

# Saimaa facts

## Finland



**The Cleanest environment in the world**



**The World's cleanest air has been measured here**



**Over 188,000 lakes**



**80 % of lakes are good or excellent quality (UNESCO)**



**Over 70 % of the land area covered in forests**



**More saunas per capita than any other country (over 3 million)**



**The Sauna tradition over 10 000 years old**

## Lake Saimaa



**14,000 islands**



**Over 15,000 km of shoreline (more than Spain)**



**In the top 5 most beautiful lakes in the world**



**Over 50,000 cottages**



**Approx. 480 endangered Saimaa ringed seals**

## Varkaus



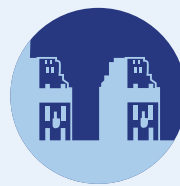
**Approx. 19 300 inhabitants**



**1,690 hectares of nature conservation areas**



**The largest Museum of Mechanical Music in the Nordic countries**



**Nearly 300 years of industrial history**



**Intersection of two European Council cultural routes**

### More facts about Varkaus

- Located in Eastern Finland in the **region of Northern Savonia**
- **Taipale Canal area**, featuring a museum canal built in 1840 and an operational deep-water canal.
- **Protected Ämmäkoski rapids landscape**, home to Finland's largest natural bypass channel for the critically endangered Saimaa lake salmon.
- **A continuous outdoor trail** following the shores of Lake Saimaa, passing over bridges **from the Taipale Canal area to the city center and extending to the forested Vattuvuori hills.**
- **One of Finland's Alvar Aalto cities**, showcasing Aalto's ideology: "Good housing belongs to everyone."
- Wander through **Old Varkaus** and visit the new **Varkaus Museum Center Konsti**, where the city's industrial history comes to life.
- **Vekara-Varkaus**, one of Finland's oldest and largest children's events.
- **The functionalist-style main church of Varkaus**, featuring the largest fresco altarpiece in the Nordic countries.

VISIT  
**LAKE SAIMAA**

LAKELAND · FINLAND

## How to get here?

The easiest way to get to the Lake Saimaa area is to choose direct flights to Savonlinna or Lappeenranta. You can also fly to Helsinki and continue traveling to the area by rental car or by train.

### Direct flights

<b>Frankfurt - Savonlinna</b>	<b>2 h 20 min</b>
<b>Rotterdam - Savonlinna</b>	<b>2 h 20 min</b>
<b>Helsinki - Savonlinna</b>	<b>0 h 55 min</b>
<b>Bergamo - Lappeenranta</b>	<b>3 h 15 min</b>

### From Helsinki by Car

<b>Mikkeli</b>	<b>2 h 40 min</b>
<b>Lappeenranta</b>	<b>2 h 45 min</b>
<b>Imatra</b>	<b>3 h 5 min</b>
<b>Savonlinna</b>	<b>3 h 55 min</b>
<b>Varkaus</b>	<b>3 h 29 min</b>

### From Helsinki by Train

<b>Mikkeli</b>	<b>2 h 40 min</b>
<b>Lappeenranta</b>	<b>2 h 10 min</b>
<b>Imatra</b>	<b>2 h 30 min</b>
<b>Savonlinna</b>	<b>4 h 30 min</b>
<b>Varkaus</b>	<b>4 h 23 min</b>