



Ontrei Malinen's Kantele Tour Route

Crossing with the Road of Poem and Border, the Ontrei Malinen's Kantele Tour Route is now part of the same administrative entity as Via Karelia. The route has been planned to serve independent tourists. It provides a glimpse of culture and lifestyle on the other side of the border, closely linked with Finnish society in many ways.

The route takes you from Kajaani to Sotkamo, crosses the border at Vartiuss and continues to Kostamus, visiting many central places where the poems of Kalevala were gathered by Lönnrot and other collectors of folklore.

Ontrei Malinen's Kantele Road has a website at www.ontrei.fi. The site has information on the services along the route for independent travellers.

Ontrei Malinen, after whom the route is named, was one of the greatest masters of folklore. He also played the kantele. In the 1870's, musicologist A.A.Borenius bought a kantele made by Ontrei Malinen to Finnish National Museum. Lönnrot writes in his travel accounts, how he listened to Malinen playing kantele.

