



visit  
**RAUTAVAARA**  
In English





# Rautavaara – Naturally the Best!



**Rautavaara** is a rural municipality of approximately 1,400 residents located in the North Savo region in Eastern Finland. Surrounded by clear waters, vast forests, and breathtaking natural landscapes, it offers a peaceful retreat for visitors. Although immersed in nature, Rautavaara is easily accessible, just over a one-hour drive from the city of Kuopio and the nearest passenger airport.

Come to **Rautavaara** and discover a variety of scenic nature trails and **hiking routes**, pristine sandy beaches with **swimming spots**, and eye-catching natural formations. During winter, enjoy well-maintained cross-country **ski trails** and **snowmobile routes**. Rautavaara's wilderness offers pure **fishing** waters and forests boasting wild berries and mushrooms for anyone to pick.



Other must-see points of interest here include the impressive landscapes of **Tiilikjärvi National Park**, the panoramic views from the observation tower on the **Kipari hill**, or the stunning ridges shaping the lake scenery at **Äläne**. **Rautavaara** also invites you to experience authentic local events and mouthwatering regional delicacies while making up your mind about unique souvenirs to buy and take home with you.

**All this is what makes Rautavaara truly special – naturally the best!**

This brochure will introduce you to the many outdoor activities and fascinating sights **Rautavaara** has to offer throughout the seasons. Choose your favourites, and before you know it, you'll be heading toward **Rautavaara**.

**Rautavaara welcomes you to discover a nature lover's paradise!**

Find out more online at [www.visitrautavaara.fi/en](http://www.visitrautavaara.fi/en)





# Authentic Adventures

## Spring and Summer – A Dream for Both Land and Water Lovers

After the long winter, snow lingers in the shadowy forests surrounding the unique **Pumpulikirkko** rock formation. Refreshing spring rains render the air crisp and clean, and trees begin to bud with fresh light green leaves. The eagerly awaited summer is about to arrive!

In summer, nature once again dons its deep green colours. As the waters warm up, water enthusiasts head to **natural sandy beaches** and various waterways. Gentle waves cradle kayakers in the distance, while standup paddleboarders enjoy the serene shoreline.

On the beach, the land lover relaxes, watching the sun's rays dance on the water surface, while children cast their lines from the dock for perch. As the waves lap softly against the shore, the land lover gets inspired to try something new, be it a round of **disc golf**, a **geocaching** adventure, or a tour of **local shops** in the nearby town centre. Ready to unwind at the end of the day, they grab their unfinished book and retreat to a **Tentsile tree tent** booked from Vaarojen Majat.

Finally, sleep comes, and after an action-packed day, they drift off to sleep under the light of the endless summer night.





## The Captivating Popular Trails of Tiilikkajärvi National Park

**Tiilikkajärvi National Park** attracts hikers and mountain bikers not just from around Finland but also from abroad, all seeking authenticity and the tranquillity of nature. The national park offers a variety of trails for different skill levels, with stunning landscapes that include sandy ridges and wetlands. Tiilikkajärvi National Park features approximately 20 kilometres of marked **trails**. Must-see spots include Venäjänhiekkä, a natural sandy beach perfect for swimming and overnight stays, the **Pumpulikirkko** rock formation, which conceals an ancient giant's kettle, and the Tiilikanautio Farm, a site where lake ore used to be extracted and smelted into iron. Tiilikkajärvi also holds a piece of history associated with the peace treaty of Teusina (Täyssinä) dating back to the late 16th century.

While **Tiilikkajärvi National Park** offers plenty to explore, don't miss the **trails** of **Kaivannonkierto**, with the sandy shores at **Lake Äläne**, or the **Kipari Loop**, where panoramic views and an observation tower await at the top of the high hill. These trails are also suitable for younger family members.

Find out more online:



[www.rautavaara.fi/en/activities](http://www.rautavaara.fi/en/activities)   [www.rautavaara.fi/en/destinations](http://www.rautavaara.fi/en/destinations)

## Spring and Summer Highlights – Activities & Destinations

### Pumpulikirkko



A natural wonder at Tiilikkajärvi National Park – a fractured giant's kettle shaped by nature!

### Diverse Inland Waterways



Rautavaara is a good place for those who love to take to the waters or spend time on the shore.

### Hiking Trails



Explore the diverse and breathtaking nature trails around Rautavaara.

## Natural Sandy Beaches



Rautavaara with its numerous swimming spots can be dubbed “the Samoa of Finland”. Experience the bliss of the paradise-like beaches in the serenity of nature.

## Kayaking and Standup Paddleboarding



The lakes and rivers of Rautavaara invite you to explore the waters. Water sports equipment is available for rent at the Metsäkartano Youth Centre.

## Tentsile Tent



Spend a summer night in a Tentsile tent or take a relaxing break in one. These tents are suspended from trees!

## Kipari Loop



A 2.2 km circular trail on a terrain with varying elevations, featuring a diversity of landscapes and natural habitats.

## Kaivannonkierto Loop



A 3.6 km circular trail winding along ridges through peaceful pinewoods.

## Cycling



Get on a bike and admire the changing sceneries. A suggestion: try the circular route around Lake Ylä-Keyrittö.

## Playgrounds



An adventurous playground for children is available in the front yard of Metsäkartano. Another playground is located in the centre of Rautavaara.

## Disc Golf




Rautavaara boasts three disc golf courses. What will be your personal best score?

## Berry Picking



In late summer, the nature’s treasures ripen up in the unspoiled forests and wetlands of Rautavaara. The vitamin-rich berry delights are waiting to be picked – why not by you?



# A Burst of Colours, Autumn Atmosphere, and the Bounty of Pristine Nature



## Autumn Bounty from Pristine Nature

In autumn, nature presents its most beautiful colour palette and richest bounty. The crisp cranberries, lovely cloudberries, tasty lingonberries, plump blueberries, and delicious edible mushrooms invite you to explore the outdoors and gather vitamins for the winter. Remember that you can get on a guided wilderness hike, if you're hesitant to go on your own.

**Guided group tours** with various themes are offered by the companies Savon Menevä, Oivallusvaara, and Honkalan Luontopalvelut.



## Magnificent Catches for Fishermen

**Fishing** is among the most anticipated highlights of autumn outdoor activities.

In the pristine, clear waters of the wilderness lakes, you will find rainbow trout, zander, large perch, and autumn pike lurking there. Rarely does a fisherman leave empty-handed!

## Find out more online:



[www.rautavaara.fi/en/activities](http://www.rautavaara.fi/en/activities)



[www.rautavaara.fi/en/destinations](http://www.rautavaara.fi/en/destinations)



## Atmosphere and Play of Light

In the evening dusk, you can feel the autumn atmosphere and the crispness of the night while watching distant lights from the observation tower atop the Kipari hill. On clear nights, **Kipari, Rouskunhiekka, and Koirakivi in Tiilikajärvi National Park** also offer excellent opportunities for stargazing. The mood is further enhanced by the twilight and a campfire lighting up a traditional hut.

After an active day, you can unwind with treatments at the wellness company Fysio-Lymfa. Another great way to relax is by indulging in the warmth of a hot tub out in the open. You can rent a **hot tub** trailer from the company Savoste.

## Autumn Highlights – Activities & Destinations

### Kipari



A hiking spot that offers breathtaking hilltop views of the forests and lakes of Rautavaara.

### Stargazing and Northern Lights



Enjoy the stunning night sky or catch a glimpse of the Northern Lights, free from light pollution.

### Hot Tub Trailer



Rent a sizeable hot tub trailer for 8–10 people from the company Savoste and indulge in pure relaxation. To haul the trailer, a category B driving license is required.

### Fishing

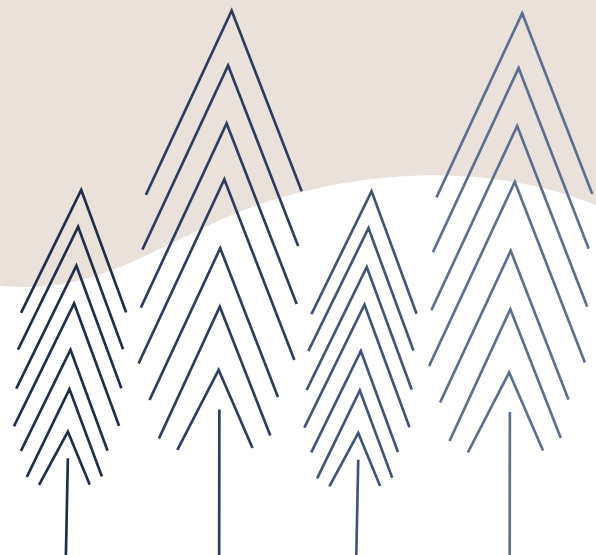


Catch a big one: Reel in the fish lurking in the wilderness lakes and the rainbow trout of Viilekelampi.

### Guided Wilderness and Fishing Tours



Discover nature's treasures and bounties on guided wilderness and nature tours with Honkalan luontopalvelut!





# Winter Joy and the Magic of Snow



## Snowy Fun and Adventure

In winter, the sound of children's laughter echoes at the Hiihtomaa **sled-ding hill**, while the powerful hum of snowmobiles can be heard in the distance. In the free-riding area, snowmobilers get to test their skills on the pristine, glittering snow. Snowmobile enthusiasts come from afar to ride the **well-maintained trails** winding through the natural beauty of Rautavaara. For avid riders, the company Savon Menevä hosts the annual Kelkka-ajot Rautavaara, a must-attend event!



## The Magic of Winter and Nature's Beauty

The snowy landscapes of Rautavaara are perfect for escaping everyday life. On winter trails, you might see someone trekking with **snowshoes or gliding skis**, moving swiftly across the snow and heading off into a peaceful forest path on the spur of the moment. Elsewhere, skiers are savouring the beautiful scenery along the groomed trails found near Rautavaara town centre, at the Metsäkartano Youth Centre, and, come late winter, in **Tiilikajärvi National Park**.



## Easy Ice Fishing by Utilising the Ice Fishing Parking Areas

In the clear waters, large fish swim below the ice, and in **Viilekelampi**, red-finned rainbow trout hide hungrily beneath the frozen surface. You can try your luck on your own or together with a guide from Honkalan Luontopalvelut. When it's time to head out, simply utilise the ice fishing parking areas (dubbed "Pilikkiparkki" in the local dialect) for easy access to **Keyrittijärvi, Viilekelampi, or Lake Alanen**.

## Delicious Food and Tasty Bites

When hunger strikes in the midst of snowy activities, the area's cozy **cafés and restaurants** come to mind. Freshly baked warm bread from Rautavaara bakery also makes a delightful gift to bring home.

Find out more online:



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## Winter Highlights – Activities & Destinations

### Winter Sports



Enjoy skiing on well-maintained trails around Rautavaara or snowshoeing along scenic hiking paths.

### Snowmobiling Trails



Rautavaara is renowned for its well-kept snowmobile trails, considered by many as the best in Finland.

### Family Fun at the Sledding Hill



The Hiihtomaa skiing area at the centre of Rautavaara offers a machine-groomed, well-lit hill that is perfect for sledding with the whole family.

### Coffee Break at Ylä-Luosta



Treat yourself to a break at the Ylä-Luosta winter café – accessible by snowmobile, too!

### Easy Access Ice Fishing



The ice fishing parking areas – dubbed “Pilikkiparkki” in the local dialect – offer quick and convenient access directly from your car to the ice.



# Accommodation and Camping



When you head for your holidays, do you prefer staying close to nature with various activities available close by? Or at a hotel near the town centre and the services? How about renting a cabin at a comfortable distance from neighbours? Or perhaps moving around with a camper, picking your spots as you go? Rautavaara offers accommodation options to suit various needs and situations, including the above.

At the **Metsäkartano Youth Center**, you get to stay by the lake and in the middle of woods all at once, with choices like holiday apartments, wilderness hotel rooms, cabin-style accommodation at Metsäpirtti, more traditional logger cabin style accommodation at Metsäkämppä, a reservable cabin, or the camping area.

In Rautavaara town centre, **Hotel-Restaurant Tiilikka** offers double and twin rooms and an apartment with a sauna. Pets are also welcome there. Travelers with campers can stay at the motorhome park, with access to electricity, showers, and restrooms.

**The Vanha Apteekkari** building in the town centre features an upstairs apartment for short-term hire, with three bedrooms, a kitchen, a living room, a bathroom, and a WC.

**The Tentsile Tree Tents by Vaarojen Majat** offer a unique experience! Spend an unforgettable summer night in a suspended tent with beautiful lake views.

Additionally, there are rental cabins in various locations around Rautavaara, some available year-round and others during the warmer seasons. They all share the surrounding natural beauty and countless opportunities for outdoor relaxation and adventure.



# Cafés and Restaurants

The cafés and restaurants in the Rautavaara area offer local flavours to enjoy.

**Hotel-Restaurant Tiilikka** serves a variety of delicious meals for every taste, from pizza and pasta to steaks. Their kitchen prioritises local and regional ingredients. You can also play billiards and sing karaoke there.

The kitchen of **Metsäkartano Youth Centre** prepares hearty, wholesome food laid out on a buffet table for you to help yourself to. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are available, along with event catering, conference services, and outdoor dining on request.

**The restaurant Vanha Apteekkari** offers generous grilled dishes, burgers, and various drinks. In summer, guests can enjoy their meals and beverages on a large, partially covered terrace that stays sunny all day.

**Ylä-Luosta Café** wins you over with homemade savoury and sweet treats enjoyed in a quaint rural setting near the main road and snowmobile trail. The doughnuts and stuffed sweet buns baked at the café are guaranteed to be fresh! In winter, the café is open during the snowmobiling season, and in summer, you can also meet the sheep and chickens in the yard as you stop by.

**Rautavaara Bakery Café** serves coffee with freshly baked, flavourful treats, both sweet and savoury. Everything is made in-house using clean, domestic ingredients. Grab along picnic snacks or local specialties to take back as gifts.

At the **SEO petrol station**, the café offers you a selection of hot and cold drinks as well as sweet and savoury pastries.

In summer, **the ice cream kiosk at the town square** offers enticing ice cream delights in many flavours along with freshly brewed coffee, and you're bound to find other people there ready for a nice chitchat. The kiosk also serves as a visitor information point over the summer season. The kiosk is operated by the company Savoste.



[www.rautavaara.fi/en/accommodation-and-camping/](http://www.rautavaara.fi/en/accommodation-and-camping/)



[www.rautavaara.fi/en/cafes-and-restaurants](http://www.rautavaara.fi/en/cafes-and-restaurants)

# See & Experience Rautavaara!



## Natural sites:

- 1 Tiilikajärvi National Park
- 2 Pumpulikirkko rock formation
- 3 Kaivannonkierto nature trail
- 4 Huuhkajankierros (Lapinlahti)
- 5 Kipari hill

## Groceries, shopping, fuel:

- 6 Pharmacy
- 7 Flea market
- 8 Flower shop
- 9 Fabric shop
- 10 Hardware store
- 11 SeVe TIIMI OY
- 12 Sale grocery store
- 13 SEO petrol station
- 14 Sarin putiikki

## Food & beverage, accommodation:

- 15 Hotel-Restaurant Tiilikka
- 16 Vanha Apteekkari
- 17 Vaarojen majat
- 18 Ice cream kiosk and travel info at the town square in summertime
- 19 Rautavaara Bakery Café
- 20 SEO petrol station café
- 21 Metsäkartano Youth Centre, accommodation and restaurant
- 22 Ylä-Luosta Café

## Swimming places maintained by Rautavaara Council:

- 23 Saarela
- 24 Lapinjärvi
- 25 Lehtolampi
- 26 Syvä-Kankainen
- 27 Rouskunhiekkä
- 28 Hiekkahäikkä
- 29 Öljäkkä
- 30 Iso-Valkeinen
- 31 Ylä-Luosta

## Culture:

- 32 Rautavaara Lutheran Church
- 33 Collector's museum (in summertime)
- 34 Summer theatre

## Ice fishing parking areas:

- 35 Alanen
- 36 Viilekelampi
- 37 Keyritty

[www.visitrautavaara.fi/en](http://www.visitrautavaara.fi/en)

- Sites of interest, activities and services
- Current events

In the summertime, Rautavaara tourist information services are available at the ice cream kiosk at the town square Mondays thru Saturdays (closed when it rains)