

SAIMAA ARCHIPELAGO ROUTE

The Saimaa Archipelago Route in the southern part of Lake Saimaa offers a spectacular scenic route for cyclists and the opportunity to explore unique cultural sites. On the 160 km route along the shores of Lake Saimaa and the pine forests of Salpausselkä, you will see the sights of Lappeenranta and Imatra, as well as three charming villages: Taipalsaari, Ruokolahti and Joutseno. Combine the route with the Savitaipale tour to enjoy the idyllic countryside and the Kärnäkoski fortress. There are also several Saimaa UNESCO Global Geopark sites to visit along the Saimaa Archipelago Route.

You can take the route in either direction and add stops as necessary.

[saimaacycling.fi](#)

SAIMAA UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK

The Saimaa Geopark area contains 65 geosites that tell the story of the ancient times of Saimaa. A geopark is a defined geographical area that contains geological sites of scientific or scenic significance. In addition to geology, the Lake Saimaa Geopark features 52 nature and cultural sites. Along the cycling route, you can discover these sites and take advantage of the services provided by Saimaa Geopark Partner companies.



[saimaageopark.fi](#)

BICYCLE RENTAL AND MAINTENANCE

Drakkarsport
[drakkarsport.com/english](#)

Bike repair Imatra
[pyoravarikko.fi](#)

Saimaan Palju Events
[saimaanpalju.fi/en](#)

Taiga Activities
[taigaactivities.fi/en](#)

Tuplakasi-Action
[tuplakasi-action.fi/en/frontpage-en](#)

Vuoksi Fishing Park
[vuoksenkalastuspuisto.fi](#)



PLANNING YOUR TRIP

The cycling routes on Lake Saimaa are mainly on paved roads, in gently undulating terrain. There are also gravel roads along the way that are suitable for normal bicycles. For longer routes, it is advisable to set aside several days to enjoy the stunning scenery of the southern Saimaa and the local services. Familiarise yourself with the accommodation options, restaurants and ferry connections ahead of time so you can plan and schedule your itinerary.

Read about the services available in the area before your trip at [gosaimaa.com](#)

Tickets and timetables for the cycle ferry Rasti along the Saimaa Archipelago Route:
[rastilautta.johku.com](#)



EQUIPMENT AND SAFETY

The cycling routes on Lake Saimaa are partly on busy roads. For your safety, please remember to wear appropriate cycling equipment, such as a bicycle helmet and clearly visible clothing. It is also a good idea to always carry a first-aid kit with you. Be sure to bring a drink for the ride and an energy-boosting snack. Please note that there are no grocery shops between Taipalsaari and Utula. Drinks and snacks are sold on the cycle ferry **m/s Rasti**.

The cycle ferry Rasti operates between Taipalsaari Sarviniemi–Kyläniemen Kalasatama and Sarviniemi–Puumalan Lintusalo.



FERRIES

The routes are served by cycle ferries and car ferries that take you across waterways. The car ferries are free of charge for tourists and run around the clock. Cycle ferries run according to their indicated timetable and are subject to a charge. Tickets for cycle ferries must be purchased in advance at [saimaacycling.fi](#)



M/S RASTI TIMETABLES SUMMER 2025

Sarviniemi – Kyläniemi – Sarviniemi

Departures	SARVINIEMI PIER	KYLÄNIEMI PIER
31 May – 15 June	10:00 Sat 14:00 Sun 15:45 Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	11:00 Sat 15:00 Sun 16:30 Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
16 June–10 August*	10:00 Wed, Fri, Sat 12:00 Thu 14:00 Sun 15:45 Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	11:00 Wed, Fri, Sat 13:00 Thu 15:00 Sun 16:30 Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
11–23 August	10:00 Sat 14:00 Sun 15:45 Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	11:00 Sat 15:00 Sun 16:30 Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

*Sat 21 June: Sunday timetable applies. The journey takes 30 minutes in each direction. Tickets: Adults €19 (incl. bicycle), children 5–15y (incl. bicycle) €9. An additional fee of €9 is charged for bicycle trailers.

CITIES AND VILLAGES RICH IN HISTORY

Lappeenranta

Lappeenranta is an international university and tourist city whose development is guided by environmentally friendly values and actions. The harbour and the historic fortress, located close to the city centre, are at the heart of a city known for its hospitality by the local residents and tourists alike.

Imatra

Imatra is a Finnish national treasure and for good reason – it is home to Finland's oldest tourist attraction, the Imatrankoski rapids, and its adjacent Art Nouveau castle, as well as numerous sporting and cultural events and the Vuoksi, which brings power and pulse to the city from the flowing water. In addition, the modern sports tourism area of Ukonniemi in the immediate vicinity of Lake Saimaa also provides an excellent base for cycling enthusiasts.

Taipalsaari

Taipalsaari is known for its natural beauty and abundance of water bodies. Half of Taipalsaari's area is covered by Lake Saimaa, and the other half consists of around 700 islands. Taipalsaari offers a wide range of things to do in all seasons for tourists and seasonal residents alike.

Savitaipale

The village of Savitaipale is located on the shores of the clear-water Lake Kuolimojärvi and on top of the inner Salpausselkä. The northern edge of the ridge rises up to 40 metres in places and the landscape is uniquely varied. Savitaipale has great nature trails and destinations for outdoor activities and hiking.

Sarviniemi – Lintusalo – Sarviniemi

Departures	SARVINIEMI PIER	LINTUSALO PIER/PUUMALA
31 May – 15 June	12:00 Sat	14:00 Sat
16 June–10 August*	12:00 Wed, Fri, Sat	14:00 Wed, Fri, Sat
11–23 August	12:00 Sat	14:00 Sat

*No journey to Lintusalo on Sat 21 June. The journey takes approximately 1 hour 50 minutes in each direction. Tickets: Adults (incl. bicycle) €28, children 5–15y (incl. bicycle) €13

Sarviniemi – Ruuhonsaari Island – Sarviniemi

Departures	SARVINIEMI PIER	RUUHONSAARI ISLAND
16 June – 10 August	12:00 Wed, Fri 13:45 Thu	12:30 Fri, Sat* 14:30 Thu

*Fri and Sat via Lintusalo
Tickets: Adult (incl. bicycle): 19 €, Child 5–15 v. (incl. bicycle) 9 €.

Ruokolahti

Ruokolahti is a town formerly known for its lion and nowadays also for its great cycling opportunities. The municipality is home to Finland's longest pump track, excellent cycling trails and Saimaa Bikepark. Ruokolahti's renowned Geopark sites include Kummakivi and Ruokolahti Church Hill.

NATURE AND RECREATION SITES ON THE SHORES OF LAKE SAIMAA



Sarviniemi on Taipalsaari

Sarviniemi has been a traditional holiday destination on the shores of Lake Saimaa. Today, it is a hub for cycling trails, with the Rasti ferry running from there to Kyläniemi and Lintusalo in Puumala. Sarviniemi has a cosy campfire shelter, toilet facilities and an unobstructed viewpoint at the tip of the peninsula.

Huuhanranta in Ruokolahti

Huuhanranta is listed as one of the most beautiful sandy beaches in Finland. With a length of 1.5 km, it is one of the largest around Lake Saimaa. The beach is known for its fine sand and shallow waters that allow you to wade as far as 100 metres from the beach. Barbecue shelters are available to cyclists coming for a short visit or camping at this site.

Rastinniemi in Taipalsaari's Kyläniemi

Located in Kyläniemi on the eastern bank of Rastinvirta, Rastinniemi is one of the finest hiking destinations around Lake Saimaa. Rastinniemi is about 4 km from Kyläniemi harbour. Of the total distance, 3 km is on a sandy road, but the ride to Rastinniemi is worth it. There are two campfire shelters for self-sufficient hikers, as well as plenty of shoreline on both sides of the peninsula.

ÄITSAARI SCENIC ROAD AND UTULAN LAUTTURI

Utulan lautturi is a ferry service that enables an alternative route on low-traffic roads on Äitsaari and Salosaari. Subject to advance booking, the ferry carries cyclists and pedestrians between Utula and Äitsaari. Avoid the traffic on the larger roads and enjoy authentic rural scenery. Please note that the route includes about 7 km of sandy roads. The Äitsaari scenic road is indicated by its own route marker.

Utulan lautturi operates daily between Utula and Äitsaari in the summer season. During the period 31 May – 24 August the ferry operates Tue–Sun between 10–18. Journeys on the ferry must be booked at least 12 hours in advance at [utulanlautturi.fi](#). On shorter notice, you can enquire about ferry tickets by calling 0500 120 101. Price: € 16 per person (incl. bicycle).

You can reach Saimaa on this route by cycle ferry, car ferry or boat

The cycle ferry **M/S Rasti** has capacity for 25 cyclists.

The **Norppa II ferry to Puumala** route has capacity for 20 cyclists.

Utulan lautturi can carry a maximum of 3 cyclists per journey.

The **Kyläniemi car ferry** carries cyclists in addition to cars – the cyclists board the ferry after the larger vehicles. Car ferry breaks: 9:00–9:20, 11:40–12:00, 17:00–17:20, 19:40–20:00



Ruha, or Ruuhonsaaret

Ruha is a popular harbour and nature oasis for boaters, which can also be reached on the Rasti ferry in mid-summer Wed–Thu. You'll find sandy beaches, a sauna, several campfire sites and a peaceful spot for a tent or hammock. Bring a packed lunch and a drink, as there is no shop or accommodation on the island, and you'll be on the island until the next day's return transfer.



PUUMALA ARCHIPELAGO ROUTE

A ferry connects the Saimaa Archipelago Route with the Puumala Archipelago Route. With a length of approximately 60 kilometres, this cycling route passes through islands, bridges and ridges. The cycle ferry Norppa II carries cyclists between Lintusalo and Hurissalo during the summer season. The Puumala Archipelago Route includes the magnificent Pistohiekka with its beach, the Lietvesi scenic road and the local food oasis Sahanlahti. Nestorinranta in Lintusalo is served by both of the cycle ferries. Puumala's vibrant village and harbour invite you to enjoy the relaxed atmosphere and local delicacies. From Puumala, you can continue on to the Bridges and Ferries route in Sulkava.

[visitpuumala.fi](#)



NORPPA II CYCLE FERRY TIMETABLES 2025

Departures	LINTUSALO PIER	HURISSALO PIER
17–24 May	12:00 Sat	13:00 Sat
31 May – 29 June	12:00 Mon–Sun	13:00 Mon–Sun
30 June – 13 July	12:00 Mon–Sun 14:10 Tue–Sat	13:00 Mon–Sun 15:10 Tue–Sat
14–27 July	12:00 Mon–Sun 14:10 Mon–Sun	13:00 Mon–Sun 15:10 Mon–Sun
28 July – 31 August	12:00 Mon–Sun	13:00 Mon–Sun
6–27 September	12:00 Sat	13:00 Sat

*Adults (incl. bicycle): €19, Children 5–15y. (incl. bicycle) €12 (children under 4 travel for free on an adult's lap.) Surcharge for motorcycles: €7

SAIMAA ARCHIPELAGO ROUTE

EASY ACCESS TO
LAKE SAIMAA FOR CYCLISTS
SUMMER 2025



GOSAIMAA
LAPPEENRANTA AND IMATRA REGION

Share your experiences on social media!

#saimaansaaristoreitti #saimaacycling
#msrasti #gosaimaa #purestfinland
#lakesaimaa #ekvas

Further information, timetables and ferry tickets

[saimaacycling.fi](#), route description and ferry tickets
[ekvas.fi](#), recreation areas
[gosaimaa.com](#), information about the region
[finnferries.fi](#), ferry timetables
[utulanlautturi.fi](#), boat transport, scenic road
[rastilautta.johku.com](#), m/s Rasti ferry tickets

Tourist information

• **Lappeenranta Tourist Information**
Brahenkatu 5, 53100 Lappeenranta
tel. +358 40 674 1626
[lappeenranta@gosaimaa.com](#)

• **Imatra Tourist Information**
tel. +358 20 617 7777
[info@imatrabasecamp.fi](#)

• **Ruokolahti Tourist Information**
Nällikuja 1, 56100 Ruokolahti
[kirjasto@ruokolahti.fi](#)
tel. +358 5 26911

• **Taipalsaari Tourist Information**
Savilahdentie 2, 54920 Taipalsaari

• **Savitaipale's tourist information point in the library**
Keskustie 2, 54800 Savitaipale
[kunta@savitaipale.fi](#)

See more information of the sites:



[saimaacycling.fi](#)

ACCOMMODATION ON THE ROUTE

- 1. Hotel Rakuuna
- 2. Scandic Patria
- 3. Original Sokos Hotel Lappee
- 4. Hotel Lähde
- 5. Camping Lappeenranta
- 6. Joutseno B&B
- 7. Gasthaus Patruuna
- 8. Hinkan Saunat
- 9. Holiday Club Saimaan Rauha
- 10. Saimaa Gardens holiday apartments
- 11. Hostel Ukonlinna
- 12. Imatra Spa Resort
- 13. Hotel Rento
- 14. Saimaa Life & Light
- 15. Scandic Imatran Valtionhotelli
- 16. Loft Family Hotel
- 17. Vuoksi Fishing Park
- 18. Neitsytniemen kartano
- 19. Hostel Immalanjärvi
- 20. Hotel Hirsiranta
- 21. STEP Education Ruokolahti
- 22. Matikkala Cottages
- 23. Kesärannan Lomamajat
- 24. Onnelan Lammastila
- 25. Onni Village
- 26. Saimaa Lakeside
- 27. Maatilamatkailu Hertta
- 28. Olkkolan Hovi
- 29. Karhurinteen Loma
- 30. Lomakeskus Saimaanranta
- 31. Hostel Mansikka
- 32. Lakehouse Saimaa B&B
- 33. Hotel Salpalinjan Hovi
- 34. Ojalan aittamajoitus
- 35. Ripatin aitta
- 36. Villa Lummelahti

More options: [saimaacycling.fi](#)

- Restaurants in the region
- Shops in the region

