

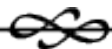
Välkommen till



Muddus National Park



Nattavaara



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Accommodation



In the southern part of Muddus there is a system of marked trails and walkways with four overnight cabins: Muddusfallet 8 beds, Muddusluoppal 6 beds, Manson 3 beds and Nammates 3 beds.

At Muddusluoppal there is also a **metre high observation tower that offers spectacular views across the national park, for those brave enough to climb to the top. From here it may be possible to observe some of Muddus' diverse species of birds and animals including; Moose, Brown Bear, Sea Eagle, Common Crane and Whooper swan.



Histroy



People have lived in the Muddus area for thousands of years. Evidence of human activity includes; extensive systems of pits dug by hunters to catch wild reindeer, stumps of centuries old axe-felled trees and old Sámi Lávvu tepee sites with fire hearths in the form of a ring of stones.

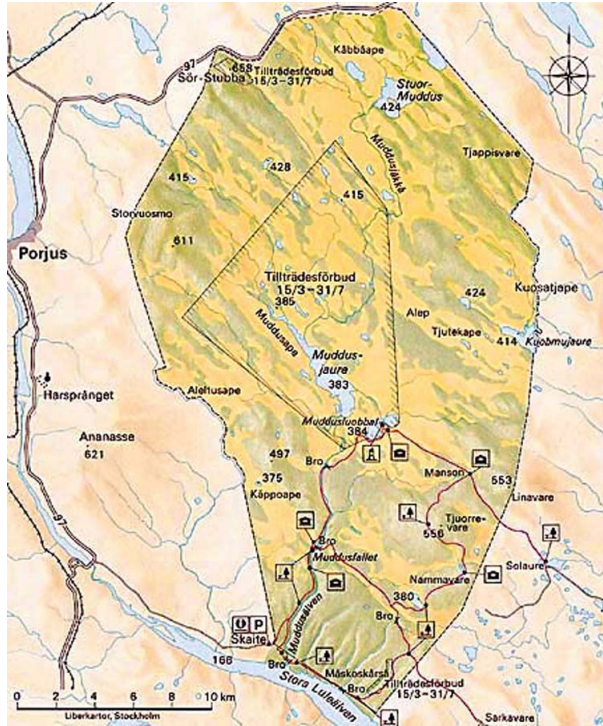


Muddus National Park was formed in 1942 with the main aim of helping to protect the Whooper Swan, which at that time was very scarce.

As a result, a 500sq km area of ancient Lapland forest and wetland landscape was preserved for both us and future generations. Muddus is also now part of the Laponian World Heritage Area and is in the EU ecological network of protected areas, called Natura 2000.

Muddus is today an important area for reindeer herding; the drier lichen grounds are used for winter foraging by mountain reindeer districts and the wetland areas for summer grazing and calving by the Gällivare forest reindeer district.

Map



Regulations in Muddus National Park

In the national park it is forbidden among other things to;

- remove minerals or other geological material
- damage living or dead trees, shrubs and bushes (it is however permissible to take dried branches and twigs to make a fire or shelter)
- pick or dig up plants (it is however permissible to pick berries and mushrooms)
- hunt or fish, or collect insects or other animals or in any way or disturb wildlife
- use a motorised vehicle or boat or land an aircraft
- ride or bring a dog (it is however permissible to bring a dog on a leash in the period 1 January-30 April)
- enter a bird sanctuary between 15 March and 31 July
- damage ancient remains and other historical remains.

Nature



Brown Bear, Lynx, Wolverine are residents of Muddus but are rarely seen. However, you stand a much greater chance of seeing some of Muddus' other residents such as Moose, Reindeer and Beaver.

In the Spring Muddus comes alive with the songs and displays of both common and rare resident & migratory birds including; Siberian Tit, Siberian Jay, Three-toed Woodpecker, Jack Snipe, Broad-billed Sandpiper, Smew Hazel Hen and Tengmalm's & Pygmy Owl.

In June flowers come into bloom and during August and September Cloud, Blue & Lingon berries are ready to eat.

The autumn is a very short season, but provides the most beautiful colours both from sunsets and as the trees and plants prepare for the long winter ahead.

As the nights become longer and colder, the Northern Light appears again and the lack of light pollution provides ideal conditions for star gazing.

Wilderness



Almost half of Muddus consists of marshes. Here the terrain is mostly flat.

There is virgin forest containing pines several hundred years old. Many insects, fungi, lichens and mosses require forest that has lived naturally for centuries, without felling and there are many such species in Muddus.

The southern part, which slopes down towards the Stora Lule älv river, is covered by young pine forest, shaped by both forest fires and more ancient felling. The slope is crossed from north to south by a series of canyons. The Muddus river flows through one of them. The important sights include the 42 metre high Muddus Falls..

