Questions and Answers

Operating in National Parks: Information, Agreements and Good Practices

Webinar 11.11.2026

We are a tour operator and we have valid contract. If our group is hiking in Nuuksio np, for example, with a guide, do they need to have the contract details with them? Could an authority ask to see proof that the group has a valid agreement?

- Yes, we may check tourism cooperation agreements at our nature destinations, so it is good to have for example a photo of the first page of the agreement saved on your phone.

Would a contract number be enough?

- It would be better to have a photo of your agreement showing the first page in whole: agreement number, company details and the agreement's validity period.

Do you need to have a proof of the contract with you when you are going to a wilderness cabin with a group of clients?

- Yes, using a wilderness hut requires a tourism cooperation agreement including right of use. Please remember that in business activities, wilderness huts are allowed only for daytime use. To be able to proof that you have a valid agreement, you should always have the agreement with you or at least a photo of its first page saved on your phone.

Hei, can a tour group try blueberry picking when hiking in a national park? Can a group step aside from a trail to try blueberry in a national park?

- Yes, in general you may step aside from a trail and pick and eat blueberries also in a national park. But please note that in some national parks there are special restricted areas, where you are not allowed to access at all (most often during a special time of the year, for example a bird nesting season). On Luontoon.fi, open the destination's main page and scroll down to "Visitor's Checklist". Click the link at the bottom for more detailed instructions and rules.

Is it possible to get an agreement to build a northern light fireplace in the forest to go with some guest on northern light tours?

- Due to nature conservation regulations in national parks and other protected areas tourism companies can use only the existing campfire sites and other rest stops maintained by Metsähallitus.

  In state-owned multiple-use forests companies can apply for an agreement granting the right to establish light structures such as a campfire site. In this case you should fill in the contact form Contact form for tourism operators: Survey Powered by Webropol and tell about your idea and the specific place. Based on the

information you provide, you will be directed to the right unit and specialist at Metsähallitus.

I´m concerned about companies who do not follow any rules. For example in Korouoma and Riisitunturi there are inexperienced guides who don't respect nature or other visitors at all. What Metsähallitus is going to do?

- We are well aware of these problems. To ensure cooperation agreement practices and to provide information about cooperation, we have made efforts to increase communication. We publish newsletters, organize webinars, use social media and publish press releases. We also send direct e-mails to companies operating in these areas, and in some cases, we have direct contacts with the companies. We have also enhanced supervision on some sites with the fundamental aim to ensure ecological sustainability, visitor safety and the smooth shared use of recreation sites. Here is a link to the press release from last winter season: Metsähallitus enhances the supervision of tourism operations at recreation sites – the aim is to ensure cooperation agreement practices and provide information about cooperation | Metsähallitus

There are more and more inexperienced guides in the National Parks and my big concern is that the groups are getting bigger and bigger, taking up all the space at camp fire sites and of course having a bigger impact on nature (especially in Lapland). Maybe there needs to be a limitation on how big groups can be maximum in the National Parks?

- In Metsähallitus we have discussed about the need and possibility to limit the amount or size of groups in most popular national parks and other destinations. So far, no limitations are set, but we try to increase communication and remind companies and their staff about sustainable and responsible operations to minimize the load on the environment, respect the natural and cultural values, comply with the rules and regulations and provide safe and pleasant tourism services to everybody.

From our cabins it's a 15 minute walk to the store, so we give our guests sledges to pull their groceries. Are those sledges allowed on trails or should we not give sledges to our guest?

- It is totally OK to pull your groceries in a sledge on the footpath (maintained road). The problems occur in forest paths, where there is no maintenance and there might be high hills and slopes.
- If your customers have small kids, they can take the sledges with them but please, remind them that sliding downhill on hiking trails with a sledge or a plastic slider puts your own safety at risk and can create dangerous situations for other hikers. For more information you can forward this article to your customers: Sledging on hiking trails creates dangerous situations - Luontoon