



# Stora Sjöfallet

Hiking guide

Experience UNESCO  
World Heritage Laponia  
- a mountain adventure to remember.  
An area that makes impression.







## Welcome to Stora Sjöfallet Mountain Center in the UNESCO World Heritage Laponia. A part of Swedish Lapland.

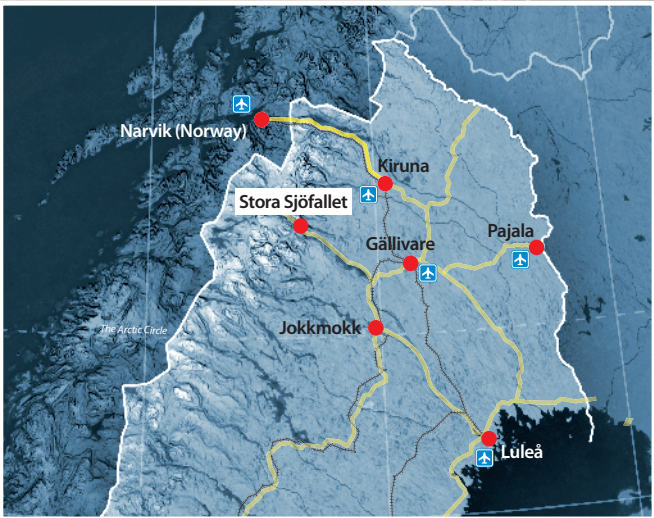
Experience a living and cultural landscape by the Sámis. An area of history, culture, memories and adventures in every corner. In Stora Sjöfallet (or Stuor Muorkke in Sámi language) you will explore, relax and enjoy the many faces and voices of a unique World Heritage.

Stora Sjöfallet Mountain Center is the only accommodation inside the UNESCO World Heritage Laponia with full service such as hotel, hostel, camping site and apartments.

We have a restaurant with flavours from the World Heritage, such as arctic char fish, reindeer, moose, herbs and berries. We have a bar, lounge and café if you feel for just a snack.

While here at the Mountain Center, your options of what to see and do are many. Hike, is one of them, fishing, kayak/canoe rental is another option. To eat and sleep in a peaceful environment and create a contrast from your everyday life is another reason why people come here.

At our place, you will be in the center and the heart of the World Heritage, a perfect spot for day excursions where you start your day with breakfast at the restaurant, out for exploring the area



during the day and come back in the afternoon or evening for a proper meal and sauna with fire heated hot tube to relax. Or you can do the same thing but during the night, because above the arctic circle we have midnight sun and light at night as well as during the day!

No matter what has awaken your curiosity, you are mostly welcome to us to experience our everyday life in Stora Sjöfallet and Laponia.

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## A World Heritage site by UNESCO since 1996, for its unique nature and culture

The nature of the area has long been protected according to the rich biological diversity, important for all mankind to protect and preserve for future generations. But Laponia is also a beauty according to all great views, wide rivers and lakes, tough and soft mountain peaks that rise high above the water and back into the tight valleys. Laponia has old-growth forest, birch forests, marshes and a rich wildlife.

Sámi are the indigenous people of Scandinavia who have for ages been in the area and lived close to the reindeer. The protected landscape in Laponia has its own different personalities in each National Park - Sarek, Muddus, Padjelanta and Stora Sjöfallet and the two nature reserves Sjaunja and Stubba. In Laponia, nine Sámi villages work with their reindeers, and important to mention is the definition of a Sámi village. Sámi villages refer to the geographical area that an organization / business association that are allowed to conduct their reindeer herding, and is not, as it might sound like a place / village where the Sámi lives.

Stora Sjöfallet is one of Sweden's and Europe's oldest National Parks. In year 1909 it was established as a National Park protection, including its signature, the massive waterfall shaped like a staircase and a main fall, called Stuor Muorkkegárttje.

Certainly massive is the waterfall in all its glory today but, hydro-power construction investment around the Lule River (Luleälven), starting in 1914 made the waterfall change its look and strength. Luleälven supplies a quarter of the country's total hydropower production and one-ninth of all Sweden's electricity production. Hydropower construction in the area have left their traces in nature and is noticeable in several places in the area.

You might even be grumpy at times due to a power line hanging in the way of your perfect photo you just might have snapped.

But it is also because of hydropower in the area that many of the roads have been made, which in turn made the area more available for visitors to get around. To learn more about the Hydro power around the Lule River, there is a museum in Porjus which is usually open in the summer or for booked groups.

For more information, contact the Tourist information in Jokkmokk [www.destinationjokkmokk.se](http://www.destinationjokkmokk.se)

For more information about Laponia see [www.laponia.nu](http://www.laponia.nu) or visit the Naturum Visitors Centre Laponia, 400 meters from Stora Sjöfallet Mountain Center.









**1. Sjöfallsudden** - This place was once a campsite but is completely gone now. But because of the campsite, there is now an easy way to get to a beautiful surrounding to view the waterfall. This trail is also suitable for strollers and wheelchairs.

**2. Powerstation** - Vietas powerstation was built in 1964-1971 and is owned by Vattenfall Vattenkraft AB.

**3. Stora Sjöfallet** - "The Nordic Niagara fall", formerly one of Sweden's most photographed nature objects. A powerful waterfall formed as a staircase on 5 levels and a main waterfall named Stuur Muorkkegårttje. The waterfall was seen from several kilometres and you could also hear it through the area and was also the absolute attraction of visiting Stora Sjöfallet National Park. Yes, it has fallen silent and slightly since the power plant constituted the area in 1919. But to visit and see it in its condition today is an attraction. Follow the path on the ridge, listen and you reach the waterfall. But be careful because it can be a bit rocky, sharp and slippery. The hike path follows the ridge, but if you go close to the waterfall, keep an eye on the kids! It is rocky and slippery.

**4. Soldalen** - The Sun Valley Trail (Soldalsleden) up on the mountain Nieras offer Laponias different plant zones along the way. Hike thorough old-growth forest, birch up to the mountain. Up on the hill a lovely view of the Lule River is waiting for you. Now you are 1490 meters above sea level. Soldalen is an old migratory route by the Sámi. Please note, the birch area next to a small stream (jokk) you will see that the path splits. Select the left to continue up to Sun Valley (Ibbatjåhkkå).

*Hiking level: Medium Duration: Half day*

**5. Ritsem** - Just outside Laponia is the last stop and the end of the road "way west" going through the World Heritage in the direction of Norway and the Atlantic Ocean. But here, new paths starts, for example Gränsleden, Nordkalottleden and daily boat trips across Akkajaure which is the starting point for hikes around the Áhkká mountain, Sarek, Padjelanta and Stora Sjöfallet National Park. Áhkká, you've probably heard of by the story of "The wonderful adventures of Nils" by Selma Lagerlöf. From our perspective, it is a powerful mountain with its 13 peaks towering high from the lake Akkajaure. Áhkká, is a common name for holy mountains in Sápmi and means mother / goddess. The highest peak rises 2015 meters above sea level. Ritsem is for many local visitors a snowmobile paradise during spring. There is also a strong Sámi settlement with people living all around the year. To Ritsem you can take the public local buses by Länstrafiken. *Hiking level: Easy-medium-hard and extreme. Duration: From day excursions to one week excursions.*

**5. Vakkotavare** - Here The King's trail (Kungsleden) starts and continues towards Abisko and the Kiruna mountains. It is also perfectly possible to make a day trip up on the hills for the outstanding view of Suorva, Akkajaure, Sarek, Áhkká and Stora Sjöfallet. Parking is available next to the STF Vakkotavare cabin for those who have their own car. The public local bus by Länstrafiken also makes a stop at the STF Vakkotavare and is also the direct link that connects The King's trail, Saltoluokta – Vakkotavare. The bus continues towards Ritsem. *Hiking level: Medium, Duration: Full day.*

**5. Suorva** - Suorva reservoir and dam building are the largest reservoirs in Sweden and is owned by Vattenfall Vattenkraft AB. Some wonder why this type of activity exists in a World Heritage Site, with all the effects on nature and culture in the area. In 1919, The Swedish government decided to allow the powerstation to be placed in Stora Sjöfallet and by breaking out the water from the National Park to make room for hydropower development.

**6. Laponia Forest Garden** - Vattenfall AB's old workout track has been updated and restored. Walk along the dry river channel in the beautiful old-growth forest with ancient gnarled pines which is true artwork by nature. The trees with all the fancy formations are formed in the struggle against the hard weather in Laponia. The track turns back against the Mountain Center close to an old wooden bridge. Do not walk on that bridge, take the path beside of it! If you are lucky, you might see moose and reindeer and several unique birds in the garden.

**7. View point** - So there are many marks in the nature by the Hydro power business in Laponia, but the business has also contributed to the investment in roads to various parts that might not otherwise have been prepared. You can get here easily by car if hiking is no option to get a quick overview of Stora Sjöfallet Mountain Center – and the World Heritage. Also note the rocks around you. The unique purplish Sjöfallsgraniten, only found in Stora Sjöfallet National Park.

**8. Reindeer corral** - In Satis you can see some of the arrangement of working with reindeer herding in a beautiful surrounding of old-growth forest. If there are people working there in the area, please respect the course of nature. This is a workspace but also an ongoing culture and lifestyle by the Unna tjerusj Sámi village.

**8. Satis** - Lake Sádijávrrre, included in Sjaunja nature reserve, historically a place for fishing but has been affected by power production.

**8. Old-growth forest** - Sweden's largest contiguous old-growth forest area is in Laponia. Old-growth forest often contain coarse woody debris (CWD) which are trees that have fallen and new life is created. The CWD thrive mushrooms, insects, birds and other animals. There are also dead trees that still stands firmly and will perhaps be a perfect home for any of Laponia many bird species. Research shows that old-growth forests contribute to climate change.


**9. Naturum Laponia** - Naturum Visitors Centre Laponia is a center and gateway to the four National Parks, two nature reserves and nine Sámi villages included in the UNESCO World Heritage Laponia. The spectacular building by Wingårdh architects includes exhibitions, reading area, activities for children, guided tours. Here the visitor learns all about the flora and fauna and the Sámi culture that shaped the World Heritage. Take the opportunity to enjoy the view of the "Great Waterfall" Stora Sjöfallet (and then we do not mean our hotel). Fun fact is that the Naturum Laponia has become a popular spot for marriage, where wedding and celebration is combined with our hotel.

**10. Juobmotjåkka / Juobmo trail** - The old through road for reindeer is a delightful day trip. On the other side of the road near Fiskflygs helicopter platform the trail up against the radio tower starts. A beautiful view is waiting on top and a hike to discover Laponias different nature areas on the way. *Hiking level: Easy Duration: Daytrip*

**11. Saltoluokta** - 400 meter from the hotel at Fiskflyg helicopter platform there is a possibility to take the boat over to Saltoluokta on selected days as a daytrip. You can also go over to Saltoluokta everyday from their own boat bridge which is about 10 minutes by the public local bus from the Mountain Center. Saltoluokta is a place where many start or end their hike on The King's trail (Kungsleden).

**Follow the everyday life on social media:**

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 Instagram: @storasjofallet • Tag: #storasjofallet





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