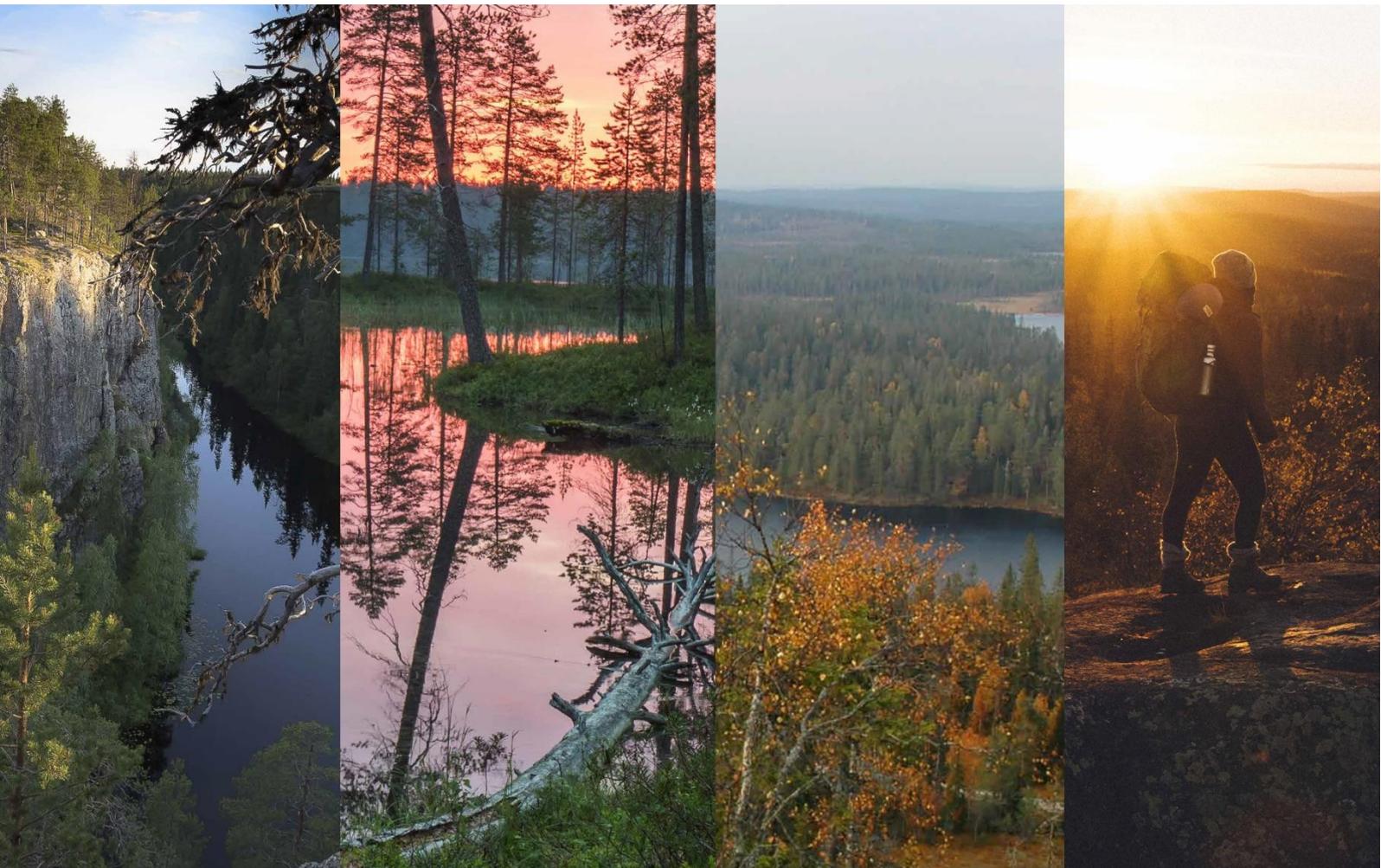


LAND OF NATIONAL PARKS BY PHOTOS

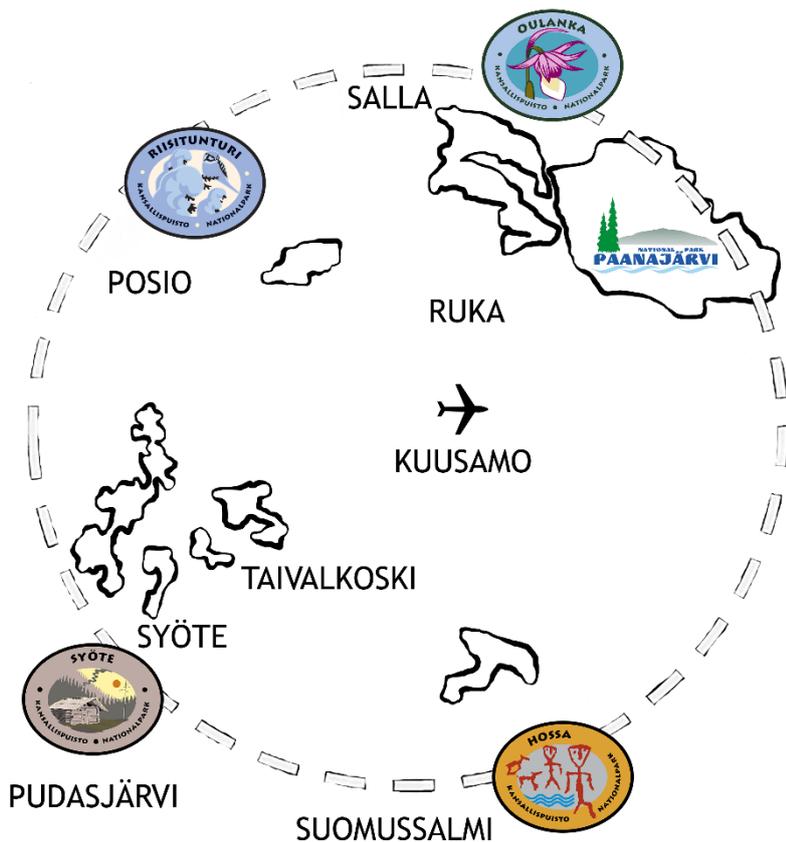


The four national parks situated around the Kuusamo airport are all different from a photographer's perspective. Make a round-trip to explore them all!



More nature photo spots in the Land of National Parks

More information
www.nationalparks.fi



HOSSA NATIONAL PARK



The Hossa National Park is a mosaic of sandy eskers and small lakes and ponds known for their clear water. Most of the park is easily accessible but the terrain in the northern parts is more challenging. In summer, you can move on existing trails on foot or by bicycle or canoe along the lakes and rivers, while in winter, you can experience the park on skis.

The Väräkallio rock paintings, which are thousands of years old, and the magnificent Julma-Ölkky canyon lake are located in the northern part of the park. Both are a must for landscape photographers.

Hossa is better suited for photographing during the summer months. The waterways are connected by small rivers and brooks. In the clear-watered lakes and ponds, you can also venture below the surface with your camera and discover old fishing fences.

The richly varied landscape and the mosaic of lakes and ponds with small mires are ideal destinations for drone photographers.

On crisp and clear mornings between mid-summer and autumn, you may be able to spot impressive clouds of mist above mires and waterways. The frost accumulating in the trees on the shores of rivers and brooks on the coldest winter days is also an attractive photo motif. In Hossa, you may encounter elks and reindeer. The bird species that you are most likely to see are the Siberian jay, dipper and the whooper swan.



Sirke Seppänen



Jari Ilmonen

Accommodation and guided tours in Hossa
<http://www.nationalparks.fi/en/hossavisitorcentre/services/partners>

TOP5 photographing spots

1. Julma-Ölkky observation point

At their highest point, the rock walls of the Julma-Ölkky canyon lake rise 50 metres above the water level. You will have the best photo opportunities when in a boat or a canoe or when standing on top of the cliffs. Around noon on a clear summer day, there is a big contrast in lighting between the shady and the sunny side. The distance from the parking area is about 800 metres.



Sini Salmi

2. Muikkupuro

Beautiful brook with clear water. The lean-to shelter is located at a truly beautiful site. Easy to reach. The path goes through a pine forest and the distance from the parking area is about 1.3 kilometres. You have a good chance of hearing a black-throated diver in Iso-Valkeinen and Keski-Valkeinen, two lakes known for their clear water.

3. Shore of lake Kokalmus

The atmosphere on the shore is magnificent during summer nights and mornings. An excellent spot for drone photographers. The distance from the Rytikangas parking area is about 500 metres.

4. Lounatkoski

Rapids with a strong current. Open all year round. A mill is located close to the site. The river flows in a narrow channel and during periods of sub-zero temperatures in winter, the trees on the shores are covered with frost. The walking distance to the site is about 250 metres.

5. Huosiharju area

An impressive esker offering a view towards the lakes Huosilampi, Keihäslampi and Kenttäjärvi. On crisp summer mornings, mist rises from the water, providing a unforgettable experience. A road runs alongside the esker.

OULANKA NATIONAL PARK



The Oulanka area is characterised by old pine forests, lush spruce groves, meandering river valleys with rapids and sandy banks, steep-walled gorges and large mires in the northern parts of the national park.

For landscape photographers, Oulanka offers river valleys, impressive elevation differences, and sites where you can take pictures over the treetops. On crisp mornings in late summer and autumn, the river valleys are shrouded in mist. The most popular landscape photo spots in the Oulanka National Park are Pähkänäkallio, the Oulanka gorge and Ristikallio.

For photographers fascinated by plants, there are northern, eastern and southern species. The calypso blooms in the first and second week of June. In late June, such plants as the lady's slipper, globe flower and mountain avens are in bloom. Later in the summer, it is the turn of the catchfly and dark red helleborine.

If you are a bird photographer, you can get good shots of dippers and Siberian jays in winter, while in spring, whooper swans are a common sight in Oulanka. There are many entrepreneurs in Kuusamo renting hides where you can take pictures of brown bears in summer and golden and white-tailed eagles in winter. During the mating season in spring, you can also take pictures of capercaillies.

Thick snow cover may pose additional challenges and there are spots that are extremely difficult to reach. Because of easy accessibility, Myllykoski, Kiutaköngäs, Konttainsenvaara and Käylänkoski are popular photo spots in winter.



Tatiana Yakovleva

Accommodation and guided tours in Oulanka
<http://www.nationalparks.fi/en/oulankanp/services/partners>

TOP 5 photographing spots

1. Oulanka canyon

A magnificent gorge valley. There are excellent spots for landscape photography on both sides of the canyon. Difficult to reach in winter. A two kilometre walk from the Savilampi parking area. Around noon on a clear summer day, there is a big contrast in lighting between the shady and the sunny side.

2. Pähkänäkallio

The Kitkajoki river meanders in the valley below. According to Hannu Hautala, a well-known Finnish nature photographer, this is the most magnificent scenery in Europe. On crisp and clear summer mornings, the valley is shrouded in mist. Difficult to reach in winter. Park your car to the end of the road from where there is a one kilometre walk to Pähkänäkallio. When on the path, turn to the right before the path descends to the shores of the Kitkajoki river.

3. Konttainen

There is a winter feeding place for birds at the Konttainen parking area. At the site, which is maintained by the Kuusamo birdwatchers club, you can spot and photograph such birds as tits and Siberian jays. In winter, the trees on the top of the hill may be heavily snow-loaded. From the top of the hill, there is a great view towards the lakes Purnujärvi and Kantojärvi. The ascent to the top of the Konttainsenvaara hill is fairly demanding. The slope is slippery in winter.

4. Jäkälämutka

A fine sandy beach in the Oulankajoki river. Catchfly and fringed pink grow at the site in late July. Jäkälämutka is at its best during the summer. To reach the site, turn from Liikasenvaara road to Jäkälämutka road from the end of which there is a walk of 500 metres to the beach.

5. Kiutaköngäs - perhaps the best-known waterfall in Finland

The site is easily accessible all year round. On crisp and clear mornings in August and September, there can also be mist above the waterfall. Kiutaköngäs is about one kilometre from the Oulanka Visitor Centre.

RIISITUNTURI NATIONAL PARK



The Riisitunturi fell is best-known among nature photographers for its impressive snow-loaded spruce forests. There are no trees on the top of the fell but spruces grow on the slopes. A wilderness hut stands on the northern side of the fell top.



Marjo Kämäräinen



Elina Odé

At full moon during the winter months, Riisitunturi may be crowded with photographers but if you choose Pikku Riisitunturi or Soilunvaara, the two hilltops to the north of Riisitunturi, untouched snow is guaranteed and you do not need to be worried about the forehead lamps of other photographers.



Marjo Kämäräinen

The view from Riisitunturi towards lake Kitkajärvi is magnificent. In summer, the mires, brooks and spruce forest on the slopes of Riisitunturi are at their most impressive.

Accommodation and guided tours in Riisitunturi
<http://www.nationalparks.fi/en/riisitunturinp/services/partners>

TOP5 photographing spots

1. Riisitunturi

There is a magnificent view from the treeless top towards lake Kitkajärvi. A great place to take pictures of snow-loaded trees. The site is extremely popular among visitors and if you prefer a spot with untouched snow, we recommend the Pikku Riisitunturi and Soilunvaara hills, which are located north of Riisitunturi. The distance from the parking area is about 1.7 kilometres.



Mylene van der Donk

2. Pikku Riisitunturi

A magnificent view towards lake Kitkajärvi. Snow-loaded trees in winter. In winter, this site is less crowded than Riisitunturi. The distance from the Riisitunturi wilderness hut is 800 metres.

3. An impressive old spruce forest between Pikku Riisitunturi and Soilunvaara

A brook flows through the moss-covered forest. The place radiates peace and tranquillity. About 3.3 kilometres from the Riisitunturi parking area.

4. Soilunvaara

Snow-loaded trees in winter. More untouched snow than at Riisitunturi. In winter, you can reach the site by skis from the Riisitunturi wilderness hut (about 3 km).

5. Ikkunalampi

A small pond between the summits of Riisitunturi and Pikku Riisitunturi fells.



Marjo Kämäräinen

SYÖTE NATIONAL PARK

For photographers, the Syöte National Park offers hill scenery, magnificent hillside spruce forests, aapa mires, eskers as well as crystal-clear lakes, brooks and ponds.



Annu Tuohiluoto

The Syöte National Park is a particularly attractive destination for landscape photographers as there are photo opportunities in both summer and in winter. The large number of small lakes, mires and eskers makes the area ideal for drone photographers.

On clear and crisp mornings between mid-summer and autumn, you may be able to spot impressive clouds of mist above mires and waterways. In winter, the spruce forests near hill tops may be heavily snow-loaded.



Eeva Mäkinen



Eeva Mäkinen

Accommodation and guided tours in Syöte
<http://www.nationalparks.fi/en/syotenp/services/partners>

TOP 5 photographing spots

1. Pyhitys

Landscape photography spot. There is a great view from the top of the Pyhitys hill (422 m) towards lake Kostonjärvi in the east and towards spruce-covered hills in the west. The site is relatively unknown to nature and landscape photographers. The trees may also be heavily snow-loaded in winter. You must leave your car about two kilometres from the Pyhitys hill from where there is a path to the top. Difficult to reach in winter.

2. Ahmakallio

Observation tower. The trail goes through an impressive spruce and aspen forest. A great view towards the northeast. Snow-loaded trees in winter. The distance from the parking area is about four kilometres. The trail is quite demanding.

3. Iso-Syöte

A great view towards the hills of the Syöte National Park in summer. On crisp mornings in late summer, low-lying areas are shrouded in mist coloured by sunshine. In winter, there are snow-loaded forests within a short walking distance from the hotel parking area. Magnificent views towards Romesuo in the west and the hills of Syöte. Snow-loaded trees in winter and mist on crisp summer mornings. Easy to reach.

4. Pytkynharju

An impressive esker surrounded by small ponds. With its lakes, mires and ponds, this is an ideal spot for drone photographers. On crisp and cool mornings in late summer, the area is shrouded in sun-coloured mist.

5. Soiperoinen

An esker surrounded by clear-watered lakes. In summer, a great place to take pictures. An esker and three clear-watered lakes. An excellent place for drone photographers. The place is shrouded in mist on crisp and calm mornings in late summer. Easy to reach.

