



SYDÄNKARJALA

AT EASE.



Official Travel Guide

Kitee | Räikkylä | Tohmajärvi

www.sydankarjala.fi

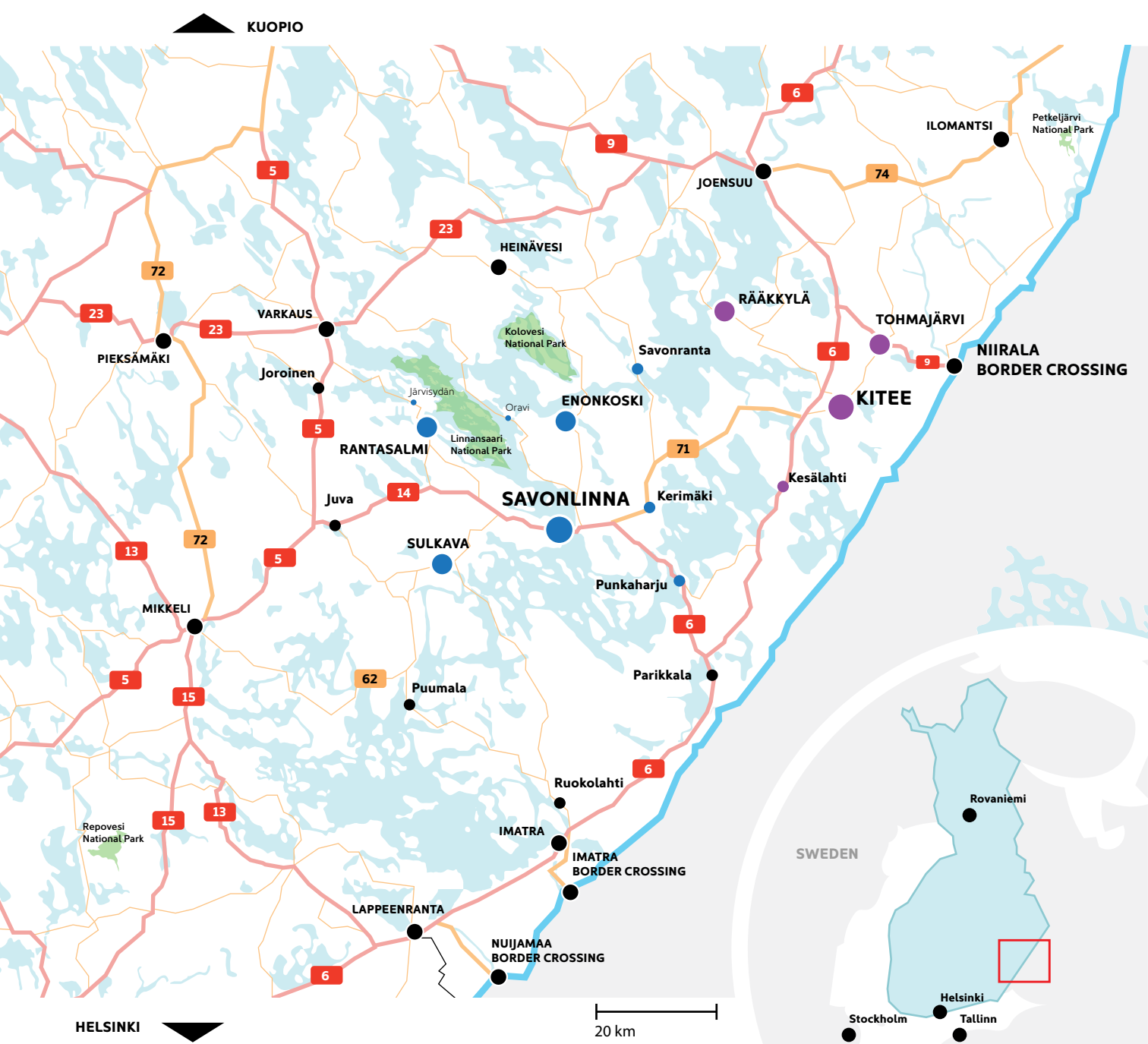
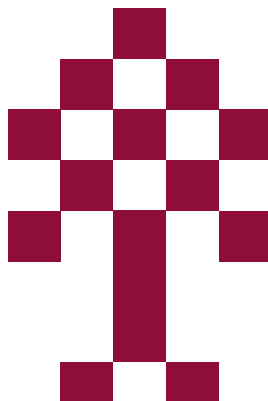


TABLE OF CONTENTS

4 – 5	Welcome to Sydänkarjala
6 – 7	Travel to Joensuu on a large lake ferry
8 – 9	Spot Saimaa ringed seals and ships from the Eihvel Tower
10 – 11	A day on the Unelmien Uimaranta beach
12 – 13	Hidden gems along village roads
14 – 15	Dip below the surface at Lake Valkiajärvi
16 – 17	Cycling in the islands of North Saimaa
18 – 19	Exhibition centre shares the story of Nightwish
20 – 21	Attractions for children and those young at heart
22 – 23	Experiences for art enthusiasts
24 – 25	Outstanding wood art at Puun Sielu gallery
26 – 27	Inviting boutiques
28 – 29	Grilled treats and wool products from Sirola Farm Shop
30 – 31	Local delicacies
32 – 33	Fresh lake fish from the shore to the dining table
34 – 35	Nature attractions and activities
36 – 37	Mountain biking and trail running on the Karelian Trails
38 – 39	Sydänkarjala museums
40 – 41	Visit a church
42 – 45	Sleep well
46 – 49	Karelian flavours
50 – 51	Programme services and activities
52 – 53	Equipment rentals for independent activities
54 – 55	Winter at Sydänkarjala



***“THERE ARE NO
PERFORMANCE
PRESSURES IN
SYDÄNKARJALA,
JUST BEING IS
ENOUGH.”***

TIP

More holiday tips at
www.sydanekarjala.fi
www.visitkarelia.fi

Photography: Sydänkarjala Development Company KETI Ltd, Karelia Expert Matkailupalvelu Oy, Visit Finland, City of Kitee, Rääkkylä municipality, Tohmajärvi municipality, Jarno Artika, Ville Lehvonen, Joonas Kotilainen, Martti Rosendahl, Jari Kontiokorpi, Sami Järvenpää, Harri Tarvainen, Julia Kivelä, Niilo Hirvonen, local companies, associations and events.

Text: Lari Turunen, Terhi Ilosaari

WELCOME TO SYDÄNKARJALA

Everyday in Sydänkarjala is an adventure

You are holding the tourist brochure of Sydänkarjala. Sydänkarjala – ‘the heart of Karelia’ – is located in Eastern Finland, in North Karelia, and it comprises the municipalities of Kitee, Rääkkylä and Tohmajärvi. Tourists visiting the eastern border areas of Finland come to spend time with themselves, first and foremost, and they wish for a unique experience. Here, you can admire nature from every window and step right into it from your doorway. The peaceful pace and activities at the countryside and the happy and relaxed nature of the Karelian people soothe the souls of visitors. If you wish, you can be by yourself and just relax. However, even if you are surrounded by silence, the Karelian people are happy to chat and show their hospitality to their guests; we accept all people as they are. Finding your way of being is easy in the heart of Karelia!

Share your experiences with us, tag your posts with

@sydankarjala

#kaikessarauhassa #atease



TRAVELLING TO SYDÄNKARJALA

Plane

Airports closest to Sydänkarjala:
Joensuu (70 km)
Savonlinna (90 km)
Lappeenranta (180 km)
Kuopio (190 km)

Flight schedules:
www.finavia.fi
www.lppairport.fi

Taxi service

You should always book a taxi in advance in Sydänkarjala. The easiest way to do so is by calling the local taxi service. Calling the number is subject to a fee.

Taxi service:
tel. +358 (0)6 011 0100

Train

Sydänkarjala has two railway stations, Kitee and Kesälahti.

Train schedules:
www.vr.fi

Bus

You can also access Sydänkarjala by bus. Local public transport also makes travel within the region fairly effortless with some advance planning.

Bus schedules:
www.matkahuolto.fi
www.savonlinja.fi
joensuu.digitransit.fi
www.opas.matka.fi

TIP

If you need further transport from a railway station, bus station or airport, you should use public transport and discuss onward transport with your accommodation provider. You can also book a taxi in advance by calling the local taxi service (tel. +358 (0)6 011 0100).

Distances by car:

Helsinki – Kitee: 415 km
Lappeenranta – Kitee: 180 km
Savonlinna – Kitee: 85 km
Kuopio – Kitee: 200 km
Joensuu – Kitee: 70 km
Koli – Kitee: 135 km
Kitee – Kesälahti: 35 km
Kitee – Rääkkylä: 40 km
Kitee – Tohmajärvi: 20 km

KITEE TOURIST INFORMATION

Kitee Tourist Information – A Nightwish Story

Kiteentie 13, 82500 Kitee
tel. +358 (0)4 0105 1021
Open all year round.
More detailed opening hours:
nightwishstory.com

Sovintola Kesälahti

Pyhäjärventie 8, 59800 Kesälahti
tel. +358 (0)4 0105 2008
Open in the summer season.
More detailed opening hours:
www.sovintola-kesalahti.fi

RÄÄKKYLÄ TOURIST INFORMATION

Onnen Kauppa

Kinnulantie 2, 83200 Rääkkylä
tel. +358 (0)4 1471 0340
Open all year round.
More detailed opening hours:
www.kihaus.fi/onnen-kauppa

Paksuniemen kesäkeidas

Paksuniementie 241, 83200 Rääkkylä
tel. +358 (0)4 0683 8748
Open in the summer season.
More detailed opening hours:
www.paksuniemi.com

TOHMAJÄRVI TOURIST INFORMATION

Renkituvan kahvio

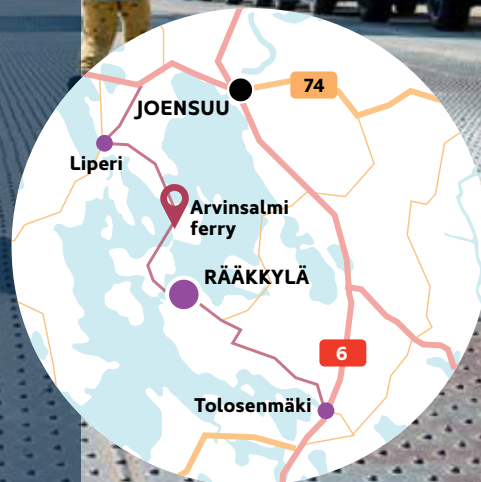
Kirkkotie 14, 82600 Tohmajärvi
tel. +358 (0)5 0363 6154
Open in the summer season.
More detailed opening hours:
www.tohmajarviseura.fi

Pitäjäntuvan kahvila

Kirkkotie 600, 82600 Tohmajärvi
tel. +358 (0)5 0373 8172
Open in the summer season.
More detailed opening hours:
www.tohmajarvenseurakunta.fi

TRAVEL TO JOENSUU ON A LARGE LAKE FERRY

Whether you're driving from south to Joensuu, Koli or some of the other interesting sites in North Karelia, remember to slow down on highway 6 at Tolosenmäki, Kitee, and take the inviting scenic route through the diverse island nature of Rääkkylä. A twenty-kilometre addition to your trip will take you through the natural beauty of North Saimaa and idyllic countryside scenery. You will also get to enjoy an enchanting ferry ride.





Travellers in a rush will ride from Tolosenmäki directly to Rääkkylä village, but if you are travelling at a more leisured pace, you can turn to Jaamantie at about ten kilometres in to take a tour through Sangenlahti, Haapasalmi and Pötsönlahti.

This addition to your scenic route and its authentic rural landscapes with old stone barns will help you ease on the gas, and when you reach the Karjalanruusu garden, the sea of flowers will invite you to take a break and admire the scene. The colourful fields of Karjalanruusu are at their best and brightest in August and September. A true flower fan will schedule their trip to the

end of August, timing their visit to the Kukkakuhhaus flower festival.

In Rääkkylä, culture enthusiasts can stop by to admire one of the largest wooden churches in Finland. From the church steps, travellers can continue on to explore the four environmental art works in Oravisaalo and Varpasalo islands. Pötsönlahti, on the other hand, is a great destination for children. Leikkimuseo Kotista is a play museum filled with toys and games of the past.

For nature lovers, the islands of northern Saimaa feature several bird-watching towers and five hiking trails with different themes,

all within a relatively small area. The three-kilometre Salpapolku, for example, combines military history with exercise in fresh air. The hiking path allows you to view structures built during the war as well as admire the beautiful nature of the Hämeenselkä shoreline. Some sites along the route include dugouts for accommodation and sauna bathing, trenches, a lean-to and a bird-watching tower. The path also features ITE art installations by Pekka Pitkonen and a touching piece of art by Leena Emilia Reittu, Perintö, 'Heritage'.

The largest ferry in Saimaa with a 150-tonne capacity, Nestori, started operating between Rääkkylä and Liperi in August 2020. Nestori transports passengers on a route known as Arvinsalmi ferry. The ferry route is almost half a kilometre long, and the ferry operates 24/7, if needed. In recent decades, many Finnish ferries have been replaced with bridges. Now, 40 ferry connections remain, only 15 of which at inland water areas. A ride on Nestori is therefore a rare treat for road travellers.

WHERE TO FIND YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE

Karjalanruusu gardens and Kukkakuhhaus event:
Haapasalmentie 939,
Rasivaara

Leikkimuseo Kotista play museum:
Pötsönlahdentie 127,
Rääkkylä

Salpapolku hiking path's starting point:
Hakoniementie 34,
Oravisaalo

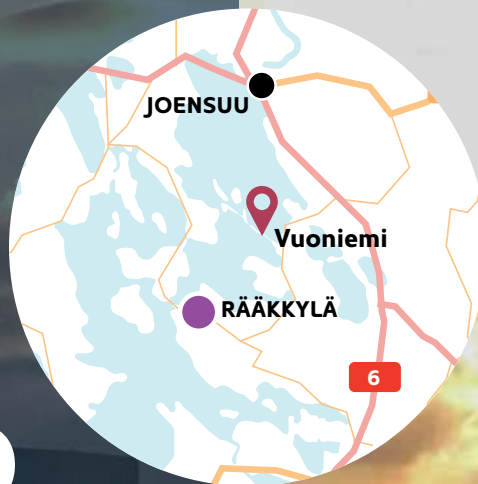
Pekka Pitkonen's ITE art installations:
Hakoniementie 44,
Oravisaalo

Leena Emilia Reittu's art piece, Perintö:
Hämeenniementie 22,
Oravisaalo

Southern embarking point for Nestori, Arvinsalmi ferry:
Oravisaalontie 1610,
Oravisaalo



SPOT SAIMAA RINGED SEALS AND SHIPS FROM THE EIHVEL TOWER



Vuoniemi on the northern side of Rääkkylä is a long, narrow esker-like cape. Based on the scenery alone, it is not far-fetched to call the cape and the road on top of it a mini-Punkaharju. There are large lakes on both sides of the road, and taking a dip into a lake from the shores is easy, even though there are no public beaches along the road. The best part of the cape, however, is the Eihvel Tower at the end of the cape, offering a beautiful view of the Finnish Lakeland.





The bird-watching tower, built by the Pohjois-Karjalan lintutieteellinen yhdistys ry bird-watching society, was completed at the end of Vuoniemi in Rääkkylä in autumn 2002. The narrow, beautiful Vuoniemi and its tower are an inviting destination not only to birdwatchers, but to all nature enthusiasts. Just taking in the esker formation that splits the open lake view from up high is enough of a reason to climb the 18-metre tower. The site also offers something for culture-lovers. In a fine weather, visitors can see the belltowers of three churches from the tower: Joensuu, Hammaslahti and Rääkkylä churches.

At the other end of Vuoniemi, behind the pine trees covering the cape, rises Kirkkovuori, the hills of which have signs of life dating back to the Late Iron Age. Today, Kirkkovuori is part of a nature conservation area, as is most of Vuoniemi. In summer, lush greenery makes the steep landscape of Kirkkovuori look softer.

Vuoniemi is a cape that cuts through North Saimaa for several kilometres, separating Pyhäselkä from Orivesi's Jänisselkä. On Liperi's side, Vuoniemi's neighbour is Tikansaari. The less than 300 metres of water between them acts as a gate, a deep fairway south from Joensuu.

Thanks to this important fairway, tower visitors can also spot cargo ships in addition to birds.

The tower is also a great place to watch the spring and autumn migration of arctic birds. Many species of geese, waterfowls and waders pass over Vuoniemi every year.

Before the migratory birds arrive, however, the luckiest visitors may even spot a Saimaa ringed seal from the tower. The tip of Vuoniemi has been protected as a rocky resting area for Saimaa ringed seals. Approaching this area is prohibited from the beginning of November to the beginning of May.



HOW TO GET TO EIHVEL TOWER

In summers, you can ride to the end of Vuoniemi by car. Turn west towards Vuoniemi at Vahalahti, from road 484 between Rasivaara and Hammaslahti. Address for the navigator and Google Maps:
Vuonientie 545, Rääkkylä

A DAY AT THE UNELMIEN UIMARANTA BEACH AND IDYLIC MUSEUM AREA

You can start the most varied day of your summer holiday in Kirkkoniemi in Tohmajärvi, one of the most beautiful church spots in Finland. Near the oldest wooden church in North Karelia (1756), you can find signs for two nature trails. If you prefer more rigorous physical activity, you should head to the five-kilometre-long Kirkkoniemi Trail. By combining all three trails of the Karelian Trail network of Tohmajärvi, you can enjoy a well-marked 17-kilometre-long trail also suitable for mountain biking. On the Kirkkoniemi Trail, keep an eye out for the trail leading to the Peijonniemenlahti bird-watching tower, as it offers a view of a wetland area with a rich variety of birds.



If you prefer to enjoy nature at a more leisurely pace, you should choose the 6.5-kilometre-long Aconitum Trail. The trail is named after northern wolf's-bane, which blooms in June and July. In Finland, it only grows in the wild in a few places in Tohmajärvi and Kitee. In ancient Finnish mythology, it was believed that Ukko, the god of the sky, would make a hat out of the topmost petal of the flower, which resembles a helmet.

You should not follow Ukko's example, as not only is northern wolf's-bane classified as vulnerable, it is also highly poisonous and simply touching it may cause symptoms. The beautiful northern wolf's-bane is also vital for another threatened species, *Bombus consobrinus*, which is the only bumblebee species in Northern Europe to only feed on a single plant species.

The Aconitum Trail runs along a hard-surface road and a wide trail for a part of the way, but there is a section with narrow duckboards and a steep climb near the wolf's-bane meadow. To allow the beautiful flower and bumblebees to live in

peace, you should stick to the marked trail.

The Kirkkonieni and Aconitum Trails follow the same path for a part of the way. Hikers may bump into each other while eating lunch at the Turusenniemi firepit. Both trails end at the foot of the church hill, where hikers can enjoy the child-friendly Unelmien Uimaranta beach, which opened in 2019.

The beach is only one meadow away from the church. The church is situated next to the 160-year-old congregation centre Pitäjätupa, which now houses a café that is open every day in the summer.

VERSATILE NYMAN MUSEUM AREA

Walking five kilometres along Kirkkotie towards the town centre brings you to a charming museum area, the crown jewel of which is pharmacist Nyman's house, built in 1874. This building used to house the second oldest apothecary in North Karelia. Today, one end of the building houses the home and apothecary museum. The area features a total

of nine museum buildings: Nyman house, a granary, an outhouse building, Renkitupa, Tohmajärvi Parish Museum, the home cabin of Maiju Lassila, a drying barn, a wind mill and the Potsila barn.

The Nyman granary showcases the history and displays items related to healthcare in Tohmajärvi through the 'From Cupping Therapy to Cannulation' exhibition. There is an outhouse exhibition in the outhouse building built in 1876, which was a curiosity in Tohmajärvi at the time of its completion. The grandchildren of pharmacist Nyman are said to have sung as a group while sitting on the outhouse's multiple holes in summer. If this is not enough to bring a smile to your lips, you should visit the old barn's Potsi museum, which has more than a hundred pigs on the shelves.



HOW TO GET THERE

TOHMAJÄRVI CHURCH

Kirkkotie 590, Tohmajärvi
Opening hours of the church and Pitäjätupa:

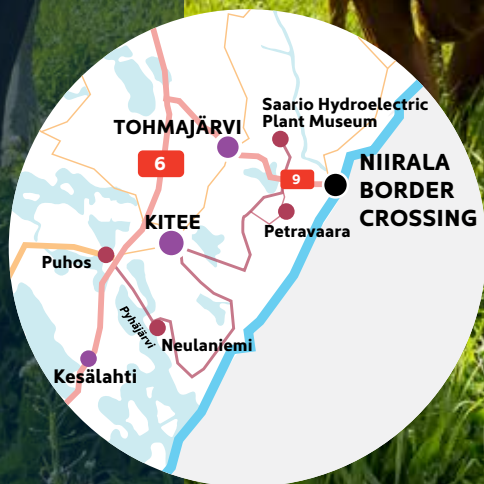
www.tohmajarvenseurakunta.fi or
tel. +358 (0)5 0373 8172.

NYMAN MUSEUM AREA

Kirkkotie 14, Tohmajärvi
Open in July and August and for groups by advance order outside the season, too. Find more information about the opening hours at www.tohmajarviseura.fi or call +358 (0)5 0363 6154.

HIDDEN GEMS ALONG VILLAGE ROADS

In addition to its thousands of lakes, Finland is also the country of scenic routes. Only rarely, the most beautiful sceneries or most idyllic sites are located along highways. Sydänkarjala is not an exception to this.





I think all of us have had those sunny summer evenings that seem to invite us onto adventures, to take the road less travelled. And what could be a more perfect depiction of Finnish summer than the rural landscapes seen in old Finnish films with the sound of gravel roads under the tyre in the background? The old milk docks, dark red bus stops and cow pastures along the village roads travelling across fields make this road an experience in itself.

There are many stories along these village roads in the heart of Karelia, ranging from love stories to moonshine making, but the strong Karelian roots of the region are what stand out: The

lively, bustling village communities with working bees and diverse events, the little shops and boutiques at the end of dirt roads, the buses of mobile shops and libraries waiting at the crossroads. These are the things and places where you can find true, authentic local life.

In the summer season, these village roads come alive with summer cafés, flea markets and various events. And even if you are travelling in the evening, going off the beaten track is worth it: who wouldn't rather enjoy a restful moment on the shores of a clear lake in the scent of freshly reaped grass than on an overpopulated, dirty resting area by a hot highway?

Pick up a few of the following hidden gems along the village roads in Sydänkärjala and fit them into your route plan. Then turn on the stereo and play some Nightwish – we are now at the band's place of birth, after all.

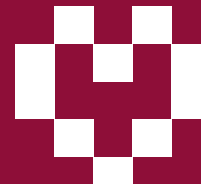
1. If you are looking for traditional lakeside views, you could drive from Puhos in Kitee to Papinniemi and then onwards towards the state border. The route follows the shoreline of Karelian Pyhäjärvi, known for its clear waters. Along the route, you can find attractions such as **Neulaniemi recreational area** (*Neulaniementie 10, Juurikka*) maintained by the Juurikka village association. Neulaniemi features a sandy beach, which is very well suited to families with children, with campfire spots and changing facilities. Juurikka village also has the **Riuttavuori hiking trail** (*-Juurikantie 71, Juurikka*). Its highest point has a lean-to with a fantastic view of the setting sun.

PS: Some fun trivia: the moonshine traditions of Kitee have strong roots in Juurikka, as the manufacturing of the oldest

moonshine brand in the region, Juurikan Täkkä, started right here as far back as the 1640s.

2. If you want to rest your eyes on the rolling rocky hillsides, head towards Tohmajärvi. For example, you can drive along the border from Neulaniemi all the way to Värtsilä in Tohmajärvi. One stop along the way you should not miss is the **Gallery Savipaja** (*Petravaarentie 562, Littilä*) in the Orthodox village of Petravaara. From there, you can easily drive along the picturesque Perä-Muskontie to Kaurila to visit the **Kaurila school museum** (*Koulunmäentie 17, Kaurila*) and walk along **Siiripolku** hiking trail, named after Siiri "Äitee" Rantanen, a former student of the school and an Olympic-winning cross-country skier. If you still desire more rural experiences, stop by the **Saario Hydro-electric Plant Museum** (*Voimalaitostie 14*), located by Jänisjoki river.

For more tips and sites, please visit:
www.sydankarjala.fi



DIP BELOW THE SURFACE AT LAKE VALKIAJÄRVI

You will quickly forget the hum of the highway when you pull to a stop in a small parking area surrounded by a forest. As you descend the gently sloping sand path towards the waterline, you will start to wonder... Are you in the right place? And when you reach the dock, there is another wonder right ahead. The waters greeting you are so clear that it is difficult to believe the sight is real.



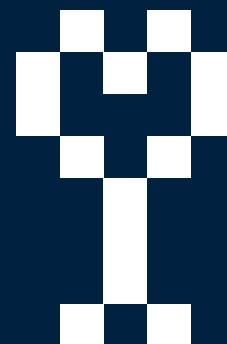


The clear waters and the exceptionally tame pikes and perches have attracted divers to Valkiajärvi in Kitee for decades. The lake is one of the clearest in Finland, after all. To celebrate the 100-year independence of our country, the Finnish Association for Nature Conservation chose the 100 greatest nature attractions in Finland, and Valkiajärvi was one of the sites on the list. Valkiajärvi and its fish have also made it to the big screen: the fish in the lake were the stars of the Tale of a Lake film released in 2016. The familiar pikes, perches and vendaces in the lake also have a rare friend: a moss animal species called *Cristatella mucedo*.

Scuba divers are especially taken by the lake's summer and autumn nights, which are full of life. Light is softer, then, and the fish are a little bit braver. You can also explore the underwater atmosphere and lake residents without scuba diving equipment. Even divers wearing simple snorkels or swimming goggles get to enjoy the rare horizontal

visibility, which reaches up to 30 metres.

The feeling of the lake is calming, quiet and magical. The jetty is a meeting place for the calmly moving free divers, the scuba divers gearing up and the occasional swimmers alike. Something about the surroundings invites you to almost speak in whispers. Hopefully visitors will continue to cherish the calm serenity of this place.

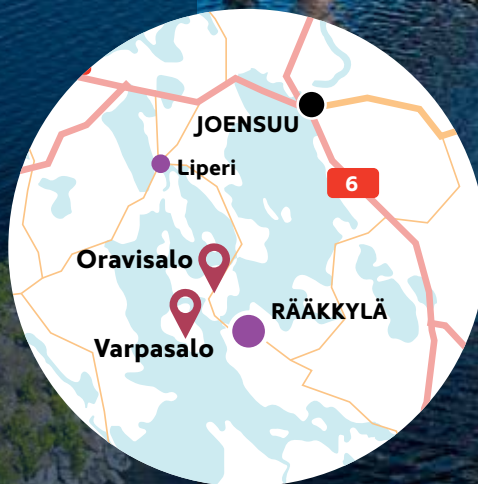


HOW TO GET THERE

Turn to Himontie from highway 6 and drive for about 1.5 kilometres until you see the sign Valkiajärvi, pointing left. There is about a 200-metre walking distance from the parking area to the beach.

CYCLING IN THE ISLANDS OF NORTH SAIMAA

The cycling route in the islands of North Saimaa is like a wispy cloud in the summer: light, airy and effortless.



The Saaristo Trail is part of the Karelian Trail network completed in 2019. It meanders around the islands of Oravisalo and Varpasalo. The other Karelian Trails are a treat for mountain bikers, but the island trail is also suitable for cyclists with a more modest bike. The entire trail is 43 kilometres long if you explore every bend, but you can easily adapt the route as you wish.

There are six parking areas indicated on the Saaristo Trail map. The route is marked with red posts and Saaristo Trail signs. There is one well and two water refill stations along the route, but no shops or cafés. The pavement type changes as you cycle along: from small sand roads in a forest to short sections with a fresh layer of gravel, and sometimes also asphalt. The large hills are saved for other routes.

Along the way, there are three pieces of wood art made of materials found on the islands and recycled for this purpose. To experience a duathlon based on military history, first walk the three-kilometre-long Salpapolku and then go see two of the memorials on Oravisalo island.

MILK DOCKS AND A RURAL IDYLL

This is the setting of The Land of Happiness, a film directed by Markku Pölönen. Pölönen explained the choice of setting in the Koti-Karjala newspaper: “Rääkkylä had retained the 1960s look the best. There was no graffiti on the Kivisali stage, and there was roundpole fencing spanning probably hundreds of kilometres, as well as milk docks and old courtyards along the sand roads. Rääkkylä felt like home. The set designers did not have much work to do.”

On the island of Varpasalo, the route dives into a farm setting. You should get off your bike and walk slowly through the courtyard, taking in the animals and lifestyle. The route really is designed to go through a farm. You may come across chickens in the yard and see dogs or cows in the fields. If you are not into farms, animals and their smell, you can choose another route, avoiding the southeastern corner of Varpasalo and cycling by a beach or a wetland area instead.

HEINÄLAMMINOJA WETLAND

In the 1950s, Lake Heinälampi was drained in the hopes of gaining more farmland. The end result was an unusable mire dotted with shrubs. Between 2018 and 2020, a restoration project was carried out by seven landowners, local fishery cooperatives and many other parties, resulting in a wetland that becomes more beautiful year after year. Thanks to the restoration, the nutrient-rich water from nearby fields is filtered by the swamps along the shore, giving biodiversity another chance.

You should stop and admire the wetland at the rest stop on top of a hill, where you can also find a piece of wood art called ‘Sotka, sokea lintu’ (Pochard, the elegant bird) from Aleksi Hyvönen’s ‘Quelavala – Kalevala’ series. The wetland is designed to be an accessible attraction that you can reach by bicycle or car.



***“MY FEET PUSH ON
THE PEDALS,
AND I WATCH THE
WORLD GO BY.
ON THE WAY TO
VISIT GRANDMA,
THERE ARE NO
CLOUDS IN THE SKY.”***

HOW TO GET THERE

The Saaristo Trail and the attractions and services of the islands of North Saimaa on a map

www.pohjoisensaimaansaaristo.fi



KITEE TOURIST INFORMATION

A

Nightwish

STORY

A NIGHTWISH STORY

EXPLORE THE WORLD OF NIGHTWISH!

We would like to extend a warm welcome to a unique adventure. The modest ambient music project of one Kitee-born dreamer and his schoolmates has grown into an international juggernaut of metal music with fans from every country and walk of life.

Nightwish is the most popular symphonic metal band in the world. Over the course of its career, it has sold more than ten million records, gained gold records all over the world, and completed eight successful world tours. The band is a pioneer of its genre and the most internationally successful group in Finnish rock history.

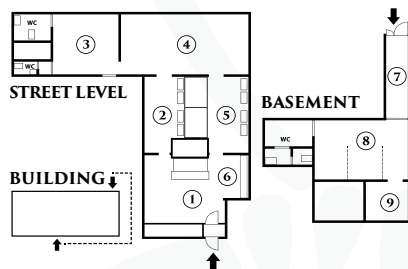


UNIQUE COLLECTION

We believe that we have succeeded in putting together the world's largest collection of Nightwish memorabilia for the **A Nightwish Story exhibition**. We offer Nightwish fans an experience they cannot find anywhere else. We also hope that casual visitors can learn many new and interesting things about our favorite band.

Among other items, the exhibition includes the demo tape that won Nightwish its first record deal, instruments and props used by the members on their tours, many of the band's numerous music awards, video props, and wardrobe items, and practically anything the group's fans could hope to see.

EXHIBITION FLOOR PLAN



The exhibition includes nine rooms/spaces with each having its own theme.



VISIT VIRTUALLY

The virtual exhibition allows you to explore the exhibition space and the items on display remotely, as though you were visiting the venue in Kitee in person. You can access the virtual exhibition at any time throughout the year. You can buy access rights to the virtual exhibition for two or five days.

Like the actual exhibition, the virtual exhibition consists of two floors and a variety of themed rooms. The items on display include everything from Nightwish products to the band's first demo tapes and music video props. The lower floor displays some of the instruments used by the band over the years.

TIP! You can also visit the Kitee Regional Museum on the same trip to Kitee.



CONTACT INFORMATION

A Nightwish Story:
www.nightwishstory.com
nightwishstory@gmail.com
make.hyvonen@gmail.com
tel. +358 (0)4 0105 1021
tel. +358 (0)5 0364 7267

VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

www.360-channel.com/e/nightwish-story

KITEE TOURIST INFORMATION

www.kitee.fi/matkailu
matkailuneuvojat@kitee.fi
tel. +358 (0)4 0105 1021

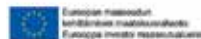
Street Address: Kiteentie 13,
82500 Kitee

OPENING HOURS

Open daily from 10 AM to
5 PM.

Public holidays etc. might
affect the opening hours.
Check the exceptions from
our website or social media.

Groups and guided tours
only by preappointment.
Reservations must confirm
a week before the visit.



A child with blonde hair, wearing a bright green jacket, is shown in profile, looking out over a body of water. The background is a blurred blue sky and green foliage. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

ATTRACTIONS FOR CHILDREN AND THOSE YOUNG AT HEART

A holiday should be a holiday for everyone, children and those young at heart alike! It should also be kept in mind that the youngest in the family may find the best experiences in something others wouldn't even think twice. The best part of an active day could be a fun activity of tossing pebbles into a ditch. When travelling with children, there can be many bumps along the road. Remember to bring your sense of humour and a relaxed attitude!

Traveling with children is safe in Sydänkarjala. Distances between the municipal centres are short and there are fun things to do, come rain or shine. Here are a few tips for children and those young at heart.

More attractions at:
www.sydankarjala.fi

KITEE ZOO

The fourth largest zoo in Finland is located by the Pajarinhoivi tourist centre. The two-kilometre long scenic path familiarises the visitors with a total of 50 animal species (*around 200 individual animals*). Along the path, you will encounter the king of the forest, Riku the Bear, as well as bobcats, yaks, deer, alpacas, wild boars and reindeer.

Pajarinniementie 1, Kitee
www.kiteezoo.fi

LAKELAND KARELIA'S BEACH DAYS

These fun beach days are intended for people of all ages, and they feature a wide variety of beach toys and recreational equipment. The main draw of the event is the six-metre Foxtrot balance beam, which can be used for balance practice and climbing in the water. The participants also have access to pool mattresses, kayaks, standup paddleboards and vests. Beach days are organised in different places around Sydänkarjala. Find more detailed

information on venues, dates, instructions and prices at www.lakelandkarelia.fi

HORSEBACK RIDING

makes for great exercise and offers a fun activity for people of all ages. In Sydänkarjala, you can ride a horse regardless of your level of experience, as the stables offer a range of horses and services for people of all skill levels. Various horseback riding products are available all year round. Read more:

Hepovaara:

www.hepovaara.com

Hiidensuon hevostila:

Facebook

Koivikon Ratsutalli:

www.sites.google.com/site/koivikonratsutalli

Korvenniemen tila:

www.korvenniemi.fi

**Kotipihan hevos-
ja luontomatkailutila**

www.kotipihantila.blogspot.com

PAJARINHOVI SPA

A perfect spot for cold, rainy days. The spa features a long beach, jacuzzis and a massage pool. The spa also includes one of the largest children's swimming areas in Finland. In addition to the children's pools, this area features three slides,

the longest of which is 75 metres long.

Pajarinniementie 1, Kitee
www.pajarinhoivi.fi

KESÄLAHTI REGIONAL MUSEUM

The Myllytupa museum area is an interesting environment for children and the whole family. Children's granary offers traditional toys, and the shadowy log granaries and large cabin offer many nooks and crannies to explore. Alongside coffee and pastries, the café serves a soup lunch. Open every day from June to August.

Kirkkotie 9, Kesälahti
+358 (0)4 0775 9467,
www.kesalahti.net

FAMILY AND TRAFFIC PARK

A great spot in Kitee for spending a sunny summer's day. Park visitors will get to drive around on pedal cars and pedal tractors as well as bicycles. Children can learn traffic rules safely within a fenced area, with instruction from their guardian. The park also features sand toys, swings, a slide, jungle gyms and a small barbecue area.

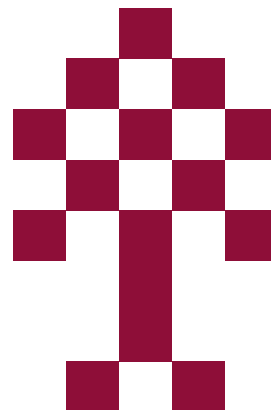
Opintie 6, Kitee
www.kitee.mll.fi

SPORTS CENTRE AND SWIMMING HALL VESPELI

The area also has a disc golf park and a skate park. The services of Hutsi Sports Centre, such as sports fields and jogging tracks, are also available right next to VesPeli.

This is also a great starting point for the mountain biking and trail running trails of the Karelian Trails.

Urheilutie 7, Kitee
+358 (0)4 0105 1167,
www.kitee.fi





EXPERIENCES FOR ART ENTHUSIASTS

Sydänkarjala also
offers outstanding
art experiences

SOVINTOLA IN KESÄLAHTI

and its 120-year-old public school is filled with history as well as modern life. In this house meant for community and relaxation, you will get to visit a lovely, hundred-year-old garden as well as outstanding, changing art exhibitions.

Pyhäjärventie 8, Kesälahti
www.sovintola-kesalahti.fi

GALLERY TIENKORVA

The home of the artist couple Merja Kupiainen and Ahti Pitkänen is in Niittykumpu, Kitee. In summer, they exhibit their own art as well as pieces by visiting artists in their lush garden and the old barn they have turned into an exhibition space.

Pellikkalantie 2, Kitee
Facebook: Galleria Tienkorva

PUUN SIELU

The Karelian-style log manor in Onkamo, Tohmajärvi, is a site worth visiting in itself. The sales exhibition in the Gallery presents both Finnish and international wood art. The log manor is surrounded by a park with diverse tree species.

Vehkavaarantie 250, Onkamo
www.puunsielu.fi

GALLERY SAVIPAJA

The gallery of ceramic artist Tuija Ohvanainen is located in Petravaara, Tohmajärvi. There, she creates and sells ceramic art, decorations and goods. In summer, she also exhibits art by visiting artists.

Petravaarantie 562, Tohmajärvi
www.galleriasavipaja.com

KOIVUNIEMI

On the shores of beautiful lakes in the northern Saimaa region lives the sculptor Patrick Ward, who left Ireland and settled down in Finland. His unique mosaic pieces are exhibited in the old doctor's house by the Koivuniemi camping area.

Koivuniementie 20, Rääkkylä
www.koivuniemeen.fi

PAKSUNIEMI MILL MUSEUM

In Paksuniemi Mill Museum, visitors can admire a copy of a boat from the 12th century created by sewing, as well as many other interesting exhibits. The museum's art gallery also features changing art exhibitions in summer.

Paksuniementie 241, Rääkkylä
www.raakkyla-seura.fi

MÄNTYNIEMI MANOR

Mäntyniemi Manor in Kesälahti is an old family estate with roots dating back to the 1760s. The manor is a nationally notable built culture environment, and visitors can learn more about the main building and the estate's history on guided tours. The Mäntyniemi estate's old barn has been converted to a concert hall, where you can listen to music performances. Havinoi company from Mäntyniemi produces the barn concert events. Havinoi also holds painting and music workshops for the whole family.

Salaneuvoksentie 1-3, Kesälahti
www.mantyniemenkartano.fi

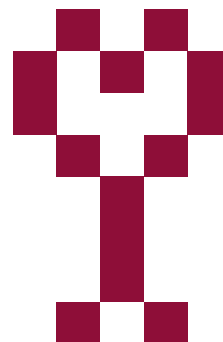
MAIJU LASSILA CULTURE ROUTE

In summer 2018, the Maiju Lassila Culture Route was opened to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the author's birth. Maiju Lassila was the penname of Algot Tietäväinen, who was born and raised in Tohmajärvi. The route takes you to see many cultural and historical sites in Tohmajärvi by bike.

The basic route (15 kilometres) will take you to see an estate manor, the beautiful Kirkkonieki and the services of the time. Kemie's beautiful rocky hill landscapes, lake views, the twisting roads and lush, green forests will show you the sights Algot fell in love with, too.

The additional route (25 kilometres) takes you to Algot's childhood home in Peijonniemi and the Nenosenlampi lake nearby.

The route and signs are available at Kemie district's park and online:
www.elamaanheranneet-runoilijat.fi/kulttuurireitille



OUTSTANDING WOOD ART AT PUUN SIELU GALLERY

Onnela is a place that
calms you down

Puun Sielu in Onkamo, Tohmajärvi, is a traditional Karelian log manor. The building itself is a sight worth seeing, but, behind its gorgeous log walls, there is a gallery presenting diverse wood art that has also been featured at the Finnish Broadcasting Company's Egenland travel programme.





The park surrounding the log manor familiarises you with dozens of different tree species. The garden also has many beautiful details from the Karelian-style buildings to enchanting artworks, such as the works of a Praznik Topora chain saw sculpting competition's Finnish championship held in summer 2020.

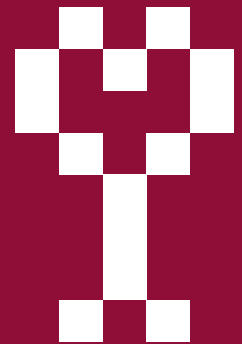
The area is a great way to see the diverse life cycle of wood from its growth stage all the way to a finished product.

The internationally notable sales exhibition features wood art, such as woodturning pieces, wood reliefs and

intarsia works, created by both Finnish and international artists. The exhibited works range from the traditional sculpted bears to modern, international sculptures. The current speciality is the world's first international Michael Jackson in wood art exhibition. The works created by a culturally diverse group of artists pay homage to Michael Jackson's wide-ranging artistic heritage and depict his artistry, talent, courage and humanity in multidimensional ways.

The gallery also sells jewellery, gift items and home goods, and it is an excellent

place to find unique souvenirs and gifts. The manor's old barn is also a great place for a meal or coffee break or even for holding a meeting.



FURTHER INFORMATION AND OPENING HOURS

OPENING HOURS

MON: CLOSED

TUE–SUN:

12 noon–4 pm

Puun Sielu

Vehkavaarantie 250,

82360 ONKAMO

+358 (0)5 0025 3722

www.puunsielu.fi

A woman with short blonde hair and glasses stands in a boutique. She is wearing a bright pink t-shirt with the word 'Challenge' on it, a dark jacket, and blue jeans. She is holding a small bouquet of purple flowers. The boutique is filled with numerous hanging flower arrangements in various colors, including purple, pink, and white. The background shows wooden shelves and more floral displays.

INVITING BOUTIQUES

Made it myself! Making things by hand and being independent have traditionally been the measure of Karelian people. The best and definitely the most authentic souvenir from Sydänkarjala is a unique piece of local art and craft expertise. Various shops and boutiques have been a part of Karelian culture quite extensively. The intimate feeling of a small shop or boutique and the personal service have always attracted both new entrepreneurs and customers. When visiting Sydänkarjala, pop into at least these wonderful boutiques!

SISUSTUS-KAHVILA WILHELMIINA

Wilhelmiina is an interior design shop and café operating in business centre Lumous, which was founded by seven female entrepreneurs in the centre of Kitee in 2021. In addition to pastries baked on site and filled rolls, the café also offers a wide range of salads and specialty coffees. The selection of interior design products includes various household utility and decorative items.

Kiteentie 9–11, Kitee

www.sisustuskahvila-wilhelmiina.com

SOVINTOLA

This more than hundred-year-old public school is a versatile attraction in Kesälahti village. Sovintola's garden, café, changing art exhibitions and boutiques keep tourists entertained for a long while. Käsityöpuoti Korento sells local crafts and fun things to take home or give as a gift. The book store's wide selection of products includes recycled books.

Pyhäjärventie 8, Kesälahti

www.sovintola-kesalahti.fi

ONNEN KAUPPA

Onnen Kauppa in Rääkkylä highlights the handcraft skills of Rääkkylä villagers. The boutique's selection features many kinds of crafts and goods from nearly twenty different producers. It also sells tickets to and fan items for the Kihaus music festival of the summer.

Kinnulantie 2, Rääkkylä

www.kihaus.fi/onnen-kauppa

GALLERIA SAVIPAJA

Gallery Savipaja is a crafts business located in Petravaara, Tohmajärvi, that makes clay products. Operating on the Vasiljala farm, the gallery has a permanent sales exhibition with products ranging from angels to baptismal fonts, candelabras, hanging baskets for candles and flowers, pots, and dishes. The majority of the products are designed and made by Tuija Ohvanainen.

Petravaarantie 562, Tohmajärvi

www.galleriasavipaja.com

Nightwish Exhibition Centre's shop

Kiteentie 13
Kitee
+358 (0)4 0105 1021
www.nightwishstory.com

Erästuote

Kiteentie 9–11
Kitee
+358 (0)4 0075 7800
www.erastuote.fi

Eräkuningas

Olkontie 4
Kitee
+358 (0)4 0871 0746
www.erakuningas.fi

Marimekko outlet

Kiteentie 6
Kitee
+358 (0)5 0568 9456
www.marimekko.fi

Pajarin Puoti

Pajarinniementie 1
Puhos
+358 (0)2 0742 5770
www.pajarinhovi.fi

Sarania

Maljakiventie 12
Kitee
+358 (0)4 0565 3071
www.sarania.net

Koivikon Kievari

Koivikontie 8
Puhos
+358 (0)4 0041 8933
www.koivikon-kievari.business.site

Outlet of Kitee ski factory

Karhutie 2 A
Kitee
+358 (0)2 0734 2830
www.kiteensuksi.fi

Puruveden savukala

Poroniementie 2a
Kesälahti
+358 (0)4 0037 0170
www.puruvedensavukala.fi

Paksuniemen satamapuoti

Paksuniementie 241
Rääkkylä
+358 (0)4 0577 4776
www.paksuniemi.com

Pikkupurolan omena

Oravisalontie 945 D
Rääkkylä
+358 (0)5 0546 0880
[Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/pikkupurolanomena)

Karjalanruusun kukkavintti

Haapasalmentie 923
Rasivaara
+358 (0)4 0730 2067
www.karjalanruusu.fi

Matamin Lumon Kahvikammari

Pyhäjärventie 8, Kesälahti
+358 (0)4 0582 6879
[Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/mataminlumon)

KAIVO Ry shop

Talluksentie 1
Tohmajärvi
+358 (0)4 0751 2443
[Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/kaivoryshop)

Karjalan Vintage

Joensuuntie 516
Tohmajärvi
+358 (0)4 5347 3731
www.karjalanvintage.fi

Männistö Farm Shop

Haarajärventie 453
Tohmajärvi
+358 (0)5 0351 9380

Pitäjäntuvan summer café

Kirkkotie 600
Tohmajärvi
+358 (0)5 0373 8172
www.tohmajarvenseurakunta.fi

Puun Sielu

Vehkavaarantie 250
Tohmajärvi
+358 (0)5 0025 3722
www.puunsielu.fi

Sirola Farm Shop

Sininentie 553
Tohmajärvi
+358 (0)4 0556 4153
www.sirolantila.com

Väre-Pilkki Purmonen

Talluksentie 1
Tohmajärvi
+358 (0)5 0550 8116
www.varepilkki.fi

Lankapuoti Tiukula

Saunaniementie 42
Tohmajärvi
+358 (0)4 1314 0380
www.lankapuotitiukula.fi

Remember to check the opening hours on the companies' websites.

GRILLED TREATS AND WOOL PRODUCTS FROM SIROLA FARM SHOP

The shop of the organic sheep farm Sirola guarantees fresh and local treats for your summer barbeque parties. You can't go wrong with these products: Sirola Farm Lamb (Sirolan Tilan karitsaa®) is sold to numerous Finnish restaurants. In addition to meat products, the shop also offers a wide selection of high-quality wool products from different manufacturers.





The history of Sirola Farm dates back to the 1960s and spans three generations. The operations were originally based on cattle, and milk production was continued until the 1980s.

The farm took the first step towards the sheep production it practises today when the farm was passed on to the next generation in 1990. For the first few years following the transition, the farm's main line of production was agriculture, but the farm switched to sheep farming in one go in 1994 after the arrival of the first 25 ewes and rams Paul and Pörrä.

The organic sheep farm's current flock of sheep includes roughly 150 ewes and more than 20 rams, which represent all ram lineages in Finland. In addition to breeding animals of the Oxford Down breed,

Sirola Farm also produces lamb and mutton, processed meat products, wool and lambskin. The farm markets its lamb under the Sirolan Tilan karitsaa® brand. It is sold through restaurants and retailers as well as on location at Sirola Farm Shop.

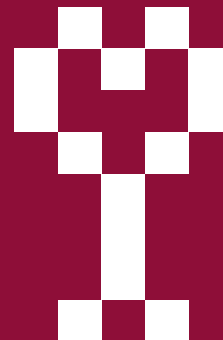
The Farm Shop offers a wide selection of meat products ranging from lamb cuts to various processed and canned lamb products. The meat of the Oxford Down breed is very delicious, low-fat and has a mild flavour. As is typical for the breed, some of the fat is marbled inside the muscle tissues, guaranteeing a juicy flavour once cooked.

The products are truly made of local meat, as they are slaughtered only 30 km away in Puhos, Kitee. The fresh meat season takes place between July and November; at other times,

there is a limited amount of produce available as frozen food.

The sheepskins obtained from the Oxford Down breed are thick, making them perfect for a variety of uses: for infants, grandparents or pets, for example. The thickness also means that the sheep produce a lot of wool. The wool produced by the breed does not felt easily; it is fine, long, thick and bouncy. These properties make it an excellent option for stuffing.

The farm's raw wool is processed by the spinning mill Pirtin Kehräämö in Hiirola, South Savo, amongst others. The Farm Shop's selection includes a wide range of yarns, felting wool and tuft yarn made by Pirtin Kehräämö. The Farm Shop also sells felt boots and slippers produced by the felt boot factory Lahtiset, as well as products made by local artisans.



FURTHER INFORMATION AND OPENING HOURS

Sirola Sheep Farm
Sininentie 553,
Tohmajärvi
+358 (0)4 0566 4153
www.sirolantila.com

The Farm Shop is open whenever we are home. You can also shop with us online whenever you want.



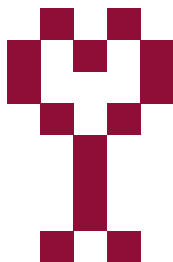
LOCAL DELICACIES

Strawberries, blueberries, honey, meat and fish and many more tasty treats! Did you know that over 60% of all strawberries in North Karelia are produced in Kesälahti? Or did you know that the Puruveden muikku vendace caught in our region is covered by the EU's protected geographical indication? In summer, the easiest way to get fresh berries is directly from the farm, and vendace is served in many restaurants. Smoked vendace oil preserves are also a great and very popular souvenir.



Still, Karjalanpiirakka – Karelian pastries – are the best known regional delicacy, and its name is also protected by the EU. These pastries are always unique to their makers, and there are no two identical pastries, so tasting Karelian pastries by different makers is recommended to find the one you like best. The pastries by a bakery from Rasivaara, Kotileipomo Anu Hyttinen, have even been served at the Finnish Independence Day Reception!

Aside from Karelian pastries, the many bakeries in the area make many other sweet and savoury products that are in high demand. The savoury pastries baked inside a loaf of bread – kukko – by Kotileipomo Isabella in Rääkkylä are well-known around the country and have even brought home wins from the Finnish championships.



COME AND GET YOUR FRESH TREATS!

Local delicacies are available at the following shops and stores, among many others:

Irman Tupa

Kiteentie 26, Kitee
+358 (0)4 0026 8168
www.facebook.com/IrmanTupa

Kiteen Kotileipomo patisserie

Olkontie 4, Kitee
+358 (0)1 3284 276
www.kiteenkotileipomo.fi

Kiteen Kotileipomo bakery shop

Niittytie 2, Kitee
+358 (0)1 3284 275
www.kiteenkotileipomo.fi

Koivikon Kievari

Koivikontie 8, Kitee
+358 (0)4 0041 8933
www.koivikon-kievari.business.site

Sisustus-kahvila

Wilhelmiina
Kiteentie 9–11, Kitee
+358 (0)5 0303 4336
www.sisustuskahvila-wilhelmiina.com

UniPulla

Joensuuntie 216, Kitee
+358 (0)4 0029 2700
www.unipulla.fi

Juhanantupa

Kylätie 9, Kesälahti
+358 (0)4 0065 5227
www.juhanantupa.net

Kotileipomo Anu Hyttinen

Kauppatie 8, Rasivaara
+358 (0)5 0305 0693
Facebook

Kaivo café and shop

Talluksentie 5, Tohmajärvi
+358 (0)4 0751 2443
Facebook

Matamin Lumon

Kahvikammari
Pyhäjärventie 8, Kesälahti
+358 (0)4 0582 6879
Facebook

TIP

More farm shops in Sydänkarjala
are listed online at
www.aitojamakuja.fi

FRESH LAKE FISH FROM THE SHORE TO THE DINING TABLE

Sydänkarjala is tightly embraced by bodies of water, and fish and fishing have always been a staple part of the locals' diet and identity. The most traditional treat, and certainly the best-known one today, is Puruveden muikku vendace, which is covered by the EU's protected geographical indication. Through the ages, people have also come to enjoy the waters abundant with fish from further away and made use of many other species of fish besides vendace.





One good example of this is the river Mustolanjoki, located by Lake Pyhäjärvi in Karelia. Its fishing rights once belonged to the monks of Valamo Monastery. In spring, the monks would come at spawning time to fish in the waters of Mustolanjoki and Hanelinlampi, which have always been well-known spawning grounds for the common bream. The caught fish was then fermented in barrels and stored in storage pits in the ground for use in winter. The fermented fish stored by monks in storage pits had a bad odour but a good taste, similarly to the Swedish surströmming, i.e. fermented Baltic Sea herring. The common bream used to be such a prized fish that you were not even allowed to ring the church bells around spawning time.

Other traditional treats made in Sydänkarjala include dried fish and

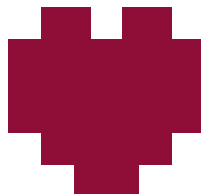
lutefisk (dried whitefish), which are based on Catholic teachings. The great popularity of fish back in the day was contributed to by factors such as people being forbidden from eating meat during Lent. Here is a fun piece of trivia: in the mid-16th century, Finland's most important export product was fish. Lutefisk made of dried Finnish northern pike in particular was highly prized in Central Europe and also served to kings and bishops and even at the Vatican.

Although fermented or dried fish or fish cured in lye is not part of many people's diet today, fish remains a popular ingredient and source of livelihood even now. This is evident in such things as the many local companies that offer processed fish products, such as Puruveden Savukala and Laukkasen Kala from Kesälahti, or Savumestari

Delicacies from Värtsilä, Tohmajärvi.

Sydänkarjala also offers experiences for those who enjoy fish dishes, as several restaurants in the area serve local fish. For example, the traditional salmon roasting and shore fish evenings held by the Ruokkeen Lomakylä holiday village have also attracted people from afar over the years. In the summer season, they are held on a weekly basis. The Paksuniemen Satamavintola restaurant also has changing fish dishes on its daily lunch menu. The food is indeed local, as the fish is sourced from the production facilities of Kontion Kala, located next door.

If you would rather prepare a dish with lake fish by yourself to suit your tastes, that is also possible. You can buy fresh lake fish from the shop of Puruveden Savukala and Paksuniemen Satamavuoti. The selection varies due to the availability of the day.



WHERE TO FIND YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE

PAKSUNIEMEN SATAMARAVINTOLA

Paksuniementie 241,
Rääkkylä
www.paksuniemi.com

RUOKKEEN LOMAKYLÄ AND LAUKKASEN KALA

Ruokkeentie 58, Kesälahti
www.ruokkeenlomakyla.fi

PURUVEDEN SAVUKALA

Poronientie 2a, Kesälahti
www.puruvedensavukala.fi

SAVUMESTARI DELICACIES

www.savumestari.blogspot.com



NATURE ATTRACTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

In Sydänkarjala, you can admire nature from every window and step right into it from the doorway. When there is no water or shoreline, there are forests and eskers. It is the nature that gives the region its rich, unique character, and it has inspired art from Kalevala to Nightwish. If you are looking for true wilderness, you should head a bit further north, but the region offers plenty of destinations for those interested in shorter hikes and day activities. Cycling, hiking, paddling, fishing and bird-watching... without forgetting the most beautiful sandy beaches in North Karelia!

KARELIANPOLUT PATHWAYS

is a hiking and cycling route network covering the entire Sydänkarjala region. The network offers a great setting for mountain biking, hiking, and trail running. Different routes have varying degrees of challenge, and exercisers of all fitness levels are sure to find a suitable one.

RIUTTAVUORI

A wonderful attraction in Juurikka, Kitee. The area around this popular site features short hiking trails through diverse terrain as well as a firepit. The top of the hill commands an amazing view of the sunset. The vista also includes the Riuttalampi pond at the base of the hill, Lake Juurikkajärvi a few kilometres away, and Lake Pyhäjärvi, which connects Finland and Russia. The view is incredibly impressive especially in autumn colours!

Juurikantie 71, Kitee

KITEE WILDERNESS AND GAME PATH

travels through beautiful esker scenery along the shores of Orivesi. The

two-part route comprises Parppeinlampi nature path (2.4 kilometres) and Hietaniemi wilderness path (2.3 kilometres) which both teach the hikers about the region's nature and animals. Along the path, you can find wood sculptures of animals, traps, fields and feeding areas for game animals and moose-watching towers. The area also has a hut, a lean-to, a covered eating area and a swimming beach, all available for public use.

**Anttilantie 4 B,
Tolosenmäki**

THE SORTOLAMPI AND PITKÄLAMPI

area in Kesälahti offers diverse hiking routes travelling through changing terrain. The circular nature and culture paths offer visitors the following route options: Around Sortolampi (3.1 km), esker route of Pitkälampi (5.6 km), Palokangas route (8.0 km) and Pivanka path (3.7 km). The area also has a permanent orienteering route. Maps for the area are available from the joint service point of Kesälahti House, Mon-Fri 9 am–3 pm.
**Sortolammentie 1,
Kesälahti**

APAJALAHTI NATURE PATH

(2.8 km) in Varpasalo, Rääkkylä, travels through a privately-owned nature conservation area. The circular route is open to all visitors and features a public lean-to. Most of the path travels through one of the most beautiful black alder groves in Finland. Other protected sites in the area include the cliffs from ancient Saimaa. They can be slippery during rain, so remember to watch your step. The area is also inhabited by endangered white-backed woodpeckers. The nature path is also an excellent snowshoeing trail in the winter.

**Häikänniementie 45,
Varpasalo**

SALPAPOLKU

(3 km) in Oravisalo, Rääkkylä, is a great recreational route for fans of military history, as it travels along the structures of the Salpalinja bunker line constructed on the eastern shore of Oravisalo. Salpalinja was a defensive bunker line built to protect Finland. The hiking path allows you to view structures built during the war as well

as admire the beautiful nature of the Hämeenselkä shoreline. Some of the historical structures have been renovated, and the area features sites such as dugouts for accommodation and sauna bathing, trenches, a lean-to, a bird-watching tower and a touching art piece by Leena Emilia Reittu, Perintö ('Heritage').

**Hakoniementie 34,
Oravisalo**

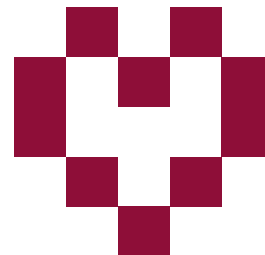
ACONITUM TOUR

(5.5 km) takes the travellers to the beautiful culture landscapes of Kirkkoniemi in Tohmajärvi, the wolf's-bane grove of Piilovaara and the bird-watching tower of Peijonniemi. Along the route, you can stop to read signboards sharing information about the diverse nature of Kirkkoniemi as well as its cultural history. The protected wolf's-bane grove in Piilovaara is the habitat of the plant that gave the tour its name: northern wolf's-bane, *Aconitum lycoctonum*. The plant is quite rare in Finland. The flower blooms in June and July, and it can only be discovered in seven places in the wild in Finland.

Kirkkotie 590, Tohmajärvi RIVER JÄNISJOKI

Tohmajärvi is a great destination for both canoeists and fishers. The waterways include a total of 200 kilometres of river and lake routes to paddle or row. In Värtsilä, the river crosses the state border and continues on in Russia, towards Jänisjärvi where it finally flows into Lake Ladoga. Several rest areas have been built along the river to serve visitors that arrive both by the river and by land. The most popular sites in the fishing area are the Patsolankoski, Lempaankoski, Kattilakoski and Peltokoski rapids. Read more about the fishing permits needed online:

www.muikkusuomi.net



TIP

More nature attractions:
www.sydankarjala.fi

A person wearing a red and black cycling jersey, blue shorts, a yellow and black helmet, and sunglasses is riding a mountain bike on a wooden trail. The trail is made of wooden planks and is surrounded by a dense forest of tall evergreen trees. The person is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is slightly blurred, emphasizing the rider.

MOUNTAIN BIKING AND TRAIL RUNNING ON KARELIAN- POLUT PATH- WAYS



The Karelian Trails are a varied network of outdoor recreation trails. The newest routes, Akanpolku Trail and Sorpanpolku Trail, were completed in Tohmajärvi in autumn 2020. The network comprises ten routes and is designed for trail running, mountain biking and hiking alike. The routes are clearly marked with signs, with consideration to mountain bikers moving at high speed. Most of the Karelian Trails link naturally to local outdoor recreational routes and nature trails.

The Saaristo Trail in Rääkkylä offers kilometres of leisurely trails for cyclists without mountain bikes, taking them to the rural idylls of the islands of North Saimaa. Daredevils will particularly enjoy the elevation differences of more than 200 metres and the uphill and downhill sections that

put their equipment to the test on the Hutsi Trail in Kitee and the Pekan Trail in Tohmajärvi. In Sydänkärjala, mountain bikes are not stored for the winter; instead, cyclists can head to Kitee's Talvi Trail, which is cleared of snow for cyclists. The trails are categorised into three levels of difficulty: easy, moderate and challenging.

The newest additions to the network, Akanpolku Trail and Sorpanpolku Trail, start roughly ten kilometres southwest of Tohmajärvi. The more leisurely Akanpolku Trail is roughly 8 kilometres long, while the more challenging Sorpanpolku Trail is 11 kilometres long. You can combine the routes into a circular route, giving you over 13 kilometres of well-marked trail. Akanpolku passes by a beautiful



beach and fire pit on the shore of Lake Siikajärvi. On Sorpanpolku, you can take a break on top of the rugged Kypärävaara hill.

TOUR DE KARELIA MOUNTAIN BIKING COMPETITION

In autumn, the Karelian Trails are swarming with mountain bikers putting their fitness to the test in the Tour De Karelia event. The competition has stages on trails in three different municipalities. Besides beautiful trails, the competition also offers excitement in the form of pursuit competitions. Participants are not required to have a racing licence, which makes Tour De Karelia an excellent way to get to know the sport.

TIP

Find the descriptions and maps of the Karelian Trails at

www.sydankarjala.fi/karelianpolut

For more information on the Tour de Karelianpolut cycling event, see www.tourdekarelianpolut.com

ROUTE STARTING POINTS

KITEE

Peltola Trail and Talvi Trail:

- Arppentie 6, Kitee

Hutsi Trail:

- Hutsi Sports Centre, Urheilutie 7, Kitee

RÄÄKKYLÄ

Savilahti Trail:

- Saviniementie 5, Rääkkylä

Saaristo Trail:

- Arvinsalmi ferry, Oravisalontie 1610, Oravisalo
- Koitontalo, Oravisalontie 1290 a, Oravisalo
- Kivisalmi, Oravisalontie 684, Oravisalo
- Ihalansalmi bridge, Varpasalontie 107, Oravisalo

TOHMAJÄRVI

Akanpolku Trail and Sorpanpolku Trail:

- Akkala-Jouhkola youth club building, Akkalantie 68, Tohmajärvi

Piilovaara Trail, Kirkkoniemi Trail and Pekan Trail:

- Tohmajärvi Sports Hall, Kirkkotie 10
- Tohmajärvi Church, Kirkkotie 590, Tohmajärvi

SYDÄNKARJALA MUSEUMS

IN KITEE: KITEE REGIONAL MUSEUM

Kitee regional museum is located in the city centre. The museum has exhibitions for border operations, military history and baseball, among other interesting exhibits.

Kiteentie 23, Kitee

Open in June–August. In the off-season by order. More detailed opening hours at www.kiteeseura.com or by calling +358 (0)5 0401 9117.

SAVIKKO SHOP MUSEUM

Savikko Shop Museum is in a 100-year-old shop building that has been renovated nearly to its original state.

Savikontie 37, Kitee

Open in June–August. In the off-season by order. More detailed opening hours at www.kiteeseura.com or by calling +358 (0)5 0401 9117.

IN KESÄLAHTI: KESÄLAHTI REGIONAL MUSEUM

The yard area and old buildings of the Kesälahti Regional Museum, i.e. the Myllytupa museum area, offer a charming environment for relaxation. The roughly a dozen buildings in the area, the largest chimneyless cabin in Finland (built in 1725) and their items tell the story of good times and bad.

Kirkkotie 9, Kesälahti

Open in June–August. In the off-season by order. More detailed opening hours at www.kesalahti.net or by calling +358 (0)4 0775 9467.

HOME MUSEUM KYLLIKIN PIHAPIIRI

A delightful cabin furnished in the style of a Kesälahti home in the 1940s.

Norotie 3, Kesälahti

Open upon agreement. Kesälahti-Seura, tel. +358 (0)4 0775 9467, kesalahtiseura@gmail.com

IN RÄÄKKYLÄ: RÄÄKKYLÄ REGIONAL MUSEUM

The regional museum in the village centre has an extensive exhibit with old peasant items, depicting the history of the municipality.

Saviniementie 2, Rääkkylä

Open in June–August. In the off-season by order. More detailed opening hours at www.raakkyla-seura.fi, or by calling +358 (0)4 0577 4776, +358 (0)4 5324 9010.

PAKSUNIEMI MYLLYMEIJERI MUSEUM CENTRE

Paksuniemi Myllymeijeri is an old mill and dairy turned into a museum area, with a changing art and sales exhibition during summer. The museum's immediate vicinity features a drying barn, a chimneyless cabin and a smoke sauna, which have been transported to the

location and are now part of the museum.

Paksuniementie 241, Rääkkylä

Open in June–August. In the off-season by order.

More detailed opening hours at www.raakkyla-seura.fi, or by calling +358 (0)4 0577 4776, +358 (0)4 5324 9010.

PLAY MUSEUM KOTISTA

The museum inside an old log house tells the story of toys and playing from the late 19th century to this day. Catering and customised programme packages are available upon separate request. The museum also holds fairy courses for adults and children upon request. The play museum also has a small shop.

Pötsönlahdentie 127, Rääkkylä

Open upon agreement. Please call before visiting, tel. +358 (0)5 0357 3344, www.leikkimuseokotista.fi

IN TOHMAJÄRVI: NYMAN'S HOME AND APOTHECARY MUSEUM

The crown jewel of the charming museum area in Tohmajärvi is Nyman's house built in 1874. This building used to house the second oldest apothecary in North Karelia. One of the building's rooms has been converted into an apothecary museum, and the other rooms have been turned into a home museum. Nyman's house and its other buildings feature both permanent and changing exhibitions. The old farmhands' chambers houses an exhibition of the Finnish singer Katri Helena and the granary has an exhibition of Maiju Lassila, the pseudonym of Finnish writer Algot Untola. The café located in the farmhands' chambers lends bicycles and sports equipment to visitors.

Kirkkotie 14, Tohmajärvi

Open in July–August. In the off-season by order. More detailed opening hours at tohmajarviseura.fi, or by calling tel. +358 (0)5 0363 6154.

TOHMAJÄRVI OUTDOOR MUSEUM AREA

The outdoor museum is located in the same area as Nyman's house and Maiju Lassila theatre. The village museum is a two-storey wagon shed transported to the museum area from the Jouhkolan Hovi estate of Gabriel Wallenius, also known as the 'Karelian King' (1725–1808). The outdoor museum area also includes the home cabin of Finnish writer Maiju Lassila, a windmill, the out-house building of Nyman's house, a small drying barn and a barn with more than a hundred pigs.

Open in July–August. In the off-season by order. More detailed opening hours at tohmajarviseura.fi, or by calling tel. +358 (0)5 0363 6154.

SAARIO HYDROELECTRIC PLANT MUSEUM

The Saario power plant on the shore of Jänisjoki, completed in 1908, is now a hydroelectric plant museum. It is the oldest preserved power plant in our country with original machinery. The building architecture

represents Central European industrial architecture with traces of neo-gothic. Watteja, voltteja ja virtaa – Watts, volts and power exhibition.

Voimalaitostie 24, Tohmajärvi

Open upon agreement. Tohmajärvi Seura, tel. +358 (0)5 0363 6154, info@tohmajarviseura.fi.

VÄRTSILÄ MILL MUSEUM

The mill built on the shore of Jänisjoki was completed in 1938. The mill museum located in the former Niirala Estate lands is a former flour mill. These lands belonged to Nils Edvard Josef, the son of Wärtsilä's founder, Nils Ludvig Arppe, in the 1980s.

Värtsiläntie 367 b, Värtsilä

Check the summer's opening hours online at vartsila.fi, or by calling: +358 (0)4 0586 3803, +358 (0)4 0852 1341.

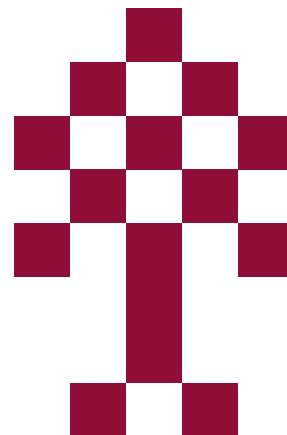
KAURILA SCHOOL MUSEUM

Kaurila public school was opened in 1898 and was in operation until 1973. The school museum showcases school equipment of the era. Some of the pupils' desks and cabinets and the teacher's

desk have been in use since the beginning. Other exhibited items include school pictures and the pupils' handicrafts and drawings. The museum also features skiing equipment used by the school's former pupil, the legendary Finnish cross-country skier Siiri 'Äitee' Rantanen.

Koulumäentie 17, Kaurila

Open upon agreement. Kaurila-Musko village association, tel. +358 (0)5 0517 7854, reino.lopponen@gmail.com





VISIT A CHURCH

IN KITEE: KITEE STONE CHURCH

(Evangelical Lutheran)

The stone church in Kitee centre was taken into use in 1890. The church's altar-piece is a painting by artist B. Lagerstam, depicting The Last Supper. It is a replica of the painting by Leonardo da Vinci. Kitee stone church has seating for 1,500 people.

Savikontie 5, Kitee

Open June–August, more detailed opening hours at www.kiteenseurakunta.fi or by calling +358 (0)4 5111 9555.

THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY AND NECTARIOS OF AEGINA (Orthodox)

This Byzantine-Karelian church in Kitee was sanctified in 2000. The building complex was designed by architect Sirkka Sortti. Its beautiful iconostasis was made by Wickström, Sasaki and Salonen.

Valamontie 4, Kitee

Open June–August, more detailed opening hours at www.joensuunortodoksit.fi or by calling +358 (0)4 4591 3563

IN KESÄLAHTI: KESÄLAHTI CHURCH AND BELLTOWER

(Evangelical Lutheran)

The current, fourth church in Kesälahti was sanctified on 3 September 1950. The church was designed by architects Aili and Niilo Pulkka. The skilled restoration work of the old belltower in Kesälahti church yard received the main Europa Nostra award in 2009.

Taipaleentie 9, Kesälahti

Open June–August, more detailed opening hours at www.kiteenseurakunta.fi or by calling +358 (0)4 5111 9555.

IN RÄÄKKYLÄ: RÄÄKKYLÄ CHURCH

(Evangelical Lutheran)

Räikkylä Church was completed on the highest point of the village in 1851. One of the largest Finnish wooden churches was designed by architect E. Lohrman. The church has seating for 1,200 people.

Kirkkotie 5, Räikkylä

Open June–August, more detailed opening hours at www.kiteenseurakunta.fi or by calling +358 (0)4 5111 9555.

IN TOHMAJÄRVI: TOHMAJÄRVI CHURCH

(Evangelical Lutheran)

This oldest wooden church in North Karelia (1756) is located in Kirkkoniemä, Tohmajärvi, on one of the most beautiful church spots in Finland. The 160-year-old congregation centre, Pitäjätupa, and its summer café are also located in Kirkkoniemä.

Kirkkotie 590, Tohmajärvi

Open June–August, more detailed opening hours at www.tohmajarvenseurakunta.fi or by calling +358 (0)5 0373 8172.

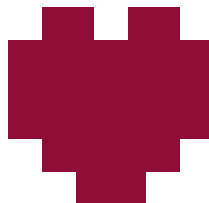
VÄRTSILÄ CHURCH

(Evangelical Lutheran)

Värtsilä Church was designed by Veikko Larkas, and it was mostly built with donations. The church was completed in 1950.

Kaurilantie 611, Värtsilä

Open upon agreement, tel. +358 (0)4 0096 7601, www.tohmajarvenseurakunta.fi



OTHER CHURCHES AND CHAPELS IN THE AREA

Heinoniemi Church

Heinoniementie 39

Kitee

+358 (0)4 5111 9555

www.kiteenseurakunta.fi

Lepokangas Chapel

Jouhenvaarantie 1

Kitee

+358 (0)4 5111 9555

www.kiteenseurakunta.fi

Kitee Chapel

Kappelintie 6

Kitee

+358 (0)4 5111 9555

www.kiteenseurakunta.fi

Väärämäki Church

Väärämäentie 212

Kesälahti

+358 (0)4 5111 9555

www.kiteenseurakunta.fi

Village chapel

Savinientie 4

Räikkylä

+358 (0)4 5111 9555

www.kiteenseurakunta.fi

Nieminen Chapel

Hammastahdantie 1223

Räikkylä

+358 (0)4 5111 9555

www.kiteenseurakunta.fi

Tikkala Chapel

Tikkalantie 65

Tohmajärvi

+358 (0)5 0373 8172

www.tohmajarvenseurakunta.fi

A romantic couple is shown in a close embrace at an outdoor breakfast table. The man, with a beard and wearing a grey sweater, is smiling warmly. The woman, with dark hair, is leaning her head against his. They are seated at a table covered with a blue patterned tablecloth. On the table are various breakfast items: a white teapot, a blue patterned teapot, a white mug, a blue patterned bowl filled with fresh raspberries, a glass bottle of water with a green sprig inside, and a large yellow sunflower in a blue vase. The background is a soft-focus view of a forest with tall trees and sunlight filtering through the leaves.

**SLEEP
WELL**

	Hotel	Apartment hotel	B&B / Guesthouse	Caravan / Camping	Villas / Cottages	Holiday Center	Farm stay	By the lake	Restaurant	Alcohol serving licence	Allergy room	Sauna	Hot tub	Barbeque grill	Free WiFi	Guest marina	EV charging station	Rowing boat	Bike	Equipment rental	Program services	Pet friendly	Capacity	Price
Annin Kartano * Hovisalontie 7, Kitee, 0500895999, www.anninkartano.fi. Open all year round.		●								●				●							●		3	
Hotelli Kiteenhovi Hovintie 2, Kitee, 0401715110, www.kiteenhovi.com. Open all year round.	●							●	●		●			●							●		34	
Juurikan vapaa-aikakeskus Juurikkajärventie 3, Kitee, 0503200633, Facebook. Open all year round.		●		●				●	●		●						●		●	●			3	5
Karjalan Helmi Suoparsaarentie 6A, Kitee, 0400475404, www.karjalanhelmi.net. Open all year round.		●		●			●			●			●	●			●	●	●				9	2
Kiteen Evankelinen Kansanopisto Opistontie 7, Kitee, 0400956090, www.kiteenkansanopisto.fi. Open all year round.		●					●			●													19	
Koivikon Kartano Koivikonkatu 4, Kitee, 0500217476, www.kiteen.koivikko.fi. Open all year round.		●				●	●		●	●	●	●	●						●	●	●		20	
Lastun Paikat Lepikontie 22, Kitee, 0400418933, www.lakelandkarelia.fi. Open all year round.				●			●			●			●						●	●	●		4	
Maijan juhla- ja pitopalvelu * Kiitsontie 4, Kitee, 0503499018, www.maijapalvee.fi. Open all year round.			●					●	●		●	●	●					●		●	●		4	
Matkailukeskus Pajarinhovi * Pajarinniementie 1, Kitee, 0207425770, www.pajarinhovi.fi. Open all year round.	●			●	●		●	●	●		●		●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●		25	15
Riihijärven matkaparkki Riihijärventie 45, Kitee, 0405245090, www.riihijarvenmatkaparkki.com. Open all year round.		●		●			●			●			●				●	●			●		3	
Riihivalkea Valkeavaarantie 18, Kitee, 0400584088, www.riihivalkea.fi. Open all year round.		●	●		●		●	●	●		●		●	●			●	●	●	●	●			
Röskön leirikeskus Rösköntie 9, Kitee, 0500378234, www.karhupojat.org. Open all year round.				●	●		●	●		●			●				●				●			
UniPulla Joensuuntie 26, Kitee, 0400292700, www.unipulla.fi. Open all year round.			●				●			●			●								●		4	
Parkkulaisten lomamökit Vääntäisniementie 19, Kitee, 0503360026, www.pekkaparkkulainen.wordpress.com. Open all year round.				●	●		●			●	●	●	●	●	●		●						2	
B&B Savikon Kartano Savikontie 37, Kitee, 0400261552, www.savikonkartano.com. Open 12.-30.11.			●							●			●	●				●			●		8	
Syrjäsalmen lomamökit Kohosentie 1, Kitee, 0400302754. Open all year round.				●			●			●			●				●				●		6	
Veilis Villas: Kurenranta Riihivaarantie 23, Kitee, 0400299202, www.veilisvillas.fi. Open all year round.				●			●			●			●	●			●				●		1	
Villa Leinola 1 ja 2 Hornasaarentie 2A, Kitee, 0400375366. Open all year round.				●			●			●			●	●			●		●				2	
Hyvönmäen lomamökit Lehtoniementie 5 A, Kesälahti, 0405159048, www.hyvonmaenlomamokit.com. Open all year round.				●			●			●			●				●						2	

Cabins
 Caravan area
 Rooms
 Mooring spots
 Tentsile tent
 ** Luxury tent
 * Accessible
 PRICES
 Under €50
 €51-150€
 €151-250
 Over €250


Please note! The table is only referential. Remember to check the company's website for up-to-date details.

	Hotel	Apartment/hotel	B&B / Guesthouse	Caravan / Camping	Villas / Cottages	Holiday Center	Farm stay	By the lake	Restaurant	Alcohol serving licence	Allergy room	Sauna	Hot tub	Barbeque grill	Free WiFi	Guest marina	EV charging station	Rowing boat	Bike	Equipment rental	Program services	Pet friendly	Capacity	Price
Karelian Country Cottages Väärämäentie 73 A, Kesälahti, 0500723274, www.kareliancountrycottages.com. Open all year round.				●	●	●	●			●			●	●	●			●			●			
Karjalan Kievari Lappeenrannantie 18, Kesälahti, 0414977089, www.karjalankievari.fi. Open all year round.	●			●	●		●	●	●		●		●		●						●			
Kesäranta Kesäranta 8, Kesälahti, 0500251659, www.kesaranta.fi. Open all year round.				●		●					●		●				●		●	●			2	
Lakeland Karelia Fisherman's Paradise Väärämäentie 67, Kesälahti, 0400418933, www.lakelandkarelia.fi. Open 1.4.-31.1.				●	●	●				●	●		●	●			●	●	●	●	●		2	
Lakeland Karelia Puutikka Puutikantie 18, Kesälahti, 0400418933, www.lakelandkarelia.fi. Open all year round.				●		●				●	●		●	●			●		●	●	●		4	
Lakeland Karelia Ylätupa Poroniementie 24, Kesälahti, 0400418933, www.lakelandkarelia.fi. Open 1.5.-31.10.				●		●				●	●		●	●			●	●	●	●	●		1	
Mäntyniemen Kartano Salaneuvoksentie 3, Kesälahti, 0456527465, www.mantyniemenkartano.fi. Open all year round.	●					●	●	●		●			●							●			2	
Mäntyranan lomakylä Väärämäentie 43, Kesälahti, 0505523235, www.mantyranta.com. Open during summer.				●	●	●	●	●		●	●		●	●			●		●	●	●		9 100	
Ruokkeen Lomakylä Ruokkeentie 58, Kesälahti, 013371312, www.ruokkeenlomakyla.fi. Open all year round.				●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		25 80 8	
Sovintola Pyhäjärventie 8, Kesälahti, 0400371077, www.sovintola-kesalahti.fi. Open all year round.	●												●					●					2	
Ukonniemen Viinitarha Ukonniementie 10, Kesälahti, 0505903443, www.ukonniemenviinitarha.fi. Open 1.4.-31.10; 20.12.-15.1.				●		●				●	●		●	●		●	●	●	●	●			1	
Villa Pyöriäinen Kokonsyväntie 2 B, Kesälahti, 0407449229, www.villapyoriainen.fi. Open all year round.				●		●				●	●	●	●			●	●			●			1	
Haapasalmen kylätalo * Pantii 55, Rääkkylä, 0505605210, www.haapasalmenseutu.fi. Open all year round.	●			●		●				●	●		●	●	●		●			●			4	
Hakoniemi - Luova tila Hakoniementie 93 A, Rääkkylä, 0443234660, www.hakoniemi.com. Open all year round.				●		●				●	●		●	●			●	●	●	●	●		1	
Jaaman tupa Jaaman rantatie 140, Rääkkylä, 0400579260, www.jaama.fi. Open all year round.				●		●				●	●		●	●			●			●			1	
Karelia Cottages * Suursaarentie 95, Rääkkylä, 0442716095, www.kareliacottages.fi. Open all year round.				●		●	●	●		●	●		●	●		●	●		●	●			3 2 1	
Koivuniemi * Koivuniementie 20, Rääkkylä, 0409600629, www.koivuniemeen.fi. Open 1.5.-30.1.				●		●	●	●		●	●		●				●			●	●		10 28	
Koskelon lomamökkit ja marjatila * Pyssysalontie 660 B, Rääkkylä, 0503527716, www.koskelocottages.fi. Open all year round.				●		●				●	●		●	●			●			●			2	
Kurkelan lomamökkit Mölsänniementie 281 A & B, Rääkkylä, 0400894727, Facebook. Open all year round.				●		●				●	●		●	●						●			2	

Cabins
 Caravan area
 Rooms
 Mooring spots
 Tentsile tent
 Luxury tent
 Hammock
 * Accessible

	Hotel	Apartment hotel	B&B / Guesthouse	Caravan / Camping	Villas / Cottages	Holiday Center	Farm stay	By the lake	Restaurant	Alcohol serving licence	Allergy room	Sauna	Hot tub	Barbecue grill	Free WiFi	Guest marina	EV charging station	Rowing boat	Bike	Equipment rental	Program services	Pet friendly	Capacity	Price
Marjala Piranniementie 131 B, Rääkkylä, 0452389299, www.marjala.info . Open all year round.																							1	
Paksuniemen Majatalo & Aitat Paksuniementie 241, Rääkkylä, 0406838748, www.paksuniemi.com . Open 1.5.-31.8.																							6	20
Pikkupurolan paimenlomat Pyssysalontie 224, Rääkkylä, 0505460880, www.sites.google.com/view/pikkupurolan-paimenlomat . Open 15.5.-2.10.																							1	
Sikiönsaaren lomamökki Mölsänniementie 100, Rääkkylä, 0405165857, www.luomumansikka.fi . Open 17.5.-3.10.																							1	
Topin Tupa 1 Hämeenniementie 212 B, Rääkkylä, 0407513545, www.topintupa1.fi . Open all year round.																							1	
Topin Tupa Hämeenniementie 46 B, Rääkkylä, 0405129901, www.topintuvat.com . Open all year round.																							2	
Villa Koivula/Villa Kuusela Koivuniementie 48, Rääkkylä, 0400168629, Facebook. Open all year round.																							2	
Villa Mekkula Rumpukalliontie 81, Rääkkylä, 0452389300, www.murumaki.info/mekkula . Open all year round.																							1	
Villa Ruusula * Metsolantie 39, Rääkkylä, 0505640930, www.villaruusula.fi . Open all year round.																							8	
Vuoniemen mökki Vuoniementie 426, Rääkkylä, 0505242044, www.nieminen-sintsi.net . Open 1.6.-15.9.																							1	
Itärajan Helmi Jouhkolantie 219, Tohmajärvi, 0447444070, www.helmi.johku.com . Open 15.5.-15.9.																							7	
Jouhkolan Lumo Jouhkolantie 21, Tohmajärvi, 0400278810, www.jouhkolanlumo.com . Open all year round.																							3	
Jänisjoen Tuvat Teollisuustie 7 C, Tohmajärvi, 0400840309, www.janisjoentuvat.fi . Open all year round.																							4	
Maatilamatkailu VillaValkea * Karvolanmäentie 12 A, Tohmajärvi, 0442360486, www.villavalkea.fi . Open all year round.																							5	
Majatalo Raja * Hopeakalliontie 3 A, Tohmajärvi, 0505524433, www.majataloraja.fi . Open all year round.																							8	
Minimotel * Kirkkotie 6 C, Tohmajärvi, 0440964003, www.minimotel.fi . Open all year round.																							11	
Reijo Koskelon lomamökit * Kannaksentie 405, Tohmajärvi, 0505443825. Open all year round.																							2	
Veilis Villas: Lemminkäinen Kirtsinniementie 133, Tohmajärvi, 0400299202, www.veilisvillas.fi . Open all year round.																							1	

Please note! The table is only referential. Remember to check the company's website for up-to-date details.

PRICES  Under €50 €51-150€ €151-250 Over €250



KARELIAN FLAVOURS

	Restaurant	Cafe	Fast-food	Lunch	A la carte	Take away	Catering	Bar / Pub	Alcohol serving licence	Summer terrace	Gas station	Open
ABC Kitee Kiteentie 20, Kitee, 015440761 www.abcasemat.fi	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	365
Anninkartano Hovisalongtie 7, Kitee, 04009126999 www.anninkartano.fi						●		●				365
Hotelli Kiteenhovi Hovintie 2, Kitee, 0401715110 www.kiteenhovi.com	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●		365
Irman Tupa Kiteentie 26, Kitee, 0400268168 Facebook		●		●		●						365
Kiteen Grilli Kiteentie 14, Kitee, 0401897049 Facebook			●			●						365
Kiteen Kebab Pizzeria Kiteentie 4, Kitee, 013415515 Facebook			●			●						365
Kiteen Kotileipomo konditoriamyymälä Olkontie 4, Kitee, 013284276 www.kiteenkotileipomo.fi		●							●			365
Kiteen Kotileipomo leipomomyymälä Niittytie 2, Kitee, 013284275 www.kiteenkotileipomo.fi		●										365
Kiteen Teboil Kiteentie 51, Kitee, 0400383551 Facebook	●	●	●	●		●		●	●	●		365
Koivikon Kievari Koivikontie 8, Kitee, 0400418933 www.koivikon-kievari.business.site		●		●		●	●		●			☀
Lounaskahvila Viljami Hovintie 3, Kitee, 0404143860 Facebook		●		●		●						365
Maijan juhla- ja pitopalvelu Kiitsontie 4, Kitee, 0503499018 www.maijapalvelu.fi						●		●				365
Matkailukeskus Pajarinhovi Pajarinniementie 1, Kitee, 0207425770 www.pajarinhovi.fi	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●		365
Myllyravintola Wanha Puhos Myllyniemi 4, Kitee, 0400474438 Facebook	●	●	●			●	●	●	●			☀
Neste Tolosenmäki Joensuuntie 304, Kitee, 013313330 www.nestetolosenmaki.com	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●		365
Pub jälki-istunto Jurikkajärventie 3, Kitee, 0503200633 Facebook	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●		365
Ravintola Kiteen Karhu Kiteentie 1, Kitee, 0107623500 www.raflaamo.fi							●	●				365
Sisustus-kahvila Wilhelmiina Kiteentie 9-11, Kitee, 0503034336 www.sisustuskahvilawilhelmiina.com		●		●		●			●			365



Ruokkeen Lomakylä holiday village holds traditional salmon roasting and shore fish evenings in summer. These attract plenty of visitors!



Juhanantupa, a handsome log building, is a popular attraction in itself. Lunch and coffee are served during summer. PS: Elias Lönnrot has visited us, too!



Open in summer



Open all year round

Please note! The table is only referential. Remember to check the company's website for up-to-date details.

	Restaurant	Cafe	Fast-food	Lunch	A la carte	Take-away	Catering	Bar / Pub	Alcohol serving licence	Summer terrace	Gas station	Open
Sutkin Krouvi Hovintie 2, Kitee, 0401715110 www.kiteenhovi.com								•	•	•	•	365
UniPulla Joensuuntie 216, Kitee, 0400292700 www.unipulla.fi		•		•	•				•			365
Juhanantupa Kylätie 9, Kesälahti, 0400655227 www.juhanantupa.net		•		•	•	•			•			☀
Karin Cafe Tiittalantie 4, Kesälahti, 013871977			•		•		•	•				365
Kesälähden kotiseutumuseon kesäkahvila Kirkkotie 9, Kesälahti, 0407759467 www.kesalahtiseura.business.site		•		•					•			☀
Neste Villala Kerimäentie 1a, Kesälahti, 013385588 www.villala.net/neste		•			•			•	•			365
Pivanka Kesälähdentie 1, Kesälahti, 0207792792 www.pivanka.fi		•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•		365
Ruokkeen Lomakylä Ruokkeentie 58, Kesälahti, 013371312 www.ruokkeenlomakyla.fi		•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•		365
Matamin Lumon Kahvikammari Pyhäjärventie 8, Kesälahti, 0405826879 Facebook		•				•			•			365
Koivuniemi Koivuniementie 20, Rääkkylä, 0409600629 www.koivuniemeen.fi						•						365
Kotileipomo Anu Hyttinen Kauppatie 8, Rasivaara, 0503050693 Facebook		•				•						365
Lähikauppa Kompakka Hammaslahdentie 1044, Rääkkylä, 013664177 Facebook		•	•		•				•			365
Paksuniemen Kesäkeidas Paksuniementie 241, Rääkkylä, 0406838748 www.paksuniemi.com		•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•		☀
Rääkkylän Marttakahvio Kinnulantie 1, Rääkkylä, 0401053000 Facebook		•		•								365
Villa Ruusula Metsolantie 39, Rääkkylä, 0505640930 www.villaruusula.fi						•						365



Visitors come to enjoy the summer terrace of Paksuniemi harbour restaurant from far away. We also welcome your furry friends.



Maijan Juhla- ja pitopalvelu organises catering inside a hut with its customers by advance order. This experience gives you an opportunity to cook with a professional chef, using ingredients of your choosing.



Open in summer



Open all year round

Please note! The table is only referential. Remember to check the company's website for up-to-date details.

	Restaurant	Cafe	Fast-food	Lunch	A la carte	Take away	Catering	Bar / Pub	Alcohol serving licence	Summer terrace	Gas station	Open
Akkalan kesäkahvio ja kirppis Akkalantie 68, Tohmajärvi, 0504331403 Facebook: Tohmajärven eteläiset kylät		●										☀
Cafe ELJA Rajantie 690, Tohmajärvi, 0444918513 Facebook		●	●	●	●				●			☎
Järventauksen kesäkahvio ja kirppis Korkeakankaantie 355, Tohmajärvi, 0400139059 Facebook: Järventauksen martat ry		●										☀
Kaivon kahvila ja myymälä Talluksentie 5, Tohmajärvi, 0407512443 Facebook: KAIVO ry		●										☎
Karjalan Vintage Joensuuntie 516, Tohmajärvi, 0453473731 www.karjalanvintage.fi		●										☎
Kebab Pizzeria Tähti Kirkkotie 1, Tohmajärvi, 013622300			●		●				●			☀☎
Nurkkalan kahvila Maiju Lassilan tie 2, Tohmajärvi, 0403617073 www.nurkkala.net		●	●	●	●							☎
Nymanin renkituvan kahvio Kirkkotie 14, Tohmajärvi, 0503636154 www.tohmajarviseura.fi		●							●			☀
Pitäjätuvan kesäkahvila Kirkkotie 600, Tohmajärvi, 0503738172 www.tohmajarvenseurakunta.fi		●							●			☀
Ravintola Kotipirtti Talluksentie 26, Tohmajärvi, 0505976343 www.ravintolakotipirtti.fi		●	●		●	●			●			☎
Teboil liikenneasema Järnefeltintie 5, Tohmajärvi, 0400264148		●	●		●			●	●	●		☎

TIP

The catering companies in Sydänkarjala will provide wonderful flavours for gatherings of all sizes. Many places also have modern meeting facilities, with catering provided. Most of our catering companies also serve their customers during the season's bank holidays. May Day brunches, Mother's Day lunches and other festive events with buffets or catering can be viewed on Sydänkarjala's website.

www.sydankarjala.fi



Matamin Lumon Kahvikammari serves small sweet and savoury treats made with local ingredients. The boutique is also a great place to find the best souvenirs.



Open in summer



Open all year round

Please note! The table is only referential. Remember to check the company's website for up-to-date details.

PROGRAMME SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

There is always something to see and do in Sydänkarjala. If you want to use your muscles, Sydänkarjala can offer you some of the clearest waters in Finland for canoeing and standup paddleboarding. You can also enjoy the waterways through guided cruises. There are several stables in the region, so you can also try your hand at horseback riding. The stables provide various services ranging from overnight horse trails to riding classes and courses of different lengths. We have plenty of vehicles with engines to ride, too. You can rent them and go out by yourself or try a guided safari.



Hepovaara wellbeing farm

Tiensivuntie 4, Kitee
+358 (0)5 0411 9466
www.hepovaara.com
Off-road riding, horseback riding classes, courses and camps. Well-being services, such as horse assisted HeLMi® and MinD® courses and Bach flower therapy.

Koivikon Ratsutalli

Koivikontie 8b, Kitee
+358 (0)4 0058 2587
www.koivikonratsutalli.fi
We provide riding school services, riding camps, riding try-outs and courses on horse care and handling.

Kotipihan hevos- ja luontomatkailutila

Juurikantie 34, Kitee
+358 (0)5 0363 6713
www.kotipihanfila.com
Green Care operations, camps, riding and wagon and sleigh rides.

Korvenniemen tila

Korvenniementie 50, Kesälahti
+358 (0)4 0759 4929
www.korvenniemi.fi
Korvenniemi offers sleigh rides in winter as well as lead rein riding for beginners and off-road riding for more experienced riders throughout the year.

Riihivalkea

Valkeavaarantie 18, Kitee
+358 (0)4 0058 4088
www.riihivalkea.fi
Our services include activities such as zorbing, ATV and snow-mobile safaris, rock climbing and riding. We also have equipment rentals.

VeilisVillas

Riihivaarantie 23, Kitee
+358 (0)4 0029 9202
www.veilisvillas.fi
Organises cruises on Karelian Pyhäjärvi upon order.

Lakeland Karelia

Ollilantie 4a, Kesälahti
+358 (0)4 0041 8933
www.lakelandkarelia.fi
Guided canoeing and nature tours, cruise packages, smoke sauna products, equipment rentals and 'Live Like a Local' products.

Mäntyniemi Manor

Salaneuvoksentie 3, Kesälahti
+358 (0)4 5652 7465
www.mantyniemenkartano.fi
Concerts, guided historical tours, workshops for the whole family and other culture and well-being events.

Hortoilu – Horta Hunting

Haapasalmentie 951b, Rääkkylä
+358 (0)4 0541 0696
www.hortoilu.fi
Various horta hunting courses focused on using wild herbs, other well-being services.

Karelia Cottages

Suursaarentie 95, Rääkkylä
+358 (0)4 4271 6095
www.kareliacottages.fi
Guided tours on nature trails and waterways, paddling and fishing packages and award-winning art and culture programmes.

Koivuniemi

Koivuniementie 20, Rääkkylä
+358 (0)4 0960 0629
www.koivuniemeen.fi
Provides various relaxing natural treatments.

Villa Ruusula

Metsolantie 39, Rääkkylä
+358 (0)5 0564 0930
www.villaruusula.fi
Concerts, events, culture home visits. We also offer school camps, workplace well-being days and music and well-being courses.

Hiidensuon Hevostila

Timolantie 98, Tohmajärvi
+358 (0)5 0421 2102
Facebook
Our services include riding classes and camps, off-road riding and longer riding hikes.

Itärajan Helmi

Jouhkolantie 219, Tohmajärvi
+358 (0)4 4744 4070
www.riittaokkonen.com
Guided forest walks, rich food experiences, sauna products and 'Live Like a Local' day packages.

Jouhkolan Lumo

Jouhkolantie 21, Tohmajärvi
+358 (0)4 0027 8810
www.jouhkolanlumo.com
We offer a range of smoke sauna and well-being packages.

Agritourism VillaValkea

Karvolanmäentie 102 A, Tohmajärvi
+358 (0)44 2360 486
www.villavalkea.fi
VillaValkea offers farm visits, walks around the farm, atmospheric sauna evenings in a smoke sauna, and meeting, training and banquet services.

TIP

More experiences
await at:
www.sydankarjala.fi
www.doerz.com/visitkarelia
www.visitkarelia.fi/elamyspuoti

EQUIPMENT RENTALS FOR INDEPENDENT ACTIVITIES

The service providers of Sydänkarjala offer equipment rentals for those wanting to explore the area, be it the local forests or waters. As a general rule, all of the equipment is available to beginners and more experienced users alike, for anything from leisurely holidaymaking to active fitness training. Many operators also offer guidance and instruction for different skill levels. Visit the companies' websites to see the range of equipment available for rent and more detailed information on prices, rental terms and equipment transport.



WATER SPORTS-EQUIPMENT

KARELIA COTTAGES

Suursaarentie 95,
Rääkkylä

+358 (0)44 271 6095

www.kareliacottages.fi
"Canoe, kayak and electric
outboard motor rentals."

KARJALAN HELMI

Suoparsaarentie 6, Kitee
+358 (0)40 047 5404

www.karjalanhelmi.net
Rowing boat, standup paddle-
board and kayak rentals.

LAKELAND KARELIA

Ollilantie 4 a, Kesälahti
+358 (0)4 0041 8933

www.lakelandkarelia.fi
Single kayak, standup pad-
dleboard and Foxtrot balance
beam rentals.

PAKSUNIEMEN

SATAMARAVINTOLA

Paksuniementie 241,
Rääkkylä

+358 (0)4 0683 8748

www.paksuniemi.com
Standup paddleboard rentals.

RUOKKEEN LOMAKYLÄ

HOLIDAY VILLAGE

Ruokkeentie 58, Kesälahti
+358 (0)1 337 1312

www.ruokkeenlomakyla.fi
Rowing boat, standup paddle-
board and kayak rentals.

KELKKAVUOKRAUS VEIKKO VANHANEN

Karsikonniementie 2b,
Kitee

+358 (0)5 0560 2565

www.veikkovanhanen.com
Kayak and canoe rentals.

RECREATIONAL EQUIPMENT FOR THE NO-FROST PERIOD

KARELIA COTTAGES

Suursaarentie 95, Rääkkylä
+358 (0)44 271 6095

www.kareliacottages.fi
Bicycle and Nordic walking pole
rental.

LAKELAND KARELIA

Ollilantie 4 a, Kesälahti
+358 (0)4 0041 8933

www.lakelandkarelia.fi
Mountain bike rentals.

PAKSUNIEMEN

SATAMARAVINTOLA

Paksuniementie 241,
Rääkkylä

+358 (0)4 0683 8748

www.paksuniemi.com
Bicycle and electric bike rentals.

RIIHIVALKEA

Valkeavaarantie 18, Kitee
+358 (0)4 0058 4088

www.riihivalkea.fi
Bicycle rentals.

RUOKKEEN LOMA- KYLÄ HOLIDAY VILLAGE

Ruokkeentie 58, Kesälahti
+358 (0)1 337 1312

www.ruokkeenlomakyla.fi
Bicycle rentals.

KELKKAVUOKRAUS VEIKKO VANHANEN

Karsikonniementie 2b, Kitee
+358 (0)5 0560 2565

www.veikkovanhanen.com
Bicycle rentals.

MOTORISED RENTAL EQUIPMENT

KELKKAVUOKRAUS VEIKKO VANHANEN

Karsikonniementie 2 b,
Kitee

+358 (0)5 0560 2565

www.veikkovanhanen.com
Snowmobile, ATV, waterjet and
motorboat rentals.

RUOKKEEN LOMAKYLÄ HOLIDAY VILLAGE

Ruokkeentie 58, Kesälahti
+358 (0)1 337 1312

www.ruokkeenlomakyla.fi
Motorboat and snowmobile
rentals.

WINTER SPORTS EQUIPMENT

KARELIA COTTAGES

Suursaarentie 95, Rääkkylä
+358 (0)44 271 6095

www.kareliacottages.fi
Snowshoe, Nordic walking pole
and kicksled rentals.

KELKKAVUOKRAUS VEIKKO VANHANEN

Karsikonniementie 2 b,
Kitee

+358 (0)5 0560 2565

www.veikkovanhanen.com
Cross-country skiing, snow-
shoeing, skishoeing and ice
hole fishing equipment rentals.

LAKELAND KARELIA

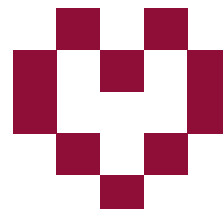
Ollilantie 4 a, Kesälahti
+358 (0)4 0041 8933

www.lakelandkarelia.fi
Kicksark (modern kicksled),
snowshoe and mountain bike
rentals.

RUOKKEEN LOMAKYLÄ HOLIDAY VILLAGE

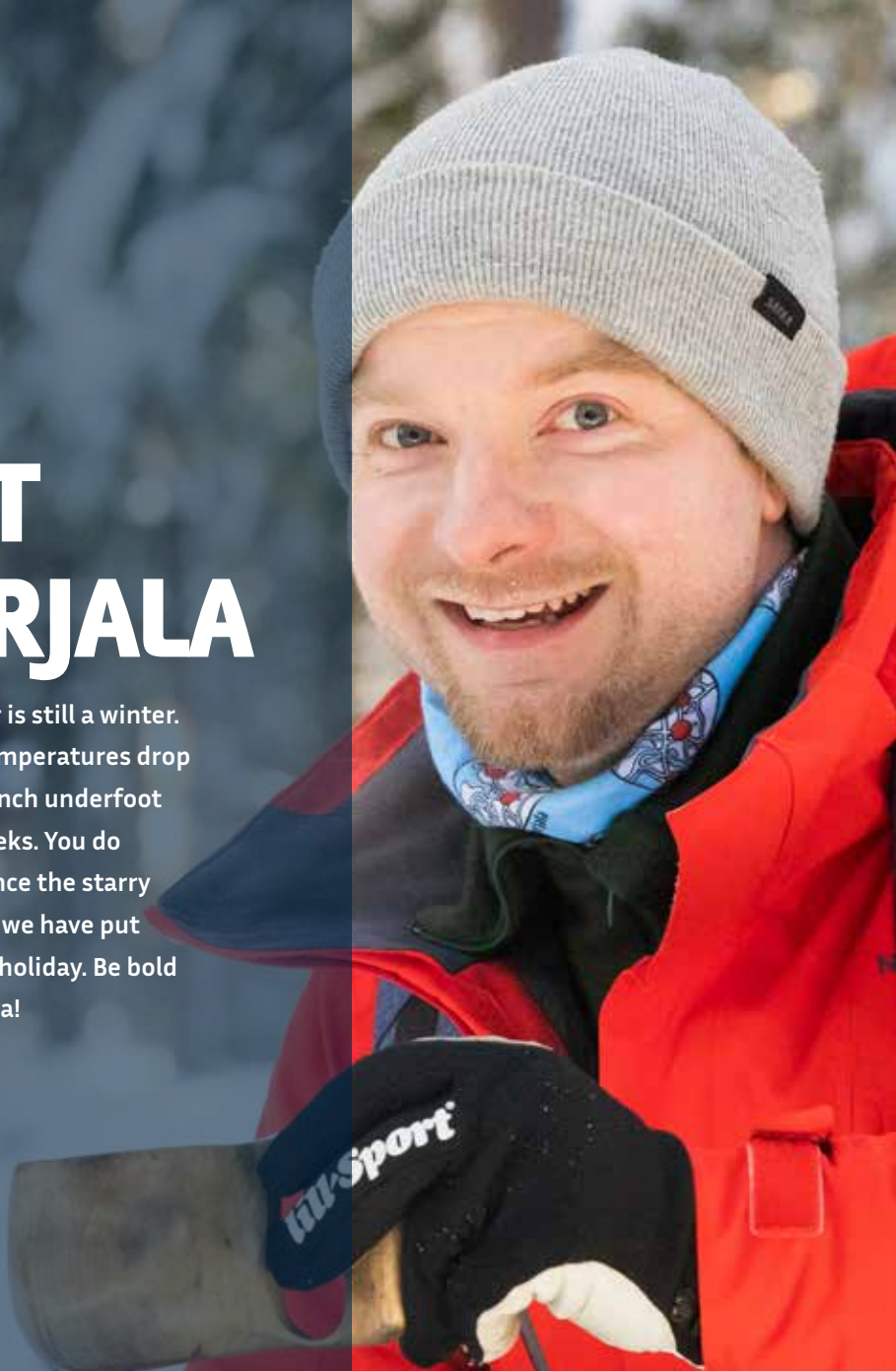
Ruokkeentie 58, Kesälahti
+358 (0)1 337 1312

www.ruokkeenlomakyla.fi
Snowshoe, tour skate and ice
hole fishing equipment rentals.



WINTER AT SYDÄNKARJALA

In Sydänkarjala, we dare say that winter is still a winter. Our winters are still full of snow, and temperatures drop below zero in January, making snow crunch underfoot and bringing a healthy flush on the cheeks. You do not always have to travel far to experience the starry sky, snowy trees or perfect peace. Here, we have put together a few tips for a perfect winter holiday. Be bold and head towards winter at Sydänkarjala!





WINTER BIKING IN KITEE

The five-kilometre long Talvi Trail in Kitee is a two-way, maintained winter cycling route with a medium challenge level, which is also suited to beginners. The trail is suited to fatbiking, trail running and hiking through beautiful winter forest scenery. The trail goes through rolling hills of birch and spruce forests, offering interesting terrain and a good amount of hills to climb. The starting point is on the health centre's parking area. The trail's winter maintenance status can be checked via www.latukone.mapline.fi/kitee

TOUR SKATING

One of the most enchanting nature experiences of early winter comes when you pull on your skates and go tour skating on the crystal clear, frozen lakes. The region's extensive waterways provide excellent opportunities for tour skating, attracting visitors from both near and far. Safety should always be kept in mind when tour skating, however, and no one should go on these lake adventures alone. In the heart of winter, you can skate several safe kilometres along the maintained tour skating tracks in Ruoke, Kesälahti, or Haapasalmi, Rääkkylä.

SNOW MOBILE RIDING

Sydänkarjala is well-known among snowmobile riders for its versatile and well-maintained tracks. There is even a saying that states that the best maintained trails can be found in 'Kittee and Kittilä'. In recent years, the track bases have been levelled with an excavator and cleared out, and new bridges and signposts have been built. In addition to these summer

renovations, the snowmobile tracks are also maintained actively during the winter season. There are cabins and rooms available for accommodation along the tracks, as well as places to eat. These safe kilometres are worth a visit even from farther away. You can purchase a permit to use the snowmobile tracks from Keski-Karjalan Moottorie-
lkkailijat ry.

WINTER SWIMMING

Winter swimming is not only healthy, it is also part of Karelian sauna culture. Is there anything better than relaxing in a sauna after an active, successful day and then leaving the last dregs of your worries in a hole in the ice? Many tourists have tried winter swimming for the first time when staying with us, inspired by the locals' example. A gentle encouragement for any German, for example, is to say how the French visitors dared to take a dip just last week. Sydänkarjala has many places for winter swimming, both at rental cabins and during public sauna and

swimming hours held by various clubs and associations, such as Kesälahden talviuimarit at Lastu Sauna in Puhos, the congregation's camp centre in Hellaniemi, Kyläpari society at Heinäjärvi, Rääkkylän Kisa-Veikot in Paksuniemi and Tikkala village society at Veljesmaja.





SYDÄNKARJALA

AT EASE.

Kitee | Rääkkylä | Tohmajärvi

www.sydankarjala.fi

#sydankarjala #kaikessarauhassa #atease

@sydankarjala