



EXPERIENCE THE REAL SAIMAA

People have holidayed at Lake Saimaa for centuries. Finnish soul 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.

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LAKE SAIMAA

Area: 4,400 km²
 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
HELSINKI	3:00	2:45	2:30	4:00	0:55	3:45
IMATRA	3:00	0:30	2:00	1:30	2:15	2:15
LAPPEENRANTA	2:45	0:30	1:30	2:00	2:30	2:30
MIKKELI	2:30	2:00	1:30	1:30	1:00	1:00
SAVONLINNA	4:00	1:30	2:00	1:30	1:30	1:30
VARKAUS	3:45	2:15	2:30	1:00	1:30	1:30



***** 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 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!

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TRAILS AND CIRCULAR ROUTES

Explore the stunning Lake Saimaa archipelago by cycling the Saimaa Archipelago Route. This popular path takes you through southern Lake Saimaa's towns like Imatra and Lappeenranta, and villages such as Ruokolahti, Joutseno, and Taipalsaari. A notable segment, the 60-kilometer Puumala Archipelago Route, features both asphalt and gravel roads, plus a ferry ride that requires advance booking.

THE KINGDOM OF THE SAIMAA RINGED SEAL

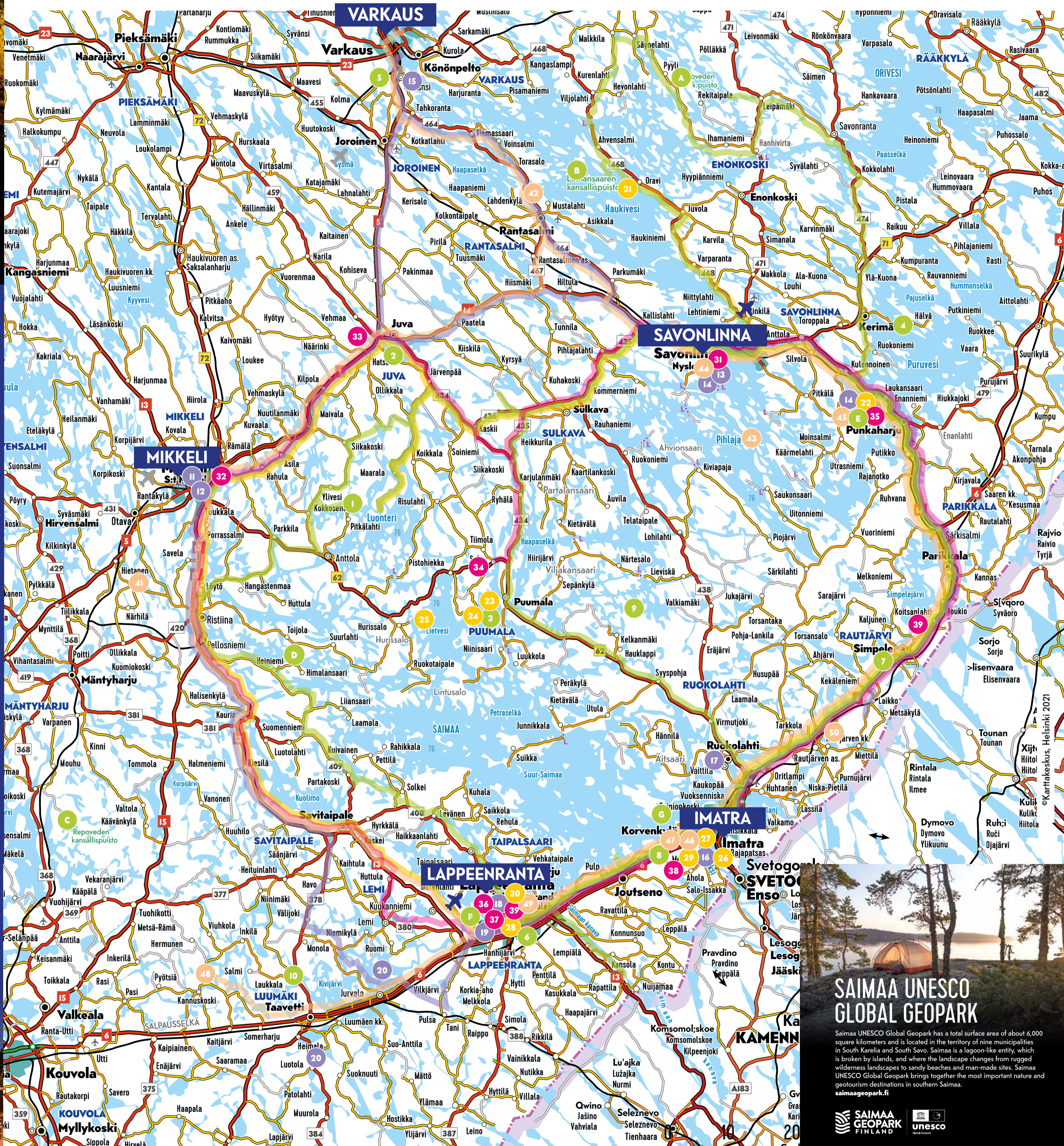
One of the most unique inhabitants of the Saimaa region is the most endangered seal in the world – the Saimaa Ringed Seal, which has inhabited Lake Saimaa for more than 8,000 years. There are only about 480 Saimaa ringed seals. These sweet and curious animals have a very Saimaa attitude to life. Their 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. Kilometers of clean, peaceful shoreline and thousands of atmospheric coves, sunsets and sunrises, accompanied by the Black-throated loon's sweet song. Lake 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 clean 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 the forests themselves have a positive effect on well-being. Clean, oxygen-rich air helps both the mind and the body to re-energise. Saimaa has the richest forest area in Finland and the waters of Saimaa are also the cleanest in Finland. Saimaa's nature is unique – aesthetically, historically and from a well-being point of view.



A KOLOVESI NATIONAL PARK

Kolovesi National Park is a paddler's paradise. The rock paintings are proof of how nature and man have coexisted for a millennia. The landscape of Kolovesi, shaped by a continental glacier, changes with its ruggedness. If you are lucky, a curious Saimaa ringed seal may come to greet you!

B LINNANSAARI NATIONAL PARK

Hundreds of islands and islets in Linnansaari National Park are the kingdom of the Saimaa ringed seal and the osprey. The coexistence of man and nature is reflected in old cascading forests and traditional landscapes.

C REPOVESI NATIONAL PARK

Perfect hiking destination with over 40 kilometers of trails of various difficulty. Repovesi National Park offers an excellent opportunity to explore Finland's biodiversity.

D 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 surface about 70 meters above the current water surface. According to the findings based on water level, the paintings are 4,500 to 6,000 years old. The paintings feature mystical patterns, moose, people and hand prints. Access to the paintings is only possible by a boat. The site is guarded by a 'rock god', a human head drawn in 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 boat transport from Mikkeli e.g. to the rock paintings.

E 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 Kruunupisto was founded in 1843.

F 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 unforgettable lake scenery. There are numerous cruises available that take you around the breathtaking islands of Lake Saimaa. From Lappeenranta, you can take the Saimaa Archipelago cruise, the historical Saimaa Canal cruise, or the unique Ilkonnsaari Island cruise. In Imatra, you can cruise onboard the sauna boat m/s Emma, or take a cruise on the Vuoksi River.

G IMATRANKOSKI

The most famous attraction in Imatra is the bubbling Imatrankoski 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, Kruunupisto, which was founded in 1842 and is located in the center of the city. Today, Kruunupisto consists of four park sections and various attractions. In Kruunupisto you can find the castle hotel, Scandic Imatran Valionhotelli, 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.

SAIMAA UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK

Saimaa UNESCO Global Geopark has a total surface area of about 6,000 square kilometers and is located in the territory of nine municipalities in South Karelia and South Savo. Saimaa is a lagoon-like entity, which is broken by islands, and where the landscape changes from rugged wilderness landscapes to sandy beaches and man-made sites. Saimaa UNESCO Global Geopark brings together the most important nature and geotourism destinations in southern Saimaa.



