



METSÄHALLITUS  
FORSTSTYRELSEN  
MEAHCIRÁÐDEHUS

# Wilderness Passport



# Introduction

Being out and about in nature – outdoor activities, fishing and hunting – have been part of Finnish culture for as long as there has been human settlement here in the north. In times gone by, these activities were essential for finding food. Today people go to the forest, sea or fells to relax, calm down and look for experiences. Hunting and fishing are not just about the catch; their secret lies in the endless beauty of nature, which surprises even the experienced enthusiast time and time again. Wilderness activities are about experiencing and understanding nature. They are about a handful of blueberries, the warmth of a campfire, frying a fish you just caught yourself, the call of a black-throated loon on a summer evening, a glimpse of a deer's white tail and the tired legs of a happy hiker at the end of the trip.

**The Wilderness Passport that you are now holding in your hands will introduce you to fishing, hunting and outdoor activities in Finland. Welcome to join in!**

To get your Wilderness Passport, you must complete twelve tasks: there are four themes, with three assignments each.

**To find the assignments, go to: [www.eräpassi.fi](http://www.eräpassi.fi)**

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## Yhteystiedot

Metsähallitus,  
Eräpalvelut  
PL 94  
01301 Vantaa  
tel. 020564100  
[www.eräpassi.fi](http://www.eräpassi.fi)

## Editors

Lotta Kirvesmies, Aku Ahlholm  
**Layout:** Tea Nevanperä  
**Drawings of fish:** Sakke Yrjölä  
**Cover image:** Tea Nevanperä

## Photographs

Photographs in the passport book:  
Metsähallitus, Markku Pirttimaa, Aku Ahlholm, Wikipedia Commons,

*and the photographers cited in connection with the Wilderness Passport assignments.*

# Wilderness passport

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Start date. \_\_\_\_\_

Completion date. \_\_\_\_\_

Approver's signature \_\_\_\_\_

## Notes

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# 1 Out and about in nature

For many, going out and about in nature is a hobby that improves fitness, calms your mind and brings you experiences. You can start right from your own backyard.

A nature enthusiast heads for the barren fell landscapes of Lapland, enchanting old-growth forests of southern Finland or the islands in the sea. Finland is a large country with magnificent hiking areas.



Colour in the pictures when you have done the assignments!



Assignment 1:



Assignment 2:



Assignment 3:

## What do you need to bring when you go out in the wilderness? Circle the things you need!



rucksack | knife | first aid kit (plaster) | water bottle | sandwiches | chocolate | sausages  
wellies/runners/hiking boots | rain gear | map | compass | matches | mobile phone | guide to  
identifying species | binoculars | camera | warm shirt | woolly hat | cap | gloves | sunglasses |  
swimming togs | fishing gear | ice hockey stick | game controller | friend | high-heeled shoes |  
barbecue | TV | ice cream cone | umbrella...

## Where can you go hiking?

**You can take many different types of excursions. What would you like to do?**

Excursion to the forest, hiking trip, fishing trip, birdwatching, studying plants, finding mushrooms, picking berries, hunting, orienteering, observing signs of spring, finding snow tracks, cooking sausages on a campfire, boating, cycling, swimming, picking up litter, geocaching, taking photographs...or something quite different?

**Links:** [www.eräluvat.fi](http://www.eräluvat.fi)

<https://www.nationalparks.fi/hikinginfinland>  
municipalities' homepages

<https://www.nationalparks.fi/destinations>

[www.retkikartta.fi](http://www.retkikartta.fi)



**Remember the principles of  
litter-free hiking!**

If you can carry it out, you can  
certainly also carry it back  
home. The only thing you  
should leave in nature  
is your footprints!

[www.nationalparks.fi](http://www.nationalparks.fi)  
> roskatonretkeily

## 2 Everyone's rights

Everyone's rights (formerly everyman's rights) are for everyone living in or visiting Finland. Everyone's rights guarantee that you can go about outdoors and enjoy the bounty of nature. They also carry the message of responsibility: we must respect nature.



Colour in the pictures when you have done the assignments!



Assignment 1:



Assignment 2:



Assignment 3:

# Everyone's rights in a nutshell

## YOU MAY:

- Walk, ski or cycle in areas outside private gardens and land that is being used for a specific purpose (including planted areas and cultivated fields)
- Stay for a short period in any area where access is otherwise allowed (for example, put up a tent, but not too close to people's homes)
- Pick wild berries, mushrooms and plants provided that they are not protected species
- Catch fish by angling or ice-fishing
- Boat or walk on the ice.

## YOU MAY NOT:

- Disturb or harm other people or the environment
- Disturb nesting birds or game
- Cut down or damage trees
- Collect moss, lichen, soil or wood
- Violate the privacy of peoples' homes
- Litter
- Drive a motor vehicle off the road without the landowner's permission
- Light an open fire without the landowner's permission
- Fish or hunt without the appropriate permits
- Let your dog off the leash in a built-up area or on exercise track or someone else's land  
Between 1 March and 19 August, you may not let your dog off the leash even on your own land.

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## A permit is an investment in nature!

### Where can I get fishing and hunting permits?

Link: [www.eräluvafinland.fi](http://www.eräluvafinland.fi)

### Who needs a permit to fish?

- You do not usually need a permit for hook-and-line fishing and ice fishing. Watch out, however, because fishing may be prohibited in certain areas! To check for prohibition areas online, go to: [www.kalastusrajoitus.fi](http://www.kalastusrajoitus.fi)
- A person aged under 18 may also fish with a spinning rod free of charge, but those aged 18-64 must pay the state fisheries management fee. For some areas, a separate permit is required. Such areas include fishing in rapids or rainbow trout ponds.  
You can check for the prohibition areas online.
- For trap fishing you must not only pay the fisheries management fee (persons aged 18-64) but also obtain a permit from the owner of the water area. Nets and traps may only be used without a fishing permit in public state-owned sea areas. (See previous link tip)

# 3 Game management

There are 60 game animals in Finland, or 34 mammals and 26 birds that may be hunted. Game management means taking care of the living conditions of game animals. The aim is to maintain healthy game animal populations. Game management includes putting up nestboxes for birds, feeding cervids and hares in winter, hunting invasive and alien species, regular counts of game animals (such as game triangle counts) and restoration of habitats, including wetlands. Consider how these examples affect the lives of animals!



Colour in the pictures when you have done the assignments!



Assignment 1:



Assignment 2:



Assignment 3:

# Animal tracks

Draw the footprints of an elk, bear, fox and wolverine in the boxes.

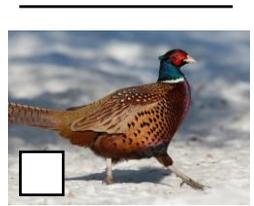
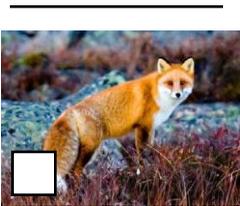
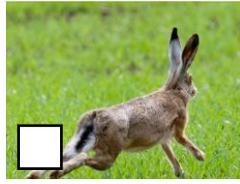
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# Game animals

Tick the boxes to show which of the following animals you have seen!

Write the place where you saw the animal under the picture: In the forest? In the garden? On the road? In the city? In the country?



# 4 Fishing

Fishing is an occupation for some and a pleasant summer pastime for others. There are many different fishing techniques, depending on the season and the species you wish to catch. You go fishing to get experiences, spend time in nature and relax. Casting, angling, ice fishing, fly fishing or a trap close to the shore; which do you think is the best method of fishing? A responsible fishing enthusiast ensures that they catch the right species and individuals of the right size, and that they have a fishing permit in their pocket where required.



Colour in the pictures when you have done the assignments!



Assignment 1:



Assignment 2:



Assignment 3:

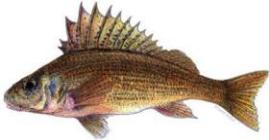
# Finnish fish species

Which fish? Write the name under the picture. **Think about where you could find each species.**



\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_

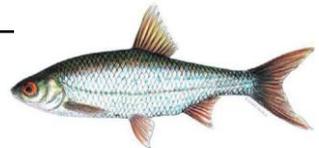


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## My catch:

Species \_\_\_\_\_

Location \_\_\_\_\_

## Links:

<https://www.vapaa-ajankalastaja.fi/finnish-federation-for-recreational-fishing/>

<https://www.eraluvat.fi/en/fishing.html>

# Wilderness Passport

You can complete the assignments of the Wilderness Passport with your teacher at school, on a hiking day, on a school trip, at a nature school, in a club... anywhere!

Collect entries in this passport, find further information, take notes and learn new things indoors and out in nature!

[www.eräpassi.fi](http://www.eräpassi.fi)