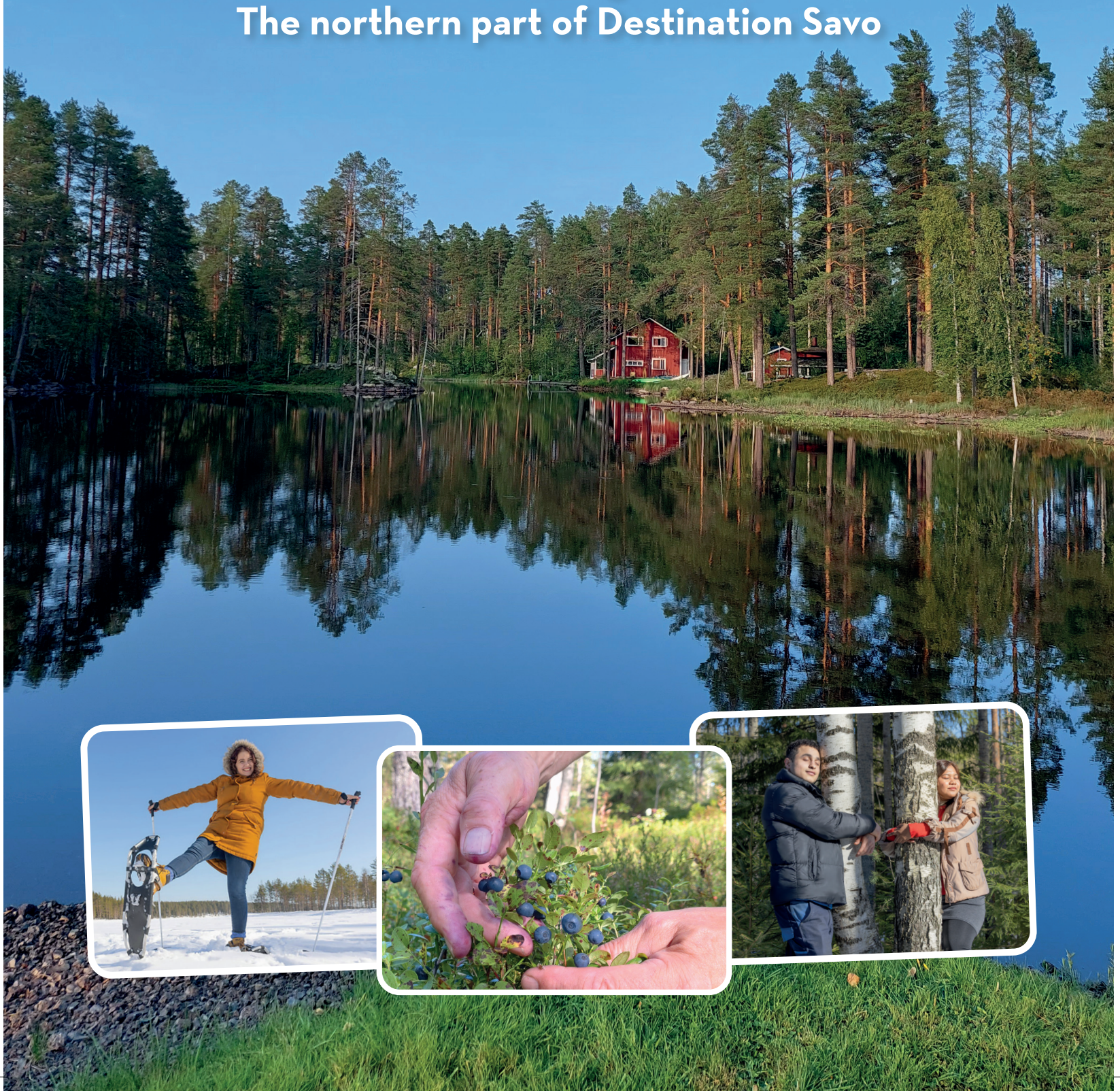


DISCOVER THE AUTHENTIC HEART OF FINNISH LAKELAND




Iisalmi Region
The northern part of Destination Savo



FINLAND

How to reach Iisalmi region



FROM	HELSINKI	KUOPIO	KAJAANI	OULU	JOENSUU
	5,5 h	1 h	1 h	2,5 h	2,5 h
	5,5 h	1 h	1 h	3 h	5,5 h
	From Helsinki to Kuopio, Kajaani, Oulu and Kuopio (1 h - 1 h 20 min)				

IISALMI REGION

Experience the authentic Finnish way of life with us

WINTER ACTIVITIES



DOMESTIC ANIMALS



EXPERIENTIAL EVENTS



UNTOUCHED AND PURE NATURE



THE WORLD'S SMALLEST RESTAURANT



CYCLING



MUSEUMS



BERRY PICKING



Travel distances are short: all six of our key regions are accessible within 30 minutes to 1.5 hours.

With your own vehicle, you can ride the winding and hilly village roads from village to village, even on a round trip.



DISCOVER THE AUTHENTIC HEART OF FINNISH LAKELAND

Here, hospitality is more than just a service - it's a feeling. It's about meaningful connections, genuine warmth, and a sense of relaxed togetherness.

Nestled in the northern reaches of the Finnish Lakeland, the Iisalmi region in Destination Savo offers a truly authentic slice of Finnish countryside - where crystal-clear lakes meet the calm rhythm of everyday rural life.

This region, with its scenic charm and cultural richness, has long been a source of inspiration for renowned Finnish writers and artists. This is where the great lakes of the Visit Lakeland Finland area begin, setting the stage for unforgettable, crowd-free experiences throughout the year.

Whether you're hiking through the Tiilikajärvi National Park, paddling along tranquil forest rivers, discovering one of Finland's 27 designated national landscapes, or cheering on contestants at the quirky Word Wife Carrying Championships. - You feel yourself unwind!

HIGHLIGHTS

In our region, nature is never far away - even when visiting local companies. As locals often say: “When you walk in the nearby woods, you might spot animals and observe how nature changes and transforms with the seasons.”



WILDERNESS RETREAT

Metsäkartano is a peaceful wilderness resort in Rautavaara, nestled in Finland's picturesque Lakeland region. Surrounded by the soothing sounds of nature, it's the perfect place to relax and enjoy the fresh forest air. Savour local cuisine, take part in guided activities, and explore the long, natural beach and trails of Tiilikajärvi National Park throughout the year.

metsakartano.com

Season: All year round. Suitable for Groups.



MAKE UNFORGETTABLE MEMORIES WITH DOMESTIC ANIMALS

Enjoy a leisurely visit with animals in an idyllic and peaceful countryside setting. Lovingly raised and cared-for farm animals- such as llamas, alpacas, sheep and goats-await your attention and gentle touch. There is a cozy open-fire hut in the yard. The hostess will be with you throughout the tour.

TIP! Book “A Touch of Christmas Magic” - with a Reindeer and Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus!

iisalmijatienoot.fi/en or hanhenlento.fi

Season: All year round. Suitable for FIT and groups.



WIFE CARRYING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS MORE THAN JUST A RACE!

Every year a small town of Sonkajärvi hosts the International Wife Carrying Championships. During this competition, husbands have to carry their wives/friends along the track with various obstacles. In total there were participants from 12 different countries in last year. The first event was held in 1992!

eukonkanto.fi

Season: Early July. Suitable for FIT.



OLVI BREWERY MUSEUM

Olvi's story began in 1878 when brewmaster William Gideon Åberg and his wife Onni established a brewery in Iisalmi, Finland, aiming to curb alcoholism by offering milder alcoholic beverages to Finns.

Olvi brewery remains the only one still independently owned and Finnish since 1878 and situated Iisalmi for more than 145 years. Guided tours available for groups. You can also take the tour on your own, as there are English-language immersive storytelling advanced technology.

panimomuseo.johku.com

Season: All year round. Suitable for FIT and groups.



SEE IT LIKE A LOCAL

CLOSE TO NATURE, FAR FROM THE HUSTLE AND BUSTLE!

Jokiniemen Matkailu is a family-owned countryside retreat nestled by the shores of lake Onkivesi, just 50 km north of Kuopio. We offer cozy guesthouse accommodation and tranquil cottage holidays. Nature is right at your doorstep - enjoy berry picking, fishing, aurora watching, and the beauty of all four seasons. Tip! The property even has its own sandy beach -perfect for summer relaxation.

jokiniemenmatkailu.fi/

Season: All year round. Suitable for FIT.



THE KOLJONVIRTA HISTORICAL NATURE TRAIL – DISCOVER THE PAST OF IISALMI

This 1.5 km nature trail takes you through scenic forests and lakeshores to the site of the 1808 Battle of Koljonvirta—one of the key battles of the Finnish War. Along the route, you'll find historic remains, war relics, and storyboards that bring the past to life. The trail includes a campfire spot with beautiful lake views and sunset. The area also has a museum, exhibition, cafe and beach.

Season: Summer. Suitable for FIT.

RUNNI'S MIRACLE SPRING FROM 19TH CENTURY

The Runni Miracle Spring was discovered in the 18th century, when its iron-rich water was found to have health-promoting properties. Already in the 19th century, visitors from across Europe traveled to experience its healing powers. Today, Spa hotel Runni welcomes guests to the tranquil Finnish countryside, offering comfortable accommodation and a range of wellness and activity programs. The legendary spring water still flows - you can taste it in the spa's drinking room as it flows gently through the lobby.

Spa hotel Runni, spahotelrunni.fi

Season: All year round. Suitable for FIT and groups.



MEAT RESTAURANT - IN AN AUTHENTIC BARN BUILDING

Local entrepreneur Antti from Pesola Pihviliha has opened his very own Meat Restaurant in a truly special setting - the former "Runnin Emäntäkoulu", a traditional Finnish school where women once learned to run rural households. Today, the old barn has been beautifully transformed into a one-of-a-kind countryside dining experience. The kitchen is helmed by some of the region's finest chefs, and all the meat comes directly from Antti's own farm. The restaurant is open by reservation only, and the menu is delightfully simple: grilled meat and seasonal side dishes. There's truly nothing else place like it in Finland!

pesolanpihviha.fi

Season: All year round. Suitable for group size 50 - 150.



THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS EEMIL

The collections of the Museum of Fine Arts Eemil are based on sculptures and plaster and clay drafts of works by the renowned Finnish sculptor Eemil Halonen (1875-1950). The museum also preserves the heritage of other members of the Halonen artist family, familiar from Finnish art history.

Temporary exhibitions of Finnish contemporary art are also displayed at the Museum of Fine Arts Eemil.

eemil.fi

Season: All year round. Suitable for FIT and groups.



RELAX IN PURE FINNISH NATURE

Kallioranta Nature Services offers nature experiences that promote well-being and help you relax in the heart of nature. In winter, you can take part in a snowshoeing trip, enjoying the silence of snow and the peacefulness of the forest.

During the "Forest Wellness Moment," you'll spend an hour immersed in the calm of the woods, exploring nature through various senses and guided exercises. The tranquil forest environment and guided mindfulness practices support stress relief and help you disconnect from the rush of everyday life.

kalliorannanlomapirtti.com

Season: Winter, Autumn, Summer. Suitable for Groups.

EXPERIENCE THE NORDIC SUMMER NIGHT UNDER THE SKY!

Vaarojen majat is a family owned, sustainable oriented company and it's specialized to offer tree tent accommodation near Tiilikajärvi National Park. Relax in a tent floating among the trees, admire the lake views, listen to the sounds of nature and receive the health and well-being benefits of northern nature. Deepen your connection with nature and combine this accommodation with a visit to the largest national park in southern Finland. We Speak Gay.

Vaarojen Majat, vaarojenmajat.fi

Season: 16.6. - 30.9. Suitable for FIT.





ROUTES FOR INDEPENDENT TRAVEL

UITON KIERTO - A HIKING TRAIL IN TIILIKKAJÄRVI NATIONAL PARK

A beautiful hiking trail in the heart of Tiilikajärvi National Park. Here you can admire the ridges, marsh sceneries with cottongrass and shores of wilderness lakes. You can find accommodation and a restaurant nearby at Metsäkartano resort (distance 22 km).

Difficulty: easy, Distance 7,2 km, round trip, family-friendly



HIKING TRAIL



WATER CREATED NEW, ROAD TRIP 1

On this route, you will explore the history of Iisalmi and its surroundings during industrialisation and the harnessing of hydropower-driven mills. En route we will explore ironworks, mills and local tastes.

In the area of industrialisation, water was the foundation for new development in North Savonia when bog iron ore was extracted from local lakes and iron refined efficiently from it. In addition to iron works, there were several mills working on hydropower in the area.

Difficulty: Medium. The route includes asphalt, gravel, and winding roads.

Season: Summer time

Starting point: City of Iisalmi

Route: 270 km, 6 points

Season: Summer. Suitable for FIT.



ROAD TRIP 1



ROAD TRIP 2

HEAR HOW CHURCHES TELL THEIR STORIES, ROAD TRIP 2

Come to explore the churches of Iisalmi region. They speak to us in their own words about local history, culture, nature and architecture. You can imagine the church speaking and presenting itself to you. Who knows the history of this church better?

Difficulty: Medium. The route includes asphalt, gravel, and winding roads.

Route: 363 km, 7 points

Season: Summer time. Suitable for FIT.

TIPS FOR EVERY SEASON



URBAN FISHING EXPERIENCE

At Iisalmi Harbor, you can enjoy fishing just 600 meters from Iisalmi Market Square. Book in advance and remember to dress for the weather. Ice fishing in winter and relaxing angling in summer.

Iisalmen Pilkkijät ry/ Aki Piironen
Suitable for FIT and groups.

TEUVO LÄNSIVUORI CAREER EXHIBITION - RR-LEGEND

The exhibition brings together the highlights of the career of Teuvo Länsivuori, the motorcycle legend from Iisalmi. On display in the exhibition are race bikes, trophies, riding gear and World Championship medals. Through interactive displays, you can browse through thrilling digital content capturing the essence of Road Racing across Europe throughout the years.

iisalmijatiennoot.fi/en_US

Suitable for FIT and groups.



TASTE LOCAL DELICACIES AT THE MARKET.

In the center of Iisalmi, you enjoy delicious, locally made treats. In the winter try traditional Finnish blueberry pie with rye crust. In the summer, you can find muurinpohjalettu (Finnish campfire pancakes) at the local market. Muurinpohjalettu is an EU-protected product and a traditional delicacy of the region.



FEEL THE FINNISH CLEAR WATERS

In summer, you can swim in the fresh lake water, as the area offers plenty of swimming spots and beaches. Enjoy the calm lake under the midnight sun!

In winter, you can experience a true Nordic tradition - take a dip in an ice hole!



FALL IN LOVE WITH THE LOCAL MANSIONS

The area is home to several historic manors that are open year-round. Hear their stories, relax with a small group at a concert, and enjoy traditional Finnish pot-brewed coffee or local food. Suitable for groups.



EXAMPLE OF ACTIVITIES



OLVI BEER TASTING -SINCE 1887

A tasting of beer and local foods at the Iisalmi brewery is a perfect event for a night out with friends. The tasting is suitable for individuals and companies alike. You will learn about different types of beer, as well as flavours that complement the character of different types of beer.

Group size: 10 - 20 people

Duration 2 hours.

Availability on request

Reservations olvi@foodandco.fi



FLY FISHING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF AUTHOR JUHANI AHO

In the late 19th century, the first professional Finnish author and local son Juhani Aho used to fish in the magnificent surroundings of Jyrkkä in Sonkajärvi. The powerful Jyrkkänkoski rapids flow through the historic milieu of Jyrkkä ironworks. Hopefully we will catch some of Jyrkkä's famous trout or some delicious perch.

Group size: 4 - 8 people.

Duration 4 - 6 hours.

Availability on request April - August.

Reservations Ruukin Tupa



EXPERIENCES UNDER THE GOLDEN DOME

Hotel Golden Dome, originally built in 1989 as the Orthodox Cultural Evacuee Center, carries a rich history that makes it a unique and fascinating destination. At Restaurant Dome, every dish reflects the surrounding nature and the rich Savonian culinary heritage of the Iisalmi region.

Karelian pie is a delicious traditional dish brought by Border Karelian evacuees. You can book a small-group pie-making workshop and learn to make Karelian pies yourself!

Group size: 8 - 40 people

Duration 5 hours.

Availability on request

Reservations Hotel Golden Dome

DISCOVER THE BEST OF STORIES

Explore the heart of Iisalmi at your own pace with this self-guided 5-hour adventure. From local landmarks and cultural gems to scenic lakeside moments, this flexible experience blends nature, history, and authentic Finnish hospitality

Duration 5 hours. **Example program**
iisalmijatienoot.fi/en





OVERNIGHT TRIP

CULTURAL AND ADVENTURE TRIP IN IISALMI

Welcome to a three-day trip to Iisalmi, where your group will get to know the legend of motorsports, the history of the Finnish brewing industry, rural livestock and local food culture. We will visit, among other things, the Teuvo Lämsivuori career exhibition, the OLVI Brewery Museum, the Hanhenlento livestock farm and the charming Kauppahalli in Iisalmi. Accommodation: Hotel

Group size: min. 16 – max. 50 people.

Duration 3 days/2 nights

Availability May-June, August-October (2025-2026)

Reservations Äksyt Ämmät



SAVONIAN SUMMER ADVENTURE – DISCOVER THE HEART OF FINLAND

This is not just a trip. It's a summer story adventure for you. Embark on a unique road trip through the scenic and soulful region of Northern Savo. This journey combines the best of Finnish culture, countryside charm, and natural beauty – tailored for curious travelers and couples looking for something authentic.

Highlights: Boutique hotels and unique stays, culture gems and local experiences like farm life and lakeland sauna.

Group size: 2 people Duration 6 days

Availability 1.6.-30.8.

Reservations Äksyt Ämmät



NATURE EXPERIENCE BY CANOE AND HIKE

Enjoy a memorable adventure through two lakes by canoe to Savisaari Island, where you'll stay overnight in a cozy log cabin with a sauna – in the peace of your own private island. The next morning, continue paddling across the lake, then hike back to the starting point. Pre-trip guidance included. Approx. 15 km of canoeing and 15 km of hiking.

Group size: 2 people. 10.6.-30.9.

Duration 24 - 30 hours.

Availability on request

Reservations Ruukin Tupa

THE MAGIC OF THE FINNISH WINTER

The Finnish winter is full of magical moments – Northern Lights, blue hours, and nature's own frosty art. Experience the quiet beauty of winter through unforgettable landscapes and atmospheric darkness. Savor local culinary delights and enjoy unhurried activities in the heart of the season. Also winter fishing and walking on ice or visited Anna's Darling jewelry the workshop -shop. The host of the house will support you the whole way. We want to serve our customers individually, that's why our group size is 2 - 10.

Group size: 4 - 10 people.

Duration 6 days.

Availability on request, December - March

Reservations Ruukin Tupa



MORE INFORMATION AND ITEMS

IISALMI JA TIENOOT
www.iisalmijatienoot.fi



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DESTINATION
SAVO
FINLAND
destinationsavo.fi

The companies in this brochure are committed to responsible tourism with or without formal certification. Six out of ten companies in the brochure have an approved certificate.



Euroopan unionin
osarahoittama



Pohjois-Savon liitto

