

TRAIL GUIDE: Stiehpaltjåhkkå

Height 686 m.a.s.l. WGS84 66°32'1.1"N 16°21'54.0"E SWEREF99 TM 7380056, 560651

Stiehpaltjåhkkå is located just south of the Arctic circle. At the top you are rewarded with a sweeping view towards the Norwegian mountains, the lake Sädvvájávrrre and Ruonekjåhkkå flowing along the Smuolevágge valley.

Directions: 102 km from Arjeplog, E95, going west. Just after a sign for Lillviken, Stiehpal, you can begin the hike from a parking bay. If you arrive from the west you start the hike just after the Arctic Circle, on the left-hand side. A sign marks the beginning of the trail.

Height: 684 m.a.s.l.

Distance to the top: 1.8 km.

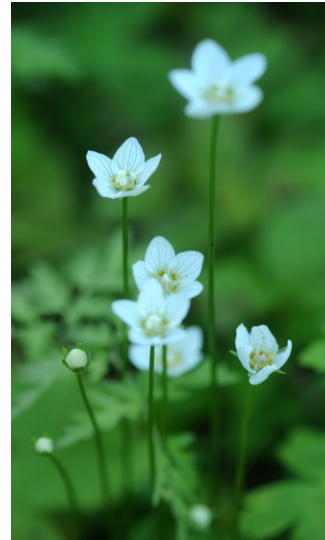
Hiking: Easy and intermediate. Recommended for children. The ascent is relatively steep for a stretch of around 200 m.

Equipment: Boots/rubber boots recommended as parts are marshland. A map and compass might be useful. Bring water – there is no stream along the path.

Path: There are two older trails: one slightly better from Lillviken and one beginning at Camp Polcirkeln, the latter is not included in the drawings on the map.

View: A vast mountain landscape with the Smuolevágge valley to the east and in clear weather you can see the border mountains to the west.

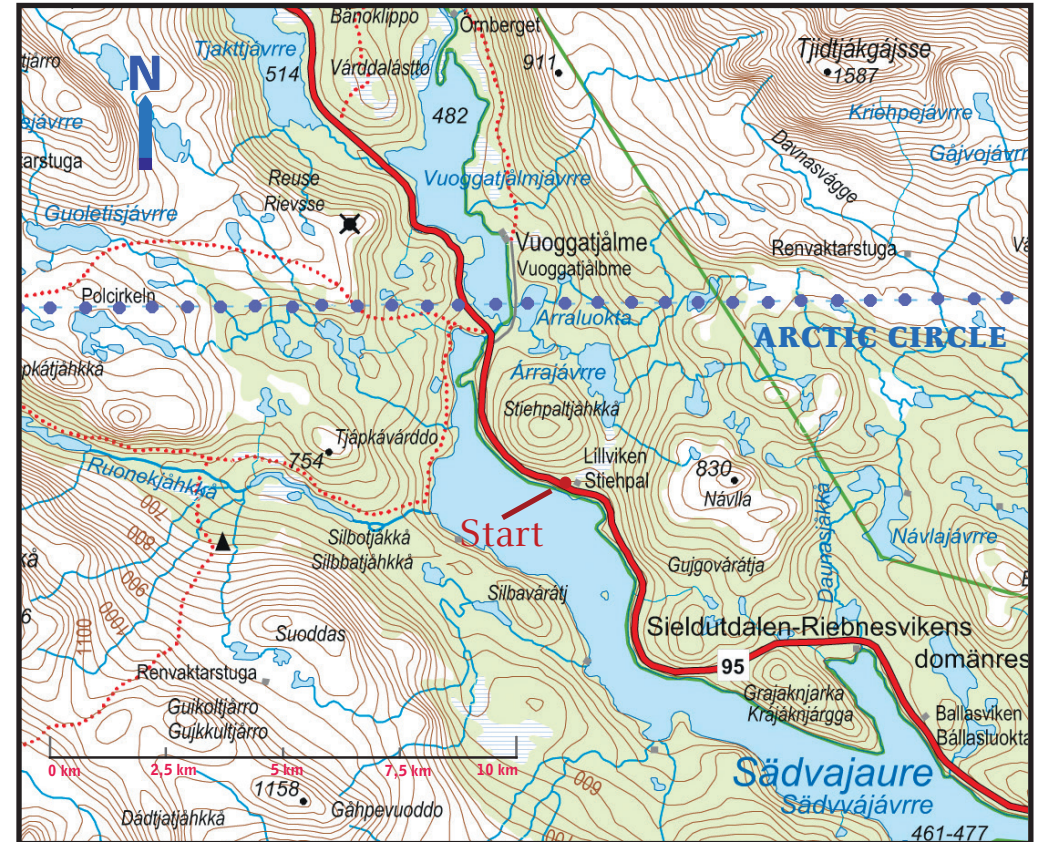
Shelter: None, but nearby you have Camp Polcirkeln with a shop, Vuoggatjålme with restaurant and cabins and Sandvikens Fjällgård with cabins and a shop.



Grass-of-Parnassus
Parnassia palustris



Grows in abundance by the top of Stiehpaltjåhkkå – mountain avens
Dryas octopetala.



A trip to Stiehpaltjåhkkå can be combined with accommodation, fishing and other activities in the area. Contact Arjeplog Tourist Office for ideas, +46 (0)961-14520, turist@arjeplog.se.

Camp Polcirkeln

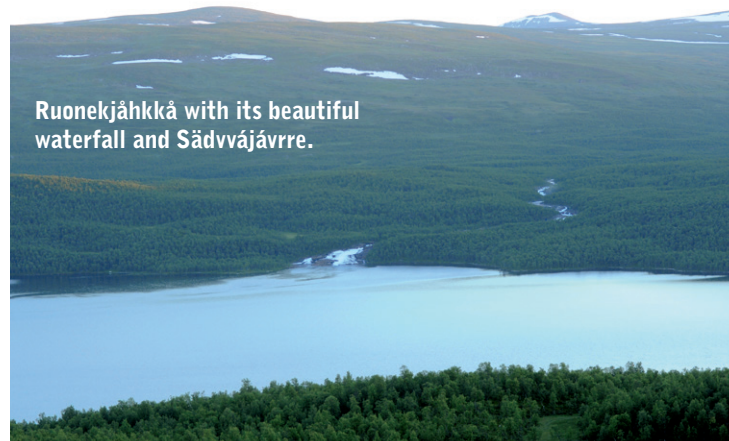
Petrol station, caravan pitches and a shop.
Tel. +46 (0)961-615 64
Mobile +46 (0)70-212 97 38
www.camppolcirkeln.com

Vuoggatjålme

Cabins, restaurant, caravan pitches and helicopter service with Arctic Air.
Tel. +46 (0)961-10715 www.vuoggatjolme.se

Sandvikens fjällgård

Cabins, caravan and tent pitches and a shop.
Tel +46 (0)70 694 06 70 / +46 (0)70 559 01 64.
www.sandvikens.se



Ruonekjåhkkå with its beautiful waterfall and Sädvvájávrrre.

Nature: The hike goes through a mountain-birch forest interspersed with large pine trees. At the top there are bare rock outcrops with interesting plants growing in the crevices. The reason why there are so few pine trees around Sädvvájávrré is found in the history of the area. The few pines there are grew large after the extensive pine logging that took place in the valley during the first mining era in Nasafjäll mountain 1635-1659. Rough estimates show that 4,000-5,000 hectares of pine forest were logged in the area, then turned into charcoal in large charcoal stacks. On Stiehpaltjähkká's top there is a smaller bare mountain area with stone slabs. During the hike you can see an abundance of flowers such as grass-of-Parnassus, forget-me-not, moorland spotted orchid, wood cranesbill, globeflower, northern wolfsbane and not least mountain avens.

Animals: Golden eagle, white-tailed eagle, rough-legged buzzard, willow grouse, golden plover, bluethroat, mountain finch, fox, hare and elk live in the area. In rare cases lynx, wolverine and marten can be seen in the woods. Semisjaur-Njarg Sámi association carry out reindeer husbandry here.

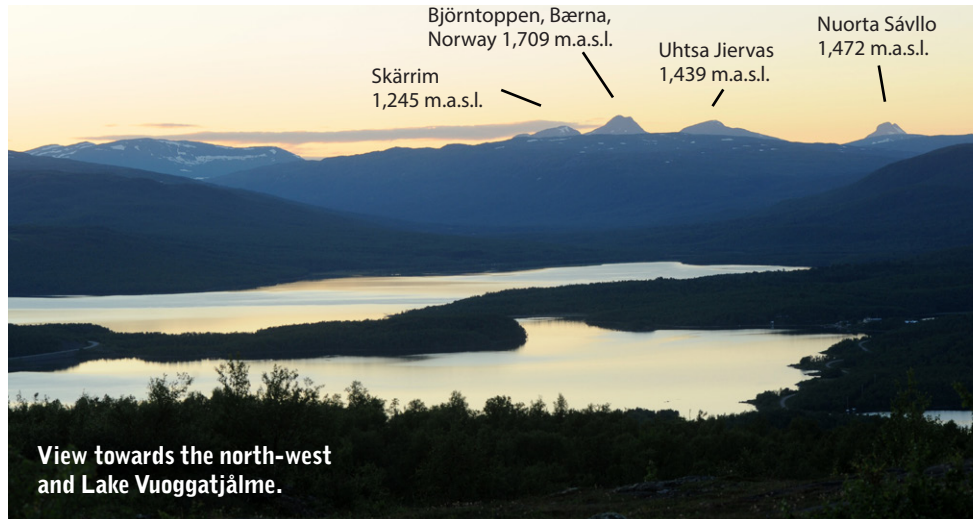
Source: INSARC/The Silver Museum www.recallingthepast.se



Mountain birch. On Stiehpaltjähkká there's sloping marshland.



View to the south: Sädvvájávrré is located in the upper part of the Skellefte River and is used as a reservoir. The lake has been dammed in several stages in 1942, 1953 and 1985. The water level varies between 460.70 and 470 m.a.s.l. The volume of the reservoir is 605 million m³.



View towards the north-west and Lake Vuoggtjälme.

A glimpse of history: There are several ancient remains in the area, among other things hearths, trapping pits, foundations and hut locations. The trapping pits are from the 5th century. The area around Stiehpaltjähkká has had great historical importance for the colonisation of northern Sweden. A furnace was located at the south shore of Sädvvájávrré, by Silbojokk, from 1635 to 1659. It belonged to the silver mine in Nasafjäll mountain. The silver and lead deposit was located 60 km to the west, on Nasafjäll by the Norwegian border. Ore transport was handled by Sámi and their reindeer with sleighs. A load could weigh up to 100 kg. It wasn't just the ore that made the region interesting. People also wanted to Christianise the pagan Sámi. Silbojokk parish had a church and a graveyard by the foundry. These activities continued even after a Norwegian attack in 1659 when the foundry, church and other buildings were burnt down. Archaeological excavations took

place in Silbojokk in the 1980s in connection with the expansion of the hydroelectric dam. The mapping of church and graveyard was resumed after new findings in 2015.

Suggested reading: *Nasafjäll – ett Norrländskt silververks historia* [Nasafjäll – the History of a Northern Swedish Silver Mine] (1923) by Janrik Bromé. *Den arkeologiska undersökningen. Silvret från Nasafjäll: arkeologi vid Silbojokk* [The Archaeological Survey. Silver from Nasafjäll: Archaeology at Silbojokk] (1989) red. Ylva Roslund.



Guided tour at Silbojokk.

What does the right of public access mean?

The main rule of the unique right of public access is **do not disturb – do not destroy**. Please keep the following in mind:

- You are allowed to hike almost anywhere, but not on plots and plantations, and around private residences.
- Use provided fireplaces when making fires, if possible, and never light a fire when it is dry or very windy. You are not allowed to use fallen trees for fuel, or cut down trees or shrubs, or remove twigs, branches or bark from living trees.
- You are not allowed to hunt, disturb, capture or harm animals, their young, their nests or their eggs. Dogs are not allowed off leash from 1 March until 20 August, when animals have their young. Dogs must be prevented from running loose in areas with game and reindeer.
- Show particular respect to reindeer husbandry in the mountains and forests near Arjeplog. Experience reindeer from a distance. Respect reindeer herders' working space and privacy near dwellings and reindeer enclosures. If you are caught up in reindeer herding, keep away and try to make as little noise as possible until the herd has moved on.
- You are allowed to pick wild flowers, berries and mushrooms, but first check which plants are protected. Specific rules apply in reserves and national parks specific. It is not allowed to chip or knock stones out of place, or carve your name onto stone slabs. You may take a few smaller, loose stones.
- If you see any rubbish – please pick it up!

Source: www.naturvardsverket.se. You can download the brochure: "Protected species of plants and animals in Sweden" (2012).



Natura 2000

Natura 2000 is a network for Europe's most valuable habitats. In Arjeplog municipality there are 22 areas, including Akkelis, Björknäs, Daita, Granberget, Hornavan-Sädvajaure, Laisdalen Valley, Laisälven River, Långsjön-Gåbrek, Märkberget, Nimtek, Pieljekaise, Pite River, Rakåive, Ramanj, Ståkke-Bårgå, Sulitelma, Tjeggelvas, Tjälmejaure, Udtja, Veddek and the Yraf delta.