

Unit 2: Exploring Laponia

Narrator: The Laponia World Heritage Site in Sweden is located just above the Arctic Circle. It is one of the largest wilderness areas in Europe. Orsolya Haarberg and her husband, Erlend, are nature photographers. They have traveled all over Laponia to take photographs of the area. There are no people around for miles. And many places in Laponia are extremely hard to get to.

But the Haarbergs are familiar with this land, both its beauty and its danger. They know the challenges of traveling, living, and working in an area that is completely untouched.

Orsolya Haarberg: You just get into such a special mood there. You really slow down on these trips.

Narrator: The Haarbergs have returned to this land many times. Winter is the easiest time to travel around Laponia. The Haarbergs use sleds to pull their gear over the smooth snow. With the sleds, it's easier to transport heavy gear. The weather can get very cold here during winter—below -30°C —and the winds are very strong.

In summer, the sleds don't work, so the Haarbergs have to carry all their gear on their backs. They carry food such as oatmeal, crackers and cheese, chocolate, and nuts. There is no communication with the outside world here.

And it's easy to get hurt or sick if you're not careful. On one trip, Orsolya slipped on a rock and fell into a river. Luckily, she wasn't seriously hurt.

The Haarbergs work well together because they always support each other. They work as a team to take photos that show the amazing beauty of this land.