

Strange and exciting things in South Karelia



Discover the exciting side of merry Karelia on this trip. In Lappeenranta, we are introduced to the history of the Finnish Civil War and the caves and bunkers excavated during the Second World War to form the Salpa Line defences. As twilight falls, we trek to a shelter in the nearby forest for an outdoor meal. We hear tales about the Saimaa UNESCO Global Geopark and about Stone Age settlements in the calm, darkening evening. At the Fortress in the town centre of Lappeenranta, we explore the history of what is known as 'Old Finland', a region occupied by Sweden and Russia in turn over the centuries. A drama guide leads us around the historic fortress, describing aspects of life in the town in past times.

Accommodation is provided at a unique hotel in a renovated village school amidst the natural environment surrounding the historic Salpa Line defences: Salpalinjan Hovi. Each room is different, being decorated according to a particular school subject. Enjoy the ambience of the old school and the gentle juniper-scented steam heat in the teachers' sauna. The evening includes stories about the local history of logging and

Duration, date: 2 days, 1 night

Validity:

Town/community, location, route: Lemi, Lappeenranta

Availability, date and time: Available all year round

Number of persons: 4 to 14 persons

Languages: English, Finnish

Demands:

Restrictions, accessibility: Not suitable for the mobility-impaired

Price, adults, children, concessions: 192€ per person

Clothing:

Price includes:

Night at Salpalinjan Hovi hotel in a twin room, bed linen included. Breakfast, Meals as listed in the programme, guided tours, performances and tickets as listed in the programme.

Additional services and extra charges:

Extra charge for single room EUR 29 per person
Relaxing in a hot tub EUR 90 per group. This service is not available when the ground is frozen.
Dramatised guided tour of the Lappeenranta Fortress EUR 170 per group.

Advance booking timetable:

Further information:

Group activities booked by the group for an extra charge.
Transport is not included in the price.
In the summer, this trip may be extended with a visa-free canal cruise to Viborg.

Vendor:

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Programme

11.30 Arrival at Salpalinjan Hovi.

“Salpa Line – monument of our last war” – Guided tour of structures and caves in the Salpa Line defences nearby, 1 h.

13.00 **Särä lunch** at Kippurasarvi in Lemi. *Särä* is a lamb dish prepared according to a tradition a thousand years old and considered one of Finland’s seven wonders.

15.00 **Guided walking tour of Rutola village**, focusing on the history of logging and sawmills in the area.

You may choose to relax at the hotel instead, playing darts or other games. The hotel provides a wide range of traditional outdoor games and board games.

16.30 **Afternoon coffee with Amalia Lamminpää**, featuring stories about the history of Rutola school.

17.00-18.30 **Sauna bath** in the juniper-scented former teachers’ sauna, including self-service salt scrubbing and a moisturising mud mask. You can also relax in a hot tub (by special order). This service is not available when the ground is frozen.

19.00 **Guided trek to a nearby shelter where we prepare supper on an open fire.**

We hear tales about the Saimaa UNESCO Global Geopark and about Stone Age settlements in the calm, darkling evening. At dark times of the year, we make the trek with headlamps and lanterns.



Day 2

08.00 **Buffet breakfast** at the hotel

10.00 “Suvorov and the Lappeenranta Fortress” or independent exploration of the Fortress.

A dramatised guided tour following the footsteps of Empress Catherine the Great and General Suvorov in the old Fortress of Lappeenranta. 1 to 1.5 h by separate booking only.



The programme of this trip concludes with a tour of the Fortress.

For lunch, we recommend the historic

Upseerikerho (Officers’ Club) in Lappeenranta.

Lunch price: EUR 11–14 per person.

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