

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR HIKING IN OULANKA NATIONAL PARK:

### You may:

- to move about freely, ski, canoe and row along the waterways
- pick berries and edible mushrooms
- angle and go ice-fishing on lakes and ponds; fishing in the river requires a separate permit
- light a campfire at designated campfire sites, except when a forest fire warning is in effect
- camp at designated sites

### You may not:

- leave any litter
- let pets run free
- enter restricted areas or the frontier zone without permission
- take with you or damage plants, the soil or the bedrock
- catch, collect or kill animals, or destroy their nests
- drive a motor vehicle beyond the designated roads
- hunt (only allowed for local people, Hunting Act, Section 8)
- damage any structures

### Other instructions:

The Oulanka National Park and Karhunkierros have adopted the principle of litter-free hiking, so please take all your litter away with you. You can put organic waste in a composting lavatory and burn any clean, dry paper.

You can fill your own bottles with drinking water at any customer service point. Although the natural waters are clean, you should not drink the water without boiling it.



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[www.retkikartta.fi](http://www.retkikartta.fi)



ENGLISH



# Oulanka National Park RIVER OULANKAJOKI Canoeing Guide – Map



Metsähallitus 07/2008 • 1st edition • 3 000 copies • Printed by: Kalevaprint Oy, Oulu • Text by: Minna Koramo • Photos: Markku Pirttimaa, Minna Koramo and Kari Lahti • Maps: Minna Koramo and Hannu Sipilinen • Layout: Minna Koramo and Mari Linnell



## OULANKA'S WATERWAYS OFFER MAGNIFICENT VIEWS

The best way to discover the heart of the Oulanka National Park, the river valley, and its beautiful scenery, is to take to the river. Floating silently in the water in a canoe or rowing boat is a perfect outdoor activity as the water can carry you over long distances almost effortlessly. The river is an interesting natural element since the views are always different as the seasons and the weather change. There are numerous waterways in Oulanka. Pick your own route and go on an adventure!

## A LITTLE CAREFUL PLANNING GOES A LONG WAY...

It is good to plan the canoeing trip carefully. Visit the customer services at the Oulanka National Park to get some useful tips for your trip.

There are companies in Oulanka that offer expert services and rent canoes and kayaks. For contact details, go to [www.outdoors.fi/oulankanp](http://www.outdoors.fi/oulankanp) > Services. You should also ask for transport services so you can continue your journey after arriving at the destination.

Buy a good map in advance, e.g. the Rukatunturi–Oulanka Outdoors Map (1:50 000). Find out about the location of rest spots and services, and the distances between them. An open canoe is the most convenient choice, while a kayak is ideal for experienced users. If you are a novice canoeist, go on the trip with a skilled canoeing guide or take a canoeing course in advance to get some experience. In addition to canoeing, you can fish or hike along Karhunkierros (the Bear's Trail). Fishing licences are available from Oulanka's customer service points.

## SAFETY ON WATERWAYS

- Read about the area and routes in advance. Estimate your skills and fitness level. Start with an easy route rather than going on a route that is too difficult.
- A life jacket is essential, and a helmet is recommended for the rapids.
- Learn about the route markings and landing signs in advance.
- Put sensitive equipment, such as phones and cameras, in waterproof bags. Also pack a change of clothes in the same way. The canoe rental usually includes a dry sack.
- Your phone is a safety device. Make sure the battery is full before you set off, and save important numbers for use in an emergency. Please note that there are areas with no signal in the river valley.
- During the low-water season, you may see quicksand and sand dunes in the lower part of Oulankajoki. These should not be used for landing. The river is deep in places, and the current is strong.
- The temperature of the water is rather low, even in the summer, around 10 to 17 degrees Celsius. The air in the river valley may be cool, or even cold, in the summer as well. Make sure you bring enough warm clothes.
- The sun does not set at all in the summer. If you are going to canoe in the spring or autumn, it is good to know that the nights are dark.
- Canoeing is a relaxing hobby – don't spoil your trip by hurrying.



## FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HIKING SAFETY, PLEASE VISIT

- [www.utinaturen.fi](http://www.utinaturen.fi) (Friluftslivets abc)
- [www.kanoottiliitto.fi](http://www.kanoottiliitto.fi)

## OTHER CANOEING ROUTES IN THE AREA

### In Kuusamo:

- Upper part of River Kitkajoki, 21 km
- River Kuusinkijoki canoeing route, 17.5 km
- Boating routes on lakes, e.g. Lakes Muojärvi and Kitkajärvi

For more information on routes and services, go to [www.ruka.fi](http://www.ruka.fi) or call Kuusamo Info on +358 306 502 540. Maps: Rukatunturi–Oulanka Outdoors Map 1:50 000 and Kuusamo Tourist Map 1:100 000.

### In Salla:

- River Savinajoki canoeing route, 14 km
- River Maltiojoki, 21 km
- River Naruskajoki, total length 58 km
  - River Auermajoki bridge–Lake Naruskajärvi, 13 km
  - Lake Naruskajärvi–River Tenniöjoki, 45 km
- River Kuolajoki, 24.5 km
- River Aatsinkijoki, 14 km

+358 400 269 838 . Maps: Tenniöjoen ja Kuolajoen Melontakartta 1:50 000 (River Tenniöjoki and River Kuolajoki canoeing map). There is also a canoeing route map for Rivers Naruskajoki and Tenniöjoki, "Naruska- ja Tenniöjoen Melontareittikartta" .

## CANOEING ROUTES IN OULANKA



### 1. CANOEING ROUTE ON THE UPPER PART OF RIVER OULANKAJOKI:

Savilampi Pond–Liikasenvaarantie Road (no. 950) bridge, 13 km / 3–6 hours  
 The upper course of Oulanka forms a majestic and scenic route suitable for canoeists with some experience. When the water is high, you can travel swiftly. In the dry season, the river is rocky and challenging.  
**Recommended time:** Summer/autumn season  
**Recommended equipment:** A kayak or canoe  
**Starting point:** Oulanka Canyon parking area.  
**Ending point:** A boat launching area near the Oulanka Visitor Centre, on the right after Liikasenvaarantie Road bridge  
**Services:** From the parking area at the end of the Oulanka Canyon road, canoes must be transported by land to the boat trail.  
 0 km Northern side of Savilampi: boat trail  
 0.5 km Savilampi: open wilderness hut, jetty, campfire site and recycling point  
 3.7 km Taivalköngäs: open wilderness hut, jetty, boat trail across the island, campfire site and camping site  
 7.7 km Runsulampi: camping site and campfire site  
 11.5 km Oulanka National Park Camping Ground  
 13 km Oulanka Visitor Centre – ending point: boat launching area, visitor centre services and recycling point

#### Other useful information

- Composting lavatories are located near campfire sites and open wilderness huts.
- Karhunkierros follows the canoeing route by the river from Savilampi to the Visitor Centre.
- You must walk past the Taivalköngäs Rapids. Land early enough before the rapids [X].
- At the Oulanka Visitor Centre, land on the right after the bridge, where there is a boat launching area.
- Shooting the Kiutaköngäs Rapids in a canoe is extremely dangerous [X].

### 2. CANOEING ROUTE ON THE LOWER PART OF RIVER OULANKAJOKI:

Body of still water below Kiutaköngäs–(Nurmisaari Island)–Jäkälämutka, 25 km / 6–8 hours  
 Ideal for families and beginners. There are no actual rapids along the route, only small rapids. The route is also part of Karhunkierros from the body of still water below Kiutaköngäs to Nurmisaari / Ansakämpä hut (7 km).  
**Recommended time:** Summer/autumn season  
**Recommended equipment:** A canoe, kayak or rowing boat  
**Starting point:** The body of still water below Kiutaköngäs. Alternatively, Nurmisaarenniemi, in which case the length of the route will be 18 km.  
**Ending point:** The Jäkälämutka boat launching area in a small bay on the left. You can also end the trip at Nurmisaarenniemi, in which case the length of the route will be 7.7 km.  
**Services:**  
 0 km Body of still water below Kiutaköngäs: campfire site and camping site  
 3.0 km Merenoja: campfire site and camping site  
 7.7 km Nurmisaarenniemi (on the left): boat launching area and campfire site. On the south bank of the river (on the right): open wilderness hut and campfire site  
 13.7 km Sirkkapuro: lean-to shelter and campfire site  
 20.7 km Alaniemi: lean-to shelter and campfire site  
 25 km Jäkälämutka – ending point: Lapp'kota' hut, campfire site, boat launching area and parking area

#### Other useful information

- Composting lavatories are located near campfire sites and open wilderness huts.
- Karhunkierros follows the canoeing route by the river from the Oulanka Visitor Centre to Ansakämpä, after which it parts from the river and goes on to the Jussinkämpä hut.

- The starting point is located at the body of still water below Kiutaköngäs, on the northern side of the river. You can use a car to take the canoe to the boat launching area. Please take the car to the Oulanka Visitor Centre parking area after taking the canoe to the starting point.
- Shooting Kiutaköngäs in a canoe is extremely dangerous [X].

#### Maps:

- Rukatunturi–Oulanka Outdoors Map 1:50 000
- Karhunkierros, Retkeilyopas ja kartta 1:50 000 (Hiking guide and map)
- Kuusamo Tourist Map 1:100 000

