



# ØVRE DIVIDAL

GENTLE LANDSCAPE WITH  
ROUNDED MOUNTAINS





An ancient, fallen pine (KOJ)



Potholes near Øvre Divifoss (KOJ)

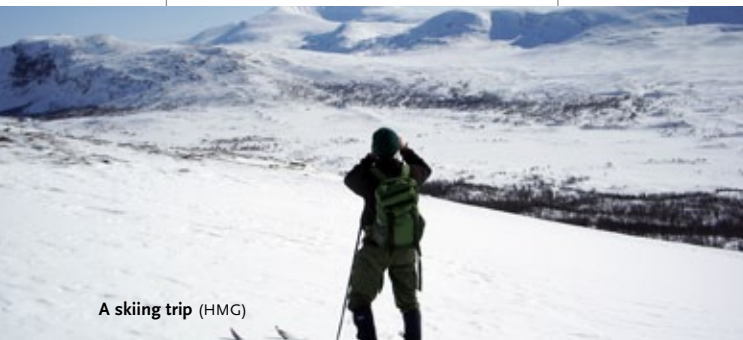
## THE REALM OF THE WOLVERINE

In inner Troms, bordering onto Sweden, a multitude of plants and animals flourishes in one of the most varied wilderness areas in northern Norway. The landscape with its pinewoods, birch woodland, high mountains, lakes and mires is varied, too. The area has rich alpine vegetation, including vast numbers of white arctic bell-heather and *Rhododendron lapponicum*. Øvre Dividal offers a habitat for several large predators, but most notably it is the realm of the wolverine.



4°

ØVRE DIVIDAL NATIONAL PARK



A skiing trip (HMG)



ENJOY THE SCENERY

### The Arctic Trail

The scenic Arctic Trail or 'Nordkalottruta' through Norway, Sweden and Finland crosses the park, and Troms Ramblers Association cabins offer accommodation. Many other paths take you to lakes with good fishing and to fine camping spots.

### Hunting and angling

You can fish char and trout in the many lakes in the park that are brim-full of fish. Grayling, pike and burbot are also on offer. Hunting is permitted in accordance with the usual regulations, except in an area in Håvgavuopmi (see the map), where all hunting is forbidden. Hares and birds like ptarmigan, willow grouse, black grouse and capercaillie are available. The Norwegian Forestry Company (Statskog) also sells licences to hunt elk.

The ancient pinewood in Dividalen, with its twisted, stunted trees, is straight from a fairy tale, and an excellent playground for children. You can pick edible mushrooms and berries there in autumn, and tasty cowberries are particularly abundant.



Old trees make a fine playground (KOJ)

ØVRE DIVIDAL NATIONAL PARK

5°



Autumn in Anjavassdalen (TB)



LANDSCAPE AND GEOLOGY

### Typical inland scenery

The Øvre Dividal National Park protects inland scenery that is typical of northern Norway. The landscape shifts from steep mountains and deep canyons to open, lake-dotted plateaus, gentle valley slopes and rounded ridges and summits.

A veneer of basal conglomerate, sandstones and shales, the Dividal Group, was deposited on the granitic basement here around 600 million years ago. It is well exposed on some hillsides, like Bumannsberget, and is overlain by nappes of mainly younger, metamorphosed rocks thrust from the west. The ice sheet that blanketed Scandinavia in the last Ice Age left erratic blocks on several peaks. A huge red granite block by the cairn on the summit of Jerta came from Sweden.



Beautiful scenery in the direction of Håvgavuopmi (KOJ)



Mountain avens (KOJ)

*Rhododendron lapponicum* (KMN)

## PLANT LIFE

**Beautiful rhododendrons**

The Øvre Dividal National Park is first and foremost noted for its scenic mountains. Valleys with lush birch woods and ancient pines are close to upland terrain with open valleys and crooked upland downy birches. The growing season is short, but varied bedrock helps to give good conditions for alpine vegetation that includes many species of vascular plants, among them the tiny *Rhododendron lapponicum*. White arctic bell-heather, which only grows in northern Norway, is abundant.

The valley floor on either side of the river (Divielva) has patches of ancient pinewood and deciduous woodland with a particularly rich flora and fauna, including many rare lichens, fungi and beetles.

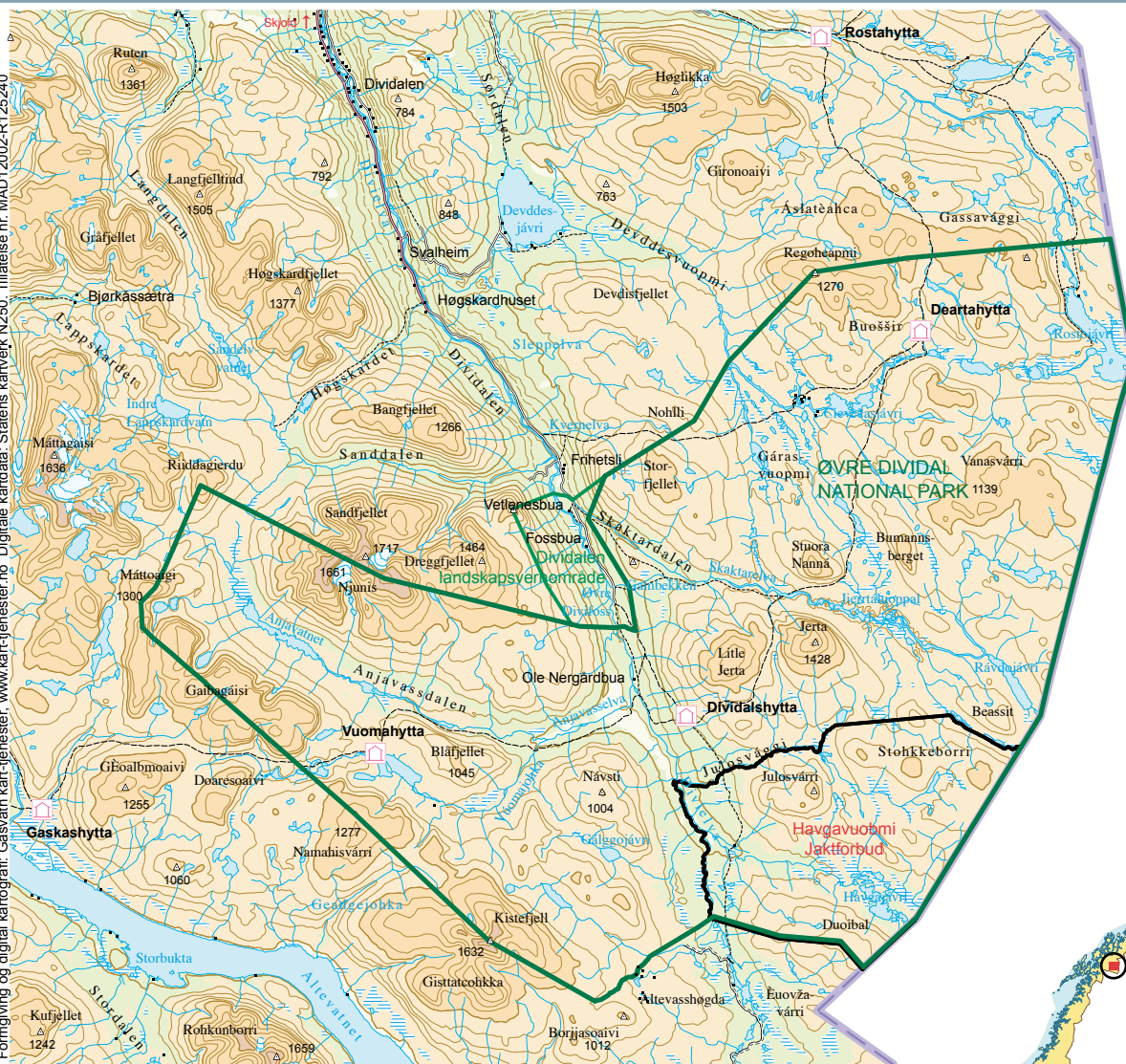


Jacob's-ladder (KA)








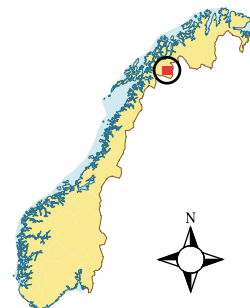
White arctic bell-heather (KA)





## Key

-  National border
-  National Park
-  Protected Landscape Area
-  Limit of where hunting is prohibited
-  No-service cabin



0 km 2 4 6 8 10 km  
M 1:300.000



Wolverine (SØN)



## ANIMAL AND BIRD LIFE

**Among wolverines and other large predators**

Many wild animals live in this varied landscape. The park helps to secure habitats for the big predators that still live in Norway. Øvre Dividal shares a brown bear population with areas on the Swedish side of the border, and females with cubs are observed nearly every year. There are also permanent populations of arctic foxes and lynx, while wolves regularly roam through the park. The wolverine population is among the densest in northern Europe, and cubs are born and brought up in many dens in the park every year. The wolverine has a varied diet from spring to autumn, but reindeer figure high on its menu in winter.

Many birds visit Dividalen on their spring and autumn migrations. The woods abound in small birds, and capercaillie nest there. Waders like ruffs and red-necked phalaropes are seen on the extensive wetlands, along



Arctic foxes (JL)

with many species of ducks. Golden eagles, rough-legged buzzards, gyr falcons and kestrels breed in the park and snowy owls occur when small rodents abound. Hawk owls, waxwings, long-tailed skuas, parrot crossbills and three-toed woodpeckers are characteristic species.



Male capercaillie (KO)



Waxwing (KOJ)





Herding reindeer (HMG)



Skakterdalen (KOJ)



## HISTORY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE RELICS

**Sámi country with long traditions**

The name Dividal originates from the Sámi word, “dievva”, meaning a fairly round, dry hill. Countless generations of Sámi have used the area and left many cultural heritage relics ranging from sacrificial sites to remains of turf huts and meat stores. Remnants of old reindeer fences made of birch can still be seen.

Towards the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, inner Troms was settled by Norwegian immigrants from Østerdalen, Gudbrandsdalen and Helgeland, further south in Norway, and Kvens from Tornedalen in Sweden. They were all seeking land to farm, and initially settled in the main valleys closer to the sea. Dividalen was settled quite late and Frihetsli, the uppermost farm, was not cleared before 1844.

Reindeer from the Swedish Sámi communities of Lainiovuoma and Saariivuoma now graze in the national park in summer.



Log cabin (HMG)



Hawk owl (KOJ)

## In a national park, you are one of Nature's guests

- You may go wherever you like, on foot or on skis, but anything with an engine is basically prohibited.
- You can stop wherever you like and pitch a tent. Always tidy up afterwards and take your rubbish with you.
- You can light a fire, but remember the general ban on fires in woodland from 15 April to 15 September. Show consideration when collecting firewood.
- You can pick berries, mushrooms and common plants for your own use. Show consideration for cultural heritage sites, vegetation and animal life. Take extra care in the breeding season.
- Hunting and fishing are permitted. Remember to buy hunting and fishing licences. Never use live fish as bait, or transfer live fish from one river or lake to another.
- You can take your dog with you, but remember to keep it on a lead from 1 April to 1 September.
- Show consideration for grazing reindeer, especially in the calving season in May and June.



## Øvre Dividal National Park in brief

### Where:

The borough of Målselv in the county of Troms

### How to get to Øvre Dividal National Park:

Drive up Dividalen and on a forestry road to Skaktarelva (in winter) or Gambekken (in summer). Drive up Rostadalen to Innset and Tverrelvmo. Drive to Altevatn.

### Information on accommodation and other services:

Bardufoss Hotel, [www.bardufosshotell.no](http://www.bardufosshotell.no)

Bardufosstun, [www.bardufosstun.no](http://www.bardufosstun.no)

Målselv Fjelllandsby (Snowman Resort), [www.malselv fjellandsby.no](http://www.malselv fjellandsby.no)

Målselvfossen kurs og feriesenter, [www.maalselv fossen.no](http://www.maalselv fossen.no)

### Cabins:

Dividal cabin (Troms Ramblers Association)

Vuomma cabin (Troms Ramblers Association)

Gaska cabin (Troms Ramblers Association)

Ole Nergård hut (Statskog, unlocked log hut)

Havga cabin (Reindeer Management Board; a small section is unlocked)

Stor-Rostad cabin (Statskog/SNO; partly open to the public)

### Tips:

Take the Arctic Trail through the park. You can start at the end of the road in Dividalen or from Innset at Altevatn. Visit Skakterdalen, an impressive canyon an hour's walk from the road in Dividalen. Take a walk in the ancient crooked pine woodland in Dividalen. A hike from the car park at the end of the road in Dividalen to the Ole Nergård hut and on to the Dividal cabins and back is a fine day trip.

### Maps:

Ramblers map of Inner Troms 1:75 000

Four sheets in the 1:50 000 series: 1532 I & II and 1632 III & IV

### Established:

1971, extended in 2006

### Size:

770 km<sup>2</sup>

**Adjacent protected area:** Dividalen Protected Landscape Area

### Management:

Øvre Dividal National Park Board

County Governor of Troms, phone: +47 77 64 20 00,

[www.fylkesmenn.no/troms](http://www.fylkesmenn.no/troms)

### Supervision:

Norwegian Nature Inspectorate (SNO), phone: +47 73 58 05 00

Statskog Mountain Service, phone: +47 77 83 67 05

### More information:

[www.norgesnasjonalparker.no](http://www.norgesnasjonalparker.no)

[www.malselv.kommune.no](http://www.malselv.kommune.no)

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**Front cover:** Lower stretch of the Anja river (KOJ) and black-and-white: Winter landscape (HMG)

**Back cover:** Nature's own sculpture (KOJ)



Print: GRØSET™





## **Norwegian national parks – our common natural heritage**

National parks are designated to protect large areas of unspoilt countryside – from the sea to the mountaintops – for the sake of Nature herself, we ourselves and future generations.

The parks contain a wealth of splendid scenery and varied animal and plant life, waterfalls, glaciers, towering peaks, never-ending plateaus, deep forests, and beautiful fjords and coasts. Cultural heritage sites also show how the areas were used in bygone days.

The parks offer a vast range of thrilling and exciting natural history. Make use of the fantastic Norwegian countryside – on Nature's own terms.

Welcome to Norwegian national parks!



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