



FILM LAPLAND

CODE OF CONDUCT

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1. WELCOME TO FINNISH LAPLAND



Photo: MRP Matila Röhr Productions, Courtesy of Ailo's Journey

Finnish Lapland Film Commission | www.lapland.fi/film

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OF CONDUCT

Lapland is pristine, natural beauty and untouched wilderness. As the most connected wilderness in the Arctic, Lapland has high-quality services and a well-maintained transport network. A plethora of landscapes, diversity of seasons and unique light conditions make Lapland stand out as a filming location.

The **Finnish Lapland Film Commission** will help visiting productions find ideal locations, service providers and crew members. We act as liaison between the production and local community.

Together with the film-friendly support services network, Film Lapland is here to make your experience in Finnish Lapland efficient, easy and enjoyable.

All our services are free of charge.

The Finnish Lapland Film Commission is part of Lapland's official marketing and communications house, **House of Lapland**.



HOUSE OF LAPLAND

A. CODE OF CONDUCT

This Code of Conduct is intended as a guideline of good practices for productions in Lapland. It is not an exhaustive nor legal document. It is the production's responsibility to stay informed of all legal obligations and consequences. The simplest way to ensure compliance is to work with local production service providers.

The Code applies to all film, commercial and television productions working inside Lapland that may or will have significant impacts on a location. Filming in Lapland may begin once all necessary permissions are secured by the production. It is the production's responsibility to ensure that any and all persons affected by the production are informed and have been consulted.

B. COMMUNICATIONS

To ensure a smooth filming experience for everyone involved, the Finnish Lapland Film Commission should receive in advance copies of the script or treatment and filming schedule, as well as the following information:

1. Production company name, type of production, contact person
2. Scale of production (personnel, vehicles, etc.)
3. Preliminary or confirmed distribution plan
4. Initial plan for all local, national or international communication and promotion
5. A production expenses report (services used in Lapland, accommodation, local crew, etc.), upon completion of filming in Lapland

The Finnish Lapland Film Commission exists to promote and facilitate Lapland as a filming location. All initial inquiries about filming here should be made to the Commission. Additionally, the Commission should be granted reasonable access to your production for promotional and communication purposes. Questions or concerns with the Code, or filming in Lapland in general, should be addressed to the film commission.

CONTACT US



HIRSIKKA PAAKKINEN

Film Commissioner

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A photograph of a film crew in a snowy, icy landscape. Three men in winter gear are visible; one is kneeling and operating a camera. A reindeer with small antlers stands in the foreground. The background features large, rounded ice formations under a pale sky.

2. FILMING IN NATURE, WILDERNESS & RURAL AREAS

A. EVERYMAN'S RIGHT & RESPONSIBILITY

The largest attraction of Lapland to filmmakers is the unbroken wilderness that covers the vast majority of the region, coupled with the opportunities afforded by Everyman's Right. In Finland, every person, regardless of nationality, has the right to enjoy natural areas, as long as they cause minimal harm to property and to nature. Everyman's Right allows you free passage and utility of natural areas without permission of landowners. You may walk, ski, cycle and ride freely through these areas and on public roads; your right extends to waterways as well. You may not invade domestic or industrial privacy, make buildings, damage trees--living or dead, make fires, litter, drive off-road or disturb animals.

Together with these wide-ranging rights comes the responsibility to respect nature, other people, and property. Special regulations in national parks and many nature reserves may also limit access and activities such as camping, hunting, the use of motor vehicles, and access to sensitive areas during the nesting season. Such restrictions are listed separately for each area. You can find specific instructions and rules for each destination on the [National Parks website](#).

As a general rule, small productions with small crews operating within Everyman's Right don't need permission to film in the wilderness, except in protected areas. For more information, visit [Everyman's Right & Film Permits](#).

Everyman's Right allows you free passage and utility of natural areas without permission of landowners.

B. LEAVE NO TRACE

The Arctic environment is among the most fragile on Earth. Due to the long winters, plants grow slowly, and recovery from damage can take decades or even centuries. Over winter, many plants are frozen and fragile. However, Lapland's heavy snow cover offers significant protections against erosion and minimizes the risk of damage caused by walking or driving. In spring, the soil becomes waterlogged, and footprints and tire tracks are easily imprinted. In summer, plants have only a short time of intense growth. Covering or blocking them can prevent them from surviving until the next season. It's important for the preservation of Arctic wilderness that film crews endeavor not only to take care after filming, but during, to leave as little impact as possible on their surroundings.

C. NATURE RESERVES & OTHER STATE-OWNED LAND

In Finland, state-owned lands are either multiple-use forests, national parks and other nature reserves, and wilderness areas. Lapland is home to the largest of these national parks and wilderness areas. These protected areas are primarily for the conservation of nature, though productions are usually welcome to film here (albeit with restrictions and responsibilities). There are different kinds of nature reserves, each with its own rules and regulations. For detailed rules and regulations, and permission to film (if necessary) in national parks, other nature reserves and wilderness areas, contact the Finnish Lapland Film Commission or Metsähallitus, the government organization that oversees state-owned land. More information on specific areas can be found at [National Parks](#).

NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICES FINLAND

Metsähallitus manages Finland's state-owned lands and waters and grants permits for hunting, fishing, photographing and filming and off-road driving in these areas.

Contact:

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D. PRIVATE LAND & PROPERTY IN RURAL AREAS

Private land and property in this context refer to locations near or inside homes, structures, private roads, or cultivated fields. This land is not freely accessible under Everyman's Right, and you must have explicit permission to film there. When filming on private property, you must not trespass on neighboring properties. Property owners must approve all set dressing and any construction. After wrapping, productions are responsible for cleaning all property and repairing all damages.

E. CARE OF LOCATION, LITTER, TOILETS, VEHICLES

It is the production's responsibility not to damage or cause harm to natural locations. Littering is strictly prohibited. Collection sites for recycling paper, cardboard, plastic, glass, metal, burnable and food waste can be found in almost every village, with multiple sites in towns and cities. In national parks and hiking areas, composting toilets are regularly placed. However, deep in the wilderness, you are responsible for clearing away your own waste or providing temporary toilets for your production.

It is the production's responsibility not to damage or cause harm to natural locations.

Off-road driving always requires permission of the landowner. In winter, you may drive snowmobiles freely on marked snowmobile paths, but you must have permission to use state-owned snowmobile tracks. Driving other motor vehicles in state-owned wilderness areas is generally forbidden. Find more information at [Eräluvat](#).

F. FILMING WITH ANIMALS

Reindeer are a major draw of productions to Lapland. However, every reindeer in Lapland is someone's property. While you may film reindeer in the wild (without disturbing them), if you for more close-up shots or interactions with reindeer, you must contact the owner. During birthing or rutting season, reindeer are especially sensitive and may challenge or attack. Another popular filming animal is the husky dog. Husky farms can be found throughout Lapland.

If you're looking for close-ups of wild animals or need guaranteed animal footage, various animal trainers operate throughout Lapland. There is also a large zoo in Ranua that is home to elk, arctic foxes, otters and many other animals native to the Arctic, even polar bears.

G. AERIAL FILMING

Drone filming without a license is permitted in Lapland, with a few restrictions. Before flying for the first time, you must notify the [Transport Safety Agency](#). Also, you must have insurance, keep logs and report all accidents. Drones weighing more than 25 kilos or flying over 150 m high must have written permission. For more information on larger drones, flying in the cold, or to explore aerial production services in Lapland, visit [Drone Filming in Lapland](#).

H. CONSEQUENCES OF ON-SCREEN PORTRAYALS

On-screen depictions can often inspire travelers to visit filmed locations and imitate on-screen behavior, so be careful what you depict. Take into consideration that, due to the sensitive nature of the Arctic environment, illegal or careless behaviors can have lasting consequences on the environment. In addition to obeying the law, special consideration should be used, for example, when depicting the building of cairns (stone piles), making campfires outside the designated areas, littering, and harassing wild or semi-wild animals.

Unless necessary, productions should refrain from mentioning too specifically a wilderness location (outside of travel destinations). As the Arctic is a fragile environment, a drastic increase in visitors could seriously or permanently disrupt or destroy a natural location.

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3. FILMING IN CITIES & TOWNS



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Photo: Visit Rovaniemi

Finnish Lapland Film Commission | www.lapland.fi/film

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A. FILM PERMITS & PERMISSION

Everyman's Right allows you to film freely in public, without the need for a permit or permission, as long as your production does not hinder public access. You do not need permission to film the exteriors of buildings, structures or urban features. Filming inside private buildings will require the permission of the owner, however. For public buildings, permission comes from the municipality.

The municipality can arrange street closures, permission for filming in areas where public access is disrupted, and parking permits, if necessary. For more information or municipal contact information, please contact the Finnish Lapland Film Commission.

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B. PUBLIC AREAS

1. Production cast and crew are visitors to locations and should therefore treat both the environment and the locals with courtesy and respect. Leave no trace is the same policy whether you're downtown in the city of Rovaniemi or atop a barren fell.
2. All businesses and residences affected by the production must be informed. Footways and access must be kept clear. All litter and waste must be removed and recycled where possible.
3. Without explicit permission from all parties affected, productions must not create significant noise disturbances from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. on the streets or in public.
4. When filming at night, you must take into consideration local ordinances regarding noise and light. Coordinate with the municipality and property owners to ensure minimal disturbance to residents and businesses.
5. Lighting and all related equipment must not cause a hazard to the public. This includes hazards from dazzling lights.
6. Drone filming in urban areas must be done with extreme care and caution. The airspace around airports, nuclear power plants, oil refineries and other government and military areas is restricted. Flying above crowds is generally not permitted. We recommend using a local aerial production service provider to ensure safe and lawful operations.

C. PRIVATE AREAS

1. When filming on private property or within privately-owned buildings, you must have written permission and/or a contract.
2. Location owners should be kept aware of the intentions and actions of the production regarding the property. Rental fees may apply.
3. It's always best to speak to the owners of the property and anyone who would be affected by the noise coming from generators, construction or other loud sources.
4. Entrances to homes and businesses will be kept clear of crew, gear, cables, lighting, rigging, etc.

Drone filming in urban areas must be done with extreme care and caution.

A young reindeer with brown fur and small antlers is standing in a forest, surrounded by green moss and branches. The reindeer is looking to the left. The background is a soft-focus forest scene.

4. GREEN & SUSTAINABLE FILMING

GREEN & SUSTAINABLE FILMING

Lapland is a pristine natural environment, and we pride ourselves on being one of the cleanest environments on Earth. That's why we encourage green or sustainable filmmaking. Here are some recommendations to keep your production as green as possible:

1. Communication and cooperation are key. Every cast, crew and staff member of the production, as well as any support or production services, should be informed and updated about the filmmaker's desire for sustainable filming.
2. Reduce energy for example by using hybrid generators, carpooling and renting hybrid or electric cars.
3. For catering, we recommend locally and sustainably-produced high-quality meat, fish and vegetarian options. Try to avoid disposable cups, plates and cutlery.
4. Avoid printing correspondence and other materials whenever possible.
5. Assign or hire a sustainability manager.

We encourage green or sustainable filmmaking.

GREEN PRODUCTION GUIDES

EKOSETTI: A GUIDEBOOK TO SUSTAINABLE AUDIOVISUAL PRODUCTION IN FINLAND

PRODUCERS GUILD OF AMERICA'S GREEN PRODUCTION GUIDE

UNIFIED BEST PRACTICES GUIDE

GREEN FILMMAKING TOOLKIT

GREEN FILM SHOOTING MAGAZINE



5. COMMUNITY, CULTURE & DEPICTIONS



Photo: Paadar Image

Finnish Lapland Film Commission | www.lapland.fi/film

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COMMUNITY, CULTURE & DEPICTIONS

Productions in Lapland should be aware and sensitive to the locals and communities in which they film. Any businesses or residences affected by the filming must be notified in advance to avoid inconvenience. Both public and private property should be treated with respect.

Locals, their communities and their cultures should be portrayed accurately and honestly. This is especially true in the case of the Sámi people. The Sámi are Europe's only indigenous people, and they have constitutional protections in Finland. In addition to the courtesy and respect afforded all locals, there are special considerations for the Sámi.

Any depictions of Sámi people and culture should be based on the principles of honesty, truthfulness and decency. This mandates respect for their indigenous cultures and heritages, including recognition of Sámi cultural and intellectual property rights, maintenance of cultural integrity and respect for cultural beliefs and for individuals and their communities.

Filming Sámi festivals and public events is generally fine. However, when filming private or traditional Sámi ceremonies, consent must first be obtained. If a video or photograph depicts a Sámi, the person in the photograph must be a Sámi. For more information, read our [Sámi Photography Guidelines](#).

Sámi Film Institute, the Sámi Filmmakers Association, and the Pathfinder filmmakers reference group have made [The Pathfinder – guidelines for responsible filmmaking with the Sámi people and Culture](#). The Pathfinder is a practical guide for all filmmakers who want to include Sámi themes, topics, and persons in their movies concerning how to approach this work in a respectful manner.

The Sámi should also be given the opportunity to benefit from the use of their images, stories and knowledge portrayed on-screen. Sámi filmmakers should be hired in key positions in any film concerning the Sámi. Hiring Sámi cast and crew also helps ensure that the principles detailed above are followed.

Locals, their communities and their cultures should be portrayed accurately and honestly.

INTERNATIONAL SÁMI FILM INSTITUTE

[The International Sámi Film Institute](#)

is dedicated to providing Sámi people with the skills and economic opportunities in developing, producing, and distributing Sámi films in the Sámi language.

[The Pathfinder – guidelines for responsible filmmaking with the Sámi people and Culture](#)

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6. HEALTH & SAFETY

A. HEALTH INSURANCE, EMERGENCY SERVICES & FIRST AID

The health and safety of all cast, crew, staff and others on location during filming is entirely the responsibility of the production. All national and municipal health and safety regulations must be adhered to. Citizens of the EU or EEA with a valid European Health Insurance Card are entitled to public healthcare, including emergency services. Health problems that do not require emergency examination and treatment can also be treated at private health centers. Hospitals and health centers always have ambulances on hand, and even helicopters if necessary.

Productions should always have a person qualified in first aid on hand.

B. POLICE OFFICERS & OTHER OFFICIALS

The regional or municipal police should always be notified in advance, at least 2 days before filming, of any filming that depicts criminal, dangerous activity or accidents, requires firearms, fires, explosions, etc. Police should also be notified in advance about filming that might disturb traffic or draw the attention or interest of an audience. Disrupting traffic or similar acts requires the permission of the police. Impersonating police officers and other officials without explicit permission is illegal in Finland and may result in fines or heavier punishments.

C. EXTREME WEATHER

Weather in Lapland in the winter can be extreme and pose risks for the unprepared. Always be aware of the latest weather forecasts and be prepared. Check out these [tips for dressing, driving and filming in the Arctic](#) or utilize our experienced support services providers.

In summer, dry weather and heat can trigger forest fires. Meteoalarm.eu is a recommended weather-based alarm system for Europe. Fire warnings must be strictly adhered to!

Driving in winter in Lapland can be especially hazardous, due to the thick layer of snow and ice on the roads. Snow tires are required from Dec 1 to Mar 1.

Support services throughout Lapland are well-versed in the Arctic climate and experienced in preparing for and handling extreme or sudden shifts in weather.

MEDICAL AND SAFETY SERVICES

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY, CALL 112

Safety services should be consulted and informed beforehand whenever filming poses any risk of danger. This includes but is not limited to traffic disruptions, use of fire or explosions, and impersonation of emergency officials.

Contact Mon-Fri from 8-16:

tel: +358 400 974 119

virka@lapinpelastuslaitos.fi

POLICE SERVICES

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY, CALL 112

For non-emergency police services
or more information:

Contact Mon-Fri from 8-16:

tel: +358 295 460 321

palaute.lappi@poliisi.fi

RECOMMENDED APPS



112 SUOMI

(free)

Enables the automatic delivery of the phone's location to emergency services in Finland.



POROKELLO

(free)

Alerts drivers of reindeer sightings on the road.



MAPITARE

(free trial)

Provides high-quality and up-to-date offline maps of Finland and Sweden.

*Thank you for reading the Finnish Lapland Film
Commission's Code of Conduct. We wish you the
best with your production in the most film-friendly
Arctic location in the world.*



FILM LAPLAND

FINNISH LAPLAND FILM COMMISSION

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Looking for more information on filming in Finnish Lapland?

Our Production Guide covers locations, crew info, weather conditions and more!



**Leverage from
the EU
2014–2020**



Finnish Lapland Film Commission | www.lapland.fi/film

**CODE
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