

**LAKE SAIMAA  
PUREST  
FINLAND**

# EXPERIENCE THE REAL SAIMAA

People have holidayed at Lake Saimaa for centuries. Finnish soil landscapes – open lakes, a maze of islands and beautiful bays and coves – create a wonderful setting for both relaxation and all sorts of things to do. Clean nature, seasonal variations, diverse cultural sites and delicious food experiences invite both locals and visitors to enjoy unique experiences on Lake Saimaa.

visitsaimaa.fi • gosaimaa.com

**LAKE SAIMAA**

- Area ..... 4,400 km<sup>2</sup>
- Coastline ..... 14,850 km
- Islands ..... 13,710
- Elevation ..... 75-70 m
- Maximum depth ..... 84 m
- Average depth ..... 17 m

Driving time from	HELSINKI	IMatra	Lappeenranta	Mikkeli	Savonlinna	Varkaus	St. Petersburg
HELSINKI	3:00	2:45	2:30	0:55	4:00	3:45	5:00
IMATRA	3:00		0:30	2:00	1:30	2:15	3:00
LAPPEENRANTA	2:45	0:30		1:30	2:00	2:30	3:00
MIKKELI	2:30	2:00	1:30		1:30	1:00	3:30
SAVONLINNA	4:00	1:30	2:00	1:30		1:30	4:30
VARKAUS	3:45	2:15	2:30	1:00	1:30		5:00

Mikkeli, Savonlinna and Varkaus regions visitsaimaa.fi  
Lappeenranta and Imatra regions gosaimaa.com info@gosaimaa.com  
visit Saimaa

Lake Saimaa's DigiSaimaa project (A77603, ERDF) is funded as a part of the European Union's response to the covid-19 pandemic (REACT-EU).

**FIVE-STAR LAKE SAIMAA**

Lake Saimaa has unique accessibility. You can choose your tour, starting from any direction and on any form of transport. The themed routes around Mikkeli, Varkaus, Savonlinna, Imatra and Lappeenranta also include great rural destinations, great restaurants and accommodation, unique attractions and many nice things to do. It is also worth checking out smaller local routes. There is something to do and see in Lake Saimaa for a day, a week or even longer!

lakesaimaa.fi

**TRAILS AND CIRCULAR ROUTES**

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**THE KINGDOM OF THE SAIMAA RINGED SEAL**

One of the most unique inhabitants of the Saimaa region is the most endangered seal in the world – the Saimaa Ringed Seal, which has inhabited Lake Saimaa for more than 8,000 years. There are only about 400 Saimaa ringed seals. These sweet and curious animals have a love for Saimaa's natural beauty. Their relaxed attitude as they sunbathe on the rocks in the spring sunshine and their sociability as they greet a passing boat are also core characteristics of the people of Saimaa. The locals cherish the ringed seal and do their utmost for their population growth and well-being.

**LIFE IN THE LAKESIDE PARADISE**

A paradise for summer cottages and lakeside saunas can be found in Saimaa. Kilonniemi is a clean, peaceful shoreline and thousands of atmospheric coves, sunsets and sunrises are only a short boat ride away. The sauna is a must. Both the pier where it is good to fish, wash potatoes, fetch water for the sauna or just listen to the lapping of the waves. Soft steam in the sauna, gentle brushing with birch twigs, and a dip in the clear waters of Lake Saimaa are well-being at its best. Both the body and the mind rest in the Saimaa archipelago.

**PART OF CLEANEST FINLAND**

Saimaa's beautiful landscapes are nature at its purest. The clear waters of Saimaa and the greenery of its forests themselves have a positive effect on well-being. Clean, oxygen-rich air helps both the mind and the body to regenerate. Saimaa has the richest forest area in Finland and the waters of Saimaa are also the clearest in Finland. Saimaa's nature is unique - aesthetically, historically and from a well-being point of view.

**MAP OF LAKE SAIMAA**

**ASTUVANSALMI ROCK PAINTINGS**

The rock paintings of Astuvansalmi in Ristiina, Mikkeli, are one of the largest rock paintings in the Nordic countries. The paintings are located on a vertical rock face above the current water surface. According to the dating based on water level, the paintings are 4,500 to 6,000 years old. The paintings feature mythical patterns, moose, people and hand prints. Seen from a certain direction, the painting site is guarded by a 'rock god', a human head drawn on the rock. The paintings can be reached by a cruise boat in the summer season. During the summer at Lake Saimaa Hop On Hop Off bus/boat transports from Mikkeli e.g. to the rock paintings.

**PUNKAHARJU RIDGE AREA**

The Punkaharju ridge area, which was chosen as Finland's 2017 excursion destination, represents ridge nature at its most beautiful. It is one of Finland's national landscapes and the beautiful lake views that glimmer through the rugged pines attract people to the area from year to year. The area's special character is formed by its tourism past and cultural and historical sites. Punkaharju Nature Reserve is one of the oldest in the world, as Kruunupuisto was founded in 1843.

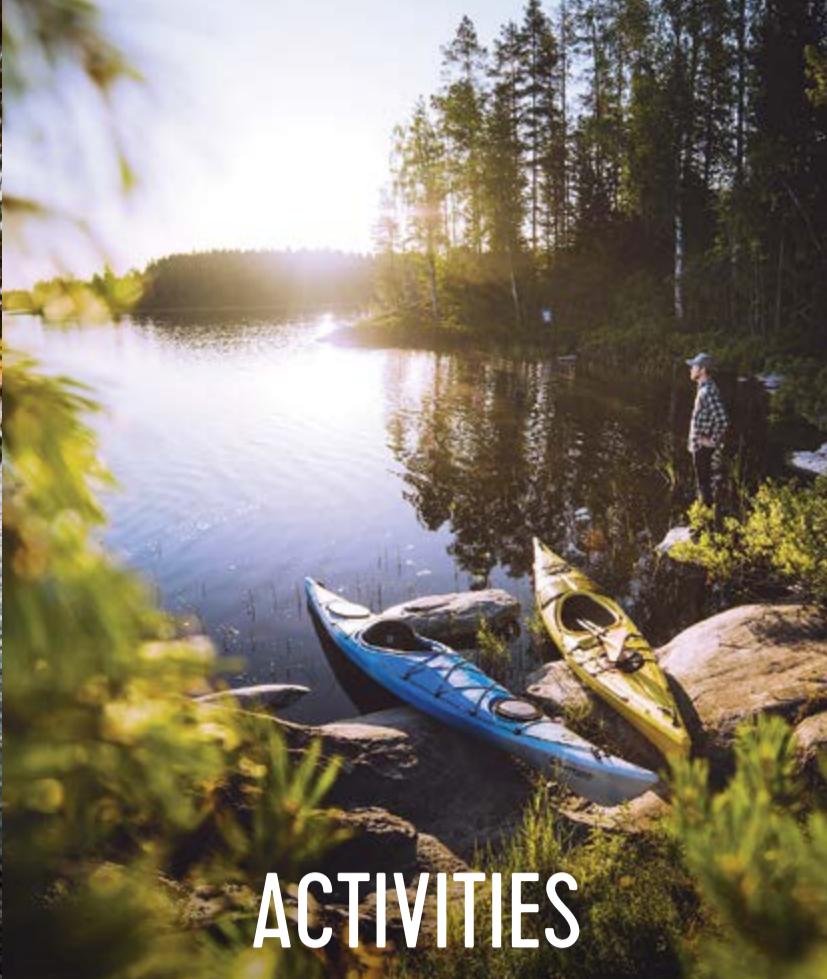
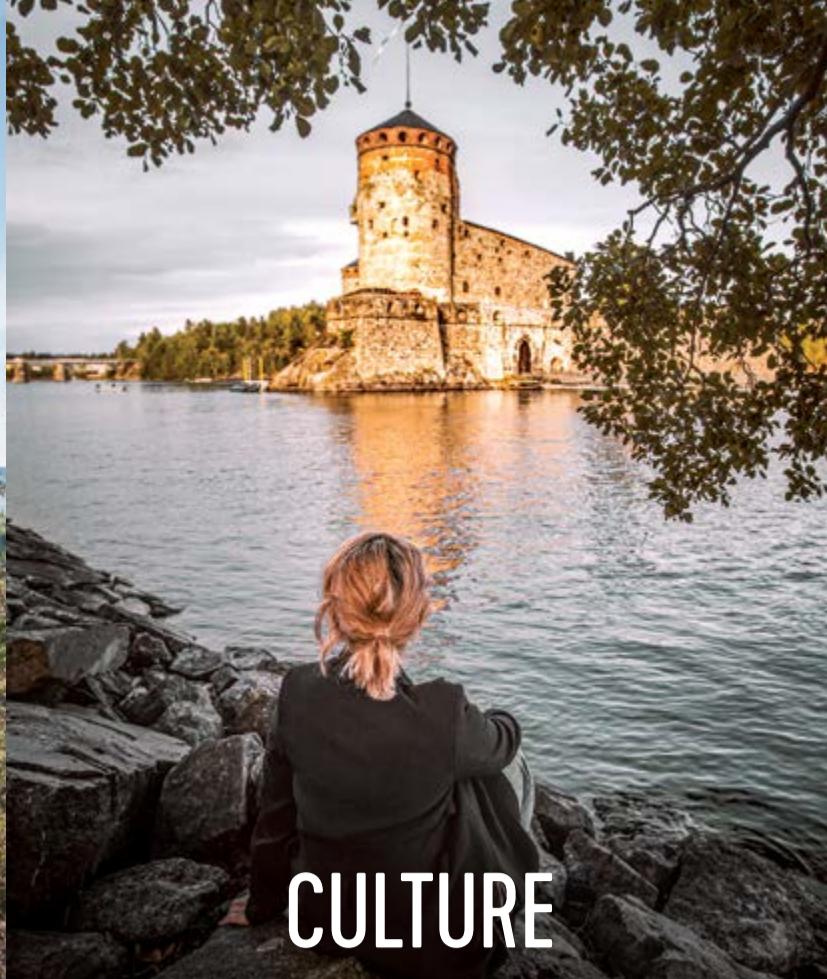
**CRUISES TO LAKE SAIMAA**

A cruise is an excellent way to admire the unique views of the Saimaa area, relax in good company and enjoy an unforgettable holiday. There are numerous cruises available that take you around local routes or all the way to Savonlinna ja Puusala onboard m/s Emma, a sauna boat, to theme cruises and on scheduled cruises to Saimaa.

**IMATRANKOSKI**

The most famous attraction in Imatra is the bubbling Imatrakoski rapids, which is also the oldest tourist attraction in Finland. Imatra's tourism history dates back to the 1770s. The shores of the Vuoksi River are decorated by Finland's first nature park, Kruunupuisto, which was founded in 1842 and is located in the center of the city. Today, Kruunupuisto consists of four park sections and various attractions. In Kruunupuisto you can find the castle hotel, Scandic Imatran Villanhotelli, an ancient Finnish park with a glacial pothole, lookout pavilions on the edge of the rapids, Finland's largest hydropower plant and a summer theatre.

## NATURE



- 1 Neitvuori-Luonteri area  
– Savo's Switzerland  
[visitmikkeli.fi/luontoo](http://visitmikkeli.fi/luontoo)
- 2 Oravareitti  
– 57 km canoeing route and water trail from Juva to Sulkava  
[oravareitti.fi](http://oravareitti.fi)
- 3 Norppapalkki – Trail on the shores and cliffs of Lake Saimaa approx. 13 km route, including lean-to shelter, campfire sites and a pier and Saimaa Geopark signs  
[visitpuumala.fi/norppapalkki](http://visitpuumala.fi/norppapalkki)
- 4 Hytterma Nature Reserve – Beautiful ridge nature of the Hytterma Islands and a unique open-air museum with its old buildings  
[visit savonlinna.fi/hytterma](http://visit savonlinna.fi/hytterma)
- 5 Ämmäkoski and Kämäri Islands – In the center of the Varkaus, 3 km nature trail between Ämmäkoski and Taipale canal  
[visitvarkaus.fi](http://visitvarkaus.fi)
- 6 Cruises on Lake Saimaa, Saimaa ringed seal cruises, m/s Saimaa Margreeta  
[saimaanristellyt.fi](http://saimaanristellyt.fi)
- 7 Hiilolaanjoki, Rautjärvi  
– Landscape trail, good for bird watching  
[rautjarvi.fi](http://rautjarvi.fi)
- 8 Rauha, Ukonniemi  
– sports and leisure hub  
[ukonniemi.fi](http://ukonniemi.fi)
- 9 Imatrankoski / Kruunupuisto  
– Finland's oldest tourist attraction  
[gesaimaa.com](http://gesaimaa.com)
- 10 Luumäki  
– Itseäsydäntie road in Luumäki introduces various attractions and presents local and Finnish history  
[luumaki.fi](http://luumaki.fi)

## CULTURE

- 11 Muisti Centre of War and Peace – The events of the wars can be experienced with the latest exhibition technology in Mikkeli  
[muisti.org](http://muisti.org)
- 12 Kenkäverö – A restaurant in the main building of the former rectorate and a magnificent courtyard with handicraft shops, barns and a garden  
[kenkavero.fi](http://kenkavero.fi)
- 13 Olavinlinna – An iconic castle of thousands of stories and battles  
[olavinlinna.fi](http://olavinlinna.fi)
- 14 Lustu & Riilisaaret  
– Stories of the forests and Lake Saimaa in the Savonlinna region  
[visitsavonlinna.fi](http://visitsavonlinna.fi)
- 15 Canal area of Taipale and the Canal Museum in the centre of Varkaus  
[visitvarkaus.fi](http://visitvarkaus.fi)
- 16 Cafe Majurska in the historical fortress of Lappeenranta  
[kalvilamajurska.fi](http://kalvilamajurska.fi)
- 17 Ruokolahdi – Nearby services, next to water ways  
[ruokolahdi.fi](http://ruokolahdi.fi)
- 18 Lappeenranta Fortress and harbour  
– History from the 18th century, not forgetting the present  
[gesaimaa.com](http://gesaimaa.com)
- 19 Culture in the heart of the city  
[nujamies.fi](http://nujamies.fi)
- 20 Kokkaniemi  
– Home museum of President P. E. Svinhufvud  
[kokkaniemi.fi](http://kokkaniemi.fi)

## ACTIVITIES

- 21 SaimaaHoliday Oravi – All year round nature activities in Linnasaari and Kolovesi National Parks  
[oravivillage.com](http://oravivillage.com)
- 22 Holiday Resort Harjun Portti – Many activities in Punkaharju, on the shores of Lake Saimaa  
[harjunportti.fi](http://harjunportti.fi)
- 23 Lakeland GTE – Services and experiences in Puunala and Saimaa  
[lakelandgte.fi](http://lakelandgte.fi)
- 24 Varied cycling routes with the most amazing views in Lake Saimaa region  
[visitsavonlinna.fi/pyoralyli](http://visitsavonlinna.fi/pyoralyli)
- 25 Saimaa Fishing Travels – Fishing experiences with high quality equipment and the best fishing waters in Saimaa  
[fishingfinlandia.fi](http://fishingfinlandia.fi)
- 26 Vuoksi Fishing Park - Fishing all year round  
[vuoksenkalastuspuisto.fi](http://vuoksenkalastuspuisto.fi)
- 27 Tuplakasi – Activities to suit all tastes  
[tuplakasi-action.fi](http://tuplakasi-action.fi)
- 28 Karelia Lines – Canal and island cruises as well as cosy rooftop restaurant Don Papa at Lappeenranta harbour  
[karelianlines.fi & donpapa.fi](http://karelianlines.fi & donpapa.fi)
- 29 Discover Saimaa  
– Guided nature experiences and rental equipment all year round  
[discover saimaa.fi](http://discover saimaa.fi)
- 30 Saimaa Palju Events – Activities, equipment and guides for an active vacation  
[saimaapanju.fi](http://saimaapanju.fi)

## FOOD

- 31 Café Saima – In the heart of Savonlinna's old town a warm and cosy place to eat and stay  
[kahvilasaimaa.fi](http://kahvilasaimaa.fi)
- 32 Manor and garden restaurant Terfti Manor  
– A food lovers paradise in a lovely manor setting  
[terinkartano.fi](http://terinkartano.fi)
- 33 Organic and tea restaurant TeaHouse of Wehmuis  
– Taste experiences in a rural landscape with authentic local flavours  
[teahouse.fi](http://teahouse.fi)
- 34 Artesian restaurant Sahanlahti Resort  
– Local food experiences in the Puunala archipelago  
[sahanlahiresort.fi](http://sahanlahiresort.fi)
- 35 Wild food restaurant Hotel Punkaharju – an experience for all the senses  
[hotelli punkaharju.fi](http://hotelli punkaharju.fi)
- 36 Wolkoff - restaurant, Wine & Beer Cellar  
– Seductive high-standard food, drink & atmosphere in the center of Lappeenranta  
[wolkoff.fi](http://wolkoff.fi)
- 37 Lappeenrannan Upseerikerho  
– Great food locally since 1890  
[lappeenrannanupseerikerho.fi](http://lappeenrannanupseerikerho.fi)
- 38 Restaurant Sula  
Opened 2022, introducing the best views of Imatra  
[sulaimatra.fi](http://sulaimatra.fi)
- 39 Iloinen Pässi Maalaispuoti  
– Tasty local food and shopping  
[iloinenpassi.fi](http://iloinenpassi.fi)
- 40 Ship restaurant Princess Armaada delicacies  
[princessarmaada.fi](http://princessarmaada.fi)

## WELL-BEING

- 41 Kyhykkylä Wellbeing Resort  
– luxury of nature a stone's throw from Mikkeli  
[kyhykkyla.fi](http://kyhykkyla.fi)
- 42 Hotel & Spa Resort Järvisydän – Well-being and relaxation in the national park scenery  
[jarvisydan.com](http://jarvisydan.com)
- 43 Tanhuvaara Sports Institute & Resort – varied activities and sports facilities for the whole family  
[tanhuvaara.fi](http://tanhuvaara.fi)
- 44 SpaHotel Casino – Break away from routines, pamper yourself in the heart of Savonlinna  
[spahotelcasino.fi](http://spahotelcasino.fi)
- 45 Kruunupuisto – A leisure paradise in Punkaharju national landscapes  
[kruunupuisto.fi](http://kruunupuisto.fi)
- 46 Imatra Spa – Outdoor activities and spa pleasures  
[imatrankylpyla.fi](http://imatrankylpyla.fi)
- 47 Holiday Club Saimaa  
– Holiday resort on the shores of Lake Saimaa  
[holidayclubresorts.com/fi/kohleet/saimaa/](http://holidayclubresorts.com/fi/kohleet/saimaa/)
- 48 Tuuhanen Tarinan Talo  
– Rural tourism at its best  
[tuhanentarinantalo.com](http://tuhanentarinantalo.com)
- 49 Saimaan Palju Events  
– A sauna ferry cruising from Lappeenranta harbour  
[saimaampaalju.fi](http://saimaampaalju.fi)
- 50 Smoke saunas at Rautjärvi  
[savusauna.fi](http://savusauna.fi)

Guided ringed seal trips to Lake Saimaa  
[visitsavonlinna.fi/saimaanrappa](http://visitsavonlinna.fi/saimaanrappa)

Mushroom picking in Punkaharju national landscapes  
[hotelli punkaharju.fi](http://hotelli punkaharju.fi)

Cruises from Savonlinna to the Saimaa archipelago  
[visitsavonlinna.fi/viitasaari](http://visitsavonlinna.fi/viitasaari)

In summer, day trips to Astuvansalmi and Neitvuori, as well as manor and handicraft tours around Mikkeli  
[visitmikkeli.fi/hoponhopoff](http://visitmikkeli.fi/hoponhopoff)

Self-guided and guided tours in Linnasaari National Park  
[jarvisydan.com](http://jarvisydan.com)

Skydiving and landscape flights  
[skydivekarjala.fi](http://skydivekarjala.fi)  
[imatrankylpyla.net](http://imatrankylpyla.net)

Cruises to Lake Saimaa from Lappeenranta, wine & dine onboard m/s Carelia  
[saimaa travel.fi](http://saimaa travel.fi)

Start the Saimaa Archipelago Route by cycling from the magnificient surrounds of Taipalsaari  
[taipalsaari.fi](http://taipalsaari.fi)

Cruises on the Vuoksi River  
[vuoksenkalastuspuisto.fi](http://vuoksenkalastuspuisto.fi)

Nature stories, nature trips and adventures  
[creativekaiku.fi](http://creativekaiku.fi)

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[visitmikkeli.fi/hoponhopoff](http://visitmikkeli.fi/hoponhopoff)

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[imatrankylpyla.net](http://imatrankylpyla.net)

Cruises to Lake Saimaa from Lappeenranta, wine & dine onboard m/s Carelia  
[saimaa travel.fi](http://saimaa travel.fi)

Cruises to the Astuvansalmi rock paintings  
[visitmikkeli.fi/en\\_hoponhopoff](http://visitmikkeli.fi/en_hoponhopoff)

The world's largest wooden church in Kerimäki  
[visit savonlinna.fi/viitasaari](http://visit savonlinna.fi/viitasaari)

St Michel - races and the stage for other horse racing events  
[mikkeli narivaatti.fi](http://mikkeli narivaatti.fi)

The Mechanical Music Museum in Varkaus  
[mekaanisenmusiikinmuseo.fi](http://mekaanisenmusiikinmuseo.fi)

Savonlinna Opera Festival – Culture in Olavinlinna's rugged landscapes  
[opera festival.fi](http://opera festival.fi)

Kokkaniemi: Garden and courtyard and museum  
[kokkaniemi.fi](http://kokkaniemi.fi)

Kehruuhuone - restaurant and meeting place in the historical fortress of Lappeenranta  
[kehruuhuone.fi](http://kehruuhuone.fi)

Shopping therapy a stone's throw from the Finnish Monaco harbour area  
[galleria lappeenranta.fi](http://galleria lappeenranta.fi)

Museum of South Karelia  
[lapeenranta.fi](http://lapeenranta.fi)

Puumala Archipelago Route - 60 km bicycle and motorcycle route in the most beautiful landscapes of Lake Saimaa  
[puumala.fi](http://puumala.fi)

Ice skating in Linnasaari National Park  
[oravivillage.com](http://oravivillage.com)

Fatbikes and other rental equipment  
[kruunupuisto.fi](http://kruunupuisto.fi)

Sports equipment and bicycle rental  
[drakkar sport.com](http://drakkar sport.com)

Shopping therapy a stone's throw from the Finnish Monaco harbour area  
[galleria lappeenranta.fi](http://galleria lappeenranta.fi)

Fatuksia ja muuta  
[fatuksia ja muuta.fi](http://fatuksia ja muuta.fi)

At the old barn, a wine cellar, a shop and restaurant with wine tastings  
[olimmaenviinitila.fi](http://olimmaenviinitila.fi)

Cruises on the gentle waves of Lake Saimaa by steamboat or on a luxury yacht  
[vipcruise.info](http://vipcruise.info)

LakeLand kayak – Kayaking and guided fishing trips  
[lakelandkayaks.com](http://lakelandkayaks.com)

We have buzzing bees! Iso Kristiina's own honey sweetens any cold moment  
[isokristiina.fi](http://isokristiina.fi)

Ice floating is an experience that leaves no one cold  
[lakelandgte.fi](http://lakelandgte.fi)

Fatbikes and other rental equipment  
[kruunupuisto.fi](http://kruunupuisto.fi)

Sports equipment and bicycle rental  
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Shopping therapy a stone's throw from the Finnish Monaco harbour area  
[galleria lappeenranta.fi](http://galleria lappeenranta.fi)

Fatuksia ja muuta  
[fatuksia ja muuta.fi](http://fatuksia ja muuta.fi)

Savitaipale has cultural sites and viewing points, including Kärmäkesi and its fortresses  
[visitsavonlinna.fi/loytavistaipale](http://visitsavonlinna.fi/loytavistaipale)

Paula's pie workshop in Nurmisaari, Puumala  
[okkolanlomamakoti.com](http://okkolanlomamakoti.com)

Events, gigs and tasty local food in Hirvensalmi  
[satamanterkkeli.fi](http://satamanterkkeli.fi)

Get to know the secrets of tea under the guidance of a tea sommelier  
[teahouse.fi](http://teahouse.fi)

A visit to the Manor's wild farm and a peek into the cellar full of delicacies  
[terinkartano.fi](http://terinkartano.fi)

At the old barn, a wine cellar, a shop and restaurant with wine tastings  
[olimmaenviinitila.fi](http://olimmaenviinitila.fi)

Oscar's Bar & Dinner – Old-time flavours and decent portions  
[hotelloscar.fi](http://hotelloscar.fi)

Taipalaaren Wanha Kunnanlupa Ullan bistro  
[wanhakunnanuppa.fi](http://wanhakunnanuppa.fi)

In the embrace of Savitaipale  
[sahrami.fi](http://sahrami.fi)

Finland's best coffee, Lehmuus roastery  
[satamaties6.com](http://satamaties6.com)

Wanha Makasiini Bistro – Atmospheric restaurant in Lappeenranta harbour  
[ravintola wanhamakasiini.fi](http://ravintola wanhamakasiini.fi)

Karelian Gourmet – Unique food experiences by the Vuoksi River  
[kareliangourmet.fi](http://kareliangourmet.fi)

Take a breath on the ridge, enjoy good services and gather new strength in all seasons  
[kruunupuisto.fi](http://kruunupuisto.fi)

Relaxing sauna experience and a refreshing dip in Lake Saimaa  
[oravivillage.fi](http://oravivillage.fi)

Enjoyable yoga weeks in Taipaleennemi B&B relax both body and mind  
[taipaleennemi.fi](http://taipaleennemi.fi)

Järvikylpylä – Gentle steam in the sauna and relaxation in the middle of Lake Saimaa's nature  
[jarvisydan.com](http://jarvisydan.com)

Relaxing sauna experience and a smoke sauna on Lake Saimaa  
[sahanlahiresort.fi](http://sahanlahiresort.fi)

Versatile camping area along the Lappeenranta beach trail  
[camping lappeenranta.fi](http://camping lappeenranta.fi)

Theme cruises onboard sauna boat m/s Emma, Imatra  
[ms-emma.net](http://ms-emma.net)

Sauna lauta-Imatra sauna cruises on the River Vuoksi  
[sauna lauta-aimatra.fi](http://sauna lauta-aimatra.fi) and Restaurant Sula in Imatra on the shore of River Vuoksi  
[ravintolasula.fi](http://ravintolasula.fi)

## VENDACE



## LEMI'S SÄRÄ



## KARELIAN PIE



## LÖRTSY



## D.O. SAIMAA

