



LOCATION

Kaaresuvanto is located along highway 21 about 65 km from Hetta village and about 109 km from Kilpisjärvi.

POPULATION

About 270

ATTRACTIONS

Kaaresuvanto Chapel

There is a chapel built in 1985 in Kaaresuvanto, where services are held about once a month.

The Border Bridge

The border bridge between Finland and Sweden is an excellent place to admire the border channel of the Muonionjoki River, which can rise even to the bridge during spring floods.

Hiking routes

From the village, you can go up to Lavivaara hill, where you have a beautiful view of the Tarvantovaara wilderness. The route continues to Syväjärvi wilderness hut. The Kaaresuvanto-Syväjärvi route is about 20 km long and easy to navigate. The path can be traveled on foot or by mountain bike. A path to Sakkaravaara also leaves from the village, and the path functions as a cross-country ski trail during winter.

In Karesuando on the Swedish side, you can see a fine wooden church built in 1905 and the Laestadius cabin.

SERVICES

Good services can be found in Kaaresuvanto: the village offers safari services, cabin accommodation, a hotel, a car repair shop, towing service, taxi transport, cleaning service, a gas station cafe and a souvenir shop.

Kaaresuvanto has an active village association called Gaskkas ry.

KAARESUVANTO

The village of Kaaresuvanto lives on the border: the villages on the Finnish and Swedish sides are like twins separated by a river. The wide river and the bridge crossing it are part of the character of Kaaresuvanto. The history of the village is colorful. Back in the day, "jobbers" or traders smuggled, among other things, moonshine, tobacco and coffee from Sweden across the border to the Finnish side. The village still has its own exciting atmosphere. The village has been a center of trade and meetings. Today Kaaresuvanto, as its name suggests, is above all a stream pool where you can enjoy the flowing and international atmosphere of the village.

KAARESUVANTO IS A village on the banks of the Muonionjoki River, partly on the Finnish side and partly on the Swedish side (Karesuando), from where it is 110 km to Kilpisjärvi and 88 km to Muonio along highway 21. The villages are on two sides of the border river and the bridge connection is year-round (since 1980). In addition to Finnish, also Swedish, Sámi and Norwegian are spoken in the villages, so the atmosphere is international.

A pine border runs through Kaaresuvanto, so the area mainly grows birch forest, of which fell birch has a significant share. Kaarevaara hill on the Swedish side gives Kaaresuvanto an impressive background, behind which the sun does not appear until the end of January. From the top of Kaarevaara, you can see the wilderness and fells of Lapland hundreds of kilometers away. The vicinity of Kaaresuvanto includes Kuttanen, Jatuni, Markkina, Vikkuri, Maunu, Luspa, Saarenpää and Kelottijärvi on the Finnish side and Saivomuotka, Paittasjärvi, Sudjavaara, Maunu, Mertajärvi and Idivuoma on the Swedish side.

According to stories, Matti Martinpoika and Niilo Niilonpoika Niva founded the village in 1673. People used to live by combining different livelihoods, such as agriculture, cattle breeding, reindeer husbandry, fishing and hunting. Kaaresuvanto used to be a well-known marketplace and church village. At Christmas and Easter, the people of Kautokeino and the people of Yliperä gathered to celebrate a church festival, which lasted for two weeks at a time. During the war in Lapland, the Germans burned the Finnish side of Kaaresuvanto to the ground as they retreated towards the Arctic Ocean. The village is built on post-war ruins.

For centuries, people representing different cultures have lived in Kaaresuvanto. Trading was lively in the river valley and some of Lapland's oldest church and marketplaces can be found right here. Muonionjoki River has been a busy passage between the Arctic Ocean and the Gulf of Bothnia, especially during the winter. Even at the beginning of the last century, reindeer tracks moving on the river in winter were the most important form of transport for goods and people. Lapland's trade goods were also internationally valuable and good sledge reindeer were precious. That's why reindeer sleds were not transported alone.

The welcoming, multicultural and, as a twin village, international community still welcomes travelers and new residents. Here, people live on both sides of the border.



ENONTEKIÖ – Son rohki soma paikka ellää