

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 210 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 or rastilautta.johku.com



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.

CITIES AND VILLAGES RICH IN HISTORY

Lappeenranta

Lappeenranta is an international university and tourism city where environmentally friendly values are reflected in everyday life and mobility. From the saddle of a bicycle, the city unfolds through routes following the shores of Lake Saimaa, green park corridors, and calm streets that make cycling easy and scenically diverse. The route to the harbor and the historic fortress runs right through the city center, with lakeside views, historic buildings, museums, and cafés creating natural pauses along the way. Cycling makes it easy to combine cultural sites in the center with waterfront areas and longer loops into the surrounding natural landscapes, allowing Lappeenranta to be experienced as a journey, not just a destination.

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 Valtionhotelli, built in an Art Nouveau castle style,, 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 sports tourism area of Ukonrauha, located on the shores of Lake Saimaa, provides an excellent base for cycling enthusiasts as well.



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.

Haapasaari Island

Haapasaari is an easily accessible island on Lake Saimaa, just a one-kilometer boat trip from the harbor of Imatra. The island combines the spacious facilities of a former camp center with the peaceful silence of Saimaa's island nature, making it an attractive destination for both day trips and longer stays. This developing recreation island offers space for togetherness, enjoying nature, and finding your own rhythm by the water—at just the right distance from the city.



Taipalsaari

Taipalsaari is known for its natural beauty and abundant waterways. Half of Taipalsaari's surface area is covered by Lake Saimaa, while the other half consists of approximately 700 islands. Taipalsaari offers a wide range of activities throughout the year for both visitors and second-home owners.

By bicycle, Taipalsaari is experienced through peaceful roads and constantly changing scenery, where Lake Saimaa, forests, and open farmland alternate. Along the way, it is easy to stop at scenic viewpoints and local attractions. A well-known ice cream kiosk located along the routes offers many cyclists a pleasant place to take a break.

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.

Ruokolahti

Ruokolahti is a municipality once known for a lion that was seen there, and today also for its versatile cycling facilities. The area features Finland's longest pump track, excellent trail networks, and the Saimaa Bikepark. Some of Ruokolahti's most valued Geopark sites include Kummakivi and the church hill of Ruokolahti.

Along cycling routes, Huuhanranta beach serves as a natural stopping point, where a sandy shoreline, Lake Saimaa, and wide-open views offer a chance to rest, swim, or simply enjoy the surroundings before continuing the journey.

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. 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.

Ukonrauha area

Ukonrauha is an experience area located on the shores of Lake Saimaa between Lappeenranta and Imatra, where pristine lake nature and a wide range of services come together. For cyclists, the area unfolds through shoreline-following routes and varied landscapes that make riding feel effortless and invite exploration at a relaxed pace. The routes provide easy access to both peaceful nature destinations and more lively hubs, and at the end of the day the area offers accommodation options, spa facilities for relaxation, and diverse dining experiences.



ÄITSAARI SCENIC ROAD

The boat crossing between Utula and Äitsaari offers cyclists an alternative route along low-traffic roads on Äitsaari and Salosaari. The crossing integrates smoothly into a longer cycling journey and makes it possible to avoid a major road. On Äitsaari Island, the route continues through a peaceful rural landscape, following small roads and coastal scenery toward Salosaari. The route includes approximately seven kilometers of gravel road, adding variety to the ride. The scenic route is marked with its own route symbol and is particularly well suited for leisurely cycling and enjoying the surrounding landscapes.

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



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

SAIMAA ARCHIPELAGO ROUTE

EASY ACCESS TO
LAKE SAIMAA FOR CYCLISTS
SUMMER 2026



GOSAIMAA
LAPPEENRANTA AND IMATRA REGION

Share your experiences on social media!

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#msrasti #gosaimaa #visitlakesaimaa
#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
utulanlauri.fi , boat transport, scenic road
rastilautta.johku.com , m/s Rasti ferry tickets

Tourist information

- Lappeenranta Tourist Information**
Vallikatu 2, 53900 Lappeenranta
tel. +358 40 674 1626
lappeenranta@gosaimaa.com
- Imatra Tourist Information**
tel. +358 20 617 7777
matkailu@imatra.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. Hotelli Aava
14. Saimaa Life & Light
15. Imatran Valtionhotelli
16. Loft Family Hotel
17. Vuoksi Fishing Park
18. Neitsytniemen kartano
19. Hostel Immalanjärvi
20. Hotel Hirsiranta
21. Hugon majatalo Accommodation
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. Villa Lummelahti
36. KoloCabins

More options: saimaacycling.fi

-  Restaurants in the region
-  Shops in the region

