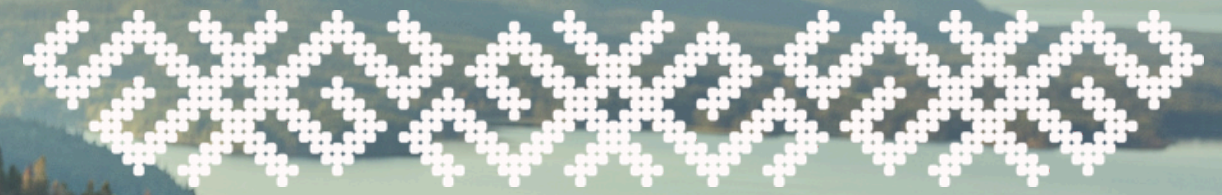
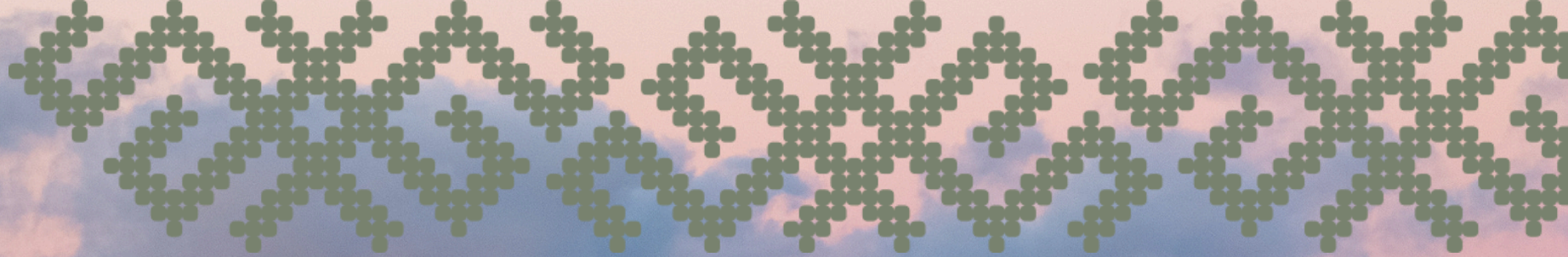


Welcome to North Karelia, the Soul of Finland!



VisitKarelia
NORTH KARELIA



Tervetuloa Pohjois-Karjalaan!

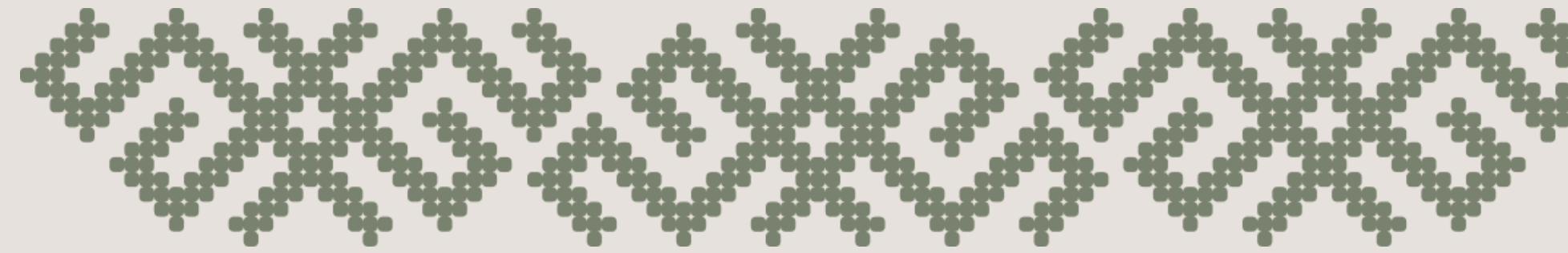
Welcome to North Karelia — your new home away from home in eastern Finland! Whether you are here for a semester, a full degree or a shorter exchange, there is plenty to discover beyond the classroom. From forests, lakes and outdoor adventures to cosy cafés, local restaurants, cultural experiences and lively events, North Karelia offers many ways to make the most of your time here.

This brochure is your guide to getting started: find inspiration for things to do, places to eat, local experiences to try and destinations worth exploring. Step outside, discover the region at your own pace and experience North Karelia like a local.

We hope your time in North Karelia is unforgettable, and that you collect many new memories!

– VisitKarelia team

Cultural attractions in Joensuu



Botania Art Garden

 botania.fi

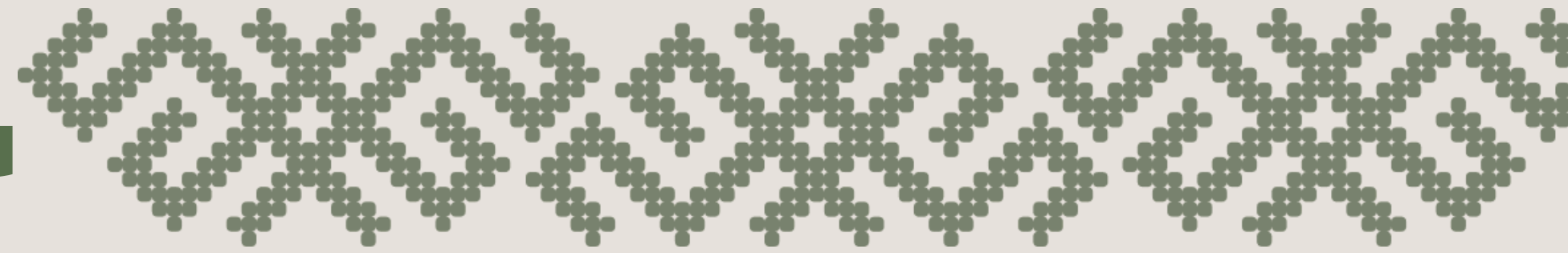
 Heinäpurontie 70,
80110 Joensuu



Botania is a botanical garden and art venue in Joensuu. The attraction consists of a indoor greenhouse with exotic and tropical plants and a large outdoor garden.

Different events are also organized at Botania through out the yar, the main event being at the end of November: **Visual Festival**. The outdoor garden is turned into an immersive and surreal world for visitors to explore.

Cultural attractions in Joensuu



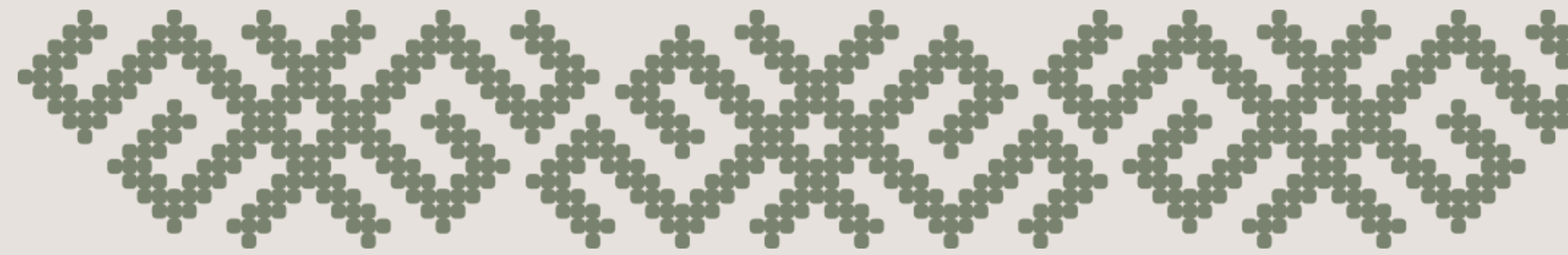
Taitokortteli Arts &
Crafts Centre
taitokortteli.fi/en
Koskikatu 1,
80100 Joensuu



Taitokortteli Arts and Crafts Centre or “**The Artisan Block**” is located in a historic block of four buildings in the center of Joensuu. This charming hub is a collection of inviting boutiques, a cozy café and popular handicraft courses. The shops display for example the traditional Karelian high-quality handicrafts, jewelry, home decor and clothing.

Exhibitions highlighting Finnish and Karelian culture are presented throughout the year. Cultural events, workshops and markets are also organized at Taitokortteli.

Cultural attractions in Joensuu



Musem Eliel

[joensuunmuseot.fi/
en/museum-eliel/](https://joensuunmuseot.fi/en/museum-eliel/)

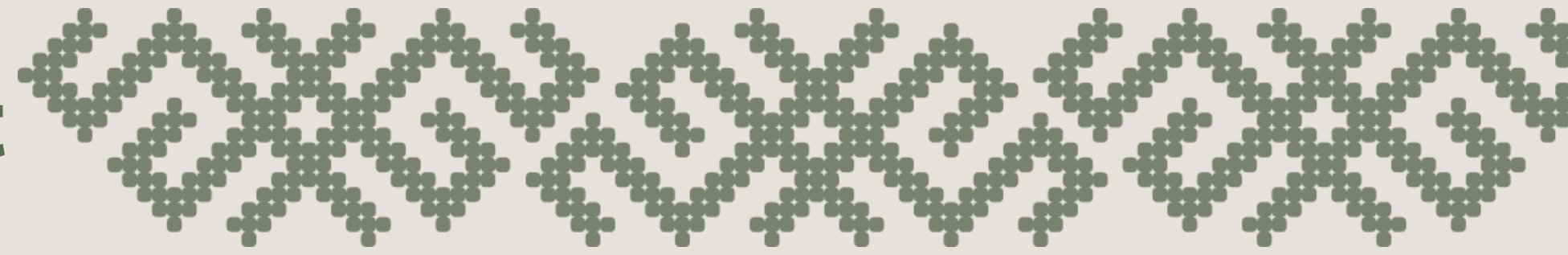
Rantakatu 20, 80100
Joensuu



Museum Eliel is an attraction that offers exhibitions on the history and present day of North Karelia. The diverse exhibitions showcase the region's voices, the beautiful nature and life throughout the years.

The thematic exhibitions include “*The Karelian Maiden – From the land of song to digital hillocks*”, “*River – Nature and history along the River Pielisjoki*” and “*Live to believe! – Folklorist’s cellar*”.

Fishing and canoeing equipment rental & guided tours



Järven Taiga
kalastusretket.fi/en/jarven-taiga-store/
Hasaniemi,
80110 Joensuu



© Matti Pasanen



Järven Taiga provides rental equipment for many sports: sit-on-top kayaks, fishing gear, e-fatbikes and SUP boards by the Pielinen river in Joensuu. The company can also arrange guided tours and excursions for foraging mushrooms, canoeing and fishing. Meals at the hut can be arranged for groups.

Activities in Joensuu

Ote Kiipeilykeskus -
Climbing center
otekiipeilykeskus.fi
Pilkontie 7, 80130
Joensuu

Climbing center with 450m² of bouldering walls and 55 m² of top rope climbing walls. Beginners are welcome! Climbing shoes are rented on site.



© Ote Kiipeilykeskus

Movie Theatre Tapio
savonkinot.fi/eng/home
Kauppakatu 27, 80100
Joensuu

Movie theater located in the center of Joensuu, great place to see the new movies!



© Jarno Artika

Activities for families

Are you looking for something to do together with the family? These attractions will surely be a hit with the small ones!

Sinkkola Animal Yard

📍 Pesolantie 2,
80140 Joensuu

A farm animal yard in Joensuu invites you to see the the animals and spend the day. The farm yard has goats, chickens and a pony. Visiting is free of charge. Open only in summer time.



Glow Mini Golf Joensuu

🔗 hohtominigolfjoensuu.fi

📍 Kauppakatu 23b, 80100
Joensuu

Family friendly entertainment center offering a fun activities for the whole family! Glow-in-the-dark mini golf, darts and table curling are available.



© Glow Mini Golf Joensuu

Leo's Joensuu

 [leos.fi/](https://leos.fi/sisaleikkipuistot/joensuu)

[sisaleikkipuistot/joensuu](https://leos.fi/sisaleikkipuistot/joensuu)

 **Raatekankaantie 4, 80100
Joensuu**

Indoor playground park makes for a good activity for example on rainy days! A popular site for kid's birthdays as well.

Entertainment

Bowling Hall Cosmic

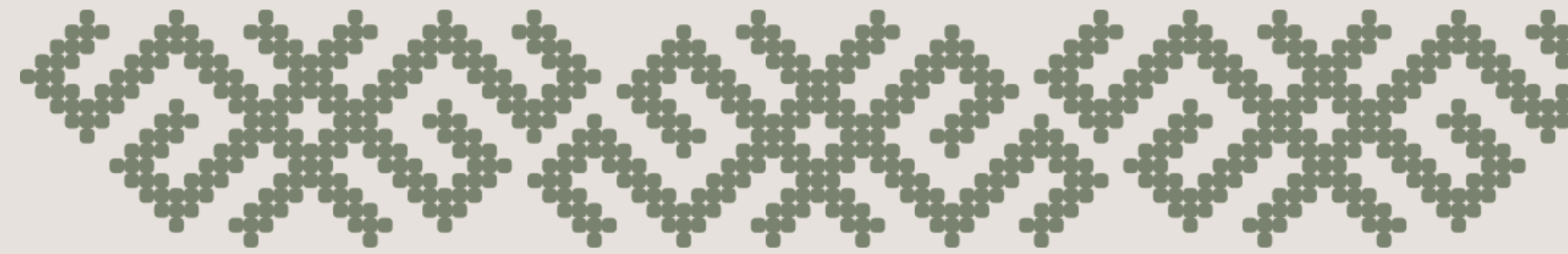
 cosmicjoensuu.fi

 **Yläsatamakatu 5,
80100 Joensuu**

Entertainment center with bowling, pool and darts located centrally in Joensuu. Discounts for students.

Sauna Experiences

A key element of Finnish culture is the traditional Finnish sauna! North Karelia has several public saunas for you to try.



Lykynlampi Sauna

lykynlampi.fi

Onttolantie 94,
80510 Onttola

A new sauna world has been opened in Lykynlampi! Two saunas, outdoor pool and the pond invite you to come explore the Finnish sauna culture. Bus connection from center of Joensuu.



© Lykynlampi

Kimmel Spa

sokoshotels.fi/en/hotels/joensuu/original-sokos-hotel-kimmel/spa

Itäranta 1,
80100 Joensuu

Kimmel Pampering Spa is at the Original Sokos Hotel Kimmel in central Joensuu. Take a moment to relax in spa atmosphere!



© PKO

Ice Swimming

For a truly Finnish experience, try ice swimming! During winter, openings are made into lakes and you can take a quick dip in the cold water, often followed by a warm sauna. It may sound intimidating at first, but ice swimming is a fun way to experience Finnish traditions, spend time outdoors and challenge yourself.



© Joensuu Polar Bears



**Joensuu Polar Bears /
Joensuun jääkarhut**

[.joensuunjaakarhut.fi/in-english/](https://joensuunjaakarhut.fi/in-english/)

 **Mäntyniementie 1, 80220
Joensuu**

Winter swimming center located in Vehkalahti. Open all year, but especially popular for ice swimming. Two saunas and deck for swimming.

Saunakeidas / Sauna Oasis

saunakeidas.fi/en/

 **Siltakatu 1, 80100 Joensuu**

During winter season offers you a high-quality sauna experience in Ilosaari lagoon, in the wonderful scenery of Pielisjoki, located centrally in Joensuu.

 Read more about Ice Swimming:

www.visitkarelia.fi/en/top-activities/ice-swimming/

Local restaurants and cafés

Looking to taste some local food? Here are some great options for exploring what Joensuu has to offer.

Soossi Cocktails & Pizza

soossille.fi

Suvantokatu 2,
80100 Joensuu

Modern pizza restaurant with experimental flavours and fun drinks!



© Harri Säynevirta

Marttakahvila Café

Kauppatori,
80100 Joensuu

Looking for a place to taste the traditional Karelian pie? Marttakahvila Café at the Joensuu Market square is the place to go.

Café Rento

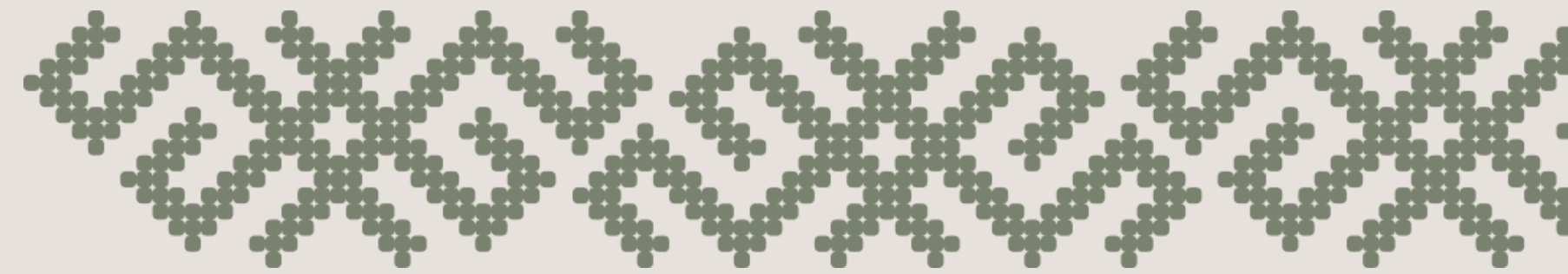
kahvilarento.fi

Rantakatu 2,
80100 Joensuu

Café Rento is located by River Pielinen during summer season, and offers tasty treats and drinks. You can also rent kayaks from here.



Local restaurants and cafés



Looking to taste some local food? Here are some great options for exploring what Joensuu has to offer.

Vesikioski Café

 vesikioski.fi

 **Keskusaukio 4,
80100 Joensuu**

Vesikioski is an outdoor café during summer season, serving “pullavohveli” as their speciality. This treat is a waffle made with traditional Finnish sweet pun pastry, and you can pick the toppings.



Jokiasema

 jokiasema.fi

 **Hasanniementie 3,
80110 Joensuu**

Jokiasema is a café restaurant located by river Pielinen, on a scenic location. During summer season breakfast is served outside on the terrace as well.



© Tinja Sallinen

Explore the Koli National Park

Koli National Park is known for the National Landscape of Finland! Throughout the year Koli makes for an unforgettable destination, with different seasons of the year: snow season, summer season and autumn foliage (*ruska*).

Koli Nature Center Ukko has an exhibition, café, rental equipment and does guidance on the nature trails of the area.

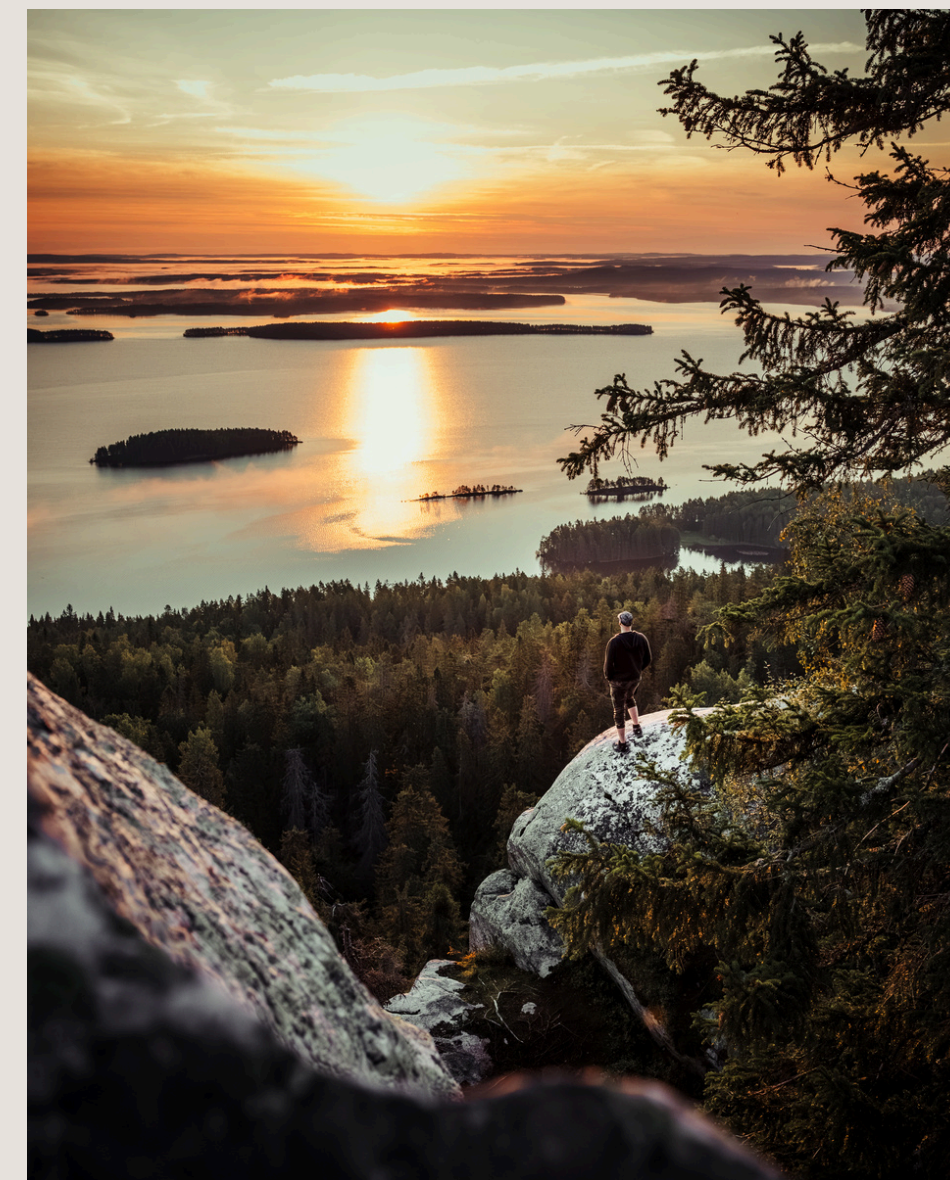
Reaching Koli National Park



Bus connection is available from Joensuu to Koli. **Bus tickets must be bought in advance, no later than 5.50 p.m. on the previous day.**



Existing shared taxi connection to Koli on Sundays. Must be purchased in advance!



Koli Nature Center Ukko
https://ukko.retkipaikka.fi/en_US
Yläkolintie 39, 83960 Koli

Read more about public transport connections to Koli national park:
www.koli.fi/en/travel-plans/arrival/

Outdoor Trails in Joensuu

Easily accessible outdoor trails in the Joensuu City Area.

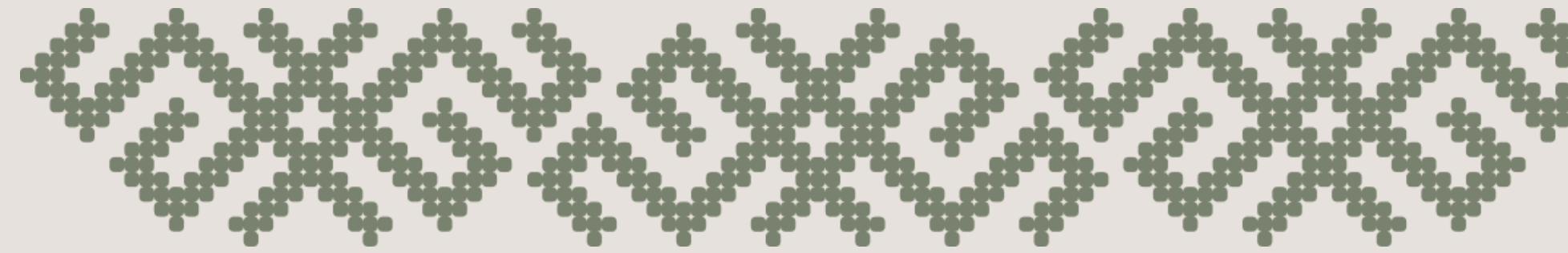
Kuhasalo Nature Trail

 **Kukkosensaari 5,
80220 Joensuu**

Just a short walk from central Joensuu, Kuhasalo Nature Trail offers easy, accessible routes along the shores of Lake Pyhäselkä. The one- and two-kilometre trails combine peaceful lakeside scenery with campfire huts along the way.



Outdoor Trails in Joensuu

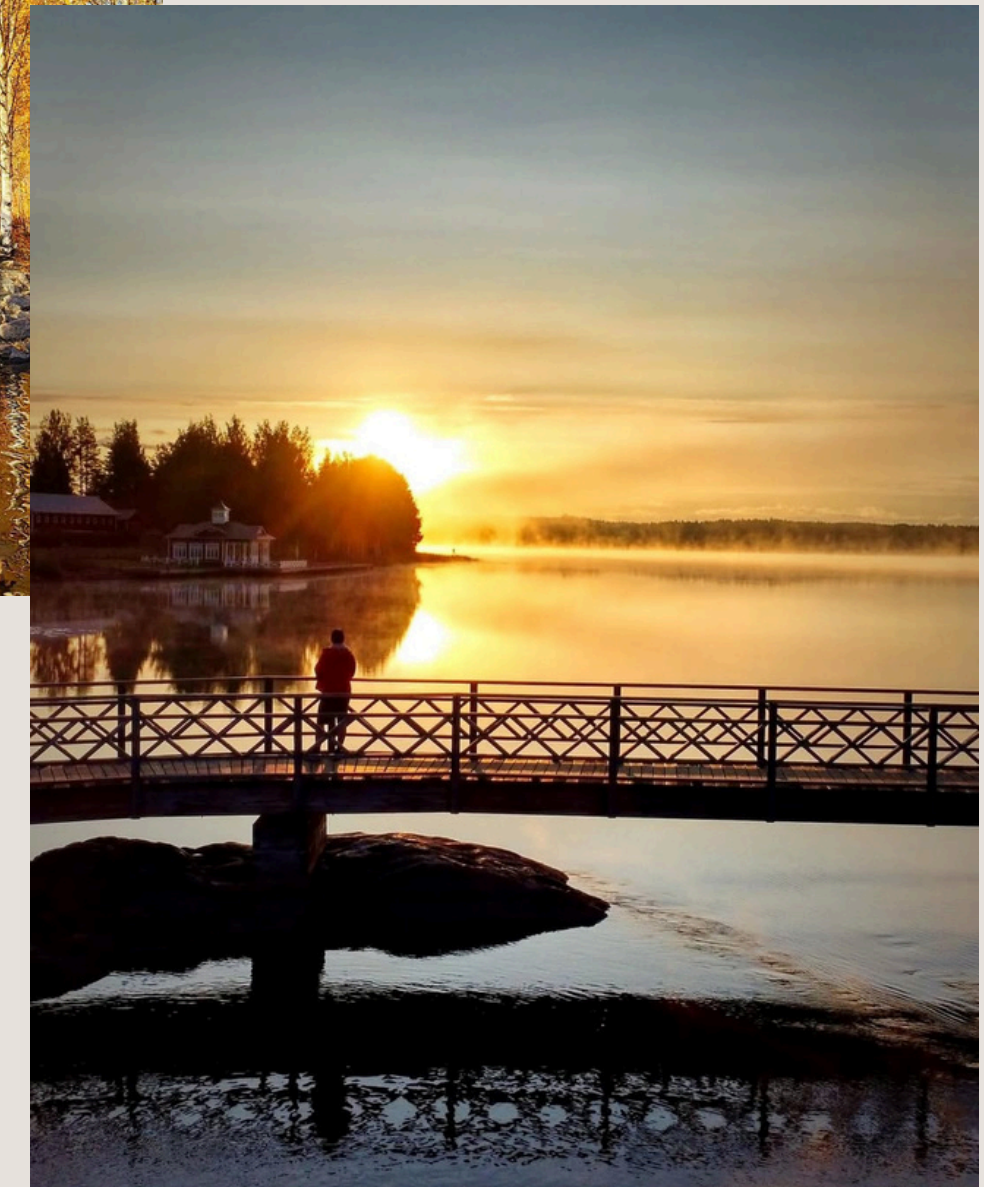


Utra Islands

📍 Utrantie 90, 80170
Joensuu

The Utra Islands are a peaceful island complex just 6 km from Joensuu Market Square. Six small rocky islands are connected by charming wooden bridges, making the area ideal for a leisurely walk or jog.

Along the way, you can enjoy lakeside scenery, stop by a campfire to grill sausages, and spot ducks and other waterfowl.



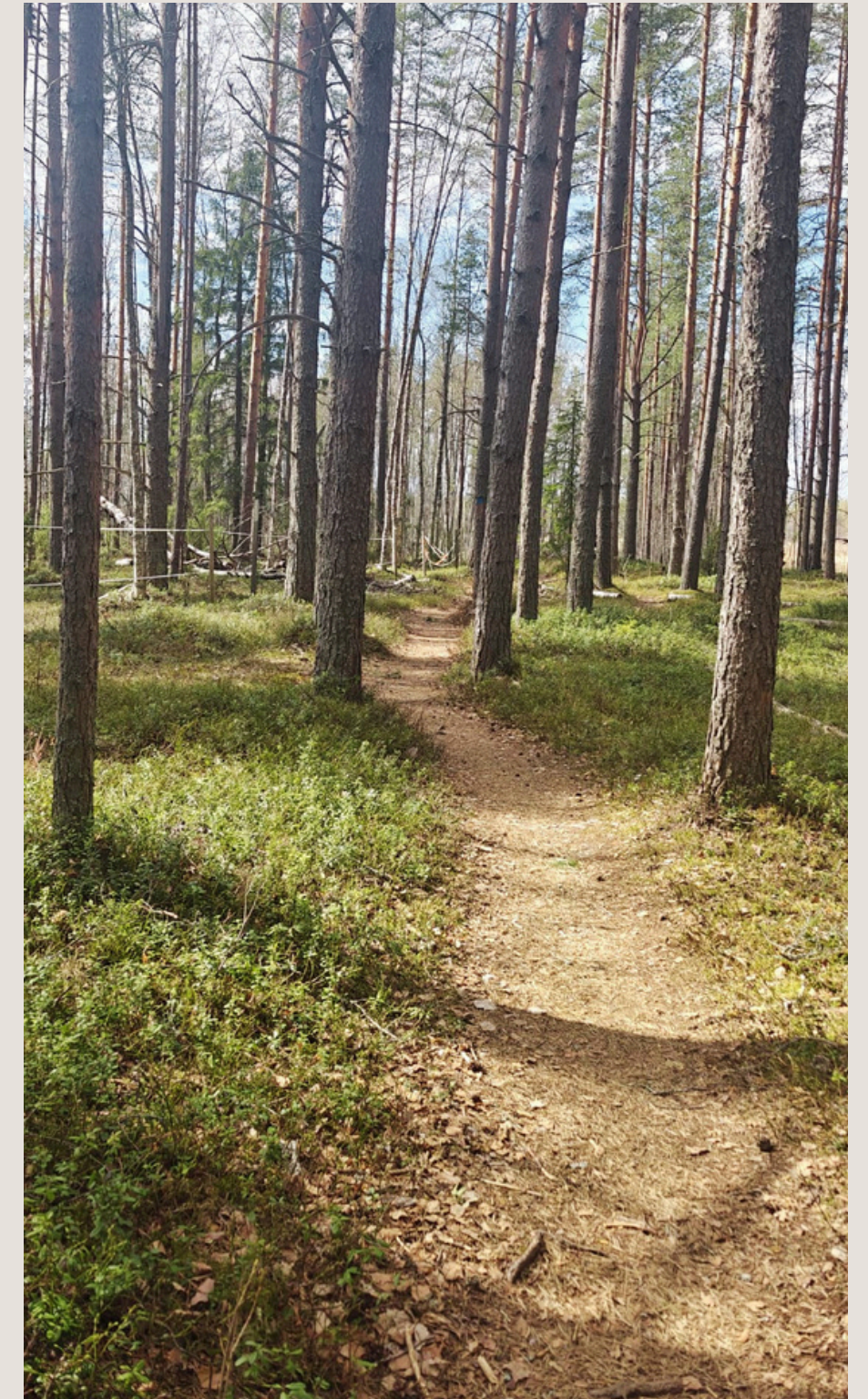
Outdoor Trails in Joensuu

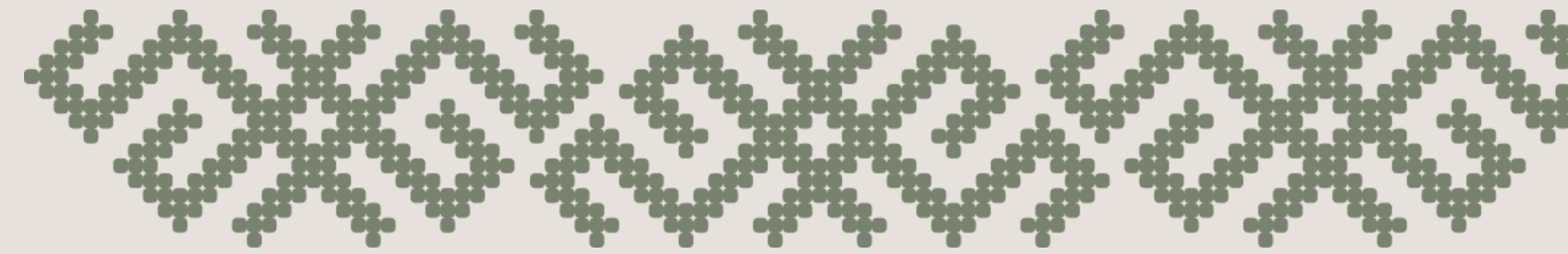
Noljakka Nature Trail

📍 Iisakintie 3, 80140

Joensuu

The 2.5-kilometre Noljakka Nature Trail runs through a protected wetland area about 6 km from Joensuu Market Square. The trail follows wooden duckboards through the wetlands and includes a birdwatching tower, making it a great spot for birdlife and nature.





Follow Us on Instagram



**Find more information:
visitkarelia.fi/en/**

