

KARIGASNIEMI  
UTSJOKI  
NUORGAM



# Explore Utsjoki

LAPLAND



## Discover the wild north

## **The three villages of Utsjoki welcome you to the outdoors, their fells, big skies and vibrant Sámi culture at the top of Finland.**

Utsjoki, Finland's northernmost municipality, lets you unwind, breathe and recharge.

The stunning arctic nature and wilderness take your breath away in any season. Utsjoki is a prime region to see the northern lights in Finland. The Teno River wows anglers and paddlers alike. The greatest fell wilderness in Finland is begging to be trekked, pedalled and skied.

Life in Utsjoki is settled around its three villages: Karigasniemi, Utsjoki and Nuorgam. In addition to the great outdoors, the villages welcome you to experience modern-day Sámi life, incredible cuisine and unique accommodation in spectacular surroundings.



### **AN ANCIENT CONNECTION WITH NATURE**

In Utsjoki, it's easy to see how reindeer husbandry, handicrafts and fishing are a vital part of Sámi culture and local life.





## KARIGASNIEMI

The westernmost village in Utsjoki municipality, Karigasniemi (Garegasnjarga), is at the heart of Sápmi, a junction between three languages and cultures: Sámi, Finnish and Norwegian. Nearby, the Inarijoki and Kaarasjoki rivers join and form the mighty River Teno. The surrounding nature is full of fantastic locations for wilderness fishing as well as fly fishing in the smaller streams. Stunning landscapes and serenity can be found in the nearby Paistuntunturi and Muotkatunturi Wilderness Areas as well as the Kevo Strict Nature Reserve. In fact, the Karigasniemi area has abundant opportunities for hiking and fishing throughout the year.



## SULAOJA SPRING

The Sulaoja spring is the largest of its kind in Finland and a great outing for the whole family. According to folklore, the source of Suttessgáldu, or Sulaoja, is thought to have healing properties. The Sulaoja Nature Trail is located 10 km east from Karigasniemi. The trails into Kevo Strict Nature Reserve also start here. Reaching the Kevo Canyon from Sulaoja requires a 20-kilometre hike.

## THE FISHING VILLAGE

Karigasniemi is spectacular for fishing. To see for yourself, rent a boat and lure wild salmon. If you prefer fly fishing, the tops of Inarijoki, the fell streams of Utsjoki Fishing Area in Paistunturi and both banks of the Teno are great options. Village House Sáivu will brew you a fresh batch of coffee to go and provide the best fish tales from the region.

## EXPLORE SÁMI CULTURE

You need only travel 18 km from Karigasniemi to reach Norway. Notable sights in Karasjok include the Sámi Museum, Sámi Centre for Contemporary Art and Sápmi Park.

## LUOMUSJÄRVET

The most notable lakes in the Paistunturi Wilderness Area are the Luomusjärvet lakes which are separated by a magnificent ridge. The Kevo Trail runs through this narrow sandy ridge. If you look closely, you can find signs of old trapping pits.





## UTSJOKI

You can get to Utsjoki village from Karigasniemi via the most beautiful road in Finland, running along the Teno River, surrounded by rugged fells on both sides. The icing on the cake is the scenic Ailigastunturi fell, climbing up from the village and the Sámi Bridge. On summer nights, the village bathes in the midnight sun, whereas winter's polar night casts a million shades of blue.



## ELLIN POLKU TRAIL

The Ellin polku trail is one of several scenic routes around the village. It makes for a lovely, leisurely day trip. At 3.8 kilometres, the route runs through heath forests towards the Teno. A day hut and campsites await visitors at the Aittikoski beach.


## THE CHURCH HUTS

One of the greatest sights in Utsjoki, the church huts, are a national treasure of culture and history. These huts housed Sámi families during church services and markets, as the way back home was often long and arduous. The oldest surviving hut is from the 18th century. A picturesque view of Lake Mantojärvi opens up behind the hay-covered huts. You can also embark on the two-kilometre Ulriikan polku trail, which is suitable for the whole family.

## GIISÁ

Fresh buns and coffee lure the people of Utsjoki to sit down and mingle at Village House Giisá's cosy café. The same building houses the local Visitor Centre and handicraft shop Šiella, the best place to get genuine local souvenirs. Don't forget to browse their selection of Sámi literature! Šiella also operates a handicraft shop at the Utsjoki church huts in the summertime.






## NUORGAM

The northernmost village in the EU, Nuorgam, is truly authentic. The village is lively, thanks to its location right at the Norwegian border, and lives off the surrounding nature, tourism and cross-border traffic. The Nuorgam backwater and the roaring rapids of Alaköngäs are prime spots for anglers. If you want to see the sweeping highlands surrounding Nuorgam, several nature trails will take you there.

## SKAIDIJÄRVI TRAIL



The Skaidijärvi Trail is 5.8 km long and starts from the Pulmankijärventie road, about one kilometre from Nuorgam village. The route starts on a snowmobile trail and later joins the old trail towards Skaidijärvi (Skáidejávri). The Forest and Park Service maintains a campsite at Skaidijärvi that has a day hut, outhouse, recycling bin and firewood shed. Skaidijärvi is home to arctic char, and as such all forms of fishing (including ice fishing) require a permit from the Forest and Park Service.

## LAKE PULMANKIJÄRVI

The road to Lake Pulmankijärvi is breath-taking. Pulmankijärvi is special because it used to be a fjord in the Arctic Ocean, before the land rebounded after the last glacial period. This is why Pulmankijärvi supports such peculiar flora and is even home to flounder, usually a saltwater fish. The famous Pulmankijärvi-Sevettijärvi Hiking Trail also starts south of Lake Pulmankijärvi. The trail runs 60 to 70 kilometres depending on the route.

## THE NORTHERN-MOST POINT OF THE EU IS IN NUORGAM

The very top of Finland, by the Norwegian border, is the northernmost point of the European Union and Finland – 500 kilometres north of the Arctic Circle. A plaque marks the spot.



# For the best services and tips, go to the locals

## SLEEP TIGHT

The region has plenty of options for accommodation. All three villages have capacity for your needs, be it a hotel, holiday camp, caravan park or cabin in the wilderness or along the Teno.

## OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Local businesses offer guided trips in nature and on the waters as well as fishing, snowmobiling, reindeer safaris, northern lights hunting and various other outdoor activities. You can also rent equipment such as bicycles, hiking gear and canoes. Ask for day trips to the Arctic Ocean!

## NORTHERN DELICACIES

Every village has its gastronomic treats for travellers. The regional specialities are local reindeer and salmon from the mighty Teno. And for dessert, arctic cloudberries can't be missed.



# A brew in the fells is the taste of freedom

## ENJOY THE SILENCE

As the polar night sets in, you can hear the Teno crackle in the dusk as it freezes. When the northern lights glow above the fells on a starry night, there's no denying the connection we have with nature. And who can even think of hurry in the white serenity of the fells? If you need to break a sweat before you can relax, try fatbiking or trail running in the wilderness or the open fells. Finish off with a sauna or a swim in the outdoors to really reap the benefits.

## EXPERIENCE THE WILDERNESS

There is no better way to grasp the wilderness than an excursion under the midnight sun. A local guide will give you the confidence to explore and experience nature unlike ever before.

The fells can be easily accessed either by fatbike or simply hiking. Canoeing, stand up paddling or boating help you see the Teno delta from a different perspective. The arctic fauna and flora coupled with the golden midnight sun – not to mention the northern lights – make sure the camera is never out of your hands. And have you seen the incredible fall colours of the fells?

## CONNECT WITH THE LAND

Is there anything better than a crackling campfire in nature? Utsjoki helps you connect with nature – you're surrounded with it – but you can also deepen your bond by fishing, hunting or just marvelling at its majesty from the comfort of your lodging. Or you can pay attention to the way traditions are still part of everyday life, customs, work and handicrafts. However, one of the best ways to enjoy the local traditions must be food: local fish, meat and berries are valued treasures in Utsjoki.



Nature is easily accessible in Utsjoki. There is plenty to see, whether you prefer to journey by bike, skis or car. Many short, easy nature trails dot the region and provide experiences even for the smallest hikers.



## THE LIVING RIVER

The legendary Teno River is one of Europe's most important and plentiful salmon rivers. The greatest uninhibited salmon river in Northern Europe has provided food for the local people and attracted travellers for centuries.

## THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

Utsjoki is a prime region to see the northern lights in Finland: the arctic location and open scenery create an ideal setting for aurora hunting. These natural marvels can be best seen on dark nights from September to March.

## THE AILIGAS FELS

There are three fells named Ailigastunturi in Finland – all in the Utsjoki region. The smallest among them, found next to Utsjoki village, has a beautiful view of the Teno valley from its peak at 342 metres. The Ailigas closest to Nuvvus, along the River Teno, rises 535 metres above sea level. The highest of the three is in Karigasniemi, reaching 620 metres. The fell has several peaks, the tallest of which is called Lánjká.

# The largest arctic wilderness areas in Finland

## KALDOAIVI

Kaldoaivi in eastern Utsjoki is the largest wilderness area in Finland. The roadless wilderness ranges from steep river valleys to mellow fells and low-lying flats. You may also come across a fuselage left behind from a plane crash in 1944. Kaldoaivi is suitable for day trips as well as extended hikes.

## PAISTUNTURI

Paistunturit is a vast, unbroken wilderness area as well as a group of fells, the highest of which are Kaimoaivi (646 m) and Guivi (642 m). The landscape is ruled by fells, heather and birch, making for easy travel. There are marked routes and trails, but you can also choose your own path on foot or by bike.

## KEVO

The Kevo Strict Nature Reserve is one of Finland's most rugged destinations. The route runs through a varying landscape, from beautiful birch groves to majestic highlands. The main attractions are the 40-kilometre Kevo Canyon and the 26-metre Fiellu waterfall.







**Nearby airports:**

Ivalo, Kirkenes, Lakselv, Alta, Honningsvåg, Rovaniemi

**Nearby train stations:**

Kemijärvi, Rovaniemi

**Car rental:**

Ivalo, Vadsø, Lakselv, Kirkenes

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**DID YOU KNOW?**

At the top of Finland, Utsjoki, the northern terminus for road E75, is the northernmost region in the EU. There are nearly 10 times more reindeer than people in Utsjoki. Utsjoki is the only predominantly Sámi municipality in Finland.

**Distances:**

- Utsjoki – Helsinki 1 267 km
- Utsjoki – Ivalo 176 km
- Utsjoki – Rovaniemi airport 453 km
- Utsjoki – Nuorgam 43 km
- Utsjoki – Karigasniemi 101 km
- Nuorgam – Arctic Ocean 35 km
- Nuorgam – Kirkenes 159 km
- Karigasniemi – Lakselv 92 km
- Karigasniemi – Nordkapp 284 km



**ENJOY  
THE JOURNEY**

In the North, the journey is part of the adventure. The way might be long, but the views more than make up for it.



A woman with long blonde hair, wearing a red life jacket with white polka dots and a red long-sleeved shirt, is paddling a canoe on a calm lake. She is holding a blue paddle. In the background, there are rolling hills and another person in a canoe. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, suggesting sunset or sunrise.

**Listen to the  
Wild North.  
Adventure awaits  
you in Utsjoki.**





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