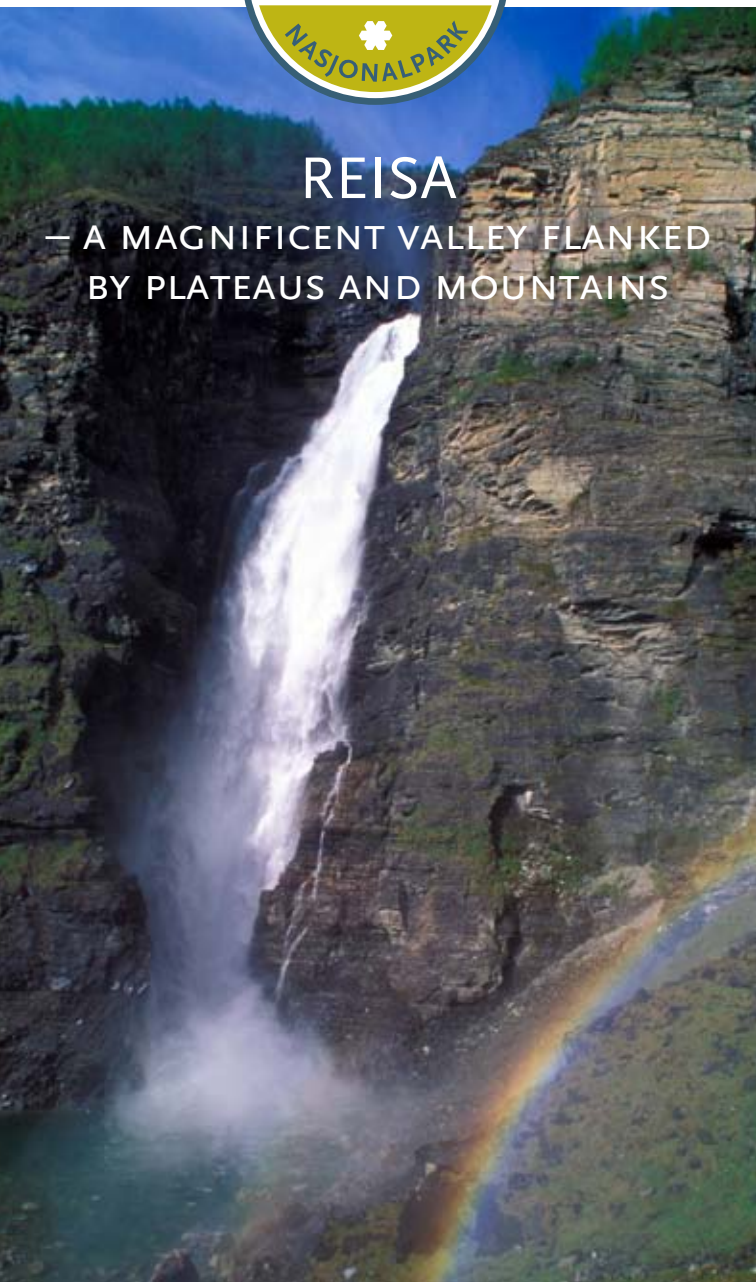




# REISA

— A MAGNIFICENT VALLEY FLANKED  
BY PLATEAUS AND MOUNTAINS





Molliselva (HNP)

## HEWN IN THE PLATEAU AS IF BY AN AXE

Over thousands of years, the River Reisa has eroded the upland plateau to form the long Reisadalen valley, which transects the Reisa National Park, a wonderland of narrow valleys, ravines, gorges and cascading waterfalls, the most impressive being the magnificent Mollisfossen. The nature of the bedrock ultimately explains how this thrilling landscape

could be shaped by tremendous geological forces during and after the last Ice Age, and why a rich plant and bird life has good living conditions. This landscape characterises large parts of the park, but in the south it gives way to a more gently undulating, apparently endless, plateau.





## THRILLING SCENERY

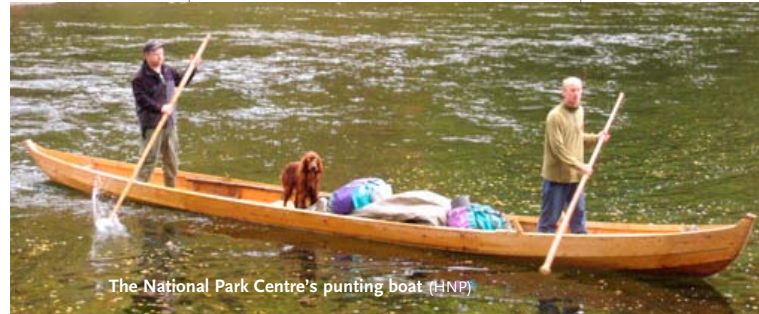
The valley and its surroundings have much to offer outdoor enthusiasts throughout the year. Walkers and skiers can choose from many routes, and the main valley between Saraelv and Nedrefoss is a popular goal in summer when you can enjoy a riverboat trip, paddle your own canoe, fish salmon or hike. In winter, frozen waterfalls and columns of ice marking numerous tributary streams dominate the valley. Several branch valleys are open and broad, clad with upland birch woodland and a wealth of plants. Others are narrow and steep where they enter the main valley. South of the enthralling Njállaávzi gorge, rounded hills east and west of the main valley guard the boggy, wooded, inland plateau stretching southwards from a big lake, Ráísjávri.

Most people enter the Reisa National Park by riverboat from the end of the road at Bילו, near the confluence of the River Reisa and a small tributary, Saraelv. A marked path, popularly called the Nordkalottleden, also starts there. It follows the west bank of the Reisa as far as the

Nedrefoss waterfall, where a suspension bridge takes it to the east bank up to Imo. From there, the path climbs to the plateau and continues to Ráísjávri. Alternative routes into the park are from Biedjuvaggi in the south and Guolasjávri in the west.



Fishing salmon on the River Reisa (BL)



The National Park Centre's punting boat (HNP)

There are several unlocked, wooden or turf huts (gammer), and the Norwegian Trekking Association (DNT) and Norwegian State-owned Land and Forest Company (Statskog) have cabins at Nedrefoss and Ráísjávri, respectively; they are unmanned and locked, but keys can be obtained in advance.

You can fish salmon, sea trout and sea char as far up the Reisa as the Imo waterfall. Further upstream, char offer good fishing in the river, and eventually also perch, burbot, pike and common whitefish. Ráísjávri also contains pike. You can also hunt. Remember to buy hunting and fishing permits.

The River Reisa is popular for canoeing and kayaking, but please be careful because the river swells unusually rapidly in heavy rain and/or if hot weather melts snow on higher ground.



The suspension bridge near Nedrefossen waterfall (HNP)



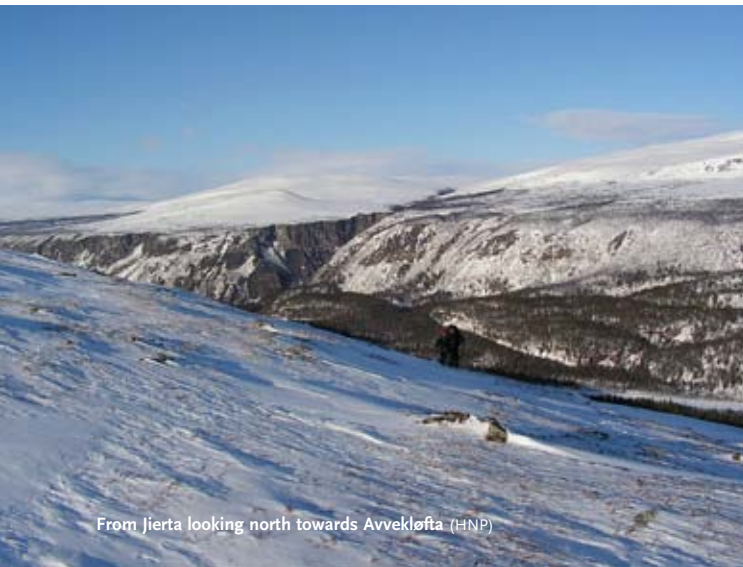
## LANDSCAPE AND GEOLOGY

For thousands of years, the Reisa has been eroding the plateau and shaping the long Reisadalen valley. Mighty waterfalls decorate the valley sides. Mollis, cascading 269 metres, is particularly impressive, and the magnificent Imofossen is formed by two rivers which pour down vertical granite cliffs to meet in a narrow gorge containing numerous potholes. North of Imo, the valley sides steepen and a deep gorge is formed. Further inland, the landscape changes character and becomes a seemingly endless plateau dominated by heath and bogs.

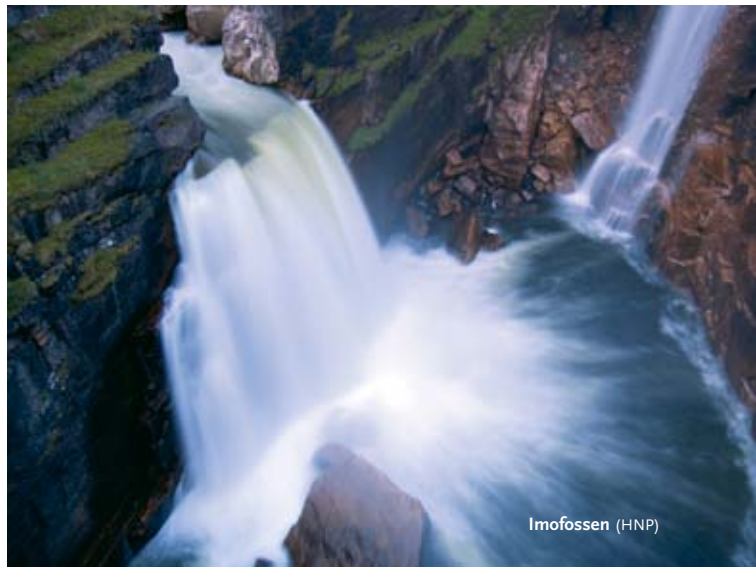
The geological history of the last two billion years can be read in the rock walls along the River Reisa. Lowermost is granite and gneiss, forming the basement. Some 400 million years ago, many different kinds of rocks slid over a 200 metre thick pile of sandstones and shales (the Dividal Group) which acted as a lubricant. Near the gorge at Avvekløfta, you can clearly see the boundary relationships between the basement, the Dividal Group and the overlying, thrust-emplaced rocks.



On the path (Nordkalottleden) looking north towards Luvddid (HNP)

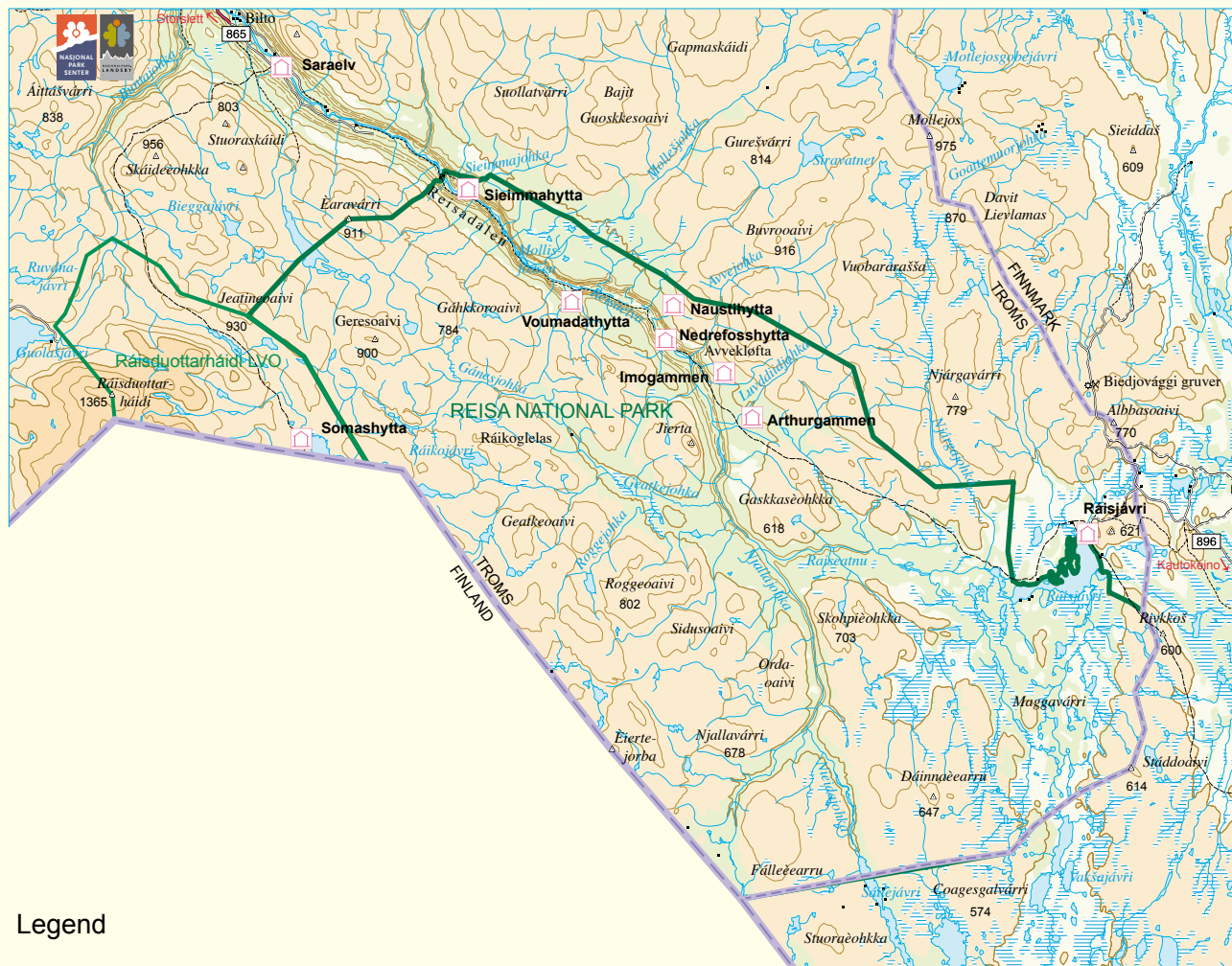


From Jierta looking north towards Avvekløfta (HNP)



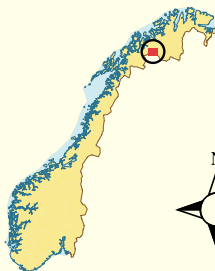
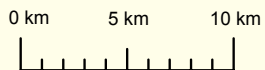
Imofossen (HNP)





## Legend

-  National border
-  County boundary
-  National Park
-  Protected Landscape
-  Self-service hut or cabin





## PLANT LIFE

### From lush floodplain woodland to poor upland heath

The great variation in bedrock and landscape helps to form the basis for a wide diversity of wildlife. Nordreisa has been known for its rich flora since the late-19<sup>th</sup> century. The plant and bird life are among the richest in northern Norway in terms of species, and include several easterly and northerly species. In the periodically inundated belt along the river, deciduous

trees form rich, quite dense, floodplain woodlands where wild redcurrants and arctic bramble berries tempt you. A beautiful, blue, northern species of Jacob's-ladder, *Polemonium acutiflorum*, is common in willow thickets far up the valley and is accompanied by Siberian lettuce and garden speedwell. Alpine arnica grows on dry, windy ridges on the mountains.



Coralroot orchid (TS)



Wolverine (LC)



## ANIMAL LIFE

**Varied animal life**

Steep cliffs, almost impenetrable woodland and the plateau offer raptors a good habitat with plenty of prey. The rough-legged buzzard is the commonest bird of prey, but hikers may also spot golden eagles, kestrels and gyrfalcons. Wolverines and lynx live in the park and surrounding mountains. Since the Sámi name for part of the gorge, Njálláávzi, means arctic fox gorge, the arctic fox must have lived here a long time. The largest Norwegian predator, the brown bear, is occasionally seen in the park.



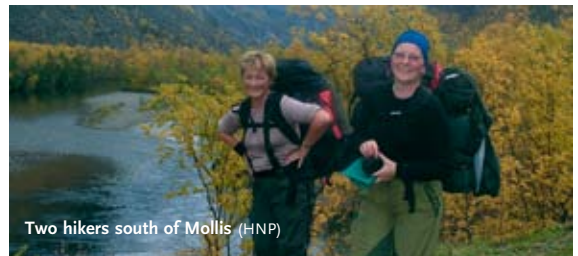
## HISTORY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE RELICTS

**Meeting of three peoples**

Three different cultures meet in Reisdalen. Place-names and cultural heritage relicts stem from the nomadic Sámi reindeer herders and the local inhabitants with their Sámi, Kven (Finnish) and Norwegian roots, all of whom used the area.

Settlement in Reisdalen can be traced way back to the early nomadic Sámi. Finnish immigrants eventually settled further down the valley in the 1700s, and probably introduced the characteristic long, narrow riverboat to the valley. Punting poles were originally used to propel these boats, but outboard motors have now replaced them.

The valley and adjacent mountains have been valuable for hunting, trapping and fishing for centuries. Snares are sometimes still set to catch ptarmigan and willow grouse in the traditional manner. Scots pines were used for timber and to produce tar. Nearly every farm in the valley earned extra income making tar, and production continued far into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The remains of many tar kilns can still be found. The park and surrounding areas provided spring, summer and autumn grazing for semi-domesticated reindeer. In winter, the reindeer in this region now graze in the far south and in the Kautokeino district in Finnmark; in summer, they are on the coast in the north-west. You must take great care not to disturb reindeer in the calving season in April and May.



Two hikers south of Mollis (HNP)





## You are one of Nature's guests in a national park

- You may go wherever you like on foot and on skis, but anything with a motor is basically forbidden
- Stop wherever you wish, and camp anywhere, but tidy up and take your rubbish home
- You may light a fire, but remember the general ban on fires in woodland between 15 April and 15 September; take care when collecting firewood and do not damage or destroy dead pine trees
- You may pick berries, edible fungi and common plants for your own use
- Take care not to damage cultural heritage remains, vegetation and animal life; please take special care when birds are nesting and animals are having their young
- Take advantage of the opportunity to hunt and fish, but remember to buy your permits; do not use live fish as bait or transfer fish from one river or lake to another
- You may have a dog with you, but it must be kept on a leash from 1 April to 20 August



## Reisa National Park in brief

**Where:** The borough of Nordreisa in the county of Troms

**How to reach the Reisa National Park:** From Storslett on the E6 trunk road you can take a bus for 44 km along the minor road (Rv 856) to Bilto, or drive there and a further 4 km to the end of the road at Saraelv. From there you must continue on foot along the path, or by boat or canoe, about 9 km to the park boundary at Sieimma. You can book a seat on a riverboat in summer. From Kautokeino, you can drive about 32 km along Rv 896 towards Biedjuvaggi and Ráisjávri; the last 3-4 km from Biedjuvaggi by foot along a track, but you can drive on a former construction road as far as Ráisjávri. From Finland, you can take a track (Nordkalottleden) eastwards from Kilpisjarvi. From the E6 at Birtavarre in Kåfjord, drive up Kåfjorddalen, past Ankerlia, to a large lake (Guolasjávri), and then continue eastwards on foot.

**Information on overnight accommodation and other services:** Halti National Park Centre AS, phone +47 77 77 05 50, [www.reisa-nasjonalpark.no](http://www.reisa-nasjonalpark.no)  
Tourist information, phone +47 77 77 05 50, [www.visit troms.no](http://www.visit troms.no)

**Huts and cabins:** Sieimma hut, 8 km from Saraelv, unlocked  
Vuomadat hut, 22 km from Saraelv, unlocked  
Naustneset hut, ca. 26 km south-east of Saraelv, unlocked  
Nedrefoss cabin, ca. 29 km from Saraelv, DNT, [www.turistforeningen.no](http://www.turistforeningen.no)  
Imogammen hut, ca. 33 km south-east of Saraelv, unlocked  
Arthurgammen hut on Luvddidjohka ca. 36 km south-east of Saraelv, unlocked

A cabin at Ráisjávri, Statskog, [www.inatur.no](http://www.inatur.no)

**Tips:** Be prepared for rapid changes in the weather, both summer and winter. Hordes of mosquitoes can be expected periodically in July. The Mollisfossen waterfall and two huts (Sieimma and Naustneset) are on the east bank of the river, but the path is on the west bank. No mobile (cell) phone coverage in the protected area.

**Maps:** 1:50 000 sheets 1833 III, 1833 IV, 1733 I, 1733 II, 1733 IV  
Nordreisa hunting, fishing and outdoor pursuits map: 1:100 000

**Designated:** 1986

**Area:** 803 km<sup>2</sup>

**Adjacent protected area:** Raisduottarhaldi Protected Landscape

**National Park Centre:** Halti National Park Centre, Storslett, phone +47 77 77 05 50 [www.reisa-nasjonalpark.no](http://www.reisa-nasjonalpark.no)

**National Park Village:** Storslett, [www.nordreisa.kommune.no](http://www.nordreisa.kommune.no)

### Management and supervision:

National Park Bord for Reisa, [www.fylkesmannen.no](http://www.fylkesmannen.no)  
County Governor of Troms, phone +47 77 64 20 00  
Statskog Park Ranger Service and Norwegian Nature Inspectorate, phone +47 07800

### More information:

[www.norgesnasjonalparker.no](http://www.norgesnasjonalparker.no)  
[www.nordreisa.kommune.no](http://www.nordreisa.kommune.no)  
[www.naturvandring.no](http://www.naturvandring.no)  
[www.godtur.no](http://www.godtur.no)  
[www.inatur.no](http://www.inatur.no)  
[www.reisaelva.no](http://www.reisaelva.no)  
[www.kvenkultursenter.no](http://www.kvenkultursenter.no)

ISBN (Trykt) 978-82-7072-517-5 ISBN (PDF) 978-82-7072-520-5

Layout: Guri Jermstad AS. Photographers: Halti nasjonalparksenter (HNP), Lars Gangås (LG), ©Tom Schandy / NN / Samfoto (TS), ©Erlend Haarberg / NN / Samfoto (EH), ©Bård Løken / NN / Samfoto (LB)  
Front cover: Mollisfossen (TS). Back cover: A windthrown, dead pine tree near Imaroarvi (EH)



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NATIONAL PARKS

## **Norwegian national parks are our common natural heritage**

We set up national parks to safeguard large areas of countryside – from the seashore to the mountaintops. For Nature's own sake, ourselves and future generations. National parks boast magnificent scenery with varied animal and plant life, waterfalls, glaciers, lofty mountains, endless plateaus, deep forests and lush woodlands, and beautiful fjords and coasts.

You will also find cultural heritage remains showing how the areas were used in the past. The national parks offer a multitude of opportunities for thrilling encounters with natural history.

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