

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

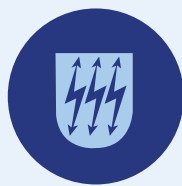
Imatra



Approx. 25 000 inhabitants



Area 191 km²



Founded 1971



Finland's most significant spa and sports destination



Finland's first tourist attraction

More facts about Imatra

- **Imatrankoski rapids**, the oldest tourist attraction in Finland and one of Europe's most powerful rapids. A breathtaking natural spectacle right in the heart of Imatra.
- The enchanting **Valtionhotelli** next to the Imatrankoski rapids. A castle-like hotel offers a glimpse into early 20th-century grandeur and luxury.
- **Patsaspuisto in Parikkala** is one of the creepiest sculpture parks, where over 500 quirky statues create an otherworldly outdoor gallery.
- The free-flowing **rapids of the Hiitolanjoki** River. The river has been dammed for over 100 years. Now the river has been freed and the endangered lake salmon have been allowed to return to their home waters.
- **The Karelian cultural heritage** shines through in the region's hearty traditional dishes and beautifully crafted wooden buildings.
- **Saimaa UNESCO Global Geopark**. Kummakivi, with its impossibly balanced boulder is one of the geological marvels that stir the imagination.
- Imatra proudly holds the title of the "**Capital of the Vuoksi Watershed**" where water shapes the landscape and local life. The region embraces a **deep-rooted sauna culture**, from mystical smoke saunas to floating sauna rafts and immersive sauna worlds.

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

Frankfurt - Savonlinna	2 h 20 min
Rotterdam - Savonlinna	2 h 20 min
Helsinki - Savonlinna	0 h 55 min
Bergamo - Lappeenranta	3 h 15 min

From Helsinki by Car

Mikkeli	2 h 40 min
Lappeenranta	2 h 45 min
Imatra	3 h 5 min
Savonlinna	3 h 55 min
Varkaus	3 h 29 min

From Helsinki by Train

Mikkeli	2 h 40 min
Lappeenranta	2 h 10 min
Imatra	2 h 30 min
Savonlinna	4 h 30 min
Varkaus	4 h 23 min

