

HETTA



LOCATION

Enontekiö's administrative center and church village Hetta is located by the Ounasjärvi Lake about 27 km from intersection of Käsivarrentie, highway 21.

POPULATION

About 630

ATTRACTIONS

Hetta is a great starting or ending point for the hiking and skiing path going through Pallas-Ounastunturi national park and several other winter and summer pathways. Pyhäkero, the first high peak of Ounastunturi fell, dominates the Village landscape. The location on the shores of Ounasjärvi Lake provides Hetta with great opportunities for kayaking, rowing, and other water sports. The main attractions in Hetta include the Fell Lapland Visitor Centre, Hetta church, Local History Museum (open during summer), Jypyrä hill and its nature trails, skiing slopes and frisbee golf tracks.

SERVICES

Hetta is the center of most services in the municipality. There is a primary school and a high school in the village. Hetta provides different education opportunities through courses from the Sámi Education Institute and Northern Lights Adult Education Centre. There are also services from the public sector and an office of Metsähallitus (state-owned forestry company). The service industry is in the center of Hetta's livelihood. There are multiple travel service providers in the village as well. Hotels, traditional bed and breakfasts, holiday villages with well-equipped cabins, high quality individual cottages and camping areas make sure that there is something available for everyone. There is an active village association in Hetta.

Hetta has drawn people to it since the olden days. This place has been inhabited ever since the Stone Age. This beautiful little village by the lake Ounasjärvi is nowadays the administrative center of Enontekiö. Like its name suggests, Hetta is full of heat and life even during the coldest winter months. The people in the village are always warm and guests are welcomed with pleasure. The village celebrates "Väärtipäivät - Autumn Festival". Väärti means a friend, a person worth connecting with – something each villager and guest is here. There is always time for a story. The fell Ounastunturi protects Hetta and its people. A small snow bunting sings by the slopes of the fell, telling a tale of Hetta's natural beauty. Hetta enchants travellers with its small village charisma.

THERE HAVE BEEN signs of inhabitants found around Hetta belonging to the Stone Age. The area got its livelihood from hunting and fishing at first. At the end of the 17th, century reindeer husbandry spread also to Enontekiö area. The Sámi people who inhabited the area at the time did not build permanent housing but migrated with the seasons from hunting ground to hunting ground. Reindeer herding Sámi people moved with the reindeer from the forest area of Hetta all the way to the shores of the Arctic Ocean.

According to earlier written documentation, the first farmers settled on the shores of Ounasjärvi Lake between the 17th and the 18th century. The village name is associated with the settler Heikki Heikinpoika (Heikki's son) who came to the area from Hietaniemi in Ylitornio at 1697. The name Hetta was probably short for Hietaniemi. In the 19th century, it was decided that the church should be moved from Palojoensuu to Hetta, making Hetta the church village.

In addition to farming, the settlers in Hetta dabbled in fishing and hunting, and adopted reindeer herding in some capacity from the Sámi people who wintered in the area. There was an important trade route passing from Hetta, through Palojärvi and Kautokeino all the way to Bossekop in Alta. Another important route travelled through Palojoensuu to Tornio and Kilpisjärvi. The travel was made first on boat to Muotkajärvi and from there by dragging the boat to the next waterway. The gravel road from Muonio to Hetta through Palojoensuu was completed 1906-07. Around the same time, the first shop was opened in Hetta.

Famous veterinarian and writer Yrjö Kokko built a house to Hetta in 1952. The house named "Ungelontorppa" is located by Ounasjärvi Lake in a small cape "Ungelonnieni" in which he sought inspiration for his books about Enontekiö.

Nowadays Hetta is a lively municipality center, invigorated by the Hetta-Pallas hiking route, excellent opportunities for outdoor activities around the year and hospitable residents. Well-rounded services and the landscapes of Ounasjärvi lake and Ounastunturi fell invite many to move up north close to the wilderness.



ENONTEKIÖ – Son rohki soma paikka ellää