

NATIONAL PARKS IN NORRBOTTEN COUNTY

**Padjelanta
Badjelánnda**

IN THE LAPONIAN WORLD HERITAGE AREA



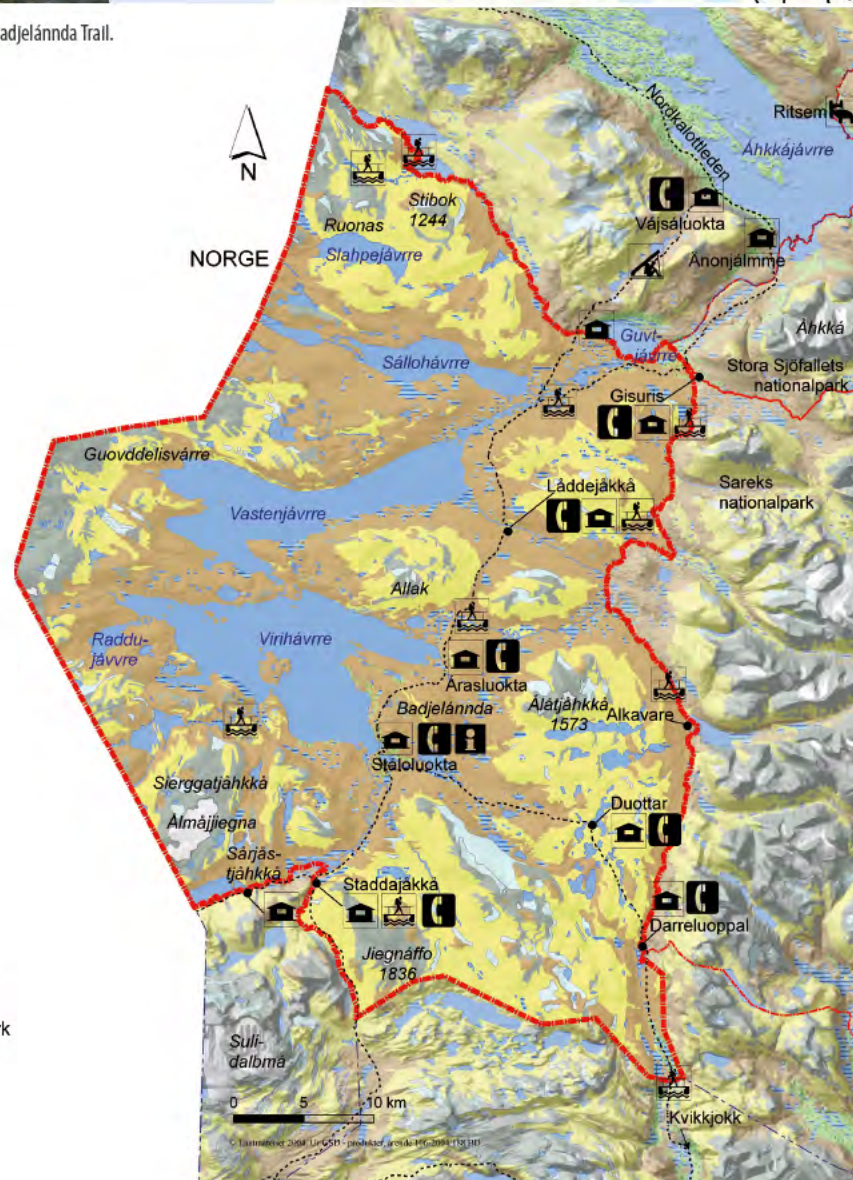
Purchasing a fishing permit entitles the buyer to fish within a kilometre of the Badjelánnda Trail.

Routes to Padjelanta/Badjelánnda

There are many ways to get into the national park. Some hike in from Sarek National Park. Most however arrive via the Badjelánnda Trail, starting at either Kvikkjokk or Ritsem. From Kvikkjokk, one should count on at least two days' hike to the national park boundary, and a total of five days' hike to Stálluokta. From Ritsem, a boat crosses Áhkkájávri lake to Ánonjálmmē, where the trail begins: a one day hike to the national park and a total of four days to Stálluokta. Helicopters fly here from both Kvikkjokk and Ritsem.

Practical advice

Hiking is easy in the Badjelánnda terrain. Long stretches of the Badjelánnda Trail have plankways. There are safe bridges across the streams. Along the trail, there are cabins where hikers can sleep and cook. The distance between cabins corresponds to an easy day's hike. Some cabin sites have a sauna and sale of provisions. There is generally no coverage for mobile phones in the area, but the cabins are equipped with emergency telephones.



Legend:

- | | | |
|------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Deciduous forest | Glacier | Hiking trail |
| Meadow | Wetland | National Park |
| Mountain moor | Snowbed | Laponia |
| Water | Boulders/flat rock | |

Marking calves in the light summer night.
Cover: Badjelánnda offers the reindeer good summer foraging.

Padjelanta/Badjelánnda National Park

It was designated in 1962 and is still the biggest of Sweden's national parks - covering 1,984 sq km. The entire park is within Jokkmokk Municipality. Since 1996 Padjelanta/Badjelánnda has been part of the Laponian World Heritage Area and is also part of the EU ecological network of protected areas, Natura 2000.

Regulations in Padjelanta/Badjelánnda National Park

Complete regulations are available on the County Administrative Board website. New rules are being processed in 2012, see the website. To conserve nature in the area, it is forbidden in the national park to

- damage ground and boulders or remove geological materials
- break twigs, fell or in other ways damage living or dead trees, brush and bushes and to pick or dig up plants (it is however permissible to pick berries and mushrooms)
- collect or catch insects, fish or other animals or otherwise disturb wildlife
- hunt or fish (except where a fishing permit applies)
- use a motor-driven vehicle or motorboat or land an aircraft
- ride or bring a dog (during the period 1 Jan-30 Apr one may bring a dog on a leash)
- affix a board, poster or similar or arrange orienteering checkpoints or marked trails
- fly in valleys or otherwise lower than 300 m above the ground.



County Administrative Board of Norrbotten. Tel: +46 (0)920-96000 • www.lansstyrelsen.se
The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency. Tel: +46 (0)8-6981000 • www.naturvardsverket.se

Photos Arctic Fox and Phalarope: Jürgen W. Klindt • Text & other photos: Thomas Överg, Natur i Norr • Translations: ELEX, Pajala • Graphic design: Armada Reklambyrå, Printed in 2012.





View of Stálluokta Sámi settlement and the mountain lake Virihávrr.



Beside the trail there is a stone formation of calcite marble that has withstood erosion for thousands of years.



Mountain Avena is favoured by calcareous ground. Purple Saxifrage blooms early.



The Arctic Fox has different colour variants. The Red-necked Phalarope thrives in mountain tarns.



The higher land

In the middle of a slope, bright with Globeflowers is the right place to look out over Badjelánnda.

Behind me, four days of sweaty hiking, crossing permafrost boulder fields, brooks and moors with the white blooms of Mountain Avena.

Now the landscape opens up, the reindeers' summer area.

Below, we see Stálluokta, summer settlement of the Sámi beyond a green delta land, where moose are foraging.

There lies the mountain lake of Virihávrr, tinted blue, grey and green.

There, the sun, wind and grey glacial meltwater mix with crystal-clear spring water in a beautiful dance of colour.

A boat on its way home draws a V in the water.

An hour later I am walking among cottages and goahti huts.

Barking dogs, laughing children, and the thuds of an axe.

Out on the water, we see Long-tailed Duck and Tufted Duck, and on the shore, the Redshank plays his flute.

It is Sunday tomorrow.

The bells of Stálluokta goahti church will ring.

But during the week, work comes first for those whose summer home this is.

Hundreds of reindeer calves are to be marked in just a few light summer nights on the mountain.

Padjelanta/Badjelánnda National Park

Badjelánnda – the higher country – is the Sámi name for the country between the alpine summits of Sarek and the Norwegian fjords. For millennia, reindeer have migrated here to calve and eat their fill of juicy summer forage. The lime-rich basement, higher precipitation from the Atlantic and the late melting of the snow in summer have created verdant grass meadows, a welcome sight to the reindeer. The mountains have softer contours than those in Sarek National Park. The three big mountain lakes – Virihávrr, Vastenjávrre and Sállohávrr – lie largely above the treeline. The abundance of fish in the water and the reindeer forage made Badjelánnda the summer forage area for Sámi herders. The characteristic flora led to the area being declared a national park.

Landscape of aeons

The mountain range formed more than 400 million years ago, when two land masses collided and the sea between them disappeared. The seabed sediment was compressed into a mighty mountain range, where large nappes (rock lumps) were pressed up onto the older primal rock. The basement is calcareous in many places. Over millions of years, it was worn down to today's fells, primarily through inland ice erosion. Elevated land areas are still permafrost-bound, and some wetlands contain thermokarst mounds, peat hillocks with an ice core.

Abundant flora

Badjelánnda's flora is among the richest in the entire mountain range. More than 400 plant species have been found. The reason is the high content of lime in the ground. Many plants thrive on the weathering land that forms on lime basement. Mountain Avena (*Dryas octopetala*) gives the moor a white sheen as early as June. Between the Mountain Avena, there are thriving stands of Lapland Rosebay (*Rhododendron lapponicum*), Moss Campion (*Silene acaulis*), Purple Saxifrage (*Saxifraga oppositifolia*), Arctic Bell-heather (*Cassiope tetragona*), Arctic Bellflower (*Campanula uniflora*), and several Pedicularis species and orchids. Some truly rare plants can be found, such as Alpine Arnica (*Arnica alpina*), Arctic Sandwort (*Arenaria norvegica*), Redrattle (*Pedicularis flammea*) and Snowbed Whitlow-Grass (*Draba crassifolia*).

Sought by many

The two most exclusive plants are Dwarf Cinquefoil (*Potentilla hyperctica*) and Low Sandwort (*Arenaria humifusa*). Legions of botanists have sought them. The next Dwarf Cinquefoil biotope is in faraway Greenland and Svalbard. The little Low Sandwort grows on a few sites in Badjelánnda, always on the same rock type - serpentine. Serpentine is an ultra-alkaline rock containing toxic heavy metals, to which the Low Sandwort is adapted.

Wildlife in the mountain expanses

Mountain moors and wetlands are filled with migratory birds. Golden Plover, Dotterel, Redshank and Temminck's Stint perform their mating rituals in the summer night. Bluethroat and Lapland Bunting sing. On lakes and tarns, Grey Phalarope, Long-tailed Duck and Greater Scaup swim. The large herds of semi-domesticated reindeer are a precondition for the wolverine population in the region. It is a problem for reindeer owners who lose their reindeer. Gyrfalcon, Golden Eagle and White-tailed Eagle both nest in the area. In years when rodents are abundant, the mammals and birds that hunt lemmings increase in number. The few Arctic Foxes that remain then have large litters. The hiker can enjoy the sight of the Rough-legged Buzzard and Long-tailed Skua patrolling the moors, and will perhaps see the Snowy Owl near its nest. The Ptarmigan and Willow Grouse stay in the mountains all year round.

Landscape for Mankind

The Sámi have for thousands of years made use of the mountains: once as wild reindeer-hunting grounds and today as calving and foraging grounds for their semi-domesticated reindeer herds. Ancient Sámi remains are common and are all protected by law. Badjelánnda has summer foraging areas that are important to Jokkmokk mountain reindeer herding communities, with settlements, migratory routes, calf-marking corrals and reindeer herder cabins. It is important that visitors use their judgment and do not disturb foraging reindeer or the work with reindeer.