

Discover the hidden treasures of Saimaa in Puumala

SAIMAA GEOPARK



Puumala

NATURALLY BEAUTIFUL



WHAT IS A GEOPARK? Geopark is a limited area with scientifically and scenically significant geological attractions. In addition to geology there are interesting nature attractions and historical sites in a geopark. Geoparks work under the protection of UNESCO. See saimaageopark.fi

Puumala geosites

1. The Haukkovuori scarps
2. Rakokivet and the caves
3. Lietvesi scenic road
4. Pistohiekka delta formation
5. Loketononkalo overflow channel
6. Rokansaari
7. Sahanlahti boulder terrain and Tupavuori cave
8. Puumalansalmi fracture zone
9. Norppapolku
10. The rock paintings in Syrjäsalmi
11. Kukonharju canal
12. Suurisuo
13. Liehtalanniemi shoreline outcrops and nature path
14. Tollonvuori steep rocky area

Other routes

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19. Kukkeistenpolku trail 10km
20. Koskenselkä nature trail 3km
21. Elsa Heporauta trail 22km
22. Metso wellness trails
13. Liehtalanniemi nature trail 2km, see geosites



Nature sites, potholes and erratic boulders

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25. Liittokivi
26. Kristuksenhauta
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28. Kummakivi
29. Harmaala primeval forest

Sandy beaches and excursion harbours (RS)

6. Rokansaari (RS)
40. Rokansalo (RS)
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44. Suuri Metiäinen (RS)
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46. Haapasaari (RS)
47. Hiekkaniemi (RS)
48. Kukonharju (RS)
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50. Yksköytinen (RS)

Cultural sites in Puumala

15. SS Wenno
16. Salpa Line concrete bunker
17. The Puumala wooden church

Rock paintings

10. Syrjäsalmi, see geosites
31. Kuutinvuori
32. Kaitajärvi
33. Sourunniemi
34. Maksasaarenselkä
35. Vetotaipale
36. Vuorilampi
37. Ekelinniemi
38. Ahotaipale, Luukkola

See more info at the back. →



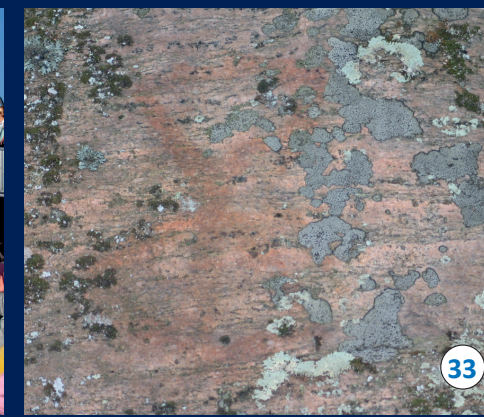
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Alterations may be made. Not all the attractions are signposted. Hiking is at one's own risk. Remember a hiker's responsibilities as well as "everyman's rights"!
 Puumala tourist information +358 50 562 0706
 Puumala marina information +358 400 929 365
 Emergency police / fire / rescue number 112

Puumala geosites

Source: Saimaa Geopark

- THE HAUKKOVUORI SCARPS** rise 81m above Saimaa. The area is a model example of a "watercourse valley" caused by a fault in the bedrock, deepened and cleaned of fragmented rock material by the continental ice sheet. The bedrock is a mix of garnet-cordierite-mica gneiss and granite dykes, typical of the area (hereafter GKK).
- RAKOKIVET AND THE CAVES** were formed when big granite boulders split and cracked into smaller pieces. The boulders are porphyritic and gneissic granite, and were glacially transported to their current place around 11,500 years ago.
- LIETVESI SCENIC ROAD** Lietvesi is typically Saimaa north of the Salpausselkäs: the labyrinthine watercourse is intersected by stretches of eskers, remnants of the ice age. The main rock type is GKK with veins of granite. There is also an ancient, steep-sloped hill fort nearby which features remnants of rocky embankments.
- PISTOHIEKKA** is a 150km long delta formation that accumulated along a fragmented stretch of esker. The area emerged from beneath the continental ice sheet during the time when the local ice lake stage in the Lietvesi area changed into the Yoldia Sea stage around 11,400 years ago. As the water levels fell, the Pistohiekka and Pistohiekankangas delta formation was washed away and levelled. Pistohiekka forms a shore feature site with an eroded bank measuring around 700m long and 3-4m tall. It also features ancient shorelines (at a Greater Saimaa stage height of 87msl) and rocky outcrops.
- LOKETONONKALO** overflow channel is a channel running northwest-southeast eroded by the meltwater of the continental ice sheet, in the fragmented bedrock's zones of weakness. The channel is bordered by small rocky scarps; a scarp on the southwest side also has a ledge, which, along with the gorge, has acted as a hiding spot place for locals during the war years.
- ROKANSAAARI** is an esker island with many different formations. The area is dominated by kettle ponds and various shore features, such as beach banks and ridges formed during Saimaa's various stages. Rokansaari is part of a 150km long fragmented stretch of esker which begins in Pieksämäki and ends at the tip of Kyläniemi near Niittylahti-Härkkimyk-senhiekka. The Rokansaari area emerged from beneath the continental ice sheet 11,500-11,400 years ago, when the area was lapped by the waters of the southern Saimaa ice lakes. Traces of human history left on the island include a boarding house (1940s) trenches dug into the sandy ground (approx. 1914) and a Stone-Age dwelling site. Rokansaari is a popular hiking destination, see www.saimaanvirkestysalueyhdistys.fi
- SAHANLAHTI BOULDER TERRAIN AND TUPAVUORI CAVE.** Sahanlahti is an old sawmill; its yard area used to be intersected by the main thoroughfare from Puumala. There are lots of individual and groups of jumbled boulders in the yard—and boulder caves have also formed between the piles. Throughout history the caves have acted as playgrounds for the village children. Nowadays Sahanlahti is home to a wide range of accommodation, tourist and harbour services www.sahanlahtiresort.fi **TUPAVUORI** is a large boulder and crevice

cave in granite-biotite-hornblende gneiss bedrock, whose hall-like interior can be accessed through a crack. The cave was formed when horizontal and vertical crevices deepened as the continental ice plucked boulders from the bedrock. The cave is dark in places, so it is highly recommended that visitors bring a torch. The cave is also said to have been a hideout during the war.

- PUUMALANSALMI FRACTURE ZONE** One of Saimaa's main water traffic routes runs through Puumalansalmi and it is crossed by Finland's fourth longest road bridge. The bridge is almost 800m in length and the top of the bridge deck is 31m above the surface of Saimaa. There is also a scenic lift at the bridge, and the café Saimaan Loiste. Saimaa's labyrinthine features are clearly visible from the bridge. This was caused by bedrock fault zones, where the bedrock is more fragmented than the surrounding bedrock.
- NORPPAPOLKU** forms a network of paths through heathy esker terrain, lush wetlands and rocky lookout points. The area emerged from beneath the continental ice sheet during Saimaa's ice lake stage around 11,500 years ago. The types of rock found are typical to the area; mica gneiss and granite pegmatite. Kettles and ancient shore terraces add a little extra to the landscape. The Greater Saimaa stage shorelines along the path are a little over 84msl. The path is marked and there are swimming and campfire spots along the way.
- THE ROCK PAINTINGS IN SYRJÄSALMI** date back to the Greater Saimaa phase and subsequent phases 6,000-3,600 years ago. The paintings depict people and elk, amongst other things. The site is in some-

what boulder-strewn terrain, and there are boulder caves in the area.

- KUKONHARJU CANAL** is 800m long and it was partially quarried from mica gneiss rock and partially formed with embankments. The canal aptly illustrates the need for canals in the Saimaa area: there are lots of bedrock faults in the area all running in the same direction and forming long valleys and bays across the terrain, with isthmuses between them forcing boaters to take very long routes. The canal was of great significance to water traffic in the 18th century in particular, when the waterways were primarily transport routes. Kukonharju is part of the so-called Suvorov chain of channels.
- SUURISUO** is a largely natural area, whose rocky forest islets and pools increase its landscape value. As is typical of raised bogs, Suurisuo's vegetation is rather barren and consists of ten types of pine bogs and a few types of poor fen. The flora contains no endangered or rare plant species, but all species that are typical these types of swamps represented. The area is about 100ha and it used to be part of the Southern Saimaa ice lake; there is a sandy formation to the northeast of the swamp that is thought to be a delta.
- LIEHTALANNIEMI SHORELINE OUTCROPS AND NATURE PATH.** Liehtalanniemi is a rocky-shored peninsula with typical mica gneiss bedrock. Glacial grooves running from north-northwest to south-southeast and depressions eroded by waves are visible on the shore's rocks. There are also a few boulders and some small mounds of weathered rocks on the shore. There is a small museum estate in the traditional landscape of Liehtalanniemi and a nature trail with signposts.

- TOLLONVUORI** steep rocky area and its surroundings form an area spanning almost one hundred hectares. It has been designated valuable and its southern scarp forms a Geopark site. The area's features are dominated by two diagonally intersecting fractures, which are visible in the terrain as narrow valleys. The Tollonvuori steppe-like rock wall is around 400m long and 40-50m high. The wall displays diagonal, horizontal and vertical cracking, and there are expansive *röche moutonnée* areas on top of the rock. There are also several cave-like spaces in the area which have formed beneath slabs leaning against the rock wall.

Cultural sites in Puumala

- S/S WENNO** was built in 1907 to transport timber for the Miettula sawmill (nowadays known as Sahanlahti). Of the large tar steamer fleet that once operated on Saimaa, the S/S Wenno is the only one with an iron hull that has been preserved.
- SALPA LINE CONCRETE BUNKER** in the centre of Puumala Salpa Line (Salpalinja) is a 1,200km long defence line that was built in 1940-1941 and 1944 to defend the eastern border of Finland. Salpa Line bunker in Puumala was an accommodation bunker and was built in 1941.
- THE PUUMALA WOODEN CHURCH** was inaugurated in 1832 and the most recent renovation was completed in 2006-2007. There are approx. 1,000 seats and it's one of the biggest wooden churches in Finland.

Other routes

- THE PUUMALA ARCHIPELAGO ROUTE** is an award-winning circular route for cyclists and motorcyclists. This route is about 60km long and it passes through the most beautiful scenery of Saimaa via

bridges, islands and esker terrains. The Norppa II ferries bikers to and from the Hurissalo and Lintusalo islands. Norppa II operates from Lintusalo and Hurissalo dock is at this address: Lintusalontie 1661 A. Coordinates for the dock are 61 25,8, 28 00,1. Hurissalo dock is in Kivisalo and the address is Hurissalontie 390. The ferry has room for 20 passengers and the ride takes 40-60 minutes depending on the weather.

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- KUKKEISTENPOLKU** trail 10km
- KOSKENSELKÄ NATURE TRAIL** 3km
- ELSA HEPORAUTA TRAIL** 22km
- METSO WELLNESS TRAILS** in the archipelago: okkola.fi and nestorinranta.fi
- LIEHTALANNIEMI NATURE TRAIL** 2km

Nature sites, potholes and erratic boulders

- POTHOLE IN LINTUSALO**, Telkonniemi, guide from Miekkanientie.
- LIITTOKIVI** is a rocky skerry in the middle of Suur-Saimaa. It also marked the border between Sweden and Russia in the 1700s.
- KRISTUKSENHAUTA** is a crack in the rock in Karkia.
- SÄKKIMÄKI** is the highest point of the Puumala archipelago (133m). There is a lean-to and fireplace at the lookout. There used to be a triangulation tower, too, built by the Russians in 1912 in Säkkimäki.
- KUMMAKIVI** on the border of Puumala and Ruokolahti is an enormous boulder that defies gravity. Kummakivi is one of the geosites in the Saimaa Geopark, too.
- HARMAALA PRIMEVAL FOREST**