

Golden Geopark of Lapland: a Geopark with a golden theme

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The Golden Geopark of Lapland is a project aimed at establishing a Geopark in northern Finnish Lapland. The main themes will be gold and geology, with side themes of culture and nature. Geology and human culture go hand in hand in the area of the future Golden Geopark. It includes several geologically interesting sites, some of which have international value. The area is rich with placer gold deposits, a fact that caused a gold rush in the 1860s. Gold prospecting is a significant part of the area's history, and the main remnants of the gold history are chosen as geosites in the future Geopark. Gold prospecting still continues today. Geology in the area also plays an important role in other human culture, as the indigenous Sámi people used some geologically interesting places as places of worship.

The aspiring Golden Geopark is located 300 km north of the Arctic Circle, so the nature and climate are unique. In summer, the midnight sun lasts for six weeks, and in winter the sun does not rise for a month and a half. During this dark period it is possible to see the Northern Lights. The sites of the future Geopark have been chosen so that there is something for everybody – sites in the wilderness reached only by a two-day hike, as well as sites that are accessible by car. There are excellent possibilities for recreation and outdoor activities, and the area has a ready infrastructure for travelling: there are good transport connections, and 17,000 accommodation places.

Supporting local businesses and getting them involved in the Geopark activities will be a focus of the aspiring Golden Geopark.

Presented in Theme 4