

# Pasvik Inari

## Trilateral Park

### Joint opening of the transboundary hiking trail 'Piilola Wilderness Trail' 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> June 2009

#### **The Piilola Wilderness Trail - a Norwegian-Finnish transboundary hiking trail**

The Piilola Wilderness Trail connects the Øvre Pasvik National Park in Norway with the great, vast Wilderness Area of Vätsäri in Finland. The trail runs from Sortbrysttjern in Øvre Pasvik, Norway to Kessi in Inari, Finland. The total length of the trail is 35 km. The official opening ceremony will be held 16<sup>th</sup> June at Sortbrysttjern (Øvre Pasvik, Norway), followed by a two day hike along the wilderness trail to Finland where a closing ceremony will be held at noon 18<sup>th</sup> June in Nellim (Inari, Finland).

The trail is one result of the trilateral environmental cooperation and promotion of nature tourism activities between Norway, Finland and Russia. The trail runs in beautiful pine forests and hilly country, in the midst of swamps, rivers and lakes. The total length of the trail is 35 km, of which 24 km are situated in Finland and approximately 12 km in Norway. The trail from Kessi (Finland) follows at first the old route between houses to Lake Nammijärvi and, from there, it continues to the border crossing point at Piilola. After that, the trail goes on in Norway to the Ellenkoia Wilderness Hut and then to the parking lot of Sortbrysttjern, where it ends. In Finland, the trail has been marked with blue wooden posts and, in Norway, with blue wooden marks hanging from trees. On the Finnish side, the facilities available for hikers include the Piilola Wilderness Hut at Lake Nammijärvi and a maintained lean-to shelter on Lake Nuottamajärvi. On the first stretch of the trail, by Lake Kessijärvi, there is an open hut owned by the company Stora Enso, which can also be used by hikers for a stop. In Norway, there is the Piilolaportti Wilderness Hut 200 m after the border and the Ellenkoia Wilderness Hut five kilometres later, and a lean-to shelter at Sortbrysttjern. According to the Schengen Agreement, the border between Finland and Norway can be crossed along the Piilola Trail if the hiker does not carry along any goods that should be declared. Free movement also applies to citizens of third countries provided that they have a visa or a residence permit to a Schengen country.

#### **Program**

##### **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>**

Buss from Finland: Ivalo (the new buss station) 6:00 am and from Inari, Siida 6:45 am.

Buss transfer in Norway: Kirkenes Rica Arctic 9:00 and Bioforsk Svanhovd in Svanvik 9:45

##### **Opening ceremony and hike start (at Sortbrysttjern, Pasvik Norway)**

From 11 outdoor lunch and coffee

12 'Opening ceremony': speeches, musical/ cultural element and official opening of the trail

Cont. lunch and coffee

13:30 Start hiking to Finland along the Piilola Wilderness Trail – **The hike will end before lunch in Nellim 18<sup>th</sup> June.** We have guides both from Norway and Finland.

The plan is to follow the marked trail and take use of the facilities along it (wilderness huts and shelters). It is necessary to be equipped with your own tent, food and proper hiking equipment suitable for the season. The plan is to hike 10-15 km each day, and 5 km the last day.

##### **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June**

Last 5 km hike of the 35 km long wilderness trail to Kessi, buss transfer to Nellim

Possibility for Sauna at the Nellim Wilderness Hotel

12:00 "Closing ceremony":

- speech: Representative of Metsähallitus, lunch and musical element

14:00 Departure by buss to Ivalo and Norway, evening Arrival in Kirkenes

## Equipment list:

- Sleeping bag + camping pad
- Suitable hiking clothing and change
- First aid kit and medicines for personal use
- Tent
- Primus stove and fuel
- Knife, compass, map
- Food for approx two days
- Mosquito repellents
- Toilet paper
- Travel and accident insurance – participation is on one's own responsibility

## Maps

Norway: Turkart 1:100 000 Sør-Varanger, Pasvikdalen (2007). The maps can be bought in local bookstores in Norway and at Bioforsk Svanhøvd/ Øvre Pasvik national park centre.

Finland: Nammijärvi map W514 1:50 000. The maps can be bought at Metsähallitus customer service points in Ivalo and Inari Siida.

## Participation fee:

400 NOK/ 45€ includes transport, lunch and sauna in Nellim. The fee will be collected during the trip – please reserve even amount!

## For more information and committing registration for hike and bus trips contact:

### Norway:

**Pasviktursit** Tel: (+47) 78 99 50 80, Mobil: (+47) 41 54 43 46, Fax: (+47) 78 99 50 57 and e-mail: firmapost@pasvikturist.no

### Finland:

Northern Lapland Nature centre Siida Tel. (+358) (0)205 64 7748 and e-mail: siida@metsa.fi



Piilola Wilderness Trail