



Photo: Laponiatjuottjudus

RUBBISH BAGS ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD

Often in the wintertime you can see black garbage bags hanging on the side of the road and by snowmobile trails. This is the reindeer herders' way of trying to scare away the reindeer from places they should not be, or roads they should not cross. Reindeer herders don't want their reindeer on roads because every reindeer hit by a car is a loss. The garbage bags have now taken on a secondary role, namely as simple warning signals to drivers. Many reindeer herders try to put up warning signs when there are reindeer along the roads to alert motorists that there are reindeer in the area. Leave these reindeer warning signs alone as they serve their important function.



Photo: Carl-Johan Utsi

DRIVING SNOWMOBILE

There are some winter snowmobile trails in Lapponia. Sometimes when you are driving you might see reindeer ahead of you. Try to drive quietly behind them for a while. But there is a risk that you scare them into running a long distance ahead, where they should not go. If you wait until you get to an open area such as a mire, you can leave the snowmobile trail and drive around them. Then they can continue grazing peacefully and not be dispersed.



Photo: Carl-Johan Utsi

KNOW-HOW PASSED FROM ONE GENERATION TO THE NEXT

Reindeer husbandry is an experience-based activity where knowledge has been passed on from generation to generation.

It is know-how that has been refined over time and adapted to the times and environment in which we live and work.

Today, modern technology in the form of motor vehicles, GPS reindeer collars and drones are used to assist in the gathering of the reindeer. Reindeer husbandry is also a seasonal activity. At certain times of the year the reindeer are particularly sensitive to human disturbance.

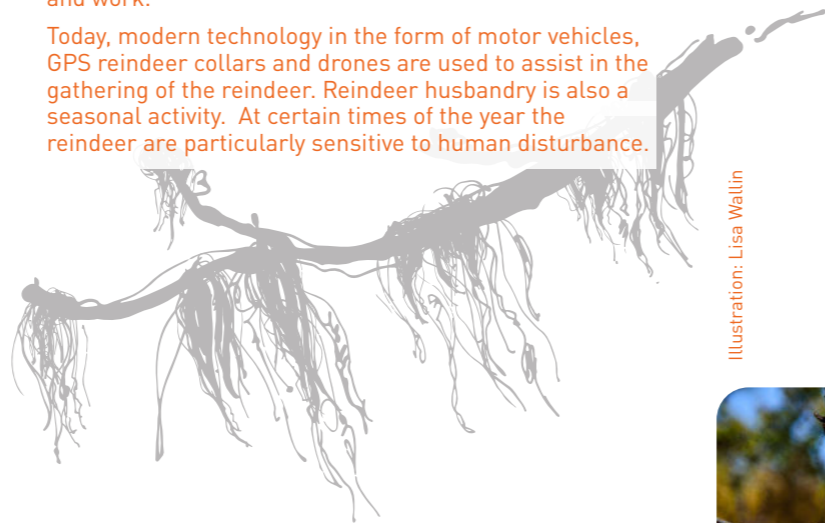


Illustration: Lisa Wallin

ÁRBEDIEHTU (TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE)

Among the Sámi, there are various customs and practices for gaining or maintaining luck with their reindeer. One custom is that if you see a reindeer antler on the ground, you should turn it over and preferably place it on a stone. You should leave the reindeer antler alone.

You may have seen reindeer antlers hanging from trees. Leave them too. Reindeer herders have hung them up to keep their herd together.

THE LAPONIA WORLD HERITAGE SITE

Laponia became a World Heritage Site in 1996.

The World Heritage Site was granted based on three criteria. The natural environment of the Laponian area, traces of traditional reindeer husbandry and the Sámi culture. One of the commitments of a World Heritage Site is to ensure that the factors deemed unique are respected so that its heritage value is not threatened or destroyed. Its World Heritage status can be withdrawn if there is too much disturbance.



NATURE'S VALUES

TRACES OF EARLIER USERS

REINDEER HERDING AND SÁMI CULTURE



Photo: Daniel Olausson

THE REINDEER



A CENTRAL PART OF THE LAPONIA WORLD HERITAGE

TRANSLATION: Thomas Rutschman

LAPONIA
WORLD HERITAGE IN SWEDISH LAPLAND



Photo: Carl-Johan Utsi

PROPER BEHAVIOR WHEN YOU ENCOUNTER REINDEER IN LAPONIA

How should a person hike in a natural environment without disturbing the wildlife, including the birds, reindeer or the reindeer herders?

About the Reindeer

The domestic reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus tarandus*) is the species of reindeer found in Sweden today. It is well adapted to life in an Arctic climate. Reindeer are herd animals and thrive being together, migrating on the same paths every year. The reindeer need different types of grazing areas depending on the season and therefore move between habitats at different times of the year.

In winter the main food is reindeer lichen and when the snow has melted the reindeer graze on grasses, herbs, mushrooms and leaves. Reindeer have special habitats where they find pastures where to graze, calving grounds for their calves and where they feel safe. The reindeer avoid certain areas due to weather and other factors such as grazing conditions. That is why reindeer herding requires large grazing areas. Reindeer, like all animals, are easily scared by humans.

AREA:	approx 9,000km²	NUMBER OF SÁMI VILLAGES:	9
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NUMBER OF REINDEER IN LAPONIA:	approx 60,000
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CALVING MONTHS:	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
SLAUGHTER MONTHS:	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

SÁMI VILLAGES:

In Lapponia there are both forest Sámi villages where people live in forest areas all year round, and mountain Sámi villages where they need extensive areas for their reindeer and let them graze in the coniferous forests in the winter and in the mountains in the summer. There are 51 Sámi villages in Sweden, nine of which have land in Lapponia.



Illustration: Lisa Wallin



photo: Jan-Erik Nilsson

YOUR RESPONSIBILITY IN THE WORLD HERITAGE SITE

Visitors

As a visitor to Lapponia, your presence will affect the wildlife, including the reindeer and birds, whether you are aware of it or not.

If you want to be able to spend time in Lapponia, with its magnificent nature, create as little a disturbance as possible, so that the World Heritage Site can be preserved intact for future generations.

The Reindeer and the Landscape

The mountains are largely a pastoral landscape.

Reindeer have grazed here for thousands of years and grazing has prevented the mountains from becoming overgrown with bushes. Grazing has also encouraged the growth of certain plants more than others, which is why the mountain environment looks the way it does. Without the presence of reindeer, we would be faced with a completely different landscape.

At night, when it cools down and the mosquitoes are less of a nuisance, the reindeer head down to the valleys to graze. If there is noise or other human activity, the reindeer may be disturbed and leave the valleys, thus missing out on much needed food.

When driving in this area if you see tracks crossing the road and large pits that look like someone has dug them with a shovel near the road, you know there are reindeer in the area and therefore slow down. If you see reindeer ahead on the road, drive slowly past them and warn on-coming cars by flashing your high beams.

Right of Public Access / Regulations

Please note that the right of public access is restricted within the national parks and nature reserves that make up Lapponia. In addition, there are special rules and regulations that you must follow as a visitor. It is your responsibility to find out what you can and cannot do when you visit Lapponia. Following the rules will help to protect nature and preserve the World Heritage Site.

On <Lapponia.nu> you can find all the regulations that apply to the Lapponian World Heritage Site.

THE SÁMI VILLAGES

Lapponia is the workplace of the Sámi villages, so it is important that you show consideration for the reindeer and for reindeer husbandry. Within the Lapponian World Heritage Site, there are nine Sámi villages that have reindeer husbandry rights.

- Baste čearru
 - Unna tjerusj
 - Sirges
 - Jáhkågaska Tjiellde
 - Tuorpon
 - Luokta-Mávas
- MOUNTAIN SÁMI VILLAGES**

- Udtja
 - Slakka
 - Gällivare skogssameby
- FOREST SÁMI VILLAGES**

Reindeer husbandry regulations give members of the Sámi villages the right to use land and water for themselves and their animals. This includes activities which are otherwise prohibited in a World Heritage Site, such as hunting, fishing, building and using motor vehicles in connection with reindeer husbandry work. There are approximately 50,000 reindeer in the area during the summer. The forest Sámi villages use the forest land exclusively for reindeer husbandry and move throughout the year between different types of grazing grounds in the forest and the mires. Mountain Sámi villages use both the mountains and the forest during the different seasons of the year.



Illustration: Anders Suneson/Sameetinget

LAPONIA

WORLD HERITAGE IN SWEDISH LAPLAND

SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT.

Do not disturb the reindeer unnecessarily.

When hiking in the mountains or the forest, you will sooner or later come into contact with reindeer herders and reindeer. Lapponia is the workplace of the Sámi villages - so it is important that you show consideration for the reindeer and reindeer husbandry.



Dogs should be kept on a leash - no matter how friendly they are. The reindeer perceive a running dog as a threat, a predator on the prowl. In the national parks there is also a dog ban during certain parts of the year. Find out what the regulations are before your visit.

If you come across a reindeer which is alone or a herd of reindeer during your visit to Lapponia, sit down so as not to frighten the reindeer and wait until they have passed.



If you can, make a detour around the animals.



If you are in the mountain region of Lapponia during the summer, avoid camping in the middle of the valleys. Your tent may frighten the reindeer during the period when marking the calves takes place. Rather place your tent on the valley slope.

Do not disturb the reindeer herders at work.

If you find yourself in the middle of a reindeer migration, try to stay out of the way and be quiet. A disturbance can disperse the gathered reindeer and ruin several days of work.



In summer, the reindeer which belong to the mountain Sámi villages graze in the mountain pastures and the reindeer herders with their families live close by. In some places the hiking trails pass right beside the traditional Sámi turf huts and cabins. Please respect the reindeer herders' privacy and property.

Avoid walking too close or camping next to the traditional dwellings and cabins.

Do not try to approach the reindeer, whether they are standing still or not, because you will disturb them even more.

Keep your distance.



Illustration: Lisa Wallin