



# Lake Pielinen Tour

The route takes you around lake Pielinen.

Main sights include small villages and towns on the forested hills of Karelia, and magnificent sights, including one of our national landscapes, Koli.

The round-trip of lake Pielinen from Joensuu is roughly 300km.

The route is not an official tourism route.

## SIGHTS ALONG THE LAKE PIELINEN TOUR:

### Koli National Park 1

The scenery over lake Pielinen from the top of Koli is one of the most Finnish sights you can imagine. The area is also introduced on this site among the cultural landscapes, because Koli has been selected as one of the national landscapes of Finland. The view from the steep hills has been eternalized by famous artists, and other sceneries inherent to Koli are traditional landscapes and slash-and-burn heritage meadows. The Park has a vast network of hiking and skiing trails.

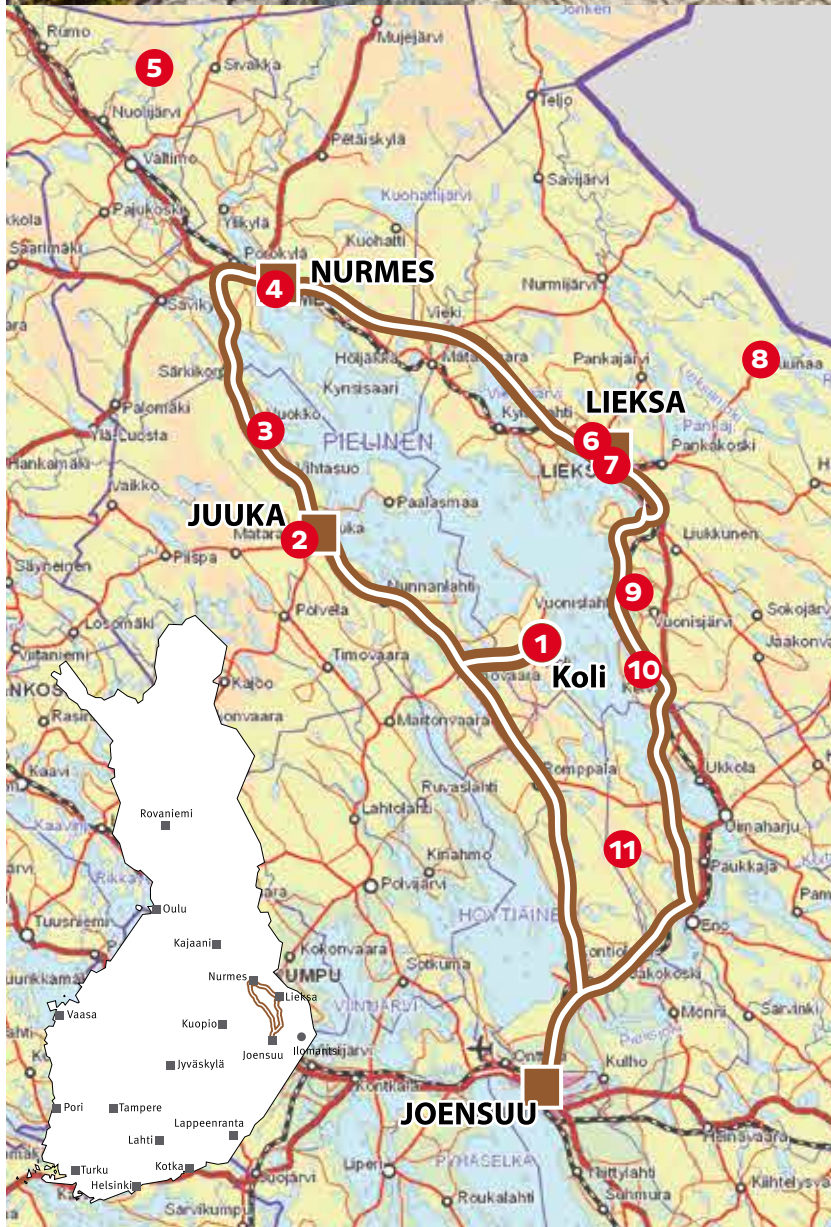
The Koli hills are remnants of an ancient mountain chain of Karelians. The Karelians formed some 2000 million years ago, when continental plates collided and pushed against each other and resulted in a mountain chain equivalent to the Himalayas. The mountains have since eroded into the current hills. The hard core of the ancient mountains, the current Koli hills, are made of quartzite, which has endured Ice Ages and other cataclysms.

The highest peak of Ukko-Koli is 347 metres above the sea level and 253 metres above the level of lake Pielinen. These figures are record breaking in the entire southern Finland. Koli has many peaks with vast, open clifftops that drop down as steep descents. These formations accentuate the magnificent scenery down to the lake.

The Koli National Park has a vast network of round trip trails and numerous options for route combinations.

### Puu-Juuka 2

Puu-Juuka (Wooden Juuka) is the old centre of Juuka's parish village. The oldest buildings in the area are from the turn of the 20th century and they remain in use as housing, business premises and public buildings. Puu-Juuka contains many protected buildings and it is a site of cultural historical significance. It is also a rare surviving example of how Finnish parish villages were traditionally built. One of the highlights of Puu-Juuka are the houses of Vikilä and nowadays all the buildings in the courtyard area are protected.





# Lake Pielinen Tour

## The Monastery Area of Pyötikkö 3

The monastery of Pyötikkö stood on the western shore of Lake Pielinen in Juuka's Vuokonkylä. The monastery of Orthodox Old Believers was in operation from 1847 to 1890. The inhabitants were hermit monks who had crossed the border into Finland from Vienna and Aunus to escape religious persecution.

A cemetery bordered by a stone fence is all that remains of the monastery today. The Orthodox parish of Nurmes build a chapel on the site in 1977. The cemetery contains three restored timber frames with mansard roofs.

## Bomba 4

The main attraction of the Karelian village in Nurmes is the Bomba house, which is a copy of a house built by Jegor Bombin in 1855 in Suojärvi. Suojärvi was part of the Karelian areas that Finland lost to Soviet Union in 1944 as a result of continuation war between the two countries, and Karelians were evacuated from the areas. The current Bomba house in Nurmes was built in 1978. A full Karelian village was built around the replica to supplement the atmosphere and the experience of the area. Traditional Karelian building expertise were honored in making the replica of the Bomba house; it was built from long, round logs and no iron parts were used while making the flamboyant house.



## The House Museum of Murtovaara 5

The House Museum of Murtovaara is an attraction in Valtimo's Halmejärvi. Murtovaara is the only museum in Finland focused on inhabitation on tree-covered hills. The site is located in the wilderness far away from main roads and 22 kilometres away from the Valtimo parish village. The yard of the museum is not accessible by car: the rest of the way must be walked on an old cartway. The house museum is a nationally valuable culture historical destination. The museum

consists of 16 log houses built in different centuries. The oldest house marked with a year, "Ikäpirtti" ("Old Cottage"), dates back to the 18th century. The museum presents a clear picture of the development of the peasant house from the 18th century to modern day. Here the different developmental stages of the farmhouse living-room and oven can be clearly seen in one place.

## The Church of Lieksa 6

The Church of Lieksa was designed by Reima and Raili Pietilä. It is the main church of the Lieksa parish and it is situated in the centre of town. The church was completed in 1982 after the previous wooden church designed by C. L. Engel was destroyed in a fire in 1979. The old church's bell tower survived the fire.

The floor plan and granite footing of the new church refer to Engel's church while the large skylight in the shape of a Saint Andrew's cross refers to the local cultural tradition where Lutheran and Orthodox faiths were present side by side.

The church also serves as a venue for the Lieksa Brass Week held every summer.

## Pielisen museo 7

The museum is located by the Lieksanjoki river, near the town centre of Lieksa. It is second biggest outdoor museum in Finland with around 70 buildings.

The permanent exhibition focuses on the living and building conditions. Photographic and documentary archives. The open-air museum area comprises three farmyards from the 18th to 20th centuries, forestry department with lumber cabins, a mill, farming and fire sections.

## Ruunaa Hiking Area 8

Ruunaa is best known for its rapids. The rapids on the Lieksanjoki river take you from Matkalahti to Ruunaa Nature Centre in Naarajoki over some 30 km. White-water rafting is commercially available on a rubber raft or a wooden boat. Tens of thousands of people visit the area every year.

If you feel adventurous, you can canoe your way down the rapids on your own. On this site's section on canoeing routes, you can find an introduction to the routes on the Lieksanjoki river.

The famous Ruunaankoski rapids can be explored also on foot – the area has 50 km of well marked trails and wooden paths. Lean-tos and campfire sites are readily available by the trails.

## Paateri – The Atelier of Artist Eva Rynnänen 9

Paateri is the atelier and home of artist and sculptor Eva Rynnänen (1915-2001) situated in the village of Vuonisjärvi. It is located about 27 km from the town centre of Lieksa. Paateri was Rynnänen's home even before her career as a sculptor. There she farmed and raised cattle with her husband Paavo Rynnänen.

The museum, located in beautiful surroundings on a lake shore, consists of Rynnänen's unique and personal house, completed in 1953, as well as her roomy atelier, a round gallery cafe and a church made of sturdy timbers. All of the buildings were designed by Eva and inside them one can marvel at her handiwork: sculptures, reliefs and other unique works.

## The Museum Road of Vorna 10

The museum road of Vorna is a significant constructed cultural environment on the border of Lieksa and Joensuu. The road was commissioned by Russians during the Russo-Swedish War of 1741–1743. A battle was also fought along the road on 8.10.1808 during the Finnish War. There is a memorial for the Battle of Vorna on the site.

The road of Vorna runs on top of a ridge surrounded by woods and beautiful waterways. It is 2.7 kilometres long and paved with gravel. The road structure is very well preserved and the road alignment that winds along the ridge has remained mainly intact throughout the centuries. The beginning of the road is especially breathtaking: the ridge landscape with its ponds forms an impressive milieu.

## Kolvananuuro Nature Reserve 11

Kolvananuuro is a magnificent gorge, millions of years old, between main road 6 from Joensuu to Kajaani and road 73 from Joensuu to Lieksa. The site is dramatically different from the surrounding terrain. A demanding hiking trail runs through craggy terrain – but the views are worth seeing. The trees are old, there's a lovely grove with ferns, and the ripple of a stream provides a pleasing soundtrack.

The Nature Reserve is 3km long, and more than 3km wide at its widest. The area has a marked Nature Trail and a campfire site. The trail is a demanding one, and passing it will take several hours, for the terrain is very difficult – yet rewarding. The UKK Hiking Trail travels through on its way from Joensuu to Koli.