



Tekst/foto Jan R Olsen

## ARNØYA

Arnøya is the largest island in North Troms and contains the region's northernmost point.

Hylla, which is on the left of the photo above, is as far north as you can get in this region with solid ground underfoot.

With its rich hunting and fishing grounds, Arnøya has been an important place in the region since time immemorial. The vast number of cultural monuments bear witness to centuries of human activity. The island has more than 450 Stone Age dwelling sites and 400 stone pits.

The Sami have used Arnøya as a summer grazing area for reindeer since the 19th century. However, before these animals were tamed, the reindeer migrated to this fertile island on their own, which involved swimming across two straits, Maursundet and Kågsundet.

The reindeer are now transported to the island by boat in the spring and no longer need to swim across these straits to get there. However, when autumn comes and they have grazed here all summer, the reindeer swim back to the mainland just like they have done for thousands of years.