



The hills of Koli are of great interest for their cultural history as well as their flora, fauna and unique geology. The national park's scenic settings vary over short distances from wild forests and rugged crags to flowery meadows and rolling fields. These varied habitats have highly diverse flora and fauna. Hikers and skiers visiting Koli have many fascinating and challenging routes to choose from.



Rocky peaks and old swidden fields

The top of Ukko-Koli lies 347 metres above sea level, making it the highest point in Southern Finland. Koli is one of Finland's national landscapes. The best loved vistas open up from Ukko-Koli, Akka-Koli, Paha-Koli and Mäkrä, but good views can also be enjoyed from other hilltops.

Metsähallitus manages cultural landscapes within the national park, at the same time preserving traditional farming methods. Swidden fields are cleared and burnt in the park's forests every year, meadows are mown by hand, and traditional Finnish landrace sheep and cattle graze the park's pastures.

Hilltops and meadows – Koli's inviting trails

Visitors can choose from several thematic nature trails, including Kasken Kierros (featuring swidden farming, 5 km), and Kolinuuron kierros (geology, 3 km), or other round trails including the 1.5-km Huippujen Kierros (touring the highest hilltops) and the 7-km Mäkrän Kierros. For a tougher trek hikers can

follow the 60-km Herajärven Kierros. In winter trails are maintained in the park for cross-country skiers and snowshoe-trekkers.

Visitor Centre Ukko

Ukko's permanent exhibition focuses on Koli's natural features and cultural history. Delightful audio-visual presentations and temporary exhibitions are also provided for visitors.

The Visitor Centre Ukko is an excellent place to start exploring Koli National Park, as it provides information about trails and the park's other attractions. The centre is administered with customer services provided by Metsähallitus.

Koli National Park

- 30 km²
- established in 1991
- located in Lieksa, Joensuu and Kontiolahti
- All of Finland's national parks are managed by Metsähallitus Natural Heritage Services.

Help to protect the environment

We aim to keep Koli National Park completely free of wastes. No litter bins are provided by picnic sites, campfire sites or car parks, so visitors are asked to take all wastes with them when they leave the park, though safely combustible wastes may be burnt at campfire sites, and organic wastes may be left in dry compost toilets.

Help to preserve nature by observing the park regulations:

VISITORS MAY

- pick wild mushrooms and berries
- fish with a rod and line or in an ice-hole
- walk, ski or use rowing boats and canoes, except in restricted areas by some small islands
- camp overnight and light campfires in the sites indicated
- cycle along the routes indicated

VISITORS MAY NOT

- snowboard or ski down the natural slopes of Ukko-Koli, Akka-Koli and Paha-Koli
- fish using reels, lures, nets or traps without the necessary permits
- park vehicles away from the designated car parks
- light campfires anywhere during forest fire warnings
- let pets off lead
- enter restricted areas on small islands during the nesting season 15th May–15th July
- damage or disturb vegetation, soils or wildlife
- leave litter or damage the park's facilities.

Metsähallitus – national park management

- Visitor Centre Ukko, Ylä-Kolintie 39, 83960 KOLI, tel. +358 (0)205 64 5654, ukko@metsa.fi, www.outdoors.fi
- Reservations for cabins and saunas: www.vaaravaraukset.fi (in Finnish).

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National Park

Koli

English |

