



The Karelian Church Road



The Karelian Church Road is a route for tourists and pilgrims, introducing the Orthodox faith, starting from Heinävesi at pretty Karvio canal near the Lintula convent and the Valamo monastery, and ending in Värtsilä, by the Russian border. The second branch of the Church Road takes you to the easternmost village in Finland, Hattuvaara in Ilomantsi. Hopefully, the route will some day end at the old Valamo, on Lake Ladoga.

The wooden churches and tsasounyas on the route are built in 18th and 19th centuries in so called carpenter style. They are unique in their style, which is not met as such anywhere else in the world.

Another unique feature is the Karelian prazdnik, a noteworthy ecclesiastic tradition. Each holy house is dedicated to the memory of a saint or a holy feast. Prazdnik is held in each temple every year.

The wilderness cemeteries in North Karelia are not seen anywhere else in Finland. They are uniquely preserved in their natural state.



Lintula Holy Trinity Convent

- The Holy Trinity Church

New Valamo Monastery

- The Church of Transfiguration of Christ (main church)
- The Church of Saints Serge and Herman of Valamo (winter church)
- The Church of All Saints of Valamo (old church)
- The Chapel of St Herman of Alaska
- The Chapel of St John the Baptist and Forerunner
- The Lakeside Chapel of Saint Nicholas

Polvijärvi

- The St John the Baptist Church
- The Chapel of Prophet Saint Elijah (Sotkuma)

Viinijärvi

- The Church in honour of Tikhvin Mother of God icon

Joensuu

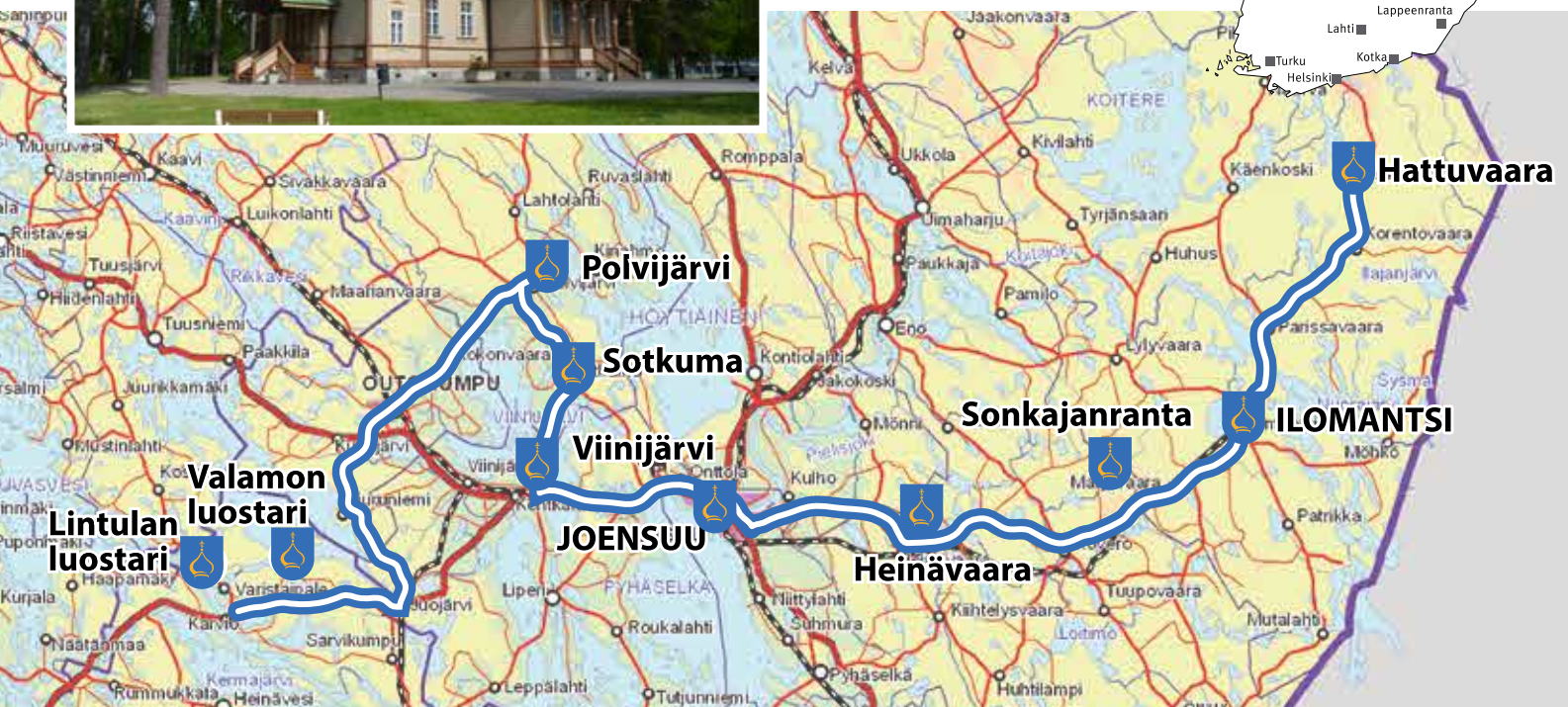
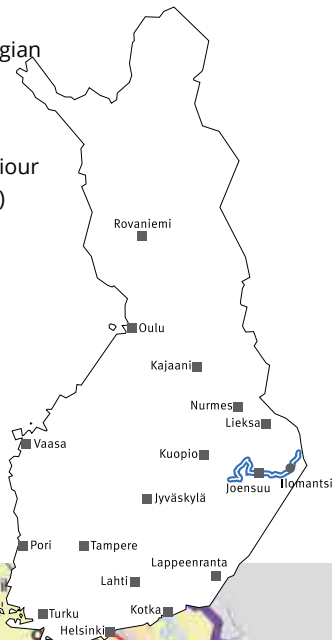
- The Church of St Nicholas
- The Church of St John the Theologian and Illuminators of Karelia
- The Chapel of Holy Cross (cemetery)
- The Chapel of the Icon of the Saviour Not-Made-by-Hands (Heinävaara)
- The Sonkajanranta Church of Saint Hannah

Ilomantsi

- The Church of Saint Elijah
- The Chapel of All Saints (Parppeinvaara)

Hattuvaara

- The Chapel of Saints Peter and Paul





The Karelian Church Road



Lintula Holy Trinity Convent

Honkasalontie 3, FI-79830 Palokki
Tel. +358 20 610 0500

The Holy Trinity Church

The welcoming church was built in 1973. Under its roof, the church houses a Jerusalem Mother of God icon, salvaged from the old Lintula, and a large Mother of God of the Sign icon by Petros Sasaki.

New Valamo Monastery

Valamontie 42, FI-79850 Uusi-Valamo
Tel. +358 17 570 111, www.valamo.fi

The Church of Transfiguration of Christ (main church)

The main church of the Valamo Monastery was inaugurated in 1977, when Valamo celebrated its 800th anniversary. The stone church is a typical example of traditional northern Russian church architecture. Most of the icons and also other artefacts in the main church are from the 18th and the 19th centuries and are originally from the old location of the monastery on Valamo (Valaam) island in Lake Ladoga.

The Church of Saints Serge and Herman of Valamo (winter church)

Attached to the Main Church, there is another church dedicated to the founders of the monastery, so called winter church. Services are conducted in the church only during quiet winter months. Nearly all its icons have been painted specifically for this small church.

The Church of All Saints of Valamo (old church)

The oldest church in the monastery was made of two sheds put together in 1940, to make up a temporary church for the brotherhood, evacuated from the Lake Ladoga. The church is a reminder of Christians not having a permanent lodging on Earth and how they always are strangers in the world.



The Chapel of Saint Herman of Alaska

The chapel, "tsasovnja", stands on the monastery graveyard. It was finished in 1981 to serve as a space for burial and memorial services. In summertime, the chapel is a popular place for quiet retreat.

The Lakeside Chapel of Saint Nicholas

The chapel was built in 1986 to resemble another chapel on the Mantsinsaari island. The chapel is next to the monastery quay. Those travelling on the lake can ask for protection from Saint Nicholas, the patron saint of travellers, and light up a candle in the chapel.

The Chapel of Saint John the Baptist and Forerunner

In June 2006, this chapel was inaugurated at the Valamo monastery near the grave of Schema-Igumen John of Valamo and dedicated to the memory of the birth of Saint John the Baptist and Forerunner. The chapel simultaneously also commemorates the memory of Schema-Igumen John.

The Church of Saint John the Baptist

Built in 1914, the church is located in Polvijärvi. The funds for building the church were received from Czar Nicholas II, Grand Duke of Finland. The church bells and many sacral items were also donated by the Czar and manufactured in St. Petersburg. Haavikontie 31, 83700 Polvijärvi

The Chapel of Prophet Saint Elijah

The chapel is in the Sotkuma village, Polvijärvi municipality. The chapel was finished in 1914, but wasn't inaugurated until in 1916. The rectangular log building is modest in its architecture. Malanintie 4, Polvijärvi

The Church in honour of Tikhvin Mother of God icon

Finished in 1906, the main church of Taipale orthodox parish is in Viinijärvi. The earlier church on the site, built in the 18th century, was the first church to start conducting church services regularly in Finnish language in 1858.

Viinijärventie 8, FI-83400 Viinijärvi,
Tel. +358 13 641 161

The Church of Saint Nicholas

Finished in 1887, the church is the fifth oldest building in Joensuu. The temple is considered as a prime example of 19th century timber architecture. It is one of the most valuable orthodox churches in Finland.

Kirkkokatu 32, FI-80100 Joensuu,
Tel. +358 40 039 7900

The Chapel of the Holy Cross

At the Orthodox cemetery of Joensuu. Nurmeksentie 1, FI-80100 Joensuu

The Church of Saint John the Theologian and the Illuminators of Karelia

A unique church in terms of iconography and atmosphere situated in conjunction with the Orthodox seminary and culture centre at the Joensuu city centre. The church has been modelled after a church of coppersmiths in Thessaloniki. The frescos in the church were designed and painted by icon painter Konstantinos Ksenopoulos and his students. The church was completed in 1995. A unique two-sided mosaic icon artwork is on display on the yard.

Torikatu 41, FI-80100 Joensuu

The Chapel of the Icon of the Saviour Not-Made-by-Hands

This small chapel among the birches in Koljola was inaugurated in 2001. The chapel was built by hand by Petri Piipponen from Heinävaara.

Heinävaarantie 140, FI-82110 Heinävaara

The Church of Saint Hannah in Sonkajaranta

The jewel-like Church of Saint Hannah is in Sonkajaranta, Tuupovaara. The small church was built in 1915. The atmosphere in the Church of Saint Hannah is unique. Karelian red and black are present in the interior, and the entire building has a graceful look. Kirkkotuvantie 3, FI-82815 Marjoavaara

The Church of Saint Elijah

The Church of Saint Elijah in Ilomantsi was finished in 1891. The current village has had an orthodox temple as early as in the late 15th century. Beautiful both inside and outside, the building is the largest wooden orthodox church in Finland.

Kirkkotie 15, FI-82900 Ilomantsi

The Chapel of All Saints

This small chapel was built on Parppeinvaara in 1980 for the filming of a movie about oral poet Larin Paraske. The building was modelled after the Tolvajärvi Chapel, which was situated in the parish of Korpiselkä, a part of Karelia that had to be surrendered after World War II.

Parppeintie 4 C, FI-82900 Ilomantsi

The Chapel of Saints Peter and Paul

The chapel in Hattuvaara, Ilomantsi, is the only Karelian tsasovnja in the Finnish side of the border. The chapel was built in the turn of the 19th century. The log chapel was renovated in 1980. At the time, it was refurbished as suitable for year-round use. Hattujärventie, 82967 Ilomantsi