

Santa's Holiday Secret



WHERE LAPLAND BEGINS



The magic of Christmas is made up of many puzzles, solving which requires keen senses and Christmas spirit tuned to the extreme. Until today, what Santa Claus does in the summertime has been one of the biggest mysteries, but last autumn the Chief of Gifts from the Santa Claus Main Post Office in Rovaniemi sent cards all over the Ruka village that were normally sent at Christmas.

*The secret can be revealed!
Kindest regards, Santa Claus*

Santa Claus lives at Korvatunturi (Ear Mountain). Everyone knows that. But just take a guess where the grand old man in the white beard has spent his summers over the past few years. It was after one Christmas, over a century ago, Santa Claus was feeling strangely worn down. The feeling was a bit like what future generations started to call stress. Santa Claus, Mrs Claus and the entire elf folk needed a place where they could take it easy in the heart of pure nature and gently prepare for the enormous gift-making job ahead of them at Christmas.

Just as many Finns do, Santa Claus also decided to get a summer cottage. After receiving a lot of encouragement from friends and loved ones, and hearing from his most trusted elves how beautiful the place was, Santa exchanges the familiar Ear Mountain winter snowscapes for Kuusamo. The hundreds of hardworking little elves hammered and sawed to build an enormous summer cottage in the grand wilderness landscapes. It was an almost impossible task, because they had to fit an incredible number of helpers and workshops



for the purpose of designing gifts for the coming Christmas all under the same roof.

Already long before the first visitors came to Ruka-Kuusamo, the aromas of traditional Christmas food filled the Santa Claus Cottage surroundings. In the wintertime, the gingerbread spices, roasted ham, generous casseroles and other Christmas foods disappear from Kuusamo to feed the hungry elf folk.

It has officially become the duty of elves to grow Christmas trees, because there are other places that need the scent of conifers than the Kuusamo cottage and Ear Mountain. Every home in Finland is decorated once a year with a beautiful Christmas tree, but at the Santa Claus Cottage Christmas trees bring joy all the time.

Santa Claus and his helpers still live at Ear Mountain for most of the year. He would love to meet all the children and adults of the world there, but if Ear Mountain were ever opened up to the public, it would become more popular than Disneyland! This would endanger the ancient secrets related to the making and distribution of Christmas gifts! This is why Santa Claus has decided to invite holidaymakers for the wait till Christmas at Ruka-Kuusamo, which he also occasionally visits during the wintertime!

