



National Park

Petkeljärvi

english |



Finland's easternmost national park is an excellent destination for a day trip or starting point for a longer trek. Petkeljärvi's natural scenery includes sandy esker ridges formed during the Ice Age, as well as several pristine lakes and ponds with crystal clear water. The black-throated diver (which features in the park's emblem) breeds by these unspoilt waters, and the work of beavers can be seen in the park's forests.



Tempting trails

The park has two well-marked round trails. The 6.5-km Kuikan kierros Trail runs through forest, marshland and lakeside scenery, passing an old meadow and running along scenic esker ridges. Signs along the shorter 3.5-km Harjupolku Trail explain how esker ridges were formed. A possible 4-km extension to both trails runs along the narrow sandy peninsula of Korkeasärkkä (2 km to the end, returning the same way). Please stay on the marked trails to help preserve the sensitive soils and flora of the park's esker ridges.

Petkeljärvi is also a good starting point for a longer trek such as the 31-km Taitajan taival Trail, the region's oldest trekking route, which leads to the old village of Mekrijärvi. The route is marked with orange circles, and mainly runs along the crests of a succession of ridges in the Petkeljärvi-Putkelanharju esker chain. Four picnic sites with shelters lie along the way.

Visitors can also use canoes and rowing boats in the park. From Petkeljärvi canoeists can paddle along the nearby River Koitajoki as far as Lake Koitere and Patvinsuo National Park.

Please look after the environment

Visitors are asked to look after their own wastes. There is a waste collection and sorting point by the outdoor centre. Safely combustible wastes may also be burnt on campfires, and organic wastes may be left in the park's compost toilets. Other wastes should be taken away from the park for suitable disposal.

Petkeljärvi National Park

- Established in 1956
- Total area about 6 km²
- All of Finland's national parks are managed by Metsähallitus Natural Heritage Services.

Petkeljärvi nature information hut and outdoor centre

These facilities are located at Petranemi and open daily May-August. An exhibition in the nature information hut spotlights the national park and its natural features, including esker ridges. The outdoor centre sells fishing permits, rents out canoes and rowing boats, provides drinking water, and has a cafe and dormitory accommodation.

REGULATIONS FOR VISITORS TO PETKELJÄRVI

VISITORS MAY:

- freely hike, ski, row and canoe around the park
- pick berries and mushrooms
- light campfires and camp out overnight at the special sites provided
- use motor boats on the lakes Petkeljärvi and Valkiajärvi
- fish with a simple rod and line or in an ice-hole, except in the ponds of Kuikkalammet, Savulampi and Mustalampi

VISITORS MAY NOT:

- damage natural features or disturb wildlife
- drive motor vehicles off road
- let pets off lead
- light campfires anywhere when forest fire warnings are in effect
- leave litter
- damage the facilities provided in the park.

For fuller details of the park regulations see: www.outdoors.fi/petkeljarvi > instructions and rules

Metsähallitus – national park management

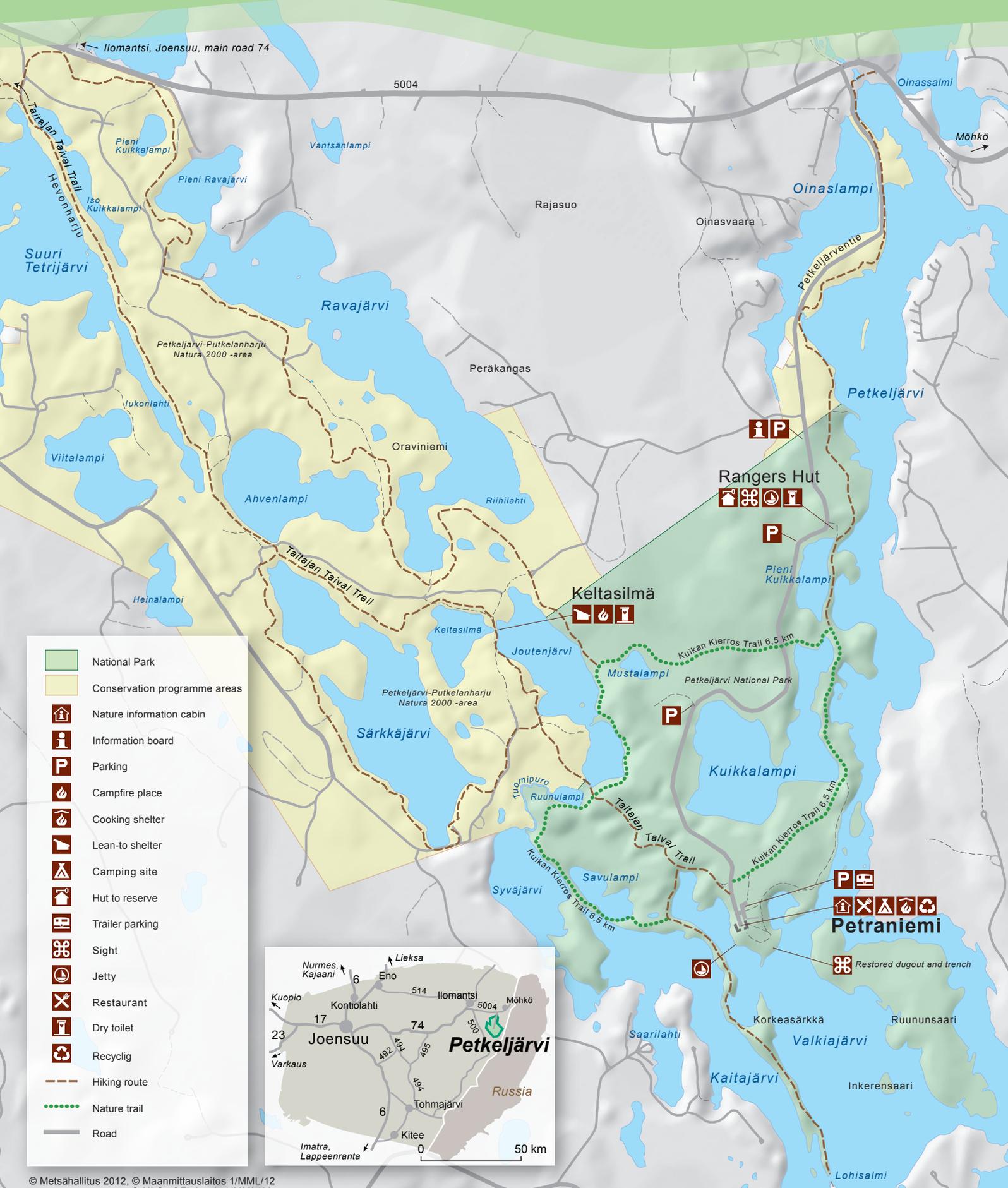
- Ukko Visitor Centre, Koli National Park: tel. 0205 64 5654, ukko@metso.fi
- For more information: www.outdoors.fi/petkeljarvi, www.excursionmap.fi
- Souvenirs and products related to Finland's national parks: kauppa.luontoon.fi

Petkeljärvi Outdoor Centre

Information, accommodation, café and rentals (May-August): tel. 041 436 1790; <https://petkeljarvi.com>

Photo: Metsähallitus/Jenni Miettunen





- National Park
- Conservation programme areas
- Nature information cabin
- Information board
- Parking
- Campfire place
- Cooking shelter
- Lean-to shelter
- Camping site
- Hut to reserve
- Trailer parking
- Sight
- Jetty
- Restaurant
- Dry toilet
- Recycling
- Hiking route
- Nature trail
- Road



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