

1. Värrikallio Rock Painting

There are more than 60 different figures in the rock painting. Many of them depict a human being or an elk, but other figures on the rock surface can also be seen. The rock painting was rendered some 4,000 years ago.



2. Stone-Age Dwelling Site at Lipposenniemi

The prehistoric dwelling sites in Hossa were small camps that were created round the campfire. In addition to the campfire remains, a piece of pottery was found at Lipposenniemi dating back 7,000 years.

3. Huosilampi Trapping Pits

The terrain in Hossa was suitable for hunting with trapping pits, as most of the pits were dug in sandy soil marked by natural boundaries, such as between the ponds or in the depressions between the eskers. There are dozens of trapping pits in the Hossa Hiking Area. Some of them are separate pits, the others are systems that comprise several pits. Today, some of the pits - like the Huosilampi pits - can be detected as low depressions in the terrain.



4. Fish Dam in Lake Keski-Valkeainen

By the point of a cape, there is a Y-shaped dam formed by three fences. It was built at the beginning of the 19th century and was repaired many times; the last time was in the 1920s.



5. Fish Dam in Lake Iso-Valkeainen

A fish dam was built by the sandy shores in the winter of 1917 - 1918. In addition to the guiding fences, there are apparently also fixed traps left in the structure.



6. Honkavaara Reindeer Fence

There are remains of a robust roundup pen on the Honkavaara heath. It was apparently built in the latter part of the 19th century and its use was discontinued in the 1960s.



7. Reindeer Sheds at Kokalmus

A reindeer shed is a low log building where the reindeer escape the mosquitoes in midsummer, the worst mosquito period. There are three restored reindeer sheds at Kokalmus (photograph on the map page).

8. Reindeer Trap by Lipposenlampi Pond

These were small pens into which reindeer were gathered before the actual reindeer roundup at the turn of autumn and winter.



9. Aittojoki Meadow Barns

The longest chain of meadow barns in Hossa is located by the banks of the River Aittojoki, which boasts seven barns as well as the remains of a lean-to shelter and meadow sauna.



10. Talassalmi Meadow Barn

At Lake Talasjärvi, people still gathered water horsetails for cattle feed after the close of World War II. The barn was restored in the 1980s (photograph on the cover).

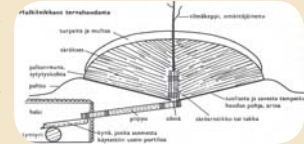
11. Lounatkoski Mill and 12. Takkila Mill

The Lounatkoski mill was transported onto its current site from Tuirankoski, Lavajärvi. Previously, there was another mill at the same site. There are remains of the Takkila mill at the southern end of Lounatkoski Rapids. Previously, the mill was located at Joukovirta, but when the spring flood washed it away, a new mill was built on the current site in

the 1920s. The use of the mill was discontinued in the early 1960s (photograph on the map page).

13. Lounatkaepea Tar-Burning Pit and Sauna

There are dozens of tar-burning pits in Hossa. One of the best preserved pits is located on the shores of Lounatkaepea. There are still wooden structures on the edges of the drain. There are remains of a sauna by the tar-burning pit.



14. Stables of the Lava-järvi Loggers' Cabin and the Old Smoke Sauna

The old smoke sauna for the loggers' cabin has been renovated as an open wilderness hut. Part of the large stables has not yet collapsed but the cabin built in 1938 has been demolished.



15. Kukkuri Log Floaters' Cabin

The Kukkuri Log Floaters' Cabin built on the bank of Peurokoski Rapids currently functions as an open wilderness hut. The bridge over the rapids runs across the former log-floating dam (photograph on the map page).

16. Log-Floating Dam at Pikku Tolosenvirta

A log-floating company cleared the channel of Tolosenvirta in the early 1950s and built two dams there. Today, a bridge runs across the smaller dam.



17. Papinpetäjä Memorial Tree

Under this dead standing pine tree, folks used to wait for the minister to come to baptise children. There are a lot of carvings on the side of the tree. The oldest identifiable year on the tree is 1750 (photograph on the map page).



Human Traces in Landscape

Hossa's Cultural Heritage



Human Traces in Landscape

People leave many kinds of traces when moving about in nature. The heavier the traces, the greater the number of travellers and the fresher the tracks. Today, the traces left by the people of the Stone Age are only slight depressions in the terrain, but the large structures associated with tar burning and log floating will still be visible for a long time.

The Ice Age ended in the Hossa area some ten thousand years ago. When grasses, shrubs and deciduous trees spread onto the ground exposed from under the ice, the first animals (such as the elk and beaver) arrived. The first inhabitants, who subsisted on hunting, fishing and gathering, arrived in Hossa more than 8,000 thousand years ago. They practised a mobile way of life. As these people obtained their living from the bounty of nature, their campsites changed several times a year, depending on where the most game and fish could be found. There are about forty Stone Age dwelling sites in Hossa, and they are small. Perhaps a small group of people arrived at the same site year after year. About four thousand years ago, these hunters and berry pickers painted pictures on the Väräkallio rock, using red ochre.



Earliest Phases

The earliest definite signs of Hossa's inhabitants were found on the shores of Lake Kenttjärvi, where meat was roasted over a campfire more than 8,000 years ago. One thousand years later, a person cooking food broke a pot on the shores of Lake Lounaja. Perhaps the Väräkallio rock painters were descendants of these inhabitants? The rock paintings were completed some 4,000 years ago.

In Hossa, most of the finds dealing with the earliest dwelling sites were leftovers (such as burned bones), campfire stones and chips of the stones that had been worked into tools. It is difficult to date the dwelling sites on the basis of these finds. There are written sources concerning the Hossa area from the 17th century onwards.

Hunting

A large number of trapping pits are a sign of Hossa's long hunting tradition. There are trapping pits in at least fifteen spots in the Hossa Hiking Area. Some of them are separate pits, while the others are systems that comprise several pits. The original diameter and depth of the trapping pits were usually a couple of metres. Today, they can be seen as slight depressions in the terrain between the ponds and eskers.

Hunting with trapping pits has been carried out for thousands of years. It is known that hunting with trapping pits was still carried out in Suomussalmi at the end of the 19th century. The Hossa trapping pits are probably older, as the deer and elk were virtually hunted into extinction at the time.

Fishing

Hossa has been a fisherman's paradise for thousands of years. Still at the beginning of the 20th century, the payments to the church by Hossa inhabitants were paid in whitefish.

In Finland, fishermen have built fixed traps, dams and guiding fences in the reedy straits and bays for thousands of years. There are dozens of remains of these kinds of fishing traps in Hossa's Lake Iso-Valkeainen and Lake Keski-Valkeainen. The researchers found that most of the preserved traps dated to the 19th century. They have been repaired many times.

The preserved net sheds and fishing huts are also signs of Hossa's long fishing tradition. The current Laukujärvi Open Wilderness Hut was a fishing hut in the 1930s.

The watercourses were the most important travelling routes, as no roads were available. Hossa is located on the watershed between the White Sea and the Gulf of Bothnia. The region has served as a junction for thousands of years.

By the decree of Gustav Vasa, King of Sweden, the settlement of Kainuu began in the 16th century. While some settlers from Savo also arrived in Kainuu during the 17th century, there were still inhabitants in the Hossa area who lived by hunting. The first farm was built in Peranka some time before 1650. Nine houses in the area were inhabited a few decades later. The House of Hossa was mentioned in the tax records of the 1760s. Several tenant farms were established in Selkoskylä south of Hossa during the late 18th century. The settlers had an almost unlimited right to use "the grain of the forest": there was an abundance of game and fish. In addition, there was also plenty of wood for slashing and burning, as well as for tar burning.

During the Russian rule (1809 - 1917), agriculture was still undeveloped and was based on slashing and



Reindeer Husbandry

At the time the settlement spread to Hossa, there were Sámi inhabitants on the northern side of the area who kept a small number of reindeer. It is no wonder, then, that the settlers also acquired reindeer.

In summer, the reindeer roam free. During the worst mosquito period, the reindeer withdraw into the low sheds built to protect them from mosquitoes. In early winter, the reindeer are gathered into a roundup pen for the earmarking of calves and for slaughter. Smaller reindeer traps have also been used for gathering reindeer. In the Hossa area, there is a roundup pen that is still in use as well as many fences that are no longer used.

Meadows

"The oldest farms have taken over all the best meadows, so all that has remained for the newer farms are poor small patches of mire meadows scattered across the backwoods," told Rurik Calamnius, brother of author Ilmari Kianto, at the beginning of the 20th century.

The locals gathered cattle feed even from the smallest meadows until the 1950s. They also built dams in brooks; that way the spring floods fertilised the meadows.

The journeys to the meadows were often long and laborious. Lean-to shelters and meadow saunas were built for overnight stays on the meadows.

For cattle feed, people made bundles of leaf fodder and gathered beard lichen, dwarf shrubs and lichen.

Mills

The population and mouths to be fed grew in number. Grinding the grain by hand was inefficient. When the mill tax was removed in 1885, a new era began in Hossa: mills powered by water were built by brook banks.

The mills were built at the rapids. A sturdy log was placed lowest, onto which an axle and the blades were fixed. When the water rotated the blades, the axle also rotated. At the same time, the upper millstone (located at the axle's upper end) rotated. The grain was poured via a hole in the upper millstone between the millstones.

The mills were usually under joint ownership. Grinding required continuous monitoring. Sometimes even entire nights were spent at the mills.

burning. For almost the entire period of the Russian rule, the inhabitants of Suomussalmi obtained most of their living from tar burning. Due to the reorganisation of land ownership in the 1870s, the ownership of a large part of the forests was transferred to the Crown. Tar burning became more difficult.

None of the houses was located within the current Hiking Area, but the settlers round Hossa had the right to use the bounty of nature in Hossa; they engaged in both fishing and hunting there. The reindeer roamed in Hossa and reindeer roundups were held there. In Hossa, people burned tar and collected grass from mire meadows for the cattle. The travelling routes were poor, as roads did not exist, so people overnights in temporary huts and lean-to shelters. When the tar-burning activities were discontinued at the outset of the 20th century, logging began. The felling volumes decreased in the 1960s and some of the loggers' cabins were deserted. Over the course of time, many of the cabins faded away but some of them were later renovated for the use of hikers. The Hossa Hiking Area was established by decree of the Finnish Government in 1979.



Tar

The inhabitants of Suomussalmi obtained most of their livelihood from tar burning for almost the entire 19th century. The trees were barked as high up as the standing men could. The resin was allowed to exude from the trees for three years. Thereafter, the trees were barked even higher up, using a stool. Then they waited over the summer and felled the trees in the autumn. In late winter, the trunks were pulled onto the pit site and cut into blocks.

It was common to build a sauna to function as a rest spot. In early summer, the blocks of wood were laid in the pit and covered with turf. The pit was lit on a mild summer evening. Tar burning took at least one week. The yield was dozens of barrels of tar that was transported by boat to be sold in Oulu.

Forests, Log Floating and Hiking

The first fellings in Hossa started approximately one hundred years ago. At first, they only cut the best log trees by the water routes. No roads were available, so the logs had to be floated. From the 1930s onwards, logging employed a large number of people. The logging sites were large, particularly in the 1950s. Cabins were built for loggers and log floaters. Most of the preserved log-floating structures in Hossa date from this period. At the time, they also decided not to fell any trees on the shores. Hiking and recreational activities increased in the area.

Some of the cabins have been pulled down, while others have decayed. Today, a few of the old cabins serve as rental cabins for the Hossa Hiking Area.

Roads

For thousands of years, water routes were the only actual travelling routes in the area. According to an information source from the 1650s, the best boat route from Oulu (in Finland) to Kem (in Viena) ran via Sarvitaipale, Hossa.

In the absence of roads, numerous paths were created. The word is that a minister used to arrive by boat at Lake Hossanjärvi. From the shores of Keihäslampi Pond, a path led the minister to the House of Hossa.

The first real road in Hossa was completed in 1923. With the assistance of President Kekkonen, a connection from Hossa to Kuusamontie Road was finally completed in 1958.