

# Discovery of Karelian culture and cuisine



On this trip, you are invited to sample the diverse culture and culinary heritage of merry Karelia. At Luumäki, we visit the home museum of the late President Svinhufvud. At Lemi, we are treated to *särä*, a traditional lamb dish. We are introduced to life at what was the village school at Rutola by former teacher Amalia Lamminpää, including a visit to the school sauna. A walking tour along the village trail includes stories of the history of logging and sawmills in the area, and we also visit dugouts and accommodation bunkers in the Salpa Line defences. A drama guide leads us around the historic Lappeenranta 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.

**Duration, date:** 2 days, 1 night

**Validity:**

**Town/community, location, route:** Luumäki, 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:** 199€ 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

11.00 Arrival at **President Svinhufvud's Home Museum, Kotkaniemi**. Guided tour of the restored house and Mrs Ellen Svinhufvud's garden.

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.

14.00 **Arrival at Salpalinjan Hovi**, check-in.

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

16.00 **Guided tour introducing the history of logging and sawmills in Rutola village** and visiting the ancient waterway in the Saimaa UNESCO Global Geopark. 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.

17.30-19.30 **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.  
19.30 **Supper** in Karelian style.



## Day 2

08.00 **Buffet breakfast** at the hotel

09.00 "Salpa Line – monument of our last war".

**Guided tour** of structures and caves in the Salpa Line defences nearby, 1- 1,5 h.

10.45 "General Suvorov and the Lappeenranta Fortress", or independent exploration of the Fortress.

**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 (EUR 170 per group).



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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