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**My favourite place**

In all my born days I have visited a lot of beautiful places, but the most delightful, the most breathtaking place for me is my native village Haapalampi.

Haapalampi is a small village which is located in the Republic of Karelia, in the northern Russia, not far from the border with Finland. Translated from Finnish, Haapalampi means “the lake in aspen forest” (actually, I’ve seen neither a lake nor aspens). It stretches along the banks of river Saavainjoki. The river is crossed with a high stone wall (frankly speaking, I don’t know what it is meant for) that divides Saavainjoki into two absolutely different parts: on the one side, the river is quiet and slow, but on the other side there is a huge waterfall. The river is located in the rocks covered with thick, gloomy pine forest.

The whole village is situated in rocks too, but they are with fewer trees and bushes. The rocks are almost impassable, however, they are worth climbing on – the view from the highest top is inexpressible.

I guess this place is the right one for having a quiet rest and feeling yourself part of the wild nature. Wonderful views, cold northern weather and absence of the noise of modern urbanistic world make Haapalampi the most enjoyable place to visit for me.

