

KILPISJÄRVI



LOCATION

Kilpisjärvi is located next to the Norwegian border, about 170 km from the village of Hetta.

POPULATION

About 165

ATTRACTIONS

Fells: Saana is the sacred fell of the Sámi people, height 1029m. Halti is the highest fell in Finland, 1328 m high.

Malla national park: Finland's oldest national park, established in 1938, area 30 km².

Muotkataikka: The highest point on Finnish roads, 565 m.

Three Nation's Border Point: Finland, Sweden and Norway meet.

The falls: Pihtsus waterfall along the Kalotti trail, about 45 kilometers from Kilpisjärvi. Kitsijoki waterfall in Malla Nature Park. Tshakaljoki waterfall two kilometers east of the tourist hotel.

Memorials: Kilpisjärvi expedition memorial, the expedition was made in 1916. Lapland War memorial to the last shot at Muotkataikka resting spot.

Kilpisjärvi Visitor Center: Visitor Center, where you can get information about the big fells of Finland, Sweden and Norway.

Raittijärvi: The only remaining Sámi village inhabited all year round.

Exhibition of objects from Old Lapland: On the premises of the Kilpisjärvi tourist hotel, you can see old objects of the Sámi people.

SERVICES

Kilpisjärvi has a wide variety of accommodation companies, tourism service providers, taxi services, restaurants, a shop, gas station, post office, air services and ship transports.

Kilpisjärvi multi-purpose building, which operates e.g. school, gymnasium and there are also e.g. church services, courses organized by the Northern Lights College and health care services.

Kilpisjärvi has several different associations related to village activities and free time.

When you travel close to the Norwegian border, you will find the most famous of Enontekiö's villages. It is known from many tales, the small but vibrant Kilpisjärvi. The landscape of the village is painted by Saana fell, known internationally for its beauty.

Saana's character is soft despite her sharp and impressive features; time has worn away its edges. The fell is like an ancient polypore with enough wisdom to share with every passerby. As the northern lights shine above Saana in the beautiful starlit sky, you can hear it humming contentedly. As if it knew the secret to life.

The mountain peaks greet the people of Kilpisjärvi from the Norwegian and Swedish sides. In the air you can feel the chill of the glacial sea, which at the same time feels like a cleansing breath. Fill your lungs with air, and let Saana whisper her secrets to you. This village on the border of three nations is always full of stories and friends.

THE VILLAGE OF KILPISJÄRVI is located right on the border between Norway and Sweden. Historically, Kilpisjärvi is a very young village, as the village's Finnish history only begins at the beginning of the 20th century. In the past, the large fells have been the living and enjoyment area of the Sámi people. In 1915, the first residents came to Kilpisjärvi village. However, the war in Lapland destroyed the settlement.

Due to its location, Kilpisjärvi is in a central location when traveling from Finland to the shores of the Arctic Ocean, Skibotn. For centuries, Kilpisjärvi has been an important transit point. The first house in the village was the Siilas-tupa house built in early 1900's. In 1940's a border guard, customs, TVL base and the Kilpisjärvi Tourist Hotel were built. In 1964, the Biological Station of the University of Helsinki was built. All the buildings in the village consists of post-war, scattered brick, log and wooden houses. The first houses were built in 1980's and school was built in 1982, which allowed settling of families with children. Many famous people have lived in the village, e.g. Justus Montell, forest ranger, on whose proposal the Malla nature park was founded and e.g. writers known as Yrjö Kokko, Väinö Oinonen, Yrjö Metsälä and Asko Kaikusalo.

Livelihoods in the village used to be hunting and fishing which are practiced also today. Horses drove cargo to Skibotn, where there was a big market in September and February. Malla rises on the west side of Kilpisjärvi and Saanatunturi on the east side. All of Finland's 15 peaks rising to more than 1000 meters are located in area of Enontekiö municipality.

Nowadays, due to tourism, Kilpisjärvi is a lively place where many families with children also live. The shopping center in the center of the village serves the residents and travelers of the village all year round. The village has excellent opportunities for hobbies and unique nature that cannot be experienced anywhere else in Finland. The location right next to the Norwegian and Swedish border brings travelers and opportunities to the village.