

# Pasvik Inari

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## 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 connects the Øvre Pasvik National Park in Norway with the great, vast Wilderness Area of Vätsäri in Finland'*

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).

#### Program

##### **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June 12:00 at Sortbrysttjern (Pasvik, Norway)**

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

From 11 outdoor lunch and coffee

12 'Opening ceremony': speeches and official opening of the trail

- Musical/ cultural element
- Historical view of the Pasvik-Inari area
- Vice mayor of the Sør-Varanger Municipality Ms Lisbeth Isaksen and representative from the Inari Municipality open the trail
- Musical/ cultural element

Cont. lunch and coffee

13:30 Start hiking to Finland along the Piilola Wilderness Trail (see separate information about hike NOR and FIN) – all hikers participate at once own risk, and they who participate at the whole event to Finland are personally responsible for their own hiking equipment and food for the whole hike. **The hike will end before lunch in Nellim 18<sup>th</sup> June.**

14:30 Buss transfer back for those who do not take part on the hike

For they who also want to take part in the ceremony in Finland 18<sup>th</sup> of June, buss transfer form Kirkenes-Nellim-Kirkenes will be set up.

##### **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
- music

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

**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

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

The trail runs from Sortbrysttjern in Øvre Pasvik, Norway to Kessi in Inari, Finland. The trail from Kessi follows at first the old route between houses to Lake Nammijärvi and, from there, it continues to the Piilola border crossing point. After that, the trail goes on in Norway to the Ellenkoia Wilderness Hut and then to the parking lot of Sortbrysttjern, where it ends. **The total length of the trail is 35 km, of which 24 km are situated in Finland and 11, 7 km in Norway.** In Finland, the trail has been marked with blue wood posts and, in Norway, with blue wooden marks that hang from trees. The trail runs in beautiful pine forests and hill country, in the midst of swamps, rivers and lakes.

On the Finnish side, the facilities available for the hikers include the Piilola Wilderness Hut on 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. According to the Schengen Agreement, the border between Finland and Norway can be crossed by 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.

