

Exploring Finnish Lapland in the Spring Camp

5.5.2026

The camp was organised in the Finnish Lapland by the local Ivalo Rotary Club with the help of Finnish Multidistrict from 29 Mar to 6 Apr in the Spring of 2026.

As participants we had 20 youngsters of age 15-17 years representing Denmark, Germany, Slovenia, Croatia, Romania, Taiwan, Turkiye, Spain, Brazil, Italy, Poland and India.



Ivalo in the Finnish map and a group photo of our camp participants.

During the camp the young people received introduction to the area, as well as information on history of the municipality of Inari, in honor of its 150th anniversary this year. The local camp instructors introduced the young people to Sámi culture and reindeer herding—both as a livelihood and from a tourism perspective—during a visit to a reindeer farm. Sámi people are the indigenous inhabitants of the Finnish Lapland and reindeer herding is one of their original livelihoods.



Visit to a reindeer farm.

Our participants visited also the Inari School Center Sielâ and the Sámi Museum Siida. Sámi children study their own language and culture at school. Other camp activities included ski school, snowshoe hike, wall climbing lessons, volleyball and sitting around the evening campfire.



Ski school, ice fishing and evening campfire.

The campers got also to know local middle school students during a joint ice fishing trip. Walking on the ice of a frozen lake, drilling holes in it and fishing through the holes were exotic experiences for our campers.



Fabulous Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis) appeared to us nearly every night.

Here is a collection of comments from some of our participants in their own words.

” Hi, Jatta! I’m Alexandra from the camp. Wanted to tell you that the camp was AMAZING!!! Everything was like it should have been, the other participants were extremely nice and the host family was extraordinary!!”

“Hi Jatta! We've arrived in Helsinki! I want to thank you for everything; this camp has been one of the best experiences of my life, and I think we all had a fantastic time. Thank you so much for welcoming me so warmly, you were the best host family. I'll miss you all so much, and you'll always have a place in my heart. I hope we see each other again soon! (If you ever come to Barcelona, let me know!)”

“The camp was perfect organised and the activities were interesting. The best was the activities at the reindeer farm and the Group spirit.”

“Hey, I can only say the same as Paul. The activities were amazing and I loved to experience the northern Finland and Lapland and even the northern lights. Thanks for this great opportunity and stay like you are 🍷”

“The camp activities at Vasatokka were splendid. Even for beginners, the outdoor activities were very enjoyable and I learnt a lot. Since there was so much free time, we got to connect and socialise really well with each other.”

"We could connect with our leaders as peers, they weren't on a separate level, they were with us for everything, that was really amazing and they were very helpful."

"We got an insight into life in the Arctic through our host families. The school visits were also spectacular."

"It wasn't just a camp, it was a once in a lifetime experience. There was nothing I'd change about it, from the people to snowshoeing to the campfire in the hut. It was simply lovely."

We were so happy to receive this feedback. It gave us a lot of joy and strength to continue with the camp programs.

Best regards,

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