



## Kiruna Tourist Guide

### The four “Must See and Do’s” when visiting Kiruna

- ▶ Kiruna Church
- ▶ Esrange Space Center
- ▶ LKAB InfoMine
- ▶ Experience the nature.

### Municipality Facts 01

**Population**  
24 000

**Area**  
20 000 km<sup>2</sup>

**Regional Center**  
Kiruna

**County**  
Norrbotten

### More Information 02

**Internet**  
[www.kiruna.se](http://www.kiruna.se)

**Newspapers**  
Norrländska Socialdemokraten  
Norrbottens-Kuriren  
[www.kuriren.nu](http://www.kuriren.nu)

### Tourist Bureaus

**Kiruna Lappland Tourist Bureau**  
The Tourist Office is open six days a week, all year round and from June to August, seven days a week.  
Folkets hus, Lars Janssonsgatan 17,  
Kiruna  
+46 980-188 80  
[info@lappland.se](mailto:info@lappland.se)  
[www.lappland.se](http://www.lappland.se)

### Notes 03

<b>Emergency</b>	<b>112</b>
<b>Police</b>	<b>114 14</b>
<b>Country Code</b>	<b>+46</b>
<b>Area Code</b>	<b>0980</b>



*When you are here, take the opportunity to visit the world's largest underground iron ore mine, LKAB InfoMine. Photo: LKAB*

## Welcome to Kiruna, Sweden's largest Municipality by Area!

From late May to mid-July you can experience the unique midnight sun, there are 50 days of light without darkness. Bring your family and try gold panning, see the cute sled dogs, ride Icelandic horses, fish, crawl in caves, or play golf. After a full day of activities, you can relax at one of the nearby restaurants and have a culinary experience of real Lappish cuisine.

Kiruna is a place filled with unique opportunities to experience and adventure, it is sometimes called the last wilderness. As a visitor, you'll experience the magnificent scenery everywhere, so take the opportunity to take a

walk through the roadless land or fish in one of the world's best fishing waters. There are more than 6,000 lakes and six pristine rivers offering excitement and challenges from early spring to late autumn.

Anyone who wants to can climb Kebnekaise, Sweden's highest mountain. If it is too high, then Sweden's highest mountain station, Låktatjåkko (1228 m), is another option. You can choose to hike along Kungsleden (The King's Trail) for days or weeks, or maybe you'd rather take a half day trip to Kärkevagge and see the fantastic Lake Trollsjön!



## Tourist Guide Kiruna

### See and Do

Don't miss some of the wonders in Central Kiruna: visit the world's largest underground iron ore mine, LKAB InfoMine; visit Hjalmar Lundbohm's garden and learn more about the man who founded the city, do not forget the country's most beautiful building of all time, the Kiruna church. The City Hall, with its strange bell tower and an extensive art collection, is also well worth a visit.

Just outside central Kiruna you will find Jukkasjärvi, where you can find Lapland's oldest wooden house from 1607, and you can meet Sami's and reindeer at Nuttis Sami camp. The Icehotel is also based here.

You can also take a guided tour of Esrange, Europe's only civilian space port, which is located 45 kilometers from the center of Kiruna. If you want to see moose up close go to Vittangi Moose Park, 70 km from Kiruna, and from there it's just an hour's drive up to Karesuando and Treriksroset. Whatever you choose to do in Kiruna, there is plenty of room!

### City

#### About the City

The huge iron ore deposits at Kiruna were known already in the 1600s, but it was not until the late 1800s that it began producing iron ore on a large scale. With mining and the construction of the railway line between Luleå and Narvik, the city of Kiruna was born. Plans for the city were approved by Oscar II in 1900, but the first real building was built in 1890.

The city's character is not only the nature but also the two mining mountains, Luossavaara and Kiirunavaara, located on each side of the city. Kiruna city also marked the first manager of mining and also the city's founder, Hjalmar Lundbohm. He took it upon himself to make it a model of the city and focused on the culture and architecture.

Anyone who wants to see art and architecture will be richly rewarded in Kiruna. Here is one of Sweden's most popular buildings, the Kiruna Church. A wooden church in Falun red paint and opened in 1912. The architect, Gustav Wickman, used a Sami tepee for a model. Here is the Town Hall, which opened



Kärkevågge (Stone Valley). Photo: Thomas Lahtinen

in 1963 and was named Sweden's most beautiful public building the following year. Today, the City Hall is considered a classic of Swedish architecture. The church and the Town Hall has a unique outer appearance. The Town Hall also houses the municipalities extensive art collection.

Kiruna also has several residential neighborhoods of architectural interest: for example, Kvarteret Ortdrivaren by Ralph Erskine; Upper Thule area, decorated by Pierre Olofsson; the industrial area with its wooden houses, designed by Gustav Wickman. Kiruna's emergence from the beginning of the last century has been thoroughly documented photographically, especially by the photographer Borg Mesch. Much of his pictures are on display at Hjalmar Lundbohm's garden, which is also one of the oldest buildings in Kiruna and where the mine manager, Hjalmar Lundbohm lived. The Municipality's archive

also has an interesting treasure of pictures.

### Other

[www.bokatag.se](http://www.bokatag.se)  
[www.sas.se](http://www.sas.se)  
[www.norwegian.se](http://www.norwegian.se)

#### How can you get to Kiruna?

You could probably bicycle the 1300 kilometers from Stockholm, but this gives you good reason to look at other options. SJ and Veolia have trains to Kiruna. The train from Stockholm to Kiruna, takes about 17 hours. Flying is a bit faster of course, and both SAS and Norwegian fly from Arlanda Airport. It is also excellent to drive to Kiruna with well maintained roads and beautiful scenery along the way. There are many interesting places to rest at on the way!

[www.sj.se](http://www.sj.se)



## Tourist Guide Kiruna

### See and Do



Lapporten (Mountain) and Malmabanen (The Ore Rail). Photo: Thomas Lahtinen



The world's northernmost outdoor swimming pool.  
Photo: Camp Ripan



The Ice Hotel in Jukkasjärvi. Photo: Kiruna Lappland

### Swimming

#### Outdoor Swimming

Summer at Tvättjärnsbadet: take a dip in the world's northernmost outdoor swimming pool! If you dare, take a down the water slide, "Fjälljokken". It is located at Ripan Camping. For information contact Ripan Camping.

**+46 980-630 00**

[www.ripan.se](http://www.ripan.se)

### Family Activities

There is plenty for the family in and around Kiruna! Kiruna Lappland, in conjunction with Destination Narvik, again offer this summer, "CHILD FREE ENTRY". Participating companies offer children up to 15 years, free accommodation, food and activities (with an adult). We want to make our northernmost region vacations accessible to everyone, especially families. For more information, visit or call the Kiruna Lappland Tourist Office.

**+46 980-188 80**

[www.lappland.se](http://www.lappland.se)

#### Summer at the ICEHOTEL Arena

Visit the Ice Factory! Come inside where the Icehotel is produced, the Ice Factory, where next winter's Icehotel lurks in the form of thousands of crystal clear ice blocks. Daily guided tours for you as guests during the summer. This is a fascinating journey through the story of the Icehotel. We must also mention there are many activities during the summer. Don't forget the Icehotel then opens its doors for guests in early December every year, and stays open until the sun begins to claim the ice and snow in late April.

**+46 980- 668 00**

[www.icehotel.com](http://www.icehotel.com)

### Museum

#### Hjalmar Lundbohmsgården

The first LKAB Manager's Official Residence. One of Kiruna's oldest buildings, now includes a museum and cafe. Take a guided tour that goes back 100 years in time, get to know the "King of Lapland" and see the interesting photographic exhibition by Borg Mesch. There are opportunities for

small and large groups to make reservations for dinners, conferences, etc.

#### LKAB InfoMine

The bus goes directly from the tourist office straight into the mountain and down 540-meters to view the mine LKAB InfoMine. Tour guides assist you through an authentic mining environment where there are exhibitions, slide shows and multimedia about mining and the manufacturing of iron and steel. The Mining Museum tells of the mine's 100-year history, and the mining techniques developed over the years. An experience not to be missed! Reservations and information at the Kiruna Lappland Tourist Office.

**+46 980-188 80**

[www.lappland.se](http://www.lappland.se)

### Nature

#### Kiruna Mountains

The mountains are very near in Kiruna - one can quickly out and up in the mountains, most easily by car, bus or train along one of the grandiose routes. Most cities are near, however, you can actually walk to



## Tourist Guide Kiruna

### See and Do



*Nikkaluokta. Photo: Kiruna Lapland*

Luossavaara from the center of Kiruna. You have both open spaces and views, and the best views are of the midnight sun. By either car or bus, you can go West towards Nikkaluokta or to Abisko, Björkliden and Riksgränsen in the northwest, which also can be reached by train. These locations are also suitable for half-or full-day excursions.

Nikkaluokta is the gateway to the mightiest mountain area in Sweden and Kebnekaise, Sweden's highest mountain. Here, meets three valleys and Nikkaluokta is the starting point for many hikers. You can take day trips on foot or rent canoes and paddle up into the beautiful Vistas valley.

From Nikkaluokta, you can reach Kungsleden, a classic Swedish trail which also starts in Abisko. Upon your arrival in Abisko, you can enjoy and admire Lappporten. The Sami name is "Tjuonavagge" and means "fjällåsdalen" (mountain valley). The valley is 2 km wide and extends between the tops of Tjuonatjåkka and Nissuntjärro.

To the Northwest are mountain villages, like a band of pearls, one after each other along the railway which was built at the turn of the century - and road E10. In Abisko, a convenient way to go up Nuolja Mountain is by cable car. The view is magnificent, and the lift station at the top has been rebuilt

with pleasant café on a large veranda. If your out in the evening, you can enjoy the wonders of the midnight sun.

From both Abisko and Björkliden, like Riksgränsen, one can do short or long day trips. To take part in the Kiruna Mountains is not so complicated, quite the opposite, it is very easy to take home a once in a lifetime mountain experience.

#### The Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis)

There is something very special about winter in Kiruna, or rather, from late August to late April, is the ability to see the Northern Lights! This mythical, almost magical light is a wonderful experience! Green, blue, purple and red explodes in a bright cavalcade of colors and sweeps like veils over the sky.

But what exactly do we see? Charged particles and plasma are hurled from the sun into space. This is called the solar wind. Solar wind collides with atoms in the Earth's atmosphere, as it follows the Earth's magnetic field - especially at the poles. The release of energy is in the form of light - the polar light.

Precisely, it is Kiruna's proximity to the North Pole which makes the area the best place to see the northern lights. In turn, means that

we actually have the northern lights year-round and round the clock, regardless of temperature and weather. However, there is no guarantee of seeing the northern lights, which can be anything from a minute to several hours. So if you're in Kiruna during the winter, it is not a sure bet that you will see them, but if you do manage to see the northern lights, you will be richly rewarded!

#### Winter in Kiruna Municipality

Summer is wonderful, but so is the winter! Kiruna has a very long winter season, which runs from October until midsummer! Already in October, ski teams travel to Kiruna and Camp Ripan to ski on real tracks, and in Riksgränsen is snow remains until midsummer! Kiruna can offer dogsledding, snowmobile tours, skiing, moose, ice climbing, ice fishing, tours on Icelandic horses, and of course enjoying a stroll in the snow and sun.

In Abisko National Park starts Kungsleden which is about a 450-km-long summer and winter trail that finds its way through the Swedish mountains. For those of you who do not want to ski a good tip is to take a trip by cable car up to Nuolja. Enjoy the serenity and the view over Tornetrask and Lappporten. From September to March, the Aurora Sky Station offers chances to experience the northern lights in the mountains.



## Tourist Guide Kiruna

### See and Do



Esrang Space Center. Photo: Thomas Lahtinen

Even in Björkliden, you will find a magnificent view of the mountains and Tornetrask. From here you can go on a tour or have take the trail up to Láktatjåkko Mountain Station or visit the mysterious caves. At the Norwegian border, you will find Riksgränsen, Sweden's most snowy place. Here, the slopes are open until midsummer. Lifts are situated close to the hotel and you can choose between 34 different runs.

It is possible to ski from Abisko to Kebnekaise Mountain Station which takes about seven days. But, you can also get there from Nikkaluokta, located at the end of the road, 66 km from Kiruna. There is a fine Sami chapel and a tourist center with restaurants, shops and accommodations. There are also opportunities for transport by helicopter, snowmobile or all terrain carrier, depending on the season.

### Other

#### BAMM (Björkliden Arctic Mountain Marathon)

BAMM, mid-August: Björkliden Arctic Mountain Marathon. There are two phases and two people must choose the best path through the mountain terrain and carry equipment and tents to sleep in during

the nights. Distances are 30, 50 and 70 kilometers.

[www.bamm.nu](http://www.bamm.nu)

#### Fjällräven Classic - Sweden's first outdoor classics!

Fjällräven Classic, mid-August, Sweden's first outdoor classics! Fjällräven Classic is the world's only mountain trekking race in one of the world's most beautiful environments - Kungsleden. The race is for both young and old, people who like to speed through life, experienced mountain foxes and curious beginners.

[www2.fjallraven.com/classic](http://www2.fjallraven.com/classic)

#### Låktastörten (Ski Competition)

Låktastörten in early May: the classic ski race with very simple rules: first down from Láktatjåkko Mountain Station to Björkliden wins! Christer Majbäck record is around 14 minutes, but for those who want to experience a bit more, it is okay to even take it a bit easier than that.

[www.bjorkliden.com](http://www.bjorkliden.com)

#### Markets & Festivals

The Snow Festival in late January: Kiruna is completely snowed in for three days with snow sculpture exhibitions, Ark Exhibition, snowmobile shows and much more!

[www.snowfestival.se](http://www.snowfestival.se)

#### Markets & Festivals - Jukkasjärvi Market and Local History Celebration!

The first weekend in August is the Jukkasjärvi Market and Local History Celebration! The celebration of Jukkasjärvi 400 years of celebrations in Jukkasjärvi and lasts all weekend.

[www.jukkasjarvi400.com](http://www.jukkasjarvi400.com)

#### Markets & Festivals - Kiruna Festival

The first weekend after Midsummer we celebrate the Kiruna Festival! Many artists come to Kiruna during the midnight sun, The Hives, Petter, Sahara Hotnights, Dag Vag, Håkan Hellström, Björn Gustafsson, Adam Tensta and Sven-Ingvar, and others.

[www.kirunafestivalen.com](http://www.kirunafestivalen.com)

#### SOURCES

Kiruna Lappland Turistbyrå  
[www.kommunernaskalender.com](http://www.kommunernaskalender.com)  
[www.eurotourism.com](http://www.eurotourism.com)  
[www.dagspress.se](http://www.dagspress.se)

*Subject to change*

