



RAGO

GATEWAY TO THE GREAT WILDERNESS





Wolverine track preserved by the wind (JKT)



Rago is a small national park, but the contrasts and wildlife experiences are huge. You can experience peaceful pine-clad plains, sheltered bays, ice-smoothed rocks, thundering waterfalls and lofty mountains whose sides are topped with ancient glaciers. Man-made infrastructure is almost non-existent and there are scarcely any facilities for visitors. The park is therefore essentially a wilderness. Rago borders directly to Padjelanta National Park in Sweden which, in turn, borders to Sarek and Stora Sjöfallet national parks. Rago National Park is therefore part of one of the largest, unfragmented protected areas in Europe.



Approaching Ragotoppen (HE)



Litlverivatn in May (JKT)



ENJOY THE SCENERY

Outdoor recreation

To preserve its wilderness Rago National Park has few facilities to support outdoor recreation. A round trip goes from Lakshola, through the valley from Nordfjord to Storskogvatnet, Sølvskardvatnan and Litlverivatnet, ending in a gravel pit back in Nordfjord. The route is marked with yellow painting from Lakshola to Storskogvatnet. The steep mountain sides in the western part of Rago makes it easiest to follow the marked path, which also takes you past a wealth of scenic thrills, the most outstanding is Litlverivassfossen, a waterfall that is 250 metres high. Diversions eastwards from the marked path will take you into more gentle terrain towards the Swedish border.

Statskog (the national forestry authority) has two cabins in the park, Ragohytta and Storskogvasshytta. Fauske and Sørfold Association of Hunters and Anglers also has two cabins, at Storskogsvatn and Litlverivatn.





Laksåga (HE)



LANDSCAPE AND GEOLOGY

The landscape is full of great contrasts, from peaceful woodland and lush oases with a rich variety of plants, to huge, naked rock faces, rugged cliffs, waterfalls, glaciers and snowfields. Deep canyons carved by torrents of meltwater, when the Scandinavian ice cap was melting towards the end of the last Ice Age, are characteristic features of the landscape.

Rago is almost entirely within a vast expanse of granite that stretches from Skjerstadvjord to Kvaløy in Troms. The granite appears most prominently in the rock faces smoothed by ice and water. Numerous of huge boulders and smaller rocks scattered everywhere, especially above about 500-600 m; were left behind by the retreating ice sheet at the end of the Ice Age.

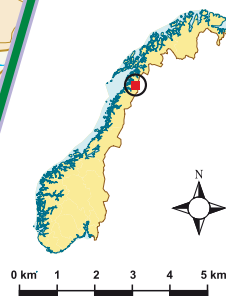
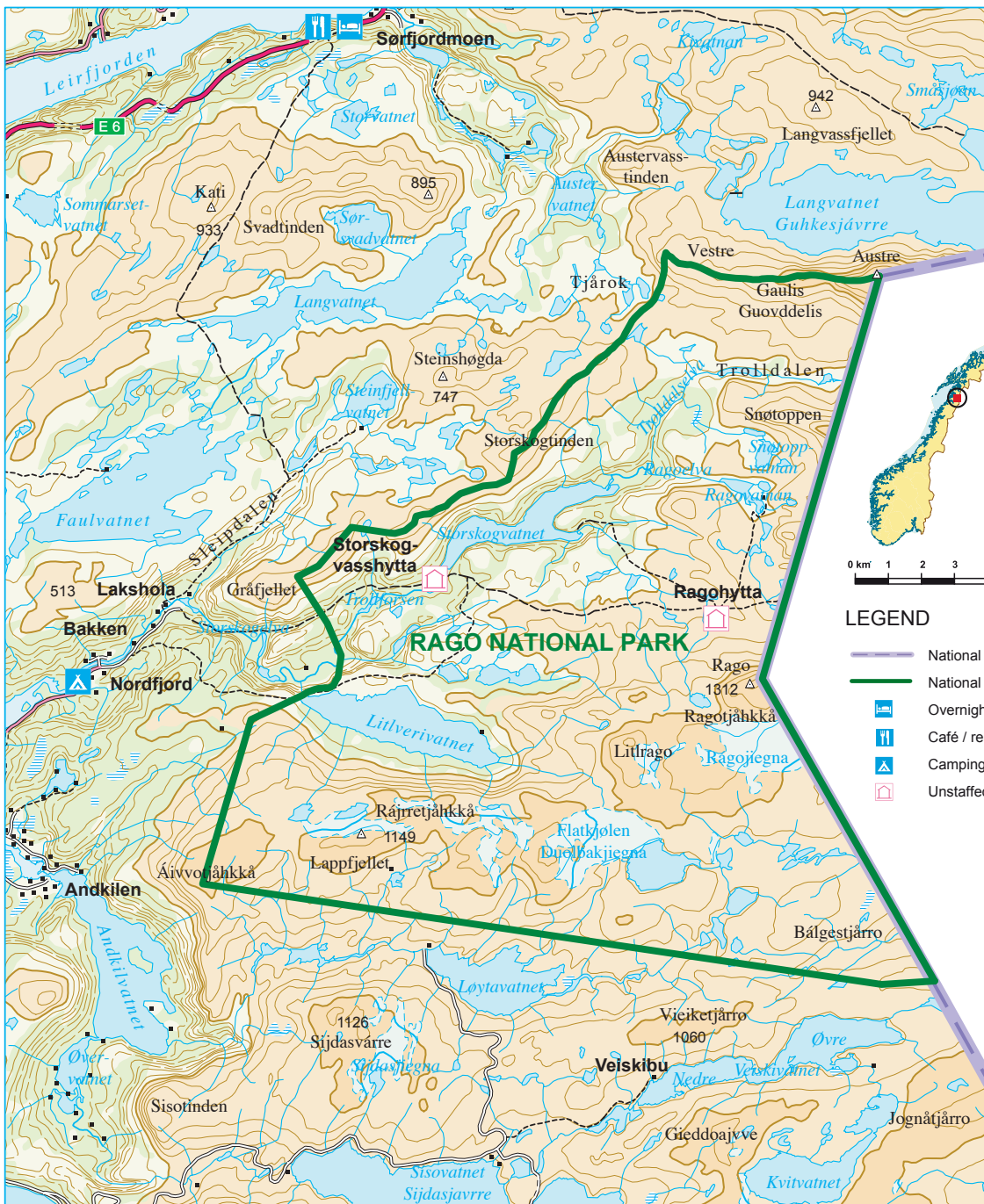
The terrain differs greatly from west to east, being wild and impassable in the west but more gentle and rambler-friendly closer to the Swedish border. Ragotoppen (1312 m a.s.l.), Snøtoppen (1081 m a.s.l.) and Gaulis (1327 m a.s.l.) are dominating peaks that can be seen from almost everywhere in the park. Several small glaciers are found in the Lappfjellet-Hartkjølen area in the southern part of the park.

Storskogdalen is a valley that winds north-eastwards between smooth, rocky mountainsides to Storskogvatn. The river flowing down the valley from the lake is flanked by pine-clad slopes and steep bluffs. Several marvellous rapids and waterfalls cascades down, including the majestic Litlverivassfossen which plunges into the valley from Litlverivatn. The valley continues east of Storskogvatn until it meets the steep, grey mountains and the magnificent Trolldalen valley in the northern part of the park.

Unlike the adjacent Swedish national parks, Rago has a typical coastal climate with a great deal of precipitation, relatively cool summers and mild winters.



Looking north towards Trolldalen, Gaulis and Snøtoppen (HE)



LEGEND

- National border
- National Park
- Overnight accommodation
- Café / restaurant
- Camping
- Unstaffed cabin



Diapensia (JKT)



PLANT LIFE

Rago National Park is not noted for a rich variety of plants, due partly to its poor soils and harsh climate. The wooded areas consist mostly of pine, particularly where the bedrock is most exposed, and many of the standing trees have died. Areas where moisture is generally available have almost pure deciduous woodland, mainly upland downy birch. Due to the scarcity of superficial deposits in the area, there is little willow scrub above the tree line.

Because the summers are cold, characteristic alpine plants like roseroot, alpine lady's-mantle, alpine yellow violet and the easterly species, sceptred lousewort, grow among the trees in Rago. Generally, few species make up the ground vegetation. The exception is at the northern end of Storskogvatn, where there is tall-herb vegetation with more demanding species like alpine blue-sow-thistle, globeflower, whorled Solomon's-seal, wood crane's-bill, wolf's-bane (ssp. *vulparia*) and rosebay willowherb. Flatkjølen, in the south-eastern part of the park, also excel because its bedrock includes belts of mica schist which support rare species like the whitlowgrasses, *Draba cacuminum* ssp. *angusticarpa* and *D. crassifolia*, flame-tipped lousewort and Scandinavian primrose.



Redstart (GR)



ANIMAL LIFE



Elk (JKT)



Char from Litlverivatn (JKT)

The animal and bird life in the national park is not particularly rich. The elk is the only wild representative of the deer family which lives permanently in the area. Along with semi-domesticated reindeer, which mainly graze here in winter, the area provides a source of food for resident wolverines. Beavers were released in Storskogdalen in 1968, but are now extinct, although traces of their former activity can still be seen.

Few birds nest above the tree line, but the lush vegetation at the north-eastern end of Storskogvatn has a rich variety of passerine species. Willow grouse live in the birch woodland, black grouse and capercaillie can be found down in the pine woodland. Birds of prey like golden eagles and merlins are fairly common in peak years for small rodents. Water birds are scarce, but you may be lucky to spot goldeneyes, red-throated divers, red-breasted mergansers and long-tailed ducks.

The many large waterfalls along the river in Storskogdalen, fish do not occur naturally in the river and lakes. Trout and char were introduced between and after the wars, and several lakes in Rago are now well stocked with fish.



HISTORY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE RELICS

Cultural heritage relics of both Norwegian and Sámi origin can be seen in the park. Turf huts or remains of their foundations, tools and stone cairns are examples of traces left from former land use in the area. Semi-domesticated reindeer have grazed here for centuries, and local people have shot or trapped willow grouse and ptarmigan. Previously large carnivores, like brown bears, were shot in the area.

From 1916 to 1918 there was attempts to mine silver and lead (galena) from Ragotoppen, and remains of the workings and living quarters can still be seen. The plans were ambitious, but metal prices collapsed after the 1st World War making the mining unprofitable. Analyses have since shown that the silver and lead deposits in Rago are small and not commercially viable.

The slowly growing pine trees near Storskogvatn used to be prized for their quality, partly for boatbuilding, even though it was difficult to transport them out of the area. A small dam constructed at the outlet of Storskogvatn gave enough water to float the logs downriver. The stumps left behind from the felling, and remains of the dam, can still be seen at the western end of the lake.



Storskogvatn (JKT)

You are Nature's guest in a national park

- You may go wherever you like on foot or skis, but remember that anything motorised is basically forbidden.
- Stop wherever you wish and you are welcome to camp, but tidy up and take your rubbish home.
- You may light a fire, but remember the general ban on fires in woodland between 15 April and 15 September. Do not collect firewood indiscriminately.
- You may pick berries, edible fungi and common plants for your own use. Take care not to damage cultural heritage remains, vegetation and animal life; please take special care in the nesting and breeding seasons.
- Take advantage of the opportunities for hunting and fishing. Remember to purchase hunting and fishing licences. Do not use live fish as bait, nor take live fish from one river to another.
- You may bring a dog, but remember to keep it on a lead from 1 April to 20 August.

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Rago National Park in brief

Where

The Borough of Sørfold in the county of Nordland

How to reach the Rago National Park

Follow E6 northwards from Fauske and take the minor road to Nordfjord. Park either at Lakshola or in the gravel pit at Nordfjord

Information on overnight accommodation and other services

Fauske and Sørfold Association of Hunters and Anglers
www.fsjff.no, mail@fsjff.no
Øyra Camping, NO-8226 Straumen, phone: +47 75 69 65 84

Cabins

Storskogvasshytta (Statskog) and Ragohytta (Statskog)

Tip

Follow the path from Lakshola along Storskogdalen to Storskogvatn and Storskoghytta. Return past Sølvskardvatn and Litlverivatn to the gravel pit at Nordfjord

Maps

1:50 000 sheets 2129 I Sisovatn and 2130 II Gjerdalen

Designated

1971

Area

171 km²

Adjacent protected areas

The Padjelanta National Park in Sweden which, in turn, borders up to the Sarek and Stora Sjöfallet national parks

National Park Centre

Nordland National Park Centre at Storjord in Saltdal,
phone: +47 75 69 24 00
www.nordlandnasjonalparksenter.no

Management and supervision

Midtre Nordland National Park Board
County Governor of Nordland
www.fylkesmannen.no/nordland
Statskog, the park ranger service in Nordland, Fauske Office,
phone: +47 07800



NORWAY'S
NATIONAL PARKS



Norwegian national parks are our common natural heritage

We set up national parks to safeguard large areas of countryside – from the seashore to the mountaintops. For Nature's own sake, ourselves and future generations. National parks boast magnificent scenery with varied animal and plant life, waterfalls, glaciers, lofty mountains, endless plateaus, deep forests and lush woodlands, and beautiful fjords and coasts.

You will also find cultural heritage remains showing how the areas were used in the past. The national parks offer a multitude of opportunities for thrilling encounters with natural history.

Make use of our magnificent nature – on its own terms. Welcome to Norwegian national parks!



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