

Cobblestone Publishing
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Dear Elizabeth:

I hope you are well. The following proposed article is for the May “Extreme Places” issue. Enjoy!

Subject - Lapland: Preserving a Frosty Frontier
Estimated word length - 800

They are called the reindeer people and they’ve lived for more than 10,000 years in a winter wonderland known as Lapland, a wild expanse stretching across northern Scandinavia (Norway, Finland, Sweden) and Russia within the Arctic Circle. The Lapps of Lapland (also known as the Sami) do not live in a country, but rather an area representing an ancient and remote civilization. Lapps are believed to have Asiatic origins. It is likely they are distant relatives of Siberian Mongols who traveled eastward rather than northward before the continents divided long ago.

Nature dwellers at heart, Lapps are as reliant upon their herds of reindeer as the Native Americans were upon the buffalo or the Bedouin are to their camels. They are a nomadic people, herding and migrating to the natural cycles of the seasons. But the quiet Lapp lifestyle is slowly receding as the modern world offers luxuries that most Scandinavians view as commonplace essentials. Houses, cars, snowmobiles, television, fashion, economic expansion, and tourism are each wonderful progressions for mankind. Yet together, they are threatening to domesticate one of the last remaining aboriginal people on this planet.

Can modern and ancient cultures coexist? Here is a look at the Lapps of Lapland – their unique history, customs and daily habits, and what they stand to lose and gain from competing modern societies.

The remaining portion of this article is detailed in the outline following this cover letter