



REINDEER IN TRAFFIC

Small reindeer glossary

PARTTIO = a small herd of reindeer • **TOKKA** = a large herd of reindeer
VASA, VASIKKA = a reindeer in its first year of life, a calf
HIRVAS = a male more than three years old
VAADIN, VAAMI = a female more than three years old
NULPPO = a reindeer without antlers • **NAAMASARVET** = growing antlers covered in skin
KALPPINOKKA = a reindeer with a white muzzle
MUTSIKKI, MUSIKKI = a dark coloured reindeer
RUSAKKO, RUSAKKA = a brownish-yellowish reindeer
KOPARA = reindeer hoof • **ROUKUA** = a sound made by reindeer
NULKATA = to run slowly • **RYKIMÄ** = reindeer rutting season
ETTO, ETTOAMINEN = gathering reindeer for the round-up
EROTUS = an event where the (breeding) reindeer to be kept alive are separated from those to be slaughtered
KIRNU = round section of a round-up corral, the churn
KONTTORI = side pen of a round-up corral, the office



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REINDEER in traffic

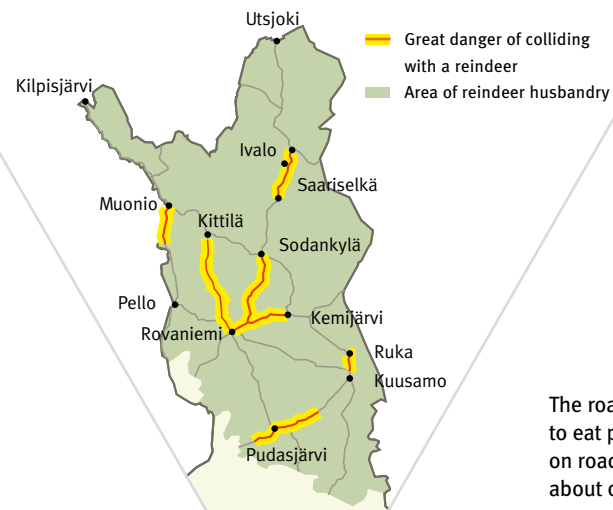
Reindeer husbandry is the oldest livelihood in Northern Finland with less than 5,000 reindeer owners. There are about 200,000 reindeer in the reindeer husbandry area in winter and as many as 340,000 in summer following calving. A large traffic sign warns you that you are entering the reindeer husbandry area. Accidents involving reindeer can happen anywhere within area. When you see an individual reindeer warning sign with a distance in kilometres below it, be especially vigilant.



How many reindeer get run over by cars?

In early winter during dark, as many as 20 reindeer may get run over in one day, at worst almost 4,000 reindeer a year. The majority of accidents occur in November-January and in July-August. Be especially vigilant on the following stretches of road:

- Highway 20 PANUMANJÄRVI-TAIVALKOSKI
- Highway 5 KUUSAMO-RUKA
- Main road 82 VIKAJÄRVI-KEMIJÄRVI
- Highway 4 ROVANIEMI-SODANKYLÄ
- Main road 79 ROVANIEMI-KITILÄ
- Highway 21 KIHHLANKI-MUONIO
- Highway 4 VUOTSO-IVALO



WHY do reindeer come onto the roads?

The roads cut across the reindeer grazing grounds. In summer, reindeer come to eat plants growing alongside roads and they seek refuge from mosquitoes on roads and in other open areas. In winter, reindeer find it easier to move about on ploughed roads rather than in deep snow.



How to avoid colliding with a reindeer

- ⚡ Reserve ample time for your journey so that you can drive calmly and steadily.
- ⚡ Drive at a speed where you can control the car, even in unexpected situations. There may be reindeer around bends and in dips in the road.
- ⚡ Maintain a safe distance behind the car in front.
- ⚡ Keep your eye on the roadsides. In winter, look for tracks in the snow – there may be reindeer nearby.
- ⚡ Watch out! If you see one reindeer, there are others nearby. Reindeer move around in herds.
- ⚡ Turn on your main beam lights at dusk – reindeer eyes reflect the light and this gives you good warning..
- ⚡ Warn other road users of reindeer by flashing the main beam lights.
- ⚡ Note that also reindeer might wear reflectors.

Always be prepared to see reindeer on or near the roads when driving in the reindeer husbandry area.

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WHAT to do in the event of an accident

- ⚡ Place the warning triangle on the road to alert others.
- ⚡ Carry out first aid on anyone who is injured and call the emergency response centre, **tel. 112**.
- ⚡ If you can, put the injured reindeer out of its misery or alert someone to the scene who will do it for you.
- ⚡ Call the emergency response centre on **112** even if you only bump into a reindeer. Do not leave an injured animal to suffer.
- ⚡ Move the carcass to the hard shoulder and mark the place visibly, such as with a plastic bag on a stick, ready for the herding cooperative's appraiser. Do not remove a carcass from the scene of an accident.
- ⚡ Inform your insurance company if the accident causes bodily injuries or material damage.



Who pays compensation?

The driver or the owner of the car is not liable to compensate for a run over reindeer. The reindeer owner receives compensation from the Finnish Motor Insurers' Centre. Third party motor insurance pays out compensation on personal injury in an accident involving a reindeer but it does not cover damage caused to one's own vehicle in the event of a collision.



For more information, please contact

The Reindeer Herders' Association (www.paliskunnat.fi)
Finnish Motor Insurers' Centre (www.lvkk.fi)
Centre for Economic Development, Transport and The Environment (ELY) in Lapland and Northern Ostrobothnia (www.ely-keskus.fi)
Police (www.poliisi.fi)
Emergency Response Centre Administration (www.112.fi)
Liikenneturva (Central Organisation for Traffic safety in Finland) (www.liikenneturva.fi)

1. In summer, reindeer come to eat plants growing alongside the roads and to seek refuge from mosquitoes. In winter, reindeer find it easier to move along ploughed roads. • 2. By flashing your lights • 3. 112 • 4. A large herd of reindeer • 5. There may be more reindeer nearby. Reindeer move around in herds. • 6. 140,000

Reindeer quiz

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1. Why do reindeer come onto the road? _____
2. How do you warn other drivers that you have seen a reindeer on the road? _____
3. What number should you call if there has been an accident? _____
4. What is a "tokka"? _____
5. Why is it advisable to slow down even if you only see one reindeer? _____
6. How many reindeer calves are born each year? _____

**On the next page, draw
and colour in the traffic
sign that warns
drivers of reindeer.**

You'll find the correct
answers on page 9.

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