

in Finland for about 70 km (43 mi). Shortly before leaving the country, there's a town stop at Kilpisjärvi, about 190 km (118 mi) from the start of the trail. Although Kilpisjärvi is a small village, there's a food shop and hotel. Take advantage of these amenities and stock up on food and stove fuel—it's about 180 km (112 mi) from here to Abisko.

The trail heads back into wild country upon crossing the border back into Norway at the tripoint known as the Three-Country Cairn—an impressive yellow-hued monument marking the spot where Finland, Sweden, and Norway meet. Soon after, the trail crosses the beautiful Øvre Dividal National Park. After several days, you'll return to relative civilization at Abisko, the only sizeable town along the Nordkalottleden. Here the trail joins the popular Kungsleden for a short distance and, suddenly, you'll find plenty of other hikers, but you'll soon leave them behind as the trail heads west into the Narvik mountains, away from well-trodden routes and into a quiet and stunning area of wilderness. Glaciers cling to the northern flanks of some of these peaks, and lakes abound. As the trail hops between Sweden and Norway on its way south, the hiking can be strenuous, due to the higher elevation.

Heading east and deeper into Sweden once more, you'll cross the Padjelanta National Park, which is a gentler and more open landscape than the great peaks of Sarek just to the east. After a few more days through this wild mountain landscape, the trail comes to an end at the small town of Sulitjelma.



↑↑ Often, you'll find only a marker cairn and a splash of red paint to point you in the right direction.

↑ Flowering campanula.



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- $\leftarrow$  Plantlife along the trail.
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