Facts and Contacts

Business Lapland

Opportunities above ordinary
Dare to be more creative, dare to seek bold and meaningful ideas. Do business that transforms the ordinary.

Lapland’s pure Arctic nature and natural resources form the backbone of a sustainable business environment.

The unique conditions and connection with nature have always generated ideas and innovations in Lapland. The creative business culture enables growth-producing business operations for bold investors and companies.

The Northern operating culture, supported by collaboration and community, is based on networks, in which strict hierarchies do not define all activities.

Lapland is stable and practical, which opens opportunities for long-term business.
Five reasons to do business in Lapland

01 Connection to Nature Creates Sustainability

In Lapland, there is the ability to understand nature and utilise it sustainably. Sustainability and operating with nature is part of everyday business in Lapland.

Lapland has renewable forest resources, mineral deposits and Northern natural products. Pure nature, together with natural phenomena, are important attractiveness factors for the tourism industry.

02 Innovations from Unique Conditions

The exceptional conditions of Lapland inspire innovations. The Northern location provides opportunities for many business sectors.

The winter is long, with an abundance of snow, and midnight sun can be experienced in the summer.

The active border areas with the three neighbouring states and the cross-border collaboration provide the region with a lot of potential.

03 Courage Leads to Profit

The business culture involves courage, which can be seen in the investments and reactions to the changing world. In Lapland, the number of companies increases annually by five-hundred, and top products are created in the region.

International interest towards the north is increasing strongly. Lapland is seen as a trendy and interesting destination.

04 Effective Collaboration

In Lapland, work is carried out with the spirit of doing things together and at a low hierarchy. The development companies are regional experts which help companies with their challenges.

The main industries have regional clusters, in which innovations are created, and result-forming marketing is carried out together.

05 Practicality Supports Business

Lapland is a stable and functional place for businesses. The airports, ports, railway network and highways connect Lapland to Southern Finland and other countries. The comprehensive data connections make sure Lapland is close to the rest of the world.

Higher education institutes and vocational academies train strong professionals and develop top expert skills.
Lapland is the Northernmost part of well-functioning and smart Finland. Read more about doing business in Finland and see also the practical information and guides provided by Business Finland www.businessfinland.fi/en/do-business-with-finland/invest-in-finland/business-environment
Lapland has a strong international brand. It’s known as a sustainable and responsible holiday destination, where beautiful and silent nature surrounds visitors. People want to see the Northern Lights, the snowy landscapes, nightless nights and reindeer herds.

The largest tourism centres are Rovaniemi, Levi, Ylläs, Inari-Saariselkä, Pyhä-Luosto and Salla. The strongest growth in tourism comes from international markets.

Over three million overnight stays were annually registered in Lapland, half of which were international until the Covid-19 crisis impacted tourism on a global level in 2020. Lapland’s strengths, such as cleanliness, safety and space, are even greater advantages for the tourism sector after the pandemic.

Eighty per cent of international tourism’s overnight stays take place in the winter. However, the most recent Central European market survey indicates that Lapland’s snow-free period has business potential equal to winter.

Lapland’s investments in year-round development, sustainability, and profitability offer new and bold opportunities. High-quality accommodation and the programme service sector have the greatest growth potential.

Lappish tourism’s business and investment opportunities at the Business Lapland online service

www.lapland.fi/business/tourism/

Lapland, the wild frontier in Finland, is providing great investment potential for nature resorts utilising its magnificent benefits: cleanest air in Europe, tranquillity and exotic nature.

Kimmo Virtanen, Director, Christie & Co
The bioeconomy uses renewable natural resources to produce products, nutrition, energy and services, and the growth is based on sustainability and circular economy principles. Lapland’s ample natural resources are significant for bioeconomy business operations, and there’s top expertise in processing the resources.

Two-thirds of the forest industry’s production comes from the paper industry. The investment in the bioproduct plant to be built in Kemi is the largest in Finland. A significant cluster is forming in Lapland around the bioindustry, which offers lots of subcontracting opportunities.

The sector of natural products still has a vast amount of unutilised potential. There is a global demand for pure natural products, and Lapland has the top raw ingredients ready.

A coniferous tree grown in the north contains, e.g. various extracts compared to one grown in the south. The sugars of the tree are excellently suited as raw ingredients for ethanol, biogas, protein and bioplastics.

Olli Dahl, Professor, Aalto University

Read more about bioeconomy in Lapland
www.lapland.fi/business/bioindustry-circular-economy/
Expertise and significant natural resources rising from the cold conditions are the basis for Lapland’s industry. Sustainability is an important value, and there is increasing expertise in the circular industrial economy.

The industrial sector is a major part of Lapland’s business operations, and every fourth Lappish job is industrial or in closely related sectors. The forest and metal industry are the region’s largest industry sectors. In 2019, the turnover of metal processing was 4.6 billion euros, and the turnover of paper and carton product production was 1.1 billion euros.

Kemi-Tornio is a significant industrial concentration, but there are specialised and increasing industrial activities in Lapland’s other provinces too.

The Lappish committed labour force, and substantial raw ingredients enable growth. Highways, airports, rail connections and ports ensure that products also smoothly reach the export market.

As a Lappish company, pure nature is part of our everyday life, and we know how to appreciate it. Our product is environmentally friendly, and all waste from the factory is carefully recycled.

Antti Lassila, Marketing Manager Potma Oy

Read more about the success and opportunities of the industry in Lapland
www.lapland.fi/business/industrial-sector/
Lapland is Finland’s concentration of mining operations. For example, copper, cobalt, phosphorus, nickel, platinum, gold and chromite have been found in Central Lapland’s ore-rich greenstone zone. Lapland’s share of Finland’s metal ore quarry and mining services’ turnover equates to almost half, and a quarter of the entire mining sector’s turnover. There are three mines in Lapland: Outokumpu’s chromium mine in Keminmaa, Agnico Eagle’s gold mine in Kittilä and Boliden Kevitsa’s multi-ore mine in Sodankylä. In addition to these, there is an industrial mineral mine in Tornio and an amethyst mine for tourism purposes in Pelkosenniemi.

Significant investments are underway and being planned. Mining operations are developed sustainably, and consideration towards nature and other livelihoods is aimed to be ensured.

The sector has a lot of potential: several research and ore exploration projects are pending for, e.g. gold and battery minerals.

Read more about mining in Lapland
www.lapland.fi/business/mining-metal/
Lapland offers the best framework and know-how for Arctic testing and research. Arctic vehicle and infrastructure testing is one of Lapland’s fields of expertise.

Cold and condition testing concerning the motor industry is an international growth sector. There are testing facilities in Inari, Muonio, Rovaniemi and Sodankylä. Traffic automation and electrification increase testing needs, e.g. autonomous vehicles are tested in Arctic conditions. Lapland’s winter road environment is also being implemented for a simulator.

The northern accessible location of Lapland and the long winter provide an excellent framework for Arctic research work. For example, atmosphere, space and snow research is carried out in the north. The research is globally significant, but it can only be carried out in a few areas of the world. There are research centres and measurement stations in, e.g. Rovaniemi, Sodankylä and Pallas.

*The importance of this [Sodankylä’s Tähtelä] station is significant. There are few stations in the world that are as diverse, and particularly in this type of climate zone where we are.*

Timo Suuvaara, Finnish Meteorological Institute
Lapland’s key sectors, such as tourism, bioeconomy, industry and mining, require a vast network of different companies around them from other business sectors. Partners and multidisciplinary professionals are required for an effective network so that everyone can focus on their key skills.

Industrial sector creates demand for logistics, maintenance and cleaning services. The growth of the mining sector brings additional needs, for example for earthmoving and for the development and maintenance of mining equipment.

The construction sector has been growing in Lapland during recent years, and new significant projects also indicate a demand for construction operators and various design services. On the other hand, the tourism sector’s subcontracting needs are comprehensive, from transport services to cleaning, wellness services and staff leasing service providers.

Explore the municipalities in Lapland
www.lapland.fi/business/locations/
You can immediately become part of Lapland’s network, where solutions are sought and found together where necessary. Relocating yourself in Lapland is effortless, and suitable plots, premises and cooperation networks for business operations are located.

THE MUNICIPALITIES’ BUSINESS SERVICES UNITS HELP WITH ISSUES CONCERNING RELOCATION

ROVANIEMI
Matti Impiö
Business Developer
matti.impio@businessrovaniemi.fi
+358 (0)400 789 551
www.rovaniemi.fi
www.businessrovaniemi.fi

RANUA
Mikko Pöykkö
Development Manager
mikko.poykko@ranua.fi
+358 (0)40 662 3700
www.businessranua.fi
www.ranua.fi

PELLO
Juho Niemelä
CEO Pellon Kehitys Ltd
juho.niemela@pello.fi
+358 (0)40 674 4318
www.pello.fi

KOLARI
Nina-Maria Möykynen
Development Director
nina-maria.moykynen@kolari.fi
+358 (0)40 489 5007
www.kolari.fi
www.yllas.fi

ENONTekiö
Jari Rantapelkonen
Mayor
jari.rantapelkonen@enontekio.fi
+358 (0)40 069 4945
www.enontekio.fi
www.tosilappi.fi

MUonio
Kaisa Kylä-Kaila
Business Development Specialist
kaisa.kyla-kaila@muonio.fi
+358 (0)40 489 5153
www.muonio.fi

SODAnHyLä
Ari Pesonen
Development Director
ari.pesonen@sodankyla.fi
+358 (0) 40 769 5950
www.sodankyla.fi
www.businesslapland.fi

INARI
Samuli Mikkola
Director for Business & Economic Development
samuli.mikkola@inari.fi
+358 (0)40 635 9101
www.inari.fi

UTSJOki
Eeva-Maarit Aikio
Development Manager
eeva-maarit.aikio@utsjoki.fi
+358 (0)40 015 1294
www.utsjoki.fi

PELHOSENNiEMI
Mika Tenhunen
Business Development Coordinator
mika.tenhunen@pelkosenniemi.fi
+358 (0)40 195 0488
www.pelkosenniemi.fi
www.pyha.fi

SALLA
Erkki Parkkinen
Mayor
erkki.parkkinen@salla.fi
+358 (0)400 393 987
www.salla.fi

NETWORKING, ADVOCACY AND EDUCATION

LAPLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Liisa Ansala
CEO
liisa.ansala@chamber.fi
+358 (0)44 577 7514

THE REGIONAL ORGANIZATION OF ENTERPRISES IN LAPLAND
Pirkka Salo
CEO
pirkka.salo@yrittajat.fi
+358 (0)400 392 139

LAPLAND CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORT AND THE ENVIRONMENT
ADVISORY | FINANCING | DEVELOPMENT
Eija Virtasalo
Head of Finance
eija.virtasalo@ely.keskus.fi
+358 (0)29 037 150

FINNVERA
FINANCE | LOANS | GUARANTEES
Risto Koskiniemi
Regional Manager
risto.koskiniemi@finnvera.fi
+358 (0)29 460 2006

BUSINESS LAPLAND HELPS TO FIND THE RIGHT CONTACTS

BUSINESS LAPLAND
Sanna Tarssanen
CEO
sanna.tarssanen@houseoflapland.fi
+358 (0)40 861 1149
www.lapland.fi/business