



VUONTISJÄRVI

Vuontisjärvi village is known for its stories and its creative, gutsy people. The village is full of happenings and even some dramatic turn of events. One story tells the tale of Rován Niku's infamous lake descent in the 19th century, which resulted in the river shifting its course. This became the current shape of Vuontisjärvi. The people in the village are famous for their singing and playing skills. In addition to musical talents, the people have a way around arranging events and creating an exciting atmosphere. During Christmastime, the village is lit up by beautiful ice lanterns, and Midsummer is celebrated by the beach. You cannot skip Vuontisjärvi village. One must experience its stories and ambience.

LOCATION

Vuontisjärvi is located on the east side of Enontekiö, about 18 km from Hetta.

POPULATION

About 110

ATTRACTIONS

Hietamella:

A sand ridge bare from any vegetation, which dominates the village scenery.

Raaskaltio:

The baptism place of the last witches.

Talvadus:

Reindeer separation spot.

SERVICES

Accommodation services, crafts shop, activity services.

Local association Vuontisjärven Viima and other associations arrange village activities, including UN day's march for peace, Midsummer celebration and other village outings.

VUONTISJÄRVI IS A village of approximately 110 residents, and it is located by a lake with the same name, around 20 km east from Hetta. Rován Niku put the village on the map in 1861. Niku decided to dig a trench for his meadows by the underside of the lake, because the dry land was not producing as much hay as the meadows by the riverside. The plan failed, because the river broke free after getting a new pathway to flow, and the Vuontisjärvi Lake descended by six meters. The water took with it a lot of sandy ground, meadow barns and old pine trees. This event was the talk of the village for a long time, and it was a big misfortune for fishers and farmers in the area.

Through the ages, Vuontisjärvi village has been a typical area for natural sources of livelihood in Enontekiö. In addition to keeping cattle, the villagers have done fishing during the summers and hunting willow grouse during winters – the wilderness areas on the north side of the village provide great hunting grounds for this. There are some reindeer farms on the outskirts of the village, and they symbolise the importance of reindeer husbandry in Enontekiö.

The village was destroyed during the Lapland war, so there are no old buildings left in the area. The village consists of one-and-a-half-storied houses that were built after the war, and the fields between the houses. Some of the farmhouses today are located where the bottom of the lake used to be. This new, low building style has kept the village looking consistent with the old traditions.

The scenery from the village road to Ounas-Pallas fell is fabulous. Despite its relatively young buildings, Vuontisjärvi has had residents for a long time. The deer holes at Kurkkiorova, by the old river, refer to ancient hunting methods. There have also been some old Sámi habitats found in the village.

Vuontisjärvi is a lively and communal village with beautiful landscapes, located right by the municipality center – the village is just 15 minutes away from Hetta's services.