjoki in Kyrövaara. The village is surrounded by cloudberry bogs, lingonberry and blueberry hills, and well-stocked fishing lakes. The daily lives of the villagers follow the pace of their sources of livelihood: reindeer herding and tourism. Raattama offers local reindeer meat, fish, berries and handicrafts.

**Location:** Roughly 75 km north of the village of Kittilä.

**Population:** About 115

**Places of interest:** The Ounasjoki river, hiking trails and shelters, boating, canoeing, cross-country skiing tracks – including one that is lit up at night, snowmobile routes, a 19th century chapel, a scenic viewpoint on Mieliövaara hill, the Pallas-Yllästunturi National Park, the Pallasjärvi and Hietajärvi lakes, the Pyhäjoki nature trail, a sports field, the Hetta-Pallas hiking trail, a library, and the Montellin Maja open wilderness hut.

[www.kittila.fi/en/raattama](http://www.kittila.fi/en/raattama) | [raattama.lappi.fi](http://raattama.lappi.fi)





# A warm welcome ■

*Tourism brings internationality to the villages of Kittilä. The villages attract visitors – and some people come to stay.*

**RESTAURANTS AND SHOPS** are concentrated in Levi and in the village of Kittilä. Services such as reindeer and husky sleigh rides, wilderness trips, sports activities, accommodation services and entire experience packages are offered to tourists in different parts of the Kittilä region. It is possible to stay in old renovated schools, in cabin villages, on farms, on reindeer farms and even in snow villages. Have an adventure in an effortlessly organized selection of experiences, or seek your own experiences in the villages!







*Kittilä is easy  
to reach!*

### **Come to Kittilä**

*Good connections with the rest of Finland guarantee an easy journey for a visitor. Kittilä is also within easy reach by car from many locations. Railway connections reach Kolari and Rovaniemi, from where you can catch a bus to Kittilä. It takes at most a couple of hours to fly to anywhere in Finland from Kittilä's international airport, and there are direct flights to and from international destinations during the tourist season.*

## ■ LEVI AND SIRKKA

Over the past few decades, Sirkka has rapidly changed from a traditional village into a settlement located next to a tourist resort. The Levi activity resort is located in the village of Sirkka, and it brings numerous services into the village, along with jobs, entrepreneurship, and visitors from Finland and abroad. The villagers in Sirkka organize several events annually.

**Location:** Roughly 18 km north of the village of Kittilä.

**Population:** About 890

**Places of interest:** The Levi and Kätkä fells, walking routes, cross-country skiing tracks, the year-round activity resort of Levi with its services, outdoor swimming and Immeljärvi lake.

[www.kittila.fi/en/sirkka](http://www.kittila.fi/en/sirkka) | [sirkka.lappi.fi](http://sirkka.lappi.fi)

Levi is a year-round activity resort just 15 minutes from Kittilä airport by car. Its versatile services and environment create a setting for a holiday that offers unique experiences in the Lapland environment every day. A modern constructed environment in a fell landscape offers a strong experience to travellers.

### **Levi in brief**

- 24,000 beds, six hotels, six apartment hotels, a hostel, and thousands of holiday homes
- close to 60 restaurants, nine of them on the ski slopes
- 50 service providers
- shops and speciality stores
- beauty and wellness services
- a spa and indoor sports facilities
- over 40 ski slopes, children's slopes and a snowboarding park
- about 230 km of cross-country skiing tracks
- almost 900 km of snowmobile routes

[www.levi.fi](http://www.levi.fi)



# By the water ■

*The rivers of the Kittilä region offer different kinds of challenges for both new canoeists and those who have a bit more experience in paddling. The Ounasjoki river and its tributaries are favoured by fishermen: in 2003, it was elected the best fishing area in Finland. The many lakes attract fishermen as well.*

**THE OUNASJOKI RIVER** has always been an important passageway and a source of livelihood in the region. In the olden days, the easiest way to travel in summertime was a waterway. The northern people developed an original means of travel during winter: skiing. The ancient people who lived from reindeer herding, hunting and fishing were comfortable by a river. Catches of fish attracted newcomers, and the inhabitants built farms and tilled fields along the riverbanks. The river runs 300 km in Lapland and is the biggest untouched river flowing inside Finland's borders: there are no hydroelectric power plants, dams or industrial plants along its banks. In its day, it served as a waterway for log floating and the fastest mode of transport before the advent of highways.

There are over 700 lakes in Kittilä, many of which are well-stocked with fish. The biggest lakes are Kelontekemäjärvi, which lies completely within the municipality's borders, and Pallasjärvi on the border between the municipalities of Kittilä and Muonio.

For more information on Ounasjoki, visit [www.ounasjoki.fi](http://www.ounasjoki.fi).





*A large share of natural waters in Lapland are drinkable. Taste and enjoy northern freshness!*

## ■ TEPASTO

This lively village is located by the Ounajoki river, near the local fells. The character of the village may be seen in its vibrant tourism activities and surviving farming and reindeer herding economy. The village has more than one hundred inhabitants who are ready to welcome you to Tepasto – the village close to the fells.

**Location:** Roughly 50 km north of the village of Kittilä

**Population:** About 115

**Places of interest:** The Kuononiemi shelter, Hiekkasaari beach, other swimming areas, a picnic shelter near the school, a nature trail starting from the school, 'gnome rocks', duckboard footbridges, and the Perhejärvi teepee shelter.

[www.kittila.fi/en/tepasto](http://www.kittila.fi/en/tepasto) | [www.tepasto.fi](http://www.tepasto.fi)

## ■ TEPSA

The village of Tepsa is located in eastern Kittilä, near its border with the municipality of Sodankylä. Tepsa has always been known for its strong music and dance traditions, which have been passed down for generations.

**Location:** Roughly 36 km east of the village of Kittilä

**Population:** About 85

**Places of interest:** Lake Kuolajärvi, the community hall, the Tepsa cemetery, the old Kaitamaa cemetery, the Kuolajärvi teepee shelter, a cross country skiing track lit up for night skiing, the Jeesiöjoki bridge, the Kuolpuna firing range, and 'Old Kujala', the oldest building in the village and the Leo Hall.

[www.kittila.fi/en/tepsa](http://www.kittila.fi/en/tepsa)

# Lapland and language

**FINNISH IS PRONOUNCED** as it is written, but spoken and written Finnish are otherwise quite different from each other. Standard Finnish is rarely used in everyday life: instead, there are several regional dialects, each with their unique pronunciation and spelling.

Lappish dialect is characterised by the use of the letter 'h', which is often added in the middle of a standard Finnish word or used to replace another letter. The dialect is a strong and unique symbol of Lappish identity, and locals are very proud of their own dialect. The Lappish vocabulary also includes many unique words, often about local natural phenomena and the Lappish way of life.

## ■ VITTAKUMPU: A VILLAGE OF HILLS

Vittakumpu is one of the kumpu ('hill') villages, which also include Pitkäkumpu, Kotakumpu, Riikonkumpu and Kenttälä. This settlement in the hills winds its way, ribbon-like, along the busy road that leads to Inari and the Kittilä gold mine. New residents and old emigrants returning make the village a lively place.

**Location:** Roughly 10–20 km east of the village of Kittilä

**Population:** About 125

**Places of interest:** A birdwatching tower, the lean-to shelter on the Ounasjoki river, the Vittakumpu and Onnela village halls, and a teepee shelter in Vittakumpu, swimming in Riikonjärvi lake, and a cross-country skiing track.

[www.kittila.fi/en/vittakumpu](http://www.kittila.fi/en/vittakumpu)

## ■ VEITTIVUOMA

Veittivuoma is a village in southern Kittilä near the Rovaniemi municipal border. This peaceful hamlet is a place to live for commuters who work in the centres close to it.

**Location:** Roughly 50 km south of the village of Kittilä

**Population:** About 40

[www.kittila.fi/en/veittivuoma](http://www.kittila.fi/en/veittivuoma)



## Examples of unique Lappish words:

### **HETE BOG POOL**

A freshwater spring in the bog. If you go cloudberry picking, be sure to look for berries near bog pools!

### **HILLA CLODBERRY**

Sometimes called the 'gold of the bog', the cloudberry is a native species of Lapland. Cloudberry are treasured for their delicate and distinctive taste.

### **JÄNKÄ PINE MIRE**

This bog type is common in Lapland and is characterised by stunted pines and dwarf shrubs.

### **KAAMOS POLAR NIGHT**

'Polar nights' are when the sun remains below the horizon. During the polar nights, the landscape is covered in snow, beautifully reflecting the light of the stars above and creating a lovely blue twilight.

### **KOTA GOAHTI, LAPPISH TEEPEE**

A tent-like traditional Sami dwelling, usually with a place for a fire inside. The word kota is ancient and is the root of the current Finnish word for home, koti.

### **KUKSA LAPPISH WOODEN CUP**

A type of drinking cup traditionally crafted by the Sami people from carved birch burr. These cups make excellent gift items.

### **KÄTKÄ WOLVERINE**

The emblem of Kittilä, wolverines are rare and seldomly seen animals that live in the Lappish wilderness.

### **KÖNGÄS WATERFALL**

Steep rapids.

### **LAUVU LEAN-TO**

A small, three-wall building intended for temporary residence during hiking and fishing trips in wilderness.

### **LOMPOLO STREAM POOL**

A pond with a river running through it.

### **LUPPO BRYORIA**

A type of lichen that grows only in extremely clean air and is abundant in Lapland. Due to its appearance, bryoria is also called 'tree moss' and 'old man's beard'.

### **NUTUKKAAT FUR BOOTS**

Traditional Sami shoes made from reindeer skin and fur, worn especially when it's extremely cold.

### **PALISKUNTA HERDING COOPERATIVE**

Reindeer husbandry is a traditional source of livelihood in Lapland: over hundreds of years, it has developed and grown, and is now organised in herding cooperatives, which are the reindeer owners' local administrative organisations.

### **PILKKIMINEN ICE FISHING**

The practice of catching fish with lines or fishhooks through an opening in the ice on a frozen body of water. Ice fishing is addictive: try it for yourself!

### **PORO REINDEER**

A species of semi-wild deer that roam free on pasture ground. An important source of livelihood in Lapland.

### **PORONKÄRISTYS SAUTÉED REINDEER**

Perhaps the best known traditional dish from Lapland, sautéed reindeer is served with mashed potatoes and lingonberry jam. Definitely worth a try!

### **POTKUKELKKA KICKSLED**

A small sled consisting of a chair mounted on a pair of flexible metal runners. Finland hosts a national championship in kicksledding every year.

### **REVONTULET AURORA BOREALIS, NORTHERN LIGHTS**

The Aurora Borealis is an exquisite natural phenomenon which is often seen dancing through the northern sky. The Sami people believed that the Northern Lights were a red fox running through the wintry skies, whisking the snow with its tail. The word revontulet means, literally, 'the fires of the fox'.

### **SAUNA SAUNA**

The sauna is a place of purity, cleanliness, wellbeing and relaxation – and meditation, even. 'Sauna' is one of the very few Finnish words adopted into the English language.

### **SEITA SEITA STONE**

A sacred natural formation, used as a sacrificial site. Seita stones are usually boulders or large rocks.

### **TUNTURI FELL**

A fell is a gently shaped large hill whose top is above the treeline.

### **VAARA TREE-COVERED HILL**

Smaller than fells, vaaras remain under the treeline.

### **SAAME SAMI LANGUAGE**

A group of Finno-Ugric languages spoken by the Sami people in Northern Europe.

### **ERÄMAA WILDERNESS**

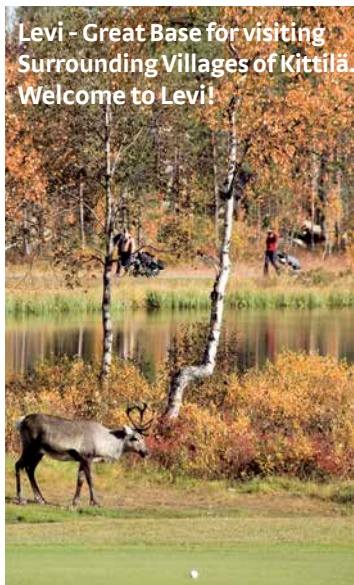
The Lappish wilderness is undisturbed by people: it is one of the last truly wild places in the world. The majestic silence of the wilderness is a unique experience.

### **KESKIYÖN AURINKO MIDNIGHT SUN**

The midnight sun is when the sun does not set at all in the height of summer. In the midsummer, people bask and nature glows in the glorious, luminous light.



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