**YLLÄSTUNTURIN LUONTOKESKUS KELLOKAS**

**BASIC INFORMATION**

**Kellokas Visitor Centre is one of the 3 visitor centres found in Pallas-Yllästunturi National Park, located in the Yllästunturi area.**

**The center serves as a point of reference to visitors coming to visit the areas around the Yllästunturi fell, in addition it is a good starting point for excursions as many of the nature and hiking trails that lead directly into the national park start right from the nature center.**

**In here you will have the opportunity to learn more about the nature of Ylläs-Aakenus area as well as the diverse hiking opportunities**

**In addition, the visitor centre has exhibitions on offer, films, a library and arranges guided group activities.**

**PALLAS-YLLÄSTUNTURI NATIONAL PARK – BACKGROUND**

Pallas-Yllästunturi National Park is Finland’s oldest national park, located in mountain Lapland (eli Tunturi Lappi) in the municipalities of Enontekiö, Kittilä, Kolari and Muonio, all in Western Lapland.

The aim of the national park is to protect the ancient Svekokarelids chain of fells and its surrounding nature.

The park offers a good picture of Lapland’s northern nature at its best.

Here you breathe Europe’s purest air, as based on the air quality measurements at Pallas research station.

**HISTORY**

BACKGROUND

The Pallas-Yllästunturi area has been a Sámi living area already since the stone age (present the Sámi people if tourists do not know)

Over time, the Finnish people living in southern Lapland, ie. along Kemi and Tornio moved north in search of rich river and lake waters, where the Finnish settlement was established.

Reindeer herding has long been an important part of people’s livelihood here.

NATIONAL PARK’S HISTORY

The idea of a national park was already raised in 1910 and proposals to the government were made to protect this area as it has a picture of Lapland’s Nature at its best.

The proposal for the creation of this national park was accepted in 1928.

Pallas-Ounastunturi National Park, which is now Pallas-Yllästunturi National Park’s original part was found on the year 1938 and it is Finland’s oldest National Park.

It has been extended many times until 2005... to the current name. It is now more than double the size it used to be.

The fell nature of here has long fascinated hikers and this area was already in the 1930s a popular hiking place, in fact the Pallas-Hetta hiking trail, which is the park’s most popular, was already created in 1934.

**NATURE**

The nature of the national park is very diverse and because of this it offers excellent opportunities for outdoor recreation as well as research.

The park offers to you a picture of Lapland’s nature at its best

The park’s most notable natural features are…

* The ancient mountain range – Svekokarelids

This ancient fells that you see all around you used to be high mountains as the Alps and their nature, ie. raising out from virgin forests, rivers, lakes and mires is one of the most outstanding of the park.

Typical fell plant/tree species are, along berry and flower species, the dwarf birch (vaivaiskoivu) and the mountain birch

* Forests

The old-growth taiga forests of Pallas, with the dominant tree species being spruce, pine and birch have an immense value to hikers and researchers.

The forests’ tree species change according to altitude and latitude, e.g. on fell sides there are only fell birch forests while on valleys there are spruce, birch and pine forests.

* Lakes, rivers & mires

Other notable natural features of the park are the majestic lakes as Pallasjärvi for example and wild rivers as Ounasjoki and Pyhäjoki.

Mires also are a remarkable feature of the park’s nature.

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

**Exhibitions**

* **Meän elämää**(Our Life) exhibition highlights the villages bordering the Pallas-Yllästunturi National Park, the streams that have their sources in the fells, the forests, mires, meadows, and the Tornion-Muonionjoki River. These are the sources from which all life in the area has developed. [Read more.](http://www.nationalparks.fi/yllasvisitorcentre/thingstodoandsee/kellokasnatureandculturalexhibition)
* **Gallery Kellokas** is an art gallery maintained by the [The Artists' Association of Lapland](http://www.lapintaiteilijaseura.fi/en/home) (www.lapintaiteilijaseura.fi). The gallery has temporary exhibitions.
* **Our Gallery** is an exhibition space maintained by Metsähallitus. The gallery has temporary exhibitions. Inquiries: tel. +358 40 484 1110.
* **The hiking exhibition** introduces the fells and nearby nature trails in Varkaankuru.
* On **the outsider art yard**, there are sculptures by Lappish artists along a trail encircling the Visitor Centre.
* **The Logging Museum** introduces the history of logging in the region.

**Opening Hours in 2017**

2.1.–12.2. Mon–Fri 9 am–4 pm
13.2.–30.4. Mon–Sun 9 am–5 pm
1.5.–4.6. Mon–Fri 9 am–4 pm, also Sat 20.5.
**5.6.–1.10. Mon–Sun 9 am–5 pm**
2.10.–29.11. Mon–Fri 9 am–4 pm
30.11.–31.12. Mon–Sun 9 am–4 pm

**Closed** 24.–25.12.

Free entry.

**Contact Information**

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