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JUNKERDAL

THE LIVING COUNTRYSIDE

Norway's national parks – nature as it was meant to be

Norway's national parks are regulated by the laws of nature. Nature decides both how and when to do things. National parks are established in order to protect large natural areas – from the coast to the mountains. This is done for the benefit of nature itself, for our sake and for generations to come.

The national parks offer a wide range of opportunities and experiences. The natural surroundings are beautiful and varied. There is hunting, fishing, plants, birds, animals and cultural monuments.

Accept our invitation – become acquainted with nature and our national parks.



Directorate for
Nature Management

www.dirnat.no

BENNETT Photo: Arvid Juul, Gunnar Hofstad, Arvegar Aadahl, Fjellsmann, Nordland, Vegar Pedersen/SNO, Torbjørn Mørnes, Bildbyrå, Trond Løge, Front page: Sverigedire



AN INSPIRED AREA

In Junkerdal National Park not only the animals and plants are alive, but also the mountains. Sami culture and tradition have left behind a wealth of traces and stories linked to the region. In old Sami culture, plants, animals and special places all possessed souls and had a considerable significance for the day-to-day life. At the edge of the national park is the highest frontier mountain in the country, the 1,776 meters high Nordsaulo. In Sami belief, this mountain was a guardian.

The landscape in Junkerdal National Park provides an environment for an extremely diverse flora with a great many rare plants. The white mountain saxifrage (*Saxifraga paniculata*), is found in only a few places in Norway, and of these, it is most widely distributed in Junkerdal National Park. It has never been found on the Swedish side. The entire area is important for understanding the migration and distribution of plants and animals following the last ice age.



EXPERIENCE NATURE

For body and soul

Together with adjacent mountain regions in Norway and Sweden, Junkerdal National Park is one of the largest remaining wilderness areas in Scandinavia, giving you the opportunity to enjoy long and superb trips.

The landscape is varied, and every bit as good for walking as it is to look at – in summertime as in winter. Flat plateaus, steep mountain sides, swirling rivers and lofty mountain peaks challenge both body and soul. In addition to this, you are also walking through a well-known Sami cultural area, rich in cultural heritage. Here you will find plenty of marked paths and ski tracks, as well as a great many cabins, sheds or turf huts. Argaladhytta in Skaitidalen has gained a reputation as Norway's most pleasant tourist cabin.



Freshly caught trout

Hunting and fishing

The national park, especially north of Balvatnet lake, contains some of the best fishing spots in the Saltdal area, where you can hook both char and trout. Small game and moose hunting is also popular, but don't forget your hunting and fishing licence!



Hunting



THE LANDSCAPE

Unique variations

The national park is limited by Sulitjelma to the north and by the Junkerdalen valley to the south. The entire area is characterised by an extremely varied landscape formed during the last ice age, that ended some 10,000 years ago. It is a landscape that is both interesting and important from a geological perspective.

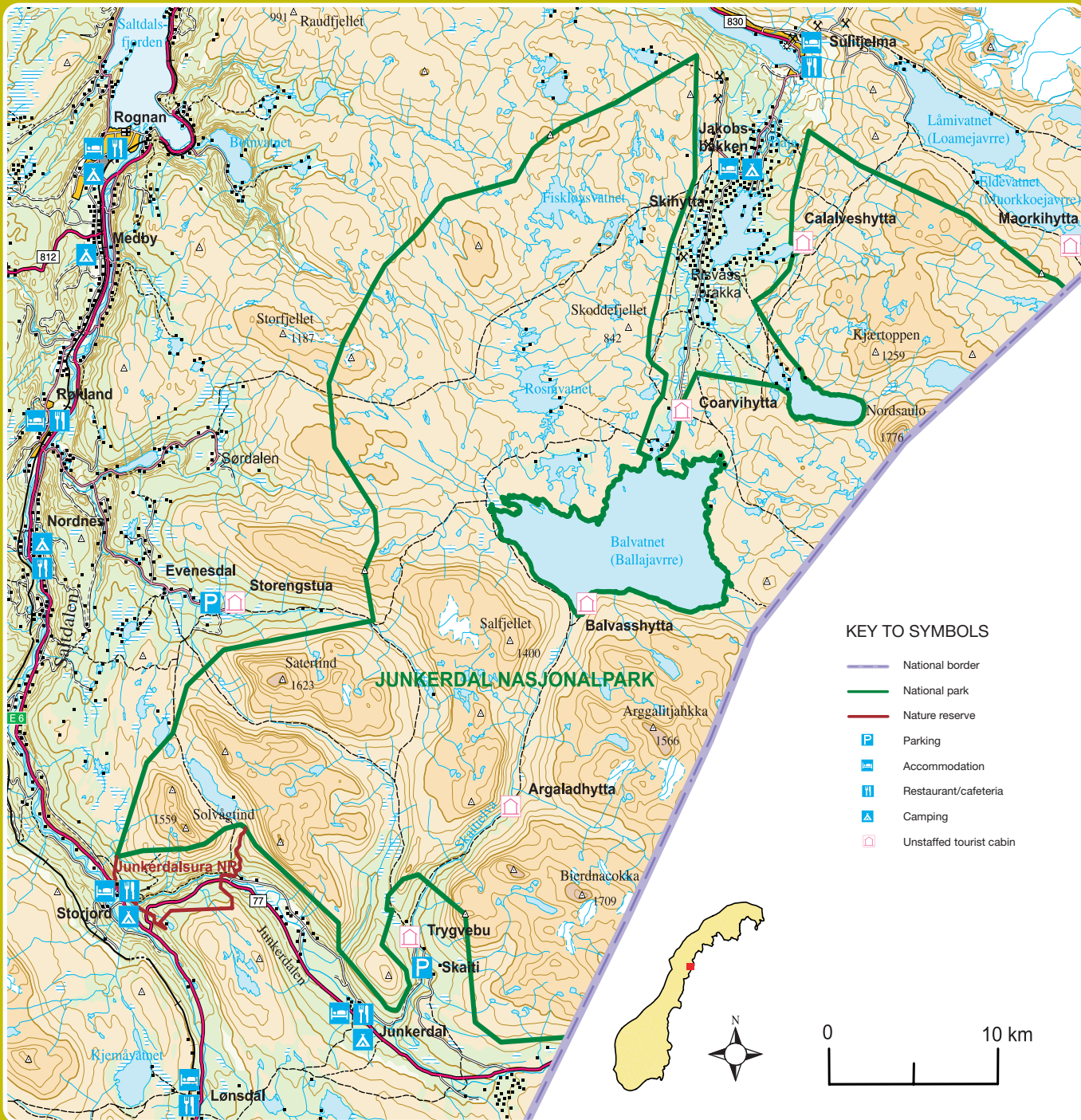
In the northern part of the national park, there's a rolling plateau with many lakes, large and small. In the western part, the mountainous landscape has lots of small valleys in which the water runs towards Saltdal or out to the Saltdal fjord. In the southern part, the landscape is typical of the interior, with long, u-shaped valleys running between towering mountains. The central region is wide and open, with the large Balvatnet lake at its center. Solvågtind is towering, prominent and majestic and is the most distinctive mountain in the region.



View of Balvatnet lake



Lapland rosebay



KEY TO SYMBOLS

- National border
- National park
- Nature reserve
- Parking
- Accommodation
- Restaurant/cafe
- Camping
- Unstaffed tourist cabin

PLANT LIFE

Rare plants

Junkerdal National Park is situated in the rain shadow of the Svartisen Glacier, so the climate is relatively dry and warm during the summer. The favourable climate and geology have allowed a wide range of rare plant species to survive. The flora has attracted national interest since 1827.

The national park contains a number of localities with a wide diversity of plant life. Several of the vegetation types are generally rare, such as those dominated by the white arctic mountain heather (*Cassiope tetragona*), or by the mountain avens (*Dryas octopetala*) with the lapland rose (*Rhododendron lapponicum*). Many of the plants in the national park are otherwise only found further north, or on other continents. Some of the specialities are bulrush sedge (*Carex scirpoidea*), arctic fleabane (*Erigeron humilis*) and alpine arnica (*Arnica angustifolia*), all of which are growing at their southernmost limit here. Other rare plants found in the national park are arctic bellflower (*Campanula uniflora*), lapland pussytoe (*Autennaria villifera*), upright lousewort (*Pedicularis flammea*) and hairy lousewort (*Pedicularis hirsuta*).

ANIMAL LIFE

Valuable nesting area

A wide variety of rare and endangered birds nest inside the national park, amongst them gyrfalcon, golden eagle, red-throated loon, arctic loon and long-tailed duck.

The rich vegetation supports a wealth of animal life. Wolverines and lynx live here year-round, and bears regularly roam through the area. Reindeer graze throughout the year.

The national park is also home to some rare butterflies, such as the glandon blue (*Agriades glandon*) and the northern clouded yellow (*Colias hecla*).



Lady's slipper



Mountain tobacco



Moose

HISTORY

A Sami “storybook”

Junkerdal National Park is first and foremost a Sami area. There have been Sami reindeer herders in this area since the 16th – 17th centuries, but there has been hunting and trapping for ages before that. Most of the ancient cultural relics in the national park are from the Sami; traces from tents, sites of turf huts, mountain caves, traps and fireplaces.

At the timber line, there are also sites indicating permanent Sami farming settlements. The Sami still herd reindeer here.

The national park also contains other cultural relics, including remains of outlying hayfields, fishing, hunting, tree felling and traces of prospecting and drilling in mineral deposits.

Junkerdalsura Nature Reserve

Junkerdalsura Nature Reserve is adjacent to the national park. With its wide range of species, it's one of Norway's most well-known botanical localities. Junkerdalsura runs as a narrow canyon along the Junkerdalen valley, with the rushing Junkerdalselva river at the bottom, surrounded by magnificent mountains.



Path along the river

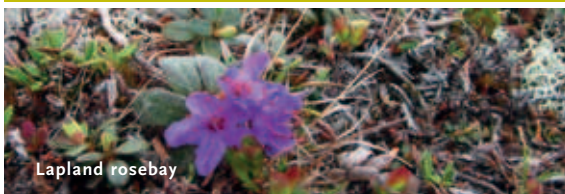


Junkerdal nature reserve



You are a guest of nature in a national park

- You may go wherever you like, on foot or ski, but the basic rule is that anything with an engine is prohibited.
- You can stop wherever you like and pitch a tent. Always tidy up after yourself and don't leave litter.
- You can light a fire, but remember the general ban on lighting fires in forests from 15 April to 15 September. Be considerate when collecting firewood.
- You can pick berries, edible mushrooms and traditional food- and medicinal plants. Be considerate of cultural relics, vegetation and fauna. Be extra careful during the breeding and nesting season.
- Make use of the hunting and fishing opportunities. Remember a hunting/fishing licence. Never use live fish as bait, or transfer live fish from one watercourse to another.
- You can take your dog with you, but remember to keep it on a lead from 1 April – 20 August.



Lapland rosebay



Junkerdal National Park in brief

Where:

Saltdal and Fauske municipalities, Nordland County.

Main characteristics:

Rich plant life with many rare plants. A key area for understanding the distribution of plant species following the last ice age. Many Sami cultural relics.

Outdoor recreation:

Established network of paths and cabins open to the general public. Great fishing, especially in the north.

How to get to Junkerdal National Park:

By air to Bodø. Train to Lønsdal, Røkland, Rognan or Fauske and bus or taxi from there.

By car: E6 to Storjord, Route 77 to Junkerdal, then turn off at Skaiti. E6 to Røkland, turn off to Evenesdalen and Storengdalen. Route 830 to Sulitjelma and then to Balvatnet in the summer, or Skihytta and Daja in the winter.

Information on accommodation and other services:

Salten Reiseliv AS, Tel. +47 75 64 33 03,
E-mail: firmapost@saltenreiseliv.no, www.saltenreiseliv.no

Tips:

Enjoy a day trip to the top of Solvågtind. The best place to start is from Storjord.

Maps:

Balvatnet, Junkerdal, Rognan and Sulitjelma
(all with a scale of 1:50 000)

Established:

2004

Size:

682 km²

National park information center:

Nordland Nasjonalparksenter, Storjord, Tel. +47 75 96 24 00,
www.nordlandnasjonalparksenter.no

More information:

County Governor of Nordland, Tel.: +47 75 53 15 00
Statskog Nordland, mountain service, Tel.: +47 75 15 79 57
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