



# Road of Poem and Border

The Road of Poem and Border is the oldest official tourism route in Finland. The Road runs from the Gulf of Finland to Salla, following the eastern border for 1,080km.

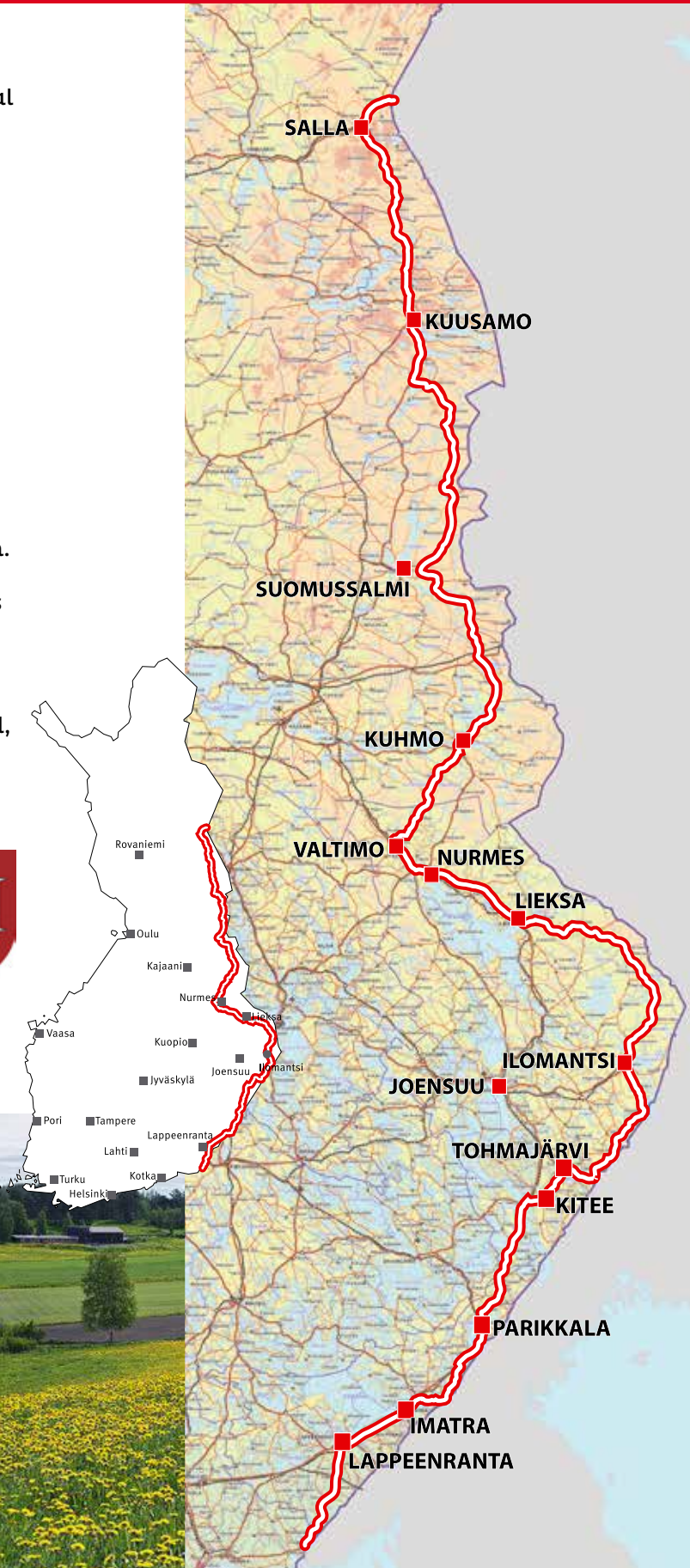
In the south, the Road of Poem and Border is characterised by several lakes, "the Lakeland" comprising lakes Saimaa, Pihlajavesi and Puruvesi. Lake Ladoga has an impact on the climate as far as Parikkala.

In North Karelia, the topography gets more diversified, best examples of which can be seen in the peaks of Koli, part of the oldest bedrock formation in Finland, and the great Lake Pielinen.

In Kainuu, the Road travels through large forests and wilderness.

Up north, the fences marking the reindeer management area are a sign of entering Lapland, its fells and wilderness.

In 2002, the Road was nominated as an official tourism route by the Road Administration, and it was marked with international tourism route signs in 2003–2004.





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## Lappeenranta

Lappeenranta has been growing at the intersection of eastern and western cultures for centuries. Lappeenranta was granted the rights of a city in 1649. The best example of both Swedish and Russian influences may probably be found in the oldest part of the city: the Fortress.

A train ride from Vainikkala railway station to St. Petersburg only takes an hour and a half. The Nuijamaa border crossing point is situated some 30 kilometres from Lappeenranta.

Each summer, the largest sandcastle in Finland is built near the Fortress at the tip of Cape Linnoitusniemi.

### Tourist Information of Lappeenranta

Shopping centre IsoKristiina, Brahenkatu 5  
Tel. +358 5 667 788, [lappeenranta@gosaimaa.com](mailto:lappeenranta@gosaimaa.com)  
[www.visitlappeenranta.fi](http://www.visitlappeenranta.fi), [www.gosaimaa.com](http://www.gosaimaa.com)

## Imatra

In the summertime, one may marvel at the foams of Finland's oldest tourist attraction, the Imatrankoski Rapids, in special rapids shows. There is also a grand castle hotel that stands by the rapids. The Imatrankoski Rapids, surrounded by Finland's first national park, are even mentioned in the Kalevala. Furthermore, there are two spas in Imatra.

### Tourist Information of Imatra Region

Tel. +358 20 617 7777, [imatra@gosaimaa.com](mailto:imatra@gosaimaa.com)  
[www.gosaimaa.com](http://www.gosaimaa.com), [www.vuodenparasloja.fi](http://www.vuodenparasloja.fi)

## Parikkala

The internationally renowned collection of outsider art in the Parikkala Sculpture Park is an interesting destination along Main Road 6. Siikalahti is Finland's most precious bird lake and it is an interesting hiking destination for bird watchers, nature photographers and families alike. In addition to watching birds, Parikkala also offers village scenery, churches and museums.

[www.visitparikkala.fi](http://www.visitparikkala.fi)

## Kitee

The area has had permanent inhabitants as early as in the 15th century. There are many marked nature trails, where you can get a good idea of the local nature: groves, ridges, lakes, and mires.

Kitee can also offer large waterways with lodging services, beach life, boating and fishing.

### Tourist Information of Kitee during summer:

Kitee Tourist Information – A Nightwish Story  
Kiteentie 13, 82500 Kitee, Tel. +358 40 105 1020

Sovintola, Pyhäjärventie 8, Kesälahti,  
Tel. +358 40 105 2008

Other times [matkailuneuvajat@kitee.fi](mailto:matkailuneuvajat@kitee.fi)

## Tohmajärvi

The municipality is characterised by forested hills and large mires. The grove zone of Lake Ladoga is very lush and impressive.

The main cultural attraction is the region's oldest wooden church in Kirkkonieni, dating back to 1756. The location has been called the most beautiful spot for a church

in Finland. Via the international border crossing at Niirala you can get quickly over the border into wonderful Russian Karelian scenery. Please note that EU citizens require a visa to travel to Russia.

*Itähuolinta, Ysitiien Portti, Kauppatie 4 A, Niirala*  
Tel. +358 500 164 351, [asiakaspalvelu@itahuolinta.fi](mailto:asiakaspalvelu@itahuolinta.fi)

*Municipal office, Järnefeltintie 1, Tohmajärvi*  
Tel. +358 40 105 4015, +358 40 105 4028  
[kunnanvirasto@tohmajarvi.fi](mailto:kunnanvirasto@tohmajarvi.fi)

## Joensuu

Joensuu is the provincial capital of North Karelia, situated on the northern shore of Lake Pyhäselkä at the mouth of Pielisjoki River, and it is the second largest city in Eastern Finland by population. The city's atmosphere is created by the Pielisjoki River that runs through the city centre and the diverse service offering found there – not to forget the market square and the hustle and bustle of Karelian life. There are seven bridges that cross the river within city limits. The cityscape is commanded by the city hall designed by Eliel Saarinen and completed in 1914.

*City of Joensuu, Rantakatu 20, 80100 Joensuu*  
Tel. +358 13 267 7111, [kirjaamo@joensuu.fi](mailto:kirjaamo@joensuu.fi)  
[www.joensuu.fi](http://www.joensuu.fi)

## Ilomantsi

Ilomantsi is known for its happy people, as well as its location as the easternmost continental municipality in Finland and in the EU. Ilomantsi has many sites of military history, and our national epic Kalevala comes alive here. The Orthodox faith is very prominent in Ilomantsi. The region is known for wilderness, apex predators and Karelian culture.

Hospitality, folklore, kantele music and traditional dishes are important parts of the rich Karelian heritage. Ilomantsi has the largest wooden Orthodox church in Finland. Many memorials mark the battle sites of the Second World War.

*Tourist Information of Ilomantsi during summer:*  
Parppeinvaara Bardic Village, Tel. +358 50 337 7379

*Tourist Information year round:*  
[visitilomantsi.fi](mailto:visitilomantsi.fi), Tel. +358 50 337 7379

## Lieksa

Lieksa is located between Lake Pielinen and the Russian frontier. The main attractions are Koli and Ruunaa rapids. The peaks of Koli are remnants of a mountain chain, millions of years old. The views from Koli are central imagery of Finnish national romanticism.

One can immerse themselves in history at the Pielinen Museum, the second largest outdoor museum in Finland, situated near the Lieksa city centre, as well as in the Monola Granary where composer Jean Sibelius and his wife Aino spent their honeymoon. Vuonisjärvi offers the atelier of sculptor Eva Rynnänen and the beautiful wooden Paateri Church.

*Tourist Information of Lieksa*  
Pielisentie 3, Lieksa, Tel. +358 40 1044 680  
[asiakaspalvelu@lieksa.fi](mailto:asiakaspalvelu@lieksa.fi), [www.lieksa.fi](http://www.lieksa.fi)

### Tourist Information of Koli

Ylä-Kolintie 2, Koli, Tel. +358 45 138 7429  
[info@koli.fi](mailto:info@koli.fi), [www.koli.fi](http://www.koli.fi)

## Nurmes

Nurmes is surrounded by vast, forested hills and the northern part of Lake Pielinen.

On the outskirts of the town, the Bomba house and Karelian village show the many sides of rich Karelian culture.

As of the beginning of 2020, Nurmes also contains Valtimo, the northernmost area of North Karelia.

### Tourist Information Bomba

Tel. +358 50 406 6122, [kati.lipponen@pikes.fi](mailto:kati.lipponen@pikes.fi)

## Kuhmo

Kuhmo has a famous annual chamber music festival. Kuhmo is the largest municipality in Europe by area, and bears and other apex predators are abundant in the coniferous forests, or taiga.

Kuhmo as many nature activities and a museum commemorating the Winter War.

### Tourist Information of Kuhmo

City Library, Pajakkakatu 2, 88900 KUHMO  
Tel. +358 44 725 5307  
[matkailu@kuhmo.fi](mailto:matkailu@kuhmo.fi), [www.kuhmo.fi](http://www.kuhmo.fi)

## Suomussalmi

As evidenced by hundreds of Stone Age living sites and rock paintings on Väräkallio, in the Hossa National Park, the region has been inhabited for thousands of years.

The only White Karelian (Viena) villages in Finland are in Suomussalmi: Kuivajärvi and Hietajärvi.

Suomussalmi is also famous for many battle sites of the Winter War, mainly the Raate Road.

### Tourist Information of Suomussalmi

Jalonkaarre 5, 89600 Suomussalmi  
Tel. +358 44 777 3250  
[visit@suomussalmi.fi](mailto:visit@suomussalmi.fi), [www.visitsuomussalmi.fi](http://www.visitsuomussalmi.fi)

## Kuusamo

Kuusamo is a paradise for a nature lover. Oulanka National Park is located in the northern part of the municipality. The Park has rugged ravines, rapids and hills. There's a vast network of routes for hiking, canoeing and motor sledging.

### Kuusamo Info

Tel. +358 40 860 8365, [info@kuusamo.fi](mailto:info@kuusamo.fi)

Tourism Centre Karhuntassu  
Torangintaival 2, 93600 Kuusamo

## Salla

The municipality is located in East Lapland, almost entirely above the Arctic Circle. The local winter sports centre is on the Sallatunturi fell. You can find wilderness in the northern part of the municipality, in Tuntsa. Salla has an international border crossing point.

### Tourist Information of Salla

Myllytie 1, 98900 Salla  
Tel. +358 400 269 838, [tourist.info@salla.fi](mailto:tourist.info@salla.fi)